North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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Mistletoe Jam

By Pat Colbert

The heaven's opened up and the sun came out to shine mightily on the annual Mistletoe Jam in Appling this past weekend. We all had such a wonderful time filled with good music, eating and fellowship.

The park gave us the beach house this year, which is a bit smaller, but newer, and has a stunning view of Lake Thurmond from its windows. By Saturday noon the building was packed to the gills! Our sign-in sheets reflected over 100 people came and went over the three days. Early in the morning we were joined by Betty Fleming, who had to step down in her Strummers leadership to care for her very sick husband, Frank. We were all so glad she was able to get away for a bit and join us. Please keep her and her family in your prayers during this difficult time.

If you have never come to Mistletoe you are missing a great event. Plan on it next year! The Garden City Strummers of Augusta, Georgia throw this event annually over Martin Luther King weekend.

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NGFDA Community Outreach - Grassroots Festival - March 28-29, 2015

By Gwen Caeli

Once again, NGFDA is invited to participate as a **2015 Official Music Presenter** for the **6th Annual Blue Grassroots Music & Arts Festival,** scheduled for the weekend of March 28 – 29, 2015 in its new location of Norcross, Georgia, located 25 minutes north of Atlanta! The beautifully redeveloped authentic turn-of-the-century old town has historic churches and houses, a railroad depot,

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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 March issue is **February 22, 2015 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

NGFDA Community Outreach - Grassroots Festival - March 28-29

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merchant's row buildings, vintage signs, historic Skin Alley, parks and fountains.

NGFDA is one of four designated traditional music groups including Atlanta Area Friends of Folk Music, Southeast Bluegrass Association and Chattahoochee Country Dancers. This Community Outreach opportunity helps NGFDA meet the goals written in our Bylaws to "increase the general public's awareness of and appreciation for the Appalachian and Hammered dulcimers."

Music and art will overflow the nooks and crannies of historic Norcross, on and off of stages, on sidewalks, in parks and in the street. To make another great impact in introducing our historic mountain and hammered dulcimers to the general public and to other traditional musicians, your participation is needed in these three events:

Can we count on your involvement? Please contact a Leadership Team Member to reserve a time slot for the Satellite Showcase or Petting Zoo:

- **"Satellite Showcase"** – On Saturday - NGFDA Satellites are invited to do street performances. You are the best way to share the dulcimer with people who don't know about it! Your Satellite will be contacted by a Showcase Team Leader to schedule a time slot.
- **"Dulcimer Petting Zoo"** – all levels of players needed as 'demonstrators', placing cardboard or inexpensive 'starter' dulcimers with fret numbers in the laps of interested passersby who want to try one. We will have a couple of pre-printed tunes with fret numbers and you demonstrate how to match the fret numbers to the numbers on the instrument. The Petting Zoo Team Leader, Brenda Sue Whitmire, will schedule time slots, so you can enjoy other parts of the Festival.
- **"Jamming"** – Bring a chair for our designated dulcimer spot.
- **"Ambassador"** - If you don't feel up to playing, just holding your dulcimer on the sidelines invites many simple questions from the public that you can easily answer. Many onlookers just want to look at one up close and you can be the LINK!

Confirmed Team Leadership to date includes both NGFDA Board and General Members: Carol Downs of Athens, Georgia (caroldowns@bellsouth.net); Brenda Sue Whitmire of Gainesville, Georgia (bswhitmire@windstream.net); Gwen Caeli of Lawrenceville, Georgia (gwencaeli.com); Kat Vallish of Lake Spivey, Georgia. (kvallish@gmail.com). We are waiting for confirmation from two other team members.

About The Tablature . . .

This arrangement of "Gentle Annie" comes to us from Jeff Furman. "Gentle Annie" is a popular American song composed by Stephen Foster in 1856. The song has original lyrics but is said to be based on a traditional Irish melody. According to his niece, Evelyn Foster Morneweck, there is a tradition that it was written in honor of Annie Jenkins, the daughter of a grocer in Federal Street, Allegheny, Pennsylvania, named Morgan Jenkins. She disputes this, and states that it is probably written in honor of his cousin, Annie Evans, who died shortly before it was composed. Some sources say it is Foster's farewell to his maternal grandmother, Annie Pratt McGinnis Hart. His paternal grandmother was Ann Barclay.

Jeff Furman is an award-winning mountain dulcimer player who is known for his smooth and expressive style. He is a multi-instrumentalist who has been playing old-time and traditional music since 1980. Although he plays many types of traditional music, on the mountain dulcimer, Jeff has a particular fondness for waltzes, lullabies, and Celtic airs. . . the softer side of the dulcimer! He has been performing for more than 30 years, and his quick ear, technical abilities, and musical sensitivity have made Jeff a popular choice for playing on multiple recordings, including music from Ireland, Scotland, the Appalachian Mountains, and American folk tunes.

Gentle Annie

Key: D
DAd

Stephen Collins Foster 1856 (1826-1864)
Arr: Jeff Furman 2010

Arrangement & Tablature © Copyright 2010, Jeff Furman

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Spring Thing 2015

May 1, 2, & 3rd

with Bing Futch

www.bingfutch.com

Location:

Fort Yargo State Park
210 S. Broad Street
Winder, GA 30680

Bring your dulcimer and a favorite song, story, joke and/or riddle to share.

Spring Thing held annually and is a great time to get together with friends or to make new friends while learning, jamming and overall, having a good time. Besides your dulcimer, bring a song, story, joke and/or riddle to share at our Friday and Saturday night Jams.

Do not let this event intimidate you; we are a very friendly group. If you have never played a dulcimer before or just beginning, we are here to help you learn to play and add to your dulcimer playing enjoyment.

Friday Schedule:

2:00 p.m.	Set Up and Afternoon Jam
6:00 p.m.	Supper (BYOM) Bring Your Own Meat for the grill and a small side dish to share
7:00 p.m.	Evening Jam, Song Sharing, Story Telling

Saturday Schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Breakfast provided by the club.
10:00 a.m.	Morning Teaching Session
12:15 p.m.	Pot Luck Lunch AND Open Mike
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Teaching Session
4:00 p.m.	Workshop Ends and Jam until Supper
6:00 p.m.	Pot Luck Supper
7:00 p.m.	Instructor Concert
9:00 p.m.	Evening Jam, Song Sharing, Story Telling

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Breakfast provided by the club
10:00 a.m.	Spiritual Jam
2:00 p.m.	Clean Up and Say our Goodbyes.

The cost for this event is only $30 per person, payable via check or via Paypal via the NGFDA website. If paying by check, make checks payable to NGFDA and send to Kat Vallish, 914 Plymouth Drive, Jonesboro, GA 30281.

Reservations for accommodations can be made through http://gastateparks.reserveamerica.com/ or Best Western, Winder, GA - **Phone: 770/868-5303.**

Contact Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561 or 770-507-5998 with any questions or concerns.

Spotlight on Satellites

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

These slower winter months provides the Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players time to work on practicing some of the new skills and tab that were taught during the festival weekend in November. In both January and February Anne Lough is going to visit the LWDP group and also the Slow and Easy beginners group to provide each with a two hour workshop. Members are also encouraged to take advantage of the Joe Collins workshop that is being offered in Shelby, North Carolina in February.

Both groups continue to meet regularly and the Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players enjoy playing at two senior centers each month. The Slow and Easy beginners are a joy to work with, are progressing well and having a lot of fun.

Dalton Dulcimers

Yesman and Harry

The cardboard dulcimers Dalton Dulcimers sent to Yesman and Harry in Nicaragua, the two delightful summer interns in ministry at First United Methodist Church, arrived just before Christmas. Appalachian music now resides in South America!

The club played several December dates with some multipart new-to-the-club pieces including: "Now We Sing of Christmas," "As the Deer," and "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" along with a "Blue Christmas" dulcimer/guitar duet and a ensemble version of "Flow Gently Sweet Afton" featuring mandolin, autoharp, and two dulcimers.

January brings the annual Christmas party postponed-due-to the huge amount of illness in North Georgia. Lots of good food and a celebration during the bleak midwinter.

Resuming practice will feature the annual "January Jam" as old favorites are brought out. Then, on to some new tunes, including some Celtic ones.

Happy 2015 to all!

Frettin' On Faith

The Fretters are back on schedule after the holidays. Back to regular practice and have a new member playing autoharp! Gearing up for February and playing at a couple of assisted living homes in the area. Looking forward, Happy Valentines!! From Ringgold . . . "Keep on frettin' . . . "

Dulcimer Troupers

November and December found the Dulcimer Troupers very busy. The playouts included the Hospice Memorial Service, Presbyterian Church Women, LaGrange Nursing and Rehabilitation, Florence Hand Nursing Home, First Baptist Sunday School party and Dunson Methodist Church Sunday Morning Service. Also, the Dulcimer Troupers' ensemble played for the United Methodist Women

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Spotlight on Satellites

Dulcimer Troupers

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at the First United Methodist Church. The programs included sing alongs, ensemble arrangements, lap harp, guitars, recorder, bowed psaltery, steel drum, bass dulcimers and standard dulcimers. The club is so happy to be growing with many of our new members joining us for our playouts.

Pictured are the Troupers sharing their dulcimers at a nursing home and playing for the Sunday School Christmas party.

The New Year finds us back on schedule with weekly practice on Thursdays at 10:45 and early practice offered for new members at 9:45.

Hilltop Strummers

January 2015 not only kicked off with a new play list for the combined Hilltop Strummers' groups but several play out dates have been established including but not limited to Cameron Hall, Canton, Georgia, Tuesday, January 27; Sixes United Methodist Church, Wednesday, February 11; and Northbrook United Methodist Church in Roswell, Monday, April 13. These performances are being handled by volunteers.

The Hilltop String Band, in addition to a major new play list, has agreed to play at the Dunwoody United Methodist Church, Thursday, March 12; Sunday morning special music dates at Canton First United Methodist Church are being arranged.

The Hilltop Hammered Dulcimer group started the New Year reviewing minor and major chords including 1st inversion and 2nd inversion chords. A Jody Marshal arrangement of "Poppy Leaf Hornpipe" is being taught. This tune has two parts and really moves (hammers flying everywhere). In addition to that, the HD group is starting to learn a new hammered dulcimer arrangement by Patsy Jordan of "In the Bleak Midwinter."

A new approach to learning how to survive a jam session is being tried at the combined groups meeting. Patsy Jordan has incorporated the piano for the melody and at the same time 'cues' the chords for everyone to play their dulcimers along on familiar songs. Recordings are available for those who would like to practice at home. The idea here is to ditch the sheet music and play back up chords by ear.

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent" ~ Victor Hugo.

Yonah Pickers

The Yonah Pickers are enjoying the beginning of the new year by looking at some new music and reexamining some old favorites. Taking advantage of the generosity of Joe Collins and Tull Glazener, the group is committed to exploring the free tabs each of them post on their websites each month. Also, members are encouraged to suggest their own favorites for inclusion in the group repertoire. In their first practice of the new year, they welcomed two new members.

As the group continues to grow, new opportunities emerge. As is the case with all living things, change happens. Some people come, some people leave, and some just keep on keeping on! Whichever part a player plays, they continue to play!

Several members of the group are looking forward to upcoming workshops in Florida the end of January and in North Carolina the end of February. They are hopeful of bringing back new ideas and maybe some new music to the group.

The Yonah Pickers are back on their regular schedule so any time you find yourself in the Habersham or White county areas on a practice day, you are most welcome to stop in and join the fun. If you have any questions about anything in this article, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Upcoming Events

February (12) 13-14, 2015

Tenth Annual Central Florida Dulcimer and Autohop© Festival at Round Lake Christian Church in Mount Dora, Florida. Workshop leaders are: Ray & Cheryl Belanger, John Blosser, Mike Clemmer, Joe Collins, Jeff Furman, Guy & Sharrie George, Tull Glazener, George Haggerty, Anne Lough, Adam Miller, Gary Sager, Steve Seifert, Ruth & Steve Smith, Chuck Spano, Ivan Stiles, Linda Thomas, Rick Thum, Tish & Greg Westman, Jon Williams.

Registration is limited so register early. Only 25 participants per workshop class.

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Upcoming Events
February (12) 13-14, 2015

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For further festival information, lodging, camping, catered meals and scholarships, contact Ruth Harnden 352-735-4907, dulcirah@embarqmail.com.

7th Annual Lee County Gathering April 23-26, 2015

"Lee County Gathering . . . Down from the Mountains" at Pioneer Park in Loachapoka, Alabama promises to be the best ever! **Featured instructors/performers include: Don Pedi, Bing Futch, Scenic Roots—Amber and Erin Rogers, Anne Lough, Guy & Sharrie George, Richard Ash, Ann & Jeff Norris, Ernestine Robinson and Bob Taunton.** Five concerts, 2 ½ days of instruction, all day jamming, good food and fellowship will be offered. For more information and registration forms go to: www.leecountyhistoricalsociety.org and click on the Lee County Gathering tab. The Lee County Gathering is hosted by the Whistle Stop Pickers (NGFDA Satellite) and sponsored by the Lee County Historical Society and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Email: lchs1968@hotmail.com

Short Message From The President
Mike Van Demark

Currently Carolyn and I are in Florida enjoying some sunshine and warm weather. We will be here until April. This is the first time we have ever left our home for an extended vacation but plan to enjoy every minute of it. I am looking forward to attending a couple of dulcimer festivals while in Florida.

I would also like to remind all members that membership dues are now due for 2015. Single dues remain at $20.00 and Family dues are $30.00 If you have not paid them for 2015 please make your payment now by sending your check to:

NGFDA
P.O. Box 522
Demorest, GA 30535

As a reminder the annual memberships run from January 1st through December 31st.

If you have changed your email or your home address please contact Lynn McCollum or myself so we can update our records. This will assure that you continue to receive your newsletter timely.

Looking forward a couple of months, we have a couple of great events in March and May that you should plan to attend.

The first event is an NGFDA Community Outreach Program which we have been invited once again this year to participate. It is the Grassroots Festival - March 28-29 in Old downtown Norcross, Georgia. Please see further details in this newsletter. We had a great time last year teaching people about the dulcimer and having groups play on the street. Lots of people were exposed to the dulcimer and its history. I am sorry I won't be able to attend this year.

The second event is "Spring Thing" at Fort Yargo State Park in Winder, Georgia to be held on May 1-3. Our guest artist and teacher will be Bing Futch. See further details in this newsletter. I am planning on being at this great event for sure!!

Classified Ads

For Sale: dulcimer built by Terry McCafferty from Texas about 6 years ago. Walnut with spruce top, ebony fretboard, and beautiful inlay, $650.

Dulcimer built by David McKinney, solid cherry with rosewood fretboard and second sound board which I've had about 7 years, $600.

Contact Evelyn Gardner at 803-300-7461, .gardnerev47@gmail.com for more information and photos.

Join Us Online at ngfda.org

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sun.	1:30-4:00	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
Currahee Dulcimer Club	Toccoa, GA	Weekly-Thursdays Beginners Group	 6:30-7:00 7:00-8:30	Stephens County Senior Center 55 Roselane	Joe and Jan Sibley 706-886-7407 jinja717@yahoo.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@optilink.us Website: www.tiptopwebsite.com/frettin
Gainesville Strummers	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs. Beginners Everyone	 12:30 1:00-3:00	First Baptist Church Room 208, 751 Green Street, N.W.	Bob Weaver 770-540-5278 bobweaver6@gmail.com.
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	Monthly, 3rd Mon.	6:00-8:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogosbill@aol.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 Nora Roy 770-963-2541 nsr45@charter.net
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	Dan or Barbara Asperger 678-493-6970 (H); 770-633-1987 (C) daasp@windstream.net or bjasperger@gmail.com
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3rd Sat.	2:00	Tenth Street United Methodist Church 425 Tenth Street, NW	Cathy Watts 770-393-3454 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	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	LaDale Trimble 706-946-6070 raydale@etcmail.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	Peachtree City, GA	Monthly, 2nd. Sun.	3:00-5:00	The Bridge Community Center 208 Willowbend Road	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com
SEHDP (Southeastern Hammered Dulcimer Players)	Support Group for Local HD Satellites	www.SEHDP.com for Individual Satellite Info.			www.sehdp.shutterfly.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
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 11:45-12:45 1:00-3:00	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 12/22/2014

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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