



**Bluegrass Music
Association
of Maine**

Summer 2020

Bluegrass Express

a publication of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine

OFFICIAL NOTICE: BMAM ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

The BMAM Annual Meeting will be held on October 21, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Kennebec Valley Community College, 92 Western Avenue, Fairfield, Maine.

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

The BMAM elections are held in September. The ballots will be sent out on September 21st, and must be returned within 14 days. Ballots postmarked after October 5, 2020 will not be counted. Election results will be reported at the October Annual/Board Meeting.

We are always looking for new board members. If you're interested in serving, please contact Chairman Joe Kennedy at jkennedy@mainebluegrass.org, or (207) 277-3733, or contact any current BMAM board member.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE IS FORMING

BMAM is creating a
Bylaws Committee.

A review and update is needed,
and we need **YOU**.

Legal experience a plus,
ANY member is welcome.

*Please contact Nellie at
bmam.secretary@gmail.com*



The Pandemic's Effect on Bluegrass Music in Maine

by Stan Keach

The COVID-19 pandemic has virtually brought live music of all genres to a halt all across the United States. The Bluegrass music community in Maine has certainly felt the pervasive effects of the virus, and will continue to feel the effects for the next few months, at least.

Some of the biggest (not bluegrass) musical festivals in the nation (Lollapalooza, Coachella, JazzFest) have been cancelled until, at the earliest, spring 2021. Many or most big-time rock and country bands have canceled their 2020 summer tours, often rescheduling them for summer 2021. Other major artists have downscaled their schedules drastically, playing only a few of the shows originally scheduled for summer 2020.

Not as much detailed information is available about Bluegrass festivals and band tours; many Bluegrass movers and shakers are still operating on a "wait and see" basis. They can do this because huge, huge money isn't involved, and they may feel like they must hold out as long as they can because they are at risk to go broke or suffer serious financial harm if things don't go well for them.

As it is, almost all Bluegrass Festivals scheduled for April, May, June, and July 2020 have been canceled. There will be no Bluegrass Festivals in Maine until at least August, 2020. Let's now review the status of Maine Bluegrass Festivals in detail.

MAINE BLUEGRASS FESTIVALS (Already Canceled)

June 18th - 21st — Blistered Fingers June Festival — Canceled

July 23rd - 26th — County Bluegrass Festival — Canceled

July 24th & 25th — Ossipee Valley Music Festival — Canceled

August 7th & 8th — Sandy River Bluegrass Music Festival — Canceled

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER MAINE BLUEGRASS FESTIVALS (Latest News)

August 21st - 23rd — Family & Friends Bluegrass Festival, Palermo — Canceled

August 28th & 29th — Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival, Litchfield — Still on, tentatively

Sept. 3rd - 6th - Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival, Brunswick — Still on, tentatively

Sept. 3rd - 6th - County Labor Day Bluegrass Festival, Fort Fairfield — Still on, tentatively



Chris Moore at 317 Main, wearing pandemic mask for a performance.

Continued on page 2.

The Pandemic's Effect on Bluegrass Music in Maine

Continued from front page.

OTHER NEW ENGLAND/NEW YORK BLUEGRASS FESTIVALS (Latest News)

July 6th - 12th — Basin Bluegrass Festival, Brandon VT — Canceled
 July 9th - 12th — Busy Bird Bluegrass Festival, Berkshire NY — Canceled
 July 23rd - 26th — Brantling Bluegrass Festival, Sodus NY — Canceled
 July 23rd - 25th — Danby Olde Country & Bluegrass Festival, Danby, VT — Still on
 August 6th - 9th — Podunk Bluegrass Festival, Goshen, CT — Canceled.
 August 20th - 23rd — Pickin' in the Pasture, Lodi, NY — Still on, tentatively
 September 3rd - 5th — Rhythm & Roots, Charlestown, Rhode Island — Canceled

MAINE AGRICULTURAL FAIRS AND VARIOUS SUMMER EVENTS

Maine has put a legal limit on crowd size at outdoor gatherings. This changes periodically, but remains (and will likely remain) at numbers far fewer than outdoor events usually have, and certainly hope for.

Three-fourths of Maine's State Agricultural Fairs (historically good venues for Bluegrass) have been canceled for 2020; most of the others are fall events and may yet cancel for 2020. The same is true for Maine's many LobsterFests, ClamFests, and similar events. July and August events have mostly been canceled. September and October events have not made a final decision yet.

MAINE BLUEGRASS JAMS

Both the Eastern Jam and the Southern Jam canceled their March and April jams. Both jams plan to open in the fall, but it remains to be seen when that will happen and what it will look like. Please keep checking the BMAM website and Facebook page for updates on the BMAM jams.

LIVE MUSIC VENUES

Almost all Maine live music venues have been closed in April, May, and June. A few are beginning to open up and host live music, with strict limits on seating. A few venues are experimenting with live streaming music events. Some venues, such as Bigelow Brewing Company in Skowhegan, have outdoor show areas, and will have live music scheduled soon; however, in the event of rain, the music will be canceled. 317 Main Street Music School in Yarmouth has been hosting a number of weekday early evening outdoor concerts and open mics. Go to their Facebook page for more information. Some outdoor gazebo concerts are beginning to hold concerts; some have canceled their season; and some are undecided as of July 1st.

LIVE MUSIC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Many bands/performers are using Facebook and YouTube. Erica Brown & Bluegrass connection, Darlin Cory, Town Mountain, Kruger Brothers and many more are performing online live to reach their fans and try to bring in some revenues. Please try to watch and support them.

If you are a Bluegrass performer please let BMAM help you promote your shows on social media by posting on our website calendar of events and you are welcome to share on our BMAM Facebook page.

SINGING AND COVID-19

If you Google "singing and COVID-19," you will discover there are many articles on this topic. I'm not a scientist; I suggest that all singers and music fans research this yourself. From what I understand, the act of singing can potentially project airborne particles much further than, say, speaking at a normal volume; at the other end of the interaction, singers usually breathe more deeply than people just standing there or speaking softly; and so the risk can be quite high for singers, and quite high for the audience as well. There have apparently been documented cases of entire church choirs becoming infected after rehearsals. It would seem that singing and listening to singers outdoors is safer than singing or listening to singers indoors. I hope Maine Bluegrass people will read up on this topic and take measures to stay safe.

When it comes to masks, Bluegrass musicians and fans should keep up to date on Maine CDC rules and recommendations. Of course, it's very difficult to sing while wearing a mask. I've heard of one venue that's dealing with the situation by booking instrumental music only, and asking the musicians to wear masks while performing. Perhaps some jammers will stick to instrumentals in the early stages of getting back to normal.

**FOR UPDATES AS THEY OCCUR,
VISIT THE BMAM WEBSITE**

**www.mainebluegrass.com
also on the BMAM facebook page.**

-Stan Keach, Editor



WR Custom Acoustic Guitars

515 McCrillis Corner Rd, Wilton ME 04294
 Shop: 207-778-9415
<https://wrcustomguitars.com/>

EASTERN JAM

We are still planning to hold the Eastern Jam starting this fall but the details and schedule will be subject to the requirements of the State of Maine CDC. Please keep updated by the information posted on the BMAM website and on Facebook. I am sure there will be some changes that we will make you aware of when the time comes. I am sure we are all looking forward to playing some music together. For many people, it has been a long dry spell of (Slim Pickings) in our music world. We hope to get back to, as much as possible, some measure of normal when we start again.

As many of you already know, Joan Richert will be stepping down from running the Eastern Jam after many years of dedicated service. Please reach out and thank her when you can. I will be taking Joan's place in running the Eastern Jam. I would like to reach out and ask for some assistance in running the jam. Please call me at 207-745-8869 if you can help me with the jam.

Thanks!
Dale Canning

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JUNE 2020

Hello friends,

I hope this issue of the Bluegrass Express finds you all well. In this unprecedented time, we are all wondering what's around the corner. As most of you know, many of our favorite Maine and New England bluegrass festivals are cancelled and/or postponed. My thoughts go out to our local promoters, who work tirelessly all year to bring us such great entertainment. You may want to support them if you are able. If you have already bought tickets, and you have the means, you may think about not asking for a refund, but donating them back.

Likewise, our thoughts go out to our favorite bands, most of whom have had their summer schedules almost entirely canceled. Please take the opportunity to catch an online concert and send a little support their way. Of course, some of our community is struggling and this is impossible, so kind words to our friends will be much appreciated as well.

As much as I will miss the great stage shows, I know I am not alone when I say I will miss seeing and picking with all of you. The social aspect of bluegrass music is so very important and cherished. If you know of any of our members who are home alone, please check in with them. Talking about bluegrass should cheer up anyone!

As of the time of this publishing, the August Blistered Fingers Festival and Thomas Point Beach are still scheduled. Any changes or festival information we receive will be announced on our webpage mainebluegrass.com and our facebook page.

The BMAM Board of Directors has stepped up into the 21st century, currently meeting online through Zoom (thanks Nellie Kennedy, Secretary!). We are forming a By-Law Committee to review and update certain sections surrounding the mail ballot processes, etc. Anyone interested in helping out is welcome; if you have any legal experience that would be a plus.

As you may have already realized, not being able to set up our BMAM booth at the festivals selling T-shirts, hats and memberships will result in a major revenue loss. So, if you have never renewed your membership online, we encourage you to do so. Of course, mail-in memberships are always welcome.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and picking together as soon as safely possible. As for me, I am using this time to work on a few new songs so I am ready for the next picking opportunity!

Stay Safe and Healthy !

*Yours in Bluegrass,
Mama Beth Revels*



Greg and Sandy Cormier
263 Trafton Rd
Waterville, Maine 04901
(207) 873-6539

E-mail: blist-f@blisteredfingers.com

Dear Friends,

After 53 festivals in 29 years, this is a first! It is with a broken heart and much disappointment that we have decided to cancel the 2020 June Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival. We know the high risk of the effects of the Covid-19 virus. The uncertainty of large gatherings even being allowed it is truly wise that we cancel. The health and safety of our supporters, performers, vendors, and our staff is very important to us. We are still in hopes that we will have the August 27-30, 2020 Blistered Fingers Festival- please keep checking the website for updates.

For the folks that have already purchased your tickets:

- 1) You can pay the difference and put it towards your August 2020 ticket.
- 2) You can keep your ticket and we will honor it for the June 2021 Blistered Fingers Festival. NO Matter what the price increase will be.
- 3) You can receive a refund or choose as many of you have already asked to donate to help cover our expenses that have already occurred. We would greatly appreciate it.

Please send us an email to blist-f@blisteredfingers.com and put Tickets in Subject. To let us know what you would like to do.

We will miss seeing you, but this is only a small sacrifice for the safety to all. Thank you for all the years of support and we look forward to seeing you August 27-30, 2020. Please stay safe, keep smiling and your toes tapping!

Love, Greg, Sandy & the Blistered Fingers Staff



55th Blistered Fingers 55th Family Bluegrass Music Festival

August 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2020
Litchfield Fairgrounds - Litchfield, Maine

Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver (TN).....F
The Gibson Brothers (NY).....S
Nothin Fancy (VA).....F, S
Dan Paisley & Southern Grass (PA).....T
The Kevin Prater Band (KY).....F, S
Zink & Company (TN).....F, S
The ATKINSONS (NY).....T, F
Back Woods Road (ME).....S
Robinson's Bluegrass Gospel (MA).....Sun
And Your Host Band:
Blistered Fingers (ME).....T

Emcee - Sandy Cormier
Sound by - Blistered Fingers

Kids Academy

Indoor Bathroom Facilities!

Free Hot Showers!

Extra Large Tent Provided

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

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

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

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

Electric Hookup
\$35 Your Entire
Stay!



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

DIRECTIONS TO FESTIVAL:

Camping - 30 Plains Rd., Litchfield, ME
Day Parking - 2422 Hallowell Rd., Litchfield, ME

FROM THE NORTH

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

FROM THE SOUTH

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

Gate Opens 8:00AM (Sunday) August 23, 2020
Daily Gate Times Are 8:00AM-10:00PM

Ticket Prices Per Person:

Thur - Sun 4 Day Advance: Before April 1st \$80
Thur - Sun 4 Day Advance: Before August 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, 4PM-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
(207) 873-6539
blist-f@blisteredfingers.com

www.blisteredfingers.com



Riffs & Rolls

WHAT'S GOING ON IN BLUEGRASS IN SUMMER 2020

Here are a Few Updates About What's Going on in the Maine Bluegrass Community this Summer.

ERICA SHIPMAN

2020 brings with it a new line up for Erica Brown & The Bluegrass Connection. Erica Brown (fiddle & vocals), Matt Shipman (mandolin & vocals), Lincoln Meyers (guitar & vocals) will be welcoming to the band Kris Day on Bass and vocals and Eli Gilbert on Banjo and vocals.

Kris Day has been a staple in the Portland, ME music scene for over 20 years playing bluegrass, jazz, rockabilly and everything in between. You may recognize him from the Jerks of Grass, King Memphis or King Day and his New Imperials. Eli Gilbert is a native of North Yarmouth, ME. Eli studied Bluegrass at East Tennessee State University, where he performed with the ETSU Bluegrass Pride Band as well as Jeff Brown and Still Lonesome. He teaches Roots Music and Jazz at Bates College and North Yarmouth Academy. He also offers dozens of Bluegrass banjo video demonstrations and transcriptions for aspiring banjo students, which can be found at www.eligilbertbanjo.com and on Patreon at <https://www.patreon.com/eligilbertbanjo>

If you'd like to be notified about future online concerts please LIKE our Facebook Page and/or SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube Channel. We also send out a monthly email letting you know about upcoming performances for the month. If you'd like to be on that email list you can sign up by simply clicking the JOIN tab at ericabrownonline.com.

Our next LIVE performance will be held outdoors at THE CONANT HOMESTEAD in Westbrook, Maine as part of the SACCARAPPA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES on Friday, August 14th at 7:00 PM. This concert series is contingent on, and in compliance with state mandates and conditions relative to Covid. There is plenty of space to spread out on the beautiful property. Bring a chair or a blanket and a picnic if you'd like. There is a \$10 suggested donation with all proceeds going to the musicians.

Stay safe, be well and we look forward to playing for you all soon!

Erica, Matt, Lincoln, Kris and Eli
www.ericabrownonline.com

LINCOLN MEYERS

I've started playing Sunday brunch outside at Gather in Yarmouth -- 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

I'm about to teach a class -- Flatpicking Fiddle Tunes for Guitar (teens and adults) at 317 Main Street in Yarmouth -- Wednesdays, 4:00 - 4:55 PM, starting July 8th. The class will be held under the Big Tent behind 317 Main. \$150 for 8 weeks. Call 317 Main Front Desk 207-846-9559 to register.

THE SANDY RIVER RAMBLERS

Julie Davenport is expecting a new little girl in mid-July. Dana Reynold graduated from Maranacook High School. Dan Simons is working a reduced but busy schedule at Borestone Mountain Resort. Bud Godsoe is gardening and working on the Fly Rod Crosby Trail up in the Madrid/Phillips/Rangeley area. Finn Woodruff is on the west coast teaching kayaking. Stan Keach is making videos and writing songs. And the band, the Sandy River Ramblers, has canceled all April, May, June, and July gigs. We'll make decisions about August and Fall gigs as we get closer to them.

DIRIGO EXPRESS!

Hi all from Dirigo Express! Like everyone else, our world has changed in regard to our music season in light of the pandemic. We finally had our first practice in over 2 months.

With the cancellation of all of the music events up until now, we have not seen much activity as a band. We are hoping that things will get back on track later this year. We have placed the recording of our first CD on hold for now as well.

We so look forward to returning to normal or learning what the new normal will be. We miss you all and hope everyone stays well and healthy during this time. Better Days Are Coming!

-- Dale Canning

KEN AND JANE BROOKS

Ken and Jane have not played out since February due to the pandemic, but they have recently confirmed an outdoor concert in Calais -- Music on the Green, July 14th, 6:30 PM.

MAMA BETH REVELS

Mama Beth's Radio Show, Mama's Midcoast Bluegrass, is on hiatus until further notice, as Bowdoin has suspended all shows during the pandemic for an undisclosed period of time.

-- Stan Keach, Editor

- BANDS AND FANS -
WANT TO INCLUDE YOUR NEWS
IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER?

Don't delay! Submit your information
today and beat the next deadline.

SEND IT TO:

skeach@mainebluegrass.org



YOUR Labor Day Weekend Festival...



JUST ASK....

September 3, 4, 5 & 6, 2020

119 West Limestone Rd. Fort Fairfield, Maine 04742



The Kody Norris Show



High Fidelity



Carolina Blue

An AWARD WINNING LINEUP...

The Kody Norris Show, TN

Carolina Blue, NC

The Family Sowell, TN

High Fidelity, TN

The Kevin Prater Band, VA

Chris Jones & The NightDrivers, TN

Zink & Company, TN

Blistered Fingers, ME

The LaClaire's, ME



Ticket Pricing

Advance Weekend Ticket: \$80 ('til July 31) Weekend at the Gate: \$85

Children 12 and Under – Free with Adult

Day Tickets: Thurs - \$15 Fri - \$20 Sat - \$30 (\$20 after 5) Sun - \$30 (\$20 after 5)

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

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

PALMYRA PRODUCTIONS LLC

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

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

CD REVIEW — STARRY SUMMER NIGHTS - ROCK HEARTS

Rock Hearts is a fairly new bluegrass band centered in Rhode Island, but one member of the band, Bill Thibodeau, was a key bluegrass musician in Maine for over 30 years (from the early 1980s until 2012), so I'm sure many Maine bluegrass fans have been anxiously awaiting the release of their debut recording project. I just got a copy of their new mini-CD (8 songs), *Starry Southern Nights*, and I've been playing it regularly on my car stereo for the past three weeks. It's really, really good!

Here's a slight disclaimer: Bill's a good friend of mine, and one of the eight songs featured on the CD is "Whispering Waters," co-written by Bill and me — so I'm prejudiced. However, without risk of embarrassment, I'll stick my neck out and say: if you like solid bluegrass music, you will like this album!

The lead singing is great — real bluegrass singing; the vocal harmonies are soulful, aggressive, and lovely; and the banjo, mandolin, and fiddle playing is very, very impressive throughout — punchy, daring and creative, slick as a smelt. All rhythm elements are outstanding.

Every band Bill has been involved with has been a good solid band, but to be honest, this project exceeded my expectations. I'd seen a couple of their videos online, and I thought: "Yeah, they're pretty good, like all the bands Bill has been in." But these guys have obviously been working it up. It feels like they've been playing these songs together for years (but still love playing them). Every instrumental break sounds natural and relaxed, but edgy, as well.

Joe Deetz is a cracker jack banjoist. Some fans may remember him from his days with Joe Val back in the 1990s. He's obviously a Scruggs-based traditionalist, but he gets some modern melodic runs in there, as well, and his timing is superb.

I don't think I'd ever heard the fiddling of Danny Musher before, but Liz and I were both immediately elated by his playing. His tone, timing, and creativity are undeniably great.

Of course I've always known about Bill's mandolin playing. In my opinion, Bill is among the top echelon of bluegrass mandolin players, period. On this album, he sounds wicked confident — like he's not trying to show off for other musicians, but just wants to make great music. Some of his licks are subtle and understated, but always exceptionally tasteful. Some of his licks just light it up.

Lead singer Alex MacLeod is a really good lead singer (and he wrote the well-crafted song "Starry Southern Nights"). I don't know where he comes from, but he sounds southern — solidly bluegrass all the way. Bill sings the tenor, Joe the baritone, and they sound like they've been singing together a long, long time (which they have not — they must have practiced a lot.)

The project was recorded at Dark Shadow Recording by Stephen Mougin, and technically everything is top-notch.

The album will be available on August 30 for downloads and CDs. The first single will be "99 Year Blues," with new lyrics by Maine's Ted DeMille. Other highlights include "Wake Up and Smell the Coffee;" penned by the great Bill Smith, one of Maine's all-time best bluegrass musicians.

I just learned that Rock Hearts is the subject of a feature article in the July 2020 issue of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. For more information and updates, check out Rock Hearts' Facebook page, or go to their website: rockheartsbluegrass.com, or email alexrmacleod4@gmail.com. Great bluegrass music by a band that features one of Maine's great bluegrass musicians, including 4 songs written or co-written by Mainers! This is an album worth hearing!

— Stan Keach, Editor



*Rock Hearts Band Members
pictured left to right:
Billy "BT" Thibodeau,
Rick Brodsky, Alex MacLeod,
Danny Musher, and
Joe Deetz's.
(Photo by Marla Stapleton)*

BMAM NEW & RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

12/01/2019 TO 03/05/2020

RENEWED

Wallace Warren
Ken & Jane Brooks
Jay Baas & Laurie Littlefield-Baas
John & Marilyn Taylor
Stan & Liz Keach

*Please
check your
membership
status!
Thanks!*



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 us at jams
- 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 Festival.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - SUMMER 2020

Joe Kennedy

This is the summer that we will never forget. The thought that there might not be any bluegrass festivals just breaks my heart. As a former festival promoter, I know all about the work that goes into planning & running one. I can also speak on behalf of musicians that play the festival circuit. The ripple effect hits many more people such as vendors, staff, local businesses, and, of course, us fans and pickers.

Our May board meeting was held from the comfort & safety of our homes through Zoom. We were chiefly concerned about our financial situation. Looking at our budget & knowing what we need to spend to keep the association afloat we found we can survive through 2020 and into the spring. Rest assured that the BMAM website will be there for you as well as our quarterly newsletter. The board will work on ways to raise funds throughout the year and into 2021.

If you are concerned and would like to help BMAM, please renew your membership when it expires. If it has already expired, please consider renewing. Another easy way to help is to donate by PayPal through our website. Also, every bluegrasser knows many other bluegrass fans & musicians. Consider a surprise membership for a birthday or any occasion. It's a nice way to help BMAM and please your friends and relatives.

BMAM's annual election of board members & president will happen this fall. See the notice in the newsletter with specifics. There are a few board/officer seats open if you or someone you know would like to serve a term. It is a good way to give a little back to your bluegrass community. Please let me know if you are interested and have any questions about serving.

I would like to thank members Joan & Eben Richert for successfully running the Eastern Jam at the Brewer Grange for the last several years. They, along with Grangers Sandra & Carl Moon, provided a nice space for pickers of all levels to jam every month, sign up & renew members, sell BMAM merchandise and delicious food. We deeply appreciate all their hard work. Board member Dale Canning has volunteered to oversee the continuation of the Eastern Jam. If you are interested in helping, contact Dale or me for information. Our hope is that the State guidelines will allow us to continue these jams in the fall.

During the past few months, with the cancelations of live shows due to the pandemic, many musicians are performing on social media to help supplement their income. I encourage you to watch some of these performances. We have enjoyed a number of them. Please watch, listen & donate what you can.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of a long serving former BMAM board member, Bubba Johnson. He dearly loved the music and worked long and hard to promote bluegrass music in our state. He was predeceased by his wife Jean who was the BMAM secretary for many years.

No one knows when this pandemic will end but I look forward to the day when we will once again enjoy festivals, live shows & picking parties. It will be fun to try out the new songs we've been working on. Please stay safe.

-- Joe Kennedy

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

September 3, 4, 5 and 6, 2020

Over FOUR DECADES of Bluegrass Friends and Family ... Experience the MAGIC!

★ ★ ★ Exciting 2020 Line-up ★ ★ ★

SAM BUSH
SATURDAY

**STEEP CANYON
RANGERS**
FRIDAY

**The GIBSON
BROTHERS**
SATURDAY

**JOE MULLINS &
The RADIO RAMBLERS**
SUNDAY

**CHRIS JONES &
The NIGHT DRIVERS**
FRIDAY

**HENHOUSE
PROWLERS**
FRIDAY

**WILLIAMSON
BRANCH**
SATURDAY and SUNDAY

TWISTED PINE
THURSDAY

The RUTA BEGGARS
THURSDAY and FRIDAY

BACK WOODS ROAD
FRIDAY and SATURDAY

» TICKETS «

CHILDREN UNDER 12 - FREE ... No Refunds
Line-Up Subject to Change

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

BEFORE 4/1	\$ 155
BEFORE 8/1	\$ 160
4-DAY "AT THE GATE"	\$ 165

ADVANCED 3-Day (F, S, S)

BEFORE 4/1	\$ 140
BEFORE 8/1	\$ 160
3-DAY "AT THE GATE"	\$ 150

2-Day - (Sat and Sun Only)

BEFORE 8/1	\$ 130
2-DAY "AT THE GATE"	\$ 135

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

Camping Included!!

for 2, 3 or 4-Day Ticket Holders

"Early Bird Camping"

8/29 - 9/2 ~ \$ 25 per night.
Electric + Early Bird Packages Available!

~ SINGLE DAY TICKETS ~

THURSDAY	only	\$ 35
FRIDAY	only	\$ 60
SATURDAY	only	\$ 60
SUNDAY	only	\$ 60

**The DEL McCOURY
BAND**
SUNDAY

**SHAWN CAMP &
FRIENDS**
FRIDAY

**The PO' RAMBLIN'
BOYS**
SUNDAY

**MICHAEL
CLEVELAND &
FLAMEKEEPER**
SATURDAY

CAROLINA BLUE
FRIDAY

**The BECKY BULLER
BAND**
SUNDAY

**ALAN BIBBY &
GRASSTOWNE**
SATURDAY and SUNDAY

HIGH FIDELITY
SATURDAY

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

BLUEGRASS UNIT
THURSDAY and FRIDAY

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Thursday "Cash Bingo", Guided Jams, Late-Night Performances, Intimate Artist Workshops and Meet and Greets, Daily Family 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, and Much More!

For more information and announcements, find us on Facebook or Online

thomaspoinbeachbluegrass.com

**GRAND
OLE
OPRY**

PRESENTS - IN PERSON
**BILL
MONROE**
AND HIS BLUE GRASS BOYS

And A Whole Stage - Full Of Your Favorite Radio & TV Stars

CLASSIC THEATRE
WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN 1 DAY ONLY
FRI OCT 28

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

A FEW OLD MEMORIES

The image of this Bill Monroe & His Bluegrass Boys 1955 Grand Ole Opry Concert Poster is from an original cardboard Hatch Show Print window card advertising bluegrass legend Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys in concert at the Classic Theatre in Watertown, Wisconsin on Friday, October 28, 1955. The poster is offered at Heritage Auctions www.HA.com for an undisclosed amount of money.

As Heritage Auctions reports this original concert window card was printed on cardboard by Hatch Show Print in Nashville, TN. Hatch was a prolific printer of concert posters in the 1940's - 1960's and beyond. They're also known as the one major printer who almost never credited themselves on their posters.

This is the only known existing specimen of this exact poster. Hatch did not keep one from every date on a tour, the storage would've been prohibitive. They were usually satisfied to keep just one or two different examples from any given tour. Most had a very small number written on the back to note the year, and were then quarter-folded down to fit into a file cabinet, which is how the company seemingly kept one example of every poster they printed. The posters were all opened up and flattened out decades ago, however, and usually the fold remnants have receded quite a bit into the background, not being very obtrusive. It's a welcome trade-off for the rescue of hundreds of historic concert posters which otherwise would've become completely extinct.



272 Lewiston Rd,
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(207) 795-1119

MUSEUM IS TEMPORARILY
CLOSED DUE TO PANDEMIC.

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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

••• UPDATE •••

MAINE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame canceled its Annual Hall of Fame Induction event, scheduled for May 2020. This year's members selections were Paul Main and Bucky Mitchell; the committee selection was Don Nickerson. They will be inducted in May 2021. The museum itself, located at the Silver Spur in Mechanic Falls, will not be open until further notice.

The Maine Country Music Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation & education of the rich cultural history of country music from the State of Maine. Bluegrass music is well-represented in the Hall of Fame membership. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to our non-profit organization to help us maintain and preserve our history. You can find a donation link on our Facebook page.

*"I'm a farmer with a
mandolin and a high tenor voice."*

Bill Monroe



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04011
1-207-725-6161

www.themusiccenter.net

<https://www.facebook.com/themusiccentermaine>

Make Some Noise Have Some Fun



Bluegrass Radio Shows in Maine



BLUEGRASS on the RADIO & on the WEB from BLUEHILL, MAINE

BRONZEWOUND

WERU-89.9 FM/104.1 FM (Blue Hill) 99.9 FM. (Bangor) www.weru.org

• HOST: Darwin Davidson • Thursday 8 - 10 PM

BLUEGRASS on the RADIO & on the WEB from BRUNSWICK, MAINE

MAMA'S MIDCOAST BLUEGRASS

**MAMA'S MIDCOAST BLUEGRASS BROADCASTS TEMPORARILY CANCELED - DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC,
ALL BOWDOIN'S COLLEGE RADIO IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

• HOST: Mama Beth • Monday 12:30 Noon - 2:30 PM

BLUEGRASS on the RADIO MONTICELLO, MAINE (AROOSTOOK COUNTY)

THE ROOTS OF COUNTRY

WBCQ KIXX - 94.7 FM

• HOST: Stu Fleischhaker, Layla Cantafio • Friday 6 - 8 PM; Sat. 6 to 9 PM; Sunday 12 Noon - 3 PM

BLUEGRASS GOSPEL SHOW

WBCQ KIXX - 94.7 FM

• HOST: Carl O'Donnell • Sunday Morning: 9 - 10 AM



Bluegrass Music Association of Maine

P.O. Box 9
Dexter, ME 04930
MaineBluegrass.org

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: _____

Volunteer Opportunities: (check if interested)

☐ S. Jam (Yarmouth) ☐ E. Jam (Brewer)

☐ Teaching ☐ Newsletter ☐ Festivals

Other things I can help with: _____



www.mainebluegrass.org
P.O. Box 9, Dexter, ME 04930

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

NEWSLETTERS ARE SENT BY EMAIL

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

☐ NO email? Check this box to get your newsletter via postal mail.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Solo \$15.00 Duet \$20.00

___ NEW ___ RENEWAL

FOR ADMIN USE ONLY

Member received: ___ membership card ___ welcome letter ___ sticker ___ db updated

Payment type: check or cash

REV: 2019-06-01