

President's Report

Well, summer is finally here and I couldn't be happier. It was a long winter; aren't they all? I think we can agree on that. Now that festival season is upon us, please get out and take advantage of the all of the great lineups that the promoters provide us with. Thanks to Sandy and Greg Cormier for letting BMAM set up our table at both their festivals. They work tirelessly to make their festivals happen, so please support them. Thomas Point is back with us and we are so thankful for that. Look for us there also. Pati would be thrilled that the tradition continues, and thanks to Michael for deciding to bring it back as it is such an integral part of the northern New England bluegrass scene. If your taste runs to smaller festivals, White's Beach is a great choice, with affordable pricing, convenient location, and a great local line up, so give that one consideration. As with all the festivals, they are completely geared to a family atmosphere and offer plenty of things for all ages. One of the best parts of my experiences at the many festivals I've been to is the joy, smiles and great fellowship that this music brings to our state. I would like to thank all the volunteers that made this past winter's jam sessions a success. It's their efforts that help keep bluegrass music alive. I hope that everyone has a great summer, and I will look forward to participating as much as possible this summer.

Bill Umbel

From the Chairman of the Board ...

Summer 2017

Let the festival season begin! I think no one appreciates spring and summer as much as New England yankees. It was all Nellie and I could do to escape the big February storm and attend the Joe Val Festival in Framingham, MA. Now, the festival season is here. Let's help to make all the festivals successful.

Our jam season is over and I would like to thank Nora Krainis (Southern Jam) and Joan Richert (Northern Jam) along with their crews for a successful season. They all help greatly to spread the awareness of bluegrass and promote its growth in Maine.

This newsletter you are reading was compiled by board member Stan Keach. Stan jumped right in last February and now has two issues under his belt. Thank you Stan; job well done.

I am very pleased with our current board and officers. I'm impressed with the collective knowledge, skills, attitude and commitment they possess. I could not be happier. We continue to work on projects we consider a priority -- the jams, membership, newsletter, website, instrument loan program, archives and education. We will be present at as many festivals as we feel we can handle but that will depend on volunteers. Our goal this year is to have our booth at four festivals. The first one will be at Blistered Fingers in June.

BMAM will offer festival tickets to any responsible member that is willing to coordinate the duties that are required. Duties include transporting gear and merchandise, set up and breakdown, staffing and documentation. If you are interested in helping we would love to hear from you. Of course we'll need a number of folks to volunteer shifts at our booth for each day for all festivals. It's an enjoyable way to learn about this organization while helping.

Speaking of helping, we are looking for five people to run for the board of directors this year. Please consider running and joining us as we work together to make good things happen in our bluegrass community.

I close my report with a tip of the hat to my mentor and friend Beth Revels. She took on the duties of chairing the board at a time of transition that was very challenging and daunting. Over time she dug in and gathered up a reliable group of folks. Along the way she struggled with running the board while being the newsletter editor. As if that wasn't enough, she took care of the merchandise and set up the booth at all the festivals. She set up the Southern and Eastern Jams and started the workshop series, restarted the instrument loan program, traveled all over to be at jams and festivals to pick and sing, and on and on . . . Lucky for us, Beth is still on the board and working on BMAM projects and helping where she can. Her experience is invaluable and her enthusiasm is contagious. Thank you Mama for getting the BMAM back on its feet and looking good. I'll do my best to carry on.

Looking forward to jammin' with you soon,

Joe Kennedy

**ROLAND ERNEST
"SMOKEY VAL"
VALLIERE
(1928 - 2016)**

Maine Bluegrass lost one of its greatest fiddlers and dobroists, and a true pioneer of Maine Bluegrass, last fall when Roland Ernest Valliere, known in bluegrass circles as Smokey Val, passed away on October 2, 2016



at the age of 88. His musical career spanned over 60 years, with accomplished stints in traditional country and bluegrass bands like The Rainbow Ramblers; Al Hawkes and the Cumberland Ridge Runners; Tiny Martin and the Countrysiders; Jimmy Cox and "Coastline Charlie" Gilliam and the Blue Mountain Boys; White Mountain Bluegrass; and Mac McHale and the Old Time Radio Gang. During the 1960's, Smokey was a regular on the Ken MacKenzie television show.

During his musical career, Smokey shared the stage with a number of nationally famous stars such as Mac Wiseman and Bill Monroe, and he was inducted, in 2008, into the International Bluegrass Music Museum in Owensboro, Kentucky as a "Pioneer of Bluegrass Music," an honor bestowed on influential first generation bluegrass performers. According to his family, Smokey considered this a major highlight of his career.

Born on May 8, 1928 in Biddeford, where he was raised by his French-Canadian parents, Roland Valliere served two terms of duty in the U. S. Army, being stationed in Germany and Austria. He began playing the fiddle in about 1945, while he was still in the army. He married Simone Pruneau in 1954, and they raised three children. Smokey worked for several Biddeford area businesses including the Singer Sewing Machine Company; the Pepperell Mill; Farrar Brown Auto Parts; and Shape, Inc. He was a fine woodworker, and engaged in the repair of guitars, mandolins and fiddles. He also handcrafted his own resonator guitars, and did remarkable mother-of-pearl inlay on instruments.

Smokey Val was a self-taught musician, whose nickname, "Smokey," derived from the fact that when he played Orange Blossom Special, clouds of rosin would rise into the air from his bow.

Predeceased by his wife, Smokey died at home, surrounded by his children. He is survived by two daughters, a son, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. His contributions to Maine bluegrass and traditional country music will be remembered, and he will be missed.

Stan Keach

**SIMON
ST. PIERRE
(1930 - 2016)**

Simon C. St. Pierre, an enormously talented and charismatic fiddler, passed away at the age of 86 in Houlton on July 7, 2016.

Although Simon was primarily a practitioner of the



French Canadian and maritime style of fiddling, having first learning to fiddle in lumber camps and square dances, he was well known to Maine bluegrass audiences as a frequent performer at bluegrass festivals in the 1970's and 1980's and less frequently in the 1990's. On two of his three critically acclaimed Revonah LP albums, he was backed by bluegrass bands — Maine's Fred Pike and Sam Tidwell and the Kennebec Valley Boys, and Walter Hensley and the Dukes of Bluegrass from the Baltimore area.

Born February 26, 1930 in Packington, Quebec, Simon grew up listening to the fiddle playing of his father and an older brother, who was a well-known dance and wedding fiddler in their area. His family also had recordings of Canadian fiddlers; Isidore Soucy made a particularly strong impression. Simon began playing at about the age of 15, the same age that he began working in the woods. In the logging camps, the men were isolated and fiddling was one of the few evening entertainments. In the lumber camps, Simon learned many tunes from other logger-fiddlers, and he noticed the differences that distinguished Quebec tunes from Ontario tunes and Nova Scotia tunes. Simon learned them all, and began to develop his own style.

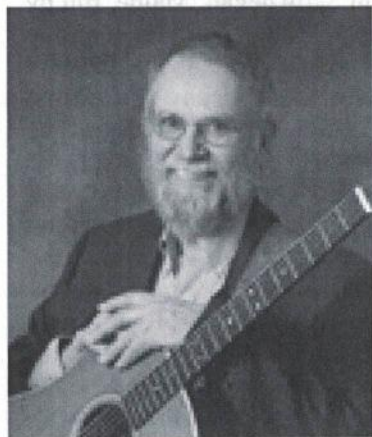
Simon married Simone Fradette in 1952, and they worked as independent sawmill operators. They moved to northern Maine in 1957, where Simon continued to work as a logger, while he continued playing the fiddle at local dances and celebrations. He developed a friendship with Claire Lake, another remarkable Aroostook County fiddler, and this relationship was instrumental in Simon's stylistic development.

As Simon's reputation as a fiddler grew, he began to be in demand at bluegrass and other music festivals. In 1983, he was honored by being awarded the prestigious NEA National Heritage Fellowship.

Simon is survived by his wife of 64 years, Simone (Fradette), and by three children, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Stan Keach

RALPH STANLEY II RECORDS STAN KEACH/RICK LANG SONG



STAN KEACH

On Boot Hill, a song written by Stan Keach of Maine and Rick Lang of NH, is the third cut on Ralph Stanley II's new CD, *Ralph Stanley II and the Clinch Mountain Boys* (Stanley Family Records), released May 26, 2017.

Ralph II is the son of legendary bluegrass/mountain music pioneer Ralph Stanley, who died in 2016 after almost 70 years in the music, first as a member of The Stanley Brothers (1947 to 1966), and then as Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys (1966-2016).



RICK LANG

Ralph II has inherited the name "Clinch Mountain Boys," fulfilling his father's wish; this CD is the younger Stanley's first album with the "Clinch Mountain Boys" name attached to it. Ralph Stanley II has a growing following, six solo CDs as well as a highly acclaimed duet album with his father (Side By Side), a busy touring schedule, and has already had two Grammy nominations for earlier projects.

The current personnel of the Clinch Mountain Boys consists of Ralph II on guitar, Alex Leach on banjo, previous Clinch Mountain Boys member John Rigsby on mandolin and fiddle, and Noah Brown on upright bass.

Stan Keach, of Rome, who currently plays with the Sandy River Ramblers, the Sandy River 3, and Stan & Dan, has written many songs for well-known bluegrass bands, with cuts by James King, Audie Blaylock & Redline, Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass, Special Consensus, and The Gillis Brothers, among others.

Rick Lang, of Kingston, NH, is a well-known bluegrass songwriter who has had cuts by Larry Stephenson, Lonesome River Band, Illrd Time Out, Donna Ulisse, Front Range, and many others.



**BUCKDANCER'S
CHOICE**
MUSIC COMPANY

248 St John Street
Portland, ME

WWW.BUCKDANCERS.COM

BMAM NEW POST OFFICE ADDRESS

BMAM has a new post office address.

Please send all mail to:

Buegrass Music Association of Maine

P.O. Box 865

Westbrook, ME 04098

My Bluegrass Journey

by Rosalind Prindall Clancy

My bluegrass journey has been nothing less than amazing. My father and mother, Tom and Jo Prindall, along with many others you will meet in this article, were on the ground floor of bluegrass music in the state of Maine. I was quite young when a man playing a five string banjo came into our lives. I may be slightly off on some of the dates as I was so young; I will do my best to remember things accurately. The man with the banjo was Jimmy Cox. Jimmy and many other area musicians would come to our house on Saturday night for what I learned later to be "jam sessions". This went on for many years in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Jimmy and Dad built Dad's first banjo in our kitchen. I still can see them sitting at the table putting it together. This was the start of our life in bluegrass music.

In the mid to late 1960's a group that included Jimmy Cox, Tom Prindall, Charlie Gilliam (known as Coastline Charlie), Dick Gilmore, Smokey Val, Bill Ankatell, would form Maine's first bluegrass association, "The Pine Tree Bluegrass Music Association"; it was listed on the Federal Associations List. The Association promoted and organized the first all-bluegrass shows in Maine, held at Gibson Hall on the Bowdoin College Campus one Sunday per month fall through spring. These shows grew rapidly, with the hall having standing room only after just a few shows. I was the youngest person involved, and I able to attend all the meetings, which now I am so glad I was allowed to do. I was also the youngest performer, playing bass for the Prindall Family Band at the age of 15. I had been playing bass for 3 years, starting on stage at the age of 12. After a few shows we were able to start bringing in more New England bands: Bob and Grace French and the Rainbow Valley Folks, Sam Tidwell and Fred Pike (no Kennebec Valley Boys yet), Joe Val, Don Stover from West Virginia, to name a few. As a few years went by, White Mountain Bluegrass made appearances as well. Maine talent was growing, with Allen "Mac" Machale, Al Hawks, Timmy Farrell, The Fort Knox Volunteers, and Smokey Greene, from New York. Again I am only naming a few of many. By the end of the 1960's and the beginning of the 1970's, bluegrass music had left its mark on Maine and was here to stay.

I am not sure of the year-- perhaps early 1970 -- Jimmy Cox organized the first one-day bluegrass festival at Meadowbrook Camping Area in Phippsburg, Maine, I believe he had three festivals there, altogether. Those festivals were met with promising fan numbers that grew each year. Then Jimmy and the board of the Pine Tree Bluegrass Music Association, with Fred Pike and Sam Tidwell now serving on the board, promoted at least 3 one-day festivals starting in 1974 at the Boothbay Railway Museum. These one-day festivals soon gave ground to the now very popular weekend festivals, during the 70's and 80's, these festivals grew

at a feverish rate, starting with The Yonder Hill Camp-ground Salty Dog Festival in Skowhegan, Maine, run by Sam Tidwell and Fred Pike. This festival launched the type of festivals we see today. Many bands that are still active today played this festival, and many that are no longer active: Jimmy Cox, Kennebec Valley Boys, The Prindall Family, Bob and Grace French, Don Stover, Joe Val were familiar bands on every playbill. Over the years many new Maine bands, including the Danville Junction Boys, even Judd Strunk and Dick Curless, joined the lineup. By the late 70's new talent was popping up everywhere. The Morse Brothers, Brian Mason, Evan Fitch, Addy Saunders -- this is just scratching the surface of talent. It sure seemed like it was time for one huge festival, but where would we do that? Tom Prindall along with Richard Schwartz went to Patti Crooker with an idea to run a festival at Thomas Point Beach and she agreed. We all know how great this turned out; what a festival!!!

The dedication and hard work done by all involved is unsurpassed. Many of these entertainers and musicians of the early years have gone to the Great Bluegrass Festival in the Sky, leaving a legacy for us all. The music they all loved so dearly is now on the fast lane. Honestly, I think all of us thought we were in for a bigger struggle and we were prepared for that. The music meant for families is here to stay. During the 80's many bands started working in Maine, with fresh faces, and so much talent came to light it's almost hard to imagine. Each one has left a mark on this wonderful industry that has been so much a part of my entire life. I feel so blessed and privileged to have known each and every one, and to have shared music and laughter and a bond that can't be described. I ask each and every bluegrass lover to attend a festival; after the stage show is finished, camp fires are blazing, and field picking is at top speed, sit a moment and listen to the music floating to the heavens -- take in the most peaceful feeling in the world. Thanks to all the pioneers who gave their heart and soul to keep this music alive, helping it thrive. This is what they all did it for - the love of bluegrass music. May it go on and on and never die.

Here are the memories of a bluegrass kid, involved from the ground floor up. What a wonderful ride! Many blessings to you all.

Love and light
in Bluegrass music.



MISTY MOUNTAINEERS SCHOOL PROGRAM

Schools are always on the lookout for quality extra-curricular educational opportunities for their students. Early this year the Misty Mountaineers got to present an Introduction to Bluegrass for several hundred MSAD 54 fifth and sixth graders at the Skowhegan High School auditorium.

When we accepted the gig it became immediately clear that the kids weren't the only ones who would be learning something new. Putting together a program for eleven and twelve-year-olds that would inform and entertain and hold their interest turned out to be quite a challenge. Here's how it went.

Our contact person was the Arts in the Schools Coordinator and Theatre Director, the perfect person for us to communicate with. She surprised us, saying the school had never had a bluegrass act perform. Our charge was to introduce the genre, involve the kids and entertain them at the same time. The job would certainly require a lesson plan.

Our first objective was to figure out what level of experience kids that age have in music at school (since none of could remember that far back) and try to find some common ground to build on. We began with the instruments themselves, a basic demonstration of how stringed instruments make tone, and how fingers and frets combine to change tone to make notes. Then each instrument got a brief introduction and demonstration, followed by an instrumental that featured a solo on each instrument.

From there we employed a simple historical timeline, telling about where the music came from, what made it different and unique, who the founders and early popular artists were, and how the music was presented.

Bluegrass harmony is unique, so we talked about that, and we also wanted to introduce the social aspect of the music: festivals, pickin' parties, jams, open mic's etc. — things that are everywhere if you want to find an opportunity to play music outside of school. We provided a handout for distribution that included websites (BMAM's of course), web links of all kinds, history and library references, Maine festival websites and more.

The format we settled on was to begin with a couple of standards and then talk for a minute or so; then demonstrate what we'd just talked about with the next song; build on that information in the next minute of talk; do another song to reinforce that. . . and so on.

I'll confess, we were really careful with the set list. Some lyrics about the "usual subjects" didn't seem appropriate for that forum, so we vetted every song with that in mind.

At the end of the "show" we invited a Q&A, which would have worked better if the questions were easier for everyone, including us, to hear. We'll address that next time.

The kids were an amazing audience. They were infinitely curious, totally attentive and always responsive, not to mention well behaved. I know I can speak for the band when I say it was an awesome gig to begin the 2017 season.

Dan Burke, for the Misty Mountaineers

Wilf Clark, MC, mandolin, vocals

Bernie Staples, guitar vocals

Andre Tardif, banjo, guitar, vocals

Kelly Burke, bass, vocals

Dan Burke, dobro, vocals



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



Southern Jams 2016-2017

After a too-long winter, our final Southern Jam for Season 2016-2017 was held at NYA (North Yarmouth Academy) on Sunday April 9. It was one of the first nice days of spring, and fifteen bluegrass musicians came to the jam. As an added treat, several members of NYA's Bluegrass Club joined us and did some tunes as a group. The young folks also took their turns on breaks as the jam went around "the horn." All in all, our final jam of the season was a rollicking success.

We have been extraordinary blessed to use the music facilities at NYA; there are two generously-sized rooms for larger groups, and a smaller practice room as well. Earlier in the year Matt and Erica Shipman conducted a "Beginning Jammers' Workshop" in one of the rooms, while the rest of the jam continued in the other large room.

Our thanks go out to Nora Krainis, a member of the music faculty at NYA, for making this arrangement with the school. In addition, Nora and BMAM board-member Kate Greely have provided some fine hot pot-luck fare for the cold winter afternoons of our Southern Jam season.

We have had great bluegrass music played at NYA for the past two Southern Jam seasons. Our season will start up again in October 2017, and we look forward to getting back to our Second Sunday of the Month Jam from 12 noon until 5 pm.

Robert Bergesch

BLUEGRASS MUSIC ASSOCIATION OF MAINE WEBSITE REMINDER

Below are two reminders of features of the BMAM website that could be very useful to Maine bluegrass bands. These were published in the last newsletter, but they've been under-utilized, so we're putting them up there again as a reminder to bands.

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.

Contact: Cyndi Longo
webmaster@mainebluegrass.org



**Forest
Audio**
RECORDING STUDIO

www.mainemusic.me

Affordable, professional audio recording in a relaxed, supportive environment.
Steve Chiasson — 207-218-1027 — forest.audio@gmail.com



Dirigo STRINGS
instruments & accessories
Dale Canning - Owner

19 Meadowbrook Lane
Eddington, ME 04428
www.dirigostrings.com

(207) 843-5079
cell: (207) 745-8869
dirigostrings@gmail.com

JOE KENNEDY BIOGRAPHY

Joe can trace his love of bluegrass music back to the Dirt Band's *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* album in the early 1970's. When he moved to Washington County in 1974 he discovered harmonica playing Charlie McCoy, a well-respected, much sought after Nashville studio musician. Charlie did for the harmonica what Jerry Douglas did for the resonator guitar. His style of playing was meant for country and bluegrass and Joe ate it up. A friend introduced him to the current bluegrass scene in Maine and different styles of the music.

Years of practicing landed him jobs with down east country bands. He eventually started going to bluegrass festivals in the northeast, and in some southern states. In 1980, at a picking party in Maine, Joe met some members of the Bluegrass Supply Company and joined the band. Before long the band was performing at all the Maine festivals, recording, competing and touring.

In 1985 the first Breakneck Mountain bluegrass festival was held at Joe's homestead in Crawford ME. Joe married Nellie Kennedy in 1986 and together they promoted

the festival for ten years. During that time Joe performed and recorded with the Kennebec Valley Boys (playing electric bass), Breakneck Mountain, and, along with Nellie, Evergreen. Evergreen endured for twenty-two years and recorded 5 CDs.

In 1995 Al Hawkes invited Joe and Nellie to join the steering committee for the soon to be Bluegrass Music Association of Maine. By the next year the BMAM was incorporated and Joe was its first Chairman of the board. Twenty-two years later Joe is still a member. While serving he established the long running Northern Jam, started a benefit concert series, the Maine Pioneers Awards Show and, as the BMAM Historian, heads the Archive Committee.

In 2014 Joe and Nellie were inducted into the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame. Joe currently serves on the board of the MCMHOF Museum.

Joe is a member of the Wayside Grange in Dexter, ME where their fifth concert season is just getting started.



White's Beach & Campground

20th Annual



July 2017
21

Friday 5 to 9 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.



July 2017
22

Traditional Family Bluegrass Festival

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		Rough field camping free with weekend ticket
Weekend at the Gate	\$45.00	Early birds rough field camping \$10/night
Friday Only	\$20.00	Children under 12 free, children 12-16 half price when accompanied by adult
Saturday Only	\$30.00	Leashed pets welcome • Camp fires in approved pits
Saturday after 5:00	\$20.00	Fresh Water Swimming • Sandy Beach • Playground

Wooded Campsites Available - Water & Electric sites
24 Hour Security on Site

Find us on Facebook

Sound By Brilo Audio

Rain or Shine

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

For More Information or Advanced Tickets Call or Contact
White's Beach & Campground, 472 Durham Road
Brunswick, ME 04011 • Tel. 207-729-0415
info@whitesbeachandcampground.com
www.whitesbeachandcampground.com



Borderline



Mainly Grass



Wilf Clark & The Misty Mountaineers



Back to Basics



Back Woods Road



Bill Thibodeau Band



Windy Ridge

BMAM Eastern Jam

May 7, 2017 was the last date for this season at the BMAM Eastern Jam at the Grange in Brewer. It wasn't planned as a celebration of our 4th season, but it felt like one because Ken and Jane Brooks returned to do a follow-up bluegrass jam workshop and then stayed and picked with us all day! A good way to end a season - thank you Ken and Jane for sharing your talent, experience, friendliness, and love of music with us.

From October 2016 to May 2017, the jams fell on good weather days, with no storms - what are the chances of that? That allowed our distant travelers to get here and gave us an average of about 50 people attending each jam - pickers and listeners included. Each month at least a couple of new people attended, bringing their enthusiasm for bluegrass music. Thanks to all who attended and lent their support - helping all levels of players figure out how to join in, no matter how skilled. That was one of Ken's themes - how to play back-up for a singer or solo instrumentalist, how to use dynamics (quiet and louder) for the benefit of the jam, how to know when you are ready to lead a song, etc.

The volunteers at the Eastern Jam make everything possible - Sandra and Carl Moon arrive real early on Sundays to cook for the concessions; Dolores helps run the concessions; Debbie Lancaster, Berta Fleming, Annette Stover, and Dianne Darling take in the entry fees and sign up new BMAM members; Dale Canning has lent us a bass; Al Ashley provided the sound system for singers upstairs; and Evan Richert helped greet (and lug jam-related materials each month from home to the Grange and back). Thank you to the volunteers and to all participants - and see you next fall!

Joan Richert

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



DOWN HOME

MUSIC SHOP

207-453-2942

BUY • SELL • TRADE

43 Main Street • Fairfield, Maine 04937



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

BMAM OFFICERS

President: Bill Umbel
bumbel@mainebluegrass.org

Vice President: VACANT

Secretary: Steve Williams
swilliams@mainebluegrass.org

Recording Secretary: Chrissy Pollack
cpollock@mainebluegrass.org

Treasurer: Robert Bergesch
rbergesch@mainebluegrass.org

Newsletter Editor: Stan Keach
skeach@mainebluegrass.org

**BMAM
BOARD MEMBERS**

Board Chair: Joe Kennedy
jkennedy@mainebluegrass.org

Board Vice Chair: Beth Revels
brevels@mainebluegrass.org

George Scott
gscott@mainebluegrass.org

Kathy Scott
kscott@mainebluegrass.org

Robert Bergesch
rbergesch@mainebluegrass.org

Kate Greeley
kgreeley@mainebluegrass.org

Stan Keach
skeach@mainebluegrass.org

Steve Williams
swilliams@mainebluegrass.org

John Vernon
jvernon@mainebluegrass.org

**BMAM
WEBMASTER**

Cyndi Longo
webmaster@mainebluegrass.org

**BMAM
ARCHIVES**

Joe Kennedy
jkennedy@mainebluegrass.org

Darwin Davidson
darwin@darwindavidson.com

**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



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
blist-f@blisteredfingers.com
(207) 873-6539

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 LaClares, 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

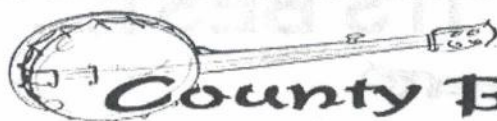
For advance tickets mail check and self addressed stamped envelope to:

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



YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL



August 31, September 1, 2, & 3, 2017

JUST ASK....

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

Directions Available at www.countybluegrass.com

ALL STAR Line Up !!!

Rhonda Vincent And the Rage (MO)

Rhonda's Only Appearance in Maine and the Maritimes for the Summer of 2017

Saturday, September 2nd

Chris Jones & The Night Drivers (TN) Thursday, August 31st**Sideline (NC)** Thurs / Friday, August 31 and Sept. 1**The Little Roy & Lizzy Show (GA)** Thurs / Friday, August 31 and Sept. 1**Junior Sisk & Rambler's Choice (VA)** Sat / Sun Sept. 2 & 3**Mile Twelve (MA)****Zink & Company (MA)****Blistered Fingers (ME) Misty Mountaineers (ME)****The LaClaire****Ticket Pricing**

Advance Weekend Ticket: \$75 ('til July 30) Weekend at the Gate: \$85

Children 12 and Under – Free with Adult

Day Ticket Pricing – Thurs: \$15 Fri: \$20 Sat: \$30 (\$20 after 5) Sun: \$30 (\$20 after 5)

Remember Sunday's Show is a FULL Day!

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

Dogs - \$10 weekend

**RESERVE Your Camp Site Early!**

PALMYRA PRODUCTIONS LLC

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



49th Blistered Fingers 49th Family Bluegrass Music Festival

August 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27, 2017
Litchfield Fairgrounds - Litchfield, Maine

The Gibson Brothers (NY).....S
Dan Paisley & The Southern Grass (PA)..S
Nothin Fancy (VA).....T, F
David Parmley & Cardinal Tradition(TN)F
The Bluegrass Brothers (VA).....T, F
Zink & Company (MA).....F, S
Salt & Light (Moore Family Band)(NC).W
The Zolla Boys (CT).....S
Phat Burger Deluxe (ME).....W, T, F
The Mason Zink Band (MA).....F, S
Robinson's Bluegrass Gospel (MA).....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!

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 8:00 AM (Sunday) August 20, 2017
Daily Gate Times Are 8:00 AM-10:00 PM

Ticket Prices Per Person:

Wed - Sun 5 Day Advance: Before April 1st \$80
Wed - Sun 5 Day Advance: Before August 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, 6PM-9PM
Thurs - \$20, 5PM-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
(207) 873-6539
blis-f@blisteredfingers.com

www.blisteredfingers.com



Enjoy Bluegrass at its Best
on the Beautiful
Shores of
Mid-Coast
Maine!

New England's #1
Family Festival
Labor Day
Weekend
Rain or
Shine!

THOMAS POINT BEACH

★ Brunswick, Maine ★

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

August 31, September 1, 2 & 3, 2017

Over Three Decades of World-Class Bluegrass Music! ... Experience the MAGIC!

★ ★ ★ **Exciting 2017 Line-up** ★ ★ ★

The DEL McCOURY Band
FRIDAY

The GIBSON BROTHERS
SATURDAY

The STEELDRIVERS
FRIDAY

The GRASCALS
FRIDAY

The COX FAMILY
SUNDAY

The LONELY
HEARTSTRING BAND
THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY

LEROY TROY
& The TENNESSEE MAFIA
JUG BAND
SUNDAY

MILE TWELVE
FRIDAY

The BOGUS FAMILY
THURSDAY

» TICKETS «

ALL PRICES PER PERSON

CHILDREN UNDER 12 - FREE ... Sorry, No Refunds

ADVANCED 3-Day (F, S, S)

BEFORE 4/1 \$140

BEFORE 7/1 \$145

3-DAY "AT THE GATE" \$150

ADVANCED 4-Day (T, F, S, S)

BEFORE 4/1 \$155

BEFORE 7/1 \$160

4-DAY "AT THE GATE" \$165

2-Day - (Sat and Sun Only)

"AT THE GATE" \$130

"TEEN" (13-16) 1/2 Adult Rate

PER TEEN with Adult

Camping Included!!

for 2, 3 or 4-Day Ticket Holders

"Early Bird Camping"

8/26 - 8/30 ~ \$25 per night.

Electric with reservation (\$10 / night)

SINGLE DAY TICKETS AVAILABLE

Jerry Douglas presents
The EARLS of LEICESTER
SUNDAY

DAILEY & VINCENT
SATURDAY

BLUE HIGHWAY
SATURDAY

MARK O'CONNOR
feat. the O'CONNOR BAND
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

BILLY STRINGS
SUNDAY

The FEINBERG BROTHERS
SUNDAY

The FREIGHT HOPPERS
SATURDAY

The NEW ENGLAND
BLUEGRASS BAND
SATURDAY

The KATAHDIN VALLEY
BOYS
FRIDAY

SHOWCASE BAND COMPETITION THURSDAY, August 31st

Open to all interested Bluegrass Bands.
Advanced Registration and Selection required.
Featuring Showcase Alumni - The Lonely Heart-
strings Band, and a reunion of The Bogus Family!

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Thursday "Cash Bingo", Thursday Night Dance,
Late-Night Performances, Intimate Artist Work-
shops, Daily Children's Activities, Sunday
Morning Beachfront Service, "Round The Clock"
Field Picking, And More!

ESTABLISHED 1979

Thomas Point Beach Offers

Private 84 acre Park and Campground, Clean sandy
Beach, Full Playground, Hot Showers, 24-Hour on-site
Security, Medical Services, Food and Gift Vendors,
Handicapped Parking, Paid Wi-Fi, and Much More!

For more info and announcements about the event, LIKE us on Facebook,
Or give us a call at: (207) 725-6009

Tickets, Schedule, and Showcase, Food and Vendor Applications, Available at:

thomaspoinbeachbluegrass.com

Please... No Motorcycles, Drugs, Display of Alcohol, Open Fires or Skateboards.



www.mainebluegrass.org
P.O. Box 865
Westbrook, ME 04098

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 or get your newsletter via postal mail.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Newsletters are sent by email.

Zip _____

Phone _____

City _____

State _____

Address _____

Name _____

Bluegrass Music Association of Maine

P.O. Box 865
Westbrook, ME 04098
MaineBluegrass.org

*Your source for
Bluegrass information!!*

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

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

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