



Bluegrass Express

a publication of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine

Fall 2017

BMAM ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER

BECOME A BMAM BOARD MEMBER or the BMAM PRESIDENT!!

All members are eligible AND ENCOURAGED to be active participants in this, our twenty-one-year-old, successful, non-profit organization. WE NEED YOU to run for Board Member and/or President of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine.

As a Board Member you can help us continue to support BMAM public invited jams, the website, the newsletter, coordinate where to set up the BMAM booth for outreach, AND help to create and support new activities (like concerts, etc). As President, you will be the face of BMAM and help us to get the word out about this great bluegrass endeavor.

The Board meets one evening a month, at the Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield. Many of the Board Members carpool as this seems to be the most central (and best suited) facility to host the meeting. And some of the members even go for a post meeting dinner afterwards! You do not need to be a player; we encourage bluegrass fans to fully participate! Enthusiasm and willingness to keep this great organization moving forward is the only requirement a member needs!

Each year BMAM elects a President and five new Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of not less than three, and not more than ten, elected members. Each elected Board Member serves a two-year term. After the five Board Member spots are filled, open spots can be filled for one-year terms. As always, there are spaces on the ballot for write-in candidates for both President and Board of Director positions, but it is important that we have members on the ballot to continue to keep BMAM successful.

BALLOTS WILL BE IN THE MAIL TO ALL MEMBERS WITH CURRENT DUES PAID. Please return the ballots in the mail promptly when received.

From the Chairman of the Board ...

Fall 2017

What a summer! We had an abundance of good weather that helped many festivals. I hope you had a chance to visit the BMAM booth at one of the major Maine festivals. It seems to me that there are a healthy number of bluegrass bands in Maine which makes me very happy. BMAM has been promoting bluegrass music in Maine for over 22 years. During that time we have sponsored many jams around the state, hosted many shows, helped to promote many bands, venues and festivals. Our newsletter, the Bluegrass Express, has been spotlighting bluegrass news with stories, announcements, pictures, posters and, sadly, obituaries.

Besides our newsletter we also have a website and Facebook page. Please use these sources of information to keep up to date on anything bluegrass in Maine be it a workshop, a jam, a show or venue. I just received an email asking to buy a page for next year's festival. I was happy to tell them that there is no cost for a local festival because our job is to help promote your event.

Does your band have a performance coming up? Send us the details. We can help fill those seats and expand your fan base. The venues you perform in will love it! Let us know the details so we can post.

You will be receiving a letter from us containing a ballot with names of people that would like to help BMAM by serving on the board of directors. Please vote. If you would like to give back to your bluegrass community but feel you can't make a solid commitment we have other positions that give you a chance to help.

The Southern and Eastern Jams have started up again - see the details inside. At our jams you will find a friendly atmosphere to pick and sing, door prizes, food, workshops and BMAM merchandise for sale.

As we go into the new year with our new board of directors and officers I would like to start work on a comprehensive review of where we are and what we've accomplished and then formulate a five year plan for BMAM. We'll compose a wish list of ways to further help our bluegrass community and whittle it down to what seems the most important goals considering the resources we have and what we think we can realistically achieve. It's an exciting time to be involved.

Please make sure you are a current member, and be on the lookout for your ballots, and vote.

Thank you, Joe Kennedy



Pete Kuykendall Passes

Posted on August 24, 2017 by John Lawless



We have just learned of the passing of Pete Kuykendall, surely among the most consequential figures in bluegrass music during the 20th century. According to his wife, Kitsy, Pete passed in his sleep last night at the nursing facility where he was living in Warrenton, VA. He was 79 years of age.

Most people in bluegrass know Pete as the founder and Executive Editor of *Bluegrass Unlimited*, the first wide circulation periodical for and about bluegrass music. The magazine was launched in 1966 as a typed and mimeographed newsletter, but has grown steadily since that time to a glossy, full-color publication read around the world. But Pete was also active as a performer, songwriter, publisher, recording engineer, radio host, and discographer in his native Washington, DC. He was instrumental in creating and managing the Indian Springs Bluegrass Festival in Maryland, and produced and recorded a number of albums in his basement studio during the 1960s. Later he served as one of the founders of the International Bluegrass Music Association in 1988.

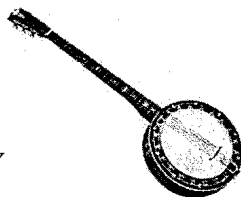
Though largely retired in recent years, Pete remained active in bluegrass circles, and was always present at festivals along the mid-Atlantic region, and at the annual IBMA World of Bluegrass convention, until he started having trouble with balance making it difficult for him to walk. Even living with nursing care, he continued to receive friends and share stories until the end.

It would be hard to overstate the importance of Pete Kuykendall's contributions to our music. *Bluegrass Unlimited* alone would qualify him for heroic status, coming as it did when the music was in danger of being overshadowed by the growing folk and rock 'n roll booms in the '60s. It became the primary source of information for fans, artists, and business people around the world, with news about recordings, artists, festivals, and products introduced to a large and devoted following each month.

He was also an avid collector of instruments, with a treasure trove of fine banjos, mandolins, and guitars in his possession.

It has been said that no one had a better grasp of the history of our music than Pete, and now that precious resource is gone. Let's all hope that the magazine he founded will continue on in his absence.

We'll update with further information about arrangements as they are announced. R.I.P., Pete Kuykendall. A true soldier gone.



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www.bluegrasstoday.com

Bluegrass Summer in Maine ~ 2017

It was a fantastic Bluegrass Summer for me here in Maine these past few months. In addition to playing banjo on the 317 Main Street's "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" float in the Yarmouth Clam Festival parade, I went to five festivals and various other Bluegrass events around Maine and nearby New Hampshire. Not even a full day's hard rain at Pemi Valley could dampen our own Borderline's (from Topsham and Freeport) enthusiastic and prize-winning performance at Pemi Valley in nearby New Hampshire; they went on to win other prizes at Billy's Belly later in the summer.

Blistered Fingers had some great sets from our own favorites Little Roy and the Gibson Brothers, and Corey Zink and his band put in some great performances, as well as Maine's own Misty Mountaineers and Phat Burger Deluxe.

I saw Del McCoury three times this year, twice at festivals and once at Stone Mountain earlier in the spring. It's astonishing how ageless Del just keeps rollin' on, just being Del; his show Friday night at Thomas Point was the best Del show I have ever seen. Another high point for me at Thomas Point was hearing Billy Strings jammin' in a camper with a Michigan band Sunday afternoon between sets. That private jam was just straight ahead bluegrass; IMHO that young man is the real thing.

But days are getting shorter, leaves are falling, and soon the great indoors will be beckoning as Maine's winter approaches and settles in. That's what our Jams in Brewer and Yarmouth are for: to get together with our friends and let the Grass turn Blue again, if only for a Sunday afternoon. Hope to see you there.

Bob Bergesch
 BMAM Board Member, Treasurer

BLUEGRASS MUSIC AND JAMS IN TOPSHAM

Exciting bluegrass news for Topsham! Ben Whatley of the band, Rough Sawn, has spearheaded a new bluegrass concert and jam series on the First Friday of the month starting in November and running through April. Ben, a farmer and accomplished musician, has been able to link up the Midcoast Winters Farmer's Market with this bluegrass music series. The farmers market takes place on Fridays from 11-4 in the Topsham Fairground Exhibition Hall where it will transform into a great space to hear bluegrass and jam by the evening.

Based on last year's successful Bluegrass Jamboree featuring Borderline and Rough Sawn, Ben saw that this series could be a great addition to the Topsham music scene by presenting a show and jam every First Friday of the month coinciding with the winter market season, November-April.

Kicking it off November 3rd will be local favorites Borderline, whose combination of hot picking and rich vocal harmonies have been winning contests and thrilling audiences throughout Maine and New Hampshire. The band will perform a feature set, followed by an open bluegrass jam hosted by the band. Doors open at 6, show at 7, with the jam from 8:30-10. Dinner, snacks, and coffee will be available from Turtle Rock Farm's Market Cafe, a farm-to-table pop-up cafe which serves lunch every week at the Midcoast Winter Farmers Market. A suggested donation of \$10 to pay the musicians and cover the costs of renting the hall is appreciated, and it's BYOB.

Full schedule:

- 11/3 Borderline
- 12/4 Pejepscot Station
- 1/5 Songwriter Night with Kate Miller
 (song circle to follow instead of usual jam)
- 2/2 Windy Ridge
- 3/2 Green Onions
- 4/6 Rough Sawn



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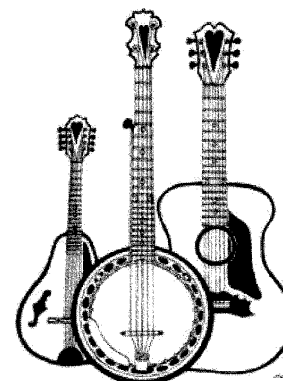
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MAINE SONGWRITER'S ASSOCIATION FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The Maine Songwriter's association has announced the 6 Finalists in its 7th Annual Songwriting Contest: Sara Trunzo, Stan Keach, Jeff Trippe, Tom McKeon, Jenny Van West, and Gifs Jamison. These 6 songwriters will each perform 2 songs, including the 6 Finalist songs, at the MSA Songwriting Contest Finals on Saturday, October 28, at 8:00 to 10:00 PM at the Frontier, 14 Maine St., Brunswick.

Maine Bluegrass will be represented in the Contest Finals by Stan Keach, a long-time Maine Bluegrass musician and a current board member of the BMAM, who will perform his song, *On Boot Hill*, co-written by Rick Lang of New Hampshire. The song was included on Ralph Stanley II's latest CD, *Ralph Stanley II & the Clinch Mountain Boys*, released in May, 2017.



YOUNG MAINE FIDDLERS IN TENNESSEE PART ONE — JAY SMITH

Fiddling has been part of Maine's music heritage for a long time. Mellie Dunham, of Norway, Maine, gained national attention in 1927 as Henry Ford's favorite square dance fiddler; of course, dance fiddling in Maine preceded Dunham by over 100 years. The last issue of *The Bluegrass Express* includes memorial articles about two great late-twentieth-century Maine fiddlers — Smokey Val and Simon St. Pierre — both of whom died in 2016. Smokey was 86 and Simon 88 at their passings. Just a few of the other Maine Bluegrass fiddlers known to Bluegrass fans over the years are: Sam Tidwell; Fred Carpenter (who now owns a prominent Nashville violin store); Joe Pomerleau; Gary Pomerleau; Erica Brown; Brian Mason; Timmy Farrell; Bill Thibodeau; Bob Kelly; Don LeBlanc; Kip Yattaw; Greg Boardman . . . I'm sure there are many others who I'll remember as soon as I submit this article -- my sincere apologies to those who have temporarily slipped my (aging) mind. And then there are dozens of extremely proficient Maine fiddlers who play primarily in the maritime, Celtic, and old-time traditions; a few of them have played Bluegrass from time to time.

On the other end of the age spectrum from most of the fiddlers listed above, three extremely talented young fiddlers I want to draw the reader's attention to have two things in common: all three are Mainers, and all three are currently pursuing fiddle-playing careers in Tennessee. Max Silverstein and Sarah Logan are studying for Bachelor of Arts degrees in Bluegrass Old Time and Country Music Studies at East Tennessee University in Johnson City, and Jay Smith is a full-time touring fiddler based out of Nashville. We'll cover Jay's background and career in this issue, and plan to include installments about Max and Sarah in upcoming issues.

Jay Smith, was born in Bangor in 1989; his parents, Jim (a banjo picker) and Janet, lived in Sebec at that time. Jay grew up in Sebec, Rangeley, and Farmington, where he played with the Franklin County Fiddlers as he attended Farmington public schools. His early music teachers included Bea Molesti, Steve Muise, and Graybert Beacham. He studied classical music simultaneously with studying Celtic, Old-time, and Bluegrass. Jay also attended Maine Fiddle Camp for about 8 years, learning from many notable fiddlers there. Following his Bluegrass muse, Jay went to an intensive fiddle camp with Ron Stewart at Augusta Heritage Center at Davis and Elkins College in West Virginia.

At the University of Southern Maine, Jay majored in Music Performance and played in the classical orchestra; all the while, he was playing Bluegrass professionally on a regular basis. Jay and brother Shane, billed as the Smith Brothers, often showcased with Mac McHale and the Old Time Radio Gang.



Jay started playing with Wilf Clark and the Misty Mountaineers while he was still in high school, and later played with the Maranacook String Band and the Sandy River Ramblers for 3 years while he was at USM. Jay played on the Ramblers' 2012 CD, *Cry of the Loon and other original songs about Maine*. In fact, (after a brief loon call), the CD opens with Jay's stunning introduction to the title song.

Encouraged by Maine native Perley Curtis, a dobroist and pedal steel player who had moved to Nashville in the 1980's, and with whom Jay had done a couple of Maine Fair-season tours, Jay made the big leap to Nashville in 2014 to try to make it as a full-time musician, and he's kept very busy doing just that ever since. He's toured with a Dave Matthews tribute band, a Garth Brooks tribute band, a couple of country up-and-comers (Mitch Gallagher and the Jimmy Charles Band), and currently plays with Savannah Jack, a very busy pop/country band that has toured all over the world. Places Jay has been to with Savannah Jack include these far-flung examples: Chicago; Venezuela; Anchorage and Kodiak, Alaska; Vancouver, BC; India. Savannah Jack has done quite a few cruises on the Caribbean and elsewhere.

There are some excellent videos of the Savannah Jack show available on Youtube. My favorite is *The Devil Went Down To Georgia*; in this performance, Jay not only tears it up on the fiddle, but he *sings* (!) which will come as a big surprise to Jay's many Maine fans, since (as far as I know) Jay was never heard to sing while he was in Maine.

Jay's favorite fiddlers are Ron Stewart, Jason Carter, and Michael Cleveland.

At the age of 28, Jay Smith has built up a remarkable resume, and we look forward to hearing much more of Jay's wonderful fiddling over the next few years. I know that his many Maine fans and friends and former bandmates are very proud of him!

— Stan Keach

Basic Bluegrass Promotions
presents

The 21st Annual White's Beach Bluegrass Festival

"The Best Little Festival in New England"

July 20-21, 2018

Brunswick, Maine

For more festival information contact

Bernie at (207)837-8154 or email brpope@gwi.net

For camp site info please visit

www.whitesbeachandcampground.com

Bands & Details to Follow

Grange Bluegrass Jam

Place: 1266 North Main Street, Brewer, Maine

Admission: \$3.00 Time: 12pm-5pm

Dates: Third Sunday's of the Month (Except April is 4th Sunday)

Oct. 15, 2017

Nov. 19, 2017

Dec. 17, 2017

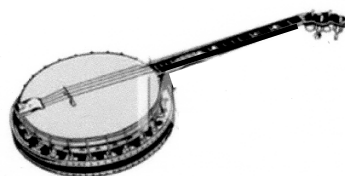
Jan. 21, 2018

Feb. 18, 2018

March 18, 2018

April 22, 2018 (4th Sunday)

May 20, 2018



****All levels are welcome as well as listeners****

****Unplugged stringed instruments only****

****FOOD CONCESSION****

*****Alcohol is NOT PERMITTED on Grange property*****

*****Smoking is permitted outdoors*****

FMI: Sandra Moon at (207) 827-3698 or
Debbie Lancaster at (207) 356-0965



272 Lewiston Road
Mechanics Falls, ME
(207) 795-1119

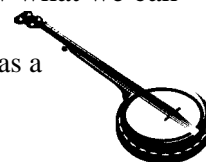
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

BMAM relies heavily on volunteers.

We have been VERY fortunate to have had many bluegrass enthusiasts participate in many aspects of BMAM. The Board thanks the good folks who keep the BMAM jams running, as well as the past and present officers who meet each month. As in most organizations, there is always room for folks to share their ideas and let us know what we can do to expand this great group.

These are some things that YOU as a member, can do to participate:

- submit articles to the newsletter
- help at jams
- attend a Board Meeting with any ideas to present
- volunteer to sit at the BMAM booths at festivals
- Lead or participate in BMAM workshops



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BMAM OFFICERS

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**The Bluegrass Music Association
of Maine is . . .**

an organization of people, listeners and players, who enjoy Bluegrass music. It was formed in March of 1995, and incorporated on July 8, 1996 as a Maine 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The BMAM, governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, welcomes all Bluegrass friends, fans, and pickers to become active members.

Functions of the organization include the following:

- To educate the public about Bluegrass music, in order to foster an appreciation of its history and cultural heritage
- To further the enjoyment of Bluegrass music, for ourselves and others, through teaching, sharing, and playing;
- To encourage participation in Bluegrass music events;
- To promote Bluegrass music as family entertainment;
- To support area workshops, festivals and concerts;
- To support area musicians and bands that play Bluegrass music;
- To inform members about Bluegrass and related events around the state;
- To cooperate with other organizations to promote Bluegrass and related music;
- To preserve the memories of those who have preceded us in this field of endeavor.

COPY DEADLINE

Is the 15th of the month prior to publication date. Ad rates are for camera-ready copy. Ads to be made up from scratch have additional cost and must be sent by the 5th of the month.

Payment must accompany ads when they are submitted.

Send all advertising to:
Bluegrass Express
Re: Advertising
P.O. Box 865
Westbrook, Maine 04098



The BLUEGRASS EXPRESS is a quarterly publication of the Newsletter Committee.

For information on how you can become involved, contact any committee member.

Please mail any news, photos, articles, information or anything pertaining to Bluegrass in Maine to this address:

BMAM
Re: Newsletter
P.O. Box 865
Westbrook, Maine 04098

Advertising Rates

25 Words	\$5.00
Business Card	\$10.00
1/4 Page	\$15.00
1/2 Page	\$20.00

Bluegrass on the RADIO IN MAINE



MONDAYS 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

MAMA'S MIDCOAST BLUEGRASS

Host: Mama Beth

WBOR – 91.1 FM BOWDOIN COLLEGE RADIO BRUNSWICK
STREAMING LIVE & WBOR APP AT WWW.WBOR.ORG



WEDNESDAYS 8:30 am–10:30 am

THE BLUE COUNTRY

Host: Blizzard Bob

WMPG – 90.9 FM/104.1 FM PORTLAND

STREAMING LIVE & ON DEMAND AT WWW.WMPG.ORG



THURSDAYS 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

BRONZEWOUND

Host: Darwin Davidson

WERU – 89.90 FM (BLUE HILL) 99.9 FM (BANGOR)

STREAMING LIVE & ON DEMAND AT WWW.WERU.ORG



****ON YOUR APPS****



****OVER THE AIRWAVES****

****ONLINE****





ALL VOLUNTEER, NON-PROFIT 501(c)(3)

BLUEGRASS

2017-2018 Eastern Jam

Grange in Brewer
1266 North Main Street
Brewer, Maine
12PM - 5PM

First Sunday of the Month (except April is 2nd Sunday, due to Easter)

Admission - \$3 Members / \$5 Non-Members

DATES

2017

October 1st
November 5th
December 3rd

2018

January 7th
February 4th
March 4th
April 8th (second Sun.)
May 6th

- All levels welcome: beginner, intermediate, advanced
- Unplugged stringed instruments only, please
- Listeners always welcome
- Three rooms for jams – two large, one small
- Chair stair lift for access to second floor if needed
- Food concessions provided by Grange
- Alcohol prohibited on Grange property
- BMAM functions are smoke-free – at the Grange smoking is permitted outdoors

FMI: Contact Joan Richert 207-989-5848

Directions: From points south, proceed north through Brewer on Rt. 9 ("The Airline")/North Main Street to 1266 North Main Street. The Grange Hall is on the left just before the Eddington line.

From Calais/Eddington take Rt. 9 to just over the Brewer line, and the Grange Hall is on the right.

From Old Town/Milford and points north, take the Bradley Road (Rt. 178) to Rt 9, turn right and the Grange Hall is on the right.

Come Pick Bluegrass Music With Us

Bluegrass Music Association of Maine



2017 - 2018



Southern Jam

2nd Sundays ** Noon to 5pm

2017

October 8

November 12

December 10

2018

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 8



North Yarmouth Academy Music Room

140 Main Street, Yarmouth, Maine

(Lots of parking in NYA Middle School parking lot next to Key Bank.
Follow signs through courtyard to Music Room)

*****All Levels of Play WELCOME (beginner, intermediate, advanced)**

*****Several rooms for jamming, great acoustics**

*****Unplugged bluegrass instruments only, please**

*****BMAM membership & merchandise available for purchase**

*****Door prize ***Snacks and beverages**

Admission \$3 members/\$5 non-members (Children under 16 free with responsible adult)

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JOIN THE BLUEGRASS MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF MAINE

A one year membership includes:
Quarterly Newsletter
Discounts to BMAM sponsored events

DATE: _____ EVENT: _____

I am a: ☐ Fan ☐ Musician ☐ Band Member

Primary Instrument: _____

Band Name: _____

I can help with: ☐ S. Jam (Yarmouth) ☐ E. Jam (Brewer)

☐ Teaching ☐ Newsletter ☐ Festivals ☐ Other

Other things I can help with: _____

☐ NO E-Mail? Check box ot get your newsletter via postal mail.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Newsletters are sent by email.

Zip _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____

Address _____

Name _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: ☐ Solo (\$12.00) ☐ Duets (\$15.00) ☐ New ☐ Renewal

Member received: _____ membership card _____ welcome letter _____ sticker _____ Payment type: check or cash

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*The new home of BMAM Online is:
www.MaineBluegrass.org*