North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

November 2009 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 21, No. 11

Upcoming Events

November 13-15, 2009

Smoky Mountain Dulcimer Retreat weekend event with instructors: Maureen Sellers (beginner MD), Terry Lewis (novice MD), Bill Taylor and Bing Futch (int and adv MD), Dan Landrum and Anne Lough (novice-int and adv HD). Jams, Friday night Open Stage, Workshops in mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer and guitar on Saturday. Vendor booths by the instructors. Catered meal (optional) on Saturday night followed by the instructors concert. Sunday morning get-together is hymn/gospel tunes sharing time followed by a final informal jam.

Cost is $85 for the entire weekend. Special room rates for Dulcimer Retreat attendees at Talley Ho Inn, EconoLodge, and maybe a few rooms left at Highland Manor Inn. Call motels directly as special rates are not available online. Camping is available in the area.

Festival Location is 7726 E. Lamar Alexander Parkway, Townsend, TN, 37882

For further information, contact Nancy Basford at 865-4831121.

November 19-22, 2009

Thanks to all of you who have registered for this year's Fall festival at Unicoi. We have been at our capacity of 300 participants for quite some time and have a waiting list of hopefuls should cancellations occur. Our instructors have been given final class counts so please refrain from changing without permission. As always, we will do our best to accommodate minor adjustments once we are at the festival.

We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Plan to come early and stay late. There will be lots of jams, and you won't want to miss the traditional Sunday morning gathering of the instruments.

January 8-10, 2010

Come chase away those winter blues with Kentucky Music Week's Winter Dulcimer Weekend at the Quality Inn in Bardstown, Kentucky. Instructors include: Mountain Dulcimer – Doug Berch, Jeff Furman, Bing Futch, Dave Haas, Stephen Seifert, Maureen Sellers; Hammered Dulcimer – Doug Berch, Guy George, Ruth Smith, Rick Thum; Native American Flute – Bing Futch; Penny Whistle – Guy George.

All classes will be held at the Quality Inn in Bardstown, a full-service motel offering meeting rooms for all our classes and concerts. Call the Quality Inn at 502-348-9253. You need to make your own reservation.

Participants sign up by level and instrument. You may take all mountain dulcimer, all hammered or a combination of both! Simply check the classes you want, fill out the registration form and mail along with $90 fee to: Kentucky Music, Inc.; P. O. Box 86; Bardstown, KY 40004. (No non-participant fee with paying partner.).

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Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for the vendors' table, especially on Friday and Saturday. Cash register experience would be helpful. If you can help out, please contact Millie Chaplin at princessofpossumcorner @yahoo.com or 843-462-2137.

Join Us Online At www.ngfda.org

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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Georgette Willix**, NGFDA, Inc., P.O. Box 15573, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. You may also contact **Georgette** by e-mail at gwillix@bellsouth.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 December issue is **November 22, 2009**.
Foothills Footnotes is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

Membership News

by Georgette Willix

Correction

It's been brought to my attention that the zip code for our PO Box listed on the back of the 2009 directory is incorrect – it should be 30333. The correct address is reflected on all other publications, including the newsletter and brochure.

Fall Festival brought a flurry of new members, full of enthusiasm for the dulcimer. One new member was so enthusiastic that she gave memberships to eight of her extended family members (what a great Christmas gift idea!) We welcome each one of you, and hope you'll soon find a circle of dulcimer friends to make sweet music with.

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Membership Renewal Deadline Was November 1

If you forgot to renew, please do so right now in order to keep receiving your newsletter and to be eligible to participate in next year's Fall Festival. See the renewal form on the back of this newsletter.

About the Tablature . . .

This month's tablature was submitted by member, Pam Deemer. Pam says:

"I've gathered my courage finally to send in my Swiss Miss and the harmony to it that the Sweet and Lows played on the open stage at the last Fall Festival.

This little song came out of memories of a trip to Switzerland when my daughter was two and a half years old. We were walking down the street in Zermatt on a drizzly day. She insisted on carrying our huge, open black umbrella. As she proudly toddled down the sidewalk with her rounded, rosy cheeks, and sun- yellowed hair under her burden, an American woman passing us squealed, "Aren't the Swiss children adorable!" Her woman friend agreed, "Yes, they certainly are!" Fortunately for their happy illusions, I was speechless with amusement."

Swiss Miss

TablEdited by Pam Deemer

Composition and TAB by Pamela Deemer

Swiss Miss, Harmony

TablEdited by Pam Deemer

Composition and TAB by Pamela Deemer 2008

Lucky

by President David Hobson

It was in May of 1969, and we were pushing a brand new colicky baby in a stroller through a Piedmont Park arts festival. The movement stopped her crying. Suddenly, this music came pouring into the sky, floating among the oak leaves in the park. Someone had put on a recording of Joan Baez singing a wonderful Brazilian aria, and it came sweetly into the air through the festival sound system. The moment stays in my head, magical.

Other singers and songs came along after that, among them Barbra Streisand singing "People." My wife loved that song. There was always a question in the back of my mind, though. Are people who need people so lucky? What if some people need people too much and get clingy? Is that a lucky thing? Probably not. People who enjoy people, that's another matter. Those people are probably very lucky.

And so there we were in FDR State Park at the start of October, 2009, playing dulcimers, enjoying each other. There was Laura Boggs and husband and six children. Laura has a dulcimer now, and Peach Jam was her first NGFDA event. One child brought a canjo. Others brought no experience with the dulcimer. Laura had just begun her experiences with the dulcimer; in correspondence she had asked numerous questions, including which tuning NGFDA'ers prefer, DAA or DADD. She asked how she would find the place in FDR Park where the jam was occurring. Would the Lucky Thirteen help?

Her face sometimes showed joy as she sat in the jams but sometimes she struggled as tunes other than the Lucky Thirteen were played. She seemed happy when Sam Greene gave her and some of her children beginner dulcimer lessons. Others among her children faded in and out of the goings on, one showing a lizard she had captured and Dad had put temporarily in an empty soda bottle. Laura cautioned the child not to leave it in the bottle too long, or it would cook, and soon family members looked for the most deeply creviced bark of loblolly pine onto which to let loose the reptile.

Saturday night Sam Greene looked serious as he responded to the comment, "Looks like you had a crowd of beginners today, with Laura and others."

"Not so many," he said, his red baseball cap with the pick pockets in it and a seriously bowed bill perched atop his shaved head, "but there was one student that absorbed all I could teach so quickly that I went through many levels. I was stunned. I have never had a student to learn so fast."

"Then you were privileged," I responded. Sam agreed.

There were Ann and Perry Wilder, Nancy and Dean Larson, Karen Mulder, Sue Yoon, Patsy Griffen, Judy Lawrence, Carolyn Stephens, Pat Hobson, and other Dulcimer Troupers in their bright blue polo shirts and khaki pants working the reception table and jams and setting up supper for people to sit at picnic tables and share food and talk. The Troupers supplied the chicken, plates, and such, and others brought other dishes. People sat around and talked and laughed.

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Lucky

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That night after supper, a general jam began, and eventually Tom Womack began in what might be his signature song, "Coleman's March." As he led, playing intricate passages on his concertina, sometimes I stopped just to hear the finesse and tenderness with which he played. Peggy Martin bowed her dulcimer next to him, and the deep resonances of the bowed dulcimer supported the higher sound of the concertina. At the end, his face was pensive, and his eyes glistened. It was a lucky happening to experience that.

Bob Taunton sat on his stool and led the jam after supper -- dinner for those not from this region. He and his wife sang together sometimes, and people played the Lucky Thirteen and others as well. We listened and played as best as we could, we people from Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, and Georgia. All of sounds of the various instruments melded together in the night air and poured into the trees surrounding the covered area. It was in its own way magical. People were enjoying the playing and enjoying each other.

In my mind, that was Peach Jam 2009. Lucky. Sometimes magical.

Membership Report

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Membership Report

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And welcome back to:

- **Bob & Kay Evans**
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Spotlight on Satellites

Frettin' On Faith

The Fretters have begun practicing Christmas music already. Our December calendar already has seven dates lined up, two of them being at Rock City on Lookout Mountain!

October saw the Fretters playing at Mill Creek Baptist in Rocky Face for their Fall Festival on the 3rd and on the 4th we were playing at the Garden Plaza at Greenbriar Cove in Collegedale, Tennessee (www.gardenplazagreenbriarcove.com). On October 17 a few members were privileged to meet and eat with Scottish flute composer, Alex Abbott, at the home of Amy and Shawn Fletcher in Ringgold, Georgia. Alex even composed a song especially for the event and gave it to the Frettin' On Faith Dulcimer Group as their own song, "Fellowship and Friends" being the title. The evening was topped off by dulcimers and flute jamming!! It was great!

Life is good here in Ringgold . . . "Keep On Frettin". (www.frettinonfaith.com)

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

It was cloudy, cold and misty rain the weekend of October 17 and 18 at the Mossy Creek Barnyard Festival in Perry-Warner Robins. But the weather did not dampen our spirits not deter those of us who played on through the weekend. We enjoyed meeting many new prospective dulcimer players; and renewing friendships with playing partners and vendors.

In spite of our numb fingers we had a great time and are already planning for Mossy Creek next April. In late October some of us will be playing at Hope Lutheran Church's Oktoberfest in Milledgeville. And, we have an upcoming performance in Gordon in November.

Now its time to get in more practice for the upcoming holidays. Have a good fall everyone.

Gwinnoters

The group had a play out at the Red Clay Theater in Duluth. Then on October 24 we went to the McDaniel Farm in Duluth for a family fun theme. We have been playing at this park for several years now. Our next group meeting will be a "field trip" to Gwen Caeli's home. We are looking forward to this visit with her as she directs the group. Let's keep strumming, as we look forward to Unicoi later this month.

Blue Ridge

Our group again played for Heritage Health Care in the middle of October. This is something we look forward to and hope the residents enjoy it as much as we do.

We played in Hayesville, North Carolina on October 29, for the Clay County Community Revitalization Association, a non-profit organization. This is an evening meeting and included a pot-luck supper.

Alphafretters

The Alphafretters are back into our playouts in the community after a summer break. We truly enjoy going to the retirement centers in the area to play and sing with the residents. In September we played our fall fiddle tunes for members of Chambrel in Roswell, Georgia; then we played at the Old Milton County Fair where we dressed in our pioneer costumes. This event is always a lot of fun with people standing around us to get a close-up view of our instruments. This past week we played at another retirement center, Merrill Gardens, where the residents sang with us to songs they said that they used to sing as

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Spotlight on Satellites

Alphafretters

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children. As everyone else probably is doing, we are now focusing on our winter holiday music for a playout in December.

Peach Pickers

The Peach Pickers will be meeting on November 1 at The Bridge. Bring the "Lucky 13" and maybe some Christmas music.

Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club

We've had several opportunities to play around the community in October: an area church homecoming, the Georgia National Fair in Perry, Georgia and some from our club met with the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club and had fun playing at Mossy Creek. We also played for the Centerville United Methodist Church Fall Festival. We continue to welcome new members and look forward to playing at a pancake breakfast this month. Please join us on Thursday evenings if you happen to be in the area.

Upcoming Events

January 8-10, 2010

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If you need additional information, contact Nancy or Corbin Barker -502-348-5237/ email info@Kentucky MusicWeek.com or visit the web site at www.kentuckymusicweek.com.

January 8-10, 2010

Come chase away those winter blues with Kentucky Music Week's Winter Dulcimer Weekend at the Quality Inn in Bardstown, Kentucky. Instructors include: Mountain Dulcimer – Doug Berch, Jeff Furman, Bing Futch, Dave Haas, Stephen Seifert, Maureen Sellers; Hammered Dulcimer – Doug Berch, Guy George, Ruth Smith, Rick Thum; Native American Flute – Bing Futch; Penny Whistle – Guy George.

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If you need additional information, contact Nancy or Corbin Barker -502-348-5237/ email info@Kentucky MusicWeek.com or visit the web site at www.kentuckymusicweek.com.

January 28-31, 2010

First Annual Key West Dulcimer Fest at Hurricane Hole Marina in Key West, Florida.

What a wonderful time of year to be in Key West. Temperatures should be around the low 70's during all four warm and wonderful days.

Registration form is located on the website at http://KeyWestDulcimerFest.com and you can print out as many copies as you need; one for each person attending. The form has info on instructor concert tickets for non-attendees and an area to order the official festival t-shirt.

Sheri Cabanas is the accommodations coordinator. She has secured fantastic festival rates at places within walking distance of Hurricane Hole Marina, where workshops, meals and concerts are taking place. If you're planning on camping, you'll want to call her straight away, as there are only so many slots available during high season. Give her a call at 305-294-6019.

For the best experience, plan on arriving Wednesday afternoon/evening and staying through till Sunday afternoon. Thursday the 28th will be a laid-back day of informal jams, meet-n-greet, sightseeing and planned activities. Some of the instructors will be presenting masters classes on this day as well. Friday and Saturday, the 29th and 30th will be full curriculum days:

Sunday, the 31st, some more masters classes, gospel jam, informal jamming, sightseeing and winding down, leading up to a glorious sunset cruise upon a sailboat in the Gulf of Mexico at 6 p.m.

Conveniently located at the Hurricane Hole Marina are charters for fishing, scuba-diving, para-sailing, kayaking, long-boarding, wave-runner rentals and more.

Instructors/performers include: David Beede, Robert Force, Bing Futch, Guy George, Tull Glazener, Jeff Hames, Lois Hornbostel, Dan Landrum, Karen Mueller, Aaron O'Rourke, Butch Ross, Gary Sager, Stephen Seifert, Rick Thum and Susan Trump.

Cost is $95.00. Get your registration in early as this festival is limited to the first 200 to register.

February 12-13, 2010

Central Florida Dulcimer and Autoharp Festival. Instructors include: Tull Glazener, Susan Boyer Haley, George Haggerty, Lorraine Lee Hammond, John Hawk, Anne Lough, Maddie MacNeil, Adam Miller, Ivan Stiles, Rick Thum, Susan Trump. Cost: $70.00.

For further information, contact Ruth Harnden at 352-735-4907, dulcirah@embarqmail.com.

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
AlphaFretters	Alpharetta, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sat.	10:00- 12:00	Senior Activity Center 13450 Cogburn Road	Dell Makuch 770-667-0620 makuchd@bellsouth.net
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	4th Thurs	2:30- 4:30	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles East of Jasper off of Cove Road	Carol Lesley 770-893-2019 Carol.Lesley@tds.net
Blue Ridge	Blue Ridge, GA	Weekly, Mondays	1:00- 3:00	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Hwy. 515 at Forge Mill Road	Anne Bailey 706-632-3854 Mary A. Davis 706-492-5759 irish2@etcmail.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@windstream.net Website: www.tiptopwebsite.com/frettin
Gainesville Strummers	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs.	1:30- 3:30	First Baptist Church Room 208, 751 Green Street, N.W.	Louise Gunnin 770-983-9893 rgunnin@bellsouth.net
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, 4th Sun.	2:00- 4:00	Lawrenceville Female Seminary 455 South Perry Street	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
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	Monthly, 3rd Sun. Weekly, Thurs. mornings	2:00- 4:00	First United Methodist Church For jamming & prac.	Nancy or Dean Larson 706-883-6915 ndlars@mindspring.com
Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club	Macon, GA	Monthly, 1st Sat.	1:00 Lesson 2:00 Jam	Georgia Music Hall of Fame 200 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.	Kathy Smith 770-775-1346 Mashanic@gmail.com Barbara Stevens 706-484-8044 Gbs468@aol.com
Mountain Sounds	Blairsville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Tues.	1:30- 3:30	Senior Center	LaDale Trimble 706-835-1688 Bigr1@windstream.net
N.W. Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sun.	1:30- 4:00	Towne View Baptist Church Modular Bldg. C 1115 Shiloh Road	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 martin.pb@comcast.net
Nacoochee Strummers	Clarkesville, GA	Weekly, Wed.	2:00- 4:00	Varies week-to-week. Call Ted Doll.	Ted Doll 706-878-2526 theodore.doll@gmail.com
Peach Pickers	Peachtree City, GA	Monthly, 1st Sun.	3:00- 5:00	The Bridge Community Center 208 Willowbend Road	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 phobson@mindspring.com
SEHDP (Southeastern Hammered Dulcimer Players)	Support Group for Local HD Satellites	www.SEHDP.com for Individual Satellite Info.			www.SEHDP.com Patsy Jordan sehdpmail@gmail.com
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMAGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	Weekly, Thurs.	6:00- Lesson 6:45- 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
Towaliga Toe Tappers	Jackson, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sun.	2:00- 3:30	Towaliga Baptist Church Kinnard's Mill Road	Karla Redman 678-447-5063 Redmans5@mindspring.com David Ridgeway, Jr. 770-775-3120 770-294-1151
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) bigalmccord@bellsouth.net
Yonah Pickers	Helen, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun.	2:00- 4:00	Mountain Lakes Resort Members Lodge Highway Alt. 75 between Cleveland and Helen, GA	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 lynnmccollum@windstream.net Linda Clarke 706-865-3089 lindaclarke@windstream.net

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

Last Updated 10/14/09

NGFDA Membership Form

Please start/renew my membership in NGFDA, including a subscription to the monthly *Foothills Footnotes* newsletter and member discounts to association events. Tab books available to members only, one copy per member at a cost of $7 (if mailed, add $4 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

Newsletter Access (check one): ☐ Internet ☐ US mail

(Internet is the preferred method for faster service, cost savings, and color photos too. Access instructions will be sent with your membership acknowledgement)

Do you want to order a Tab Book? (check one) ☐ Yes / ☐ No

Please add $11.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book $_____

Membership Fee $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Mail membership form and payment to: **NGFDA P.O. Box 15573 Atlanta, GA 30333**

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