North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

May 2014 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 26, No. 5

A Great Wrap for Grassroots Festival!

By President, Mike Van Demark

Agene Parsons, Ooltewah, TN, showcasing the Hammered Dulcimer at the Stone Mountain Village Blue Grassroots Music & Arts Festival photo credit: Carol Downs, Athens, GA

"What is that thing?" came the question, and it was repeated many times during the Grassroots Music & Arts Festival in Stone Mountain Village. Many wonderful NGFDA volunteers answered, "A dulcimer! Would you like to try one?" In the Spring and Fall, these types of Community Outreach opportunities abound and help our organization meet the goals set in our Bylaws to "increase the general public's awareness of and appreciation for the Appalachian and Hammered dulcimers."

As the Village was waking up after sunrise, artists unloaded their creations and the aroma of kettle corn, barbecue and fresh donuts started filling the air. The heavy double doors of a historic storefront at the Village center across from the old train depot were unlocked for NGFDA's use for the weekend. We moved in, hanging our organization banner as window dressing. Not long after, dulcimer players started arriving, even by the busload!

They came from as far west as Canton/Woodstock area's Hilltop Strummers Satellite, as far east as Lawrenceville/Athens area's Gwinnoters Satellite, as far north as a Gainesville player from Yonah Pickers Satellite and as far south as Macon's Middle Georgia Dulcimer Satellite. A highlight was Agene Parsons coming for a Hammered Dulcimer Showcase from Ooltewah, TN. Many individual players joined Satellite participants in both playing and demonstrating. Music was in every corner of the Village, on and off of stages, on sidewalks and in the street. Because of our designation as an Official Festival Music Presenter, dulcimers had a major presence that couldn't be missed. Thanks to all the volunteers who introduced our instrument to so many and to Festival Co-Founder and dulcimer player, John Kelley, who extended the invitation. The Festival video links at ngfda.com are worth watching!

Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

By Gwen Caeli

Hans Christian Anderson, the famous Danish poet once said, "Where words fail, music speaks." Many of us have observed this metamorphosis when we introduce the dulcimer to others. One experience from the recent Grassroots Festival Community Outreach touched my heart.

A father asked if we could let his young daughter try a dulcimer. As this beautiful girl with rich, chocolate skin sat in the sunshine on the park bench at the edge of the sidewalk, her eyes were downcast and she would not look up at me. Her dad explained that she was autistic and her doctor suggested that music might be a valuable therapy. I placed a dulcimer on her lap and a pick in her hand. My large hand covered her small one as we gently started a strumming rhythm saying, "fried chick-en" on each "bum did-dy" stroke. Her dad said, "Oh, she likes fried chicken!"

continued on page 2

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

Foothills Footnotes
(ISSN 1559-1441)

POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Lynn McCollum**, NGFDA, Inc., PO Box 522, Demorest, GA 305353. You may also contact **Lynn** by e-mail at lynnmccollum@windstream.net
All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Barbara Joe** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the May issue is **April 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m**.
Foothills Footnotes is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

Where Words Fail, Music Speaks

continued from page 1

After a few minutes of methodical strumming, she suddenly looked up and locked eyes with me, flashing a gorgeous toothy smile below those bright eyes. Her dad was ecstatic, saying, "This is it! I have to get her started on this instrument!" We had connected, and only through the sweet sounds of the dulcimer.

continued

Music therapy for autism disorders can have great impact above and beyond traditional forms of therapy, as both hemispheres of the brain are used to process music. Music can stimulate cognitive function and help increase other necessary functions, such as relationship development and focusing attention. The invisible threads that made this connection happen were spun by the humble dulcimer. It was a good day.

About The Tablature . . .

NGFDA member and old-time musician John Kelley shared this great tune, "Snake River Reel," with a few dulcimer players at a music gathering in Winder, Georgia last year. He learned the tune from Dan Levenson of the Boiled Buzzards while they were at the Clifftop, West Virginia Appalachian String Band Festival. Dan is a well-known traditional music troubadour, a dulcimer-friendly top notch clawhammer banjo and Appalachian fiddle player.

John is a founder and co-producer of the Blue Grassroots Music & Arts Festival in Stone Mountain Village (March 29-30), where NGFDA will be an official music presenter. He plays most things with strings including old-time banjo, mandolin, banjo uke, mountain and hammered dulcimer and is in the Iowa Music Hall of Fame for his keyboard work. Maybe you have heard him playing on Internet radio's SugarintheGourd.com? His mother, Esther Kelley (1915-2001), had retired to the Ozark Mountains near Mountain View, Arkansas when John brought her a 1978 Michigan-crafted dulcimer by maker Richard and Denise Wilson, with friction pegs. It is the dulcimer that John plays today.

Think dulcimer is the only instrument where you sit to play? Check out John's visionary and most delightful creation the ***Bassbox***, a small, easy-to-carry-around mega-volume, vibrates-the-floor stringless bass. Sitting is required – think of a kalimba on steroids! Take a look-see on Bassbox.org.

Upcoming Events

May 17, 2014

Dulcimer Day with Ben Seymour, Saturday, May 17, 9:30-4:00, St Philip's Episcopal Church, 256 East Main St., Brevard, North Carolina.

This workshop is intended for both novice and experienced dulcimer players. Content will include: "Adding Expression to Your Strumming," "Ensembles and Use of Harmony and Backup Parts" and "Celtic Selections." The afternoon will end with some instruction in the playing of "bones" and a Concert.

This workshop is sponsored by the Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players who meet weekly at St Philip's Church and welcome new members.

continued on page 6

Snake River Reel

Tuning: DAD
Style: Stum all, but reach into your middle string and pick those notes to follow the melody.

As learned on 4/7/13 from old-time musician John Kelley, in Winder, GA
Arrangement: Gwen Caeli

Spring Thing 2014 with Stephen Seifert

May 2nd and 3rd

Red Top Mountain State Park, 50 Lodge Road, Cartersville, GA 30121

Phone: (770) 975-0055

Friday, May 2: **Jamming around the Campfire**

If you arrive on Friday, join us for grilling and jamming around the campfire beginning around 4:00 p.m.
Bring your own dinner and musical instruments. Just look for dulcimer players.

Saturday, May 3: Spring Thing Officially Begins

8:00 am: Registration and Coffee or Tea

8:30 am: Breakfast provided by the club

10:00 am: Workshop Part 1 begins led by Stephen Seifert.

If you would like to read about Stephen and his musical talents please go towww.StephenSiefert.com.

12:00 pm – Pot Luck Lunch and Open Mike

1:00 pm - Mini-Concert by Stephen Seifert

2:00 pm – Workshop Part 2

4:00 pm – Jamming and Visiting

5:00 pm – Pot Luck Dinner (or Leftovers from Lunch)

6:00 pm – Saturday Night Jam (This is the fun part)

All instruments are welcome at jams. Our jams are a lot of fun.

We all look forward to getting together to play.

Where to Stay

Campsites and Cabins: http://www.gastateparks.org

Hotel Accommodations: http://www.visitcartersvillega.org/na/Hotels

Register One of Two Ways:

Send a check made out to NGFDA for $30 if a member of NGFDA or
$50 for Non-Members ($20 of which will pay for a 1 year membership to NGFDA) 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

Simply click on the link below and insert the amount to be paid and then complete your CC information:
http://ngfda.com/paypalprocess/paypalpay2.html

Questions? Call Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561 or 770-507-5998.

Upcoming Events
May 17, 2014

continued from page 2

Call 828-877-5506 or email Ann Brown at grumps@comporium.net for details and registration forms.

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.

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

Mountain Sounds

On April 12 a party at the First Baptist Church in Blairsville was the 100th birthday celebration of member Ginny Leisure's mother-in law. There were food, family and friends in attendance from many different locations.

Some of her favorite music was provided by Mountain Sounds Satellite. Singing was led by member, Ann Hill, joined by several folks in the audience.

Yonah Pickers

The Yonah Pickers group has been enjoying the beauty and renewed energy of spring as they have been out and about. In one recent performance, some members of the group were joking around with the audience and said something, in a joking way, about never having had a standing ovation. At the end of the performance, several members of the audience stood up clapping and said, "Now you have had your standing ovation!" The members of the Yonah Pickers and the members of the assisted living audience for whom they were playing, all enjoyed the laugh. This is also the location where the harmonica player who lives there joins them. He knew and played all the songs that were on the program! During the "Hands-on" portion which follows every YP performance, another member of that same audience stated that she would like to learn to play the mountain dulcimer and plans are under way to make that happen.

The group would like the dulcimer community to be aware that they are canceling their second Sunday practice in May. It is Mother's Day and many members have family commitments. If you are in the area, you are cordially invited to stop in and play at any of the other regular practices. All instruments and all ability levels are welcome. For more information about anything in this article, please contact: bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Remember This?

Join Us Online At ngfda.org

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.	Betty Fleming 706-541-2146 bfleming7823@comcast.ne 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	Helen, GA Clarkesville, GA Cornelia, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. Bimonthly Practice 1st & 3rd Mon. Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Sat.	2:00-4:00 2:00-4:00 2:00-4:00	Helen Presbyterian Church 8895 N. Main St. Bethlehem Baptist Church 624 Hwy. 197 North	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 03/31/2014

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