North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

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NGFDA Satellite Showcase and Jam at Norcross Festival March 28-29, 2015

Breaking news from organizers of the newly-named TRUEBluegrass Music & Dance Festival March 28-29 in Norcross, Georgia (this is the new location for last year's Grassroots Festival in Stone Mountain): Dulcimer Headquarters will be at the Train Depot, 40 S. Peachtree St., Norcross, GA. (home of the new The Crossing Restaurant).

Satellites reserve your time slot now to perform on one of two Festival stages (it will be the same stage as the popular bluegrass band contest) on Saturday, March 28. Your 35 to 45-minute set will be scheduled between 11:00-1:00 or 4:00-6:00. (Reserve your showcase time now by contacting Carol Downs (caroldowns@bellsouth.net).

Demonstrators reserve your time slot now to volunteer at the Festival's Dulcimer Petting Zoo (any level of player, from beginners on up). You will place cardboard dulcimers with fret numbers in the laps of passersby who want to try one. This community interaction is a blast! Please contact Brenda Sue Whitmire (bswhitmire@windstream.net).

Logistics /Marketing Volunteers needed at Saturday 9:00 a.m. set-up to help hang NGFDA posters and banner, set-up folding tables, chairs, etc. Please contact Kat Vallish (kvallish@gmail.com).

General questions can be directed to NGFDA Liaison Gwen Caeli (gwencaeli@gmail.com).

After five successful seasons in the Village of Stone Mountain, the 6th annual TRUEBluegrass Music and Dance Festival will be held in Norcross, Georgia, on March 28 and 29. The festival is a free event. Produced by Heritage Festivals, Inc., the participating musical and dance organizations include the Southeastern Bluegrass Association (SEBA), Friends of Folk Music, The North Georgia

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

NGFDA Satellite Showcase and Jam at Norcross Festival March 28-29, 2015

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Foothills Dulcimer Association, Chattahoochee Country Dancers and The Celtic Music Association. Pick and Bow, A Traditional Music School is also invited. The mission of the Georgia Pick & Bow Traditional Music School is to offer affordable music lessons on traditional instruments such as the banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin and upright bass.

"The Norcross leadership has welcomed the festival as a "partner" and the music will be heard "all around the town" by about 400 bluegrass and old-time players, including Appalachian instruments such a dulcimers, old-time string music, Celtic music players, demonstrations of "flat-foot "dancing, contra-dancing and instrument demonstrations," said Jack Sartain, co-producer of the Festival with Dr. John Kelley.

The Festival is expected to draw about 2,000 folks this first time in Norcross. "Jamming" will be a main feature of the festival and all players at any skill level and any age are urged to attend and just "join in!" There will be stage bands and contests. TRUEBluegrass" entertainment will be centered in Thrasher Park, a gorgeous green space with a gazebo and a really nice amphitheater. Other locations include the Performing Arts Center, the Cotton Gin, and of course anywhere, as all groups want to "jam".

Join Us Online at ngfda.org

About The Tablature . . .

"Mo Ghile Mear" (*My Gallant Darling*) is an old Irish song by Seán Clárach Mac Domhnaill in the 18th century. It is a lament by the Gaelic goddess Éire for Bonnie Prince Charlie,

Pam Deemer has been an NGFDA member from when the group just had two satellites in the late 80s. She has been the *Footnotes* editor, NGFDA President, taught at the In Town Down Home satellite and a couple fall festivals, organized a Spring Fling, and published a dulcimer tablature book, In Good Old Colony Times. She is also a founding member of a performing group, Sweet and Lows (Other remaining members: Cathy Watts, the my co-founder, Rudine Davis, and Jackie Lane), which began in the early 90s.

Dulcimer 101 Part I - Getting to Know Our Dulcimer

By John Shawhan, Vice President

It is a wonderful thing to have new students in your club with a desire to learn the mountain dulcimer. I will begin a series of informational articles on the dulcimer and the approach to student teaching. I would enjoy hearing from other teachers on their approach to encouraging students. The beauty of the instrument is the versatility and flexibility it allows the student when developing their style. I firmly believe the #1 element to dulcimer playing is rhythm. If you think back to performances you have witnessed - if the performer kept the rhythm and missed a few notes, you were OK with that. However, if the performer got all the notes and missed the rhythm you were not OK

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Mo Ghile Mear/My Gallant Darling/Our Hero

Traditional Irish

TabEdited by Pam Deemer, 2013

End by repeating chorus

Mo Ghile Moar Lyrics

Chorus
He's my champion my Gallant Darling,
He's my Caesar, a Gallant Darling,
I've found neither rest nor fortune
Since my Gallant Darling went far away.

Once I was gentle maiden,
But now I'm a spent, worn-out widow,
My consort strongly plowing the waves,
Over the hills and far away.

Every day I'm constantly enduring grief,
Weeping bitterly and shedding tears,
Because my lively lad has left me
And no news is told of him - alas.

The cuckoo doesn't sing cheerfully after noon,
And the sound of hounds isn't heard in the nut-tree woods,
Nor a summer morning in a misty glen
Since my lively boy went away from me.

Gallant young horseman
An appearance without worry or care
A grip that’s sure and quick in battle
Leading the crowd and making us strong

Play a tune on music harps
Fill the quart measures on the table
With high intention, straight and unclouded
That life and health will be had by my lion

Gallant Darling for a while under sorrow,
And Ireland completely under black cloaks;
I have found neither rest nor fortune
Since my Gallant Darling went far away.

Spring Thing 2015

May 1, 2, & 3rd

Location:
Fort Yargo State Park
Group Shelter 2
210 S. Broad Street
Winder, GA 30680

with Bing Futch

and

Gwen Caeli

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

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

This year we have invited Gwen Caeli to teach the Beginner and Novice Players while Bing teaches the more advanced players. **If you do not own a dulcimer, let us know. We will make sure you have one for the weekend.

Directional signs in Ft. Yargo State Park will lead you to our Group Shelter. There will be a complete kitchen with stove/oven and refrigerator. For cooking and storing the food you bring to share. The club will provide breakfast and drinks.

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:

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast provided by the club (Coffee at 8:00, breakfast 8:30 – 9:30)
10:00 a.m.	Morning Teaching Sessions Begin
12:15 p.m.	Pot Luck Lunch AND Open Mike AND Jamming if time permits.
2:00 p.m.	Afternoon Teaching Sessions Begin
4:00 p.m.	Workshop Ends and Jam until Supper
6:00 p.m.	Pot Luck Supper
7:00 p.m.	Instructors 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 NGFDA members and $50 for non-members, payable using PayPal via the NGFDA website or by check made payable to NGFDA and sent 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

In January the group was pleased to have Anne Lough provide a morning class for the Waterfall players then meet with the beginners in the afternoon with a soup luncheon in between. This will be repeated again in February.

In addition to the usual playouts, the group will entertain at the annual empty soup bowl fundraiser in March where several Irish pieces of music will be included in the play list.

Yonah Pickers

Someone said that, "The more you learn, the more you know there is to learn." Nowhere is this truer than in playing the mountain dulcimer. And so it was for a group of the Yonah Pickers at the 3rd Annual Florida Gulf Coast Dulcimer Retreat in early February. They returned to the group with lots of exciting new ideas to share. Another group will be venturing out the end of February to the 16th Annual Mid-Winter Mountain Dulcimer Festival in North Carolina. They too will undoubtedly also have lots of share. No matter what the new skill or music that is being explored, there is always room for everyone's faves! At a recent senior center performance, the audience enthusiastically joined in with a rolling rendition of "You Are My Sunshine" and several of the group got up to dance to "Black Mountain Rag." Whether the group is playing for an arts and craft show or residents of a nursing home, they continue to expand the experience of live music in the community. Also, they continue to grow.

Free lessons are offered twice a month in the Clarkesville location for anyone who considers themselves a beginner. Some new members come through this group and some come in other ways. Yonah Pickers joyfully welcomed two new members last month, both of whom play mountain dulcimer. They have been studying privately and are now ready to join a group.

The composition of the group varies from performance to performance. One of the longtime members is now exploring the mandolin. When Yonah Pickers performs, you are likely to see various and assorted combinations of instruments including, but not limited to, washtub base, violin, mandolin, guitar(s), three string bass, Native American flute, tin whistle, traveling harp, did I mention the train whistle, and, of course, lots of mountain dulcimers. Several members also enjoy singing along with many of the songs. Like the old saying goes, "How many mountain dulcimers are enough? Just one more." And "one more" has come home with several of the members from Fall Festival and workshops. Story goes that they may be seeing and hearing a baritone dulcimer very soon!

If you are traveling in the White and/or Habersham areas on a practice day, you are invited to stop in and join the fun! For information about anything in this article please contact: bswhitmire@windstream.net

Gainesville Strummers

The Gainesville Strummers entertained the community with Christmas music for the Annual Christmas on Green Street celebration at the Winner Wellness Center in historic Gainesville during December, which was captured in their first official YouTube video performance - http://youtu.be/npFp8cTpdYs. Dressed in Victorian and holiday attire, they entertained with singing and strumming dulcimers, accompanied by guitar, harmonica and bells.

Several new song lists have been compiled for upcoming winter playouts with emphasis on learning and embellishing new songs introduced by the members. The beginner's class continues each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. with full group (all levels) participating from 1-3

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Spotlight on Satellites

Gainesville Strummers

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p.m. Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact Claudine Nickens at 770-237-3338.

Allatooners

The Allatooners are again introducing the dulcimer to the younger generations. The need to continue the old music is a definite reality and they step up to the plate every chance they get.

On a warm fall day at a Civil War Reenactment where a member of the Allatooners was sitting around the 1860's encampment entertaining the soldier, a very interested person stood and watched and asked questions. She is a teacher at West Minster School and was at that time teaching a class on Appalachian traditions. She took a business card and later called to see if someone could come demonstrate the dulcimer to the middle school class.

That was right up the alley for the Allatooners Ensemble. Opening with a PowerPoint presentation of the history of the dulcimer and a few brief you tube videos, the musicians laid out all the different instruments and allowed the class to play them. They displayed a base dulcimer, courting dulcimer, ban jammer, 12 string dulcimer and of course the classic dulcimer. The bowed dulcimer was put on display but not put on the hands-on tables.

Time to let the class hear the music that can be played on those simple stringed instruments called a dulcimer. From Paganini to Waltzes to fiddle tunes toes were tapping and smiles were seen all around the room.

The outing was a success! Keep the music alive.

Hilltop Strummers

Several members of the Hilltop Strummers attended the Central Florida Dulcimer and Autoharp Festival in Mount Dora in February, and a great time was enjoyed by all. One couple who attended for the first time this year took classes on the Bowed Psaltery, Penny Whistle and Steel Drums. (Steel Drums)? Hum! Hammered Dulcimer and Mountain Dulcimer classes were attended as well and we were blessed to have some of the country's best teachers at this festival for not only the classes but the awesome concerts Friday and Saturday evenings.

Additional events coming up for the Hilltop Strummers are: The Hilltop Strummers will be playing at the True Blue Grass Music Festival to be held in Norcross on March 28-29. Club members played there last year when the festival was held in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

One of Hilltop's newest members, John Sarantos, will be teaching a workshop to learn to play the Native American Flute, and this will be held at Canton First United Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 4, from noon to 4. This is a great opportunity to learn to play the

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Hilltop Strummers

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flute from one of the nation's pre-eminent Native American flute instructors. He uses a non-musical theory approach and the participants will learn basic fingering, breathing techniques, simple embellishments, and how to use the flute for relaxation, meditation and fun. He has taught students from 9 to 89 over the past twenty years.

The Hilltop combined group "jam session" training is progressing quite well. Learning to be "paperless" is the main focus here. The leader, Patsy Jordan, who is also the primary hammered dulcimer instructor, teaches music theory in addition to how to survive a jam session. Patsy recently purchased a mountain dulcimer and demonstrated her ability to name and play seven chords just a couple of weeks into owning this fine instrument. Yes, she teaches by example.

The Hilltop Strummers maintain an open invitation to everyone regardless of experience level to visit and play with the combined group every Tuesday from 2:00 – 3:30 at the Canton First United Methodist Church in Canton, Georgia.

Upcoming Events

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

Dulcimer 101

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with that. With my new retirement position as a campground host for the Georgia State Parks, I have had the privilege of being able to play in public each week and met several interested people wanting to learn to play the instrument. When I have an interested student I always start the lesson with a walk-through of the parts of the instrument.

There are several styles of Mountain dulcimer with the three main shapes we see most prominently being the Teardrop, Hourglass and box. Each of these shapes have very definite natures and the type of woods . . . (Walnut, Hickory, Spruce, Cherry, etc.) used and construction methods (craftsmanship) determine the quality of the basic sound or voice of the instrument and the appearance.

Getting to know the parts of the dulcimer provides a good foundation for the student:

Head - The top of the dulcimer contains the Headstock. You normally find the tuners within the headstock. The headstock often has an ornate peg head that adds beauty to the instrument.

Tuners - Just below the headstock you have the nut that provides the upper terminus for the strings. The tuners can be either geared or friction and made of metal, wood or composite materials. Under the fret board is the soundboard that also runs the length of the dulcimer. The soundboard projects the sounds from the instrument and includes sound holes.

The sound holes are of multiple designs and depending on the craftsmanship can be very ornate.

Toward the end of the dulcimer, on the fret board, close to the tail you will find the pick hollow used for finger picking.

Just past the pick hollow is the bridge that provides the lower terminus for the strings.

The sides and bottom of the dulcimer make up the remainder of the instrument.

Usually you will find strap buttons on each end of the dulcimer for attaching a strap to help anchor the instrument while playing.

Tail - The bottom end of the dulcimer is known as the tail and normally the strings are anchored there with pegs or slots.

Fret board - The fret board runs the length between the head and the tail of the dulcimer and is divided into sections called frets.

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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