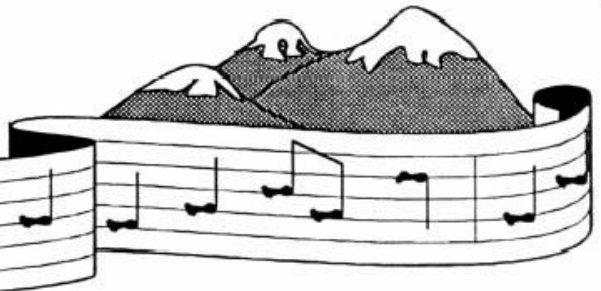


North Georgia Foothills
Dulcimer Association, Inc.



Foothills Footnotes

January

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GARDEN CITY STRUMMERS



The Garden City Strummers had a few months off when the group leader's husband had to have major heart surgery, but they were ready to come right back when things calmed down.

In October, the Strummers were invited back to play at the annual Mule Day Festival in Washington, GA. They always love that venue. It is located on an old Civil War plantation and just seems right for the group's music.



In November, they were invited back to play in Lincolnton, GA at the city's annual Pioneer Day. A city block has been turned into a historical park with many old buildings. And there's a great pavilion to play under.



In December, the group was asked to play at a concert sponsored by the *Harmony River Chorus*, a female barbershop singing group. Two of their members are also part of our Strummers. Joining us for the evening was a male barbershop group, the *Garden City Chorus*. What a room full of talent!!

The Strummers hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and wish you a 2024 filled with music!

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POSTMASTER: Send any address changes to **Barbara Stevens**, NGFDA, Inc., 2650 Palo Duro Blvd. North Fort Myers, FL 33917. You may also contact **Barbara** by e-mail at gbs468@aol.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 **March 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.** *Foothills Footnotes* is published monthly by the North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association, Incorporated.

About the Tablature...

Do you have a New Year's resolution to expand your dulcimer skills? Are you ready for a bit of a challenge? This month's tab will help you do just that. "*Beaucatcher's Farwell*" is an original song by the American musician, Bob Zentz. Originally written for the hammered dulcimer, the tab here is arranged for the mountain dulcimer by Geoff Black. But wait! It's in the key of G and you'll have to [gasp!] retune your dulcimer to play this tune. C'mon – you know you want to!



Beaucatcher Mountain is in a portion of the Appalachian Mountain Range known as the Great Craggy Mountains, in Asheville, North Carolina. Its name was said to have been coined in the mid-1800s by James W. Patton, who once teased his sister-in-law, Charlotte Kerry, after watching her stroll the mountainside with her "beau". Patton suggested her eagerness to walk the mountain was an incentive for her beau to spend time with her, thus, the mountain was dubbed Charlotte's "beau catcher."

But Zentz saw a different view of the mountain.



Forty-plus years ago, local crews blasted an enormous chunk out of Asheville's urban mountain to allow the passage of Interstate 240. The concussion followed a 13-year struggle that put the project on the national map as an example of preservation versus politics.

According to several narratives, Bob Zentz tells the story of being caught in a traffic jam in the tunnel – a two-lane bottleneck at the entrance to the city in the middle of what is otherwise a 4-lane road. While he was in the tunnel, the tune came to him. Shortly after he wrote the tune, the state of North Carolina began construction of I-240, not without considerable controversy, which passes through Beaucatcher Mountain via a giant road-cut 800 feet wide and several hundred feet deep – the mountain was removed in the path of the highway.

That road doesn't have the bottleneck of a narrow tunnel – it has no tunnel at all. The road cut is just a little to the north of the tunnel, but the tunnel is still intact, and you can drive through it today if you choose to use the old historic road rather than the interstate expressway.



Mr. Lentz writes in the notes to his Folk Legacy album, "*Beaucatcher Farewell*" that "We shouldn't go tearing down mountains until we've gotten all the songs out of them."

Want to find out about more history from this area? Check out "Zealandia."



North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association's Fall Festival Triumphs Again!

The last in-person North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association Fall Festival took place at Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA in November of 2020. Mountain and hammered dulcimer players, as well as other musicians have fond memories of learning new musical skills in workshops at that longtime venue, as well as jamming with like-minded friends and fellow musicians there. The Covid pandemic forced most large gatherings of people like at the Fall Festival and other satellite music retreats to discontinue for a long while. Virtual workshops, lessons, and jams have filled the void over the past few years and kept musicians learning new skills and maintaining relationships with friends that enjoy playing music. Talented musical instructors have been able through virtual instruction to continue earning income to help support their musical journeys. Some live events are gradually returning although with noticeably fewer attendees. Musicians have persevered and are determined to bring the joy and sound of music back to live venues. The North Georgia Foothills Dulcimer Association (NGFDA) is gradually returning to in-person music events. The organization's *Dog Days of Summer Fest* was held in-person in Dalton, GA in August. However, the well-loved, highly successful Fall Festival was again a virtual event.



This 3-day Fall Festival offered 35 instructors and 3 well produced evening concerts. Workshops included lessons to improve mountain and hammered dulcimer skills. Festival attendees could also choose instruction for learning skills needed to play an Irish or penny whistle, guitar, harp, ukulele, Bodhran drum, dulcimer banjo, resonator dulcimer, Native American flute, autoharp, and bowed psaltry. And clogging? Who would have ever thought that you could learn that online? Aubrey Atwater made that happen! The success of this virtual festival was because of the **459** attendees. From the U.S. there were 444 participants and 15 were residents outside of the U.S. Workshop participants hailed from the other countries of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom. There were also popular instructors from England, Wales, and France.

Laurell Wilson was introduced as the Fall Festival director this year. The previous festival director, Mike VanDemark, passed most of his festival duties to Laurell as he took over the role of NGFDA president. Erin Mae Lewis served as tech extraordinaire behind the scenes to ensure that the concerts were polished and professional. Erin Mae's positive outlook and constant reminder that "Technology is our friend!" helped pull off some outstanding concert performances with few mishaps. New instructors at this year's virtual festival included: Butch Ross, Jody Marshall, Pam Bowman, Patty McCollom, Steve Eulberg, Sue Carpenter, Thomasina Levy, and Wendy Songe.

All who participated in the event are basking in the afterglow of another wonderful NGFDA Fall Festival. What fun it was! There was no lengthy driving involved to attend; lodging was in the comfort of your home; you enjoyed your own yummy meals and snacks; skilled instructors from across the U.S. and Europe taught you new skills and songs; and you heard great music from multi-talented, professional performers. *Mark your calendars now for next year's NGFDA Fall Festival! The dates are November 21-23, 2024.*

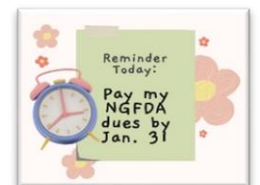
NGFDA ANNUAL MEETING – Sunday, January 28th at 6pm EST

January 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. It takes a small army to run a club like NGFDA and we need your input! If you can't make the meeting, send in your name to volunteer to help or give any ideas for the club to ngfdafootnotes@gmail.com.

To join the Zoom Meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83705250018?pwd=K0puU0JqR2txb0ZjMW9heWsvMlZidz09>; then enter the **Meeting ID: 837 0525 0018** and **Passcode: 932871**. Issues? Call Mike VanDeMark at 404.822.3666 for help.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ANNUAL NGFDA MEMBERSHIP? Now is the time for all good...you know the rest. Dues run from January to December. You can renew online at the NGFDA website: <https://www.ngfda.com/renewal>. Or mail your dues to: NGFDA 2650 Palo Duro Blvd. North Fort Myers, FL 33917. Due it today!



Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club

The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club met in-person only once this quarter. However, they carried on with their virtual, twice a week jams. Other paths were also followed by members to continue their musical journeys.

Most of the club's members participated in virtual workshops and enjoyed concerts during the Quarantune and NGFDA Fall Festivals. Watching the Quarantune Christmas concerts is also a holiday favorite. Laurell Wilson remained busy with her new duties as the NGFDA Fall Festival director. Member Vicki Allen joined one of Joe Collins' virtual workshops, as well as his New Harmony dulcimer night. She also participates in Joe's morning Bible studies. Karen Stewart and Sarah Robinson enjoy attending Jessica Comeau's online workshops. Sharon Dolliver took part in the virtual Southern California Dulcimer Heritage's Dulcimer Day in October, the online Christmas with Western Carolina University's Dulcimer U in November and Rick Thum's virtual Christmas concert in December. You'll also spot members of the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club jamming each Saturday at the Send in The Music* jams.

Kaye Specht (far right) attended the Black Mountain Music Festival in North Carolina. She enjoyed the mountain dulcimer, banjo and ukulele classes, as well as a songwriting class. Kaye also performed two songs during the open mic night at Black Mountain. Sarah Robinson ventured south to join the Stephen Foster Dulcimer Retreat in White Springs, Florida in November. That retreat was cancelled last year a day before the event because of a hurricane that closed that state park venue for a period of time.

Club member Frank Worley plays his mountain dulcimer twice a month for the congregation at a nearby church. He also joined other musicians performing at a fall festival near his home in Jackson, GA. Frank's talented harmonica accompaniment at the club jams is always an asset. Everyone also loves it when Frank adds percussion with sleigh bells to their Christmas carols.

Barbara Stevens, now residing in Florida, continues to offer online mountain dulcimer instruction to Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club member Steve Mellott. Barbara has also picked up 4 new mountain dulcimer students in North Fort Myers. Three of her students are from her church and the other is from her community. The husband of her community student sometimes joins in to play backup chords with his guitar. Barbara's closest club now is the Fort Myers Dulcimer Club plus she connects each week with Middle Georgia's virtual jams.

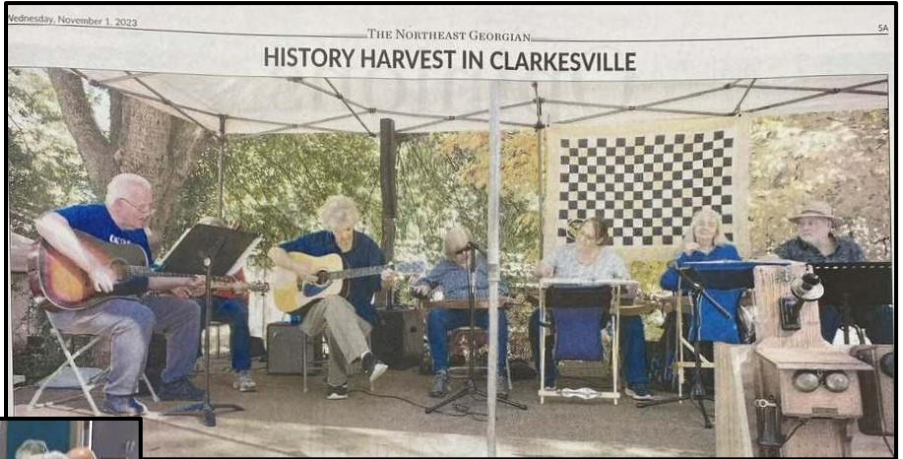


The Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club's membership has lowered as several people have moved to other areas. Those members continue to join via virtual meet-ups and are always welcomed at their beloved club jams in Macon when they return to Georgia for a visit. The club continues to seek new members. Free beginner mountain dulcimer classes are offered during the first hour of the monthly in-person meetings. The club meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at Young America Music Schools, 6361 Zebulon Road, Macon, GA. Beginner Lessons are from 1 - 2 p.m. and the more advanced players jam from 1 - 3:30 p.m. For more information contact: Laurell Wilson at 229-389-9611 or Vicki Allen at 478-463-3369.

* Want to join Send in the Music weekly jam sessions? Here's the link: <https://www.sendinthemusic.com/for-our-musicians>

Yonah Pickers

The Yonah Pickers have had a very interesting and busy fall and holiday season. The group played in new locations, one of which was the *Fall Festival* at the St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Cleveland GA, and another was playing at the *Clarksville History Harvest* in November which was part of the yearlong Clarkesville celebration of 200 years since the establishment of the village of Clarkesville on Dec. 10, 1823. (They even made the paper!)



The group has also had the pleasure of returning to some long-time locations such as the Habersham and Rabun County Senior Centers and several others. It was with great joy that they were able to return to a former performance location in October for the first time since the pandemic! While the group has grown smaller over the years, they continue to enjoy playing where they are invited.



As new members have joined the established group, they have brought new energy to the group. The long-time players are expanding their repertoire with workshops and online conferences while maintaining group and audience favorite songs. The QuarantUNE Christmas Concerts were enjoyed, and members are looking forward to the next events. Many of the members are also hopeful of in-person conferences in the months ahead, such as Joe Collins at the Late-Winter Dulcimer Festival, March 9th in Kings Mountain, NC. The group meets twice a month on second and fourth Fridays at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarkesville from 2-4pm. If you are in the area, you are most welcome to join in. For more information on anything in this article, please contact bswhitmire@windstream.net.

You never know where your group will show up! Check out this video of the Pickers playing some Christmas carols with a kids' chorus:

<https://www.facebook.com/1571162567/posts/pfbid02peQUj4HC6SYmGtbf4cP4XeU9MigN9EmpaT3ceJHhBenniY752bR4G3MDCVsyHLmbl/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=Eb7KZX>

LaGrange Troupers



In October, the Troupers braved a cold wind to perform at the 12th annual Stories in the Garden Azalea Storytelling Festival at the historic Hills & Dales Estate in LaGrange, GA. This is a free storytelling event – a great time to hear some world class story tellers.

This year, the event featured Tim Lowry, a humorist and historian known for his love of Southern culture and period costumes.



FDR State Park in Pine Mountain, GA hosts American Frontier Days twice a year. This past November, visitors explored mid-1700s to the late 1800s frontier life, talking to soldiers, trappers, cooking and even throwing a tomahawk! Demonstrators and local historians show unique skills common to 18th century life.

While the group didn't have any Christmas playouts this year, one lucky church in Pine Mountain was treated to a Christmas dulcimer duet.



Legacy Interview – Barbara Stevens



How did you get started playing the dulcimer?

I was at the Mossy Creek Barnyard Festival where the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club had a tent set up and they were playing their dulcimers. They had cardboard dulcimers on several tables so people could try to play one.

Is your family musical?

Unfortunately, not.

Do you play any other instruments?

No.

Do you read music or play by ear?

I was paper trained. (Laugh)

How long have you been a member of the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club?

Since 2005.

Are you a member of any other dulcimer clubs?

I joined the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club and then played with the Towaliga Toetappers in Jackson and Sonic Sounds in Centerville. Now I've moved to North Fort Myers, Florida and play with the Fort Myers Dulcimer Club. I still visit the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club periodically and join their Monday and Friday Zoom jams.

What is your favorite song?

I love music so much that I could never pick my "favorite."

Who would you like to play a duet with?

So many of our amazing instructors that I can't pick just one.

Have you taught the dulcimer to others?

Yes. At one time I had three students when I lived in Milledgeville. When I left in December 2022, there were only two but we had been playing together for several years. I still miss them. Surprisingly when I moved to Florida, I had several people ask if I would teach them. I have three ladies at church that take lessons and one in the residential development where I live.

What advice would you give to a beginning dulcimer player?

Have fun but you do really need to practice regularly.

What else do you do when you're not playing the dulcimer?

I'm quite active in my church attending Bible studies, singing in the choir and helping with the altar guild. I've gotten involved with an exercise group, a singles group and a card group in the neighborhood. I attend the Fort Myers Dulcimer Club and the Monday and Friday virtual jams with the Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club. I have been the treasurer for the NGFDA for many years. And I love to travel. My next trip is to Hawaii in January.

The NGFDA wants to celebrate individuals who have impacted the dulcimer community and share their stories. Do you have someone in your group that you would like to interview? We're looking for someone for the Spring newsletter – please email suggestions to the newsletter editor: ngfdafootnotes@gmail.com.

Beaucatcher Farewell

Bob Zentz

Arr. for MD by Geoff Black

The musical score is arranged in four systems, each with a treble clef staff and a fretboard staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Chord diagrams are placed above the treble staff, and fret numbers are placed below the fretboard staff.

System 1: Treble staff starts with a G chord. Fretboard shows: 5-5-5-6-7 | 8-3-3' | 4-5-1-1-2-3 | 4-3-2-1-0. Chords: G, C, Em, D.

System 2: Treble staff starts with a G chord. Fretboard shows: 5-5-5-6-7 | 8-3-3-4-3-2 | 1-6-5-4-3-2 | 3' | 5-7. Chords: G, C, Am, D, G.

System 3: Treble staff starts with a G chord. Fretboard shows: 10-10-10-12-11-10 | 9-10-9-8-7 | 8-8-9-10 | 9-8-7-5-5-4-5. Chords: G, D, C, G.

System 4: Treble staff starts with an Am chord. Fretboard shows: 6-6-6-8-7-6 | 5-7-10-3-4 | 5-5-6-5-4-3-2 | 3' | 5-7 | 3-5-7-5-10. Chords: Am, G, Em, G, D, G (1. and 2. endings).

SATELLITE	AREA	FREQUENCY	TIME	LOCATION	CONTACT
Allatooners	Kennesaw, GA	Not meeting at this time			
Bent Tree Strings	Jasper, GA	Weekly Thursdays	2:00-4:00	Club Tamarack Dining Room in Bent Tree. Bent Tree is 6 miles east of Jasper off Cove Road.	Marlin Ferrell 706.301.9395 Mferrell777@earthlink.net
Dalton Dulcimers	Dalton, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	2:30	First United Methodist Church 500 S. Thornton Ave.	Sherry Patterson 706-278-7256 Sspatts6@gmail.com
Dixieland Dulcimers	Griffin, GA	Weekly Mondays	10:00	Crestview Baptist Church Fellowship hall, Griffin, GA	Nancy Good 224.715.8619 Dave Graves 770-227-4890 drg636@gmail.com
Dusty Dulcimers	Danielsville, GA	Monthly – 2 nd and 4 th Mondays	1:00	Danielsville Public Library 1315 Hwy 98 Danielsville, GA 30633	Mark Stricklett email: mstricklett@windstream.net
Garden City Strummers	Evans, GA	Monthly – 2nd Monday	7:00-9:00 7:00-9:00	4537 Glenda Lane Evans, GA 30809	Pat & Bill Colbert 706-860-3437 pogobill@aol.com
Gold Country Players	Gainesville, GA	Weekly – Thurs.	11:00-1:00	First Baptist Church Room 235, 751 Green Street, NW, Gainesville GA 30501	Sandy Lesli goldcountryplayers@gmail.com
HAMMERED DULCIMER CONTACT					Julia McDermott 706-207-5685 HammerPlaying@aol.com
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	Martha Raby 770-893-3453 Mraby@tds.net
In Town Down Home	Atlanta, GA	Monthly, 3 rd Sat.	1:00	St. Luke's Lutheran Church 3264 Northside Parkway Atlanta, GA 30327	Rudine Davis H 404-250-0605; C 404-790-7179 davises@bellsouth.net
LaGrange Dulcimer Troupers	LaGrange, GA	Weekly, Thurs. mornings	10:45-12:15	First United Methodist Church for jamming/practice	Ann and Perry Wilder 706-882-5027 perrywilder@bellsouth.net
Land of Waterfalls Dulcimer Players	Brevard & vicinity, NC	Weekly Wednesdays	10:00-11:30	St Philip's Episcopal Church (in the basement) 256 East Main St Brevard, NC	Leader: Linda Schieve 828-885-2328
Middle Georgia Dulcimer Club	Macon, GA	Monthly, 2nd Sat.	1:00-2:00 Lesson 2:00-3:30 Jam	Young America School of Music 6361 Zebulon Road	Laurie Wilson 229-389-9611 Laurell.Wilson@hotmail.com Vicki Allen 478.463.3369 vallendublin@hotmail.com
Mountain Sounds	Murphy, NC	Bimonthly 2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays	1:00-3:00	Foster Flea Market 100 Blairsville Hwy (Hwy 129) Murphy, NC	Pam Johnson Mountain.Sounds@aol.com Facebook page: Mountain Sounds Dulcimer Club
Peach Pickers	Sharpsburg, GA	Weekly Wednesdays	11:00-12:30	Fayetteville Senior Center 4 Center Drive, Fayetteville, GA	Pat Hobson 770-461-2522 pohobson@gmail.com Wanda Dawkins 678-899-0453 hrwmdawk@yahoo.com
Peach Pickers INSTRUCTION		Tuesdays	11:00-12:30	Bridge Community Center 225 Willowbend Rd Peachtree City, GA	
Roman Sunshine	Rome, GA	Weekly, Monday	10:00	Charles Parker Senior Center Kingston Rd	Dee Russell 706-346-6318
Sonic Sounds Dulcimer Club (EDIMGIAFAD)	Centerville, GA	1 st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30pm	1 st United Methodist Church 600 N. Houston Lake Rd.	Elizabeth Garrett, 478-225-8071 elizabeth@comsouth.net Jean Noble, 478-971-1782 jeannoble@cox.net
Tugalo Valley Strummers	Toccoa, GA	2 nd & 4 th Monday evenings Beginners Novice Intermediate	5:00-5:45 5:45-6:30 6:30-8:00	Ebenezer Baptist Church Family Life Center 49 Rose Lane Toccoa, GA 30577	Margo Taylor 706-297-9509 Margotaylor808@gmail.com
Two or More Dulcimer Club	Dexter, GA	Weekly Wednesday	10a-12p	New Beginnings Church 402 North Line Street Dexter, GA 31019	Vicki Allen 478.463.3369 vallendublin@hotmail.com
Whistle Stop Pickers	East Alabama/ West Georgia (Auburn-Opelika area)	2 nd & 4 th Saturdays	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	Clarksville, GA	2 nd & 4 th Fridays.	2:00-4:00p	Bethlehem Baptist Church in Clarksville	Lynn McCollum 706-499-3212 yonahpickers@yahoo.com Brenda Sue Whitmire Bswhitmire@windstream.net

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

Last Updated 9/24/23

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 \$13.00 for Tab Book and postage

Tab Book \$ _____

Membership Fee \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail membership form and payment to: **NGFDA 2650 PALO DURO BLVD. NORTH FORT MYERS, FL 33917**

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www.NGFDA.org
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United States of America

