North Georgia Foothills
Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

April 2016 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 28, No. 4

MAY 20 -21, 2016
SPRING THING

NGFDA Spring Dulcimer Event

We are absolutely ecstatic that Nina Zanetti will our instructor for Spring Thing this year. Nina is the 2008 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion. She comes to the mountain dulcimer from a diverse musical background, including choral music, violin, viola, piano, and shape note singing. To learn more about Nina, go to ninazanetti.com.

For more details, to pay and register, go to ngfda.org .

Event Location:

Group Shelter
High Falls State Park
Jackson, GA
http://gastateparks.org/HighFalls

Event Schedule:

Friday, 4 PM Song Share/Jam
6 PM – BBQ Dinner
Club provides meat, drinks & paper goods, bring a dish to share
Saturday, 9 AM – Registration
10AM – Morning Workshop
12 PM – Potluck Lunch
2 PM – Afternoon Workshop
4 PM – Open Mike/Performance
6 PM – Potluck Dinner
7PM - Song Share/Jam

Register for Event:

go to ngfda.org

Cost: $20 Members $50 Non-Members

Pay via PayPal(ngfda.org) or Check made payable to NGFDA sent to Barbara Stevens, 114 Oak Leaf Circle, Eatonton, GA 31024

QUESTIONS?
Call Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561

Volunteer to Help:

Call Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561

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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Lynn McCollum**, NGFDA, Inc., PO Box 522, Demorest, GA 30535. You may also contact **Lynn** by e-mail at lynnmccollum50@gmail.com
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 May issue is **April 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About The Tablature . . .

Tull Glazener writes: "On February 21, 2016, I lost a friend and musical mentor when Mary Geraldine "Gerry" Gray slipped her earthly bonds. Gerry was one of the founding members of the Central Indiana Folk Music and Mountain Dulcimer Society, and also the leader and "Mother Hen" of the Family Reunion String Band for over 35 years. She was the main musical attraction at the Pioneer Museum exhibit at the Indiana State Fair starting back in the 1970s, introducing audiences to folk music by playing both the mountain dulcimer and the autoharp. But it was her voice and captivating smile that drew everyone she came in contact with to her. Making and sharing music was as natural as breathing to Gerry, and her love for the music, and for all those who made it, or appreciated hearing it, was infectious. I personally would probably not be playing the dulcimer today if it weren't for her. She was the one who first encouraged me on the instrument, and invited me to join the Family Reunion String Band which gave me a "safe environment" to learn not only how to play, but also the importance of keeping the music and these instruments alive by sharing them with others. I will miss her voice, and her smile, but most of all her unwavering support, friendship, and love. I know that there is a new voice in the angelic choir.

"The hymn, "Going Down the Valley" was one of the favorites of audiences of the Family Reunion String Band, and we always used it to open the Sunday morning gospel sing at the Indiana State Fair.

"The lyrics were penned in 1890 by Jessie Pounds, the wife of the pastor of the Central Christian Church here in Indianapolis, Indiana. Due to poor health as a child, she received most of her education at home, and began submitting articles to various religious publications at the age of 15, primarily poems. One of the editors told her that some of her poetry would make good hymn texts, and so began her song writing career. She wrote the lyrics for over 400 gospel songs during her lifetime, including, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth," "Going On," and "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." She collaborated with organist and composer James Fillmore for over 30 years."

Tull Glazener has been sharing the music of the mountain dulcimer since 1984. He has performed and led workshops throughout the mid-west and south. Tull enjoys arranging aires, waltzes, ragtime, traditional, old-time, contemporary, classical, and jazz for the mountain dulcimer. Tull is also one of the performers on Susan Trump's "Masters of the Mountain Dulcimer" series (Volumes 1 and 3). He has produced five recordings, is the author of five instruction/tab books, and has been a featured columnist for Dulcimer Players News. His latest project has been producing a series of learn-at-home workshop/teaching CDs.

We Are Going Down The Valley

Jessie Brown Pound (lyrics); James H. Fillmore (music) - 1890

Melody

Arranged by Tull Glazener

Eagle Creek Music www.tullglazener.com

LYRICS

We are going down the valley one by one,
With our faces tow'rd the setting of the sun;
Down the valley where the mournful cypress grows,
Where the stream of death in silence onward flows.

Refrain

We are going down the valley,
Going down the valley,
Going tow'rd the setting of the sun;
We are going down the valley,
Going down the valley,
Going down the valley one by one.

We are going down the valley one by one,
When the labors of the weary day are done;
One by one, the cares of earth forever past,
We shall stand upon the river brink at last.

Refrain

We are going down the valley one by one:
Human comrade you or I will there have none;
But a tender hand will guide us lest we fall:
Christ is going down the valley with us all.

Refrain

We are going down the valley one by one:
Yet before the shadowed vale may come the dawn,
When with rapture we shall gather in the sky;
"We shall be changed," but some shall never die!

Refrain

Fundamentals For Successful Practice And Playing*

by President, John Shawhan

1. Sit in a comfortable chair when playing, preferably without arms
2. Pivot at the elbow when strumming; avoid shoulder motion whenever possible
3. Don't twist or rotate your wrist while strumming; try to keep it straight and stationary
4. Hold the pick using either 2-finger (pinch) or 3-finger hold (thumb, index and middle fingers)
5. Strum lightly across all the strings, don't "scoop" or use a "sweeping" paintbrush motion
6. Use a consistent strumming motion in one direction ONLY (either out-strum or in-strum)
7. Keep your strumming arm as parallel and comfortable to the fingerboard as possible
8. Point the head of the dulcimer away from you to align your strumming arm with the fingerboard
9. Secure your dulcimer on your lap with a guitar strap (forget lap pads; they just don't work)
10. Tilt your dulcimer out to project the sound outward toward the audience
11. The best quality sound is produced over the sound holes, not the strum-hollow
12. Relax your body and shoulders when strumming
13. Don't strum in alternating motions; each beat has its own distinct motion in the SAME direction
14. Practice double-strumming until it becomes natural
15. Make sure you contact all the strings with equal force; don't hit the fingerboard with the pick
16. Don't pick up your fingers when moving from fret-to-fret; just slide up or down the fingerboard
17. The only time you lift your fingers from the fingerboard is on the open notes
18. Use only enough downward pressure on the strings to make contact with the fingerboard
19. Don't press down; you "touch" the strings LIGHTLY until contact is made with the fingerboard
20. Slightly more pressure may be needed with higher notes on the fingerboard due to the upward slope toward the bridge....but not too much pressure. Remember: TOUCH; do NOT press down!
21. NEVER use lubricants such as *Fast-Fret* on uncovered fingerboards; it will damage the wood
22. Moisten only the fret fingers with mineral oil if needed prior to playing—but don't oil the strings!
23. Try to use the tips of your fret fingers to fret rather than laying the fleshy part on the strings
24. The best sound comes with your finger touching close to the fret---but not actually touching it
25. Use multiple fingers when fretting, including your thumb (walking the fingerboard) when practical
26. Anchor fingers on repetitive notes helps minimize sliding motion on the fingerboard
27. Use "air strums" during "rests" or pauses in the music to keep the tempo or timing consistent
28. Listen to yourself playing; listen to others for timing but be sure you can hear yourself
29. Practice until you can play comfortably without looking at the fingerboard frequently
30. When strumming, saying the notes or tablature numbers out loud will help you learn songs faster
31. Look for finger patterns or a series of repetitions and memorize those patterns
32. Practice music in segments, about 4-8 measures (or less) at a time
33. Practice using specific fingers for specific frets; this often takes out the guess work
34. Hum the tune as you strum—but play the music; what sounds normal to you might be different to
1. the way others have learned the song. Don't play it as it "sounds"; the music is the rule!
35. Play with a steady rhythm or beat; everyone should play together as one
36. Practice the harder parts of a song first; the easy parts will take care of themselves
37. Record yourself if possible and play it back to evaluate both your strumming/fretting techniques
38. The best time to practice is just before bedtime; the brain absorbs information faster at rest
39. Keep your dulcimer where you can play it; you can't play it when it is in the case!
40. Try memorizing songs whenever possible
41. In jam sessions, if you don't know a song, watch, listen, and learn from others
42. Share your experiences with others; learn from them as well
43. Don't be afraid to experiment with various strum patterns on songs; embellish when possible.
2. Get a good tuner (i.e., Korg CA-40 or CA-1)—and use it. Avoid clip-on tuners; they are just too expensive to maintain due to short battery life
44. Get involved in a group that helps you grow in your skills as a player

*Courtesy of Paul G. Sykes (2008)
magnolastringsdulcimers@hotmail.com

Spotlight on Satellites

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club met at The Young America School of Music for the regular monthly meeting Saturday April 9. The group enjoyed learning some new songs and jamming.

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Spotlight on Satellites

Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

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The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club has been invited to play at the Blue Birds and Bluegrass Festival at Dausett Trails on Saturday April 23. The MGDC club will be playing in the Atrium of the main office building at Dausett. The Atrium room is fully enclosed with heat and air. Bathrooms and a kitchen are available in the building next to the Atrium room. The MGDC group will be using a jam-style format. Playing starts at 10:00 and continue until 3:00. Everyone is welcome to drop in to the jam for a fun time sharing music. Attendees can also enjoy all the other Bluegrass music and events for the day. Admission and parking are free!

Gold Country Players

What a great season Gold Country Players in Gainesville is having. The modified schedule is working out perfectly, with new members and keen improvers attending the Back to Basics sessions every week. Making progress with new tunes is very encouraging, providing opportunities for people of every level to build on skills.

The group had a healthy turnout when participating in the Braselton Milling Around Downtown festival. They entertained folks on the porch at "A Flea Antique" in western wear and included cowboy tunes, along with traditional waltz and standard selections. Like attracts like, and it was great to discover that there are other dulcimer players in the area; hopefully they will keep in touch. Towards the end of the performance one shop owner joined in with his guitar and an impromptu jam session started up. Two hours of fun!

Plans for the rest of the year have been added to the Calendar and you can be sure there will be lots of pictures. Anyone with questions or comments can make contact via Goldcountryplayers@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/Goldcountryplayers.

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

In March, many Irish pieces were included in the playout list. Two of the players led the audience in singing along with several songs at a local retirement community. The leader gave a short and sometimes sad story about of each piece which added to the enjoyment of all.

The beginner/novices are starting to join the several of the regular club players to play each month at a local nursing home as part of the transition into joining with the more experienced players this summer when their beginning classes end. Working with them for the past two years has been such a joy.

Yonah Pickers

The Yonah Pickers have been enjoying their opportunities to perform for a number of organizations and are looking forward to the beginning of new adventures in the springtime. In addition, the group continues to grow. Currently

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Spotlight on Satellites

Yonah Pickers

continued from page 6

the group numbers about 30. They are consistently having many members in various combinations at practices and performances to the combined delight of the group and the audiences. At their most recent performance at a local senior center there were 16 members playing.

Recently members of the group have added hammered dulcimer, auto harp, and a recorder to the group. Several newer members enjoy singing together and are developing a quartet presentation with the remainder of the group playing their various instruments with them.

Two of the men in the group are bringing a comedic touch to presentations with their versions of "Stories From My Family" based on the song "Good Old Mountain Dew." The "sing along" portion of the presentations remains popular with the audiences. They really enjoy singing the old time hymns and other well-known favorites. In several of the locations, audience members will also occasionally dance a bit to the groups favorite fiddle tunes or, as happened in March, a traditional Irish jig! Group members have been known to join in too!

Membership in the Yonah Pickers ranges from a few weeks to over 10 years. The newest members came to the group from a dulcimer class that was taught at a local church by a group member. Variety is a hallmark of their performances. As was mentioned earlier, singing happens, and so does the delightful addition of a "Dancing Danielle" and her equally delightful handler. Members play mountain dulcimers, of course; guitars; base; flutes; recorder, banjo; resonator guitar; washtub base; hammered dulcimer; mandolin, and violin, oh, and a train whistle. When they come together everyone has a good time and joyful music fills the air.

Beginning in April, the regular fourth Sunday practice will be changed. It will occur immediately following the group's participation in the "Camp Church" at Unicoi Sate Park. Practice beginning times will vary, but should be around 10:00 AM. If you are in the area on a practice day, you are always welcome to join in the fun.

For information about anything in this article please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club

Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club hosted a workshop with Joe Collins on March 19 at Centerville United Methodist Church. Approximately 20 dulcimer players from Sonic Sounds and the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club were joined by players from LaGrange, Peachtree City, and Newnan. Joe's classes included classic hymns, "hot licks," Celtic songs, and rounds. All enjoyed a day of learning, food, and fellowship as well as Joe's evening concert.

Upcoming Events

April 21-24, 2016

The event location is at Pioneer Park 6500 Stage Road, Loachapoka, AL (5 miles west of Auburn, AL). Hosted by the NGFDA satellite group, Whistle Stop Pickers.

Gathering instructor/performers include: Don Pedi, Joe Collins, Danny & Dottie Shepherd, Gary & Toni Sager, Guy and Sharrie George, Ann and Jeff Norris, Amber Rogers, Bill Hogan, Ernestine Robinson, Bob Taunton, Tom Spicer.

Lessons in Acoustic Instruments: Mountain Dulcimer, Hammer Dulcimer, Ukulele, Percussion, Penny Whistle, Autoharp, Harmonica, Bass, Banjo, Fiddle, Mandolin

Genres of Music Represented: Old-time & American Folksongs, Appalachian, Jimmie Rodgers, Hymns, Bluegrass, African-American Spirituals, Sacred Harp, Island or Caribbean

Participants will enjoy five formal concerts, children's concert, and open microphone opportunities, 2 ½ days of instruction, including children's classes in all areas, and 2 ½ days of "jamming" for all age levels.

For more information visit: www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org and click on: Lee County Gathering link.

Sponsored in part by the Lee County Historical Society and Alabama State Council on Arts.

September 28-30, 2016

RSVP Presents Melodies & Musings Our Appalachian Legacy

You are cordially invited to come join the fun on beautiful Lake Guntersville for a three-day mountain dulcimer workshop

Please visit the website for detailed instructor, workshop and registration information, www. Melodies-and-musings.com.

Save the date, then register as soon as possible as class sizes are limited. Come join the fun! We look forward to seeing you this year.

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Mon.	6:30-9:00	First United Lutheran Church of Kennesaw 3481 Campus Loop Rd (formerly Frey Lake Rd.)	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 martin.pb@comcast.net www.allatooners.org Satellite Scribe: Diana (DeeDee) Nash muffyqnash@yahoo.com
AlphaFretters					Not Currently Meeting
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	Monthly, 4th Thurs.	2:30-4:30	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off 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 Teri Godfirnon terig@windstream.net
Dalton Dulcimers	Dalton, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	2:30	First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave.	Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 jspatts@windstream.net
Dixieland Dulcimers	Griffin, GA	Weekly-Mondays	10:00	Crestview Baptist Church fellowship hall, Griffin, GA	Donna Harpe 770-228-5597 phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net John Garret 770-223-8405 jgsped@yahoo.com Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	WeeklyMon.	6:00-8:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogosbill@aol.com
Gold Country Players	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs. Beginners Everyone	 12:45- 1:15 1:30-3:30	First Baptist Church Room 208, 751 Green Street, N.W. Room 235	Ro Johnson goldcountryplayers@gmail.com
Gwinnoters	Lawrenceville, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sun.	1:30-4:30	Fairview Presbyterian 857 Duluth Hwy. (Hwy. 120)	Gwen Caeli 678-863-4342 gwencaeli@gmail.com Linda Depkin suzie.d@mindspring.com
Hammered Dulcimer	Support Group for Hammered Dulcimer Inquiries				Agene Parsons 423-718-5730 ageneparsons@gmail.com
Hart String-Strummers	Hartwell, GA	Monthly – 1st Mon. Monthly – 3rd Sat.	12:30 12:30	Member's Home Hartwell Art Center	Call Mary Alice Ray at 706-371-0176 for directions to the Monday meeting or for more information
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	Bob & Sandra Hange 770-265-5308 bhange65@gmail.com
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sat.	2:00	Tenth Street United Methodist Church 425 Tenth Street, NW	Cathy Watts 770-377-8734 chwatts@mindspring.com Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179
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	1st, 2nd & 3rd Wed.-Practice 4th Wed.-Playouts	1:00-2:30	St Philip's Episcopal Church 256 East Main St Brevard, NC	Mary Sherwood 828-966-9628 sherwood@comporium.net Ann Brown 828-877-5506
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 gbs468@aol.com Karen Stewart 478-954-6759 galadybug53@gmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Blairsville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Tues.	1:30-3:30	Senior Center	Roxanne Gill roxannegill47@gmail.com
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	Sharpsburg, GA	Monthly, 2nd. Sun.	3:00-5:00	Trinity Church 8817 Highway 54 W Sharpsburg, GA	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.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 912-687-3621 laneahmaddox@yahoo.com http://wrmusic.tripod.com/sonicsoundsdulcimerclub
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) mccord0304@gmail.com
Yonah Pickers	Cleveland, GA Clarkesville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Mon. Bimonthly-Everyone 1st & 3rd Mon.	2:00-4:00 1:00-1:45 2:00-4:00	First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 Lynnmccollum50@gmail.com Email lynnmccollum50@gmail.com for details.

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures. Last Updated 02/19/2016

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 $12.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book $_____

Membership Fee $_____

Total Enclosed $_____

Mail membership form and payment to: **NGFDA P.O. Box 522 Demorest, GA 30535**

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