North Georgia Foothills
Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Mistletoe Jam

The Mistletoe Jam was a great success this year. Just checking the sign-in sheets we had close to 100 people come through. Most of these were players, but we also had a lot of campers and visitors from nearby towns that just wanted to sit and listen. The weather was almost perfect, but there was a bit of mist about so we had to take those interested into one of the bathrooms to teach them about the dulcimer and let them try one out....this is affectionately called the "potty class". Mistletoe is always a well-loved event where strummers can just play to their hearts content. Around noon on Saturday we took a bit of a break to listen to Matthew Dickerson, the wonderful hammered dulcimer performer who was one of the teachers at the 2018 Unicoi Festival. All in all it was a great time...and if you missed it....don't next year! A very BIG thanks to our jam leader, David Minor. Don't know how he manages to keep his voice over these three days!

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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Mike Van Demark**, NGFDA, Inc., 6208 Wade St., Leesburg, FL 34748. You may also contact **Mike** by e-mail at mvandem@gmail.com.
All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Carolyn Welsch** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the April issue is **March 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About The Tablature . .

This month's tab is Carrickfergus by Jessica Comeau.

"Carrickfergus" is the most well-known name for this beautiful traditional Irish melody that she has enjoyed sharing with musical friends and audiences for many years. This song is one of the first that she ever played on open stage at a dulcimer festival. It is symbolic to her of the festival experience, which brings together dulcimer players of all levels and who embrace diverse musical styles to celebrate common ground in the mountain dulcimer and its unique sound and heritage.

Although this arrangement is in CGC, it may also be played in DAD when you are first practicing it (the tablature numbers will be the same even if the chord names are different). However, you might find that the mellower tones of CGC tuning give this song a warmer feeling. Also, she recommends becoming comfortable with CGC tuning because it might also open up greater options for you for singing with your dulcimer since this tuning places songs in a lower key.

Her interpretation of "Carrickfergus" incorporates techniques that she hopes will be rewarding challenges for many of you: accompaniment (filler) notes, sustain, pull-offs, and a variety of chords. In many cases, three finger chords will use the index and middle fingers and thumb (the thumb will be needed especially on the higher melody notes).

Her arrangement of "Carrickfergus" on YouTube can help you to become familiar with the melody while demonstrating some embellishments that can be added as well: https://youtu.be/kRLyOhiKyV4

Tutorials as well as an advanced arrangement of this song are included in my book and DVD set Mountain Dulcimer Wildflowers and in the digital download "Wildflower Workshops for Mountain Dulcimer: Celtic Series." Among her upcoming events is Kentucky Music Week in Bardstown, Kentucky on June 23 - 28, 2019. You can find out more about her mountain dulcimer projects and events at www.JessicaComeauDulcimer.com and the Pensacola Mountain Dulcimer Wildflowers page on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wildflowersJessicaComeau

Allatooners

The Allatooners were pleased to host Tull Glazener on January 26 for a day of workshops, potluck lunch and a mini concert. We had 35 terrific participants from 13 NGFDA Satellites and some unaffiliated, who spent the day learning flat picking patterns and some great tunes, ensemble style. Great workshops and lovely social time!

Dalton Dulcimers

Dalton Dulcimers is celebrating its tenth year of playing and enjoying music! The group has planned an anniversary "tour" to share some on its best songs with the community. Selections on the program will be multipart versions of Celtic, Appalachian and gospel tunes along with duets and ensemble pieces. There will be accompaniment by guitars, mandolin, autoharp, psaltery and harmonica. The group is including some of its all-time favorites: Southwind, In the Garden, Life's Railway to Heaven, Forked Deer and Twilight Eyes. Several tunes are Tull Glazener's whose music has made a great impact on the growth and skill of the group.

Initial events with be on March 26 at the Dalton Whitfield Senior Center and April 11 at Dalton First United Church. More play dates to come.

Hilltop Strummers

On February 13, 2019, the Hilltop Strummers performed for the residents of the brand new facility Manor Lake Assisted Living in Canton, Georgia. For the day before Valentine's Day, red shirts were in order.
Dancing Dans and lyric sheets were distributed to facilitate participation from the residents. Dulcimer music, the tapping of Dancing Dans and voices filled the air and was enjoyed by all.

Whistle Stop Pickers

The Whistle Stop Pickers are announcing the 2019 Lee County Gathering, April 26-28th in Loachapoka, Alabama at Pioneer Park. This year the featured instructors included: Joe Collins, Jim Miller and Sharrie George. For more information go to www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org.

Tugalo Valley Strummers

The Tugalo Valley Strummers are continuing their performances at the Clary and Wilkinson Centers in Toccoa on a monthly rotating basis. In addition, Drew and Margo Taylor performed a collection of music of the 1700's at a special Daughters of the American Revolution event on February 23rd. The Strummers were happy to welcome four new beginning students this month. The meetings have been restructured to accommodate the varying needs of the membership. The beginning class now meets at 5:00. The novice group meets at 5:45 and the intermediate group meets at 6:30. Meetings are still held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the Family Life Center at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Toccoa. If you are in the area, feel free to stop in to listen or to join in the music. Visitor books are available to be used by guests, so don't hesitate to bring your dulcimer and join in.

Yonah Pickers

Yonah Pickers had such a wonderful holiday season and are having a great start to the New Year. They played at several venues during December including Travelers' Rest which is always a joyful experience for the players and the visitors to the lodge as well (photo attached). They always have a singalong format during the holiday season and the audiences loved revisiting the Christmas songs and so did the group! In January they returned to their usual schedule of practices and performances with new music. They are expanding their musical repertoire by adding a variety of material while maintaining their affection for all the old standards. An upcoming event is also causing them to look at more music from the 1820's. Each person contributes to the group decisions about music and everyone is encouraged to bring in new music as they find things they like. Several members are gifted at tabbing out songs and that makes finding new material so much easier! The beginners' group ebbs and flows, but it usually brings forth new players to the group. At a recent event, an entire family, children and parents, indicated an interest in learning the mountain dulcimer! If you are in the area, you are most welcome to join them on any practice day. If you have any questions about anything in this article, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

New Horizons Music Camp

On Sunday March 31 the "New Horizons Music" group is sponsoring a Music camp at Unicoi Lodge in Helen, Georgia. They will have 150 band "campers" in attendance from across the country for several days of learning and performing. This is a group of amateur musicians of varied ability over the age of 50. Registration will be Sunday March 31 at the Lodge and I was thinking it would be lovely if we had a dulcimer group playing for our campers as they arrive. I noticed that you had your fall festival at the Lodge last fall. We would not be able to pay and the audience would be fluid as they will be arriving and registering, but we would love our campers to experience some lovely Georgia Mountain Dulcimer Music as they register Sunday March 31 3:00 to 4:00. It would not have to be a large number of performers. I noticed there were groups within driving distance of Helen. If this would be of interest to your members in the area please let me know in the next week or so if possible.

I know we have one camper who plays dulcimer. I am a member of the "Roswell New Horizons Band" which is a co-sponsor of the camp with the "New Horizons International Music Association". Both groups have websites with links to the camp for your information. Thank you so much!

Janet Thiets
Committee Member
Unicoi New Horizons Music Camp 2019
770-605-6161
J.thiets@comcast.net

2019 NGFDA Fall Festival News

Once again it's time for the annual NGFDA Fall Festival logo contest. Please include "NGFDA Fall Festival, November 21-24, 2019, Unicoi State Park Lodge, Helen, GA" somehow in your design, as well as at least a mountain dulcimer, if not also a hammered dulcimer. Think also of how the design would look on different colors of t-shirts. Winner will receive free registration to the Fall Festival and a t-shirt.

Please submit your designs to Pam Deemer, the Fall Festival Director at pdeemer@gmail.com. They once again will be blind judged (no names attached) by the NGFDA Board. Like last year, only Pam will know the names and she will not judge.

In other Fall Festival news: Negotiations are still underway to try to reduce costs both to the NGFDA and attendees. It's not much, but rooms will be $4.00 cheaper a night than last year. Meal prices have not changed, but a plea to bring back the lunch time salad bar only price has been made.

Jim Miller and Anne Lough have agreed to return to lead and call a contra dance. Per the requests on the evaluations, concerts will only be on Thursday and Friday nights, and the dance will be on Saturday night. So far, Judy House and Nancy Galambush have also agreed to return. Aaron O'Rourke won't know if he can return until the end of March because he won't know his school schedule until then. Michael Shull and Mary Lynn Van Deventer (hammered dulcimer) will join the faculty. The official result from the five other invitations to teach should be known by then as well. Instructors can request invitations, but then reject them when they receive them for some reason or another.

Carrickfergus - Intermediate

Traditional Irish Melody

Arranged for Mountain Dulcimer by Jessica Comeau

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13 Am 14 Dm 15 G 16 C Fsus2
Po
the deep- est o- cean my love to find.
17 C G 18 Am 19 F 20 G
But the sea is wide, and I can't swim o- ver,
21 22 Am 23 F 24 G
And nei- ther have I the wings to fly.

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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.pb101@gmail.com www.allatooners.org Satellite Scribe: Marianne Wurtele bluegrass_m@hotmail.com
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.	Jim Jackson 678-447-6730 Jackson9786@gmail.com
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	Donna Harpe 770-228-5597 phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
Dusty Dulcimers	Madison County	Monthly – 4th Monday	6:30	Danielsville Public Library 1315 Hwy 98 Danielsville, GA 30633	Marty Philips 678-863-7191 Mark Stricklett email: mstricklett@windstream.net
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	Monthly – 2nd Monday Monthly – 3rd Thursday Beginner Slow Jam	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. Main Session Basic Session	 2:00-4:00 4:15-5:00	First Baptist Church Room 235, 751 Green Street, N.W.	Sandy Lesli goldcountryplayers@gmail.com
Gwinnoters	Lawrenceville, GA	Monthly, 3rd Mon.	4:30-7:30	Bethesda Park Senior Center 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville	Peggy Carrano 937-901-6417 peggycarrano@gmail.com Linda Depkin suzie.d@mindspring.com
Hammered Dulcimer	Support Group for Hammered Dulcimer Inquiries				None at this time
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, 3rd Sunday	11:00	St. Luke's Lutheran Church 3264 Northside Parkway Atlanta, GA 30327	Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179 davises@bellsouth.net
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 Monday - Practice 3rd Monday & 4th Wed.- Playouts	9:45-10:45	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 Lesson 2:00-4:00 Jam	Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road	Barbara Stevens 478-457-6539 gbs468@aol.com Laurie Wilson 229-389-9611 Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Blairsville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Tues.	1:30-3:30	Senior Center	Beverly Stevens Philstevens1947@yahoo.com
Peach Pickers Satellite Peach Pickers INSTRUCTION	Sharpsburg, GA 1)Fayette Senior Ctr 2)Bridge Community Ctr	Monthly, 2nd Sunday Wednesdays Tuesdays	3:00-5:00 11:00 6:00-8:00	Trinity Church 8817 Highway 54 W Sharpsburg, GA 4 Center Drive, Fayetteville Bridge Community Ctr. 225 Willowbend Rd Peachtree City	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@ gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com Call Pat Call Wanda
Roman Sunshine	Rome, GA	Weekly, Monday	10:00	Charles Parker Senior Center Kingston Rd	JT Bishop 706-234-0477 Jtbljb@bellsouth.net
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	Weekly, Thurs.	6:30-7:15 Lesson 7:15-8:30 Jam	1st 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	2nd & 4th 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)	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	Clarkesville, GA	Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Fri. Bimonthly-Everyone 1st & 3rd Fri.	1:00-1:45 2:00-4:00	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 2/28/19

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 114 Oakleaf Circle Eatonton, GA 31024**

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