North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Spring Thing 2012 – Remembered

By President Tom Womack

The well-loved Spring Festival was held for a second consecutive year at Hard Labor Creek State Park, and was well attended by the faithful who each year make the pilgrimage. Our expectations are that we will meet again our old friends, play timeless melodies, joke and laugh, and grow in our knowledge and love of music.

Kat Valish put together the festival with help from an amazing bunch of volunteers and in the end everyone who attended made the festival wonderful. The Friday evening grill feast was followed by a lively open mike and jam. Saturday began with a pancake breakfast. The delightful orbs flew out of the kitchen until the crowd begged for them to stop.

Bing Futch held us spellbound for the morning and afternoon with revelations of music theory and its applications for the dulcimer. His charisma was interlaced with everything that he presented including his unforgettable concert on Saturday evening. At one point, he commented that he had once played for about six hours at a café without repeating a tune. The breadth of his repertoire and the love that he puts into his music inspires us all.

The feasts of the Spring Thing festivals are legend. And this year was the best ever. Never has such culinary delight been seen this side of the big pond.

On Sunday morning, the breezes carried again our ancient melodies out over the lake and into the endlessness of time.

Every year Spring Thing gets better. Now, going forward we must look to the upcoming Satellite Gathering, August 3-4 in Perry, Georgia. Pay attention to the club website and to updates in your newsletter about this annual event that is in its third year.

Fall Festival Update

Hopefully you all read last month's article with the fabulous line-up of instructors/performers coming to Unicoi in November. It should be one of the best, and in light of the disappointing circumstance that prevents us from hosting Fall Festival 2013, a full house is expected. Over the next few months workshops will be scheduled, and then registration will open in early September. You will want to register early to be one of the 300 participants.

Upcoming Events

September 21-22, 2012

Eighth Annual Memphis Dulcimer Gathering. Two days of workshops, jams, demonstrations, midday concerts, open stage, vendors.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. each day. Workshops are held from 9:00 a.m. until about 4:30 p.m. both days. Lunch is available from the church (must be reserved and paid in advance) or you may bring your own lunch. Concerts and vendor times are held during the lunch break. There will be an evening instructor-led jam and an instructor concert.

Detailed schedules with class topics can be accessed on the link below.

Instructors include: Rick Thum, Ken Kolodner, Lee Cagle, Ilace Mears, Agene Parsons, Guy and Sharrie George, Bing Futch, Anne Lough.

Cost of all events (workshops, vendor area, jams, midday concerts, Friday night concert) (excluding lunch) is $95 per person. If paid by September 10, cost is $85 per person (lunch is an additional $8 per day).

A one day pass is $50 per person. Advanced registration for one day is helpful but not necessary.

Concert tickets are $10 per person.

Lunch is available with advance registration and payment by 9/10 at a cost of $8 per day. No lunches will be available on site without prior reservation. Lunch includes hot entree, salad, dessert, drink and gratuity.

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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 July issue is **June 15, 2012 at 6:00 p.m**.
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Membership News

by Lynn McCollum
Membership Chairman

Welcome new members into the NGFDA. Also if anyone is getting hardcopies and would like to be switched to receiving them electronically- please email me and I will change it.

- **Gwen Caeli**
  905 Georgian Hills Dr.
  Lawrenceville, GA. 30045
  770-513-7825
  gwencaeli@bellsouth.net
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  615-594-6604
  Bmullins66@yahoo.com
- **Terry Wilson**
  712 Gable Dr.
  Leesburg, GA 31763
  229-449-5549
  Travel.life.marketing@gmail.com
- **David Ridgeway Jr.**
  2997 High Falls Rd.
  Jackson, GA 30233
  770-775-5538

Upcoming Events September 21-22, 2012

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THE TOTAL COST OF ALL EVENTS PLUS LUNCH BOTH DAYS IF PAID BY September 10 is $101. To receive the discount price, all pre-registrations must be postmarked by September10 *** NO EXCEPTIONS!!!! ***

If you do not order lunch, you may still bring a sack lunch to join us for music and fellowship during the midday events.

Hotel Information: This year, we will be recommending that participants stay at Hampton Inn Walnut Grove, 33 Humphries Center Dr., Memphis, Tennessee, USA 38120, 901-747-3700
$85 plus tax, includes full breakfast buffet
Open for reservation: Currently deadline to reserve: August 20, 2012. Make the reservation for the group rate for Memphis Dulcimer Gathering. Hampton Inn is located at the corner of Walnut Grove and Humphries Blvd. just east of the Walnut Grove exit from I-240. From the Inn, festival participants will travel west on Walnut Grove Road and the church is located on the north side of Walnut Grove just a few miles from the hotel.

Additional information available at leecagledulcimers.com.

September 26-28, 2012

Melodies and Musings Festival 2012. As part of Marshall County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program's celebration and preservation of Appalachian music, RSVP

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About The Tablature . . .

Laneah Maddox of Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club sent in the tablature for "Elk River Blues." The tune is beautiful and sorrowful but not without hope. Ernie Carpenter was a renowned West Virginia fiddler who wrote the tune as a lament for his family farm which was flooded when the Sutton Dam was built in the late1950s. The Carpenter family were amongst the first Caucasian settlers to the area and had been on that land for over 200 years. In 1955, The Army Corps of Engineers built the Sutton Dam to control flooding in the area, but in the process of doing so, flooded the Carpenter family homestead.

ELK RIVER BLUES
Old Time Blues
Ernie Carpenter of West VA

TabEdited by Lanesh Maddox 5/12
for the Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club
Warner Robins, GA

SUMMER SATELLITE GATHERING - AUGUST 3 & 4, 2012

NGFDA Sponsored in Collaboration with Satellite Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club of Centerville, GA
Dulcimer Instruction by STEVE SEIFERT

LOCATION: PERRY, GA
First Christian Church of Perry, 2100 US Highway 41 North, Perry, GA 31069.
The church is one mile east of Interstate 75 Exit 138. Motels, restaurants, and campground are just 2 miles south of the church on Macon Road – also easy access from at I-75 Exit 136.

COST $35.00 includes workshops, lunch, and concert

SCHEDULE
Friday 6 pm-9 pm - Relaxed Evening JAM and COFFEE SOCIAL
Saturday 9 am-9pm - WORKSHOPS, lunch, early evening CONCERT and JAM
INSTRUCTION - ALL PLAYING LEVELS
3 ½ hours of instruction with Steve Seifert:

- Effective finger strategies for clean playing at various speeds
- How to decide which chords to choose - up and down the neck
- Fun application of things learned - dulcimer orchestra style

DIRECTIONS
30 miles South of Macon. Easy access from I-75. All available on GPS and Internet maps.
CAMPGROUND
Boland's Perry Overnight Park ($35/night with full hook-up)
800 Perimeter Rd. • Exit 136
478-987-3371

MOTELS
RAMADA INN Perry, GA (478) 987-3313) 200 Valley Drive • Exit 136

- Two miles from church location (Macon Road). Restaurants, Wal-Mart, campground in immediate area)
- $50 - $55 range. (we're working on NGFDA group rate – ask for it when you make reservation)
- Wireless high speed Internet. "Free" Full Hot Breakfast Buffet.

There are many additional motels in immediate area see visitor bureau information. See full listing at:
Perry Convention and Visitors Bureau 478-988-8000 or www.perryga.com
Perry Chamber of Commerce - Georgia (www.perrygachamber.com/)

Reminder and additional schedule details to be published in July NGFDA newsletter and web.
Contacts: Peggy Martin (678-478-2456) John Shawhan (478-542-0495)

Spotlight on Satellites

Dalton Dulcimers

Dalton Dulcimers had the privilege to play a concert as part of the traveling Smithsonian exhibit New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music on April 25 in the chapel of Dalton's First United Methodist Church. The program featured dulcimer history and song background. The group played old mountain tunes, Celtic pieces, and hymns. Paul Byrum provided some solo pieces to conclude the afternoon.

The actual exhibit, which is currently traveling through Georgia, features kiosks with pictures and listening stations to hear music from the genres of music in America's past including Native American, Sacred Harp, Gospel, String Band, Bluegrass, Early Country, Blues and Folk Revival.

Other upcoming locations to see the exhibit in Georgia are Madison, Darien, Perry, Moultrie, Toccoa, Bremen, Thomson, Nashville, Americus, Waycross and LaGrange. Check out the program at http://www.harrisartscenter.com/hac-the-first-stop-for-smithsonian-exhibit-new-harmonies/and www.pbs.org/americanrootsmusic.

Yonah Pickers

This month the Yonah Pickers have been involved in activities with children. One presentation was for a group of preschoolers at the church which houses one of the group's practice sessions, and the other was at an intermediate school. Both groups, though diverse, seemed to enjoy the presentations very much and so did the players (see photos).

In addition, some members enjoyed the NGFDA Spring Thing at Hard Labor Creek Park including the excellent instruction by Bing Futch and Sam Greene. Sam had the pleasure of opening the world of the mountain dulcimer to the beginners in the group, while Bing brought interesting information and music to the general group.

More recently a spontaneous event at a senior center performance occurred when one of the seniors joined the Yonah Pickers group and performed a recitation while the Yonah Pickers played "Sweet Hour of Prayer" in the background. It was a very beautiful and emotional moment. Combining flexibility with ongoing efforts to improve the group's performances create an environment for growth that the members and the audiences enjoy. Summer is a time for everyone to get outside and "play," and this group is looking forward to doing just that. The summer plans include performances at the "Soque River Run" and the children's summer program at a local library to mention just two; in addition to their regularly scheduled performances. The group is also looking forward to the return to the area of some of their members from other areas. All instruments and all ability levels are welcome to "drop by" at any of their practices. For more information please contact: bswhitmire@windstream.net

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

Lorinda Jones with Members of Land of Waterfalls

On May 19, Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players was proud to host Lorinda Jones for an all day workshop for about 20 participants and an afternoon concert for Brevard's Spring Dulcimer Day. The focus for the day was on learning ways to take simple, familiar tab and make the presentation interesting for the audience instead of just playing the same music over and over without any variations. The students were mainly mountain dulcimer players but Lorinda encouraged the members who played the bowed dulcimer, hammered dulcimer and flute to participate and demonstrated ways that those instruments can enhance the sound of the arrangements. Lots of ideas were presented for groups to use in the future. The concert included both the Celtic folk harp and mountain dulcimer music and members from the community were invited to attend.

After the fun evening potluck at a member's home, Lorinda expressed an interest in seeing some of the famous waterfalls in the area. The next morning she and some members hiked to nearby waterfalls in Pisgah National Forest. A wonderful weekend for all.

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Towaliga Toe Tappers

April and May were busy months for the group with the many different festivals - Dausett Trails, Mossy Creek, and the Spring Thing. The TTT had a great time in their May meeting discussing past and future events, jamming on some old favorites, working on tunes that needed work, and assisting a couple of new players with beginners education. The group will not be meeting in June or July due to summer holidays. Enjoy your summer and keep on picking and grinning!

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club met at The Young America School of Music for the regular monthly meeting Saturday, May 5. Everyone enjoyed lesson time learning some waltzes and jamming. Several first time players were welcomed.

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club will meet for its regular monthly meeting on June 2 from 1:00-4:00. Emmett Young, owner of The Young America School of Music, is providing the club a very special meeting for June. Professional dulcimer player Aaron O'Rourke will give a workshop entitled, Contemporary Approach to the Mountain Dulcimer from the Ground Up, at no cost to club attendees. The workshop will be of value to all levels of players from novice to more advanced. Workshop descriptions are available on his website www.aaronorourke.com. Aaron will follow the workshop with a short concert for attendees.

Other clubs and any other players are welcome to come and play with the club on first Saturday at Young America Music School.

At 7:30 p.m. the same evening Aaron will perform with the Aaron O'Rourke Trio at a house concert in Macon as part of the Acoustic Productions series. Tickets for that concert will be $20 per person. The concert location will be announced later.

Hilltop Strummers

The Hilltop Strummers have celebrated their fourth anniversary and remain active and continue to try new approaches toward meeting the needs and interests of its membership. The whole group performs quarterly at Cameron Hall Assisted Living, and the ensemble played at a luncheon meeting of the local Master Gardeners, and at an 8:30 service for the Canton United Methodist Church. The church is the satellite club's hosting sponsor. The entire group has been asked to play at the Sixes United Methodist Church senior luncheon in September and in McCormick, North Carolina in August as part of a fund raising program for a children's home. The group is committed to both these performances.

The club has added a couple of new break-out groups; a group that works only on hymns and another group learning to play the hammered dulcimer. The hammered dulcimer group meets on Thursdays and is growing in number and playing skills due to the guidance and leadership of Patsy Jordan. The group performed what was learned for the other members of the Hilltop Strummers. This "break-out" group is happy to see a greater emphasis being placed on hammered dulcimer needs at this year's NGFDA festival in Helen.

The Hilltop Strummers are excited to announce that their web site is up and operating. Marsha Elliott designed and facilitates this major project which may be accessed at www.hilltopstrummers.com. The local membership is given access to a "Members Only" page through personal passwords. The Hilltop Strummers will utilize this website as the primary method of communicating activities and future plans. You're welcome to check it out.

Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club

The SSDC has recently played at the Jug Fest in Knoxville, Georgia, and was asked to play for the annual Arts Society Art Show in May. The club will not be meeting during June or July but will resume the regular schedule in August. Members are looking forward to helping host the Summer Satellite Gathering in Perry, Georgia with Stephen Seifert the first weekend in August. Please check the club's website at http://wrmusic. tripod.com/sonicsoundsdulcimer club/ for club updates.

Upcoming Events September 26-28, 2012

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will be bringing four nationally know instructors to teach mountain dulcimer classes September 26 -28, 2012 at the Guntersville Recreation Center and one hammered dulcimer instructor. This is the fourth year for RSVP to host this southeastern regional dulcimer festival, Melodies and Musings – Our Appalachian Legacy. Registration forms and information can be found on the festival website www.melodies-and-musings.com. Call RSVP, 256-571-7734 or email: mcrsvp@mcrsvp.org for more information.

The festival will offer Mountain Dulcimer Tracks at the Beginner/Novice, Intermediate and Advanced skill levels. Each level will receive 15 hours of mountain dulcimer instruction over the three days working with each of the four nationally known instructors each day. This year's instructors will be Bill Collins, Delaware; Steve Eulberg, Colorado; Heidi Muller, Washington and West Virginia; and Butch Ross, Tennessee. Sessions will focus on playing technique, repertoire building and ensemble playing.

Anne Lough will instruct the intensive three day hammered dulcimer track at the intermediate level.

Participants can choose an additional four hours of Appalachian music heritage and culture classes from 15 offerings. Evening activities will include: Wednesday free night to enjoy a local restaurant with jamming at the Hampton Inn after dinner; Thursday Night BBQ, Open Stage and hammered dulcimer instructor's concert and Friday night mountain dulcimer instructor's concert will be open to the public. Jamming, vendors, contra dance, singing and more!

Registration is $125, after September 1, $135. Space is limited. Cost includes 15 hours of dulcimer instruction working with nationally known instructors, three afternoon fun "Pick n' Choose" classes (see website for details), and one entrance to evening activities. Meal plan available, see website.

Festival workshops made possible in part by the following partners: National Endowment for the Arts grant, Alabama State Council on the Arts grant, City of Guntersville and RSVP.

Come join the fun this year at the same great location on Beautiful Lake Guntersville, 1500 Sunset Drive, Guntersville, Alabama.

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
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 05/21/12

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**

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