North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Fall Festival 2014

By President and Festival Director, Mike Van Demark

I have received many emails and Facebook comments that our 26th Annual Festival was the best ever. We all had a great time and we had more jamming this year with a lot of "toes tapping" each evening.

Everyone seemed to get in the "swing" of things really well! The faculty and vendors were very happy with their profits from sales. The concerts were great and stayed on time and lastly every workshop I walked into was at capacity and no one was walking the halls during workshops. I guess it was a great festival.

I had great help with the festival this year from my wife, Carolyn, helping me through the preliminary planning, registration and then she continued to assist me throughout the festival. What a Sport!!

Once again I would like to thank Millie Chaplin and her daughter Heather for handling the faculty vending as well as Deborah McCord and Frank Kenney. Deborah and Frank have been volunteering for several years with faculty table and they do a great job. This is a really big job to make sure that all the faculty inventory is accounted for and correctly paid out to the faculty at the end of the festival.

John Shawhan, our Vice President, took over this year as our Outside Vendor coordinator and organized and set up all of the "Outside Vendors," which is also very important and large job. This job starts middle of the year by contacting the vendors to see if they want a space. This was especially challenging this year with the new "layout" of the lodge vending area.

I want to thank Lynn McCollum for lining up all of the volunteers who assisted during the festival in many ways. It does take a "village" to plan and execute an event like this and I thank all of you who volunteered! The best volunteers ever!!

We had a great attendance this year with 243 participants. We met our goal of 245. All of the Unicoi lodging rooms were filled and we met our room night requirement for next year's pricing. Lodge rooms for 2015 will go up approximately $10.00 per night, but will still include breakfast. I will negotiate better prices for the campsites for those of you that use them.

Yes we saw a lot of changes at Unicoi this year beginning with the lodge and some of the lodge rooms. They will continue other phases of restoration on the lodge rooms in 2015 as well as the Masters Hall.

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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 January issue is **December 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

Fall Festival 2014

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Our 2015 Festival is scheduled for November 19 through 22 and you should be able to start making your reservations at Unicoi beginning in January

I do appreciate all of the support I get from the NGFDA members and will work to make next year's festival better t

Remember if you don't need a hard copy of the newsletter sent to you via US Postal Service please contact me or Lynn McCollum so we can change the delivery method to either email or you can retrieve through the NGFDA website by using your email address.

We saved over $1,500 this year by reducing the number of printed copies along with postage. The money we save each year can be used to supplement future events thus keeping costs down for all of the participants.

Now I'm going to take a month or so off and enjoy the holidays and will be back in touch with you in January. If you did not have time to complete an evaluation form at the festival please email me your comments to mvandem@gmail.com

I wish all of you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

About The Tablature . . .

Your editor received a surprise email from Larry Conger offering tab for the December edition. Happy to include it here.

"Up On The Housetop" is a popular American Christmas song written by Benjamin Hanby in 1864. It is said to be the second oldest secular Christmas song in America behind "Jingle Bells." Hanby also wrote "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" and "Darling Nelly Gray."

Since the song is short and uncomplicated, it is tabbed here in two different keys, A and D, in an effort to make it a more interesting arrangement. No transition chord is used to bridge the arrangement from the key of A (page one) to the key of D (page two). Play exactly as written, strumming only when you see the stacked numbers indicating a chord. All other notes should be picked individually.

Larry Conger is the 1998 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion. Visit his web site at www.LarryConger.com

Larry Conger is a player and teacher of the Appalachian Mountain Dulcimer. He makes his home in Paris, Tennessee, a small town halfway between Memphis and Nashville. There he operates a private music studio, teaching piano, guitar and percussion as well as mountain dulcimer. Larry is active as a participating artist for the Tennessee Arts Commission Arts In Education program and the Kentucky Arts Council Teacher Incentive Program, presenting dulcimer programs in the public schools.

A graduate of The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), Larry has been involved with music as a vocation for over 35 years. Besides being a popular performer and instructor at various dulcimer festivals around the country, Larry has also served as a Church Music Director for several Baptist churches.

In 1995, Larry won the Southern Regional Mountain Dulcimer Championship at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, Arkansas. In 1996, he teamed with Jim Curley of Kansas City to win the Southern Regional Dulcimer Ensemble Championship at the Folk Center. In 1998, Larry won the prestigious National Mountain Dulcimer Championship at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas.

Larry has several dulcimer books and recordings to his credit, including contributions to Great Players of the Mountain Dulcimer, National Champions and Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer II, compilation CDs featuring many of today's top dulcimer artists. He has also been featured on three Japanese compilation CDs of international acoustic music. The Acoustic Breath CD series has enjoyed widespread acclaim in Japan.

Larry and his wife, Elaine, are directors of Dulcimer U at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina, hosting numerous dulcimer related workshops throughout the year. They are also directors of their own Duet Dulcimer Retreat at Paris Landing State Park near Paris, Tennessee.

Up On The Housetop

B.R. Hanby

arrangeded in the keys of A and D

arranged for dulcimer
by Larry Conger

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Arrangement Copyright © 2012 Larry R. Conger/Dulcimerican Music PO Box 131 Paris, TN 38242 www.LarryConger.com

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Thank you.

I would like to say THANK YOU to all the members of NGFDA and to all the people at Unicoi for their support and love shown to me.

The concert was the greatest tribute I have ever heard. Doug may have thought himself as a NOBODY, but I always knew he was SOMEBODY and will proclaim it all day long to the admiring bog. (look up the poem).

Lee Felt

Upcoming Events

January 16-18, 2015

The Garden City Strummers will again be hosting the annual Mistletoe Jam at Mistletoe State Park near Augusta, Georgia beginning Friday evening, January 16, and go until around 1:00 on Sunday, January 18. Cabins and camping facilities are available at this park. Bring all your instruments and come out and jam with the Garden City Strummers! A potluck dinner together is always shared on Saturday night too. For more information call Pat and Bill Colbert, 706-860-3437 or e-mail at pogosbill@aol.com.

February (12) 13-14, 2015

Tenth Annual Central Florida Dulcimer and Autohop© Festival at Round Lake Christian Church in Mount Dora, Florida. Workshop leaders are: Ray & Cheryl Belanger, John Blosser, Mike Clemmer, Joe Collins, Jeff Furman, Guy & Sharrie George, Tull Glazener, George Haggerty, Anne Lough, Adam Miller, Gary Sager, Steve Seifert, Ruth & Steve Smith, Chuck Spano, Ivan Stiles, Linda Thomas, Rick Thum, Tish & Greg Westman, 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.

May 1-3, 2015

Spring Thing 2015 with Bing Futch

Fort Yargo State Park
210 S. Broad Street
Winder, GA

Bring your dulcimer and a favorite story, joke or riddle to share.

Friday Schedule:

- 2:00 p.m. – Set Up and Afternoon Jam
- 6:00 p.m. – (BYOM) Bring Your Own Meat for the grill and a small side dish to share.
- 7:00 p.m. – Evening Jam

Saturday Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast provided by the club.
- 10:00 a.m. – Morning Teaching Session
- 12:15 p.m. – Pot Luck Lunch AND Open Mike
- 2:00 p.m. – Afternoon Teaching Session
- 4:00 p.m. – Workshop Ends and Jam until Supper
- 6:00 p.m. – Pot Luck Supper
- 7:00 p.m. – Instructor Concert
- 9:00 p.m. – Jam Session

Sunday Schedule:

- 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast provided by the Club
- 10:00 a.m. - Spiritual Jam Session

Come Early. Stay Late. Have a Great Time!

Accommodations: Call 800-864-7275 or go to http://gastateparks.org/FortYargo/

If you do not have access to the internet and need hotel information, please call Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561.

Spotlight on Satellites

Frettin' On Faith

The Frettin' On Faith Dulcimers played on November 14 and 15 prior to the Farmhouse Christmas show at Ringgold First Baptist each evening. The group was well received and all the players were thanked for participating in the show. On November 19 the Fretter's played at Parkside Place Assisted Living facility and was enjoyed by all. Several ladies sat close to the group and sang all the songs along with the Fretters. The group also plans to play a few Christmas parties in December if all goes well. As they say in Ringgold . . . "keep on frettin'."

Mountain Sounds

On November 11, Mountain Sounds Satellite played for Stonehenge Assisted Living Facility in Blairsville. A mix of fiddle tunes, waltzes and gospel songs was enjoyed by the residents. After a mix-up of going to the wrong building at first, the group hiked up the hill to the right location. It was quickly determined which members were out of shape. Dulcimer playing is not an aerobic exercise!

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Spotlight on Satellites

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Hilltop Strummers

The Hilltop Strummers were well represented at the 26th NGFDA Fall Festival at Unicoi State Park. Attendees were blessed with good weather and a great faculty of dulcimer teachers. New faces among the faculty, and a welcome addition, were Bonnie Carol, David Haas and Larry Conger. They did a super good job with their classes and we hope to see them back next year.

Most of the Hilltop Strummers gathered at Hoffer's for lunch on Friday which has become a tradition. Hard to concentrate on the class following a wonderful lunch but we managed to survive.

The Hilltop Strummers have grown in numbers this year and welcome the most recent new members which include a very accomplished Native American Flute player. Also, word is, two new mountain dulcimers were purchased at the festival by Hilltop Strummers and are headed back to Canton. Congratulations to our new members.

The Hilltop Strummers wish to thank all of our leaders for a wonderful year of sweet music.

Yonah Pickers

The Yonah Pickers enjoyed a month of beautiful fall colors, good music, and great friends. They had the pleasure of performing at several locations including senior centers and respite care programs, and on one beautiful fall Saturday, they also had fun playing one segment for the "Hog Wild Bar-b-que" event at Babyland General outside Cleveland. That day they welcomed 16 Yonah Pickers members to the stage (see photo)! With the help of the local sound engineer, their music filled the area. Everyone, including the Yonah Pickers members and the audience reported having a great time.

The next Saturday, they performed for the annual Fall festival/yard sale for the Sky Lake community (see photo). The turnout was great for event participants and Yonah Pickers players. As eyes feasted on all the delightful art, various treasures, and clothing, stomachs were filled with delicious food, and the music of the dulcimers and other instruments reached out to each and every listener. There were smiles everywhere. Whether they have a large group of performers or only a few, the group always delivers an enthusiastic performance usually laced with a bit of laughter and a bit of Praise. The group has so many performances during December, that there will be no practices in December; however, if you find yourself in the Habersham/White County area on any practice day after the first of the year, you are always welcome to join in the fun. If you have any questions about anything in the article, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club performed at a luncheon at St Joseph's Catholic Church on Thursday November 6. Several club members played and sang for a short set during the luncheon. Many attendees had never seen or heard the Appalachian dulcimer so everyone enjoyed the music.

Many club members supported the NGFDA by attending the Fall Festival at Unicoi. The attendees enjoyed the seminars, concerts, vendors and the available jams.

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. Beginners Everyone	 12:30 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	Evans, GA	Monthly, 3rd Mon.	6:00-8:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogosbill@aol.com
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	Cleveland, GA Clarkesville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Mon. Bimonthly-Everyone 1st & 3rd Mon.	2:00-4:00 11:45-12:45 1:00-3:00	First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 Lynnmccollum50@gmail.com Email lynnmccollum50@gmail.com for details.

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures. Last Updated 09/23/2014

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.**

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Please add $12.00 for Tab Book and postage

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