North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Spring Thing 2012 Fast Approaching

Bring your dulcimer and join friends in welcoming Spring to Hard Labor Creek State Park in Rutledge, Georgia May 4, 5, and 6 in Shelter#1 for Spring Thing. The cottages at the park are delightful and there are also RV and tent camping sites still available (http://gastateparks.org).

NGFDA is very excited to have two instructors for this event: Sam Greene (www.greenemountain dulcimer.com) will be teaching Beginner Dulcimer and Bing Futch (www.darkstudios.com) will be teaching our Morning and Afternoon Workshops for all levels.

The Tentative Schedule is as Follows:

Friday, May 4	Making new or reuniting with Friends Dinner Open Mike with jamming afterwards
Saturday, May 5	Continental Breakfast Morning Workshop Potluck Lunch Afternoon Workshop Potluck Dinner Open Mike Evening Concert Jamming Opportunity
Sunday, May 6	Continental Breakfast Morning Hymns and Spiritual Songs Lunch Afternoon Jam

The shelter is reserved all day – all three days, so feel free to come early and stay late.

Cost to attend this event will be $30.00 per person. Look for registration and all other details in the March newsletter and on www.ngfda.org.

If you would like to volunteer to help with event, call or text Kat Vallish at 678-610-0785 or email Kat at kvallish@gmail.com.

Cottage To Share?

If anyone has reserved a cottage for Spring Thing and would like to share the expense with others, please contact Kat Vallish at 678-610-0785 or email Kat at kvallish@gmail.com. Several members would like to come to Spring Thing, but are unable to rough camp and would like to stay in the park.

Using ABC Files to Learn to Play by Ear

By President Tom Womack

ABC files are text files that describe in a fairly readable way the notes of a song, the duration of each note, and even the chords that accompany the melody.

An ABC file is simply downloaded from a website and saved to your hard disk. Normally after you download a file it will be found in the "Downloads" folder on your hard disk.

To hear the music play from your computer you may use the ABCExplorer program. It allows you to play back the tune, pause it, slow it down, speed it up, and even edit the notes if you want.

Download the free program ->ABCExplorer<-

After the program is running, just click the File selection in the main menu and select "Open local file."

Then you will select from any of the ABC files that you have downloaded. The file will open within the interface of ABCExplorer. Then you can click on a song title and play it.

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2012 NGFDA, Inc.
Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
TOM WOMACK
4050 OAK FOREST CIRCLE
MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30062
tomwomack@yahoo.com
678-360-5865

VICE PRESIDENT
SAM GREENE
839 SOUTHERN SHORE DRIVE
PEACHTREE CITY, GEORGIA 30269
srgreene2@comcast.net
678-833-5995

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P. O. BOX 197
OCOEE, TENNESSEE 37361
mvandem@gmail.com
404-822-3666 (MOBILE)
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ASSISTANT TREASURER
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650 WINDWALK DRIVE
ROSWELL, GEORGIA 30076
mligon@kcc.com
770-401-9899

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152 WISTERIA RIDGE TERRACE
LAGRANGE, GEORGIA 30240
annswilder@bellsouth.net
706-882-5027

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jbeep2@tds.net
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SALLY LONG
sallylong@tds.net
770-893-1413

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KAT VALLISH
kvallish@gmail.com
678-468-7561

LIAISON TO NGFDA SATELLITE GROUPS
PEGGY MARTIN
martin.pb@comcast.net
770-974-1980

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
LYNN MCCOLLUM
445 LONG STREET
DEMOREST, GEORGIA 30535
lynnmccollum@windstream.net
706-778-8538

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
BARBARA JOE
ngfda_footnotes@yahoo.com
615-523-9597 (HOME)
931-239-2111 (MOBILE)

NGFDA YAHOO! GROUP MODERATOR
ED HUMPHRIES
ed@humphries.com
770-439-9608

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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Lynn McCollum**, NGFDA, Inc., PO Box 522, Demorest, GA 305353. You may also contact **Lynn** by e-mail at lynnmccollum@windstream.net All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Barbara Joe** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the May issue is **April 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m**.
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About The Tablature . . .

By Lee Cagle

As an instructor of mountain dulcimer and director of the Memphis Dulcimer & Folk Gathering, I play and present tablature from a fairly wide background of musical genres. However, my very favorite music is traditional old time American fiddle tunes and songs. So when Barbara asked me to submit a tune for your club, I chose a tune that I think club members will easily be able to play but that may also contain challenging elements for some. As mountain dulcimer players, we have a tendency to fall into the rut of playing almost exclusively in the key of D, no matter the key in which the song may have originally been written. But old time fiddle players pride themselves on knowing the original key of all the tunes and play in C, G, D, A at the drop of a hat. I chose the tune *Barlow Knife* in large part because I like the tune, but also because it is a "G tune" -- meaning a fiddle player would never consider playing it in any key except G because that is the key in which it was written.

While originally developed in England in the 1600s, the Barlow knife is considered the all-American pocket knife. George Washington carried a Barlow. Mark Twain referred to Barlows in Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn in 1876. The small pocket on Levi's jeans (where I now keep my picks) used to be called the Barlow pocket. Presumably, the composer of this tune enjoyed his own Barlow knife so well that he wrote a tune for it.

If you have not tried re-tuning your dulcimer, this is a great way to start. Re-tuning to the key of G from the popular DAD tuning is very simple -- lower the middle string from A down to G. (If you play in DAA, you will need to lower the middle string from the note of A to G and the melody string <u>*up*</u> from A to D.) This tuning provides nice drones that allow you to play on the melody string only without chording (unless you want to add chords, of course). *Barlow Knife* is a peppy tune, but because it was intended to be played for dances, there is no need to rush the tune. The tune has three parts, and, as with most fiddle tunes, it is played AABBCC.

As a side note, the DGD tuning is referred to as the "reverse Ionian" mode. If you have tablature that is written for DAA (the Ionian mode), you can play the <u>melody line</u> of your DAA tab (not chord positions on the middle or bass strings) in the DGD tuning, and you will be playing those same songs in the key of G.

I realize that the tune *Barlow Knife* may be new to many people, so I am posting the tablature and sound on the Audio and Tab page of my website, www.LeeCagleDulcimers.com, so that you can hear the tune. There will be a slow version so that you can clearly hear the tune as you learn and a faster version to play along with after you have become familiar with the tune.

* * * * * *

Lee Cagle has been playing mountain dulcimer since 1988. In addition to performing in various venues in the Memphis/North Mississippi area, Lee teaches dulcimer and bowed psaltery, is the author of a book for beginning players, and produces instructional CDs and arrangements for the mountain dulcimer. Her CD, The Water Is Wide, is a compilation of traditional tunes and is a benefit project for The Church Health Center, Memphis. Lee is the co-founder and president of The Memphis Dulcimer Gathering, Inc., a non-profit corporation dedicated to educating the public about dulcimer and folk music through workshops, lectures, performances and an annual festival. For booking or more information, call 901-877-7763 or visit www.LeeCagleDulcimers.com.

Barlow Knife -- DGD

Strum all strings, fretting only melody

©2012 Lee Cagle
PO Box 224, Moscow, TN 38057
www.LeeCagleDulcimers.com

Traditional American
Fiddle Tune

Part A

Part B

Part C

Spotlight on Satellites

Frettin' On Faith

Frettin' On Faith found some new "warm" tunes as the weather warmed up. A few members went to Larry and Elaine Conger's workshop in Franklin, North Carolina on February 25.

On March 8 the group was warmly welcomed as they performed a good set at Morris Hill Baptist for the Friends Group. Did I mention the group was well fed by the members too?!

Please remember one of our members in your thoughts and prayers, Janice Benton, as her mother passed away Sunday, March 11. As we say here in Ringgold . . . Keep On Frettin' !

Mountain Sounds

Mountain Sounds was the host NGFDA Satellite group for the second annual "Shamrock Dulcimer Blast," sponsored by the Union County Historical Society. The event started with a concert held March 9 at the "Old Courthouse." The evening began with Mountain Sounds performing first, followed by a dulcimer group made up of private lesson students from the Blairsville area. Anne Lough, instructor and performer, presented the main attraction and concert of the night when she performed Celtic music on the mountain and hammered dulcimer as well as the autoharp. Anne complemented her song selections with stories about her visit to Ireland, where she played with many local Irish musicians. On Saturday, 30 dulcimer players, of various playing levels, from Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee, attended an all day workshop given by Anne Lough. She also presented an hour long class for autoharp attended by seven harpists. It was an awesome day of instruction and fun. Don't miss the Blast next year!

Blue Ridge

The Blue Ridge Dulcimer Players provided rousing entertainment for Fannin County Fire Station 13's annual St. Patrick's Day fundraising dinner on March 17. Members of the fire station cooked an excellent corned beef and cabbage dinner which was sold out before 6:00 p.m. The dulcimer group played for an hour, had a break to eat the delicious food, and then entertained for another hour. Performing members included Lucy Koles, Judy Avant, LaDale Trimble, Anne Bailey, Teri Godfirnon, Barbara Pixton, and Suzanne Carter. In addition to playing the dulcimer, Judy Avant also sang two solo pieces, Danny Boy and Galway Bay. A good time was had by all!

Towaliga Toe Tappers

This is always a very busy time of year for the Towaliga Toe Tappers. The group welcomed back several of the Middle Georgia folks at the March meeting as they practiced music for the upcoming Bluebirds and Bluegrass Festival on April 7 at Dausett Trails. The TTT's also will be helping the Middle Georgia group at the Mossy Creek Festival on April 21 and 22 so no regular meeting will be scheduled for the month of April. The group is looking forward to another busy and fun Spring.

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Spotlight on Satellites

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Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club met at The Young America School of Music for the regular monthly meeting Saturday, March 4. Everyone enjoyed lesson time learning some waltzes and later playing through the preliminary set list for the April 2012 Mossy Creek Barnyard Festival. Several first time players were welcomed.

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club continues to meet for its regular monthly meeting on April 7 at The Young America School of Music at 6361 Zebulon Road, Macon, Georgia from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. The first hour is designated for mountain dulcimer class – all levels are welcomed. After lesson time the group will have an "any instrument welcome" jam session that will contain practice for the Mossy Creek music set as well as fun playing for the rest of the meeting time. Everyone is welcome to come and play with the club on first Saturday at Young America Music School. In addition this April anyone nearby the Mossy Creek Barnyard Festival April 21 and 22 between 10 a.m. through 5 p.m. are invited to bring their instruments and sit a spell with the club under the "tent" for some old-time picking and grinning and lots of fun.

Using ABC Files to Learn to Play by Ear

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The only thing that you cannot do from within ABCExplorer is change the key of the song. In the files that I have listed to the right of this article, most of the tunes are in keys of "D", "G", "A" and "C". The hymns in the Open Hymnal are in quite a variety of keys.

If you are trying to play along with a tune that is in the key of D, then the DAD (dulcimer) tuning would seem natural. In the key of G, perhaps a DGD tuning would suffice. For the key of C, tune the dulcimer to CGC. The sound of the dulcimer is really quite beautiful in that tuning and you can use the same fingering patterns that you use in the DAD tuning. To play in the key of A, use the EAE tuning and the fret patterns are the same as for the DGD tuning.

The dulcimer can be retuned very quickly to these new tunings having only three strings to worry about. Use an electronic tuner and everyone at a jam will have a smile on their face.

To play in the key of E flat, tune to dulcimer to Eb-Bb-Eb and play out of the familiar DAD tuning patterns. For playing in the key of F, tune to CFC and play out of the DGD patterns. For the key of B flat, tuning to Bb-F-Bb will enable you to use DAD patterns with the pitch of the instrument being quite deep. An alternative for playing in B flat is to use the F-Bb-F tuning and play out of the DGD patterns.

The following table summarizes the tuning preferences. To know what key the tune is in look at the left side of the music staff and count either the flats or the sharps.

Sharps or Flats	Key	Tuning	Patterns to Use
Three Sharps	A	EAE	DGD
Two Sharps	D	DAD	DAD
One Sharp	G	DGD	DGD
None	C	CGC	DAD
One Flat	F	CFC	DGD
Two Flats	Bb	F-Bb-F	DGD
Two Flats	Bb	Bb-F-Bb	DAD
Three Flats	Eb	Eb-Bb-Eb	DAD

On the NGFDA club website on the left side of the home page is a link that you can follow to obtain some really good abc music files to play along with utilizing the ABCExlorer program. More collections will be forth coming. There are around 400,000 abc files available online and many people have collected groups of tunes together. A good place to start your search is www.abcnotation.com.

Next month, we will go over the process of changing the key of a song and the mobile phone application for playing these files on your cell phone.

Upcoming Events

April 14, 2012

It's spring workshop time again with Tull Glazener and Guy and Sharrie George at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Loudon, Tennessee. This workshop is offered by the Mountain Echoes Dulcimer Club of Tellico Village, Tennessee. Ten sessions of instruction are offered.

Session 1: 9:30 - 11:00

Tull: Mountain Dulcimer - "Repertoire" class for a variety of genres

Guy: Beyond Beginner Pennywhistle

Sharrie: Beyond Beginner Ukulele

Session 2: 11:15 - 12:45

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Upcoming Events
April 14, 2012

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Tull: Mountain Dulcimer - "Repertoire Continued" (early intermediate & up)

Guy: Intermediate Pennywhistle

Sharrie: Beyond Beginner to Intermediate Ukulele

Lunch: 12:45 - 1:15 (please bring your lunch & drinks)

Concert: 1:15 - 1:30 Following lunch break, Guy and Sharrie will put on a short concert

Session 3: 1:45 - 3:15

Tull: Mountain Dulcimer - "Ensemble Arrangements" (adv.beg. & up) (different music from Session 4)

Guy: Beginning Steel Drum

Session 4: 3:30 - 5:00

Tull: Mountain Dulcimer - "Ensemble Continued" (advanced beginner. & up) (different music from Session 3)

Guy: Novice to Intermediate Steel Drum

5:15 - 5:45 - Combined Jam (bring ideas for songs you'd like to lead)

Cost: $15 per class for 1, 2 or 3 90-minute classes; $50 for any 4 90-minute classes (cash or check, pay at time of arrival)

Plus donation to the church (please bring even cash for your donation):

$2 for 1 class

$4 for 2-4 classes

Register by March 31. Please include class selection and indicate if you will need to reserve a steel drum or a ukulele, or purchase a pennywhistle.

Directions to church available upon request at time of registration.

To register or for more information contact Donna Hitchins, campdonna@charter.net (865) 408-1687.

April 14, 2012

The Dulcimer Troupers of LaGrange will host a day of workshops conducted by Joe Collins on April 14 at the First United Methodist Church in LaGrange, Georgia. Registration and coffee will be at 8:30 a.m. followed by four workshops and an afternoon concert. Lunch is offered onsite by reservation. Please contact Ann or Perry Wilder at perrywilder@bellsouth.net or 706 882-5027.

April 26-29, 2012

4th Annual Lee County Gathering
Old-Time Music Festival
"Down From the Mountains"

The 4th Annual Lee County gathering will be held April 26-29 in the re-constructed historical 1850's village of Loachapoka, Alabama. The event is three action-packed days of musical instruction, performance, and jamming. You'll experience it all: Old-Time Music, Storytelling, Dance, Concerts, Period Re-enactors, and even Frontier Food.

The Lee County Gathering is held under the auspices of Lee County Historical Society and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. This year we welcome Auburn Guitar Shoppe, and Mark McKenzie, as an associate sponsor. This is the fourth presentation of this annual event, and we're going to do our best to make it unforgettable for you.

Old-Time music festivals abound in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina - all through the Appalachian Mountains. Here, at the end of that mountain chain, we will celebrate the old American southwest as the pioneers came "down from the mountains". Roll up the rug, move the bed out on the porch, and give us room to dance!

Everyone is welcome to this festival. You don't have to take classes, or even play an instrument. You can join the open jams, attend the concerts, or just watch and enjoy.

Featured Instructors: Stephen Seifert, Guy and Sharrie George, Gary and Toni Sager, Marcia Harris, among others!

For more information: www.leecounty gathering.com.

Letter to the Editor

Hi Barbara –

I've been out of touch because of my husband's health since I vacated the membership chair – just read the newsletter for the first time in ages. I just wanted to compliment you on the wonderful quality of the newsletter – you're the unsung hero of NGFDA! – and Brenda Sue's article on David Downie was an inspiration. I lost my husband in February (at the same age David was when his wife died) and he has inspired me to find an outlet for my talents, as he did.

Both of you keep up the good work – and I'll see you at a festival soon!

Georgette Willix

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
AlphaFretters	Alpharetta, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sat.	10:00- 12:00	Senior Activity Center 13450 Cogburn Road	Dell Makuch 770-667-0620 makuchd@bellsouth.net
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	4th Thurs	2:30- 4:30	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles East of Jasper off of Cove Road	Carol Lesley 770-893-2019 Carol.Lesley@tds.net
Blue Ridge	Blue Ridge, GA	Bimonthly 1st & 3rd Mondays	1:00- 3:00	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Hwy. 515 at Forge Mill Road	Anne Bailey 706-632-3854 Suzanne Carter suzanne1951@windstream.net
Dalton Dulcimers	Dalton, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	2:30	First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave.	Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 jspatts@windstream.net
Frettin' On Faith	Ringgold, GA	Weekly, Sundays	4:00	First Baptist Church downtown Ringgold on U.S. Highway 41 (Nashville St.) in the choir/music room	Michael Whitfield 706-673-6730 mewhitfield@windstream.net Website: www.tiptopwebsite.com/frettin
Gainesville Strummers	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs.	1:30- 3:30	First Baptist Church Room 208, 751 Green Street, N.W.	Louise Gunnin 770-983-9893 rgunnin@bellsouth.net
Garden City Strummers	Augusta, GA	Monthly, 3rd Mon.	5:30- 7:30	Marks Baptist Church 1405 Marks Church Rd.	Betty Fleming 706-541-2146 bfleming7823@comcast.net
Gwinnoters	Lawrenceville, GA	Monthly, 4th Sun.	2:00- 4:00	Lawrenceville Female Seminary 455 South Perry Street	Nora Roy 770-963-2541 nsr45@charter.net
Hart String-Strummers	Hartwell, GA	Bimonthly 2nd Tues. & 4th Sat.	Tues.- 6:30 Sat.-1:30	Hart Regional Arts Council Art Center 338 E. Howell St.	Mary Alice Ray 706-376-6591 706-371-0176 mary.alice.ray@gmail.com
Hilltop Strummers	Woodstock- Canton, GA	Weekly – Tues.	1:30- 3:30	Canton First UMC 930 Lower Scott Mill Road, Canton, GA Exit 16 at I-575	Dan or Barbara Asperger 678-493-6970 (H); 770-633-1987 (C) daasp@windstream.net
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sat.	2:00	Tenth Street United Methodist Church 425 Tenth Street, NW	Cathy Watts 770-393-3454 chwatts@mindspring.com
LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers	LaGrange, GA	Weekly, Thurs. mornings Weekly, Tues.	10:45- 12:15 11:30	First United Methodist Church for jamming & prac. Beginning classes	Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 perrylwilder@bellsouth.net
Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players	Brevard & vicinity, NC	Weekly, Wed.	1:00- 3:00	Silvermont Opportunity Ctr. 364 East Main St. Brevard, NC	Mary Sherwood 828-966-9628 sherwood@comporium.net Ann Brown 828-877-5506 grumps@comporium.net
Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club	Macon, GA	Monthly, 1st Sat.	1:00 Lesson 2:00 Jam	Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road	Ron Rowland 478-968-0684 ronrowland@windstream.net Karen Stewart 478-954-6759 galadybug53@gmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Blairsville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Tues.	1:30- 3:30	Senior Center	LaDale Trimble 706-835-1688 raydale@windstream.net
N.W. Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sun.	1:30- 4:00	Towne View Baptist Church Modular Bldg. C 1115 Shiloh Road	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 martin.pb@comcast.net www.allatooners.org
Oconee Belles & Beaus	Salem, SC	Bimonthly, 2nd Thurs. 4th Tues.	2:00- 4:00 1:00- 3:00	Keowee Key (Routes 130 & 183 So. of Salem, SC) Activity Center, Whitewater Room	Joan Krech 864-944-7094 joankrech@bellsouth.net Bonnie Lamarand 864-888-3328 lmrnd@att.net
Peach Pickers	Peachtree City, GA	Monthly, 2nd. Sun.	3:00- 5:00	The Bridge Community Center 208 Willowbend Road	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 phobson@mindspring.com Sam and Rhoda Greene 678-833-5995 (Home) Sam@greenemountaindulcimer.com Rhoda@greenemountainembroidery.com
SEHDP (Southeastern Hammered Dulcimer Players)	Support Group for Local HD Satellites	www.SEHDP.com for Individual Satellite Info.			www.sehdp.shutterfly.com Patsy Jordan sehdpmail@gmail.com
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	Weekly, Thurs.	6:00- 6:30 Lesson 7:15-Jam	1st United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd.	Laneah Maddox 478-971-8223 912-687-3621 laneahmaddox@yahoo.com http://wrmusic.tripod.com/sonicsoundsdulcimerclub
Towaliga Toe Tappers	Jackson, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sun.	2:00- 3:30	Towaliga Baptist Church Kinnard's Mill Road	Karla Redman 678-447-5063 Redmans5@mindspring.com David Ridgeway, Jr. 770-775-3120 770-294-1151
Whistle Stop Pickers	East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn-Opelika area)	Weekly, Sat.	1:00- 3:00	Lee County Historical Society Museum 6500 Stage Road (Hwy 14) Loachapoka, AL	Allen & Deborah McCord 334-821-1301 334-703-3646 (cell) bigalmccord@bellsouth.net
Yonah Pickers	Helen, GA Clarksville	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. BiMonthly Practice 1st & 3rd Mon.	2:00- 4:00 3:00- 5:00	Mountain Lakes Resort Members Lodge Highway Alt. 75 between Cleveland and Helen, GA Episcopal Church Duncan Bridge Road	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 lynnmccollum@windstream.net Brenda Sue Whitmire bswhitmire@windstream.net

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures.

Last Updated 01/05/12

NGFDA Membership Form

Please start/renew my membership in NGFDA, including a subscription to the monthly *Foothills Footnotes* newsletter. Tab books available to members only, one copy per member at a cost of $7 (if mailed, add $4 mailing fee). Individual membership: $20. Family membership: $30. Please make checks payable to NGFDA. Dues, according to NGFDA bylaws, are renewable each November regardless of when you join.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Home Phone_____ E-mail address*:_____

Membership Status (check one): ☐ New ☐ Renewing

Playing Level (check one): ☐ Beginner ☐ Intermediate ☐ Advanced

***Members can automatically access our monthly newsletter at www.ngfda.org by clicking "newsletter" and entering your email address as *listed above*. The newsletter is posted around the 25th of each month. Members without convenient internet access may request mailed copies by contacting NGFDA, PO Box 522, Demorest, GA 30535.**

Do you want to order a Tab Book? (check one) ☐ Yes / ☐ No
Please add $11.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book $_____

Membership Fee $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Mail membership form and payment to: **NGFDA P.O. Box 522 Demorest, GA 30535**

North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association
www.NGFDA.org
Post Office Box 522
Demorest, Georgia 30535
United States of America