North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Bear On The Square

by President Tom Womack

This year's Bear event was the most successful yet. Under the NGFDA tent the sound of our dulcimers rang out most of the day on Saturday and Sunday. There were passing groups of the curious who lingered for song after song. The event is held annually in April in Dahlonega, Georgia and attracts hundreds of bluegrass, old-time, and Celtic musicians who blend in with each other from 10 in the morning till the sun sets on both days.

On Saturday morning we had about a dozen dulcimer pickers circled under our little tent while the smell of sausages cooking and coffee wafted through the oaks on the gentle breezes. As the sun conquered the clouds, sweaters were shed and "Old Joe Clark", "Cluck Hen", and "Cripple Creek" drew the crowds in with their questions.

What are those things in your laps? What is that big board with all of the strings? We taught, we made friends, we bonded with each other.

One fellow had driven with his dulcimer from Michigan after luckily finding our website after a Google search for dulcimer activities. Lynn Smith danced her little animated wooden dancing-man on her lap to "John Stinson's #2" while small children giggled at the edge of the crowd encircling our tent. After finishing a stately "Coleman's March", I chanced to see a tear in more than one eye.

The tunes continued for hours with members of our club and guests coming and going.

On Sunday, the weather was warmer, the breezes gentle and the group joined in together for some gentle waltzes and familiar hymns peppered with "Liza Jane", "Pretty Little Miss" and "Grey Cat." The throngs grew after church hours. John Stockard presented a dulcimer workshop at 1 p.m. Many of our members found their way to the formal dulcimer jam under the festival tent at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

We owe thanks to Robin and Art Chase for organizing and managing the NGFDA tent for the festival, John Stockard for his stimulating demonstration of the dulcimer and its history, and to Sherry Moser for all of her work with planning the festival.

Upcoming Events

May 13-15, 2011

Spring Thing at Hard Labor Creek State Park is almost here! Time to take that dulcimer off the wall and head on over to Spring Thing. Some cabins or campsites may still be available, but you'll need to contact the park directly to make your own arrangements. Walk-in registrations for the workshop will be accepted (the fee is $25 for one day or all three) but please email katrine.pate@physics.gatech.edu to let us know you're coming and please bring correct change. Hard Labor Creek State Park is located approximately 6 miles from Interstate 20, exit #105.

Here's a rough schedule of the weekend's activities. Remember, meals are on your own in your cabins/campsites or at restaurants in nearby Rutledge, but **be sure to bring a dessert to share for the Gala Desert Party on Saturday night**. As always, snacks and beverages will be available at the shelter throughout the day. We look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at Spring Thing!

Friday

2:00	Registration opens – mix and mingle at Shelter #1
4:00	Cabin check-in begins – dinner on your own
7:00	Open Stage, followed by preview mini-concert by Lee Cagle
8:00	Jamming with Lee

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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 June issue is **May 22, 2011 at 6:00 p.m**.
Foothills Footnotes is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

Membership News

by Lynn McCollum

Please welcome the following new members of NGFDA:

- **Virginia Long**
  3356 Hornage Rd.
  Ball Ground, GA. 30107
  423-400-7688
  yearwood@aol.com
- **Anna, Gene & Travis Feagin**
  764 Sanside Dr.
  York, SC 29745
  803-684-9146
  Feagins3@comporium.net
- **Ralph Davis**
  P.O. Box 9174
  Marietta, GA 30065
  404-358-5787
  ralphdavis@mac.com
- **DeVal Lott**
  4080 Bear Den Lane
  Douglasville, GA 30135
  770-942-6786
  D.lott@bellsouth.net
- **Mark Richmond**
  3913 Bryce Rd.
  Nashville, TN 37211

Upcoming Events

May 13-15, 2011

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Saturday

9 – 9:30	Intro class for beginners (if enough interest)
9:30 – 11	First Class
11 – 2	Lunch on your own
1:00	NGFDA Board meeting – all are welcome to attend
2 – 5	Second and Third classes; short break between classes
5 – 7	Dinner on your own
7	Dessert Party at the Shelter
7:30	Open Stage
8	Lee's Concert
9	Jamming until . . .

Sunday

9 – 10:30	Hymn Singing/Playing led by Lee
11:00	Check out of cabins by 11

June 3-4, 2011

The Yellowbanks Dulcimer Festival will take place on June 3-4, 2011 at Yellow Creek Baptist Church, 5741 Highway 144, Owensboro, KY 42303. The two-day festival promotes and celebrates the Mountain Dulcimer as the designated Kentucky State Instrument.

Cost: Workshops - $20.00
Concerts: FREE

Performer lineup: Susan Trump, Rick Thum, Heidi Muller and the Lindsey Family. Workshops in Mountain Dulcimer, Hammered Dulcimer, Banjo, Guitar, Bowed Psaltery, Fiddle, Penny Whistle and more. Come enjoy a family music weekend with instruction for levels from beginner to advance, children to adults. Handmade crafts, music vendors and food add to the festival atmosphere. We have limited R.V. space (self-contained - reservation required). For overnight lodging call Sleep Inn, 270-691-6200. A block of rooms is reserved for our guests – mention Yellowbanks.

Website: www.yellowbanksdulcimer.org
E-Mail: yellowbanks@bellsouth.net
Contact: Thelma Newman 270-684-1631.

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About The Tablature . . .

Our vice president, Ann Wilder, was kind enough to submit tablature for this issue.

At 17, Robert Robinson and some of his drinking buddies decided to attend an evangelistic meeting planning to make fun of the proceedings. When George Whitfield began to preach, Robert felt that the sermon was just for him. The words haunted him for the next three years. Finally, at age 20, Robert gave his life to Christ, and soon afterward answered a call to the ministry. Three years later, he wrote "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" to complement a sermon he was preparing for Whitsunday, 1758. Originally "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" had four stanzas. The fourth stanza was omitted by Martin Madan in *Psalms and Hymns*, 1860 and has not been used since.

The hymn is usually set to an American folk tune, "Nettleton," composed by John Wyeth. It is found in most protestant hymnals in England and the U.S. and has been recorded by many groups including Jars of Clay and The Morman Tabernacle Choir.

Come Thou Fount

Words: Robert Robinson

Tune: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

TablEdited by Ann Wilder

Come Thou Fount - Harmony

Words: Robert Robinson

Tune: Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

TabEdited by Ann Wilder

Upcoming Events

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June 17-19, 2011

This three day festival is home to the Mid-Eastern Hammered and Mountain dulcimer contests as well as nearly 60 workshops featuring hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, autoharp, psaltery, banjo, guitar, and more! Vendors will be on site, all-day ongoing concerts, and a Saturday night concert featuring Rob Brereton and Sam Rizzetta this year!

Performers and Teachers: Rob Brereton, Sam Rizzetta, Wildwood and friends, Stan and Flo Hortz, the Tri-county Dulcimer Club, Brett and Serenity Ridgeway and many, many more!

Location: downtown Coshocton Courthouse Square, Coshocton, Ohio.

Cost: Everything is free to the public except the workshops. Workshops are $15 per workshop, paid directly to the instructor.

Contact Person: Kendra Ward or Bob Bence 740-388-6464

July 8-9, 2011

A summer workshop with Tull Glazener entitled, Summer Strummin, is being offered by the NGFDA group, Yonah Pickers, at Unicoi State Park.

Tull Glazener is a well-known performer and teacher of the mountain dulcimer. He has been sharing the music of the mountain dulcimer since 1984, and has performed and led workshops throughout the mid-west and south. He has produced five recordings and is the author of four instructional/tab books. He is often a featured columnist for Dulcimer Players News. His latest project has been producing a series of learn-at-home Workshop/teaching CD's.

For more information please contact Gwen Aumann, 706-348-3376 gwen.aumann@yahoo.com or Brenda Sue Whitmire, 770-316-2025 bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Spotlight on Satellites

Hilltop Strummers

The Hilltop Strummers are excited to have four new members participating in the group. Three of the four are absolutely new to the mountain dulcimer and one played some, years back. Our group has a separate practice to help these players develop their skills and become more comfortable in playing with the full NGFDA circle which meets weekly.

The group has expanded the sound by including various voices and varying the tune as it repeats. Members hope to utilize the techniques taught by Steve Seifert which should assist in accomplishing this objective.

The group recently played at the Canton Senior Center for Valentines' Day and at the Cameron Hall Assisted Living for St. Patrick's Day. The seniors enjoy having wooden spoons back up the dulcimers on a few tunes and that they enjoy playing the spoons with us on a couple songs. Most of the programs include a vocalist doing one or two songs. The goal is to create a performance which is varied, interesting, interactive and fun.

The group will play at the Riverfest Festival in Canton this September.

Two members attended the Shamrock Blast in Blairsville and based upon the excellent planning, presentation, and the great instruction at the workshops, the group is strongly promoting that more members attend next year.

Frettin' On Faith

April found the Fretters' practicing a lot and working on Civil War songs to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the war in 1861.

Several members attended Tull Glazener's workshop in Loudon, Tennessee on April 9 and came away with a lot of music and hopefully more knowledge of playing the dulcimer.

The Dalton Dulcimers, Frettin' On Faith and a Chattanooga group are planning on a day long gathering sometime in May. Details and report may be in next month's newsletter or perhaps June's, depending on the date set for the gathering.

Keep on Frettin'.

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

Some of the summer members of the Waterfalls group are returning and it is great to see them. This month the group played for a church service at St Philip's Episcopal Church and also at the senior day care center, KOALA.

On April 16 the players opened the Dulcimer Day Workshop by playing a variety of pieces, demonstrating how dulcimers can play with other

instruments. Several new players attended and members paired up with them to coach them one on one during the morning. In the afternoon workshop Paul Andry challenged the group with some New Orleans style pieces then inspired his audience by demonstrating a variety of skills as he played some old favorite and familiar songs during his concert.

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The tornado went around Perry, Georgia and missed Mossy Creek's Barnyard Festival. It was sunny and warm for the festival visitors and venders. A lot of folks stopped by to listen and sing as the club performed under the tent and in the festival's Gathering Place.

The group has been invited back to play for a group of senior citizens in the next couple of months

Yonah Pickers

Members are enjoying the beautiful spring weather and the opportunity to share with the community. This month's photo shows the combined groups among the beautiful spring flowers at one of the practice sites. The joy of the renewal of life that fills every day brings such wonder to life and to their music. The group is seeing that joy move through their instruments to be shared freely with the wonderful elders for whom they have had the pleasure to perform. In a recent performance, one participant sang out for the first time in some time on the last song of the performance and taught the members a different verse to the wonderful old standard, "Amazing Grace." It was a touching moment for all involved. The group looks forward with enthusiasm to the events of the next few weeks. One really fun annual event that will occur in the next two weeks is the opportunity to perform for the students at a local intermediate school as they explore Appalachian Days. It is so important for children to respect and continue the heritage of their forefathers, and this type of event is a good step in that direction. Also, the preparations for the upcoming Spring Thing are almost complete and the members are looking forward to being a part of this fun event. Special events continue to occur. At a recent practice a new member brought a 100 year old dulcimer to the group. It had been reconditioned and our guest/new member played it during the session. What an experience! The plans continue for the Summer Strummin' event (see related article) that will be occurring in July. For more information please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Dulcimer Troupers

The Dulcimer Troupers played for the senior group at the First United Methodist Church of LaGrange, Georgia, on April 7. The program opened with a song for each state bordering Georgia followed by a trio playing John Sackenheim's arrangement of "Georgia on My Mind." Three patriotic tunes and three spirituals rounded out the program which ended with the Troupers' version of the closing song on the Lawrence Welk Show, "Goodbye Ladies, Farewell Gentlemen," complete with bubbles floating in the background.

Blue Ridge

The Blue Ridge Dulcimer Players played at the Blue Ridge Nursing home on April 18. Many residents and dulcimer players had a great time together.

Times for practice have changed: Blue Ridge Dulcimer Players will meet from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. on the first and third Mondays during the summer months.

Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club

The SSDC will be jammin' at the Georgia Jug Fest on Saturday, May 21, from 11 a.m. to noon and 1-2 p.m. This event is in Knoxville, Georgia. All are invited to join us under the tent near the stage and jam with us.

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	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 judyhardy@ellijay.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 Sat.-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	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	Weekly, Wed.	1:00- 3:00	Silvermont Opportunity Ctr. 364 East Main St. Brevard, NC	Mary Sherwood 828-966-9628 sherwood@comporium.net Ann Brown 828-877-5506 grumps@comporium.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 478-457-6539 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
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
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 phobson@mindspring.com Sam and Rhoda Greene 678-833-5995 (Home) 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 (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
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 04/18/11

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 $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

***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. Members without convenient internet access may request mailed copies by contacting NGFDA, PO Box 522, Demorest, GA 30535.**

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 $_____

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