North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

January 2015 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 27, No. 1

Mistletoe Jam . . . Where You Want To Be January 16-18, 2015!

In a warm, cozy shelter, overlooking lovely Lake Thurmond is where a special event happens every year.

Regardless of the weather, NGFDA musicians gather at Mistletoe State Park near Appling, Georgia to play together over Martin Luther King weekend. Local pickers also show up . . . and many people just come to listen, learn a little about what a mountain dulcimer is . . . and maybe even try one out . . . or that thump bucket thing.

Cabins and campsites are available for your stay, or book a night in Augusta, only about 30 minutes away. If you can't come for the weekend, just come up for Saturday's session. Bring your lunch and a potluck dish if you are eating dinner with us. It is truly a laid back event. No lessons, no time frame to meet, just a lot of fellowship, talking around the coffee pot and snack table, and a whole lot of strumming!

The fun starts on Friday evening about 6:00, continues Saturday from 9:00 am until 8:00 or 9:00 pm; and then starts back up on Sunday at 9:00 until 1:00. Entrance to the park is just $5.00, the rest is free.

The Garden City Strummers would love to have you join us! Contact Bill and Pat Colbert of the Garden City Strummers for more information, 706-860-3437; or email at pogosbill@aol.com.

Happy New Year From Your President, Mike Van Demark

I can't believe Christmas is over and it is now 2015. This year marks my Eleventh year as a member of the NGFDA and playing the dulcimer (sort of)!

I hope you all had a wonderful 2014 and that 2015 will be even more wonderful. I know that the club will continue to provide many opportunities for you and your friends and family to attend one or more of our events.

The next event coming up quickly is the "Mistletoe Jam" that is held each year at "Mistletoe State Park" in Appling, Georgia on the Martin Luther King weekend, January 16, 17 and 18. For more information you can email Betty Fleming at: bfleming7823@comcast.net.

Later in the spring we will hold our "Spring Thing" event at "Fort Yargo State Park" in Winder, Georgia on Friday, May 1, 2 and 3. **(Note new location)** This year Bing Futch will be our guest faculty member and he is going to make this a special event for all of his NGFDA Family. More information to come in the newsletter. Please mark your calendar!

Please look us up on Facebook by going to "North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association" and become a friend! Lot of good comments and information shows up on Face Book.

As the New Year begins it is a good reminder for those of you who have not paid your 2015 dues to do so in January so you won't miss getting your newsletter. If you remember, we changed the date

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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 January issue is **December 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

Happy New Year

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of the dues payments to a calendar year a couple of years ago and we collect most of our dues through the Fall Festival Registration. Your dues are from January through December. Please send your dues payments to NGFDA, P.O. Box 522, Demorest, Ga. 30535.

I have been reviewing the comments from the Fall Festival Surveys and it is quite clear that we need to go back to the long time tradition on Sunday morning of playing more sacred and holiday type music. For the past few years we have tried various approaches to the Sunday morning program and have had many comments both good and bad. But it is apparent that most of the participants would require the traditional type of Sunday Morning Gathering. I will work on this for the next festival. All in all our comments regarding the festival were great and everyone seemed to like the instructors this year. Great comments all around!

Unicoi has not yet published the 2015 prices for their rooms, cabins and campground as of yet. I will try and get those for the February issue of the newsletter so that you can make your reservations early.

Carolyn and I would like to wish all of you a Very Healthy, Blessed and Happy New Year!

About The Tablature . . .

The tablature this month is from our good friend, Mike Clemmer. He wrote "Sweet Connie" for his lovely wife.

"If you had a blank check, what would you want to do?" Connie Clemmer asked her husband, Mike. After talking and praying about it, Mike realized what he wanted . . . his own shop for building and selling his own handcrafted mountain dulcimers**.**

Mike's long sought dream-come-true has evolved from his life-long love of many types of music, playing, singing and his reputation for repairing, trading and buying instruments. Over 30 years ago, an acquaintance asked Mike to help him catch up on his dulcimer orders right here in Townsend. Armed with years of experience repairing guitars and basses, Mike accepted the challenge and learned the art of dulcimer building. It's been a labor of love ever since.

Mike and Connie invite you to visit them in Townsend, Tennessee. Come watch how a dulcimer is handcrafted from walnut, cherry, butternut, sassafras or wormy chestnut and enjoy the "sweet song" of the mountain dulcimer. Also, check out the happy sound of the Ban-Jammer, Mike's Original creation.

Mike's fiddle-side, five string mountain dulcimer, sings with the warmth of the hymns that he loves to play. His new CD, "Simple Faith," captures the spirit and feeling of the cherished and time-tested hymns recorded in the historical churches of "Cades' Cove" in The Great Smokey Mountain National Park. "I have played several weddings in those churches and fell in love with the ambiance and warmth that I felt there. I had to try to capture the anointing of God that I experienced there."

Performing throughout the southeast, Mike has built the reputation of one of the area's premier mountain dulcimer players and builders. Mike is also featured on the nationally released CD, "Great Players of the Mountain Dulcimer" and with Connie on, "Homestead."

Mike and his wife, Connie, invite you to come and visit them in their shop in Townsend, Tennessee.

Happy New Year from the membership department. Please make sure you have renewed for 2015. If you joined in the last few months of 2014, you are okay. Remember it is for the calendar year.

Sweet Connie

Mike Clemmer, 2003

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Spring Thing 2015 *with Bing Futch*

May 1, 2, & 3rd

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.

Dulcimers In Nicaragua

By Sarah Morgan

Help me bring joy the mountain dulcimer to Casa Bernabe orphanage in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua!

Hello friends! Since August, I have been studying at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, Virginia. While I have missed performing and teaching, I have enjoyed the break from touring and the opportunity to learn in such a wonderful environment. But for now I am home enjoying Christmas break!

While at school, I met Luke Hake, a senior music major who teaches music, English and Bible at a children's' home and orphanage in Nicaragua. He will be working at the orphanage again this year from January to June and has plans to work there long term in the future.

While Casa Bernabe has no official music program, Luke has tried to bring as much music to the children as possible. And that is where the dulcimer comes in.

As many of you who play the mountain dulcimer know, it is one of the most accessible, kid-friendly instruments out there. With only three strings, and a diatonic fretboard, it can be picked up very quickly. It is a quite popular classroom instrument. It would be a wonderful thing to bring the mountain dulcimer to the orphans at Casa Bernabe! Luke leaves for Nicaragua January 13. The goal is to send at least four cardboard dulcimers with him.

How Can You Help?

Our goal is to bring at least four dulcimers to Nicaragua this January, each of which will cost $88, plus shipping. We hope to purchase these instruments from Danny and Dottie Shepherd in Kentucky. They own the business, Mountain Dulcimers for Children - http://www.mountaindulcimerforchildren.com. As you can see below, they are very colorful!

Please consider contributing towards this "dulcimer fund." Consider sponsoring one dulcimer or whatever amount you are able to. Send checks/money orders to:

Sarah Morgan
400 Ray Road
Sharps Chapel, TN 37866

Rest assured, 100 percent of your donation will go towards purchasing these dulcimers. I will be sending updates and photos to those that contribute, so you can stay informed of this project!

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.

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

March 28-29, 2015

Grassroots Music and Arts Festival - New Location!

Save the date! NGFDA has been invited back as an "Official Music Presenter" for the 6th Annual Grassroots Music & Arts Festival, scheduled for the weekend of March 28 – 29, 2015 in its new location of historic 'Old Town' Norcross, Georgia! This breaking news has just come in from the Festival organizers. Quaint and beautiful downtown Norcross has plenty of Festival room, boasts wide sidewalks with brick and benches, the typical train-through-town, boutique shops and great eateries. More details to come!

Spotlight on Satellites

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

It's always so much fun to play Christmas music for the seniors in the community during the three December play outs. Everybody seems to get in the spirit and sings along with lots of gusto and smiles.

In October four of the Lane of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players players started a beginner class and were very surprised at the response to one article in the local newspaper. Nineteen men and women showed up for the first gathering and have been meeting twice a month ever since. Everyone can now tune their own dulcimer and is having a great time. By using Carol Walker's book, "DNA Dulcimer Ditties Book 1," the class can progressively learn skills while playing fun, familiar songs from childhood and beyond. When the group finishes the book in the spring they plan to progress to "Book 2" which happens to be on sale now until Christmas at musicladycarol@aol.com.

Hilltop Strummers

The past month has been very busy for the Hilltop Strummers with playouts at various locations in and around Canton. Volunteers from the combined groups within the Hilltop organization worked very hard preparing for these performances and were extremely successful sharing Christmas music.

In addition to an extensive playlist of music each week, Patsy Jordan, our resident hammered dulcimer instructor, conducted classes of music theory to the Tuesday afternoon combined group. Also, note that the first Tuesday of each month has been designated as "jam" day where instruction and practice is tailored to learning how to feel comfortable at jams. Visitors are welcome.

January kicks off a new year of music with a new playlist of tunes voted on by the members of the Hilltop Strummers. A power vote was conducted by Barbara and Dan to trim a major list down to the most popular 12 tunes to start with. Each month new tunes will be added and some will be dropped. January will also see the beginning of new material for the Hymns Group, the String Band, and the Hammered Dulcimer Group. There will be something for everyone to enjoy, and once again-visitors are welcome.

The Hilltop Strummers wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year. Keep on strumming and hammering.

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Spotlight on Satellites

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Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club performed at a luncheon for the Exchangettes Club on Thursday, December 4, at the Brickyard Clubhouse in Macon, Georgia. Several club members played Christmas music and everyone sang for the set during the luncheon. Many attendees had never seen or heard the Appalachian dulcimer so everyone enjoyed the music.

The same Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club group played Christmas music the evening of Thursday, December 4, for a Christmas dinner group at the Melton Place gated community in Macon, Georgia. Everyone sang Christmas carols and enjoyed the music.

Yonah Pickers

Tallulah Gorge

Happy New Year from Yonah Pickers! They have had a wonderful holiday season, being able to play in seven different venues since just after Thanksgiving and having a great Christmas party too. Their Christmas songs rang out in dining rooms, lodges, state parks, respite care homes, nursing homes, senior centers, and historic sites. Audiences consisted of people of many different ages from little children to one gentleman who is 102 years old! Many times, they were accompanied by participants using the bells provided, to ring in the Christmas spirit with joyous, and sometime raucous, renditions of "Jingle Bells," "Up on the Housetop," and "Jolly of Saint Nicholas."

In most environments the voices of the group and the audiences joined together in many familiar Christmas carols. On one occasion, a member of the group laid down her dulcimer to join the audience in singing the beautiful "Silent Night" near the end of the performance. Having noticed that one of the ladies in the audience seemed uninvolved, she stood new her, met her eyes and sang. Before the verses were complete, the lady was singing as best she could, too. It was later mentioned that she rarely, if ever, spoke. The beauty of music had once again brought back what was lost, even if only for a few minutes. All were blessed.

Habersham Retreat

In the group there were mountain dulcimers, a violin, a mandolin, a traveling harp, and even a small hand-held drum, all bringing a joyful celebration of Jesus' birth to the various locations. In addition, one performance saw a member of the audience join the group with his awesome harmonica playing! With seven performances during the holiday season, not everyone could be present for all of them. Each different configuration of Yonah Pickers, whether large or small, had its own uniqueness. The performance rooms were filled with smiles on the faces of the audiences and the members of the group.

Festival of Trees

During the development of this year's Christmas performance song list, a member suggested a "new" song. It was the haunting "Appalachian Carol." This was the first time the group had played it and they all enjoyed learning and performing it very much. It is a very old tune from Appalachian history, which was first collected in 1933. The unresolved sound of the minor chords

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Spotlight on Satellites
Yonah Pickers

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combined with the traditional nature of the lyrics, held the interest of everyone involved. Something new was actually something old, and was greatly appreciated by players and listeners alike. It fit well with the many traditional carols that were presented.

Travelers' Rest

Some performances contained solos and duets. There were a few dramatic readings. Some songs were instrumentals only and others were sing-alongs. Whatever the form of the performance, joy and celebration were present. There was "Joy to the World" as halls were decked. "That "Silent Night," and the babe born in a manger with ". . . no crib for a bed" were remembered and celebrated, and each performance ended with the audience hearing the heartfelt wish from the group of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," of course!

What is coming next? What fun to find out! Some plans for the new year include expanding the repertoire by taking advantage of more the free tabs being offered online, and exploring new teaching and performance opportunities while maintaining the consensus type of decision making. If your travels bring you into the White and/or Habersham county areas, please feel free to "drop in" to any weekly practice. All instruments and all ability levels are welcome. For more information about anything in this article, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net

Still Courting After 43 Years

Margo and Drew Taylor playing a courting dulcimer at Fall Festival at Unicoi. They have been married 43 years this month.

New Membership Benefit

As a membership benefit, dulcimer-related Classified Ads may be submitted for free by NGFDA members. Advertising guidelines are a three line maximum, one column width for a maximum of three consecutive months. Submit ads to Barbara Joe, Editor, at ngfda_footnotes@yahoo.com. Classified ads can also be placed on the NGFDA Yahoo group site.

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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