

*North Georgia Foothills
Dulcimer Association, Inc.*



Foothills Footnotes

January

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Volume 35, No. 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2022 went by too fast! We had some great playouts, satellite meetings and instructive virtual festivals. We lost some wonderful friends and family, but it's time to make some music and new memories. Please welcome the new NGFDA Board of Directors:

- President: Mike VanDemark
- Vice President: Laurie Wilson
- Secretary: Vicki Allen
- Treasurer: Barbara Stevens
- Fall Festival Director: Laurie Wilson
- Satellite Liaison: Lynn McCollum
- Membership Chairman: Barbara Stevens
- Newsletter Editor: Jan Stone
- Webmaster: Mike VanDemark

And a big *"THANK YOU!"* to **John Shawhan** for his time as President of the NGFDA and guiding the club through some rough years. We appreciate your leadership and all you've done for the club.

You can find the **Annual NGFDA Meeting Minutes** on page 4. Please take the time to read through them to see what changes are in store. The Board is always looking for volunteers. If you would like to help with any of the various areas, please contact any of the board members.

Do Be Do Be DO

Gentle Reminder:
Dues DUE

If you haven't renewed your annual NGFDA membership, now is the time for all good...you know the rest. Dues run from January to December. You can renew online at the NGFDA website: <https://www.ngfda.com/renewal>
Or you can mail your dues to: NGFDA 2650 Palo Duro Blvd.
North Fort Myers, FL 33917. Due it today!

**2023 NGFDA, Inc.
Board of Directors**

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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Barbara Stevens**, NGFDA, Inc., 2650 Palo Duro Blvd. North Fort Myers, FL 33917. You may also contact **Barbara** by e-mail at gbs468@aol.com.

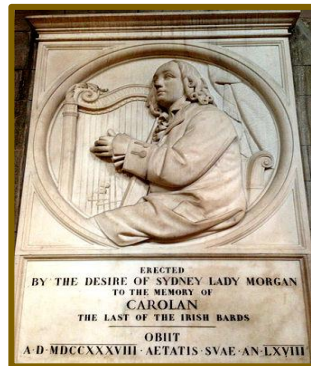
All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Jan Stone** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the April issue is **January 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.** *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About the Tablature...

In honor of the late Gwen Caeli's love for Celtic music, this month's tablature is an Irish air, "*Planxty Fanny Power*." The tune is also known as "*Fanny Poer*" and "*Mrs. Trench*" (Fanny's married name.) This tune is a bit of a challenge – are you up to it?

Turlough O'Carolan (1670 – 1738) was a blind Celtic harper, composer, and singer in Ireland whose great fame is due to his gift for melodic composition.

After being blinded by smallpox at the age of eighteen, Carolan was apprenticed to a good harper where he excelled. At the age of twenty-one, he set out with a guide to travel Ireland and compose songs for patrons.



Carolan composed "*Fanny Power*" around 1728 in praise of the Galway heiress, Miss Frances Power, whom Carolan called "the Swan of the Shore," from the fact of her father's residence was situated on the edge of Lough Riadh.

For almost fifty years, Carolan journeyed from one end of Ireland to the other, composing and performing his tunes.

Many of Carolan's songs are designated as "*planxties*", an obscure word that Carolan apparently invented or popularized to signify a tribute to a host. In return for writing songs in honor of wealthy patrons, Carolan was often welcomed as an honored guest to stay on their estates.

Most of Carolan's compositions were not published or even written down in his

lifetime. They survived in the repertoires of fiddlers, pipers, and the last of the old Irish harper/singers. They were collected and published during the late 18th century and beyond. This is one of the best-known of Turlough Carolan's tunes. Keep it alive

Thank you to **Ron Zuckerman** for the arrangement. Here's an MP3 file of the tune:

https://www.contemplator.com/mp3/plnxpoe_r.mp3

Please see page 5 for more about **Gwen Caeli** and her legacy.

Peach Pickers



The Fayetteville, GA dulcimer group performed a Christmas playout for the Fayette Senior Center on Dec 14.



Some of the group have been playing together for 10 years now.

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Club Brevard, NC



The club played for two hours at St. Philips Episcopal Church during their *No Room at the Inn* two-day exhibit of nativity scenes which were displayed in the sanctuary and open to the public. This was the first of the group's four playouts during the month of December which include a senior center, an assisted living center and an Arts Council all day Christmas exhibit.

Now that the COVID restrictions are over the group can again practice twice a month and have returned with renewed vigor. After taking the month of January off, they will be gathering again for a potluck and practice the first Wednesday in February to begin regular monthly playouts for two senior groups. The leadership positions have changed but the group remains cohesive and supportive of new members. New ideas and visitors are always welcome.

Dalton Dulcimers



The club has enjoyed the Christmas season with working up carols and some other sweet pieces. Playing for the local women's club and a senior living facility were joyous. All topped off with a festive Christmas party with delicious treats and much laughter. The group welcomed two new members and have two more coming in the new year.



Minutes of the NGFDA Annual Business Zoom Meeting

December 11, 2022

Present: Mike VanDemark, Jeff Furman, Laurie Wilson, Karen McGraw, Ed Jones, Cheryl B., Ronald Stewart, Barbara Stevens, Melanie Ligon, Kirk House, John Shawhan, Lynn Ometer, Alan Sykes, Anne Graham, Jackie Lane, Steve Mellott, Lynn McCollum, Vicki Allen, Sarah Robinson

Mike VanDemark opened the meeting.

The major topic of the meeting was to discuss the future of the North Georgia Foothill Dulcimer Association.

- NGFDA currently has 320 members, down from over 500. We have recently lost some outstanding and well-known members such as Peggy Martin and Gwen Caeli.
- Mike reminded us that current Board Members have held their positions for several years. Mike reiterated that the future of NGFDA depends on more people volunteering to make the club grow.
 - Kirk House, Lynn Ometer, and Ann Graham expressed willingness to volunteer. Steve Mellott has experience controlling hybrid zoom events and offered his services.
- Mike also expressed his desire to take a break from his long-standing duties as Vice President, Fall Festival Director, and Membership Chairman.
- Barbara Stevens has agreed to remain as Treasurer and assume duties as Membership Chairman. Vicki Allen has offered to fill the position of Secretary. Laurie Wilson agreed to be Vice President and Fall Festival Director. Laurie will establish a Fall Festival Committee to assist with the virtual festivals.
- The proposed slate of officers for 2023 is:
 - President: Mike VanDemark
 - Vice President: Laurie Wilson
 - Secretary: Vicki Allen
 - Treasurer: Barbara Stevens
 - Fall Festival Director: Laurie Wilson
 - Satellite Liaison: Lynn McCollum
 - Membership Chairman: Barbara Stevens
 - Newsletter Editor: Jan Stone
 - Webmaster: Mike VanDemark

Discussions were held regarding if NGFDA should continue with a virtual fall festival or going back to live festivals.

- Mike reported NGFDA has the funds to hold live festivals but there are advantages to having virtual events. The virtual events draw more participants, including participants from across America and several foreign countries. The virtual events can offer more instructors, including instructors presenting their classes from other countries. The in-person events have some big drawbacks. Many people are no longer willing to travel to in-person events and the costs of travel and lodging are large. The costs associated with securing a venue have also increased.
- Mike reported the club has nearly \$12,000 available for club use. NGFDA makes two to three thousand dollars for each virtual festival but has experienced losses of several thousand at in-person festivals.
- John mentioned that cost factors are the major drawback to large in-person festivals. John said the last one-day festival, at Hard Labor Creek in Georgia, cost around \$1200 to put on but only took in around \$300.
- Barbara suggested NGFDA could have small one day festivals around Georgia, Florida and South Carolina that could be hosted by the local NGFDA Satellites and continue with the Fall Festival virtually. Barbara asked Jeff Furman if he would be willing to come to Georgia to teach at a small event. Jeff said he would.
 - Mike asked Lynn McCollum, Satellite Liaison, to reach out to satellite leaders and determine if they are willing to host and organize small one day events. Mike said NGFDA could fund these. Lynn said she would present the idea to the satellite leaders.

Minutes continued on next page...

It was proposed that the monthly NGFDA Foothills Footnotes newsletter be published quarterly, allowing more time for satellite submissions. Voted on and approved.

- Laurie asked Lynn McCollum to remind the satellite leaders to submit articles and pictures for the quarterly newsletter.

Barbara Steven expressed gratitude to the participants who logged in tonight for this meeting.

NGFDA Board of Directors will meet again by zoom one week after the new year.

Mike asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Allen, Secretary

Satellite Liaison Report



I want to start off by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! It sure was great to talk to almost everyone who leads and co-leads our wonderful NGFDA satellites. I was able to get a lot of great feedback on different things for the NGFDA. Some of you are taking it easy and some are chugging right along. Everyone seems to be handling everything very well. Some groups got very creative with meeting places.

We have had some changes in leaderships due to members unfortunately passing away or moving. I am always here for anyone. You can call or email. One thing I would like to ask, and of course I am available to help plan, but we would like to see some smaller scale “festivals” or simply a day of instruction and invite one or two of our wonderful instructors to come in. The group I lead has done it several times in the past and I’d like to help someone set this up. Maybe a ‘spring thing’ of sorts. If anyone wants to entertain this idea, please get ahold of me. Let’s make 2023 a great year!

Happy Strumming,
Lynn McCollum



Long-time member of the NGFDA, Gwen Caeli, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Spartanburg, SC on November 6, 2022. A service was held on November 20, 2022, at her church, First Baptist Church of Spartanburg.

Working by day in a major West Coast performing arts center, Gwen jumped the fence at night for bluegrass performances, eagerly embracing the heritage of traditional music. She first heard a mountain dulcimer several decades ago at a craft fair booth. She said she couldn’t afford one then but was “forever hooked.”

Gwen was a wonderful person and a very accomplished musician. She played several instruments proficiently, including the dulcimer. While living in Georgia she was the leader of the NGFDA Gwinnoters Satellite in Gwinnett County, GA. She also served as a board member. She landed in the mountains of western North Carolina teaching dulcimer at festivals, folk schools and with private students. As a traditional music enthusiast, she embraced the heritage of the dulcimer by sharing it through playing, teaching, writing, and arranging. An award-winning player, she also published several dulcimer songbooks and a CD. You can find several of her instructional videos on YouTube. Her goal was to carry on the heritage – be it old-time, bluegrass, classical, hymns, Celtic, or Baroque/Renaissance music.

Here's a link of Gwen playing “Plantxy Fanny Power”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rp61sNLMC8M>

Planxty Fanny Power

Turlough O'Carolan

Arranged by Ron Zuckerman

A

D Bm Em A7

Musical notation for system A, measures 1-8. The system includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Below the staff is guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Measure numbers 1 through 8 are indicated above the tablature.

D F#m G Em A7 D

Musical notation for system A, measures 9-16. The system includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Below the staff is guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Measure numbers 9 through 16 are indicated above the tablature.

B

D F#m Bm D G Em A7

Musical notation for system B, measures 17-24. The system includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Below the staff is guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Measure numbers 17 through 24 are indicated above the tablature.

D G A A7 D A7 D

Musical notation for system B, measures 25-32. The system includes a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Below the staff is guitar tablature for strings T, A, and B. Measure numbers 25 through 32 are indicated above the tablature.

| SATELLITE | AREA | FREQUENCY | TIME | LOCATION | CONTACT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Allatooners | Kennesaw, GA | | | | Not meeting at this time |
| Bent Tree Strings | Jasper, GA | Weekly Thursdays | 2:00-4:00 | Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off Cove Road. | Judy Bailey |
| Dalton Dulcimers | Dalton, GA | Weekly Wednesdays | 2:30 | First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave. | Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 Sspatts6@gmail.com |
| Dixieland Dulcimers | Griffin, GA | Weekly Mondays | 10:00 | Crestview Baptist Church Fellowship hall, Griffin, GA | Nancy Good 224.715.8619 Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com |
| Dusty Dulcimers | Danielsville, GA | Monthly – 2 nd and 4 th Mondays | 1:00 | Danielsville Public Library 1315 Hwy 98 Danielsville, GA 30633 | Mark Stricklett email: mstricklett@windstream.net |
| Garden City Strummers | Evans, GA | Monthly – 2nd Monday | 7:00-9:00 7:00-9:00 | 4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809 | Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogosbill@aol.com |
| Gold Country Players | Gainesville, GA | Weekly – Thurs. | 11:00- 1:00 | First Baptist Church Room 235, 751 Green Street, NW, Gainesville GA 30501 | Sandy Lesli goldcountryplayers@gmail.com |
| HAMMERED DULCIMER CONTACT | | | | | Julia McDermott 706-207-5685 HammerPlaying@aol.com |
| 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 Mraby@tds.net |
| In Town Down Home | Atlanta, GA | Monthly, 3 rd Sat. | 1:00 | St. Luke's Lutheran Church 3264 Northside Parkway Atlanta, GA 30327 | Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179 davis@bellsouth.net |
| LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers | LaGrange, GA | Weekly, Thurs. mornings | 10:45- 12:15 | First United Methodist Church for jamming/practice | Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 perrywilder@bellsouth.net |
| Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players | Brevard & vicinity, NC | Weekly Wednesdays | 10:00- 11:30 | 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. | 1:00-2:00 Lesson 2:00-3:30 Jam | Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road | Laurie Wilson 229-389-9611 Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com |
| Mountain Sounds | Murphy, NC | Bimonthly 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays | 1:00-3:00 | Foster Flea Market 100 Blairsville Hwy (Hwy 129) Murphy, NC | Pam Johnson Mountain.Sounds@aol.com Facebook page: Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club |
| Peach Pickers | Sharpsburg, GA | Weekly Wednesdays | 3:00-5:00 | Bridge Community Ctr 4 Center Drive, Fayetteville 225 Willowbend Rd Peachtree City, GA | Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com |
| Peach Pickers INSTRUCTION | Bridge Community Ctr | Tuesdays | 11:00 | | |
| Roman Sunshine | Rome, GA | Weekly, Monday | 10:00 | Charles Parker Senior Center Kingston Rd | Dee Russell 706-346-6318 |
| Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD) | Centerville, GA | 1 st & 3rd Thursdays | 5:30pm | 1 st United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd. | Elizabeth Garrett, 478-225-8071 elizabeth@comsouth.net Jean Noble, 478-971-1782 jeannoble@cox.net |
| Tugalo Valley Strummers | Toccoa, GA | 2 nd & 4 th 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 Margotaylor808@gmail.com |
| Whistle Stop Pickers | East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn- Opelika area) | 2 nd & 4 th Saturdays | 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 | Clarksville, GA | 2 nd & 4 th Fridays. | 2:00- 4:00p | Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarksville | Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 yonahpickers@yahoo.com Brenda Sue Whitmire Bswitmire@windstream.net |

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

Last Updated 12/28/2022

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 \$13.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book \$ _____

Membership Fee \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail membership form and payment to: **NGFDA 2650 PALO DURO BLVD. NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33917**

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