



Bluegrass Express

a publication of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine

Winter/Spring 2017

President's Letter March 2017

Hello

Greetings to all and hope that your winter has been going well. After the big snow of last week the warm temps are refreshing. To all you snowbirds: hope that you are enjoying yourselves and listening to and supporting all the festivals that take place down south. The jams have been going well and I'd like to thank Joan Richert and Nora Krainis for keeping those jams alive and thriving. Over the years the jams have provided a fantastic place for people to play, learn and generally just have a good time. They also help foster a lot of good will in our respective communities, which is one of the things that makes Maine a great place to live and play. This coming year we would like to refocus our education efforts. We have a budget and are looking for input and ideas that will help keep the music alive and our population engaged. Please feel free to contact any of the board members with anything you feel might be worthwhile either through sponsorship or if someone needs an instrument to get started playing. When BMAM was founded part of our 501-03 charter was to have education programs. Over the years we've demonstrated our commitment to those efforts and we need to refocus on that. The board has also been thinking about restarting our annual benefit show like we used to do way back when; I'll report more on that in the next newsletter. We are also looking for an opportunity to use our considerable archives to be displayed and again more on that in the next newsletter. I would like to thank all the volunteers that over the years have kept BMAM alive. And I would like to personally add that BMAM has really made my life more enjoyable. Over the years I've met some of the most interesting and fun people in my life. Many have passed, but there are still many alive and I'll look forward to seeing you all down the road.

Respectfully,
Bill Umbel, BMAM President



ELECTION RESULTS

BMAM President Bill Umbel Re-elected 5 New Board Members

Congratulations to President Umbel. Bill has been with the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine from the very first Steering Committee meeting held at Al Hawkes' house back in 1993. He has served as a Board Member longer than any one member. He spent many years bringing in and setting up a sound system for the open mic portion of the Southern Jam when it was held at the Roost in Buxton. And he spent countless hours as the BMAM education ambassador teaching guitar to disadvantaged youth, along with countless hours of selfless work for the association.

Welcome back to Board of Directors Beth Revels and Kathy Scott. Congratulations to new Board Members Stan Keach, Steve Williams and John Vernon. Please read more about them in this issue.

From the Chairman of the Board ...

Hi folks,

I hope you have been getting lots of playing in and haven't been snowed in too badly this winter. The February Southern Jam had to be cancelled due to the storm, but overall we have been very lucky this season (so far). Our elections this season have brought us three people new to the Board of Directors. Steve Williams, John Vernon and Stan Keach are BMAM Officers all for the first time this year along with the re-election of myself and Kathy Scott. And, you have re-elected Bill Umbel as President. Thanks, Bill, for your commitment to the association. And, a huge thank you to Patty Thompson and Bucky Mitchell for running in this past election.

Each year the Board of Directors votes one Board Member to be Chairman. I have decided to step back from this role. Joe Kennedy will be the new Chairman of the Board. He asked if I would consider being the Vice Chair, and it was approved at the last Board Meeting. Joe was the first Chairman back in 1995 and I leave this position in his capable hands. The standing Board Members with a year remaining include Kate Greeley, George Scott, Robert Bergesch and Walter Magee.

Continued on page 2 - Chairman

From the Treasurer

I am happy to report that the Bluegrass Association of Maine is on firm financial footing. Our major expenses, which include dues to the IBMA (of which we are a member), insurance to cover our various events (mainly jams in Southern Maine and Eastern Maine), and our website and newsletters, have been adequately covered. So we can advance our cause.

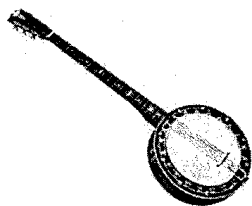
Our mission is to promote bluegrass music in Maine. We promote the music directly through our jams, and our website serves as a source of information for bands and Bluegrass-related events. Occasionally we partner with other non-profit organizations to facilitate their events, if there is a Bluegrass component to the event. In the past this may have included either an open donation or a modest prize for an event.

Last year we took in money from various sources, including memberships, donations at sponsored jams, and merchandise sales. In addition, our raffle of the Fox banjo, so generously donated by Bob French, raised \$865 for the organization. We were able to cover our operating costs (insurance, newsletters and mailings, website costs) and conduct our jams and make modest contributions. Altogether, we had a modest surplus.

This next year we are budgeting an increase in spending related to education for the public, and especially young people, in bluegrass music.

As an organization, we do not make music; that's up to our members. But we hope to help our music to be heard more frequently, and to Keep the Grass Blue here in Maine.

Bob Bergesch



SOUTHERN JAM REPORT

The Southern Jam, located at the North Yarmouth Academy, has been steadily gaining popularity on the second Sundays in Yarmouth. Unfortunately the February jam was cancelled due to the snow storm. We wanted to thank Erica and Matt Shipman for the Beginning Bluegrass Workshop they presented. And, of course, to all our volunteers at NYA.

BMAM BOARD MEETING MOVED TO KVCC

The Board of Directors meetings, held monthly, have moved to the King Hall at Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield. KVCC has allowed the Board to access the internet. This has made the sharing of information more straightforward and is a benefit to being in the college. The meetings, held on the second Wednesdays, are open to members. Any concerns or projects that a member would like to bring to the Board to review can be presented in person, or by correspondence at the meetings. We want to thank Doug Wainoris of Downeast Music of Fairfield for hosting our monthly meetings over the last several years.

Chairman - continued from page 1

Because we are a volunteer organization, understandably it is difficult to find folks who are able to put in the time to take on Officer positions. Right now we have Board Members taking on 'double duty' to fill these positions. Kate Greeley has been acting Secretary for a year now. We want to thank Kate for the super job she has done while we were looking for someone to fill the position. As it turns out, new Board Member Steve Williams will be taking on the Secretarial Duties which include memberships and correspondence. Chrissy Pollack has been our Recording Secretary and we can't thank her enough for her continued support. Robert Bergesch, who joined the Board last year, also took on duties as the Treasurer. And now, Stan Keach is going to be our Newsletter Editor, along with his responsibilities as a Board Member. These dedicated individuals are a big reason this organization continues to bring you great jams.

Now, with a little help from you, our members, we can put some of our future plans into action. As always, please send in any content for the Newsletter, and if any of you are able, send in band bios, articles about bluegrass in Maine or any other interesting stories. We look forward to some of you helping out at the BMAM booth at the festival. Many of you have done that for years and it is always appreciated.

Look forward to pickin' with you soon,
Mama Beth Revels

BMAM

Eastern Jam Report

The Eastern Jam is in its 4th year at the Grange in Brewer, Maine. Attendance has been strong: 53 for October, 53 for November, 31 for December and 37 for January. The number attending is actually a little higher because we don't count the kids and teens who attend. The setting has been a little like a big gathering of friends in a Maine kitchen - home-like, community-spirited, down-to-earth. With the three separate spaces for jammin' there is room for all. Between one third and one half of those attending are our listeners who often join in the singing on the choruses - they know Bluegrass! There will be 4 more Eastern Jams this season - held on the first Sunday of the month, February through May.

At least one new musician and one new listener (sometimes several) attend for the first time each month. Sometimes a listener will disappear into the parking lot and come back with an instrument from his or her car, having scoped us out and decided they would be comfortable and welcome to join in. One of our listeners who has been attending regularly each month for over three years brought her guitar and has moved from playing away from the circle to playing in or just behind the circle. Someday when she feels ready, I'm hoping she will lead a song - she can sing well - a lot like Maybelle Carter.

We have some new volunteers who cover things like signing up new BMAM members, taking the entry fees, and/or selling BMAM products (we've sold seven BMAM hats, nine sweatshirts, and one T-shirt so far this season). The new volunteers are Berta Fleming and Annette Stover. They join our regular volunteers Deb Lancaster, Ron and Dianne Darling, Al Ashley, and Evan Richert. Many thanks to all our volunteers and attendees; also thanks to Carl and Sandra Moon and Dolores Moore for allowing us to use the Grange, for cooking great concessions for us, and for plowing, getting the heat and water up and running, etc. Three years ago the Grange answered our requests to hold their own Bluegrass Jam on the third Sundays of the month, so we are very lucky to be able to jam there at the Eastern Jam and the Grange Bluegrass Jam! If anyone would like to be added to the e-mail reminder list for these two jams, just send that request to richertjoan@gmail.com.

We're so pleased to announce that a BMAM Bluegrass Jam 101 workshop took place at the March 5th Eastern Jam. Players had hands-on experience.

Continued on page 4 - Eastern Jam

WEBMASTER REPORT

Hello Bluegrass Music Association of Maine Members!

There have been a lot of changes since I started managing mainebluegrass.org last February.

In developing a new interface for the website one of the main goals was to make it as user-friendly as possible. One of the new additions has been the implementation of the BMAM News Blog. This is especially useful for our members who wish to be kept up to date on recent events but who aren't on Facebook. You're able to easily subscribe to the blog so all future news postings will be delivered right to your email. If you're interested in this but are having issues figuring out exactly how to do it, please feel free to email me and I will walk you through the process.

Who's Pickin' Where?:

The calendar of all bluegrass going-ons in the State of Maine (and beyond) has also had a bit of a face lift. You'll find now that you are able to view all events together, or if you're looking for something specific you're able to search by category. Categories include: BMAM Jams, BMAM Events, Public Jams, Shows, Maine Festivals, and Festivals from Away. There's also a new form that will enable you to easily have your event listed on the BMAM calendar. I highly encourage you to utilize this tool. Is there really any better advertising than free advertising?

Bluegrass Bands of Maine:

If you are a member of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine we invite you to list your Bluegrass band on our website. We've already had some great additions and we look forward to adding yours as well. To join your peers that have already been listed, you can find a link to the form under "Association Information" and then "Bluegrass Bands of Maine." Again, I'm happy to help you with any questions you have.

BMAM Archives: In an effort to streamline the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine Archives and make them more accessible, we started moving the files from the BMAM Archive Facebook page to the website. By the time you read this, the very beginning stages of the archive will have gone live. If you have something you'd like to submit, please contact Darwin at

darwin@darwindavidson.com.

I look forward to hearing about all the great bluegrass events you've got going on in this great state.

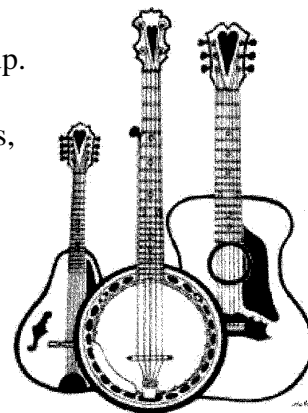
Cyndi Longo
webmaster@mainebluegrass.org

Continued from page 3 - Eastern Jam

Ken Brooks led the workshop (and Jane Brooks played bass). Ken has been performing Bluegrass for over 30 years - singing and playing guitar with the Bluegrass Supply Company, the Union River Band and the Katahdin Valley Boys. The scope of the workshop included a demonstration of traditional jam form and a demonstration of the role of each instrument -- guitar, bass, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle — lead and back-up. Jam etiquette was discussed as well. This workshop helped new pickers understand how a jam works, how jammers communicate with each other as they play (for example, signaling an indication to take a break), along with tips for playing lead and tips for playing backup.

Check out the Katahdin Valley Boys videos on Youtube (Eight More Miles to Louisville and others) for examples of banjo vamping, rhythm guitar, mandolin chops, bass beats, and more. It's fun to watch this fantastic group!

Submitted by Joan Richert



Candi Sawyer Named BBU Heritage Award Winner

Candi Sawyer, promoter of the Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival in Tunbridge, VT, has been named a recipient of the 2017 Boston Bluegrass Heritage Award, an award bestowed each year on artists and industry professionals whose work has involved substantial contributions to the furtherance of bluegrass music in New England. The all-volunteer Boston Bluegrass Association has been operating in Boston for 40 years, and puts on the annual Joe Val Bluegrass Festival in Framingham, MA, where the BBU Heritage Award is always announced and presented.

Sawyer has been involved in bluegrass music for her whole life, having played with her husband, Seth, in the Seth Sawyer Band for many years. She helped her grandfather produce concerts in the Weston Recreation Area in Weston, VT before launching the Jenny Brook Festival in 2001. That festival has been a major success, recently moving to a new site.

Candi and Seth, who lived in Standish, Maine in 1995, were on the original steering committee of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine and Candi was the first BMAM secretary and newsletter editor. She played a pivotal role in the creation and early development of our association.

Mike Kropp, a Rhode Island banjoist who passed away, also received a BBU Heritage Award this year.



BMAM NEW BOARD MEMBER BIOS

STAN KEACH

Stan and his wife Liz have been playing in bluegrass bands for about 40 years, having played in bands with some New England greats like Sam Tidwell, Bill Smith, Bud Morrisroe, and Alan Lee. Stan founded the Sandy River Ramblers, the second oldest bluegrass band operating continuously in Maine, in 1983, and has been playing with them since. He also started a popular youth band, the Maranacook String Band, and has played recently in smaller acts —Stan & Dan (Simons), and the Sandy River 3.

A nationally-known bluegrass songwriter, Stan has had his songs recorded by many famous bluegrass acts including; James King, Special Consensus, The Gillis Brothers, Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, and Audie Blaylock, whose recording of *Whispering Waters* (by Stan and Bill Thibodeau) reached #3 and #8 on the two major National Bluegrass Singles charts and #1 on Sirius XM Radio.

The Sandy River Ramblers have recorded a very popular CD, *Cry of the Loon and other original songs about Maine* (2012) and are about to release a second CD of all original songs about Maine. Stan's original song, *What the North Pond Hermit Knows*, has had over 20,000 Youtube views and has been featured on *Bill Green's Maine* TV show and in a *New York Times Online* video.

Stan has also had a book of poetry published and has written a couple of (as yet unpublished) novels. A current hobby is shooting music videos.

STEVE WILLIAMS

Steve relocated to Maine in 2014 from Durango, CO where he had lived for almost 30 years; he and his wife Debbie raised three children there. Steve plays upright bass, having been classically trained in high school and college. During his stay in Colorado, he played with several popular local and regional bluegrass bands including the Marmot Mud Flaps, Heart & Soul, and most notably, The Badly Bent.

Steve was also a founding member of the long running (22 years) bluegrass festival, the Durango Meltdown (durangobluegrassmeltdown.com), held each year in April at three indoor venues in downtown Durango. While serving on the board of directors, he wore several hats: emcee wrangler; venue set up; contracts administration; security; and 6 years as the board president. Having served on the Meltdown board, which is, like BMAM, a 501(c)(3), he is very familiar with how a nonprofit board operates. Steve also served on the board of directors for the local National Public Radio affiliate, KSUT Public Radio, serving three years as president of that board.

Locally, Steve has been playing for a year with the long-running contra dance group, the Sea Slugs.

Steve is very excited to be a part of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine.

JOHN VERNON

John moved to Harmony, Maine in 2009 upon retiring from the toy and game industry, in which he worked for over 40 years as a toy designer, vice president, and free lance designer serving a host of major-league clients.

John took up playing the banjo via the BMAM instrument loaner program and has been playing weekly at the Harmony Jam as well as at other jams in the area. John has also been active as a volunteer at the Harmony Community Center.



Bluegrass Radio Shows in Maine

BLUEGRASS ON THE RADIO & WEB from
PORTLAND, ME
BLUE COUNTRY

WMPG - 90.9 FM/104.1 FM wmpg.org
HOST: Blizzard Bob • Wednesday 8:30 - 10:30am

BLUEGRASS ON THE RADIO & WEB
from BLUE HILL, ME
BRONZEWOUND

WERU - 89.90 FM (Blue Hill) 99.9 FM (Bangor)
www.weru.org
HOST: Darwin Davidson Thursday 8-10 pm

BLUEGRASS ON THE RADIO & WEB from
BRUNSWICK, ME

MAMA'S MIDCOAST BLUEGRASS
WBOR - 91.1 Bowdoin College Radio WBOR.org
HOST: Mama Beth • Mondays 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Darwin K. Davidson



Darwin is a commercial photographer specializing in interiors and interior products of all kinds. He first worked for Mayo Studios in New York City from 1958 until 1973. He then formed his own company, Darwin K. Davidson, Ltd. His photography of interiors and interior products enabled him to work for many furniture companies, publicity agencies and numerous publications. Assignments from these clients took him to many states and also to Italy.

He spent a lot of time in North Carolina, then known as the furniture capital of the world. While there, in April 1990, he attended Merlefest, a bluegrass festival that had started in 1988. That festival sparked an interest in bluegrass music and prompted him to attend numerous bluegrass festivals around the country. At these festivals he sometimes served as emcee, introducing bluegrass bands and musicians. He also started photographing bluegrass musicians on stage. His photographs have been exhibited at numerous festivals and published in various bluegrass publications. In 1997 he became a radio programmer on WERU Community Radio, hosting Bronzewound, the bluegrass music show.

Joe Kennedy, the BMAM Archivist, got Darwin interested in preserving the many historical documents and artifacts that were collected over the years. This is done by photographing every item that comes into the BMAM Archive collection. At present a portion of these photos are available on a BMAM Archive Project Facebook site. Work is now progressing on having the complete collection available on the BMAM website.

Archive Committee Report 2/25/17

I would like to thank Cyndi Longo and Darwin Davidson for starting the job of moving all the BMAM archive pictures from our Facebook page to a new and permanent home in our website. This is yet another phase of a project that was started about 17 years ago. In this issue you can read a little about these dedicated people. We are lucky to have them helping us.

Recently, while visiting Al Hawkes, I came across some ME BG historical nuggets that Al donated to our archives -

- A CD of a Morse Brothers concert (copy from reel to reel).
- Two stories about Jim Cox from the Portland Press Herald - 1974 and ME Sunday Telegram - 2011.
- An interview of Al Hawkes by Harvey Weinstein

Grace French donated a pile of old but new bluegrass t-shirts from various festivals and picking parties. She also donated the denim jacket that Bob French always wore when he was field picking in cool weather.

Also, Al Hawkes donated a scrapbook of pictures of the early days of BMAM at our old Southern jam at the Roost in Buxton.

If anyone has any archival contributions of Maine bluegrass items please mail them to Darwin Davidson@ 35 Plumb Point, Deer Isle, ME 04627

Submitted by Joe Kennedy
Archive committee member

BANJO BLUEGRASS ADVENTURE

By Robert Bergesche

As many of you know, Jim Mills, in addition to being an A-List touring banjoist with Ricky Skaggs and other groups, has a unique side business: buying and selling Pre-War Gibson banjos. Over the years he has handled transactions involving these types of banjo in all sorts of situations: perhaps original owners or their families have become ready to part with a legacy instrument, or maybe an instrument which Jim has handled previously has come onto the market again. It doesn't really matter; if it is a Gibson banjo from this era, Jim wants to know about the instrument.

I had the privilege of attending Jim's well-known "Pre-War Gibson Banjo Seminar," which was most recently held at his home in Durham, NC on October 15. The seminar actually began the night before with a "Meet and Greet" held at a hotel near the Raleigh-Durham airport, where Jim had arranged a discount for seminar participants. Many participants brought a banjo to the conference room, where Jim had arranged a coffee station. He had also engaged luthier Richie Dotson, of Virginia who plays a fine rhythm guitar, to help with this portion of the program. The coffee was not really needed; Jim Mills supplied plenty of energy all by himself. Jim was ready to give the banjos brought by the participants a musical test drive, and maybe provide some thoughts about the instrument being offered. Jim proceeded to play classic Bluegrass standards, with Richie on rhythm. The tunes were played at full speed and volume, with no hesitation, switching from one instrument to the next without hesitation. There were a lot of very good banjos in the room, but one great player.

It was perhaps the single best demonstration of banjo playing I've ever seen.

The next morning the instructional part of the seminar itself was held at Jim's showroom. He went through the various "styles" of Gibson Mastertone banjos from 1925 to the early post-war era, when pre-war designs and parts were still being used. Jim talked about the components, particularly the woods used and the tone-rings and other metal parts. He noted how the old calf-skin heads, with their sensitivity to weather conditions, placed demands on traveling professional players that are hard for modern instrument players to imagine. Throughout the course of his lecture he had examples: tone-rings, old calfskin heads, pictures of players holding certain types of instruments, and plenty of examples of the instruments themselves. Jim would often play a few licks to show off a particular instrument; it never got old or dull.

I was thrilled to see Snuffy Jenkins' banjo, which is an original five-string flathead from the pre-war era. Snuffy was a well-known three-finger picker who preceded Earl Scruggs; Earl acknowledges Snuffy's influence in his famous text. Snuffy's banjo is a monster for sound; it was a thrill to hear it, and later, to actually hold it and play it some.

When we had arrived, a local restaurant had set up a barbecue roaster-trailer in the driveway; a great southern style lunch was served mid-day. The twenty or so participants varied in age, but were all committed banjo-heads. Bill Evans, a noted player in his own right, knew Jim professionally, and came to increase his knowledge base. Another participant had worked at the Gibson factory in Kalamazoo from the early 1960's until banjo production was moved to Tennessee in the early 1980's. While this fellow had been offered a job in the Tennessee factory, he chose to stay in Michigan. Gibson allowed him to make a banjo for himself from available parts as the Kalamazoo plant was being closed. This 'floor sweep' banjo, needless to say, was a killer instrument.

Jim's prepared lecture ended mid-afternoon. He set up several locations where some of the most popular historic instruments were made available, with a little helpful supervision from some associates. Jim had other banjos that had not been a subject of the lecture; these were mostly Gibson 'conversion' banjos from this era; they all had price tags, and some of them attracted buying interest.

The next day was Sunday, and I pointed my rental car west. I was headed for Maggie Valley, NC, in the Smokey Mountains, where Raymond Fairchild has a small performing venue. I got to meet this American treasure on his home turf on a night when friendly conversation was possible. That man can really play the banjo! I was startled by the clarity of his playing, which doesn't come across as well on the videos I've seen.

For those of us obsessed with bluegrass banjos, this trip was akin to visiting the Pope. I took a bus to Boston, then a train to Washington DC, and then another one to Raleigh. Slightly more than twenty-four hours from Portland to Raleigh, then some driving time, and then the return trip; this made for a lot of travel time altogether, but I am very pleased with the trip. It was a great way to get to know more about banjos and the banjo world. There was no digital or on-line version of this trip; it was something that could only be done in real life.

Come Pick Bluegrass with the
Bluegrass Music Association of Maine



2nd SUNDAYS + Noon to 5pm

2017
January 8th
February 12th
March 12th
April 9th

NORTH YARMOUTH ACADEMY MUSIC ROOM

140 Main St. 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 • BMAM membership & merchandise available for purchase
- Door prize • Admission \$3 members; \$5 non-members; free for children 16 and under (must be accompanied by adult)

www.mainebluegrass.org

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21
Friday 5 to 9 p.m.



22
Sat. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

You'll hear music from the Traditional to Progressive/Newgrass Bluegrass Genre that'll get you up dancing.

Ticket Prices: Weekend in Advance (until July 1st) \$35.00 Weekend at the Gate \$45.00 Friday Only \$20.00 Saturday Only \$30.00 Saturday after 5:00 \$20.00	Rough field camping free with weekend ticket Early birds rough field camping \$10/night Children under 12 free, children 12-16 half price when accompanied by adult Leashed pets welcome • Camp fires in approved pits Fresh Water Swimming • Sandy Beach • Playground
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Wooded Campsites Available - Water & Electric sites
 24 Hour Security on Site



Borderline



Mainely Grass

Rain or Shine

Covered Spectators Area • Snack Bar • Picnic Area • Hot Showers
 Bring Instruments • Field Picking Encouraged
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 Only Requirement to Participate is knowing C, D & G chords on your instrument

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info@whitesbeachandcampground.com
www.whitesbeachandcampground.com







Wilt Clark & The Misty Mountaineers

Back to Basics

Back Woods Road

Bill Thibodeau Band

Windy Ridge

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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 336
Topsham, Maine 04086



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 336
Topsham, Maine 04086

Advertising Rates

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

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

***THANK YOU DOUG for the
many years of graciously hosting the
BMAM board of Directors
Meetings at Down Home Music!***



207-453-2942

BUY • SELL • TRADE

43 Main Street • Fairfield, Maine 04937

ZINK & COMPANY NEW CD REVIEWED BY BLUEGRASS UNLIMITED



Zink & Company band has recently had a positive review of their new CD, Zink and Company III in *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. They are a Massachusetts-based band, but the mandolin player, John Roc, is a Maine resident. John, originally from the Canadian Maritimes, has played with legendary Canadian/Maine fiddler Simon St. Pierre, and with popular Maine band, Mac McHale and the Old Time Radio Gang.

Southern Jammers will remember seeing John performing with Mac McHale at the open mic portion of the Southern Jam at the Roost in Buxton (now located at the North Yarmouth Academy in Yarmouth). Of the CD, *Bluegrass Unlimited* says: "You will be pleased."

Congratulations to Zink & Company, and congratulations to John Roc!



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

BLUEGRASS AT ITS BEST...

AT **County Bluegrass**

JULY 20, 21, 22, & 23, 2017

FARM Park, 119 West Limestone Rd. Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742

DON'T MISS THESE GREAT BANDS...

Flatt Lonesome, TN

IBMA's Vocal Group of the Year

Winner of Song of the Year and Album of the Year

Saturday & Sunday, July 22 & 23



Carolina Blue, NC

Thursday & Friday, July 20 & 21



The Karl Shiflett & Big Country Show, TX

Kevin Prater Band, KY

Zink & Company, MA

Blistered Fingers, ME

New Vintage, NS

East Wind, NS

The LaClairens, ME

... And More!



JUST ASK....



*Field Pickin'
24 Hours a Day*

Ticket Pricing

Advance Weekend Ticket: \$75 ('til June 30) Weekend at the Gate: \$80

Children 12 and Under – Free with Adult

Day Tickets: Thurs: \$15 Fri: \$20 Sat: \$25 (\$15 after 5) Sun: \$10

Early Bird Camping - \$10 nite (Mon – Wed) Electric - \$35 for entire weekend

Dogs - \$10 weekend

PALMYRA PRODUCTIONS LLC

For advance tickets mail check and self addressed stamped envelope to:

County Bluegrass 519 N Caribou Rd. Fort Fairfield, ME 04742

For Additional Info: visit www.countybluegrass.com Call Stev 207-227-6242 / email stev@countybluegrass.com





48th Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival June 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2017 Litchfield Fairgrounds - Litchfield, Maine

The Gibson Brothers (NY).....S
The Boxcars (TN).....F
Deer Creek Boys (VA).....T, F
BLUE MAFIA (IN).....W, T
The Little Roy & Lizzy Show (GA).....S
Bluegrass Diamonds (NB).....F, S
The Baker Family (MO).....T, F
Zink & Company (MA).....S
The Misty Mountaineers (ME).....W, F, S
Back Woods Road (ME).....W, F
Robinson's Bluegrass Gospel.....Sun
And Your Host Band:

Blistered Fingers (ME).....S

Emcee - Sandy Cormier.....Sound by - Blistered Fingers

Kids Academy

Indoor Bathroom Facilities

Free Hot Showers

Extra Large Tent Provided

**SORRY NO SMOKING, PETS, COOLERS OR
EXPOSED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
ALLOWED IN CONCERT AREA**

**PETS MUST BE ON LEASH AT ALL
TIMES ON FESTIVAL GROUNDS
POOPER SCOOPERS MUST BE USED**

Anyone appearing to be intoxicated,
acting abusive, immodestly dressed, or
causing trouble will be removed from
premises and no refund will be given!
We reserve the right to refuse anyone admission.

Campfires in above ground fireplaces only!
No bicycles, ATV's, personal golf carts allowed!
Not responsible for accidents or lost,
stolen or damaged property.

**Electric Hookup
\$35 Your Entire
Stay!**



**Don't just hear about it,
COME EXPERIENCE IT !!**

www.blisteredfingers.com

DIRECTIONS TO FESTIVAL:
Camping-30 Plains Rd., Litchfield, ME
Day Parking-2422 Hallowell Rd, Litchfield, ME

FROM THE NORTH

1. Head South on I-95 toward I-295 S
2. Slight right at I-295 S toll road
(signs for I-295 S/ME-126/Gardiner/Brunswick)
3. Take Exit 51 (just after toll) for ME-126 to Litchfield
4. Turn right at Lewiston Rd/ME-126 W/ME-9 W
5. Travel approximately 6.0 miles on ME-126
6. Turn left onto Hallowell Rd. travel 2.5 miles
7. Turn left onto Plains Rd.

FROM THE SOUTH

1. Head North on I-95 N (Maine Turnpike) Exit 102
2. Take Exit 102 for ME-126 to Gardiner/Litchfield
3. Turn right at Lewiston Rd. ME-126 W
4. Travel approximately 6.0 miles on ME-126
5. Turn left onto Hallowell Rd. travel 2.5 miles
6. Turn left onto Plains Rd.

Gate Opens 8:00AM (Sunday) June 11, 2017
Daily Gate Times Are 8:00AM-10:00PM

Ticket Prices Per Person:

Wed - Sun 5 Day Advance: Before April 1st \$80
Wed - Sun 5 Day Advance: Before June 1st \$85
Wed - Sun 5 Day Advance: At Gate \$90
Elec Hookups \$35/Entire Stay - Dogs \$10/Entire Stay
Early Bird Camping Sun-Tues \$10/day per camper
Guest/Visiting Sun-Tues - \$10/Person per day
Children 16 & under Free with adult
Rough camping Free Wed-Sun with Weekend Tickets
Camping/Night Without Weekend Ticket - \$10

Daily Show Prices Per Person Payable At Gate Only:

Wed - \$15, 5PM-9PM
Thurs - \$20, 4PM-10PM
Fri. 10AM-10PM - \$35, After 5PM \$25
Sat. 10AM-10PM - \$35, After 5PM \$25
Sunday Gospel Sing & Jam - Free, 9AM-10AM
**Advance Weekend Tickets ONLY send a self-addressed
stamped envelope & Check or Purchase Online:**

Mailing Address:

Blistered Fingers Production Inc.
Greg & Sandy Cormier
263 Trafton Rd.
Waterville, ME 04901
blis-f@blisteredfingers.com
(207) 873-6539





BLUEGRASS 2017 Eastern Jam

Grange in Brewer • 1266 North Main Street • Brewer, Maine

12PM - 5PM

First Sunday of the Month

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

DATES

2017

January 8th

February 5th

March 5th

April 2nd

May 7th

- 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 207-989-6848

Directions: From points south proceed north through Brewer on Rt. 9 ('The Airline')

North Main Street to 1266 North Main Street. The Grange is on the left just before the Eddington line

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

From Old Town/Milford and points north, take the Bradley Road (Rt. 178) to Route 9, turn right and proceed to just over the Brewer Line. The Grange is on the right.





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: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Newsletters are sent by email.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

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

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

*Your source for
Bluegrass information!!*

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