North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

December 2009 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 21, No. 12

2009 Fall Festival

Our 21st Fall Festival is behind us now, and many of us are already thinking about what we can do to make 2010 even better. Thanks to the many volunteers who gave of their own festival time to help make things run smoothly. With such a large number of participants, we could not have done it without you.

We have heard so many compliments about our faculty, many of whom were new to us this year. There is so much talent that we wish we could invite all of them every year.

We wish you all a joyous holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you at events next year.

Upcoming Events

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,

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Mistletoe Jam

Don't miss the annual Mistletoe Jam, sponsored by the Garden City Strummers on January 15-17 (MLK weekend) in the Beach House at Mistletoe State Park! It's heated and dry! Not many came last year but those of us who attended enjoyed our time together. The year before we had snow; but 30 of us braved the weather and had a good time anyway. Garden City Strummers are hoping year three will be a charm and many of our friends, old and new, will attend.

Cabins and campsites should still be available and may be reserved now at http://gastateparks.org/info/mistletoe/.

The hall will be open on Friday around 3:00 for those who arrive on Friday. Jamming will start at 10:00 Saturday morning until???? Pot Luck supper will be at 6:30 on Saturday night with jamming afterward. A full kitchen will be available with refrigerator, large stove, oven and ice. Sunday the hall will open at 11:00 for those wanting to play. The coffee/tea pot is always on.

Plan on chasing the January blues away. SEE YOU AT MISTLETOE!!!

Got Membership?

If you forgot to renew by the November deadline, you've lapsed. No more newsletters, no more access to our Yahoo Group, and no opportunity to attend next year's Fall Festival. But don't despair - see the form on the back of this newsletter to reinstate today!

Join Us Online At www.ngfda.org

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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, 2009**.
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Membership News

by Georgette Willix

As we approach the "gifting season" lets be especially grateful for the gifts of friendship and music that our members share with one another, and give so freely to their communities. In that spirit, let's welcome our newest members:

- **Sheri Henshaw**
  189 Knucklesville Rd. NE
  Rydal, GA 30171
  770-548-8095
  sheribomb@bellsouth.net
- **George & Jacquie Shangle**
  179 Chigger Ridge Rd.
  Blairsville, GA 30512
  706-745-7994
  gshangle@gmail.com
- **Danny & Dottie Shepherd**
  420 Pyle Lane
  Hopkinsville, KY 42240
  270-305-2198
  mdforchildren@yahoo.com
- **Marsha Boyett**
  640 Merrill Mountain
  Grant, AL 35747
- **Ruth, Trawick**
  PO Box 183
  Brasstown, NC 28902
  828-837-8725

> I have no pleasure in any man who despises music. It is no invention of ours: it is a gift of God. I place it next to theology. Satan hates music: he knows how it drives the evil spirit out of us.
>
> *Martin Luther*

About the Tablature . . .

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

"I first heard this carol sung by a male quartet at the annual Celtic Christmas program at Emory University and fell in love with the melody. It's also known as the Sans Day Carol, because in the 19th century it was heard and transcribed in Sans Day or St. Day, a village in Cornwall named after a Breton saint."

The words to the carol are as follows:

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:

Chorus:

And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.
Holly! Holly!
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

Chorus

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

Chorus

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:

Chorus

The Holly Bears a Berry

TablEdited by Pam Deemer, 2007

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arranged by Pam Deemer, 2007

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Imperfectly Perfect

by President David Hobson

It wasn't a perfect fall day in late October. The sun hid behind the clouds a little too often to show off the colors of autumn perfectly, and it was a bit early for the trees to be at their peak. It was a little too warm to be crisp, and there was a touch of mugginess in the air. Still, with the car windows down, he heard the tires make that pleasing crunch along the road amid golden leaves floating and fluttering down in the soft wind. The sun came out, and it was great weather for strolling along and holding hands amid the Mexican sage and chrysanthemums in the gardens, with their purples and bright, bright yellows and oranges. There were grapevines with rows of leaves turning a brilliant yellow as the sun back lighted them. It wasn't a perfect fall day, but that was fine. Some moments were perfect.

It had its other moments also; the picnic on the dock of a lake turned lively when a young boy and his grandfather came down to throw bits of Kentucky Fried Chicken biscuits to the turtles, and the turtles and fish battled for the bread. The turtles stuck their triangular heads out of the water, mouths wide open reaching for the food, and the fish darted up from below, sloshing the water with their sudden speed. The boy cried out in laughter and said, "Did you see that? That fish grabbed the biscuit right out of the turtle's mouth." He edged closer to watch, and Pawpaw cautioned the boy not to get too close to the edge of the dock. "Your uncle fell in twenty-five years ago right here, and your grandmother will have my head if you fall in." There was the brightness of watching a child experience something for the first time and a bit of family history thrown in, too. Later, when his wife and he threw in turn their bits of biscuits to the turtles, he observed them differently.

Even if the day wasn't perfect, he decided as they drove back it had been imperfectly perfect.

A few nights later, it was too cold to be a perfect fall evening. True, the full harvest moon rose in its November brilliant whiteness behind dark bare branches of trees in the hospice courtyard where the dulcimer group was playing at a memorial service. He could see the music well because there were lights shining downward from the framework of the pergola they played under, but the hard wooden chair was cold even through the thick clothing he wore. As the group played, people came in and sat down in darkness. He could hardly see them. As the moon rose higher, glowing in a hard whiteness difficult to look at, the evening chill set in more, and his fingers grew stiffer and more reluctant to play. It was coldly, perfectly dark.

The service began. Some people sang. He was cold. Some people spoke. He became colder. People sang again. He grew colder still; shivering in what he had thought would be warm clothing. After the singing and speaking came the lighting of over one hundred memorial candles at the front of the assembled families, each of whom had lost someone in the past six months. As each name was called, a family member came up and lit a candle in memory. A dulcimer ensemble from the group quietly played songs like "Finlandia." He was glad for the music, and it absorbed his attention so that he really did not know when the change occurred. At first, the person walking through darkness up to the candles was hardly discernible. But sometime in the service, as more and more candles flamed and glowed, the first few rows appeared out of darkness, and then more and more rows, revealing the audience as the hard moonlight behind them had not.

It was as if the memories of those they had lost warmed and illuminated them, and their memories glowed from within. It was only candles, but those candles made him realize that the good memories the audience had of their loved ones did have a glow. Each candle-lighter received a rose before leaving the front, and he noticed one tall, middle-aged man smelling the rose, as if it helped him remember the scent and the presence of someone amid the candlelight.

It was a chilly fall night, not exactly perfect, but it had its perfect moments. It was imperfectly perfect.

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Imperfectly Perfect

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He thought about the coming Dulcimer Festival at Unicoi, and he knew Mike Van Demark and Judy Bailey and their team, and the registration people, and the exhibitors' chairperson had worked hard to provide perfect moments for all those there. Perhaps the festival would be perfect for a lot of people. If not, he hoped that each person attending would have enough of those perfect moments for the festival to be imperfectly perfect for him or her, somehow illuminating each with dulcimer music. And he hoped the same for the coming holidays for all those who would attend the festival or play dulcimers somewhere. He hoped things would be if not perfect imperfectly perfect for NGFDA members. For himself, too.

Spotlight on Satellites

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club players at the Mossy Creek Barnyard Festival in Perry, Georgia on October 18, 2009. L to R: Karen Stewert, Barbara Stevens, Kathy Smith, Brenda Pitts.

Hart String-Strummers

NGFDA welcomes the Hart String-Strummers of Hartwell, Georgia as its newest satellite group. It is a small but enthusiastic group of mostly beginners and encourages anyone interested in mountain dulcimers to just come and listen even if they don't or feel they can't play.

Towaliga Toe Tappers

The Towaliga Tow Tappers are looking forward to a fun time of fellowship, playing and singing Christmas Carols, and of course, food! Bring your family and come have a good time as we celebrate this special time of year.

Hilltop Strummers

The Hilltop Strummers stay active and continue to grow in membership. We now have a wide array of playing skill levels and this always makes for challenges in meeting the needs of all the membership. Our Wednesday evening beginner group continues to enjoy their meetings and one player has now been able to arrange to participate in the daytime satellite meetings. We also have two new members planning to start playing with us this month and we'll be happy to have an autoharp addition to our sound.

We have designed a club logo and purchased denim shirts and t-shirts for our public performances.

Our recent and future planned activities include the following:

11/1/09 - The annual Hilltop Strummers Railroad Roundhouse Jam and pot luck was sandwiched in between the various rains the Atlanta area experienced and we had perfect weather, great food and fellowship (with a little "jamming" thrown in for good measure.)

11/13/09 - Fourteen members of our Satellite borrowed a van from the Canton First United Methodist Church and had a full day's outing in the north Georgia mountains visiting antique stores, Merciers apple orchard followed by our perennial stop at a FATZ restaurant for dinner. The evening was topped off with our attendance at the Stephen Seifert concert at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina.

11/15/09 - Our ensemble group performed two hymns at a Canton First United Methodist Church worship service.

11/19/09 - We have 23 members registered for participation at the NGFDA festival.

12/10/09 - We will be playing at a Sunday school class Christmas party.

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Spotlight on Satellites

Hilltop Strummers

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12/13/09 - We will join the Allatooners' Satellite club for a practice and Christmas social.

12/15/09 - We are scheduled to play Christmas carols at Cameron Hall Assisted Living facility in Canton.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing many of you at future events.

Blue Ridge

Blue Ridge is busy preparing for several Christmas programs. Some of the members will also be performing at Brasstown Resort during the season.

Our warmest wishes for a blessed Christmas Season and a Happy and safe New Year!

Peach Pickers

The Peach Pickers will meet Sunday, December 6, at the Bridge. Bring Christmas music and cheer!

Frettin' On Faith

November found us practicing hard for our December dates; we have nine dates so far. One is for the 100th anniversary of the Chattanooga Choo-Choo Station. Yes, there REALLY is a Chattanooga Choo-Choo!

It's been in the low 70's here for a few days and it's hard to practice Christmas music in shorts and T-shirts! I write this we are packing for Unicoi and hope to see a lot of our "old" friends there! Just remember . . . Keep On Frettin' - www.frettinonfaith.com

Upcoming Events

January 8-10, 2010

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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.).

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

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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

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Upcoming Events
January 28-31, 2010

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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:

Breakfast - 7:30-8:45 a.m.
1st Period - 9-10 a.m.
2nd Period - 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Lunch - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
3rd Period - 1-2 p.m.
4th Period - 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Dinner will be from 5-6:30 p.m. with the instructor concerts scheduled from 7-9 p.m. Times may change slightly. Meals will be catered by Hurricane Hole Restaurant and will be available for a nominal price.

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.

More details on some of these events to come and a lot more planned. You'll not only have plenty of time to soak in the island atmosphere, see the sights and enjoy the warm weather; you'll also get a good solid stream of instruction and jamming for mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer, autoharp, pennywhistle, steel drums, guitar and more!

Conveniently located at the Hurricane Hole Marina are charters for fishing, scuba-diving, para-sailing, kayaking, long-boarding, wave-runner rentals and more. The venue is located across the highway from the Key West Golf Club and Resort. Island AeroPlane Tours offer old-fashioned biplane rides high above Key West or, for those who wish to keep their feet close to earth; the Conch Train gives great tours of "Bone Island."

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 6, 2010

Join us for the 11th Annual Mid-Winter Dulcimer Festival in Shelby, North Carolina. A great one-day festival with a history of good workshops, good food, good concerts and good time.

Performers and teachers include: Aaron O'Rourke, Mike Clemmer, Paul Byrum, Joe Collins and others to be announced.

Start time is 9:00 a.m. at Elizabeth Baptist Church, 301 North Post Road, Shelby, NC 28150.

For further information, contact Joe Collins at 704-484-8414.

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, and Susan Trump. Cost: $70.00.

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

March 11-14, 2010

Lagniappe Dulcimer Society invites you to our "Swinging in the Swamp" 9th Annual Lagniappe Dulcimer Fête at the Community Center/West Baton Rouge Museum, 749 North Jefferson Avenue, Port Allen, Louisiana.

Classes, Performances and Instruction on Mountain Dulcimer, Bowed Dulcimer, Hammered Dulcimer, Banjo, Sacred Harp, Ukulele, Mandolin, Guitar, Autoharp, Harmonica, Fiddle and more!

Outstanding instructors from Arkansas, Alabama, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas & Virginia.

Whoa!! Look who's coming!

Ken Bloom, Bob Frazier, Steve Bing, Denise Guillory, Craig Harrel, Anne Lough, Debbie Porter, Steve Seifert, Jak Stallings, Bill Taylor, and Lloyd & Margaret Wright!

We'll feature many classes for the beginner, intermediate and advanced levels with workshops, jamming, and concerts on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday including a Gospel Jam and Sing on Sunday morning, and tons of vendors!

Folks come and enjoy the food, hospitality and music of Southern Louisiana.

Please contact Pete Payne - pdpayne@att.net or call 225-223-2361

Play the music, not the instrument.
~Author Unknown

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
Hart String-Strummers	Hartwell, GA	Bimonthly 2nd Tues. & 4th Sat.	Tues.- 6:30 Sun.- 1:30	Hart Regional Arts Council Art Center 338 E. Howell St.	Mary Alice Ray 706-376-6591 706-371-0176 mary.alice.ray@gmail.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	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.	Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 perrylwilder@bellsouth.net
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 raydale@windstream.net Nell Boone 706-745-8064 bnb615@brmemc.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 Sam and Rhoda Greene Home Phone 678-833-5995 Sam@greenemountaindulcimer.com Rhoda@greenemountainembroidery.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 11/18/09

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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