

North Georgia Foothills  
Dulcimer Association, Inc.



# Foothills Footnotes

April

ISSN 1559-1441

Volume 34, No. 4

## LaGrange Troupers

A poster for the 25th Anniversary Azalea Storytelling Festival. It features a pink and white color scheme. At the top, it says "25th Anniversary" in a cursive font. Below that, "AZALEA STORYTELLING FESTIVAL" is written in bold, block letters. The dates "MARCH 4-6, 2022" are also present. There are five small portraits of performers: Carol Cain, Donald Davis, Josh Goforth, Kevin Kling, and Ed Stivender. At the bottom, there are logos for sponsors including Gay &amp; Joseph, C.P.A., P.C.; LSPA; Kimberly-Clark; LaGrange College; and The Westpoint Fund. The location is listed as "LAGRANGE COLLEGE CALLAWAY AUDITORIUM, 601 DALLAS STREET IN LAGRANGE, GEORGIA" with a phone number and website.

The first weekend in March was a busy time for the Troupers. After a year off during the pandemic, the Troupers were invited to perform at the 25th Azalea Storytelling Festival in LaGrange. The Troupers have provided a program of hymns and gospel songs on Sunday morning during this annual 3-day festival since 2001. It is one of the group's favorite venues.



If you have never heard a storyteller, this is a great opportunity to hear some world class entertainers (including the Troupers!)



Another one of the Troupers braved cold weather to introduce visitors to the top 40 of the 1860s at the American Frontier Days living history weekend in F.D. Roosevelt State Park in Pine Mountain.

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LIAISON TO NGFDA

SATELLITE GROUPS  
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Lynnmcollum50@gmail.com  
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mvandem@gmail.com  
404.822.3666

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**JAN STONE**  
ngfdafootnotes@gmail.com  
706.810.3384

WEBMASTER

**MIKE VAN DEMARK**  
mvandem@gmail.com  
404.822.3666 (Home)

**Foothills Footnotes  
(ISSN 1559-1441)**

POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Mike Van Demark**, NGFDA, Inc., 6208 Wade St., Leesburg, FL 34748. You may also contact **Mike** by e-mail at mvandem@gmail.com.

All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Jan Stone** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the April issue is **April 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

## About the Tablature...

In honor of spring, this month's tab is



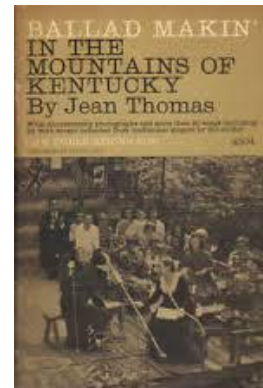
### "Blackberry Blossom."

The tune has a very interesting history depending on who you talk to. The song is also known as Old Blackberry Blossom, Blackberry Winter, and Garfield's Blackberry Blossom. Historians of this tune also tell of a similar version in a different key that originated in West Virginia called, "Yew Piney Mountain." Although the tune is closely associated with the old time/bluegrass traditions of the United States, it enjoys the distinction of often being frequently played by traditional Irish musicians. The tune is of early Irish origin, and it was found in U.S. before Civil War (more on that later.)

The best-known version is simply called "Blackberry Blossom" and made popular by Fiddlin' Arthur Smith in the 1930's.



An older version of the song, "Garfield's Blackberry Blossom," is labeled "Blackberry Blossom" on some recordings. "Garfield" was added to the title to distinguish it from Arthur Smith's version.



There is a story about the origin of the Garfield title that comes from Jean Thomas's book "Ballad Makin' in the Mountains of Kentucky," possibly collected from several sources.



It seems that General James A. Garfield (our 20<sup>th</sup> President) named the tune during the Civil War after hearing a soldier playing it on the harmonica.

He remarked to the musician that it was his favorite tune but said he couldn't remember the title, whereupon he expectorated a stream of tobacco juice onto a white blackberry bush blossom; this was noticed, and the tune was named.

Here's a midi file of the tune to get you started:

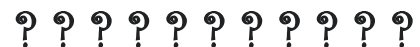


blackberry-blossom-dulcimer.mp3

Check out the variety of interpretations of this tune on YouTube...see if you can find the Celtic version!

## Any Ideas?

Got a story to share? Maybe a new song? How about a joke? Or an instrument to sell? We're always looking for input for the newsletter and your help would be welcome. Send your suggestions to [ngfdafootnotes@gmail.com](mailto:ngfdafootnotes@gmail.com).





# Black Berry Blossom

TablEdited by Robert A Sulton

The image displays a guitar score for the piece "Black Berry Blossom". It is written in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score is organized into six systems, each consisting of a standard musical staff and a corresponding guitar tablature staff. The tablature uses numbers 0-3 to indicate fret positions and includes some advanced techniques like a 7-6+ 7-4 sequence. Chord diagrams are placed above or below the tablature to indicate the harmonic structure. The piece concludes with a final chord diagram for a D major chord.

**System 1:** Musical staff with treble clef, key signature of two sharps, and 4/4 time signature. Tablature: 0 1 | 2 1 0 2 1 0 2 1 | 0 2 1 0 2 3 | 0 1 2 0 2 1 0. Chords: D, A, D.

**System 2:** Musical staff. Tablature: 1 0 1 | 2 1 0 2 1 0 2 1 | 0 2 1 0 2 3 | 0 1 2 0 2 1 0 2. Chords: D, Bm, Em, Bm, Em, Bm, Em, Bm.

**System 3:** Musical staff. Tablature: 0 1 2 | 1 0 2 1 2 | 1 0 2 1 2 | 1 0 2 2 2 1 0. Chords: Em, Bm, Em, Bm, Em, Bm, Em, Bm.

**System 4:** Musical staff. Tablature: 2 0 1 | 1 0 2 1 2 | 1 0 2 7 6+ 7 4 | 5 4 5 2 2 1 2 0. Chords: Em, A, D, A, D, A.

**System 5:** Musical staff. Tablature: 0 1 | 2 1 0 2 1 0 2 1 | 0 2 1 0 2 3 | 0 1 2 0 2 1 0 2. Chord: D.

**System 6:** Musical staff. Tablature: 0. Chord: D.

We want to thank all our sponsors for this year's Fall Festival.  
PLEASE SUPPORT THEM BY CLICKING ON THE graphic or the weblink



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SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	6:30-8:30	First United Lutheran Church of Kennesaw 3481 Campus Loop Rd (formerly Frey Lake Rd.)	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 <a href="mailto:martin.pb101@gmail.com">martin.pb101@gmail.com</a> www.allatooners.org Satellite Scribe: Marianne Wurtele <a href="mailto:bluegrass_m@hotmail.com">bluegrass_m@hotmail.com</a>
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	Monthly, 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	2:00-4:00	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off Cove Road.	Sally Long 404-351-5257 <a href="mailto:sallylong@tds.net">sallylong@tds.net</a>
Dalton Dulcimers	Dalton, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	2:30	First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave.	Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 <a href="mailto:Sspatts6@gmail.com">Sspatts6@gmail.com</a>
Dixieland Dulcimers	Griffin, GA	Weekly-Mondays	10:00	Crestview Baptist Church Fellowship hall, Griffin, GA	Donna Harpe 770-228-5597 <a href="mailto:phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net">phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net</a> Dave Graves 770-227-4890 <a href="mailto:dr636@gmail.com">dr636@gmail.com</a>
Dusty Dulcimers	Danielsville, GA	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday	6:30	Danielsville Public Library 1315 Hwy 98 Danielsville, GA 30633	Marty Philips 678-863-7191 Mark Stricklett email: <a href="mailto:mstricklett@windstream.net">mstricklett@windstream.net</a>
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	Monthly – 2nd Monday – fast jam	7:00-9:00 7:00-9:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 <a href="mailto:pogosbill@aol.com">pogosbill@aol.com</a>
Gold Country Players	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs. Main Session Basic Session	2:00-4:00 4:15-5:00	First Baptist Church Room 235, 751 Green Street, NW, Gainesville GA 30501	Sandy Lesli <a href="mailto:goldcountryplayers@gmail.com">goldcountryplayers@gmail.com</a>
HAMMERED DULCIMER CONTACT					Julia McDermott 706-207-5685 <a href="mailto:HammerPlaying@aol.com">HammerPlaying@aol.com</a>
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	Martha Raby 770-893-3453 <a href="mailto:Mraby@tds.net">Mraby@tds.net</a>
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat.	1:00	St. Luke's Lutheran Church 3264 Northside Parkway Atlanta, GA 30327	Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179 <a href="mailto:davises@bellsouth.net">davises@bellsouth.net</a>
LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers	LaGrange, GA	Weekly, Thurs. mornings  Weekly, Tues.	10:45-12:15  11:30	First United Methodist Church for jamming/practice  Beginning classes	Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 <a href="mailto:perrywilder@bellsouth.net">perrywilder@bellsouth.net</a>
Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players	Brevard & vicinity, NC	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday - Practice 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed.- Playouts	9:45-10:45	St Philip's Episcopal Church (in the basement) 256 East Main St Brevard, NC	Leader: Linda Schieve 828-885-2328
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 <a href="mailto:gbs468@aol.com">gbs468@aol.com</a> Laurie Wilson 229-389-9611 <a href="mailto:Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com">Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com</a>
Mountain Sounds	Murphy, NC	Bimonthly 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays	1:00-3:00	Foster Flea Market 100 Blairsville Hwy (Hwy 129) Murphy, NC	Pam Johnson <a href="mailto:Mountain.Sounds@aol.com">Mountain.Sounds@aol.com</a> Facebook page: Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club
Peach Pickers Satellite	Sharpsburg, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sunday	3:00-5:00	Trinity Church 8817 Highway 54 W Sharpsburg, GA	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 <a href="mailto:pohobson@gmail.com">pohobson@gmail.com</a> Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 <a href="mailto:hrwmdawk@yahoo.com">hrwmdawk@yahoo.com</a> Call Pat Call Wanda
Peach Pickers INSTRUCTION	1) Fayette Senior Ctr 2)Bridge Community Ctr	Wednesdays Tuesdays	11:00 6:00-8:00	4 Center Drive, Fayetteville Bridge Community Ctr. 225 Willowbend Rd Peachtree City	
Roman Sunshine	Rome, GA	Weekly, Monday	10:00	Charles Parker Senior Center Kingston Rd	JT Bishop 706-234-0477 <a href="mailto:Jtbljb@bellsouth.net">Jtbljb@bellsouth.net</a>
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	Weekly, Thurs.	6:30-7:15 Lesson 7:15-8:30 Jam	1 <sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd.	Elizabeth Garrett, 478-225-8071 <a href="mailto:elizabeth@comsouth.net">elizabeth@comsouth.net</a> Jean Noble, 478-971-1782 <a href="mailto:jeannoble@cox.net">jeannoble@cox.net</a>
Tugalo Valley Strummers	Toccoa, GA	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday evenings Beginners Novice Intermediate	5:00-5:45 5:45-6:30 6:30-8:00	Ebenezer Baptist Church Family Life Center 49 Rose Lane Toccoa, GA 30577	Margo Taylor 706-297-9509 <a href="mailto:Margotaylor808@gmail.com">Margotaylor808@gmail.com</a>
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) <a href="mailto:mccord0304@gmail.com">mccord0304@gmail.com</a>
Yonah Pickers	Clarksville, GA	Bimonthly-Regular 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays Bimonthly-Beginners 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays.	11a -1p  1:00-1:45	Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarksville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 <a href="mailto:yonahpickers@yahoo.com">yonahpickers@yahoo.com</a> Brenda Sue Whitmire <a href="mailto:Bswitmire@windstream.net">Bswitmire@windstream.net</a>

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures.

Last Updated 8/27/2021

# 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.

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**Playing Level** (check one):  Beginner  Intermediate  Advanced

**\*Members can automatically access our monthly newsletter at [www.ngfda.org](http://www.ngfda.org) by clicking "newsletter" and entering your email address as listed above. The newsletter is posted around the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 \$13.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book	\$ _____
Membership Fee	\$ _____
<b>Total Enclosed</b>	\$ _____

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