North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Spotlighting Dave Downie

By Brenda Sue Whitmire

I met Dave Downie for the first time at the NGFDA Fall Festival last November, and what an experience it was. I was so impressed with him and his accomplishments. While I know many people are already familiar with this wonderful person, I wanted to see this gentleman's inspirational story in the newsletter for everyone to read of how he and his dulcimer have benefited so many children. I happened to be sitting beside Barbara Joe so I boldly asked her if she would like me to write that story. Her response of "yes" sent me off to take pictures and get contact information. In the intervening months, many things have interfered with my submission of this story, but this is the month!

Fourteen years ago, Dave's wife died. That is a traumatic event for anyone. His response to dealing with it was to reach out to help others. He became a mentor at Nursery Road Elementary School. He was able to work with children with and without special needs in a variety of grades over the years. Later, another way he found to help heal was to learn to play a musical instrument. First he tried the guitar, but, in his words he," just could not get the fingers to do the chords." It was at one of his guitar lessons that he saw the mountain dulcimer and decided that he was going to learn to play it. With help from a group in Blythewood, South Carolina, in 2005 he began to do just that. In a recent e-mail communication, he said, "It just grew on me from there on."

In 2009 he began to bring together two of his favorite things. He decided to take the dulcimer to the school and give lessons to children who wanted to learn to play, and he has continued to do so with great success. He has had the opportunity to teach many different children over the last three years including children with special needs such as Autism and Down syndrome. He refers to his work with all children and especially the children with special needs as being very rewarding to him. In addition to his mountain dulcimer, he also uses his "JUMBIE JAM", small steel drum which the children love too. The principal of his school, Dr. Christina Melton, has been very supportive of Dave's mentoring of the children. In a telephone interview, Dr. Melton had many positive things to say about Dave. One such comment truly reflects how he is perceived by the people with whom he works four out of five days a week. She said, "He is truly a hero among us even as adults, demonstrating, by his actions, how we should treat each other including our students." She added, "His sharing with the children as he learns the steel drum and most recently the Cherokee Indian flute is a perfect opportunity for the children to see how we should never stop learning." One of practical ways Dr. Melton has supported Dave's teaching is with the purchase five cardboard dulcimers for the students to use. Dave had five of his own to share so the children are well equipped.

Starting last year at the school, Dave began a before school class for children. They come from 7:15 until 7:45 to learn the dulcimer. He usually has anywhere from two or three to six or seven

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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 April issue is **March 22, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.**
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Spotlighting Dave Downie

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students participating. Not having music stands, he just calls out the frets and the children are learning. His own words about his kids are, "They are amazing. What took me months to learn, they learn in a few weeks." The newest adventure in his dulcimer teaching came last year as he began teaching at the middle school with children who have autism. The groups were necessarily small usually about 3 to 5 children. The children with the more severe forms of Autism were seen one on one. Dave was able to reach a total of 30 children in these classes.

He also gives classes free of charge in his home to students who wish to learn to play the dulcimer outside of the school setting. He has taken some of his students to the local "Pickin' Parlor" for open mike nights to perform where he says, "They were so good and what an experience for them." In his latest project, he is developing a "group" of about five or six children to play together at one of the open mike opportunities.

Dave Downie has won many awards for his volunteerism. He has been named Mentor of the Year for his school district three times and Mentor of the year for the State of South Carolina from the South Carolina State Board of Education. Last year he received "The Order of the Silver Palmetto" from the Governor of South Carolina. This is the highest award given for non-professional volunteering in the State.

When asked about these prestigious awards, his comment is reflective of his own humility. He said, "I know one thing and that is one does not receive these things on his or her own but only with help of so many folks who have worked with me teaching me how to play and with friendship and giving me ideas on how to do different things in teaching. Of course, my family, my son, David, my two daughters, Diana and Debbie and their families have also been such big support for me in my mentoring and playing in my life. They are my extra heart to keep me going. Working too with my wife and with children all our lives is so huge too."

His closing comments in his e-mail are a fitting ending to this piece. "I have made so many friends since I started playing. I was 74 then and now going to be 81 in two weeks (this article was begun on January 17, 2012) and want to keep teaching children as long as I can. I love sharing our music with others and will play anywhere at any time that I am asked. I am in a group called "The Dulcimores" and we are located in Blythewood, South Carolina." He ended with this quote, "'God gave us the stars that we might know how high our "DREAMS" can soar'".

About The Tablature . . .

By Sam Greene

Two summers ago Rhoda and I were camping in Townsend, Tennessee and we "ran into" Terry and Pam Lewis who were camping there as well (who would have guessed?) We were able to get together one afternoon and they taught us this tune that is really fun play. According to Terry, this was once a very popular tune among NGFDA members, and it seems to have been forgotten, so let's bring it back. We had a lot of fun that afternoon, and we learned an important lesson - NEVER leave home without your dulcimer.

Join Us Online at www.ngfda.org

Crooked Ridge

TablEdited by Sam Greene

Spring Thing 2012
May 4, 5 & 6

May is right around the corner and this year we are gathering for a fun-filled weekend beginning with a Grill-Out and Jamming Opportunity on Friday Night. Bing Futch will be our musical guide starting at 10:00 AM on May 5. Besides being an excellent teacher, Bing has been playing Appalachian mountain dulcimer since 1986 and is one of the most high-profile performers of this uniquely American instrument today. For further information about Bing, go to www.darkstudios.com.

Two open mike opportunities will be available on Saturday: one mid-day and the other right before the evening concert starring Bing Futch. The concert will be followed with some world class jamming that you will not want to miss. Transportation will be provided to campsite/cottage for anyone who would like to participate in evening events but has problems driving at night. The Shelter (large indoor facility, heated, air conditioned, full-kitchen and handicapped accessible) is reserved all day May 4, 5, and 6, so come early and stay late.

Register One of Two Ways:

Send a check made out to NGFDA for $30 per participant, along with your name, phone number and email address (if you have one) to Kat Vallish, 914 Plymouth Drive, Jonesboro GA 30236.

Or

Log into your PayPal account and make payment $30.00 plus any fee that PayPal charges for this service to kvallish@bellsouth.net. PayPal will notify me via email when a payment is made. Just to be on the safe side, email kvallish@gmail.com if you are using the PayPal method. Make sure you give me your name(s) and phone number.

Meal Information

Since many of us do not see each other except at dulcimer events, the committee thought it would be nice to provide more opportunity to socialize by having our meals together.

Friday Dinner (5:30 – 7:00 p.m.): Something On The Grill

Saturday Breakfast (8:30 – 9:30 p.m.): Healthy & Tasty Breakfast

Saturday Lunch & Dinner: Pot Luck - Bring Food to Share

Drinks and Snacks will also be available. (Donations Accepted)

Accommodations

Contact Georgia State Parks http://gastateparks.org/reservations or call 1-800-864-7275 to make a reservation for Camping or Cottages at Hard Labor Creek State Park.

Feel free to call/text Kat if you have questions at 678-468-7561 or email, kvallish@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Satellites

Whistle Stop Pickers

The Whistle Stop Pickers have worked for several months to put together a Christmas CD. The first CD, "Meet Me At The Station," has sold very well. The Whistle Stop Pickers are now in the process of recording "Christmas Memories" of traditional English and old-time Christmas favorites. Please watch for the new CD coming soon.

Dalton Dulcimers

Dalton Dulcimers, along with some players from several nearby clubs, enjoyed a delightful afternoon of learning with Lorinda Jones, dulcimer, and Greta Gillmeister, Irish whistle, on February 8.

Thirty-four players enjoyed experimenting playing with traditional notation and learning ways to enhance ensemble playing by adding various accompaniments and harmonies. The result was some beautiful sounds from the large group! For the second workshop of the afternoon, some learned the basics whistle playing and others ventured into alternate tunings on their dulcimers.

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Spotlight on Satellites

Dalton Dulcimers

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Lorinda Jones

Special features of the afternoon were door prizes and a sell/swap table. In addition to some instruments and dulcimer display stands for sale, there were some tab books at great prices and one attendee generously gave away old copies of Dulcimer Players News.

After dinner at Dalton First Methodist's' Wednesday night program, players and others gathered in the chapel to hear the duo of Lorinda and Greta (Chattering Magpies) present a lovely concert of dulcimer, harp, flute and Irish whistle.

What a great way to spend a winter afternoon and evening!

Greta Gillmeister

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

The group is eager to get back into playing together and learning some new songs. This year the focus is on music that the audiences can sing to and remember from days gone by. In addition to the senior day care center the group will now also be playing at a memory loss care facility on a regular basis.

On May 19, Lorinda Jones will be presenting a workshop in Brevard, North Carolina. The details will be announced later on. It's a beautiful time to be in the mountains and Brevard is a gem of a town to visit.

Towaliga Toe Tappers

The Toe Tappers are scheduled to play at the Bluebirds and Bluegrass Festival at Dauset Trails in Jackson on Saturday, April 7. This is a fun time for the group to share the "sweet sound" of the dulcimer as well as provide history and education. If looking for a Spring festival, come enjoy the bluegrass bands, delicious barbeque, and dulcimer jamming at Dauset Trails!

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Spotlight on Satellites

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Yonah Pickers

This month's article will focus on the activities of some of the members of the group. In recent weeks, Yonah Pickers warmly welcomed a new member to the group, Jerry Wood. Jerry is a vocalist and guitarist and teaches harmonic singing at the Eagle program which is a set of classes for seniors held at a local church. They also had the pleasure of welcoming back a member who has been out due to illness. In early February, members were delighted to see Dee Petty return to his first Yonah Pickers activity since his surgery.

The youngest member, Nathaniel Samsel, is 13 years old. Many of you may be familiar with him through his appearances at NGFDA functions and his winning of first place titles in several venues including the Southern Regional Mountain Dulcimer Champion and the Georgia State Dulcimer Championship. With the help of his family, Nathaniel has a CD about to be launched. The CD is called, *Playing in the Creek.* It will be available to buy at nathanielsamsel.com sometime in early March for $15.00. Up to date information is available at nathanielsamsel.com or like him on Facebook and/or follow him on Twitter.

Other members of the group have had the pleasure of attending workshops. Lynn McCollum and Brenda Sue Whitmire enjoyed the Mid-Winder Fest in Shelby, North Carolina and Suzie Anderson and Ann Green had a great time at the 2012 Central Florida Dulcimer and Autoharp Festival in Mount Dora, Florida.

One of the things the group looks forward to in the spring/summer is the return of the "Florida Contingent." It is hoped that they will be back soon.

Practices and performances rounded out this busy month for the group. For more information on this active group you may contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Dulcimer Troupers

The Dulcimer Troupers of LaGrange, Georgia presented two programs of love songs in February. An ensemble of seven members played for the senior group at Rosemont Baptist Church, and 21 members of the Troupers performed for the senior group at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

The Troupers have a busy season ahead with playouts in March at The Azalea Storytelling Festival, five nursing homes, Hospice LaGrange and a workshop by Joe Collins in April.

A class of 12 new dulcimer students is being taught by Nancy Larson. This group will join the Troupers on March 22.

Upcoming Events

March 2-4, 2012

Registration is still open for Anne Lough's Hammered Dulcimer Retreat for intermediate/ advanced players to be at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina March 2-4. This is a fun and challenging two days of learning and expanding technique and repertoire in a beautiful and intimate setting. Further information is available on Anne's website, annelough.com, or by contacting Anne at annelough@bellsouth.net or (828)627-2704. Space is limited so register soon!

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.

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Upcoming Events

March 7-11, 2012

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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.

March 9-10, 2012

The second Annual Shamrock Dulcimer Blast will be held March 9-10 in Blairsville, Georgia.

The Blast is hosted by the Union County Historical Society and sponsored by the Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club, a NGFDA Satellite Group.

Mountain Sounds received many good comments about the first Blast and are looking forward to the Blast this year!

A concert featuring Anne Lough, Mountain Sounds, Sweet Mountain Music, and other musicians from the Blairsville area will be presented Friday evening.

On Saturday, March 10, Anne Lough will conduct four workshops for various playing levels and she has added a autoharp class (on a donation basis) after the dulcimer classes are over.

Here's the schedule:

Welcome: 9:00 - 9:45 Registration (Coffee & Beverages provided).

Session #1 10:00 - 11:00 Experienced Beginners - Tune Up the Ear – Yes! You can learn to train your ear! Learn and memorize tunes much faster and enjoy the music at a much deeper level by getting away from the paper. It will focus on how to listen "intelligently" and recognize common intervals and melodic patterns. Be pleasantly surprised as participants play some simple, familiar tunes by ear.

Session #2 11:30-12:30 Novice/Up - Rounds, Harmony and Duets - Playing in parts is always fun and rewarding. Participants will learn some new rounds as well as some two and three part harmonies.

Session# 3: 2:00-3:00 Intermediate - Celtic Treasures – Experience the expressive and haunting beauty of these timeless Celtic Airs. The creative use of left and right hand technique give voice to the plaintive soul of these treasures.

Session #4: 3:30-4:30 Intermediate/Advanced - Fancy Fingers - With some Irish jigs and reels the class will explore left hand technique to dress up, speed up and smooth out their playing.

Extra Session: 4:45-5:45 Autoharp: Let the music begin as you learn techniques on the autoharp. Participants will also start listening for pitches and the melodic ranges of tunes. The approach to melody playing will also be presented. Playing level of participants will determine workshop levels.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Blast!

Contact LaDale Trimble (Mountain Sounds), raydale@windstream.net, with questions or for a Registration Form.

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

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

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Upcoming Events
April 14, 2012

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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.

Membership News

by Lynn McCollum
Membership Chairman

Welcome to all of our new members. We are glad to have you a part of our NGFDA family. Happy Strummin'.

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Our Friendship Will Endure

By President Tom Womack

A couple of years ago, I was with my wife and mother in one of those huge consignment shops where antiques and old stuff is sold, sort of a flea market. It is quite a maze and one can easily get lost. It is also fairly easy to become separated from ones wife and mother since they tend to linger for infinite spells over little treasures whose value eludes me.

After what seemed like an infinity looking at discolored lampshades, Depression glass and signs that said "Drink Coca Cola," I came around an aisle and was face to face with a glass enclosed cabinet at the bottom of which was a dulcimer. I went to the head desk to ask for a key to the case. The attendant opened the cabinet and asked me if I knew what this slim little wooden thing was for. I told her that I was in this huge club of people who cannot get enough of these toys.

One string was missing, so I had to play Old Joe Clark on two strings with my fingernail. Soon a little crowd had formed and for a moment I was a star. An elderly lady said "You're good!"

I saw the price, $75 on the tag. I asked the attendant to give me a discount. She had to call the

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Our Friendship Will Endure

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owner who refused. So, frugal guy that I am, I left that day but in body only. The little dulcimer stuck in my mind for months and several times I returned to that shop, looking for it but failing to find it each time within that maze. I could not recall where it was within the store. I concluded that they had sold the dulcimer. A year passed.

Then, one day I was in this same shop with my wife. As usual we were in different parts of the store. She found me with her cell phone and said to meet her at the front of the store. She had found a dulcimer. My eyes rolled, and my hopes grew big. I followed her to a cabinet in the store and was visibly shaken by what I saw. There was the little dulcimer, with the same missing string. It had been overlooked and disregarded by countless thousands of flea market patrons for over a year.

Still, being the one to look for a bargain, I enquired if I could get a discount. The manager made a phone call and I succeeded in getting the dulcimer for $50.

I had a couple of dulcimers already that cost much more and are easier to play, but I figured that at the least, it would look good as a piece of furniture in the living room.

I put strings on it and tuned it up. It has proved to be hard to tune, the tension of the tuners being adjusted by a screw in each one. So, I sometimes have had to tighten the screws to get the tuner to hold the pitch. I don't know hold old it is. The wood is lovely. It is quite thin and light weight. I can easily grab it from the wall beside by favorite chair with one hand. After a little work to get it in tune, it holds its tune well. The sound is delicate and ephemeral.

Strangely enough, it does not have the 6+ fret. This inclines me to think that it may have some age. I had never heard of anyone playing a dulcimer without a 6+ fret. I now play more melodies across the neck because of this. The high C# that would be found on the high D string is missing so that this note must be played at the second fret of the middle A string. The fret board is thin going across the strings. This was a hindrance at first, but I found it easier to make chords once I was used to the spacing.

I play my other dulcimers frequently, but this one I keep by the easy chair. I don't even have a case for it. Whenever I look at it, I remember that year during which its fate was questionable. The miracle is not only that I found it, but that it found me. Each of us has a story to tell about a dulcimer. Indeed, the more that we sit with them and bring the melodies from them, the more secure the hold that they have on our hearts.

This dulcimer has a face that becomes more familiar each day and a voice that speaks to me, but a past that I will never know. I am quite sure that it is happy in its new home. Each time that I play it the voice is clearer and my hands find the notes with more confidence. Each time I play it, I recall that elderly lady, "You're good!" Our friendship will endure.

Central Florida Dulcimer and Autoharp Festival

By Barbara Joe, Editor

Want a great weekend festival? Plan on attending the Central Florida Dulcimer and Autoharp Festival in Mt. Dora, Florida on the second weekend in February.

This festival is packed full of instruction, jams, mini workshops, vendors and concerts.

Workshop leaders this year (and there is a great lineup of instructors every year) included Mike Anderson, David Beede, Cheryl and Ray Belanger, Linda Brockington, Lee Cagle, Doug Felt, Greta Gillmeister, Tull Glazener, George Haggerty, John Hollandsworth, Lorinda Jones, Ken Kolodner, Dan Landrum, Karen Mueller, Don Pedi, Gary Sager, Ruth Smith, Rick Thum, and Susan Trump. On Saturday, special mini workshops were held during the lunch break: Lorinda Jones – Music Therapist Workshop; Chuck Spano – Playing the Irish Bodhran; and Steve Smith – Clawhammer Banjo Intro. What a variety.

The workshops which I attended out of 34 choices included: Lee's Waltz with Doug Felt. Doug wrote this waltz for his wife, Lee, and will be the tablature in a future edition of *Foothills Footnotes*; Left hand skills with Linda Brockington; Minor Tunes with Lee Cagle; Exploring DGD tuning with Lorinda Jones; Medieval and Early Music with Susan Trump; and Celtic Tunes with Lee Cagle.

Autoharp players had 12 workshops to choose from and hammered dulcimer players had 18 workshops to choose from. All instruments had tutoring sessions scheduled as well.

Friday and Saturday night concerts were the icing on the cake. Hope to see you there next year.

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.

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