North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

June 2014 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 26, No. 6

2014 Fall Festival Update!!

By President/Festival Director, Mike Van Demark

Here's hoping that all of you have marked November 20-23 on your calendar to attend the 26th Annual NGFDA Fall Festival at Unicoi State Park which is beautifully nestled in the North Georgia Mountains in Helen, Georgia. This year we have a great lineup of faculty and workshop leaders. We have a few new faculty names that have either never attended or it's been a while since they attended as follows:

- Gwen Caeli *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Bonnie Carol *(Mt. Dulcimer and Ham'd)*
- Larry & Elaine Conger *(Mt. Dulcimer) & Children's Program*
- Jeff Furman *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Dave Haas *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Aaron O'Rourke *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Stephen Seifert *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Neal Walters *(Autoharp & Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Kendra Ward *(Ham'd Dulcimer & Mt. Dulcimer)*

Returning to the 2014 Fall Festival are several other special faculty members who have been so appreciated in the past as follows:

- Ken Bloom *(bowed dulcimer)*
- Guy George *(Ham'd Dulcimer & Penny Whistle & Ukulele)*
- Tull Glazener *(Mtn. Dulcimer)*
- Marsha Harris *(Mt. Dulcimer & Native American Flute)*
- Anne Lough *(Mtn, Ham'd, Autoharp)*

The Sunday morning gathering program has not been finalized as of this date. I will publish more info in the July newsletter.

Please share these exciting plans with your dulcimer playing groups and friends and encourage them to join the NGFDA so they will be on our list for registration information. Registration will begin on September 1 and end on October 12 this year. *(As a reminder, if someone joins the club now, their membership is only good through December 31. Dues are annual and members pay their dues on a calendar year basis for 2015 beginning with the Fall Festival Registration. Members who do not attend the festival can begin paying January 2015.*

Festival registration fees will remain at $105.00 again this year.

This just about covers everything for this year's Festival with music from traditional Appalachian, Galax style to Celtic and Contemporary.

I have heard from Unicoi that the lodge rooms are filling fast so don't be left out!! Please refer to newsletter insert for lodging information and prices. Once again this year your lodge room will include Breakfast (including gratuity). Unicoi is in the process of remodeling and updating the lodge rooms with new king, queen and double rooms.

Postage Costs

By Mike Van Demark-President

I would like to thank everyone who has been so cooperative with the acceptance of the hardcopy newsletter going out to many in an email format or downloading it from the website. To-date since January we have saved over $500 in postage and printing from the prior year. As I mentioned last year we will be able to take these savings and use them as subsidies towards other festivals so we can keep our registration fees at an affordable rate.

2014 NGFDA, Inc.
Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
MIKE VAN DEMARK
P. O. BOX 197
OCOEE, TENNESSEE 37361
mvandem@gmail.com
404-822-3666 (MOBILE)
423-338-2307 (HOME)

VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN SHAWHAN
126 SOUTH TAMIE CIRCLE
KATHLEEN, GEORGIA 31047
jshawhan@windstream.net
478-987-9655

TREASURER
MELANIE LIGON
650 WINDWALK DRIVE
ROSWELL, GEORGIA 30076
mligon@kcc.com
770-401-9899

SECRETARY
BARBARA STEVENS
114 OAK LEAF CIRCLE
EATONTON, GEORGIA 31024
gbs468@aol.com
478-457-6539

FALL FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
MIKE VAN DEMARK
P. O. BOX 197
OCOEE, TENNESSEE 37361
mvandem@gmail.com
404-822-3666 (MOBILE)
423-338-2307 (HOME)

SPRING THING DIRECTOR
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
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 July issue is **June 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About The Tablature . . .

When I saw this arrangement on Joe Collins' website, I immediately contacted him for permission to print it in the newsletter. Harriet Beecher Stowe is an ancestor of mine so it has some personal interest – *Barbara Joe, Editor*

The lyrics to this hymn were written by Harriet Beecher Stowe, the author of the famous anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and were first published in 1855. She was in the habit of getting up every morning at 4:30, and this hymn reflects her quiet, early morning walks with God. The music is an adaptation of Felix Mendelssohn's, "Consolation."

Joe Collins, National Champion mountain dulcimer player, began playing the mountain dulcimer in the late 70s in coffeehouses, churches, and schools. As an instrument of praise to his God and entertainment for others, the dulcimer quickly became an important part of Joe's life. Since that time he has written several books of dulcimer music, produced 5 CDs, and has performed across the country in a number of different venues. In September of 2007, he won the title of National Champion at Winfield, Kansas.

He loves working with and performing for people. His eight books of dulcimer tablature grew out of a desire to teach others to play. He is a popular mountain dulcimer clinician at festivals, offering clear instruction supplemented by easy-to-follow instructional material. He is a songwriter, vocalist, and an occasional guitarist. His performances are sprinkled with a lot of humor and some excellent mountain dulcimer playing - sure to bring a smile to audiences of all ages.

Joe graduated from East Carolina University with Bachelor and Master Degrees in English, from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity with Religious Education, and from North Carolina State University with a Doctorate in Adult Education. He has worked in Religious Education for most of his professional career and now serves as Associate Professor of Religion at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina. And, of course, he accepts as many opportunities to teach and perform as he can as therapy for his busy life!

As much as he loves sharing his music and craft, he loves the opportunity to share his faith in Jesus Christ even more. He currently resides in Shelby, North Carolina with his beautiful wife Pam. They have two grown children, Sean and Erin, who have wandered into the world, leaving Joe and Pam to care for their empty nest. Joe can be contacted for booking or other information by phone at (704) 484-8414 or by e-mail at dulciman@bellsouth.net.

Different Deadline

The deadline for the July issue of *Foothills Footnotes* is Tuesday, June 17, at 6:00 p.m. instead of the usual 22nd of the month. I will be traveling and need to put the newsletter to bed before I leave for Copenhagen on June 20. Thank you for your cooperation. *Barbara Joe, Editor*

Upcoming Events

August 1-2, 2014

SUMMER SATELLITE GATHERING August 1-2, 2014: Event will be hosted by the Hilltop Strummers in Canton, Georgia (Friday afternoon/evening JAM; Saturday WORKSHOPS, SATELLITE GROUP OPEN STAGE, early evening CONCERT) Bill Taylor will instruct Mountain Dulcimer!!! Hammered dulcimer instruction is in the planning.

Satellite group Open Stage: This is a Mountain Dulcimer!!! Hammered Dulcimer instruction is in the planning.

Satellite group Open Stage: This is a formal invitation to NGFDA Satellite playing groups to share their enjoyment and talents on the Saturday Open Stage segment, which will open for Bill Taylor's early evening mini-concert. There will be a two tune limit.

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Still, Still with Thee

Tune in DAd *Lyrics: Harriet B. Stowe Music: from Felix Mendelssohn* **transcribed for the dulcimer by Joe Collins**

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Upcoming Events
August 1-2, 2014

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August 1-2, 2014

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Further details will be posted in upcoming Foothills Footnotes and on www.NGFDA.org club events.

October 3-5, 2014

PEACH JAM at FDR October 3-4-5, 2014: Event will include an appearance of the now legendary Peach Jam Traveling Pick-up Band. FDR State Park has again asked the dulcimers (with miscellaneous acoustic instruments) to appear for public "Dulcimer Jam Performance" at the Park Office Rock Amphitheater 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, October 4. A set list similar to last year will be provided in future posts on the club website and final tune vote and simple arrangement run-through will be held Friday evening and Saturday morning. . . group consensus rules! All playing levels invited . . . something for everyone.

Spotlight on Satellites

Frettin' On Faith

May was a good month for playing the dulcimer for the Frettin' On Faith Dulcimers. On May 2 the group went to play a concert at the First Nazarene Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was a set of mostly sacred and gospel music, which the group does well, with the steel drums doing a four song set as well. The Frettin' On Faith Dulcimers were well received by the congregation and most were curious about the instrument itself. May 21 found the "Fretter's" back at the Parkside Assisted Living facility playing before a very good "sing along" crowd. These residents love the gospel and old timey tunes so they sing along with the group quiet well. There were no practices in May because of Mother's Day and showers at church, etc. The group picks back up in June. Anyone is invited to drop by with their dulcimer and play along if in Ringgold on a Sunday afternoon. Keep up with the group at the following website if you like: www.frettinonfaith.com. Like we all say here in Ringgold, Georgia . . . "keep on frettin'!!!"

Dulcimer Troupers

The Dulcimer Troupers of LaGrange have enjoyed a myriad of opportunities to play this year. Every year since 2000 the Troupers have had the honor of playing for the Azalea Storytelling Festival in LaGrange. This year once again, prior to the gospel storytelling session, the Troupers had the opportunity of sharing their own storytelling with the Mountain Dulcimer!

The Troupers have recently had the joy of playing for four of the area nursing homes this year. Enjoyment of the residents was evident by their smiling faces, beautiful voices and hand clapping.

Each year the Troupers have played for both the spring and fall Hospice Memorial Service. This spring the Troupers were blessed to again play for the family members and friends gathering to remember loved ones.

Most recently the Dulcimer Troupers had the privilege of taking a road trip to Gainesville to play for the First United Methodist Senior Group. It was an honor to be joined by Dr. John Kelley, whose tablature, "Snake River Reel," appeared in the May *Foothills Footnotes*. Dr. Kelley delighted the audience by playing the Bass Box, while Nancy Larson livened things up with "Wooden Heart" played on the steel drum. The Troupers enjoyed lunch, provided by the church, before returning home.

Nine new members have graduated from Nancy Larson's beginning dulcimer class! Thursday practice will be growing!

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players continues to enjoy playing locally. The photo was recently taken at College Walk in Brevard for an enthusiastic audience that sang along on many of our pieces. Shown in the photo are a few of the members.

The Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players will be playing under the trees (or under the tent if it is raining) at Brevard College next to the Transylvania Handcrafters Guild Show on Friday, June 6 from 10 am -12 pm. The instruments will include mountain dulcimers, mandolins, and a harp. The group will be playing a variety of types of music including gospel, Appalachian, and old familiar pieces. Anyone who plays an instrument or just wants to sing along is welcome to join in the jam. Bring your own chair. The club has a printed play list that will be used. If you

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Spotlight on Satellites
Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

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would like a copy or have any questions please email Mary Sherwood at sherwood@comporium.net.

Sonic Sounds

Sonic Sounds members have had several opportunities to share the mountain dulcimer with others. In May members played during the worship service at our host church, Centerville UMC, and at the Jug Fest in Knoxville, Georgia (so-called because of unique pottery made and exhibited there). In June members will play for the Peach County Board of Education and the Keenagers at Shirley Hills Baptist Church in Warner Robins. Individual members enjoyed playing at a dulcimer event at Dauset Trails, Spring Thing, and a Civil War reenactment.

Yonah Pickers

What a musically diverse month this has been for the Yonah Pickers. They have played for the intermediate school and the senior centers with equal joy! They have also had a special opportunity to play for the local historical society. On that occasion, they really enjoyed sharing the history of the mountain dulcimer with people for whom Appalachian history is particularly interesting. The intermediate school groups were a result of their participation for the fourth year in the White County Intermediate School's "Art in Appalachia" event. As each group rotated through the class, more and more students were exposed to the beauty of the sound of the Mountain Dulcimer. One exchange that was reported to the group was particularly meaningful. One of the teachers was talking with a student in the hall. She asked about what he had seen that day and what he thought he might like to do. His response, "I want to do music. I want a mountain dulcimer." Earlier in the day, another student had asked how her father could get help with repairing his instrument. The group was able to provide her teacher with group contact information so that one of the builders in the group could help! They are fortunate to have three builders in the group.

At the beginning of the month, the group performed by the "Three Arts Club of Cornelia" which is a long standing group of individuals interested in the arts The performance was well received and one of audience has since joined the group.

The group has decided not to take their usual month off in the summer. Rather, there will be no practices during the month of October. Their established performance schedule will continue. One new addition to their practice routine is the addition each month of a Christmas song. In this manner, they are increasing their skill with these songs and enlarging on their holiday repertoire.

Another fun part of their practices is new songs. Members are encouraged to bring new songs to the group. After playing with the music for a week or so, the group decides if the song is one they wish to include. This democratic approach to music selection has created great enthusiasm among the members for finding and bringing in new music!

The beginners group continues to attract new members and instruction is given before each semi-monthly Monday practice begins. The newest instrument in the group is a cigar box banjo which brings yet another ingredient to the sound mix of mountain dulcimers, guitars, banjos, mandolin, Native American flute, penny whistles and voices which make up the group.

All instruments and all ability levels are welcome. If you are in the area, you are invited to stop by and join any practice. For more information about anything in this article, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

UNICOI
STATE PARK & LODGE

GROUP INDIVIDUAL RESERVATION FORM

POLICIES

Additional discounts are not valid in conjunction with any special promotion, discount rate or group rate.

8% occupancy tax and 7% sales tax added to all rooms, unless an INDIVIDUAL tax-exempt certificate is furnished in advance. Please note that individuals are not covered by a state tax-exempt certificate for master billing purposes. Payment for guestroom charges must be paid by agency check and a copy of the exemption certificate must be presented in advance or at check in to receive individual tax-exempt status.

A $5.00 Georgia State Park Pass valid for the duration of your stay will be assessed on all vehicles.

Reservations must be made by
October 19, 2014

Reservations received after cut off date will be subject to prevailing rates and availability. There is a 2-night minimum for groups booked over weekend dates. Special requests are honored where possible but **ARE NOT GUARANTEED**.

Please note that your room(s) and rates are reserved within a negotiated block of rooms. A credit card guarantee or a deposit for the first night stay is required to hold all reservations. **Reservation must be cancelled at least 30 days prior to event to receive refund.**

We love pets, but they are not permitted in guest rooms. We do have a limited number of dog friendly cabins. Please call for more information. Additional fees do apply.

Fax Completed Form to: **706-878-2676**

Mail Checks and Completed Form to
Unicoi State Park & Lodge
1788 Highway 356
Helen, GA 30545

Check-in Time: 4 p.m.
Check-out Time: 11 a.m.

Lodge rooms contain two double beds (max occupancy 4), some rooms also have a carpeted sleeping loft with twin mattresses (reached by climbing a ladder, the room with loft accommodates 6).
While at Unicoi, you may be reached at 706-878-2201.

Visit us at www.unicoilodge.com

Name of Group **North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association 2014**

Event #03952 **To make telephone reservations 800-573-9659**

Dates **November 19-23, 2014**
Package Rates Single/Double
Staying 4 nights or more **$89.00 Per Night**
Staying 3 nights **$99.00 Per Night**
1 or 2 night stay **$109.00 Per Night**
Additional per Person Charge (over 2) **$15.00 Per Night**

These rates include Daily breakfast buffet for two-Gratuity Included

Arrival Date _____

Departure Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Daytime Phone No. _____

Evening Phone No. _____

E-mail Addresses _____
(optional)

Accommodation Requirements _____

No. of Adults _____ **No. of Children** _____

Every effort will be made to honor special requests; however, due to fluctuating guest counts, they are not guaranteed.

Sharing room with _____
(all share with guests must register at front desk in order to provide proper telephone forwarding and for security purposes).

Please indicate your preferred method of payment.

Credit Card Visa ☐ AMEX ☐
MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐

Credit Card #_____
Expiration Date:_____
Verification # (3 numbers on back of card):_____

Signature _____

Check Enclosed ☐ **Check number**_____

Make Check Payable to: **Unicoi Lodge**

CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT UPON REQUEST AND RECEIPT OF PREPAYMENT.

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sun.	1:30-4:00	First United Lutheran Church of Kennesaw 3481 Campus Loop Rd (formerly Frey Lake Rd.)	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 martin.pb@comcast.net www.allatooners.org Satellite Scribe: Diana (DeeDee) Nash muffyqnash@yahoo.com
AlphaFretters					Not Currently Meeting
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	Monthly, 4th Thurs.	2:30-4:30	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off 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 Teri Godfirnon terig@windstream.net
Currahee Dulcimer Club	Toccoa, GA	Weekly-Thursdays Beginners Group	 6:30-7:00 7:00-8:30	Stephens County Senior Center 55 Roselane	Joe and Jan Sibley 706-886-7407 jinja717@yahoo.com
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@optilink.us Website: www.tiptopwebsite.com/frettin
Gainesville Strummers	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs.	1:00-3:00	First Baptist Church Room 208, 751 Green Street, N.W.	Bob Weaver 770-540-5278 bobweaver6@gmail.com.
Garden City Strummers	Augusta, GA	Monthly, 3rd Mon.	6:00-8:00	Please call to confirm location Marks Baptist Church 1405 Marks Church Rd.	Gene Griner 706-733-1900 hgriner@bellsouth.net Pat Culbert 706-860-3437t
Gwinnoters	Lawrenceville, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sun.	1:30-4:30	Fairview Presbyterian 857 Duluth Hwy. (Hwy. 120)	Gwen Caeli 678-863-4342 gwencaeli@gmail.com Nora Roy 770-963-2541 nsr45@charter.net
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 or bjasperger@gmail.com
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	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wed.-Practice 4th Wed.-Playouts	1:00-2:30	St Philip's Episcopal Church 256 East Main St Brevard, NC	Mary Sherwood 828-966-9628 sherwood@comporium.net Ann Brown 828-877-5506
Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club	Macon, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sat.	1:00 Lesson 2:00-4:00 Jam	Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road	Barbara Stevens 478-457-6539 gbs468@aol.com Karen Stewart 478-954-6759 galadybug53@gmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Blairsville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Tues.	1:30-3:30	Senior Center	LaDale Trimble 706-946-6070 raydale@etcmail.com
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 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.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
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) mccord0304@gmail.com
Yonah Pickers	Clarkesville, GA Helen, GA	Bimonthly 1st & 3rd Mon. Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Mon. before regular group.	2:00-4:00 2:00-4:00 1:00-2:00	Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville Helen Presbyterian Church in Helen Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 lynnmccollum@windstream.net Email lynnmccollum@windstream.net for details.

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures. Last Updated 05/19/2014

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 $10 (if mailed, add $2 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.**

I wish to get my newsletter ☐ on the NGFDA website ☐ by email ☐ by mail

Do you want to order a Tab Book? (check one) ☐ Yes / ☐ No

Please add $12.00 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