North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Wonderful World of Mistletoe

By John Shawhan, Vice President

I had the privilege of attending the Mistletoe Jam at Mistletoe State Park near Augusta, 17-19 January 2014. This was my second time attending and found the hospitality of the Augusta group to be exceptional. From the coffee and Jam Session Friday night to the great food Saturday and the wrap up on Sunday, Betty Fleming and her crew out-did themselves to make the 70+ attendees feel very welcome and comfortable. The Beach House facility was warm and had easy access. The weather was cooperative with cool days and plenty of sunshine. The Park Ranger came by and left with a smile on her face.

I always ask people why they play the dulcimer. The most received response is, "I just love the sound of the instrument," or "the music is so peaceful it soothes the soul," and "When I play my mind forgets the drama in the world outside." My personal response is that I was asked to join a dulcimer club to play banjo/mandolin backup. After hearing the Dulcimer and doing some research into the music I sensed the calling from my Appalachian roots and saw an opportunity to tab some of my old Bluegrass tunes into dulcimer tab. In order to do that I had to learn to play the dulcimer and now, I own three dulcimers.

I noticed at Mistletoe there were many different configurations of dulcimers, teardrop, box, hourglass, square, strum stick, dulcijo, electric hard body, acoustic/electric, and hammered. Other instruments were also represented: mandolin, drum, spoons, washtub, bass, banjo, guitar, accordion and penny whistle. I almost forgot to mention the metal wash-tie.

As we played each of the called tunes you could pick out those that were strummers. There were also high melody players and low melody players. The high harmony players and low harmony players seemed to switch between the two. The chord players and the flat pickers held their own in the many melodies. The majestic beauty of the Jam is to allow each of the instruments and style of playing to merge into reverberating instrumentals that drew applause from the onlookers and smiles from the players.

Upcoming Events

February (5) 7-8, 2014

Ninth Annual Central Florida Dulcimer and Autohop© Festival at Round Lake Christian Church in Mount Dora, Florida. Workshop leaders are: Cathy Britell, Peggy Carter, Mike Clemmer, Joe Collins, Karen and Chuck Daniels, Doug Felt, Phyllis and Jim Gaskins, Guy and Sharrie George, Tull Glazener, George Haggerty, Dan Landrum, Jody Marshall, Adam Miller, Gary Sager, Maggie Sansone, Stephen Seifert, Chuck Spano, Rick Thum, Susan Trump, Tish Westman and Jon Williams.

Registration is limited so register early. Only 25 participants per workshop class.

For further festival information, lodging, camping, catered meals and scholarships, contact Ruth Harnden 352-735-4907, dulcirah@embarqmail.com.

February 15, 2014

The Sum of the Parts I and II with Tull Glazener. Two great ensemble workshops for players at all levels – novice to advanced. You'll improve your skills and learn new tunes from various genera – classical to ragtime to fiddle tunes. Workshops will be followed by a potluck and learning jam. Workshops are limited to 25 participants each. Potluck and jam are open to all. Call Sheryl Chapman at 321-223-7350 or email sherylchapman@earthlink.net for information and directions.

Cost is $20 for one workshop of $35 for both. Potluck and jam are free.

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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 March issue is **February 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m**.
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Bluegrass Alive And Well In Hawaii

by Barbara Joe, Editor

Once a month on the first Sunday here in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii bluegrass enthusiasts gather in a garage to jam bluegrass style. Banjos, guitars, harmonicas, dobros and a lonely mountain dulcimer play together for the afternoon. Of course the group does not play in the key of D – anything but. So out comes the handy capo so I can play with them.

At the last gathering we played, “Red Haired Boy,” “Soldiers Joy,” “Old Joe Clark,” “Whiskey Before Breakfast,” among many others.

I am looking forward to the next gathering on ‘February 2.

Join Us Online at ngfda.org

About The Tablature . . .

The tablature this month is from Michael Shull, one of the wonderful instructors at Fall Festival last November. Michael says, “I have attached my version of *Shall We Gather at the River*. I had many requests to tab out some of my signature songs just like I play them. Even this song is open to an individual’s interpretation. I heard it done this way years ago on an instrumental piano CD I found online. It got in my head and I started using it in competitions and on my recording, "Just Michael." “Just Michael,” my solo CD, has the song recorded just like I play it. You can just play along with me.”

The music of Michael Shull brings together a wide diversity of Americana influences to his unique style. In addition to his national award winning credentials on the mountain dulcimer, his musical presentation continues to be both humorous and entertaining. He will surely keep your toes tapping with his smooth renditions of mountain gospel songs done Appalachian style. Michael has built a solid reputation as one of the premier dulcimer performers and clinicians in the country. To date, he has recorded 11 CDs and written eight tablatures books for the dulcimer. When Michael hits the stage, get ready to enjoy an amazing acoustic performance. He calls it, "Heartwarming music for the soul."

Shall We Gather

Tune in DAD

enhanced version

arranged for the dulcimer
by Michael Shull

Hammered Dulcimer Retreat
With Anne Lough
For
Intermediate-Advanced
Players

March 7-9, 2014

At the beautiful Terrace Inn

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

For more information, contact Anne at:

annelough.com

annelough@bellsouth.net

828-627-2704

Retreat Information:

Schedule: Friday: Workshop: 3-5:00; Dinner; Evening Jam

Saturday: Workshop: 9-12:00; Lunch; Workshop: 2-4:00; Dinner; Evening Jam

Sunday: Workshop 9-11:30, Lunch

Cost Per Person including all meals: Single Room: $298, Double: $246, Triple: $226

For non-participants, deduct $100

Register for room and meals at: 1-800-222-4930 - individual reservations.

Register for workshops at annelough@bellsouth.net or 828-627-2704

Directions: lakejunaluska.com

Spring Thing Dulcimer Gathering With Stephen Siefert

Mark your calendars for Spring Thing, May 3, 2014 at Red Top Mountain State Park, 50 Lodge Road, Cartersville, Georgia.

If you arrive on Friday, join the jam around the campfire with several members who will be camping out at Red Top Mountain State Park. There are several cottages available at this time as well as local hotel accommodations. Go to gastateparks.org or http://www.visitcartersvillega.org/na/Hotels to make your reservations.

A Full Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. provided by the club with Tom Womack flipping his infamous pancakes.

Stephen Seifert will be leading a two-part Mountain Dulcimer workshop. Stephen Seifert's teaching and playing has made him a favorite with dulcimer players all over the country since 1991. In that time, he's been a featured performer at hundreds of dulcimer festivals and other music events including Kentucky Music Week in Bardstown, Kentucky, Dulcimerville in Black Mountain, North Carolina, the Augusta Heritage Center in Elkins, West Virginia, the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina, the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas, Stringalong near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas and The Tono American Music Festival, in Tono, Japan. If you would like to read more about Stephen please go to www.StephenSiefert.com.

The schedule for May 3 is as follows:

8:00 a.m. – Registration
8:30 a.m. - Breakfast – Visiting – Jamming
10:00 a.m. – Workshop Part 1
12:00 p.m. – Pot Luck Lunch and Open Mike
1:00 p.m. Mini-Concert by Setphen Seifert
2:00 p.m. – Workshop Part 2
4:00 p.m. – Jamming and Visiting
5:00 p.m. – Pot Luck Dinner (Leftovers from Lunch)
6:00 p.m. – 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.

You can register by sending a check to Kat Vallish for $30.00 along with your name, address and phone number or by registering on our website at NGFDA.org.

Volunteers are Needed

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event or have questions, please call or text Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561.

Spotlight on Satellites

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Club

The Land of Waterfalls Dulcimers welcome Celeste Carneal to the group. Celeste is a very talented harpist. The sounds from her small Irish harp blend beautifully with the dulcimers.

The group is planning a one day workshop in Brevard with Ben Seymour on May 17. All are invited. For more Information please contact Ann Brown at grumps@comporium.com.

Whistle Stop Pickers

Jeff Hames

Jess Dickinson

The 6th Annual Lee County Gathering. . .Down from the Mountains –April 24-27, 2014.

continued on page 6

Spotlight on Satellites
Whistle Stop Pickers

continued from page 5

The Whistle Stop Pickers in Loachapoka, Alabama will host the 6th Annual LCG April 24-27. The instructor/performers are: Jeff Hames, Jess Dickinson, Richard Ash, Guy and Sharrie George, Gary and Toni Sager, Rick Long, Ray Major, Bob Taunton, Fred and Marty Hoerr, Ernestine Robinson, and Millie Chaplin. There will be five concerts, instructional classes on mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer, autoharp, steel drum, penny whistle, ukulele, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, bass, Native American flute, sacred harp singing and traditional Old South Spirituals. Don't miss out on this wonderful event. The total cost for the weekend is just $50 and includes all concerts. Please go to www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org and click on the ***Lee County Gathering*** tab to download a registration form and get more information (schedule and class descriptions).

Yonah Pickers

As the new year began, Yonah Pickers took some time to review their music and performances. They have found the need to make some changes. They have rearranged some of their performances and thereby have made room for new opportunities. The group has begun working on some new music suggested by members, in addition to some suggested by their audiences.

One of the hallmarks of this group is their attitude toward performances. They continually modify future performances based on audience and member requests which sometimes means a energetic search for tab which always begins with the NGFDA website! In the cold of the midwinter comes a time for reflection and renewal. It can be a time to discover new layers to one's self as a person and a musician. As the days lengthen, so do the opportunities to work on skills and new songs. Within those songs could be the perfect song to lift the spirits of a person who hasn't sung a song in many years, much like what the Yonah Pickers observed in a recent respite care performance. Music can find those places long lost to time, and bring them back, to the joy of everyone involved! The group always welcomes new members and guests. If you are in the area on a practice day, you are encouraged to join them. All instruments and all ability levels are welcome. For more information on anything in the article please contact: bswhitmire@windstream.net.

New Membership Benefit

As a membership benefit, dulcimer-related Classified Ads may be submitted for free by NGFDA members. Advertising guidelines are a three line maximum, one column width for a maximum of three consecutive months. Submit ads to Barbara Joe, Editor, at ngfda_footnotes@yahoo.com. Classified ads can also be placed on the NGFDA Yahoo group site.

2014 Fall Festival Update November

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2014 Fall Festival at Unicoi November 19-23. Once again NGFDA has negotiated great prices this year when staying in the "Lodge Only" which will include a breakfast for a single/double occupancy room (2 people). Lodge rooms will be remodeled in 2014. Each additional person (over 2) staying in the room will be charged only $15.00 but that will also include a breakfast for them. Below is a schedule of prices published for Unicoi –**Event #03952**

When making your reservation on telephone at 1-706-878-2201 you must include **Event #03952** to receive these special rates.

Unicoi has already received several calls for this popular event so don't be left out this year and get your reservations made today!

Less than 3 nights	$ 109.00 per night+ tax	1 or 2-people	Breakfast 1 or 2 people Gratuity Not Included
3-nights	$ 99.00 per night + tax	1 or 2-people	Breakfast 1 or 2 people Gratuity Not Included
4-nights or more (Best Value)	$ 89.00 per night + tax	1 or 2-people	Breakfast 1 or 2 people Gratuity Not Included

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 terigodfirnon@hotmail.com
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.	5:30-7:30	Marks Baptist Church 1405 Marks Church Rd.	Betty Fleming 706-541-2146 bfleming7823@comcast.net
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 phobson@mindspring.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 11/26/2013

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 $_____

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