North Georgia Foothills
Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

May 2015 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 27, No. 5

Community Outreach Wrap-Up

Gainesville Strummers

Yonah Pickers

Gwinnoters

Dulcimer Petting Zoo

Dulcimers had a wonderful presence over the two-day span of the TRUE Bluegrass Music & Dance Festival the last weekend of March in Old Town Norcross. NGFDA Satellites playing on stage at Saturday's Showcase included the Gainesville Strummers, the Gwinnoters and the Yonah Pickers. Thanks for your participation, your willingness to travel and the hours you spent in polishing those hot licks! We were pleased to have members of the Dixieland Dulcimers, NGFDA's newest Satellite located in Griffin, join us at dulcimer headquarters by the train tracks, as well as individual players. Heartfelt thanks go out to the remarkable Leadership Team that worked creatively, diligently, intelligently and most of all with remarkable charm and incredible wit to keep us rolling in laughter. Kudos to Carol Downs, Brenda Sue Whitmire and Kat Vallish! Thanks also to the pick-up band that played for hours by the train tracks – Anne Martin (responsible for the set

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

Community Outreach Wrap-Up

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list), Pam Deemer, Kat Vallish, Carol Downs and Gwen Caeli. Armed with new NGFDA banners (thank you, Kat), organization brochures and Satellite information to hand out, our organization's mission for promoting the dulcimer and educating the public was fully met.

The Dulcimer Petting Zoo, once again, created much interest with a hands-on tryout of cardboard instruments. Brenda Sue reports her favorite interactions were with the grandmother who was going home to take out her dulcimer for her granddaughter to use and the young man who couldn't wait to take his grandfather's dulcimer out of storage and start learning to play it. The cross-integration of music as players of other instruments jammed with us was Gwen's favorite part. There were many questions about how the dulcimer is either related to or different from the guitar, fiddle, mandolin and banjo. Musicians are always looking for their next instrument, and we may have some new converts!

Dulcimer Petting Zoo

Dulcimer Petting Zoo

About The Tablature . . .

Butch Ross calls this tune "Hard Labor" 'cuz it's a melody he woke up with when he was there for the NGFDA Spring Fling a couple of years ago. Really, it's just a misremembered version of the tunes "Bull at the Wagon" and "Old Chattanooga" and the B part is probably some old Civil War song. But he's pretty sure that's how all these songs got written in the first place, so he's okay with that. Like Utah Phillips used to say, "The past didn't go anywhere."

When Butch Ross opened for Bill Staines last fall, he received a rare accolade: a standing ovation for an opening act. He transforms the lowly mountain dulcimer into a virtuoso's instrument, drawing from it unexpected power and expressiveness. He mixes old country and Appalachian songs with his own wordy, literate, poetic ballads about people, places, and situations you might read about in a good book of short stories. He has a strong clear voice and a stage presence of boyish charm. --Minstrel Coffeehouse"

Hard Labor

Written by Butch Ross

butch@butchross.com

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2015 Fall Festival Update!!

By President/Festival Director,
Mike Van Demark

Here's hoping that all of you have marked November 19-22 on your calendar to attend the 27th Annual NGFDA Fall Festival at Unicoi State Park which is beautifully nestled in the North Georgia Mountains in Helen, Georgia. This year we have a great lineup of faculty and workshop leaders. We have a few new faculty names that have either never attended or it's been a while since they attended as follows:

- Jess Dickenson *(Ham'd Dulcimer)*
- Jeff Hames *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Lorinda Jones *(Mt. Dulcimer & Harp)*
- Jim Miller *(Mt. Dulcimer & Ham'd))*
- Michael Shull *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Linda Thomas *(Ham'd Dulcimer)*
- Bob Thomason *(Mt. Dulcimer Building Workshop)*

Returning to the 2015 Fall Festival are several other special faculty members who have been so appreciated in the past as follows:

- Ken Bloom *(bowed dulcimer)*
- Gwen Caeli (*Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Larry Conger *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Elaine Conger *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Jeff Furman *(Mt. Dulcimer)*
- Guy George (*Ham'd Dulcimer. Steel Drums & Pennywhistle*)
- Sharrie George (*Ukelele)*
- Tull Glazener (*Mt. Dulcimer*)
- Marsha Harris (*Mt. Dulcimer & Native American Flute*)
- Anne Lough (*Mt, Ham'd, Autoharp*)

The Sunday morning gathering program has not been finalized totally as of this date; however, Larry and Elaine Conger will be part of the program as well as one other faculty member to be announced in the June newsletter. We have heard you loud and clear through last year's festival evaluations!! We will be going back to a more traditional Sunday morning gathering as we have had in years past with holiday and traditional dulcimer music that can be enjoyed by everyone.

Please share these exciting plans with your dulcimer playing groups and friends and encourage them to join the NGFDA so they will be on our list for registration information.

(As a reminder, if someone joins the club now, their membership is only good through December 31, 2015).

Dues are annual and members pay their dues on a calendar year basis for 2016 beginning with the Fall Festival Registration process. Dues for 2016 must be paid at the time of registration in order to attend. Members who do not attend the festival can begin paying January 2016 via US Postal Service.

Festival registration fees will remain at $105.00 again this year. Registration for this event will begin on Tuesday, September 1st and close on October 11th.

This just about covers everything for this year's Festival with music from traditional Appalachian, Galax style to Celtic and Contemporary.

I have heard from Unicoi that the lodge rooms are already filling fast so don't be left out!! Please refer to newsletter insert for lodging information and prices. Once again this year your lodge room will include Breakfast (including gratuity and taxes)

2015 Unicoi State Park Lodge Rates for Fall Festival

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2015 Fall Festival at Unicoi November 19-22. Once again NGFDA has negotiated great prices this year when staying in the Lodge, Cabins or Campsites which will include a breakfast for a single/double occupancy room (2 people). Each additional person (over 2) staying in the room will be charged only $11.56 per person per day but that will also include a breakfast for them. Please make sure you tell Unicoi how many people are going to be in your room, cabin or campsite. This will make it much easier at check-in time so that everyone receives a breakfast ticket! Last year there was a problem with people not receiving a breakfast ticket when they checked in because the number of people changed from the time they made the reservation to the time they arrived to check in.

You can always change your reservation to go up or down but Unicoi must know the # of people staying in each type of room.

Below is a schedule of prices published for Unicoi. When making your reservation (telephone at 1-706-878-2201) you must include **Event #006123** to receive these special rates. Unicoi has already received several calls for this popular event so doesn't be left out this year and get your reservations made today!

Event #06123 (Unicoi Lodge Reservations #1-706-878-2201)

Type of Room	Single Occupancy (1 person) Per Night	Double Occupancy (2 people) Per Night	3+Persons in Room Per Night
Less Than 3 Nights-Lodge	$127.71	$139.27	$11.56 per person extra
3 Nights-Lodge	$111.61	$123.17	$11.56 per person extra
4 Nights-Lodge	$104.71	$116.27	$11.56 per person extra
1-Bedroom Cabin	$148.41	$159.97	$11.56 per person extra
2- Bedroom Cabin	$159.91	$171.47	$11.56 per person extra
3-Bedroom Cabin	$182.91	$194.47	$11.56 per person extra
RV-Site 40' Full Hookup	$ 41.56	$ 53.12	$11.56 per person extra
All Lodging includes taxes, gratuity and daily buffet breakfast for each person in the room			

Please include this event on your calendar for November so you don't miss out on this great festival. Registration for this event will begin on Tuesday, September 1st and close on October 11th.

Dulcimer 101
Part 3 - Strumming Pattern Exercises
By John Shawhan, Vice President

This month I will share some Strumming Pattern Exercises with you. I can't remember when strumming started making sense to me. At first I was spending so much time worrying about the chords that I forgot the rhythm. This set of exercises is excellent and forms a good foundation for many of the tunes we play. I am only going to go into the quarter note and eighth notes with a 4/4 time signature.

STRUMMING PATTERN EXERCISES

(_ = one quarter note; .. = two eighth notes; * = "*air strum*"[1])

Measure Count Time Signature = 4/4 time

Example	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
#1	—	—	—	. .	—	—	—	. .	—	—	—	. .
	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑	↑	↑	↑↓
#2	—	—	. .	. .	—	—	. .	. .	—	—	. .	. .
	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↓
#3	—	—	. .	—	—	—	. .	—	—	—	. .	—
	↑	↑	↑↓	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑	↑	↑	↑↓	↑
#4	—	. .	—	. .	—	. .	—	. .	—	. .	—	. .
	↑	↑↓	↑	↑↓	↑	↑↓	↑	↑↓	↑	↑↓	↑	↑↓
#5	. .	. .	—	—	. .	. .	—	—	. .	. .	—	—
	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↑	↑↓	↑↓	↑	↑

[1] Arrows show direction of strum. An "*air strum*" is when you make the "motion" to strum but the pick does NOT make "contact" with the strings; thus, no sound is produced.

Register Now for Spring Thing!

May 1, 2 and 3rd in Winder, GA

Bring your dulcimer and join us for a great time playing and learning.

If you are just starting to learn to play the dulcimer or are in need of a refresher, join Gwen Caeli 's workshops (Beginner and Novice Level). To learn more about Gwen Caeli go to www.gwencaeli.com

If you are looking to challenge and hone your dulcimer playing skills join Bing Futch's workshops (Intermediate and Advanced). To learn more about Bing Futch go to www.bingfutch.com

Register Now: Cost $30 Members, $50 Non-Members ($20 goes toward membership). Pay via check made to NGFDA and mail to Kat Vallish, 914 Plymouth Drive, Jonesboro, GA 30236 or use PayPal via button below.

Spring Thing Schedule

Friday, May 1

PicNic Shelter #2
Ft. Yargo State Park
210 S. Broad St.
Winder, GA

2:00 p.m.: Jam (If you get there earlier, feel free to start jamming).
5:00 p.m.: Dinner on the Grill
Bring Your own Meat and a side dish to share
AND your dulcimer of course.
We will be having dinner and playing some songs together.

Saturday, May 2

Winder First United Methodist Church

280 N. Broad Street
Winder, GA 30680

8:00 a.m.: Registration
8:00 a.m.: Breakfast (provided by the NGFDA).
10:00 a.m.: Workshops begin (if you do not have your own dulcimer please let us know prior to this event. We will find a loaner for you).
12:00 p.m.: Lunch—Pot Luck (The church has a full kitchen)
1:00 p.m.: Open Mic (Sign Up at Registration Table)
2:00 p.m.: Workshops Continue
4:00 p.m.: Mini Concert with Gwen Caeli and Bing Futch performing
6:00 p.m.: Dinner-Potluck and/or leftovers from Lunch
8:00 p.m.: Jamming (continues in Cabin #2 when we leave the Church.)

Sunday, May 3

At Cottage #2
Ft. Yargo State Park

9:00 a.m.: Breakfast and Spiritual Jam until we must depart.

Volunteers are Welcome. If you would like to help make this event a huge success, please contact Kat Vallish at 678-468-7561 or email Kat at kvallish@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Satellites

Three Satellites: Sonic Sounds, Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club and Dixieland Dulcimers participated in the Indian Springs "Springs" Fling on March 21.

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

Group performing at the Empty Bowls Fund Raiser in February

Weekly practices are now being broken up into two sections with the first 45 minutes used to play the music the group will use for the playouts at the end of each month. The next 45 minutes is optional and is used to introduce new music that members have submitted from workshops, etc. for the group to try out. All tab is placed in a Dropbox with each member having permission to download the music for their own use. It is not shared outside the group. This approach is an attempt to provide time for both easy and familiar music as well as time to try out music that is more challenging. So far the approach seems to be working well. Stay tuned.

The Slow and Easy Dulcimer Gathering for beginners is going well with the need now to break into two sections so that some can progress a bit slower and some more along more rapidly. Anne Lough will come again in May to provide another enrichment class.

Yonah Pickers

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Spring has arrived and so have increased opportunities for this active group to share their music with others. The Yonah Pickers group has been involved in several exciting and inspiring events this month. Several members participated in the TRUE Bluegrass Music & Dance Festival in Norcross. In spite of the cold, wind, and noise, they still had a great time (see related article).

On the Sunday after Easter, several members of the group participated in the church service at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Sautee, Georgia. While this service was new to many of the members, it was enjoyed and very meaningful to all. Prior to the service, members made a presentation to the Adult Sunday School class about the mountain dulcimer, its origins, and early church usage. The group was well received and is looking forward to hopefully adding some new members based on inquiries by the class. Still keeping their

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Spotlight on Satellites

Yonah Pickers

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foundation strong, they also joyfully performed at their regular locations.

Senior Retreat

As a result of her experience at the Dulcimer Petting Zoo at the TRUE Bluegrass Music & Dance Festival, one member has added a "Limber Jack," which she has renamed a "Limber Jill," to her instruments. She played it for the first time at a Senior Retreat performance and the audience just loved it! This is the location where the harmonica player lives. He joins the group for the bimonthly performances bringing great pleasure to the group and the audience.

In line with the newness of spring, the group is looking forward to participating in two upcoming presentations at local schools. Also, the group is planning a fund raising concert to help send their leader to Dulcimer U in June! Their leader, Lynn McCollum, donates many hours to her work with the group and NGFDA. Working together to support the musical passions of individuals of the group; and for the good of the group and the community have always been fundamental principles of this group.

If you are in the area on any of the weekly practice days, you are always invited to drop by and join in! For any questions about this article, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

Gainesville Strummers

On the bright, crisp morning of March 28, members of Gainesville Strummers and their families headed from their homes across North Georgia, to join other groups of musicians from the state to play at the TRUE Bluegrass Music & Dance Festival in historic Norcross. Dulcimers, Bass, BandJammer and Recorder gathered together to play a selection of traditional Southern tunes and sing songs their way. It was the first time that the Strummers had ventured so far afield to play but they do hope to be back next year. Members were most appreciative of the warm welcome and the opportunity to join other NGFDA dulcimer groups. The beginner's class continues each Thursday at 12:30 pm with all levels participating from 1-3 pm. Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact: claudine.nickens@gmail.com.

Classifieds

WANTED: Cardboard dulcimers. Peggy Ertz will be working with a children's summer camp this year and needs several cardboard dulcimers. If you have any you would like to sell, please let her know how many and your price. Thanks. 16bluerose16@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

July 11, 2015

On July 11, Butch Ross will be performing at the Chatsworth, Georgia Train Depot. It's a fundraiser for their building. https://www.facebook.com/ChatsworthDepot. Also, that morning he will be teaching a workshop for all levels, and probably Civil War themed (that day is also Civil War day at the depot). The workshop will start at 10am and be $20 per person, admission to the show is included in that fee.

The concert will start at 2:00 pm. All the proceeds from the concert go to the restoration of the depot. So everybody wins on this one.

Different Deadline

Because your editor will be going to Kentucky Music Week, June 21-27, the non-negotiable deadline for the July issue will be June 18 at 6:00 p.m

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
Dixieland Dulcimers	Griffin, GA	Weekly-Mondays	10:00	Crestview Baptist Church fellowship hall, Griffin, GA	Donna Harpe 770-228-5597 phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net Jphn Garret 770-223-8405 jgsped@yahoo.com Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
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 Linda Depkin suzie.d@mindspring.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 770-393-3454 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	1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall 208 Willowbend Road	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 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 02/22/2015

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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