

AL HAWKES

(December 25, 1930 - December 28, 2018)

In 1995, Al appeared on a Portland radio station for an interview and mentioned that Maine needed a bluegrass music association. Interested volunteers immediately called the station and a steering committee was formed. In the following months, the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine was born and incorporated as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit entity. BMAM would not be here but for the passion and energy of Al Hawkes and we will miss him. Following is a brief summary of Al's accomplishments - they are too many to mention in this short article.

Allerton "Al" Hawkes, a true Bluegrass Music Pioneer, passed away on December 28, 2018 at the age of 88, just three weeks after his wife, Barbara passed. He was born December 25, 1930 in Providence, RI, and moved to Westbrook, ME with his family at the age of 10.

His father introduced him to hillbilly music by installing a long radio antenna that would pick up WWVA, WCKY and other southern radio stations. In the late 1940's Al built a pirate radio station and started broadcasting at 1210KC on the AM dial. After being contacted by the FCC in 1949, Al's father insisted that he shut down the radio station.



Around 1947, Al met Alton Myers, who shared his love of the early hillbilly records. Soon after, they formed the Cumberland Ridge Runners, the first and only known interracial country music duo. They appeared live on radio stations in Lewiston and Portland until 1951. Many of those early radio transcriptions were preserved by Al and in 2010, Bear Family Records released a recording called *Black White and Bluegrass: Allerton & Alton*.

In 1951 Al was drafted into the military and served in the Maine National Guard, based in Tripoli, in northern Africa. He was a DJ on Armed Forces Radio where he performed for the troops and learned how to use recording

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Barbara Leona Hawkes

(July 17, 1932--Dec. 3, 2018)



WESTBROOK - Barbara Leona Hawkes, 86, passed away at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House on Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The daughter of Maurice and Gladys (Keeler) Keene, she was born in South Portland on July 17, 1932.

She grew up in Westbrook and attended Westbrook schools.

While living in Westbrook she developed a crush on a boy who lived in the neighborhood, Al Hawkes. One day he invited her to go fishing with him and she caught all the fish. Al loved chasing her around the dam and pushing her into the water. When she was a teenager she told him "I'm going to marry you someday" and after they were grown; the two were wed in 1952. When she married Al, they started Hawkes TV repair shop and then opened Event Recording Studio. In 1990 when they closed Hawkes Television and The Sound Cellar, Barbara went to several positions, learning many skills that were helpful when she decided to run for City Clerk of Westbrook, which was an elected position at the time. She was elected and served as the City Clerk for 14 years retiring at 75.

Barbara attended many bluegrass music festivals over the years with her husband Al of 66 years and was an integral part of the BMAM southern jam in Buxton. Al passed away just a few weeks after Barbara on December 28, 2019.

They are survived by her daughter Darleen "Dar" Doughty and her husband John of Windham.

In Memoriam - James Chard

Past BMAM President & Board Member

The Bluegrass Music Association of Maine mourns the passing of another former Board Member and President (1997-2000), Jim Chard on January 15, 2019.

Jim was an accomplished songwriter and musician who won many awards. Jim was a veteran, having served in Vietnam, and many of the songs he wrote were influenced by

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Al Hawkes - continued from page 1

equipment. When he returned home from the service, he went to broadcasting school in Boston, obtaining his First Class Broadcast License.

After receiving his Broadcast License, Al, along with his wife Barbara, opened a retail television and stereo business next to their home at Hawkes Plaza on Route 302. They operated this business for 35 years. You will recognize the location by the iconic 13 foot tall statue of a walking TV repairman with a swinging arm that Al built in 1962. The Maine Historic Preservation Commission has determined that the sign is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1956, Al, his wife Barbara, and partner Richard Greeley, formed Event Records, an independent bluegrass/country/rockabilly music recording company. The historically significant artists they recorded included Dick Curless, Hal Lone Pine, Charlie Bailey, Lenny Breau, Curtis Johnson, and the Lilly Brothers with Don Stover and many others. Event Records closed in 1962 when the warehouse of its Boston distributor was destroyed by fire and thousands of records were lost.

All the original recording equipment from Event Records Studio was purchased by Todd Hutchisen of Acadia Recording Company in 2013. The studio is located in Portland, ME.

Al was an award winning mandolin and guitar picker, and a tenacious promoter of bluegrass music in Maine. Al released many recordings over the years. His last CD, released in 2014, was called *I Love the State of Maine*. Many of the songs were penned by Al and reflected his deep affection for the city of Westbrook and Maine.

In more recent years Al was a regular at Lenny's Pub located at Hawkes Plaza, sitting in with many different musicians and always enjoying it. Lenny's is owned and operated by Bill Umbel, BMAM Charter Member and current Vice President.

He received many awards during his musical career including being a member of both the Maine Country Music Association Hall of Fame and America's Old-Time Country Music Hall of Fame in Iowa; he was honored by the International Bluegrass Music Museum in Kentucky as a first generation bluegrass pioneer.

A documentary was made in 2010 by Andrew Jawitz called *The Eventful Life of Al Hawkes* and was aired on the Maine Public Broadcasting Network.

In the year prior to Al's passing, he worked with Mike Boucher of Sonic Pictures to produce a DVD called *Maine Icons*. Sonic Pictures did all the video production work. The DVD has a history of the Walking Man which includes some Hawkes' family history as well as video of Al's 2011 performance with the Nighthawkes and guest Sean Mencher at the Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival. The DVD is available for sale at Lenny's Pub.



~ Submitted by
Nellie Kennedy

James Chard - continued from page 1

that experience. He also wrote songs that expressed his deep sense of humor such as "The Ballad of Grandpa and the Turkeys" that won the National Comedy Song of the Year in 2014. In 2006, he was named New England Songwriter of the Year. Jim performed in the band Windy Ridge, with BMAM's current President, Beth Revels for over 20 years. The band won several first place Gold Medals, including for Jim's original song "Invitation" in the National Veterans Creative Arts competition performing in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Durham, North Carolina; and Jackson, Michigan.



Jim will be missed by the Bluegrass community who will remember his many performances at bluegrass festivals, picking parties, and in intimate circles of friends and family. He shared so much of himself with us.

The link to his obituary follows:

<https://www.brackettfuneralhome.com/obituaries/James-Chard/>

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BMAM has lost some dear friends this winter. In December Barbara Hawkes passed away. She was always helping out at the Southern Jam in Buxton and always helping her husband Al Hawkes who passed away just weeks later. As many of you know Al was the catalyst for getting BMAM started. He was a good friend and mentor to me and many others over the years. When I opened my March issue of Bluegrass Unlimited I was surprised and disappointed that Al's passing was not included in the Life's Highways section of the General Store. I turned the page to find a well written story about Al Hawkes and his contributions to Bluegrass music. Thank you, Nathan Gibson, for honoring Al with a comprehensive look back on his many talents and accomplishments.

In January Jim Chard, our past president and board member and long-time friend, passed away. While Jim was being cared for in his hospital room our current president and Jim's band mate, Beth Revels, was struggling in a room just two doors away. Fortunately, Beth pulled through and she is recuperating well. All this on top of losing board member George Scott last spring. I'm thankful for the privilege of knowing and working with all those wonderful people that passed on. I learned from each one and I miss them dearly.

The winter weather has been hard on BMAM also. We had to cancel two board meetings due to snowstorms.

Chairman Report - continued on page 3

Chairman Report continued from page 2

Through it all we have made steady progress on some important business. Our Eastern and Northern Jams continue to draw a healthy number of people. Our membership continues to grow. Our quarterly newsletter is timely and packed with great stories and Maine bluegrass information. Our instrument loan program is up and running. Our website is well run with a great calendar for performers to post their events and a link to the archives page that houses hundreds of photos of Maine's bluegrass history. Members now have the option to receive newsletters via the internet. Our booth at both Blistered Fingers and Thomas Point Beach festivals is popular and worthwhile.

Besides the monitoring and continuous work on all of the above we are working on future projects such as new memberships and renewals online using Paypal. Board member Patty Thompson is compiling a list of ME bluegrass bands with band info and contacts for venues and individuals booking entertainment. We have discussed the possibility of another BMAM Jam and a future benefit show.

Of course, all this takes people power. If you, as a member, take pride in what BMAM has accomplished and like the direction we are headed and would like to help we would be delighted to have you working with us in any capacity you can offer.

Besides people power BMAM also needs money to operate. We are very careful with the money generated by your memberships, jam fees and merchandise sales. We balance that with all our expenses. As in most budgets, we know there can be unexpected costs so we try to maintain a certain amount of money just in case. How much is left is what we have to fund whatever new projects we are working on.

BMAM is a 501-C non-profit run entirely with volunteers. Donations are tax deductible and we would certainly appreciate any donated amount. I thank all of you that continue to renew your memberships. Please share your newsletters and suggest to your friends to join BMAM. We value your support.



Joe Kennedy

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello Bluegrass Friends,

Spring is finally here (if only on the calendar). It's a great time to get ready for the bluegrass festival season! Each year at this time, I vow to learn 5 songs that I can bring to a picking circle this summer.

There is only one Eastern Jam (April 7) and one Southern Jam (April 14) left for this season. A BMAM Jam is a great place to try out a new song and meet some great folks, as well as playing the great bluegrass songs we all know and love. A special thanks to Nora Krainis from the Southern Jam in Yarmouth and Joan Richert from the Eastern Jam in Brewer for another great season of jams! And thanks to all those who volunteer and help make the jams successful.

During the summer the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine sets up a booth at various festivals where folks can find out about the organization, sign up for a membership, or pick up a BMAM hat or T-shirt. We welcome all of you to come by and volunteer to man the booth at any place we are set up. Come by and sign up to sit at the booth for an hour or two; we appreciate any time a member can volunteer to be the face of BMAM. If you are interested in being in charge of the booth, by bringing the merchandise, tent and table to any festival, please contact any board member.

If you are in a band, we encourage you to list your gigs on our BMAM website calendar at "mainebluegrass.org". There is an online form, just enter all the details, and let us help you get people to your shows!

On a personal note, I have met so many good people through BMAM. The first person I met after hearing a call on the radio to start this organization was Al Hawkes, who was instrumental in starting BMAM. I am saddened by the recent death of Al, and also his wife, Barbara Hawkes. They opened their home to the first Steering Committee meetings where several of us helped to start BMAM. I am also sad to let you know that past BMAM President Jim Chard passed away in January. I met Jim, who I would play in Windy Ridge with for 22 years, at the Roost in Buxton where we held our jams for many years. Because of BMAM and the jams, my life has been enriched by meeting and playing with friends new and old at our sponsored jams.

BMAM has helped run the Kids Academy at the Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festivals for many years, and we are looking forward to working with the kids again this season. All members are encouraged to join with board member Dale Canning and me to spend a few hours during the weekend to work with these enthusiastic young musicians who sign up to play on stage during the festival. It's very rewarding and lots of fun!

Yours in Bluegrass,
Mama Beth Revels

For Sale 1958 J-50 Gibson Guitar

Bought new in 1958 by Bob Murray

Sold to current owner, Stan Hallett in 1963

Call (207) 685-0945 for info.

BMAM OFFICERS

President: Beth Revels
brevels@mainebluegrass.org

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Treasurer: Robert Bergesch
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Darwin Davidson
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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 9
Dexter, Maine 04930



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 9
Dexter, Maine 04930

Advertising Rates

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

Stan Keach to be inducted into the Maine Country Music Hall Of Fame!

Breaking news: Just before this newsletter went to print we were informed that our editor/board member Stan Keach has been voted into the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame. Stan will be inducted on May 19th at the Silver Spur, 272 Lewiston Road in Mechanic Falls. Please consider joining Stan with his family and friends to celebrate his achievement. A dinner is served at 12:00 and the ceremony and show start at 1:00. The cost for dinner and show is \$25. Show only is \$10. Reservations can be made up to May 11. Please call 795-1119. While there you can tour the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame Museum.

Congratulations Stan!

-- Joe Kennedy

BMAM Membership Fee Increase

BMAM basic Membership fees have not changed since our founding in the 1990's, while costs, as we all know, have steadily increased during that time period.

So we have reluctantly decided to raise our Membership fees, effective June 1, 2019. These new annual rates are:

Solo: \$15

Duet: \$20

Any Memberships initiated or renewed *prior to June 1* will be transacted at the current rates. Any Member wishing to renew *and extend a current* Membership prior to June 1 may renew at the old rates, with the new renewal annual period to be added to the unexpired portion of the current Membership period.

In a few weeks, we hope to be able to take new and renewed Membership transactions directly on our website: www.mainebluegrass.org. Look for it on our website!

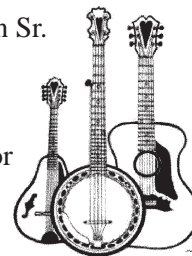
BMAM NEW & RENEW MEMBERSHIP 12/12/18-03/12/19

NEW

Cynthia Longo
Dan Hastings
Guy & Marion Thivierge
Maurice & Maxine Belanger
Sam Pfeifle
Ted Danforth
Tom Feeley

RENEW

Alfred Doane
Bud & Elizabeth Godsoe
Cass Gilbert
Cheryl Wiggin & Jim Henderson
Darwin Davidson
David Berry
Deborah Cross
& Henry Thomson Sr.
Don Poulin
Jay & Leslie Dientes
Joe Alex
John & Madelin Taylor
John Wallace, Jr.
Mark Wiley
Pat Averill
Patty Kempton
Ralph W. & Marion Stanley
Robert Norton
Sandra Corey & Lee Stinchfield
Sheldon Stewart & Sharon Cook
Stan & Liz Keach
Susan Murray

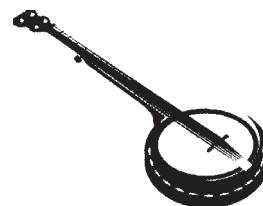


VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

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
- help with Children's BG Music Program at Blistered Fingers Festivals





52nd Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival June 20, 21, 22 & 23, 2019 Litchfield Fairgrounds - Litchfield, Maine

The Gibson Brothers (NY).....S
Danny Paisley & Southern Grass (PA)....F
The Little Roy & Lizzy Show (GA).....S
The Baker Family (MO).....T, F
Dave Adkins Band (KY).....F
Zink & Company (MA).....F, S
The Kevin Prater Band (KY).....T
Dreamcatcher (TN).....T
Third Harmony (NB).....F, S
Robinson's Bluegrass GospelSun
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 16, 2019
Daily Gate Times Are 8:00AM-10:00PM

Ticket Prices Per Person:

- Thur - Sun 4 Day Advance: Before February 1st \$52**
Thur - Sun 4 Day Advance: Before April 1st \$80
Thur - Sun 4 Day Advance: Before June 1st \$85
Thur - Sun 4 Day Advance: At Gate \$90
Elec Hookups \$35/Entire Stay - Dogs \$10/Entire Stay
Early Bird Camping Sun-Wed \$10/day per camper
Guest/Visiting Sun-Wed - \$10/Person per day
Children 16 & under Free with adult
Rough camping Free Thur-Sun with Weekend Tickets
Camping/Night Without Weekend Ticket - \$10

Daily Show Prices Per Person Payable At Gate Only:

- Thurs - \$20, 3PM-9PM**
Fri. 10AM-9PM - \$35, After 5PM \$25
Sat. 10AM-9PM - \$35, After 5PM \$25
Sunday Gospel Sing & Jam - Free, 9AM-10AM

*All Weekend Tickets may be purchased on-line or send
a self-addressed stamped envelope & check to:*

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

BLUEGRASS AT ITS BEST...

AT County Bluegrass

JULY 25, 26, 27 and 28, 2019

119 West Limestone Rd. Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742

JUST ASK....



DON'T MISS THESE GREAT BANDS...



The Po' Ramblin Boys, NC

Saturday, July 27

Little Roy & Lizzy, GA

Carolina Blue, NC

Kristy Cox, TN

The Family Sowell, TN

Blistered Fingers, ME

Zink & Company, MA

Third Harmony, NB

The LaClaire, ME



More Details Coming Soon!!!

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



Field Pickin'
24 Hours a Day



53rd Blistered Fingers 53rd Family Bluegrass Music Festival August 22, 23, 24 & 25, 2019 Litchfield Fairgrounds - Litchfield, Maine

The Gibson Brothers (NY).....S
Lonesome River Band (TN).....F
Junior Sisk (VA).....T
The Po' Ramblin Boys (TN).....T, F
The Bluegrass Brothers (VA).....T, F
Bluegrass Diamonds (NB).....F, S
Zink & Company (MA).....F, S
Back Woods Road (ME).....T, F
Robinson's Bluegrass Gospel (MA).....Sun
And Your Host Band:
Blistered Fingers (ME).....S

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Day Parking - 2422 Hollowell Rd., Litchfield, ME
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Thurs - Sun 4 Day Advance: Before August 1st \$85
Thurs - Sun 4 Day Advance: At Gate \$90
Late Hookups \$35/Entire Stay - Dogs \$10/Entire Stay
Early Bird Camping Sun-Wed \$10/day per camper
Guest Visiting Sun-Wed - \$10/Person per day
Children 16 & under Free with adult
Rough camping Free Thurs-Sun with Weekend Tickets
Camping/Night Without Weekend Ticket - \$10

Daily Show Prices Per Person Payable At Gate Only:
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Fri 10 AM-5 PM - \$35, After 5 PM \$25
Sat 10 AM-5 PM - \$35, After 5 PM \$25
Sunday Gospel Sing & Jam - Free, 9 AM-10 AM

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Greg & Sandy Cormier
263 Trafion Rd.
Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 873-6539
blis-fg@blisteredfingers.com



Emcee - Sandy Cormier
Sound by - Blistered Fingers

Kids Academy

Indoor Bathroom Facilities!

Free Hot Showers!

Extra Large Tent Provided

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EXCESSIVE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

ALLOWED IN CONCERT AREA

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DOORS SCOOPING MUST BE USED

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Not responsible for accidents or lost,

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Electric Hookup
\$35 Your Entire
Stay!



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

www.blisteredfingers.com



The Ossipee Valley Music Festival July 25th-28th • South Hiram Maine

Featuring: Billy Strings,

The Gibson Brothers: Country Show,

Davina & The

Vagabonds,

The Po Ramblin Boys, The Quebe Sisters

The T-Sisters, Dusibowl Revival,

The Brothers Brothers,

Twisted Pine, Mile Twelve,

Joe Walsh Grant Gordy & Danny Barnes,

Alison DeGroot & Tatiana Hargreaves,

The Mammals, Lakou Mizik, Kinan Azmeh

Roots & Bluegrass Music, 4 stages, workshops,
barn dances, craft beer & libations, yoga, kids ac-
tivities & music lessons & more! Kids are free.

The Ossipee Valley String Camp July 21st-25th South Hiram Maine

4 days of lessons, jams, and workshops with stars
in bluegrass & roots education:

Bruce Moisky, Joe Walsh, Danny Barnes,
the members of Mile Twelve, Miss Tess, & more!
fiddle, cello, guitar, banjo, ukelele, bass,
mandolin, singing, songwriting includes
farm to table meals, yoga, and a ticket
to the Ossipee Valley Music Festival!

2019 camp will sell out. Get your tickets now!



Bluegrass Radio Shows in Maine

BLUEGRASS ON THE RADIO & WEB from PORTLAND, ME

BLUE COUNTRY

WMPG - 90.9 FM/104.1 FM ^a 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 • Monday 12 Noon - 2:00 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

Sandy River Outdoor Weddings & Events

Proudly Presents

The 2nd Annual Bluegrass Music Festival At
The Sandy River Music Barn
Saturday, August 10th 2019

Where Friends & Family Meet!



1-8 PM
RAIN OR SHINE
** EXTRA LARGE TENT **
HARD, DRY AREA FOR RV PARKING
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS



FEATURING:
Blistered Fingers (ME)
Zink and Company (MA)
Back Woods Road (ME)



Emcee - Sandy Cormier Sound by - Blistered Fingers

From the North or South

In Augusta
Take Exit 112B to Rt 27 North
Go to the end & take left on Rt 2
Go 0.8 miles & turn right on Rt 134
Go 4.6 miles to the Music Barn

Directions to the Music Barn
GPS Directions:
1005 ME 134
Starks, ME 04911

SORRY-NO SMOKING. PETS, COOLERS OR EXPOSED ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED IN THE CONCERT AREA.

PETS MUST BE ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON FESTIVAL GROUNDS & POOPER SCOOPERS MUST BE USED!
Anyone appearing to be intoxicated, acting abusively, immodestly dressed or causing trouble will be removed from the premises and no refund will be given. We reserve the right to refuse anyone admission.

No campfires (except in above ground fire pits), bicycles, ATVs or personal golf carts allowed.

Sandy River Outdoor Weddings & Events is not responsible for accidents or lost, stolen or damaged property.



Gate Opens 9am - 8pm Friday for RV's
Gate Opens Saturday at 8 am

Ticket Prices Per Person

Advanced Tickets: Before August 1st, 2019 \$15
Tickets at the Gate: \$20
After 4pm: \$10
Early Bird Camping \$10/day
Electric Hookups \$10/Entire Stay
Dogs \$10/Entire Stay
Children 18 & Under Free w/Paying Adult
Overnight Camping \$10/Night
Guest/Visiting Friday - \$10/Person per Day

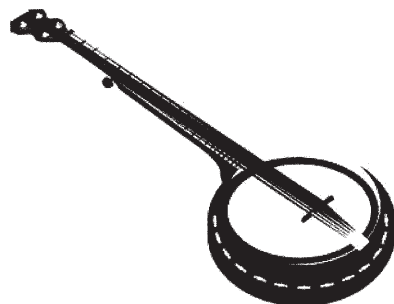
Advanced Tickets may be purchased on our website
Using a credit card or Pay Pal

If you prefer to pay by check you may:
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Sandy River Alpacas, LLC

Mailing Address:
Kendall Hanna & Marie Ring
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★ ★ ★ Exciting 2019 Line-up ★ ★ ★

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BEFORE 4/1 \$155

BEFORE 8/1 \$160

4-DAY "AT THE GATE" \$165

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& the SOUTHERN
GRASS
SUNDAY

The GRASCALS
SUNDAY

The LONELY
HEARTSTRING BAND
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

VOLUME FIVE
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PRESS RELEASE...For Immediate Release**Thomas Point Beach has been bringing Bluegrass to Brunswick Since 1979****The Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival celebrates a 40 year history on Labor Day Weekend**

Brunswick, ME- March 12, 2019 — The Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival celebrates 40 years of music and memories this summer, continuing a Labor Day tradition on August 29, 30, 31, and September 1, 2019. The Festival was first established in 1979 by Pati Crooker, of Brunswick, Maine, with the goal of bringing traditional Bluegrass Music to the Mid-coast region. Since its inception, the Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival has hosted nearly 300 of the best bands in Bluegrass music on its historic stage, including fan favorites, internationally renowned acts, Bluegrass legends, and up-and-coming new talent.

The Bluegrass Festival was born out of Pati Crooker's desire to bring quality, family friendly programming to Thomas Point Beach, the business that was begun by her parents in 1956. Pati was only 11 years old when the Crooker family turned the recreational property into the "Family Fun Spot". Harry C. Crooker, Pati's father, bought the land with the goal of providing a safe, clean facility for young and old to enjoy time together in the outdoors. By 1979, Pati was fully committed to managing the growing day park and beach, and she was seeking events that could help support and sustain the daily operations. In an article from Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine in 1999, Crooker explained, *"I just tried the idea of a festival to help support my existing business and try to supplement the income from the day park. People told me I could never make any money at it, that festivals don't make money, but you have to love it to do it. The festival did help keep the park going, and eventually I found I truly loved it. It's like having friends come over to spend the weekend with me."*

The Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival ran for 30 successful years, earning a reputation for being one of the nation's best managed and family-friendly festivals, and was highly acclaimed for its attention to detail and consistent show quality. Pati's commitment to excellence culminated in winning the 2007 International Bluegrass Association's Event of the year in Nashville. The festival went on an indefinite hiatus in 2008, as Pati took time off to focus on her family, but the people still came to camp and the music still played on Labor Day weekend, stage show or no stage show. These "non-festival" years proved the life of the event was so much bigger than the line-up on stage, so in 2011 Pati, this time with the support of her son Michael Mulligan, brought the event back re-branded as the "Bluegrass Special" Long-time festival associate Shari Elder, remembers her saying, *"They are coming anyway, we might as well give them a show."*

The "Bluegrass Special" continued for several years to draw in friends old and new to hear the high lonesome sounds of the bluegrass genre like it had never missed a beat. In her 2015 program book, Pati quoted Bill Monroe, known as the Father of Bluegrass Music: *"Bluegrass has brought more people together, and more friends than any music in the world. You meet people at festivals and renew acquaintances year after year"* Pati and Bill shared a close friendship and Mr. Monroe played the festival 4 times over the years. Pati believed in his words, and it showed in the special touches she brought to her event, such as the "Welcome Home" sign at the gate and hand-written notes thanking patrons for their attendance. She considered the staff, musicians, and guests all part of one big family, and the festival was the like her annual family reunion. In 2015, Pati enjoyed every second of what she may have suspected would be her last Bluegrass Festival, as she worked the whole season while battling cancer. That year's show was like no other, and Pati spent as much time as she could enjoying the friends and music she loved in the place closest to her heart.

In June 2016, Pati lost her life to cancer. That Labor Day weekend a "Celebration of Life" was held in lieu of the festival to honor her life and legacy, and music played on during a beachfront service, a stage show, and throughout the camping groves as people shared their stories and memories. With love and support from so many, the decision to keep the tradition going seemed obvious, and in 2017 the next generation took up the torch. Michael, his wife Jennifer and Shari Elder decided to bring

back the popular event with the help and support of long-time festival associate Jenna Summers, family and dear friends.

After two successful years under this team, the Thomas Point Beach Festival prepares to celebrate 40 years of new and old traditions. In the touching words of one festival goer, the event is described- *"Awesome time listening to great music, hanging out with great people, playing at the beach and all in a wonderful place. Before 2018 it had been 10 years since I attended the festival. The world is not the same place it was 10 years ago and I am not the same person I was 10 years ago but somehow this festival is still just as great 10 years later."*

The 2019 show continues a well-established format, with the stage show mixing regional favorites with Bluegrass legends and award winners, as well as incorporating both traditional and the contemporary styles. The event kicks off Thursday with the Showcase Competition featuring six outstanding up-and-coming bands, playing for a cash prize and a place in the Main Stage Lineup. The evening will be headlined by two past Showcase Winners, *The Lonely Heartstring Band* (2013 winner) and *Beg, Steal, or Borrow* (2014 Winner) and the show will close with a performance by *Della Mae*.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday feature an incredible lineup with a 12 hour stage show that runs from 10 am to 10 pm.

The complete lineup of performers is available at the event website www.thomaspointbeachbluegrass.com. Some highlights of Friday's performers include 2019 Grammy nominee, *Sister Sadie*, 2018 IBMA Entertainers of the year *Balsam Range*, and 14 time Grammy winner *Béla Fleck* with *Abigail Washburn*.

Entertainment is what the Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival is about and on Saturday the 2016 Grammy Winners, *The Steeldrivers* will bring their gritty vocal harmonies and fiery instrumentals to the stage! *Special Consensus* will play music from their 2019 Grammy nominated album "River & Roads", and the night will end with the aptly named "Queen of Bluegrass," *Rhonda Vincent*, who will join her band *The Rage* on stage both Saturday and Sunday. All time festival favorites, *The Gibson Brothers* will close the main stage show for the weekend on Sunday evening joining traditional favorites *Larry Stephenson*, *Danny Paisley*, and *The Grascals*, along with many others throughout the weekend.

The Main Stage is only part of the story with a complete lineup of instructional and artist workshops, family activities, guided jams, food and merchandise vendors, and after-hour sets rounding out the festivities. Watch for announcements to be made in coming months regarding additional celebratory events to mark the 40th anniversary.

Music starts at 1 pm Thursday, and 10 am Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The full line-up is available on-line. When the stage show is over, the best is yet to come, with the acoustic performances by the fire and under the stars and the best field picking anywhere!

Advanced Tickets are now available for a discount at thomaspointbeachbluegrass.com. Weekend tickets include camping. Children under 12 years of age are FREE and Teens (13-16) Pay 1/2 the Adult Rate with an adult. Please call or visit the website for complete event information and policies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL
THOMAS POINT BEACH 207-725-6009
EMAIL bluegrass@thomaspointbeach.com
or Visit the Web: www.thomaspointbeachbluegrass.com**

**Information provided by Thomas Point Beach,
207/725-6009 or bluegrass@thomaspointbeach.com
Photos available at
<https://www.thomaspointbeachbluegrass.com/press-information/>.**



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