



Shelly Rickenbaker

Bass Guitar

Being a turtle in an international rock band can be problematic at times. **Travel Bugs** co-founder and bass player Shelly Rickenbaker frequently has trouble keeping up with the tempo of some of the band's faster songs and frightens easily at loud noises. She has been known on occasion to panic and retreat into her shell onstage in the middle of a performance. But you'll find her plodding bass lines at the bottom of the most recognizable Geocaching rock songs of all time.

Shelly grew up in the swampy Deep South and even at a very young age demonstrated her musical abilities. A self-taught prodigy, she was playing bass for local terrarium bands from the Carolinas to Louisiana. Eventually, she moved to New York City with the hopes of landing a job as studio musician. However she found life in the Big Apple to be even quicker than the frantic pace of the South and watched as jobs went to warm-blooded bassists who could keep up even when the temperature dropped.

It was at this time she discovered Geocaching and began to spend her abundant free-time finding micro and nano caches all over the city. Her slow, methodical speed allowed her to easily find hides that other cachers just didn't take the time to see. This same pace prevented her though from ever being First To Find, and she soon made this her mission in life. It was during one such FTF attempt in Central Park that she met someone who would change her life forever.

"I had been there in the park for days getting closer to this one cache no one had found yet", Rickenbaker recalls, "and I was within 10 feet of it. I could actually see the cache and just I knew I'd reach it within a day or 2, when this fat, over-dressed bird reeking of fish grabs it and then sits down on me to sign the log!"

Being mistaken for a rock turned out to be serendipity for Shelly as the usurper turned out to be musician Marvin T. Stuckmeyer, and that unlikely encounter blossomed into a friendship which resulted in the realization of her dream when the duo formed the rock band **Cold and Smelly**. Stuckmeyer and Rickenbaker hired local drummer Bob Bland and began booking gigs all over Manhattan eventually landing them a record deal and catapulting them to stardom.

Shelly and Bob began dating and eventually got engaged, causing New York gossip columns to prematurely christen the celebrity couple "Belly". But as rumors spread about the nature of Shelly's relationship with Marvin, discord grew, and the strange love triangle came to a head when Stuckmeyer announced he was leaving **C&S** to start a new Geocaching music project. In a shocking move, Shelly chose to go with Marvin, stating that her love of Geocaching had always been at the root of her music and leaving a band-less and jilted Bland at the altar.

Since that tumultuous birth of **The Travel Bugs**, Stuckemeyer and Rickenbacker have always remained the driving force behind the band, and though it is still unclear whether they are romantically involved, the Geocaching music scene has certainly benefitted from this unlikely pairing.

The Travel Bugs debut album "*Found It!*", is available online, and more information about the band's activities can be found at www.thegeocachers.com.

The logo for The Travel Bugs features the word "The" in a small, dark, sans-serif font positioned above the word "Travel". "Travel" and "Bugs" are written in a larger, brown, cursive script font. The "B" in "Bugs" is particularly large and stylized, with a long tail that loops under the word.