

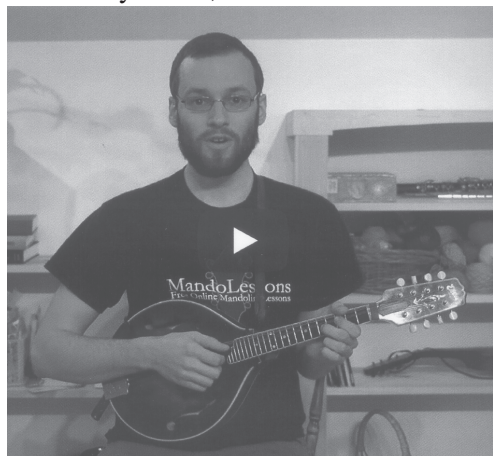
## MandoLessons — An Outstanding(!) Mandolin Instruction Website

I recently stumbled upon a Mandolin Web Lesson site that is so good that I immediately felt that I had to report on it to our readers. The site is called MandoLessons, and it's all free, and created and maintained by a local musician, Baron Collins-Hill of Belfast, Maine.

People of all ages who are trying to learn, and master, a musical instrument will pay \$20, \$30, or often much more per item for books with CDs attached, subscription on-line lessons, and personal teachers. Their degree of satisfaction with packaged lessons is, of course, varied. One common complaint is that the lessons are so far over the head of the student that discouragement ensues. Sometimes the problem is the teacher doesn't play it slowly enough for the student to catch the subtleties. Sometimes there's no tablature, or the tablature is messy or vague. Sometimes, the student is only interested in a few of the tunes included in the package. No such problems here.

Everything in MandoLessons is clearly presented. The quality of the video is very high, and the audio is great, too. Even though there's an emphasis on rote learning (a tried-and-true method for pickers) there are tablatures available with a simple click on a link, and the tabs are top notch.

As for finding tunes that you're interested in learning to play, there are so many tunes and songs (over 150) on this site, that almost any lover of traditional string band music will find plenty that he likes, and there is a wide range of difficulty levels, as well.



Baron Collin-Hill of *MandoLessons*.

As for genres, there are more Old Time tunes (70) and Irish tunes (59) than any other, but at least 13 tunes are listed as Bluegrass — *Salt Creek*, *Bill Cheatham*, etc. And many other tunes are adaptable to Bluegrass.

There are also 3-to-5-part lessons on these song breaks, which will be of interest to Bluegrass pickers: *Man of Constant Sorrow*, *Nine Pound Hammer*, *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*, *Shady Grove*; and a 1-part lesson on *Wayfaring Stranger*.

*continued on page 2*

## BMAM ANNUAL ELECTION AND MEETING

### ANNUAL ELECTION

The BMAM election of Board members and President is held in September. The ballots will be sent out on September 14; completed ballots must be returned within 14 days. Ballots postmarked after September 28, 2018 will not be counted. The close of the election is 10/9/18. Election results will be reported at the October Annual Meeting.

The election mailing will include a letter, a ballot, and a self-addressed envelope. Please take a moment to vote when you receive the mailing and return the ballot in the envelope provided in a timely manner. Your vote matters!

### ANNUAL MEETING

The BMAM Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 6:00 PM at Kennebec Valley Community College, 92 Western Ave., Fairfield, ME.

The regular October meeting of the BMAM Board of Directors will be held at the same time.



*MandoLessons continued . . .*

## Soldier's Joy

Arr. Baron Collins-Hill      www.MandoLessons.com      Traditional

### Sample Tab from MandoLessons

Besides tune lessons, there are all kinds of other lessons available on this site — a few sample lesson titles: How to Build Chords; Pick Directions - How to Play Reels; How to Follow Guitar Players, Part 2 - Capo Placement; Split String; Cross Picking; several Music Theory Lessons; and much more. Aspiring mandolinists up to a very advanced (e.g., professional) level can easily find some lessons that are of value on this site.

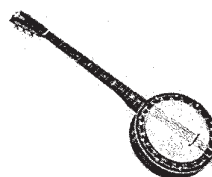
Here's an example of how you might use the MandoLessons site to learn *Blackberry Blossom*, which is listed as an Advanced Fiddle Tune. Watch the 18-minute Video Lesson — which has very clear video and audio. In the Video Lesson, Baron plays the tune at a moderate speed and then adroitly breaks it down into phrases. At the bottom of the page, there's a link to a highly-readable piece of sheet music that displays both standard notation and tablature. There are 6 audio track links on the page, too: Slow (Mandolin & Guitar); Slow (Mandolin Only); Slow (Guitar Backup Only); Fast (Mandolin & Guitar); Fast (Mandolin Only); and Fast (Guitar Only). (The "Fast" audio tracks are actually moderate in

speed.) An intermediate student could spend an hour or 2 on this lesson and master this tune quite thoroughly and reinforce her competence by playing it with the backup tracks.

The site is advertisement-free; Baron has been able to maintain it on a patronage basis — donations gratefully accepted. He says, "my lessons will always be free and available to anyone who wants to learn." He offers some email support, as well.

This is one of the best stringed instrument resources I have ever come across. If you're a budding mandolin player, or even a *mandolin player* (budding or not), you should definitely check out MandoLessons ([www.mandolessons.com](http://www.mandolessons.com)).

Reported by  
Stan Keach



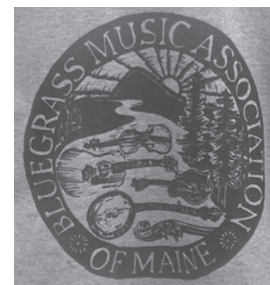
## Chairman's Report ~ Fall 2018

Wow! Just like that summer is almost gone. Blistered Fingers, Thomas Point Beach, the County Festival and Ossipee are now history. All festivals were well attended and offered great line-ups. The amount of talent offered to us was staggering!

Fortunately for BMAM, the promoters of Thomas Point Beach offered a complimentary weekend ticket that we normally purchase to give to the volunteer that is responsible for the booth. This greatly helps our bottom line and we are grateful for their generosity. We signed up many new and renewing members. Thanks to all that volunteered at the booth and/or made a purchase.

I want to tip my hat to all the wonderful local and regional bands that help to make our festivals succeed and to the promoters that hire them. Also, all the smaller festivals and the new ones that ensure that you can find bluegrass music just about every weekend all summer long. For the BMAM board of directors, fall is when we begin our quest for new board members to fill the vacancies of fulfilled terms. I'm happy to say we have two candidates that have committed to running for a board seat — Lois Gelina and Dale Canning. Besides these candidates, members may write in a name on their ballots. A big thank you to Lois and Dale for offering their time and talents to our bluegrass community! There are a couple of important things I want to tell you about. One is the upcoming election. Ballots will be mailed out September 14th to all current members and must be returned within 14 days. Ballots postmarked after September 28 will not be counted. Please check the person you would like to have on our board of directors and the president. As an alternative to the printed names on your ballot you can also write in a name of another current member. Election results will be reported on October 7th at the Annual Meeting/Board Meeting in Fairfield at the Kennebec Valley Community College, 92 Western Ave. The meeting starts @ 6 pm.

Have you seen our new T-shirt design? Board member/artist Matt Baker offered a new design to help spur sales and raise awareness of BMAM. If you were not able to buy one at TPB or Blistered Fingers they will be available at our jams in North Yarmouth and Brewer.



Every fall newsletter has a nomination form for the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame. The MCMHOF Museum includes many Maine bluegrass performers. Maybe you know someone or a couple that just might stand a chance to be inducted.

Some things we are currently working on: A new monthly jam, a fund raising drive, Pay Pal on our website for new memberships, renewals & donations. The board is launching a major fund drive. Twenty two years ago BMAM became a 501-c, non-profit, state-wide organization. Our price for membership has stayed at \$12 (solo) and \$15 (duet) all these years even though our costs have risen annually since then. We have compared our price to other bluegrass organizations and we are at the bottom. The time has come for a much needed price increase.

Our jams at North Yarmouth & Brewer will start up again next month. See the details in this newsletter.



Joe Kennedy

Nellie and Joe  
at the BMAM  
Booth.

## WEBMASTER REPORT

**BMAM Archive Project:** The archived files which have been turned over to the website are now all active! Take some time to go check out the rich history of bluegrass in Maine that these archives have to offer. The archives are divided into categories. This fall we will be working towards making the archives searchable by person, band, year, etc.

### Reminders:

The Who's Pickin' Where calendar is available for all of you to use to advertise your bluegrass related shows, events, and jams. In a Bluegrass Band? Add your info to

our Bluegrass Bands of Maine page. Subscribe to our news feed so all news updates from the webpage go right to your email address.

To subscribe, simply scroll down to the bottom of the page (either on a computer or on your device) and input your e-mail address in the box where it asks you to subscribe. You will receive an e-mail to confirm.

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

— Cyndi Longo, Webmaster



## MAINE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS DUE BY DECEMBER 31

Below are the instructions for nominating someone to the  
Maine Country Music Hall of Fame.  
You will find the nomination form on Page 5.

### FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. To qualify as a Nominee a person must be of good character and to have made a significant contribution toward the preservation, promotion and/or performing of COUNTRY MUSIC WITHIN THE STATE OF MAINE. Please expound on the background.
2. Each nomination must be submitted on the official "Hall of Fame Nomination Form" -Please only ONE NOMINEE/DUO PER FORM. A DUO may constitute one nominee. Additional information **MUST** be supplied on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper, typed or printed clearly, and attached to the Nomination form. Include one recent 5x7 black & white or color professional appearing photograph.
3. On a separate sheet please submit a detailed biography of nominees background to include first musical or entertainment interests, influences, earliest know dates and locations of performances, such as: stage, dances, TV, radio, recordings, etc. Also include newspaper clippings, photographs, and any documentation pertaining to nominees musical background. Tell if nominee is still active in the Country Music field and what their status is. If deceased please give name and address of spouse and/or known relative or close contact person.
4. A nominee need not be a member of any active Country/Bluegrass Association within the State of Maine. A member may submit no more than two nominations per year and be willing to vouch for the nominee's character.
5. Each Nomination form **MUST** be signed by the person who is nominating along with their mailing address and telephone number. This is necessary in the event that the Induction Committee needs more information.
6. Make copies of valuable historical material before submitting as all materials are non-returnable and become a permanent file to be used for future reference.

**FAILURE TO THOROUGHLY ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS AND  
PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION  
MAY DISQUALIFY THE NOMINATION**

*The Hall of Fame Induction Committee thanks you for your support.*



## NOMINATION FORM

I hereby submit the name of:

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Stage Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death (If deceased) \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond to all of the following that apply:

If born elsewhere number of years resided and/or performed in Maine \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded - home studio \_\_\_\_\_ professional studio \_\_\_\_\_

Composer/writer \_\_\_\_\_ published/copyrighted \_\_\_\_\_

Radio appearances \_\_\_\_\_ TV appearances \_\_\_\_\_

Stage Shows \_\_\_\_\_

dances, \_\_\_\_\_ fronted musical unit \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Professional paid years in music (number of years) \_\_\_\_\_

List instruments personally preformed with \_\_\_\_\_

Sings - lead \_\_\_\_\_ harmony \_\_\_\_\_

Promoter of Country Music - Instructor, booking agent, DJ, owner of Country dance or show facility or any other promotion. (circle those that apply)

Organization affiliations (check those that apply) MCMA \_\_\_\_\_ MACM \_\_\_\_\_ DECMA \_\_\_\_\_

Pine Tree \_\_\_\_\_ Blue grass \_\_\_\_\_ ASCAP \_\_\_\_\_ BMI \_\_\_\_\_ SESAC \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### COUNTRY MUSIC AND/OR ENTERTAINMENT BACKGROUND

*Please refer to item #3 on FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS page.*

The information needed is REQUIRED by the Induction Committee in order for the nominee to be considered.

### THE NOMINATION FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY December 31st of the current year

MAIL TO:

Maine Country Music Hall of Fame

Induction Committee

P.O. Box 193

Mechanic Falls, Maine 04256

Application submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

For Questions call: Slim Andrews (207) 795-1119 or Ken Brooks (207) 654-2227

The undersigned herein represents that the information contained in this application is based on facts that have been checked for accuracy, and to the best of your knowledge, the nominee within this application is of good moral character, and eligible to be considered for induction into the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**BMAM OFFICERS**

President: Bill Umbel  
bumbel@mainebluegrass.org

Vice President: Bucky Mitchell  
bmitchell@mainebluegrass.org

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

Robert Bergesch  
rbergesch@mainebluegrass.org

Stan Keach  
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Nellie Kennedy  
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**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

## MAINE BLUEGRASS TRIVIA #1



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

1. Born in Lewiston, Maine in 1944, this guitar player went on to fame as the guitarist for the Kentucky Colonels in California. He also played with the Birds, and was a major influence on Tony Rice. Who was he?
2. Who wrote "The Last Log Drive," which was played on national TV, accompanying footage of the last log drive on the Kennebec River?
3. The first interracial duo to play bluegrass and old-time music was called Allerton and Alton, and comprised these 2 musicians: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
4. Charlie Gillam's partner in the Blue Mountain Boys, who played on the Ken McKenzie show on WGAN, was world-famous banjo and banjo parts manufacturer
5. The Rainbow Valley Boys were headed by this bluegrass pioneer couple

*answers on page 8*

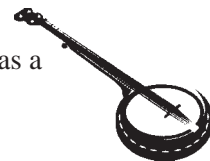
## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

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



## Bluegrass Radio Shows in Maine

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

WMPG - 90.9 FM/104.1 FM <sup>a</sup> 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

MONTICELLO, MAINE (AROOSTOOK COUNTY)  
**THE ROOTS OF COUNTRY** - WBCQ KIXX 94.7 • HOSTS: Stu Fleischhaker, Layla Cantafio  
Times: Friday - 6-8 pm; Saturday 6-9 pm; Sunday 12 noon-3 pm

**BLUEGRASS GOSPEL SHOW** - WBCQ KIXX 94.7 FM  
Host: Carl O'Donnell • Time: Sunday Morning: 9 - 10 am

## THE BLUEGRASS GOSPEL SING AND JAM



The Bluegrass Gospel Sing and Jam® has been part of the bluegrass scene in Maine since it began in the spring of 2000. Since that time, Mike and Mary Robinson have been ministering to the community of people who enjoy and follow Bluegrass Music on the east coast from Mexico to Maine.

During their Sunday morning sing along session, they provide a free songbook with words and chords for those who wish to participate. They also encourage those who play instruments to come to join in and be their "Jam Band". During the 45 minute sing a long, Mike preaches a gospel message and encourages those in the audience with spiritual questions to seek out he and Mary around the festival grounds and at their booth during the weekend to discuss spiritual things.

After stepping out full time in early 2004, the ministry has grown to include more than 25 Bluegrass events yearly as well as numerous church services, where they garner some of their support, nursing homes and outreach activities and campgrounds.

Because of their access to this people group, Mike and Mary have the opportunity to present the gospel to many who may never enter a church and to counsel others in their spiritual walk. Further information, including their schedule, pictures, contact information and an E Mail sign up can be found at their web site [www.bluegrassgospelsing.com](http://www.bluegrassgospelsing.com).

## BMAM on the Internet

Don't forget to frequently visit [www.mainebluegrass.org](http://www.mainebluegrass.org) to find out what's new!

Be sure and go to the BMAM Archive Project (click on Association Information to get to tab). There are hundreds of items that have been acquired and housed over the years by BMAM Archivist Joe Kennedy. Thanks go to Darwin Davidson who has photographed these many items in order to get them online for all to see. The Maine Country Music Hall of Fame in Mechanic Falls houses much of this collection. We encourage all members and friends to add to this collection, by donating any item, or a photograph of any item pertaining to bluegrass in Maine. You are encouraged to share your photos and memories of bluegrass in Maine at this location. Many of you have tons of pictures that our members and friends would love to be able to revisit including memories of shows, festivals, performers, and jams. The FACEBOOK "Bluegrass Music Association of Maine Archive" page is no longer active. ALL ARCHIVAL PHOTOS are now on [mainebluegrass.org](http://mainebluegrass.org).

The BMAM website and Facebook page are wonderful resources for getting folks to bluegrass events and depends heavily on the input of information provided by our members.

The Facebook page "Bluegrass Music Association of Maine" is used more as a reminder of upcoming shows and events, as well as items that we hope you find interesting, like pictures of jams or events as they happen. If you have any information relating to bluegrass in Maine and would like to share it with your fellow members, please send the info to our Webmaster at

[webmaster@mainebluegrass.org](mailto:webmaster@mainebluegrass.org).

## MAINE BLUEGRASS TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Clarence White
2. Sam Tidwell (Warner Thibodeau)
3. Al Hawkes and Alton Meyers
4. Jimmy Cox
5. Bob and Grace French



## EASTERN JAM DATES 2018-2019

Dates for the Eastern Jam at  
Brewer Grange Hall  
1266 North Main Street

Oct. 7, 2018

Nov. 4, 2018

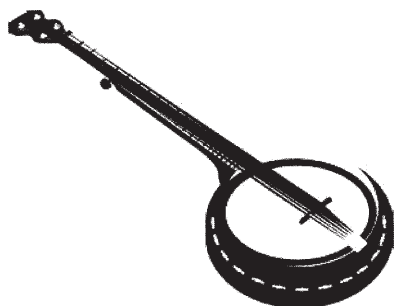
Dec. 2, 2018

Jan. 6, 2019

Feb. 3, 2019

March 3, 2019

April 7, 2019



## SOUTHERN JAM DATES 2018-2019

Below are the dates for the  
Southern Jams  
held at the  
North Yarmouth Academy:

Oct 14, 2018

Nov 11, 2018

Dec 9, 2018

Jan. 13, 2019

Feb 10, 2019

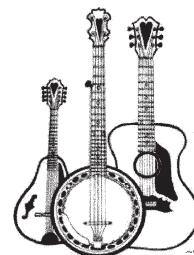
March 10, 2019

April 14, 2019

### BMAM MEMBERSHIPS UPDATE NEW & RENEWED SINCE 6/1/18 - 9/12/18

#### RENEWED MEMBERS

Slim Andrews  
Jim & Barbara Atherton  
Glenn & Holly Bowman  
Richard & Cynthia Bragdon  
Tom Buckland  
Dale & Louise Canning  
Joe & Janet Cannon  
Don & Martha Hills Depoy  
Bill Donahue  
Richard & Pamela  
Wentworthy Doucexte  
Fred Frawley  
Jon Gagne  
David & Cathy Harriman  
Denise Hervieux  
Willie Marquart  
Caren Mulford  
Raymond Paradis  
Dennis Patkus  
Frank Perkins  
Roxy & Jean Perry  
Mike Petrakovich  
Todd Pierce  
Beth Revels  
Steve & Marilyn Ryan  
Terry & Tina Spearrin  
Dickie Spofford  
Carl Stump  
Mary P. Sundeen  
Dave & Patti Thompson  
Jim Verkasi  
Kevin Welch



#### NEW MEMBERS

Kevin L. Benner  
Layla Cantafio  
Lois & Brian Gelina  
Marilyn & Bill Gillis  
Lu (Bauer) Grayce  
Simone Haeusler  
Gretchen & Daniel Heilman-Piper  
Franklin Holcomb  
Todd Ketcham  
Peter Knight  
Rick & Deb Lessard  
Linda & Jim Libby  
Matt Milliken  
Steve & Natalie Quellette  
Hilmer Percell  
Neal & Theresa Pottle  
Steven A. Roys  
Raymond Soulard  
Rick & Claudia Steeves



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

***www.MaineBluegrass.org***

*Your source for  
Bluegrass information!!*

*Please check your membership status!  
Thanks!*



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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters are sent by email.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ NO E-Mail? Check box to 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