

*North Georgia Foothills  
Dulcimer Association, Inc.*



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## Garden City Strummers



The Garden City Strummers were able to play for the first time at Pioneer Days in Lincolnton, GA in November. The group has been invited in the past but have always been unable to participate because most are at the NGFDA Fall Festival. So, it was nice being able to play at this annual event in their historical park. It was chilly, but there's an awesome covered pavilion, so the group was protected a bit. The hour-long concert was well received, and the group will probably definitely be called back next year...that is, if they're not at the NGFDA Fall Festival, as all of them really miss that. After the concert, a few of members just jammed by one of the historic houses.

## LaGrange Troupers

During the month of December, a Trouper and a fellow dulcimer player provided special music during church services and the church Christmas Dinner. The duo played carols that beautifully blended the sounds of the mountain and hammered dulcimer.



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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Mike Van Demark**, NGFDA, Inc., 6208 Wade St., Leesburg, FL 34748. You may also contact **Mike** by e-mail at mvandem@gmail.com.

All other newsletter-related matters, including material intended for publication, should be directed to **Jan Stone** at the email address listed in the above column. The deadline for publication submissions for the April issue is **January 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

## About the Tablature...

It's a new year and we're mixing it up with this month's tab. Not only is it in DAA, but it is an original composition, titled, "*Sugar Hearts and Maple Snow Candy.*"



The tune was composed by Paul G. Sykes and can be found on the web site:

<https://dulcimerstab.com/>

There is no background for the song, but it's a fun tune and fits in with a winter theme. Perhaps Mr. Sykes is a Laura Ingalls Wilder fan and wrote this tune after reading one of her books...



*"In the deep woods of Wisconsin, Laura and her family went to Grandma and Grandpa Ingalls's house to celebrate the good maple season. After dancing a jig, Grandma made maple snow candy for all the children to enjoy."*

Whatever the reason, enjoy the tab. Here's a midi file of the tune to get you started:



Sugar Hearts and Maple Snow Candy.mid

You can also find a recipe for maple snow candy on page 6.

## 2022 NGFDA Annual Meeting

Being a member of NGFDA, you know that we are required to have an annual meeting each year for our membership to attend and receive the "State of the Union" for NGFDA. We usually have this annual meeting at our in-person Fall Festival. Since the event was virtual this year, we will have a virtual meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. EST**. A Zoom link will be sent out before the meeting date.

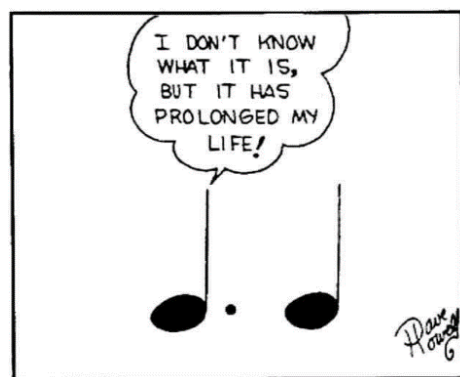
Also, nomination forms weren't sent out this year. Since we have had the same volunteers and officers for the last 5-6 years, we would welcome some new volunteers. The success of a volunteer organization such as NGFDA is having reliable volunteers. If you are at all interested in volunteering or becoming an officer of this club, please send us a response to our email address: [ngfdaclub@gmail.com](mailto:ngfdaclub@gmail.com)

Please include the position you would like to be considered for and why you would be good at it. This would give us a pool of volunteers to draw from. More volunteers = less work!

## 2022 NGFDA Club Dues

Just a reminder: Membership dues for 2022 are due by January 1, 2022. Go to the NGFDA website for more information.

Head on over to the NGFDA website to find out several ways to pay your club dues: [www.ngfda.com](http://www.ngfda.com).





## Land of the Waterfalls



The club was asked to play at the Transylvania TCart's craft open house here in Brevard, North Carolina. It was such a fun occasion. The audience joined right in with the group's voices as they sang and played many familiar Christmas carols. Along with the mountain dulcimers, the orchestra included a cello, harp and viola.



A week earlier, the group had played for the seniors' lunch program at a senior center. Because of the virus the club hasn't resumed monthly playouts at the three nursing homes that they used to regularly visit. The club is taking the month of January off and will resume in February.

## Tugalo Valley Strummers



The Tugalo Valley Strummers have enjoyed getting back together in person over the last few months. The group is very happy to have welcomed new member Diane to the group. The Strummers have concentrated on polishing up their Christmas repertoire.

Drew and Margo played at the Clary and Wilkinson Centers in Toccoa which was appreciated by the staff and residents there.



Drew, Margo, and Brenda entertained at the Lions Club Christmas Dinner. Drew, Margo, Anne, and Brenda performed at the Toccoa-Stephens County Public Library to the delight of patrons and library staff. The Christmas season was culminated with a Christmas Jam and refreshments at the last practice for 2021. The Strummers are looking forward to a bright and exciting New Year.



# Yonah Pickers

As one year ends and we see another just about to begin, memories and hopes fill our minds. The group remembers joyfully returning to some performances while continuing to have to cancel others. The group looks forward to the possibility of returning to presentations in schools again among other joys. Everyone has seen so many things happen that we never expected, and this group is certainly looking forward to magical experiences during 2022.



Yonah Pickers have been enjoying their holiday performances in a variety of venues. They have played in a Victorian house (Hardman farms), at 2 state parks (Tallulah Gorge and Black Mountain) and for seniors in senior centers and other locations. They also had a wonderful Christmas Brunch and enjoyed the good food and fun activities including playing music of course.

One of this writer's favorites in any performance is when children join in. There are always bells at the ready for any little musician that would wish to ring along!! During the preparations for this round of holiday performances some new holiday music was brought to the group that will be added to the list for next year. Members often bring music they have found for the group to consider. It is yet another way to benefit from and enjoy making music together. Going forward, restarting the beginners' group is on the short list of plans. The hope, as always, is to involve as many people as possible in the fun times of dulcimer playing!

The group has many things for which to be grateful this year. Among them is the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville Ga., for their support by their generously allow the use of their facilities free of charge. Another is the simple act of being able to come together with friends to share in the joy and fun of making music together. It has been missed by many. Some of the members have faced medical challenges and are dearly missed by the group. It is the sincere hope they will be able to return soon.

One thing that the group is anticipating is the Mid-Winter Fest that Joe Collins will be holding "In Person" in February. This will be the first in person workshop in a very long while. While some people have found the Virtual Dulcimer experiences useful, others found them lacking. There is such magic when dulcimer players from many different areas can get together and share their love of learning and making music in the physical and not just online! Happy New Year and may the blessings you seek come to you in a timely manner.

The Yonah Pickers practice schedule is first and third Mondays, 10:00a.m.-12:00 noon at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville, GA. If you are in the area, you are most welcome to drop by. All instruments and ability levels are welcome. If you have questions about anything in this article, please contact [bswhitmire@windstream.net](mailto:bswhitmire@windstream.net).

# Sugar Hearts and Maple Snow Candy

Original Composition by  
Paul G. Sykes (2021)

$\text{♩} = 120$  Lively

**A**

8 4

D  
A  
A

T  
A  
B

5 5 5 3 5 5 6 6 6 4 6 6 6 4 8 8 7 7 7 5

8 8

D  
A  
A

T  
A  
B

7 7 7 3 5 5 6 6 7 8 9 8 7 7 9 9 10 10 7 5 6 5 4 3

**B**

8 12

D  
A  
A

T  
A  
B

3 5 7 7 5 5 6 6 6 4 0 2 6 6 4 4 5 5 6 7

8 16

D  
A  
A

T  
A  
B

7 7 5 5 5 5 6 6 7 8 9 8 7 7 9 9 10 10 7 5 6 8 4 3



## Snow Candy

Always ask permission from an adult before you begin cooking. Never cook by yourself.

You will need:

- 1 Cup molasses
- 1 Cup brown sugar
- Fresh, clean snow (or crushed ice)
- Measuring cup
- Large pot
- Wooden spoon
- Candy thermometer, or cup filled with cold water
- Shallow pan, such as a cake pan
- Clean towel

Boil the molasses and sugar together in the large pot until the mixture reaches the "hard crack" stage on a candy thermometer, or until a spoonful dropped into cold water forms a hard ball and cracks. Remove the syrup from the heat.

**BE VERY CAREFUL. THE SYRUP IS EXTREMELY HOT AT THIS STAGE.**

Scoop fresh, clean snow (or crushed ice) into the shallow pan. Dip up a spoonful of syrup and dribble it onto the snow in "circles, and curlicues, and squiggledy things" as Laura and Mary did. It will harden and become candy. Lift the candy off the snow and onto a clean towel to dry.

Recipe taken from *The Little House Treasury* by Carolyn Strom Collins and Christina Wyss Erikson.

| SATELLITE                               | AREA   | FREQUENCY   | TIME                                    | LOCATION   | CONTACT  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Allatooners                             | Kennesaw, GA                                     | Monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  | 6:30-8:30                               | First United Lutheran Church of Kennesaw<br>3481 Campus Loop Rd<br>(formerly Frey Lake Rd.)            | Peggy Martin 678-478-2456<br><a href="mailto:martin.pb101@gmail.com">martin.pb101@gmail.com</a><br>www.allatooners.org<br>Satellite Scribe: Marianne Wurtele<br><a href="mailto:bluegrass_m@hotmail.com">bluegrass_m@hotmail.com</a> |
| Bent Tree Strings                       | Jasper, GA                                       | Monthly, 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday   | 2:00-4:00                               | Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off Cove Road.             | Sally Long 404-351-5257<br><a href="mailto:sallylong@tds.net">sallylong@tds.net</a>  |
| Dalton Dulcimers                        | Dalton, GA                                       | Weekly<br>Wednesdays  | 2:30                                    | First United Methodist Church<br>500 S. Thornton Ave.  | Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256<br><a href="mailto:Sspatts6@gmail.com">Sspatts6@gmail.com</a>  |
| Dixieland Dulcimers                     | Griffin, GA                                      | Weekly-Mondays  | 10:00                                   | Crestview Baptist Church Fellowship hall, Griffin, GA  | Donna Harpe 770-228-5597<br><a href="mailto:phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net">phillip_harpe@bellsouth.net</a><br>Dave Graves 770-227-4890<br><a href="mailto:dr636@gmail.com">dr636@gmail.com</a>   |
| Dusty Dulcimers                         | Danielsville, GA                                 | Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday  | 6:30                                    | Danielsville Public Library<br>1315 Hwy 98<br>Danielsville, GA 30633                                   | Marty Philips 678-863-7191<br>Mark Stricklett email: <a href="mailto:mstricklett@windstream.net">mstricklett@windstream.net</a>  |
| Garden City Strummers                   | Evans, GA  | Monthly – 2nd Monday – fast jam   | 7:00-9:00<br>7:00-9:00                  | 4537 Glenda Lane<br>Evans, GA 30809  | Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437<br><a href="mailto:pogobill@aol.com">pogobill@aol.com</a>  |
| Gold Country Players                    | Gainesville, GA                                  | Weekly – Thurs.<br>Main Session<br>Basic Session  | 2:00-4:00<br>4:15-5:00                  | First Baptist Church<br>Room 235, 751 Green Street,<br>NW, Gainesville GA 30501                        | Sandy Lesli<br><a href="mailto:goldcountryplayers@gmail.com">goldcountryplayers@gmail.com</a>  |
| HAMMERED DULCIMER CONTACT               |  |   |   |  | Julia McDermott<br>706-207-5685<br><a href="mailto:HammerPlaying@aol.com">HammerPlaying@aol.com</a>  |
| Hilltop Strummers                       | Woodstock-Canton, GA                             | Weekly – Tues.  | 1:30-3:30                               | Canton First UMC<br>930 Lower Scott Mill Road,<br>Canton, GA<br>Exit 16 at I-575                       | Martha Raby 770-893-3453<br><a href="mailto:Mraby@tds.net">Mraby@tds.net</a>   |
| In Town Down Home                       | Atlanta, GA                                      | Monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat.   | 1:00                                    | St. Luke's Lutheran Church<br>3264 Northside Parkway<br>Atlanta, GA 30327                              | Rudine Davis<br>H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179<br><a href="mailto:davises@bellsouth.net">davises@bellsouth.net</a>   |
| LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers              | LaGrange, GA                                     | Weekly, Thurs.<br>mornings  | 10:45-12:15                             | First United Methodist Church for jamming/practice   | Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027<br><a href="mailto:perrywilder@bellsouth.net">perrywilder@bellsouth.net</a>  |
| Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players     | Brevard & vicinity, NC                           | Weekly, Tues.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday - Practice<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed.- Playouts     | 11:30<br>9:45-10:45                     | Beginning classes<br>St Philip's Episcopal Church (in the basement)<br>256 East Main St<br>Brevard, NC | Leader: Linda Schieve<br>828-885-2328  |
| Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club            | Macon, GA  | Monthly, 2nd Sat.   | 1:00<br>Lesson<br>2:00-4:00<br>Jam      | Young America School of Music<br>6361 Zebulon Road   | Barbara Stevens 478-457-6539<br><a href="mailto:gbs468@aol.com">gbs468@aol.com</a><br>Laurie Wilson 229-389-9611<br><a href="mailto:Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com">Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com</a>                                       |
| Mountain Sounds                         | Murphy, NC                                       | Bimonthly<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays   | 1:00-3:00                               | Foster Flea Market<br>100 Blairsville Hwy (Hwy 129)<br>Murphy, NC                                      | Pam Johnson<br><a href="mailto:Mountain_Sounds@aol.com">Mountain_Sounds@aol.com</a><br>Facebook page: Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club  |
| Peach Pickers Satellite                 | Sharpsburg, GA                                   | Monthly, 2nd Sunday   | 3:00-5:00                               | Trinity Church<br>8817 Highway 54 W<br>Sharpsburg, GA  | Pat Hobson 770-461-2522<br><a href="mailto:pohobson@gmail.com">pohobson@gmail.com</a><br>Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453<br><a href="mailto:hrwmdawk@yahoo.com">hrwmdawk@yahoo.com</a><br>Call Pat<br>Call Wanda                          |
| Peach Pickers INSTRUCTION               | 1) Fayette Senior Ctr<br>2)Bridge Community Ctr  | Wednesdays<br>Tuesdays  | 11:00<br>6:00-8:00                      | 4 Center Drive, Fayetteville<br>Bridge Community Ctr.<br>225 Willowbend Rd<br>Peachtree City           |  |
| Roman Sunshine                          | Rome, GA   | Weekly, Monday  | 10:00                                   | Charles Parker Senior Center<br>Kingston Rd  | JT Bishop<br>706-234-0477<br><a href="mailto:Jtbljb@bellsouth.net">Jtbljb@bellsouth.net</a>  |
| Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD) | Centerville, GA                                  | Weekly, Thurs.  | 6:30-7:15<br>Lesson<br>7:15-8:30<br>Jam | 1 <sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church<br>600 N. Houston Lake Rd.                                     | Elizabeth Garrett, 478-225-8071<br><a href="mailto:elizabeth@comsouth.net">elizabeth@comsouth.net</a><br>Jean Noble, 478-971-1782<br><a href="mailto:jeannoble@cox.net">jeannoble@cox.net</a>  |
| Tugalo Valley Strummers                 | Toccoa, GA                                       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday evenings<br>Beginners<br>Novice<br>Intermediate  | 5:00-5:45<br>5:45-6:30<br>6:30-8:00     | Ebenezer Baptist Church<br>Family Life Center<br>49 Rose Lane<br>Toccoa, GA 30577                      | Margo Taylor 706-297-9509<br><a href="mailto:Margotaylor808@gmail.com">Margotaylor808@gmail.com</a>  |
| Whistle Stop Pickers                    | East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn-Opelika area) | Weekly, Sat.  | 1:00-3:00                               | Lee County Historical Society<br>Museum<br>6500 Stage Road<br>(Hwy 14)<br>Loachapoka, AL               | Allen & Deborah McCord 334-821-1301<br>334-703-3646 (cell)<br><a href="mailto:mccord0304@gmail.com">mccord0304@gmail.com</a>   |
| Yonah Pickers                           | Clarksville, GA                                  | Bimonthly-Regular<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays<br>Bimonthly-Beginners<br>1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays. | 11a -1p<br>1:00-1:45                    | Bethlehem Baptist Church in<br>Clarksville   | Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212<br><a href="mailto:yonahpickers@yahoo.com">yonahpickers@yahoo.com</a><br>Brenda Sue Whitmire<br><a href="mailto:Bswhitmire@windstream.net">Bswhitmire@windstream.net</a>                                  |

NGFDA sanctions these groups as satellites, but each one sets its own agenda, meeting place and procedures.

Last Updated 8/27/2021



# 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](http://www.ngfda.org) by clicking "newsletter" and entering your email address as listed above. The newsletter is posted around the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 \$13.00 for Tab Book and postage

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Tab Book              | \$ _____ |
| Membership Fee        | \$ _____ |
| <b>Total Enclosed</b> | \$ _____ |

Mail membership form and payment to: **NGFDA 114 Oakleaf Circle Eatonton, GA 31024**

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