North Georgia Foothills
Dulcimer Association, Inc.

Foothills Footnotes

May 2017 ISSN 1559-1441 Volume 29, No. 5

YONAH PICKERS– May 2017

The Yonah Pickers have been having a wonderful time playing music and learning more about their instruments. Several members attended workshops in February. Twelve members went to the Mid-Winter Fest in North Carolina with Joe Collins and other presenters. At the same time, 5 more members were in Florida at the Bing Futch, Florida Gulf Coast Dulcimer Retreat. Each member brought back new techniques, music, and enthusiasm. With this many members excited about learning more about playing the mountain dulcimer, the future of the group looks bright indeed! They were also happy to welcome 3 new members in recent months. In March and April, the group enjoyed playing in new locations and familiar ones. One of the new performances was for a group of third graders at a local elementary school. Everyone had fun with the music, the children's participation, and their fellow players. In a recent performance at a long time location, the Easter Bunny, or at least his ears, appeared to hand out Easter eggs accompanied by the singing of "Here Comes Peter Cottontail" to the residents of the retreat center at which the Yonah Pickers were playing. Later in the month, a part of the group enjoyed participating in "Pancakes on the Porch" at Travelers' Rest. Good friends, good food, and good music! What a great combination! Beginning on the fourth Sunday in April, they resumed their once a month participation in the Camp Church program at Unicoi State Park where they enjoy sharing hymns with the campers during the service.

Please note: They have changed their practice days. They are now practicing on first and third Fridays at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville only. The beginners group is from 1:00 – 1:45 and everyone participates from 2-4. If you find yourself in the area on a practice day, you are most welcome to join the group. For more information about anything in this article you may contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

2017 NGFDA, Inc.
Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
JOHN SHAWHAN
126 SOUTH TAMIE CIRCLE
KATHLEEN, GEORGIA 31047
jshawhan@windstream.net
478-542-0495

VICE PRESIDENT
JOE COLLINS
1010 CASTLEWOOD DRIVE
SHELBY, NC 28150
dulciman@bellsouth.net
980-404-0804

SECRETARY/TREASURER
BARBARA STEVENS
114 OAK LEAF CIRCLE
EATONTON, GEORGIA 31024
gbs468@aol.com
478-457-6539

FALL FESTIVAL DIRECTOR
PAMELA DEEMER
Pdeemer@gmail.com
404-633-0699

SPRING THING DIRECTOR
KAT VALLISH
kvallish@gmail.com
678-468-7561

LIAISON TO NGFDA
SATELLITE GROUPS
PEGGY MARTIN
martin.pb@comcast.net
770-974-1980

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
LYNN MCCOLLUM
445 LONG STREET
DEMOREST, GEORGIA 30535
lynnmccollum50@gmail.com
706-499-3212

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
CAROLYN WELSCH
ngfda_footnotes@aol.com
904-626-2765

WEBMASTER
MIKE VAN DEMARK
mvandem@gmail.com
423-338-2307 (Home)

Foothills Footnotes
(ISSN 1559-1441)

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 **Carolyn Welsch** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the June issue is **May 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m**. *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About The Tablature . . .

The tablature this month is arranged by Jeff Furman.

This traditional Irish song tells the story of a young man who falls madly in love with a girl. Her parents disapprove of him and to get rid of the suitor they ask him to help make the hay rope (twisting strands together). As the length of the rope grows and grows he is forced to step backwards, and, when he is outside the barn door, they close it rudely in his face! Dejectedly he goes off and writes this tune. Another gentler explanation of the tune is that the "twisting of the rope" is a metaphor for love. Whatever the meaning of the song, the melody is delightful and fun to play.

Some playing tips: Play it very slowly when you first start to learn it so you get the melody and fill-in notes cleanly; you can always learn to play it faster once you know the tune! This is a great piece for helping you with your flatpicking accuracy. It's in 2/4 so counting 1-and-2-and…can really help you keep it smooth. In measures 6 and 21 you actually hit the middle string open and then hammer-on the G chord (yes, you can hammer-on a chord!). Measures 9, 20, and 24 have triplets (in this case, 3 notes in the space of an eighth note). They can be played with a hammer-on onto 2 and a pull-off back to 1. If you are not comfortable yet playing the triplets, just play the first note in the triplet (in this case, just play a 1) as an eighth note. To emphasize the melody, you might also try strumming "in" on the full chords. In measures 17 and 18, once you make the chord, keep those fingers down and just pick through the chord. It makes a lot of notes sound smooth. When you are playing arpeggios or any fill-in notes, try to make the melody notes a little louder (or the extra notes a little softer) so the melody stays very clear…that's the strength of your musical rope!

This tune should be played at an easy pace, not too fast. Making a rope is methodical work. Don't rush it! When Janet and I recorded this on our "Celtic Jewels" CD, we started it very simple to establish the basic "rope." We gradually added some harmonies to help make the rope thicker! If you play with others and are a bit more experienced with harmonies, this tune lends itself very nicely to harmonies and I encourage you to find some of your own. We also gradually played it softer and softer the last couple of times so the fade out represented the boy "suitor" getting further and further away! *(As a side note, we recorded it in the key of G because we liked that sound, so once you learn it you can put on a capo and play with us!)* I hope you enjoy this Traditional Irish tune!!

Spotlight on Satellites

Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players

As spring rolls in the players are staying busy with spring playouts. The workshop with Carol Walker in March had to be cancelled because of snow, much to the disappointment of the beginner and novice players. But the beginning player group is moving along well with another new member joining this month.

A few of the more advanced players decided to try making a YouTube video last week of Jamaica Farewell and it turned out pretty well. To view it just go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mG0SBGnohaY&feature=youtu.be.

Tugalo Valley Strummers

The Tugalo Valley Strummers enjoyed their first community outreach program on April 12th. They played at the Clary Care Center, an assisted living facility in Toccoa . The residents enjoyed listening to the dulcimers and singing along on familiar tunes. The Strummers are scheduled to perform at the Wilkinson Center in May. If you happen to be in the Toccoa area on the 2nd or 4th Monday evenings, you are welcome to drop in. There are guest tab books available.

Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club

Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club of Blairsville provided mountain music at the February meeting for Old Unicoi Trail Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, held at the Union County Library Community Room. Roxanne Gill explained how early pioneers used local timbers to produce primitive instruments for entertainment. From such a humble beginning, dulcimer instruments are now a work of art. A Certificate of Award for the Conservation of American Heritage was presented to the group.

Casadh an tSugain

(The Twisting of the Rope)

Key: D
DAd

Traditional Irish
Arr: Jeff Furman 2014

Arrangement & Tablature © Copyright 2014, Jeff Furman

2017 Fall Festival Update

By Festival Director, Pam Deemer

Here's hoping that all of you have marked November 16-19 on your calendar to attend the 29th 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:

- Janita Baker (Mt. Dulcimer and Baritone Mt. Dulcimer)
- Bradley Ellis (Mt. Dulcimer)
- Janet Furman (Fiddle)
- Madeline MacNeil (Mt. Dulcimer and Ham'd Dulcimer.)
- Coleen Walters (Recording)
- Neal Walters (Autoharp and Mt. Dulcimer)

Returning to the 2017 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)
- Joe Collins (Mt. Dulcimer)
- Jeff Furman (Mt. Dulcimer)
- Guy George (Hammered Dulcimer. Steel Drums & Pennywhistle)
- Sharrie George (Ukulele)
- Tull Glazener (Mt. Dulcimer)
- Anne Lough (Mt, Dulcimer, Ham'd Dulcimer, Autoharp)
- Don Pedi (Mt. Dulcimer)
- Rick Thum (Ham'd Dulcimer)

Joe Collins and Tull Glazener will again lead the Sunday morning gathering with holiday and traditional dulcimer music that can be enjoyed by everyone. Due to popular demand, Guy George will also be the evening concerts' MC again. In addition, if there are enough musicians and dancers, Anne Lough may call a contra dance session. A jam board is planned for letting people know when, where, what kind, and level. (Some may be planned (like the holiday and turtle jam ones), while others may be ad hoc.)

Festival registration fees for NGFDA members will remain at $105.00, and registration will begin on Thursday, September 1st and close on October 15. In past years, only NGFDA members could register. This year, non-members can register from October 1 to October 15. The fees for a non-member will be $140.00. **(As a reminder, if someone joins the club now, their membership is only good through December 31, 2017). Dues are annual and members pay their dues on a calendar year basis for 2017 beginning with the Fall Festival Registration process. Dues for 2017 must be paid at the time of registration in order to attend. Members who do not attend the festival can begin paying January 2018 via US Postal Service.)**

Registration packets with more information will be sent to NGFDA members this summer.

2017 Unicoi State Park Lodge Rates for Fall Festival

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2017 Fall Festival at Unicoi November 16-19th. Once again NGFDA has negotiated rates when staying in the Lodge, Cabins or Campsites which will include a breakfast. Each additional person staying in the room will be **charge $11.56 per person per day** to include a breakfast for them. Please make sure you tell Unicoi how many people are going to be in your room, cabin, or campsite so that they can include the breakfast tickets. This will make it much easier at check-in time so that everyone receives the ticket.

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 per night charges published for Unicoi. When making your reservation (telephone at 1-706-878-2201) you must refer to promo code **06125** to receive these special rates. Unicoi has already reserved 50% of the block held for this popular event, so don't be left out this year and get your reservations made today.

Event #06125 (Unicoi Lodge Reservation # 1-706-878-2201)

Type of Room	1 person	2	3	4	5	6
Less Than 3-Nights Lodge	$143.01	$154.57	$177.63	$200.69	$223.75	$246.81
3-Nights Lodge	$130.36	$141.92	$164.98	$188.04	$211.10	$234.16
4-Nights Lodge	$120.01	$131.58	$154.63	$177.69	$200.75	$223.81
1-Bedroom Cabin	$166.01	$177.57	$189.13	$200.69	XXXX	XXXX
2-Bedroom Cabin	$183.26	$194.82	$206.38	$217.94	$229.50	$241.06
3-Bedroom Cabin	$217.76	$229.32	$240.88	$252.44	$264.00	$275.56
RV-Site 40' Full Hookup	$41.56	$53.12	$64.68	$76.24	$87.80	$99.36
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 Thursday, September 1st and close on October 15th for NGFDA members. Registration for non-members will begin on October 1st and close on Oct. 15th.

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Monthly, 2nd Mon.	6:30-9:00	First United Lutheran Church of Kennesaw 3481 Campus Loop Rd (formerly Frey Lake Rd.)	Peggy Martin 678-478-2456 martin.pb@comcast.net www.allatooners.org Satellite Scribe: Marianne Wurtele bluegrass_m@hotmail.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.	Jim Jackson 678-447-6730 Jackson9786@gmail.com
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 terigodfirnon@gmail.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 John Garret 770-223-8405 jgsped@yahoo.com Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	Monthly – 3rd Monday Monthly – 3rd Thursday Beginner Slow Jam	7:00-9:00 7:00-9:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogosbill@aol.com
Gold Country Players	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs. Main Session Basic Session	 2:00-4:00 4:15-5:00	First Baptist Church Room 235, 751 Green Street, N.W.	Ro Johnson goldcountryplayers@gmail.com
Gwinnoters	Lawrenceville, GA	Monthly, 3rd Mon.	4:30-6:30	Bethesda Park Senior Center 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville	Peggy Carrano 937-901-6417 peggycarrano@gmail.com Linda Depkin suzie.d@mindspring.com
Hammered Dulcimer	Support Group for Hammered Dulcimer Inquiries				Agene Parsons 423-718-5730 ageneparsons@gmail.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 770-377-8734 chwatts@mindspring.com Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179
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	Leader: Carol Juhl 828-862-8422 cajuhl1234@gmail.com Mary Sherwood sherwood@comporium.net
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	Roxanne Gill roxannegill47@gmail.com
Oconee Belles & Beaus	Salem, SC	January-October 4th Wednesday November-December 2nd Wednesday	1:00-3:00	Senior Solutions 101 Perry At. Seneca, SC	Joan Krech 864-944-7094 joankrech@bellsouth.net Bonnie Lamarand 864-888-3328 lmrnd@att.net
Peach Pickers Satellite Peach Pickers INSTRUCTION	Sharpsburg, GA 1)Fayette Senior Ctr 2)Bridge Community Ctr	Monthly, 2nd Sunday Wednesdays Wednesdays	3:00-5:00 11:00 6:00-8:30	Trinity Church 8817 Highway 54 W Sharpsburg, GA 4 Center Drive, Fayetteville Bridge Community Ctr. 225 Willowbend Rd Peachtree City	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@ gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com Call Pat Call Wanda
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	Weekly, Thurs.	6:30-7:15 Lesson 7:15-8:30 Jam	1st United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd.	Laneah Maddox 912-687-3621 laneahmaddox@yahoo.com http://wrmusic.tripod.com/sonicsoundsdulcimerclub
Tugalo Valley Strummers	Toccoa, GA	2nd & 4th Monday evenings Beginners All Levels	 5:30-6:30 6:30-8:00	Ebenezer Baptist Church Family Life Center 49 Rose Lane Toccoa, GA 30577	Margo Taylor 706-391-4861 Margotaylor808@gmail.com
Whistle Stop Pickers	East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn-Opelika area)	Weekly, Sat.	1:00-3:00	Lee County Historical Society Museum 6500 Stage Road (Hwy 14) Loachapoka, AL	Allen & Deborah McCord 334-821-1301 334-703-3646 (cell) mccord0304@gmail.com
Yonah Pickers	Cleveland, GA Clarkesville, GA	Bimonthly 2nd & 4th Sun. Bimonthly-Beginners 1st & 3rd Mon. Bimonthly-Everyone 1st & 3rd Mon.	2:00-4:00 1:00-1:45 2:00-4:00	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 2/22/17

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**

North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association
www.NGFDA.org
Post Office Box 522
Demorest, Georgia 30535
United States of America