



Bluegrass Express

a publication of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine

Spring 2018

Chairman's Report

Even though it might be another one or two months before the snow is gone - Happy Maine Spring!

Last month Nellie & I again attended the Joe Val Festival in Framingham MA where we saw many of our Maine friends. Most of our evening jams ended around 3:00 AM or later. While there, we helped Darwin Davidson hang his pictures of bluegrass performers in the green room and hallways. I also spent time behind the WERU table in the vendor room.

We saw three great bands that had Maine musicians. Town Mountain from North Carolina, with Jesse Langlais on banjo. Jesse grew up in Old Town and took banjo lessons from my old bandmate, Bill Smith. Rock Hearts from Rhode Island, has my old bandmate Bill Thibodeau on mandolin. Bill spent much of his boyhood down the road from me in Cambridge at the site of Sam (Tidwell) & Eddie's Central Maine Bluegrass Festival. We also saw Old Eleven where all the musicians, Ted DeMille, Lincoln Meyers, Taylor Smith, Chris Dombrowski, & Eli Gilbert are from Maine. All these bands were very impressive.

While reading our recent issue of Bluegrass Unlimited I saw a very good review of the new CD - Spirits In The Hills by Wilson Banjo Company. Band members include fiddler/vocalist Sarah Logan from Maine who was the featured fiddler in our last newsletter.

Every fall BMAM elects a new slate of officers. If any member has ever thought of donating some time to help keep bluegrass music strong in Maine this might be your calling. Please let me or any officer know that you are interested.

I've decided to start a new column for the newsletter titled 20 Years Ago. I'll be digging into the newsletter archives of twenty years before and mention what the BMAM was doing/working on. Some years saw many accomplishments and some not so much. Like any organization that's been around as long as ours, we've had our ups and downs and trials and tribulations. We are still here and doing what we have always done - helping bluegrass grow in Maine. I hope you find it interesting.

Looking back on the last few years BMAM has made many improvements such as updating our membership list, issuing a quarterly newsletter in a timely manner, hosting two jams a month that are strong and growing, continuing the instrument loan program and much more.

continued on page 2 - Chair

BMAM - ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

A goal of the Board has been to provide you, our Members, the opportunity to receive the quarterly newsletter, The Bluegrass Express, electronically to your email in a pdf file. This would speed up the delivery of the newsletter to you, save our volunteers processing time, and save BMAM printing and postage costs.

The BMAM Membership Form has a space for an email address. If that was completed on the form when you completed it, then the information has been entered into our membership database.

Before the next newsletter is issued (Summer, 2018) we will be sending an email to all members for whom we have an email address, to verify that the email address we have on file is valid and also to ask if you wish to receive future newsletters electronically or not. If you receive an email from Steve Williams, BMAM Secretary, regarding this, please read and respond. If we do not get a response from you, we will assume that the email address we have on file is invalid and will continue to mail your newsletter.

If you want to receive an electronic newsletter and did not provide an email address when you enrolled as a member or for some reason you are not contacted via email (either data entry error or the email address we have on file is invalid), please send an email to Steve Williams at swilliams@mainebluegrass.org indicating that you wish to receive future newsletters electronically.

Note that we do realize that some of you may prefer receiving a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you. Our goal is to make sure that you receive the newsletter — whether that be electronically or snail mail.

Thank you.
Nellie Kennedy



Chair - continued from page 1

I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that the Board will start working on a plan of reachable goals in increments of three to five years. The plan starts with an annual and projected budget that will tell us what we have to work with. We'll know how much we need to keep BMAM afloat and what we can afford to give back to Maine's bluegrass community on an annual basis. With your help we'll compile a list of organizations, music camps, etc. with a focus on education and youth. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on what our goals should be and where our money is best spent.

Our BMAM jam season is almost over. It's been a great season and I sincerely thank all the folks that made both jams possible, enjoyable, and successful. Please try to make it to the last few jams of this season in North Yarmouth or Brewer or both!

Joe Kennedy



Brian Gelina to be inducted into the Maine Country Music Hall Of Fame!

Congratulations to Brian Gelina on his upcoming induction into the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame for 2018. The induction ceremony, along with the dinner and concert will be on Sunday, May 20th at the Silver Spur Dance and Banquet Hall in Mechanic Falls at 272 Lewiston Road which is the home of the MCMHOF Museum. Reservations are required for the dinner and concert for \$25. Induction ceremony and concert only for \$10 (no reservations required). For reservations and further information contact Nancy Crosby at 207-645-2412 or write 398 Keep Road, Jay, ME 04239.

I'm especially proud of Brian because he represents our bluegrass community. I serve on the MCMHOF induction committee as a representative of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine and had the privilege and honor to call Brian with the good news. Also voted for induction will be Dana Flood and Vi Moody. Please consider attending the ceremony to show your support and appreciation for these inductees on their very special day of recognition. While you are there you can have a tour of the MCMHOF Museum - you will be impressed!

Joe Kennedy

THE MAINE BLUEGRASS ARCHIVES

The first time I visited Joe and Nellie Kennedy's home, Joe offered to show me a few bluegrass memorabilia items he had collected over the years. I was overwhelmed to say the least.

His concern was that he wanted to be able to share these items with folks when he, as a representative of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine, attended various bluegrass festivals. But he couldn't possibly take even a small percentage of them; plus, the concern that these items were irreplaceable and most were a bit fragile.

He then asked me if it might be possible to scan the many documents and have them available to be shown on a computer at these events. Sure, I said. I saw no reason why not, and I had a fairly large format scanner in my studio.

So... we made a date for him and Nellie to come over to Deer Isle and spend a day or so working on this project.

When I got to thinking about the scope of the project, I realized that the scanning process involved for these documents would take many minutes per document. And that we would be at it for days to make even a small dent in the number of documents that Joe had acquired over the years.

I then figured that a much quicker and more accurate way to do the project would be to photograph the items. I could take a photo of a document a lot quicker than my scanner could scan it. So that is what we did.

I set up a copying studio, Joe and Nellie laid out the items in various categories and sizes; they then put each item on my "copy stand", and I clicked the shutter. I don't know exactly what the first image taken was, but it was on March 11, 2008.

Since then we have photographed 1,133 individual items, including records, cassettes, CDs, DVDs, biographies, newspaper stories, magazines, programs, posters, photographs and many other miscellaneous items like tee shirts and bumper stickers.

I did create a Facebook site with a few samples of what we had photographed, but it really doesn't begin to give you the detail that can be gotten with a true website that can have much more information about the images.

And now, here we are ten years later, and Joe tells me he has another couple of cartons of material that needs photographing. I guess he'll never stop collecting artifacts. . . and I'll never stop photographing them. Works for me.

Darwin Davidson

The Big Bang Theory of Bluegrass

© by Wayne Erbsen

If the “big bang theory” helps to explain the origin of the universe, perhaps “the big bang theory of bluegrass” will shed some light on the origin of the bluegrass music universe.

First, let me say that there are two schools of thought as to the origins of bluegrass music. One has Bill Monroe single-handedly inventing bluegrass music around 1945. The other takes a more evolutionary approach, with a number of musicians and bands contributing to the sound we now call “bluegrass.” In particular, this approach points to Wade and JE Mainer’s Mountaineers as the first band that had all the ingredients of bluegrass music going back at least to 1935. For this article, let’s put aside the evolutionary argument, and concentrate on the theory that Bill Monroe invented bluegrass.

It is commonly known that Bill and Charlie, the Monroe Brothers, had a contentious and turbulent relationship. Perhaps Charlie said it best, “We were hot-headed and mean as snakes.” In early 1938, they went their separate ways. To replace Bill, Charlie hired Zeke Morris to play mandolin and sing tenor. Interestingly enough, Zeke had been a mainstay of Mainer’s Mountaineers.

Bill Monroe, on the other hand, was looking for a lead singer and guitar player to replace his brother Charlie. To accomplish his goal, Bill placed a small ad in the Atlanta, Georgia, newspaper looking for someone who played guitar and sang old-time songs. Among the musicians who showed up at Bill’s small travel trailer to audition was a nervous young man named Cleo Davis. Bill hired him on the spot because Bill’s wife, Carolyn, reinforced Bill’s opinion that Davis’ voice sounded almost exactly like that of brother Charlie Monroe.

It is my contention that the short audition of Cleo Davis in Bill’s small trailer in 1938 is the big bang of bluegrass. It is when Bill hired the first of a long line of sidemen who would make up Bill’s legendary band, The Blue Grass Boys. The rest, my friends, is history.

Let me tell you how I became involved in all this. In late 1981, I received a personal letter from Cleo Davis, who by then was calling himself JC Davis. He had read an article I had written for *Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine* on Wiley and Zeke, the Morris Brothers. Cleo or JC contacted me in an effort to reestablish contact with the Morris Brothers, whom he had not seen since the late 1930s. In addition to providing him with contact information to get in touch with the Morris Brothers, I asked if I could interview him for another article in *Bluegrass Unlimited*. He readily agreed and seemed anxious to tell his story. At the time he was living in Lakeland, Florida, and I made my home near Asheville, North Carolina. Because of the difficulty of getting together, I asked him if I could send him some questions via letter, and if he could record his answers on a cassette tape. He quickly consented to this somewhat unorthodox interview method. Many letters and cassette tapes went back and forth, and my article finally appeared in *Bluegrass Unlimited* in February, 1982. As far as I know, I was the only one to interview Cleo or JC Davis about his roll in the origins of Bill’s band, the Bluegrass Boys. Unfortunately, he passed away a short time later.

Thanks to the wonders of computers, you can actually listen to those tapes I made by going to <http://dla.acaweb.org/> Simply type in “Cleo Davis,” and you’re good to go. To read my entire article in *Bluegrass Unlimited*, with all the details of the “Big Bang of Bluegrass” theory go to my website <http://www.nativeground.com/> Click on “Articles” and then click the article, “Cleo Davis, the Original Bluegrass Boy.” This information can also be found in the book, *The Rural Roots of Bluegrass* by yours truly, Wayne Erbsen.

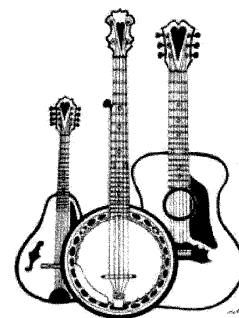
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Wayne Erbsen is a musician, author, publisher, teacher and radio host. Check out his instruction books and songbooks for banjo, fiddle, guitar, mandolin plus books of songs and lore of cowboys, railroads, cowboys, outlaws, gospel, plus historic cookbooks by visiting <http://www.nativeground.com/>



BMAM MEMBERSHIPS UPDATE NEW & RENEWED SINCE DECEMBER 2017

Mark Wiley
 Bob Kreitzer
 Kyo Bannai & Craig Schneider
 Ken & Jane Brooks
 Jim Bradley
 John & Marilyn Taylor
 Deborah Cross & Henry Thomsom Sr.
 Bud & Elizabeth Godsoe
 Pat Averill
 Chrissy Pollack
 Susan Murray
 Alfred Doane
 John Wallace, Jr.
 Darwin Davidson
 Dan & Kelly Burke
 Patty Kempton
 Cheryl Wiggin & Jim Henderson
 Scott Dunham
 Taylor Smith
 Henry (Red) Small
 Jeffrey Clapp
 Sue Reeder
 Wade Smith & Donna Hill
 Doug Teel Sr.
 Don Baker
 Patrick Boyle
 Joyce Broadway
 Robert Norton
 Michael Marion
 Don Poulin
 Lynn Tscheiller
 Arthur & Irene Sykes
 Robert & Priscilla Marquis
 Joe Alex
 Walter & Laurie Magee
 Jay & Leslie Dientes
 Larry Corbet
 Richard (Red) Feld & Elsie Hilton
 Ralph W. & Marion Stanley
 Nicole Wheldon & Frederick Scott Sr.



MAX SILVERSTEIN

This is the third and final installment in a series of profiles of young fiddlers from Maine who have recently gone south to hone their already impressive skills and to pursue careers as fiddlers in Bluegrass, Country, and related genres. In previous issues, we covered Jay Smith from Industry, now Nashville), and Sarah Jeanne Logan (Portland, now Johnson City). Here is our profile of Max Silverstein.

Max Silverstein was born and grew up in Bangor, where his father, Jeff, practiced law and played several stringed instruments, and his mother, Gayle, also a musician, taught school. Max started taking violin lessons at the age of six. At first, Max was reluctant, as he was when Jeff taught him fiddle tunes during the summer when his classical lessons were on hold.

"I kind of pushed him into this in first grade," [Jeff] said. "He wasn't psyched on it. I said, 'this is the way it is in the Silverstein family. We all play a musical instrument.' Within a year or two he started doing pretty well at the fiddle side of things. When he was about 10, I took him to the Maine Fiddle Camp kicking and screaming, figuratively. When we got there, he said, 'I'm here now, but I'm not coming back.' The next day, he was having a blast. From that point on, he's never looked back."

After graduating middle school, Max started taking fiddle lessons with well-known fiddle teacher Lauren Rioux. Max also continued attending Maine Fiddle Camp, and it wasn't long before he was performing publicly regularly with his dad as Maximum Blue. Nancy Merrill joined Maximum Blue in 2011, making it a trio, and they released a CD, *Grounded*, in 2013. The all-instrumental album included bluegrass standards like Big Sandy River and Lonesome Moonlight Waltz as well as Celtic tunes and jazzy numbers like Sweet Georgia Brown, all played at a very professional level.

At the time of the release of *Grounded*, Max's teacher, Lauren Rioux, who has had a very impressive list of talented young fiddlers in her fold, had this to say about Max: "Max has an insatiable appetite for playing music, learning new tunes, and techniques on his fiddle. His talent and his work ethic, combined with this amazing attitude is creating a very solid musician at a very young age."

In the fall of 2014, Max started playing concerts, weddings, and other show dates with the Maranacook String Band and the Sandy River Ramblers (after Jay Smith, featured in an earlier article, moved to Nashville). At one memorable show at the Brick Church Concert series in New Sharon, Max was joined on fiddle by Jay, on holiday from Tennessee, for some of the best twin fiddling by Maine fiddlers ever heard. Max released a solo CD, *Travelin' On*, in 2015. Also in 2015, Max was honored by being named recipient of the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival Bill Vernon Memorial Scholarship.

Max enrolled in East Tennessee State University Bluegrass and Old Time Music program in fall of 2015 — one of two young fiddlers, along with Sarah Jeanne Logan, in that program. At ETSU, he has studied with Hunter Berry, Nate Olsen, Adam Steffey, Wyatt Rice and Dan Boner.

Max also started touring with Chosen Road, a professional Bluegrass Gospel band, but he found that there were too many conflicts with his busy college schedule and the band's increasing travel schedule. Currently, Max plays guitar and twin fiddle with the East Tennessee University Pride Band, which has an exciting schedule including a summer Bluegrass Cruise. Max also will be playing Darol Anger's lines in a David Grisman tribute band.

Along the way, this young fiddler has performed with the likes of Darol Anger, Rashad Eggleston, Brittany Haas, Lauren Rioux, Kimber Ludiker, Mike Block, and (at the age of 10) the Pine Mountain Railroad — early memories to cherish a few years from now.

Max Silverstein has a very bright future in music. With any luck, Maine Bluegrass fans will get to see him as part of a nationally-known touring band that makes an appearance at one of our festivals or concerts.



FOOTNOTES

- 1 - Bangor Daily News, October 17, 2013
- 2 - Bangor Daily News, October 17, 2013.



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

WEBMASTER REPORT

Who's Pickin' Where: All upcoming events have officially been moved from Google calendar to our own hosted event calendar. This will serve to streamline the submission process, make events easier to find, and the calendar easier to navigate. This also gives our event categories more room to grow as the types of events being offered continue to change and evolve. In addition to these 'behind the scenes' enhancements, each event now has its own page where flyers will be listed, and more detailed information will be easier to post and add to. The Who's Pickin' Where submission form has also been updated and includes an option to submit your event file directly on the form.

BMAM Archive Project: Archive files are in the process of being uploaded, categorized and tagged. None of the files on the front end will be changing as we work towards streamlining the galleries, and making them able to be searched using a number of different stipulations. As the new versions of the galleries are slowly added to the page, we will update you via the webpage news feed.

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 email address in the box where it asks you to subscribe. You will receive an email to confirm.

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

-- Cyndi Longo



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

Southern Jams Review October 2017 - March 2018

The BMAM Southern Jam is held the second Sunday of each month from October through April. At time of writing, we have held five of our six Jams for the 2017-2018 season. This is the third year we have held the BMAM Southern Jam at North Yarmouth Academy (NYA,) on Main Street in Yarmouth, ME.

It feels like our Jam at NYA is maturing nicely. Our Jam is held in the music facilities at NYA; there are two generously-sized rooms for larger groups, and a smaller practice room as well. Most of our Jams this year have had more than twenty pickers, and the multi-room set-up allows pickers to choose either a faster-paced or a more modestly-paced instructional jam. But all the pickers seem to be grinnin', like they should.

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 Kate Greeley have provided some fine hot pot-luck fare for the cold winter afternoons of our Southern Jam season.

With the upcoming Jam on Sunday, April 8, we will have completed our third season of bluegrass Jams at NYA. We will start our BMAM Southern Jam Season again Sunday, October 14, 2018. There is great Bluegrass music being played, at all levels, on Sunday afternoons in Yarmouth. Come and join us there!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

BMAM relies heavily on volunteers.

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

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

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



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**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

Festival Dates July 26th-29th 2018
String Camp Dates: July 22nd-26th

291 S. Hiram Road, Hiram ME
www.ossipee valley.com

THE 20TH ANNUAL OSS�PEE VALLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The 20th annual Ossipee Valley Music Festival is a four-day celebration of roots, americana & bluegrass music, and features camping, dancing, jamming, swimming, yoga, local food, craft beer, artisans, and a kids music program. Kids 17 and under are free.

THE OSS�PEE VALLEY STRING CAMP

The Ossipee Valley String Camp is a five day fantasy camp for all ages and levels, with world renowned instructors in fiddle, mandolin, banjo, guitar, bass, vocals, songwriting and ukulele. In addition to lessons, attendees enjoy forming a band, farm to table meals, yoga classes, workshops, nightly jams, an instructor concert, and a free ticket to the music festival for a full week of musical celebration! A one of a kind community! Scholarships available.



EASTERN JAM REPORT

Since the last Bluegrass Express, the Eastern Jam has had our January, February and March jams at the Grange in Brewer, 1266 No. Main Street, Brewer. In January, due to exceptionally cold temperatures leading to a heating problem, we relocated at the last minute. The Grange members brought their food concessions down the road a few miles to the East Eddington Community Church. Between e-mail, phone calls and giant signs on the Grange Hall building, 19 hardy musicians found their way to the alternative location and jammed all afternoon. Many thanks to Dale Canning for making the last minute contacts necessary to hold the jam at his church.

The February 4th jam faced snow, rain and the Super Bowl, but 21 people still made their way to the Grange Hall for music, food, and fun. The March 4th Eastern Jam caught me sick with the flu and unable to attend (for the first time in 5 years). 31 people did attend, including at least one brand new beginner. I heard he was greeted and welcomed. Three members of a local Bluegrass band attended and added new songs to the jammin' mix — always a great chance to learn more about Bluegrass when experienced musicians are in the jam circle. An experienced guitar player who had never been to the Grange Hall before also attended — each month at least one or two new people find the jam and usually continue to join in at future jams. In my absence, Debbie Lancaster, Sandra Moon, Evan Richert and Dale Canning each took over different roles and made it a great day to jam — thank you very much!

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR BLUEGRASS CD FOR RADIO AIRPLAY

This is addressed to any Bluegrass performer, album producer, album label executive and especially album designers.

I am writing from the perspective of a Bluegrass radio programmer. Let me first say that there isn't one of us who don't like getting your bluegrass music. Whether it's the first album you've ever made, or the fifty-first album you've made. We're just as excited about listening to whatever one it may be.

But . . . there are two areas of an album that need to be addressed. The first area is the actual CD package:

Every music library I have ever seen files their albums vertically. Therefore, to be properly filed, the CD package should be a full thickness jewel case. An exception would be a full thickness cardboard package. In any case, you must have the artist name and the album title on the edge of the package, preferably with the top edge of the type adjacent to the front of the CD, so it's visible when the album is on edge on the shelf. The very slim cardboard, or plastic CD cases are a disaster in most radio library systems.

The second area is what information is needed on the backside of the album.

- A - Each track must be numbered!!!**
 - B - Each track must have a title. (Duh!)**
 - C - Each track must have its running time listed!!!**
 - D - All track information must be easily readable.**
- Please use contrasting type and background colors!!!**

All of the above are equally important. Neither A, B, C or D should be left out. The last thing a programmer needs to do is have to count down the track title list (with no numbers) to put the right track number into the CD player; but equally, if not more important, is the track running time. When a programmer picks up a CD, he looks at the front cover to see what album he's picked up and then immediately turns it over to see what songs are on it. At that point he must be able to see how long each track is . . . without having to put it in the CD player or some other machine. If that information is not there, he will undoubtedly put the album aside...probably never to pick it up again.

The other information you put on that card is also important . . . who the record label is, what year it was published.

Another increasingly important item is an email address for the record label. We DJs would sometimes like to send you our playlists, but we sure don't have the time to do internet searches for the band's website, if they even have one. Some bands now only have Facebook pages . . . and they don't usually list email addresses.

So please, please, please . . . to make sure your music gets played on the radio, make sure the items I've listed above are part of your album design. It will definitely help radio programmers play your music. After all, that is part of the grand plan . . . isn't it?

Thank you,
Darwin Davidson

"Bronzewound" Bluegrass, Thursday, 8-10 PM
WERU-FM 89.9 Blue Hill, Maine
Now webcasting at www.weru.org
e-mail: <bronze.darwin@weru.org>

Archives Report 3/20/18

This report is very special for me because a 20-year project is finally coming together.

As long as I've been involved with bluegrass music I've collected posters of shows. Around 1998 I began to collect and organize anything bluegrass in Maine and felt that the BMAM should have a library of sorts, a collection of items that chronicle the history of bluegrass in our state. I started an official BMAM archives committee and, with our personal archives donated to BMAM as a base, began to spread the word that all were invited to donate items.

Since then, Maine blue grassers have donated many, many items. I began to think about the possibility of sharing what we have on the BMAM website. Nice idea, but the concept was too much for me to implement on my own. Enter my friend Darwin Davidson, a professional photographer. When I told him of my dream he volunteered to take pictures of any items we had. Nellie and I made an appointment to meet him at his studio in downtown Dear Isle. We spent a couple days taking photos. We also created categories and a numbering system.

At that time, our website could not hold that much information so the decision was made to make a Facebook page for displaying the archives until we had the capacity to have them displayed on our site.

We made several trips back over a ten year period. Last month, 2/20/18, Darwin informed me that all the pictures, over 1,300, were all cropped and cataloged. He then downloaded all into a thumb drive that was sent to our webmaster Cyndi Longo who is now uploading to the BMAM website.

The Maine Country Music Hall Of Fame Museum has gracefully offered to store our archive collection at the museum. They have a room with chairs and the means to listen and see CDs, cassettes, tapes, records, performances, etc. You can take the tour and see, surprisingly, many Maine bluegrassers that have been inducted over the years. We are working on a corner of one room that will be dedicated to Maine bluegrass history.

Next week Nellie and I will return to Darwin's studio to photograph a box of items from the last year or two. You see, it never ends, because every day gone by is history. I would like to thank Darwin for his professional expertise and gracious diligence, Nellie Kennedy, Al Hawkes for his guidance, the BMAM board of directors, Bob and Grace French, Bernie Coombs, Bruce Milliard, Wayne Smith, MCMHOF Museum and, of course, the many dozens of folks who donated items over the years.

Joe Kennedy



**BUCKDANCER'S
CHOICE**
MUSIC COMPANY

248 St John Street
Portland, ME

WWW.BUCKDANCERS.COM



50th Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival

June 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17, 2018
Litchfield Fairgrounds - Litchfield, Maine

Blue Highway (TN).....S
Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper (IN)...T
Dave Parmley & Cardinal Tradition (TN)F
The Little Roy & Lizzy Show (GA).....S
Danny Paisley & Southern Grass (PA)....F
The Dave Adkins Band (KY).....S
Zink & Company (MA).....S
The Misty Mountaineers (ME).....T, F
Tony & Heather Mabe (SC).....F
The Baker Family (MO).....W, T
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 Hollowell 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 Hollowell 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 Hollowell Rd. travel 2.5 miles
6. Turn left onto Plains Rd.

Gate Opens 8:00AM (Sunday) June 10, 2018

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/Visiting Without Weekend Ticket - \$10

Daily Show Prices Per Person Payable At Gate Only:

Wed - \$15, 6PM-9PM
Thurs - \$20, 4PM-9PM
Fri. 10AM-9PM - \$35, After 5PM \$25
Sat. 10AM-9PM - \$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 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2018

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

JUST ASK...

DON'T MISS THESE GREAT BANDS...



The Gibson Brothers, NY

Saturday, July 28

Chris Jones & The Night Drivers

Mile Twelve, MA

The Bluegrass Diamonds, NB

Zink & Company, MA

Blistered Fingers, ME

The Misty Mountaineers, ME

MORE BANDS TO BE CONFIRMED SOON!

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 - \$30 (\$20 after 5) Sun - \$10

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

Camping without Weekend Pass - \$10 nite Dogs - \$10 weekend



PALMYRA PRODUCTIONS LLC

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

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



**Field Pickin'
24 Hours a Day**

For Additional Info: visit www.countybluegrass.com Call Stev 207-227-6242 / email stev@countybluegrass.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 30, 31, September 1 & 2, 2018

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

★ ★ ★ **Exciting 2018 Line-up** ★ ★ ★

The **EARLS of LEICESTER**
presented by **Jerry Douglas**
FRIDAY

BALSAM RANGE
SATURDAY

LONESOME RIVER BAND
FRIDAY

SIERRA HULL
SATURDAY

DAVID DAVIS
& The **WARRIOR RIVER BOYS**
SATURDAY

LEROY TROY
& The **TENNESSEE MAFIA**
JUG BAND
SUNDAY

The **FEINBURG BROTHERS**
SATURDAY

WILSON BANJO CO.
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

» TICKETS «

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 ~

"At the Gate" ONLY

THURSDAY only \$30
FRIDAY only \$55
SATURDAY only \$55
SUNDAY only \$50

The **GIBSON BROTHERS**
SUNDAY

HOT RIZE
40th ANNIVERSARY TOUR!
SATURDAY

LARRY SPARKS
& The **LONESOME RAMBLERS**
SUNDAY

SISTER SADIE
SUNDAY

TWISTED PINE
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

The **PO' RAMBLIN' BOYS**
FRIDAY

MILE TWELVE
SUNDAY

The **SLOCAN RAMBLERS**
FRIDAY

The **BLUEGRASS UNIT**
THURSDAY

SHOWCASE BAND COMPETITION! THURSDAY, August 30th

Open to all interested Bluegrass Bands.
Advanced Registration and Selection required.
Featuring Showcase Alumni - Twisted Pine,
and the 2017 Showcase winner, The Bluegrass Unit!

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Thursday "Cash Bingo", Thursday Night Dance,
Late-Night Performances, Artist Workshops,
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



51st Blistered Fingers 51st Family Bluegrass Music Festival

August 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26, 2018
Litchfield Fairgrounds - Litchfield, Maine

The Gibson Brothers (NY).....S
Ralph Stanley II & Clinch Mtn Boys(VA)T
Nothin Fancy (VA).....T, F
BLUE MAFIA (IN).....F, S
The Bluegrass Brothers (VA).....W, T
Bluegrass Diamonds (NB).....F, S
Remington Ryde (PA).....S
Zink & Company (MA).....F
The Douthwrights (NB).....F
The Feinberg Brothers (NY).....W
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

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6. Turn left onto Plains Rd.

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Daily Gate Times Are 8:00AM-10:00PM

Ticket Prices Per Person:

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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
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263 Trafton Rd.
Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 873-6539
blist-f@blisteredfingers.com



www.blisteredfingers.com

YOUR Labor Day Weekend Festival...



August 30, 31 and September 1 and 2, 2018

119 West Limestone Rd. Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742

An AWARD WINNING LINEUP...



Balsam Range, NC



Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers, OH

Junior Sisk & Ramblers Choice, VA

The Little Roy & Lizzy Show, GA

Jeff Scroggins & Colorado, CO

Carolina Blue, NC

Zink & Company, MA

Bluegrass Tradition, NS

Blistered Fingers, ME



Ticket Pricing

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*Field Pickin'
24 Hours a Day*

PALMYRA PRODUCTIONS LLC

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





www.MaineBluegrass.org

*Your source for
Bluegrass information!!*

*Please check your membership status!
Thanks!*



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 to get your newsletter via postal mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Newsletters are sent by email.

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

* * * * *

Member received: _____ membership card _____ welcome letter _____ sticker

Payment type: check or cash