North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Looking Ahead At The New Year

By President Tom Womack

Have you every stopped to consider how fortunate we are to have a club where we can share our love of the dulcimer and for each other at regular times during the year. Our many events come around like clockwork drawing us together with our lovely tunes and warm smiles. As we finish the year and start a new one, reflect on the good times that we have had in 2011 and as the New Year comes in ponder on the wonderful times to come.

The Mistletoe event in January is a great way to start the New Year. When you arrive, you will be greeted at the cozy beach house by a warm circle of friends and you will soon be joining in the circle of the jam. There is a great opportunity for the experienced player and the beginner to learn and gain experience through the act of participating in the jam. A unique feature of our dulcimer jams is that one can learn to play by ear without fear of being scolded for fumbling around (noodling).

Our most popular tunes are found in our "blue book" with arrangements that one can easily pick up at home. Many of the tunes can be heard on our club website in the form of midi files that are recorded in a slow or moderate tempo in the key of D so that you can listen to the tune and play along with it through your computer monitors.

At a jam, there are many players who will take the time to teach you a tune. Our events and our satellite group meetings are an invaluable resource for the advancing beginner as well as for the really advanced player.

Between Mistletoe and Spring Thing, our really big May event, the best way to get involved and stay motivated is to attend the satellite meetings of your local group. Information about these meetings is to be found on the club website along with contact information.

The Spring Thing event will feature Bing Futch, teaching, mentoring and inspiring us. In August we will have another of our well attended satellite group focus weekends.

Looking ahead to the Peach Jam weekend in October, and the big Fall Festival week at Unicoi in November, we see that there are many opportunities for us to come together to share our love of music and our enduring friendships.

When you sit in the comfort of your home or in better weather in the swing on the porch with your dulcimer in your lap, it is wonderful to think that your playing will become part of an organic whole at the next satellite meeting or event.

The New Year is bright with possibilities and opportunities. Let's make it a great year for our club and our path toward musicianship.

Mistletoe Jam – Save The Date

After the holidays does your social life come to halt all of a sudden? Well, don't get those mid-winter blues; put the Mistletoe Jam on your calendar. It's on Martin Luther King weekend, January 14-15, at Mistletoe State Park near Augusta, Georgia. Everything will be set up on Friday evening for those who want to get a head start. Cabins and campsites are available and a pot luck supper is scheduled for Saturday night. Contact Betty Fleming at 706-541-2146, bfleming7823@comcast.net for more information.

Everyone had a great time last year with 35 players attending and more than 125 folks visiting. Event will be inside, warm and dry, so don't let the weather keep you from coming.

Looking forward to another great year.

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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 February issue is **January 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.** *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About The Tablature . . .

Tull Glazener has been sharing the music of the mountain dulcimer since 1984. He has performed and led workshops throughout the mid-west and south. Tull enjoys arranging Aires, waltzes, ragtime, traditional, old-time, contemporary, classical, and jazz for the mountain dulcimer. Tull is also one of the performers on Susan Trump's *Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer* series (volumes 1 and 3). He has produced five recordings, is the author of four instruction/tab books, and has been a featured columnist for *Dulcimer Players News*. His latest project has been producing a series of learn-at-home workshop/teaching CDs.

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" was written by Thomas Obadiah Chisholm, who was born in Franklin, KY in 1866. He attended a small country school, and became its teacher at the age of 16. By the time he was 21, he was working as the editor of the local weekly newspaper. He became an ordained Methodist minister at the age of 27, and served a pastorate in Scottsville, KY. However, poor health soon forced him to give up that job. Chisholm enjoyed writing poetry, and wrote well over 1200 poems during his lifetime.

Chisholm often would include some of his poems in letters he wrote to a good friend of his named William Runyan, who he had met while in seminary. Runyan was working as an arranger for the Hope Publishing Company at the time. One of Chisholm's poems was based on one of Chisholm's favorite scriptures from the book of Lamentations - "*It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness.*" Runyan was so moved by that particular poem that he decided to compose a musical score to accompany it, which was first published in 1913 under the title "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

The hymn got very little recognition for a number of years, until it was discovered by Dr. William Houghton, a professor at the Moody Bible Institute. It became his favorite, and he requested it be sung so often that it soon became the unofficial theme song of the college. It's popularity increased exponentially in the 1940's when George Beverly Shea, who had been a student at the Moody Bible Institute, started singing it regularly as part of the Billy Graham evangelistic crusades, and it was heard by millions all around the world.

In Memory of Jean Lee

Bill Lee, from Lexington, South Carolina, was thoughtful enough to let NGFDA know that his wife, Jean Lee, died on November 18 after a nine month illness. NGFDA Festival attendees will remember Jean's smiling face and great hat fashion as she volunteered at the faculty sales tables in past years. Bill's address is 113 Millstone Lane, Lexington, SC 29072; phone number 803-520-6124; email EILLIAMJEANLE @sc.rr.com.

Nothing separates the generations more than music. By the time a child is eight or nine, he has developed a passion for his own music that is even stronger than his passions for procrastination and weird clothes. *Bill Cosby*

Join Us Online At www.ngfda.org.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Thomos Chilsholm (lyrics); Williams Runyan (music) - 1913

(Melody)

Arranged by Tull Glazener

Eagle Creek Music www.tullglazener.com

Spotlight on Satellites

LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers

December 6 found the LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers traveling to Decatur, Georgia, to Oak Grove United Methodist Church, the home church of one of our guitar players. The diverse program, played for over 100 of the church seniors, included sing alongs as well as ensemble arrangements with guitars, harmonica, jingle bells, recorder, bowed psaltery, steel drum, bass dulcimers, and standard dulcimers.

Other Trouper play outs included a Sunday school, two nursing homes, and an assisted living facility. After their programs, the nursing home and assisted living residents enjoyed strumming the dulcimers.

Nancy's Dream, an ensemble group of six members of the Troupers, also had a busy season. They played for two church programs and a D.A.R. meeting adding recorder, bowed psaltery, and bowed dulcimer to melodies and harmonies on the standard dulcimers.

Yonah Pickers

The Yonah Pickers had a busy and music filled month in December. They have had the opportunity to play in diverse settings. Whether at the uniqueness of Holiday Celebrations at local parks or in the familiarity of senior centers and nursing homes, they have enjoyed the music, the audiences, and the camaraderie with other players. Audience participation was encouraged with lyric sheets and the use of "jingle bells" on some of the Christmas favorites. One group found this cooperative rendition of Jingle Bells particularly fun for all its many verses! Other groups preferred the more reflective sounds of Silent Night or other carols. Everyone, performers and audiences, celebrated the season in their own way, and had great fun doing so. In addition, some groups were interested in the history of the mountain dulcimer, which is happily shared at any gathering, and other audiences indicated an interest in joining the group for practices, which is whole heartedly encouraged. What a joyful opportunity they have had to share both the mountain dulcimer and the wonderful musical blessings of the Christmas season!! The group is looking forward to 2012 as a time of shared joy in creating and sharing the uniquely American sounds of the mountain dulcimer for new and old friends. Members wish everyone a very Happy New Year. For more information, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Blue Ridge Dulcimer Players

The Blue Ridge Dulcimer Players joined in creating Christmas cheer for the Moss Memorial Library, Hayesville, North Carolina, on December 15. Refreshments were contributed by library staff and patrons and were greatly enjoyed by all (especially by the musicians!). The Blue Ridge group played for three hours as visitors came to the library to eat, visit, and listen to beautiful music. Musical instruments included mountain dulcimers, hammered dulcimer, banjimer, guitar, spoons, bells, autoharp, and various percussion instruments. The dulcimer group plays annually at the public library's holiday open house.

Hilltop Strummers

The Hilltop Strummers of Canton, Georgia have maintained an active schedule and are planning to take a short break for the holidays. They had a busy summer and fall with the ensemble group playing at multiple early services for their sponsoring church, the Canton First United. The full club played for a seniors' meeting at the Bascomb United Methodist Church, enjoying a wonderful lunch, and at the Riverfest Fall Festival in Canton. Twenty-four members attended a social outing, dined in Blairsville and then attended the J. C. Campbell Folk School free dulcimer concert. The beginners' group has progressed nicely. Two new beginners have joined the group and the goal is

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Spotlight on Satellites

Hilltop Strummers

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to convert this group to a full circle warm-up group this winter.

Twenty-three members attended the recent NGFDA Festival in Helen, and enjoyed a great German meal together in town. The attendees look forward to sharing their experiences with those satellite members who were unable to attend. The quarterly performance at the Cameron Hall Assisted Living facility was a great success with 30 members participating, which represented the largest member participation to date for this quarterly performance. The club was delighted to have two members bring psalteries to the last group practice. That joined a hammered dulcimer, guitar, and harmonica; all making merry music together with the lap dulcimers. Three members of the Hilltop Strummers attended the Christmas gathering of the Allatooners' satellite club in Kennesaw, all enjoying the sister club friendship, good music and great eating. The year's club activity was completed with the Hilltop Strummers' Ensemble playing at the Gloria Concert held in the Canton downtown theater.

This satellite club is looking forward to a great 2012 and plans to focus on playing fewer songs in a cleaner manner and with multiple voices. The club is also hoping to mature its playing by committing these songs to memory and leaving the tab books closed. Happy Holidays to all the NGFDA membership and have a safe and joyful New Year.

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club met at The Young America School of Music for the regular monthly meeting Saturday, December 3. Everyone enjoyed lesson time learning some Christmas music and jamming in the store during the afternoon.

On December 6, several Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club members entertained a group of veterans at the Georgia War Veterans Home. The music was well received by all attendees.

***** Important meeting location change notice for 2012 *****

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club will continue to meet for its regular monthly meeting at The Young America School of Music at 6361 Zebulon Road, Macon, Georgia on the first Saturday each month from 1 until 4. The first hour is designated for mountain dulcimer class – all levels are welcomed – followed by an "any instrument welcome" jam session for the rest of the meeting time. Everyone is welcome to come and play with us on first Saturday at Young America School of Music.

Everyone is invited to come and learn new music and jam.

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

A busy and enjoyable month of December playing at several locations to some very appreciative seniors. With many players traveling this winter, January will be a month to practice new music at home. Several pieces from the Unicoi Festival have been shared (with the instructors' permission) and been added to the new play lists for 2012. The lists will include more familiar songs that the audiences can remember and join in singing. The group continues to work on improving the quality of their sound as well as variety in their arrangements. One member purchased and is learning how to play a steel drum (from Unicoi, of course) and another is playing the limberjack to add a bit of fun to our presentations.

Frettin' On Faith

Frettin' On Faith had two very good play dates back in November but the one we did for the Fort Ogelthorpe Assisted Living Center was even better! The folks there sang virtually EVERY song played. The group played hymns, old timey and Christmas songs. Bringing a little bit of happiness and a smile to the elderly are always worth every note the group plays. Seems that everywhere the group goes we come away be blessed. Our "Steel Begonias" (steel drum ladies) are always a hit and we look forward to 2012 as members learn new music. The group continues our journey with this wonderful little instrument, the dulcimer and its sweet music! Keep playing and never quit learning! From Ringgold, Georgia . . . "keep on frettin'."

Save the Date
Spring Thing 2012
May 4-6
Hard Labor Creek State Park
(near Rutledge, GA)

Spring Thing 2012 will be held during the weekend of May 4, 5, and 6. We are happy to our mentor and inspiration for the event. More information will be coming.

Upcoming Events

February 10-11, 2012

Central Florida Dulcimer and Autoharp Festival in Mount Dora, Florida. Mountain Dulcimer Instructors: Mike Anderson, Lee Cagle, Linda Brockington, Doug Felt, George Haggerty, Lorinda Jones, Don Pedi, Gary Sager, Susan Trump. Hammered Dulcimer Instructors: Ken Kolodner, Dan Landrum, Ruth Smith, Rick Thum. Autoharp Instructors: Cheryl Belanger, John Hollingsworth, Karen Mueller. Cost: $75.00. Catered meals and rental instruments available.

Festival location: Round Lake Christian Church, 31205 Round Lake Road, Mount Dora, Florida. Concerts are open to the public.

Rooms available at the Comfort Inn in Eustis, Florida, 352-742-8022. One king bed, $65.99 plus tax; two queen beds, $69.99 plus tax. Remember to mention Dulcimer Fest when making reservations.

Register early as registration will be limited to 200 people.

For registration packet, contact Ruth Harnden at 352-735-4907, dulcirah@embarqmail.com or www.fldulcimer.com.

February 23-25, 2012

Hammered dulcimer players, mountain dulcimer players – just how good are you? Find out at the Deep South Dulcimer Competition. Competition will be on the final day of the 2012 Southern Strings Dulcimer Festival on the beautiful campus of William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Mississippi..

Dan Landrum, Bruce Ford, Lee Cagle and Jess Dickinson are the competition judges. Dulcimer classes and concerts. Blind-scored competition on stage before live audience in William Carey Fine Arts Auditorium.

Competition information, email: Deep SouthDulcimerCompetition@gmail.com. Festival information website: MississippiDulcimer.com.

March 7-11, 2012

21st Annual Buckeye Dulcimer Festival in Ashley, Ohio, just 25 miles north of Columbus, Ohio.

Performers and workshop leaders (10-hour extended sessions). Hammered dulcimer: Karen McCurdy, Chris Cooperrider, Joyce Harrison, Cathy Barton and Tina Gugeler. Mountain dulcimer: Diane Hochstetler, Louise Ziegler, Jan Hammond, Linda Brockinton and Dave Haas. Autoharp: Cindy Harris. Band-It! (multi-instrument): Joe Steiner (all instruments welcome, past beginners and above.

Extended package with lodging $280 per person (March 7-11). Includes intensive workshops, lodging and meals, jamming and concerts.

Weekend package with lodging $170 per person (March 9-11). Includes mini-workshops, lodging and meals, jamming and concerts.

Commuter and Saturday packages available.

For brochure or more information, contact buckeyedulcimer@yahoo.com www.buckeye dulcimerfestival.com.

March 8-11, 2012

11th Annual Lagniappe Dulcimer Fete, Port Allen, Louisiana, with classes, performances and instruction for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels on mountain dulcimer, bowed dulcimer, hammered dulcimer, mandolin, guitar, autoharp, harmonica, sacred harp, ukulele, steel drum, penny whistle and more.

Instructors include: Maureen Sellers, Tull Glazener, Guy George, Neal and Coleen Walters, Margaret Wright, Neti Voon, Denise Guillory, Bob Frazier, Jak Stallings, Mary Cox.

Lots of jamming and nightly live concerts. Onsite vendors featuring dulcimers, music and instruments of every kind.

Contact Marie Varnes, Mvarnes@tsu.edu, Deb Hawley (225) 953-0142, Dhawle1@eatel.net, www. LagniappeDulcimer.org.

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.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 12/19/11

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**

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