

Bluegrass Express

a publication of the Bluegrass Music Association of Maine

BAKED BEANS RECORDING STUDIO

by Jeff Trippe



Alan Bean, owner, operator, and engineer extraordinaire at Baked Beans Recording Studio.

Aside from those bands who took an unplanned and involuntary en masse hiatus from gigs and touring dates this past year, many recording studio owners and engineers in Maine also found themselves suddenly reckoning with disruptions to their schedules. Creativity - along with grit and patience - was critical to their survival.

Case in point: Alan Bean, owner, operator, and engineer extraordinaire at Baked Beans Recording Studio in Harrison. By the week of March 9th, 2020, Alan had closed his studio because of rising numbers of covid-19 cases in the northern US. I know this because Stan Keach and I were in the midst of recording *The Long-fellow Project* there, an album comprised of nine poems by the New England bard set to music that we had composed. On March 6th, Alan and I had chatted about tracks we'd done in late February, and I booked another session for March 21st. Alas, the studio would fall silent within days. Nonetheless, we chipped away, sending various tracks, information, wishes, and sage advice back and forth by WeTransfer and Dropbox. Of course, I missed the conversations I always have with Alan that stray far from the technical side of the things to our ideas about philosophy, religion, science, family, and so on, but I trust those discussions will be renewed sometime soon.

By the way, Alan is a practicing MD with specialization in occupational medicine, and when I expressed amazement in mid-February over lockdowns and school closings in Europe, he assured me: "All of that will happen here, too."

Continued on page 2.

NOT YOUR MOTHER'S BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL...OR IS IT?

by Laura Richardson

Thomas Point Beach, in Brunswick, can rightfully boast as being the premier bluegrass festival in New England. From its past awards such as "Event of the Year" by the International Bluegrass Music Association to hosting renowned artists such as Earl Scruggs to this year's main stage featuring Sam Bush and The Del McCoury Band, it's legendary. And that's only a tiny glimpse into the vast array of well-known talent and recreational activities and events that have been high points over the last several decades. Since its inception, TPB has hosted nearly 300 of the best in bluegrass acts on its historic stage, from old favorites to internationally renowned acts, to up-and-coming new talent. Further, 2019 marked 40 years of bluegrass music at the park and campground, on the beautiful Maine coast.

As notable as the variety of Bluegrass greats on stage, and the vast reach attracting international visitors from as far as Japan and the Czech Republic, is the rich history of the family who started the festival in 1979.

The literal "Mother" of invention behind the actual festival is Pati Crooker. Learning more about this creative entrepreneur, from her son and current 3rd generation campground owner, Mike Mulligan, gives a sentimental insight into a clever and forward-thinking risk taker which was his Mom. I recently sat down with Mike and his longtime adviser, co-promoter, and friend Shari Elder, to take a deep dive into the origins of the festival and find out how it all started. Shari Rapoza Elder started working at the festival with Pati, when she was only 16 in 1985 and Mike made his first appearance on stage before he was even a year old, in 1984!

Many in the Bluegrass community may not know it, but the Park and Campground itself has quite a history. Samuel Groves built the existing farmhouse on the property back in 1840, and in the early 1900's Ida Hambleton, a relative of Samuel's, inherited the estate.



Left to right: Harry C. Crooker, Pati Crooker, Michael Mulligan, Marion Crooker and Shari Elder



Left to right: Jen Wolf Mulligan, Michael Mulligan, Jenna Summers, Doyle Lawson, Pati Crooker-Mulligan and Shari Elder

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BAKED BEANS

Continued from page 1.

I don't think I believed him at the time, and then the school where I teach closed on Friday, March 13th and would not open again for seven months.

In any case, *The Longfellow Project* was released in May, and Stan and I were (and are) very pleased with the results. It's difficult to comprehend that that was over a year ago now. Apparently time flies whether you're having fun or not.

For you audiophiles, I will offer you a little teaser (and for the rest of you, I'll try and keep this short). Alan designed the studio himself, adjacent to his house on a remote ridge in Harrison that looks out at the White Mountains to the west. It is a wonder of sonic technology, with non-parallel, acoustically treated natural wood for interior walls that yield a "flat frequency response." There are two isolation rooms, and all rooms are networked and hardwired with underground conduit-run audio lines. The floors come with radiant heating - completely silent - and the walls are built using integrated concrete forms with a superior STC rating (for sound measurement and transmission). His gear is of the finest quality, including an Avid C/24 mixing console that supports 192 tracks and 16 Class A mic preamps. Nice joint.

Among the many things I look forward to doing way more of this summer (playing music with friends and for fine folks who might like to listen, attending performances by artists I love and respect, drinking a cold beer in a cheerful pub...) returning to Baked Beans Recording Studio is high on the list.

Wonder of wonders, it seems we're almost there.

**You can learn all about Baked Beans Recording by visiting
www.bakedbeansrecording.com.**

The Longfellow Project by Stan Keach and Jeff Trippe is available at Amazon and many other music retail outlets.



Lilly Brothers and Don Stover single recorded at Al Hawkes' Event Records, Westbrook, Maine

Dick Bowden's Maine Bluegrass Memories HOWDY TO MY

MAINE BLUEGRASS FRIENDS!

Who are the earliest bluegrass performers you can remember in Maine? Especially, Maine natives, doing their best to provide the bluegrass sound to their friends and neighbors. Of course there were some early New England performers who played in Maine too.

My memories date from the mid 1960s when I became a teenager. Although I never saw them in person, I became aware of what I think might have been the first Maine native bluegrassers: The Nonesuch River Boys. I don't know much about them, but I seem to remember some of them had some affiliation with the University of Maine at Orono. Possibly Alan "Mac" MacHale was involved? I remember as a kid being tickled to see an overpass on the southern Maine Turnpike labeled "Nonesuch River Road." For a long time I thought that's where that band must have lived!

Early bands that I DID see included:

- Danville Junction Boys
- Charlie & Jimmy & the Blue Mountain Boys
- The Prindall Family
- Tiny Martin (from New Hampshire)
- Bob & Grace and the Rainbow Valley Folks (who moved from Mass. to Maine permanently)
- Randy Hawkins and the Bluegrass Nighthawks (from Rhode Island)
- Roger Williams and The Country Cutups from Seekonk Mass/Providence RI (played at a club in Bangor and visited our home, they were GREAT!)
- Fred Pike and the Pike Family, or Fred Pike and Sam Tidwell and the Kennebec Valley Boys (first from Connecticut/Rhode Island, later Fred and Sam moved permanently to Maine)
- Apple Country (from Connecticut, a REAL good solid band; banjoist Dave Kiphuth now lives in Maine)
- Joe Val, Herb Applin and the Old Time Bluegrass Singers (renamed Joe Val & the New England Bluegrass Boys)
- Banjo Dan Lindner (from Vermont)
- Green Mountain Bluegrass (the Tyminski Brothers, Stan and Dan, from Rutland VT)

Although I never saw them, a Boston band that was a hit in the early 1960s was The Charles River Valley Boys with their LP "Beatle Country." The band included Joe Val on mandolin and Everett Lilly's son Everett Alan Lilly on guitar.

The Kings of them all were of course The Lilly Brothers & Don Stover, but I didn't get to see them play in Maine for many many years.

Continued on page 4.

NOT YOUR MOTHER'S BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL...OR IS IT?

Continued from page 1.

She developed the site as a summer recreational park, offering a dance hall, food services, and changing rooms for the modest beach. After that, the Brunswick Naval Air Station ran the park for a while, as well as the town of Brunswick.

In 1956 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Crooker purchased the 27-acre property, with one of the largest natural clam beds in the state of Maine, and continued to develop it. Running Thomas Point Beach was a whole family affair, involving Mr and Mrs Crooker, and all of their children. Their daughter, Pati Crooker-Mulligan, took over management of the site for her parents in 1972, and formally took over ownership in 1993, incorporating as Thomas Point Beach & Campground.

On a more personal note, I found that the most interesting aspect of the TPB Festival story is Mike's Mom, Pati. Mike's grandfather acquired the TPB property, as well as others, in an effort to provide continued work for his employees at his construction company, as well as to generously provide for his children, and eventually his grandchildren and future generations. In 1979 Pati decided she wanted to host concerts for the public, and tried rock and roll. After that didn't go over well with the neighbors, a high school girlfriend suggested bluegrass. Pati didn't even know what bluegrass was at the time, but was game, and immediately fell in love! After just a few short years in the industry, by 1982, the festival had featured a fly over by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, scored bluegrass legend Bill Monroe, and had hosted hot air balloons and a visit from Maine's Governor Joe Brennan.

In 1989 all "The Legends of Bluegrass" were there and in 1990, there were monkeys, yes - REAL monkeys! Pati was a force to be reckoned with when it came to the motivation to provide a top-notch event every year in a setting that rivaled any other for family recreation, fishing, special events and local color. Remarkably, Pati managed to profit \$3.16 the first year of the Bluegrass Festival. Doesn't sound like much - but most festivals spend years to get out of the red...she did it in the very first year!

Unlike any other location for hanging out and listening to world class bluegrass, or picking in one of several lively jam sessions ALL night long, TPB can boast of some of the most unique nature and tourism features Maine has to offer from Osprey to Oysters. Pati Crooker (AKA "Mom") was the brainchild behind capturing the magic of destination bluegrass camping.

In 2003, after Pati's mother Marion passed, a year or so after her father, she decided to stop holding the large festival. As part of that "last" festival, she lovingly gave each of her essential staff appreciation gifts and even buried a "time capsule" under the historic four faced Westminster Chime Clock on the property. It's still buried there today.

However, Pati just couldn't stay away from the bluegrass community, and the festival she had spent her life building, and she started up the festival again only a year later as a shorter event called a "Special" which quickly grew back into the full length 4-day festivals of yore. She just could not stay away! As she always said, "the show must go on!"



Michael Mulligan and Pati Crooker-Mulligan on stage at a Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival

When Pati passed away in 2016, a "Celebration of Life" was held for her on Labor Day Weekend, the festival weekend, bringing together the bluegrass community and family Pati had grown over the years. A beautiful beachfront service was held at the park, and several bands honored her memory on stage with music and many memories shared.

But the TPB Bluegrass Festival was more than just a show -- it was life, it was her life, and her family's as well. Because of that, in 2017, just a year later, her son Michael took a leap of faith, and with the support of his wife Jen, Shari, his family, and his bluegrass family, he continued his mother's legacy. "After my Mom passed away, after so many years of pouring her blood, sweat and tears into the festival, and our family helping, I HAD to keep the festival going. In my internal clock - each year is marked by the festival happening. It's been more a part of my life cycle than my birthday, or New Year's." He went on to say, "I also felt I needed to keep it going for our 'festival family' who comes back year after year."

Throughout the years, Pati gave many local teens, as well as her son Michael, their first jobs, and for many, one of their favorites. Like Pati, Shari, Mike, and his wife Jen, are a force to be reckoned with. They care deeply for the property, the festival, and the festival-goers they now call family. They, and a contingent of other long-time staff, have continued to honor Pati's legacy to make TPB an amazing experience for Maine visitors, and a place of pilgrimage for bluegrassers the world over. A few have been there since the beginning, including the Lunn family (all 3 siblings), and Jenna Goddard Summers, who are still a huge part of the event. This loyal bunch lovingly called Pati their "Summah-Mummah", and their love for the park, and her legacy, shows.

Pati was inducted into the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame this past year and Michael will be presented with that recognition on her behalf at this year's festival.

For more colorful & historic information about Thomas Point Beach Festival please go to: <https://www.thomaspoinbeachbluegrass.com/>

BLUEGRASS MEMORIES



Continued from page 2.

With my bluegrass buddies John Sanborn and Ty Searfoss (an instructor at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine) we used to drive down to Boston to see the concerts put on by the Boston Area Friends of Bluegrass and Old Time Music starting in the late 1960s/early 1970s. Seeing the Lilly Brothers and Stover in person was electrifying. They were the hard-charging REAL THING.

In the late 1970s I was working at the paper mill way Downeast in Woodland, Maine (Washington County) and I saw a poster for a bluegrass show held on the Passamaquoddy Indian Reservation near Princeton, Maine (at Indian Township) -- The Lilly Brothers! I couldn't believe it! I went and saw the show and it was really something. Turns out Everett Lilly's daughter had married a Passamaquoddy Indian man who'd gone to college in Boston, and they had moved back to the reservation! The whole thing was mind-boggling to me.

There was one other band in Boston that developed some notoriety in the 1960s but I can't remember their name. A key character in this band was a mandolin player from Canada -- New Brunswick or maybe Nova Scotia -- named Louis Arsenault. This band was reportedly REALLY good and a lot of tales were repeated about Louis and his bandmates. I'd love to know the name of that band!

If you can name more of the earliest bluegrass bands that would have been known in Maine, especially if they played at the Pine Tree State Bluegrass shows/jams at Bowdoin College, please mail them in to the newsletter for a future issue.



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More TBA...

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Carolina Blue

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The Kody Norris Show

The Kevin Prater Band

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REMEMBERING JEFF BOOMHOWER 1958-2020

By Denise Hervieux

Jeff made friends easily and believed life was having fun. Although a Vermonter through and through, Jeff was no stranger to Maine. He spoke fondly of childhood family vacations on Hermit Island, and more recently Jeff spent many summer weekends at Bluegrass Festivals in Maine.

You may have seen him dancing at White's Beach, Ossipee Valley, Thomas Point Beach, and Apple Acres. In addition to drawing us to the dance floor, Jeff attracted the attention of the "Bluegrass Police" while playing his drum in the campground jams.

While some may not miss his drumming, we will surely miss Jeff's warm smile, easy laugh, and adventurous spirit.

(Note: Jeff passed away in December 2020. This note of remembrance was accompanied by a monetary donation to BMAM in Jeff's name.)

IN MEMORY OF EDITH THIBODEAU

by Stan Keach

Edith Louise (Dwyer) Thompson Thibodeau, 85, of Cranston, Rhode Island, passed away on Mother's Day, May 9, 2021. Edie is fondly remembered by Maine bluegrass fans as the longtime wife of bluegrass legend Sam Tidwell (Warner Thibodeau), and as the mother of prominent Maine musicians Bill Thibodeau and David Thibodeau.

Edie was a fine singer as well, and often sang gospel songs onstage with Sam; she recorded a CD, "Edie Sings," as well. Sam and Edie hosted



Sam and Edie Thompson


an annual bluegrass festival in Cambridge at the Tidwell Farm in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Sam and Edie were chosen to be among the 250 "Pioneers of Bluegrass" in an exhibition at the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Owensboro, Kentucky.

Liz and I have so many fond memories of Edie. On many occasions, Liz, Sam and I would stop at the Tidwell farm at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning on our way back from a gig in Houlton, Presque Isle, or Blue Hill, and Edie would "throw together" a sumptuous meal -- perhaps chicken or Rhode Island clam cakes or an egg and sausage breakfast, home-grown vegetables, a delicious three-layer cake, and heaps of ice cream. Stuffed, Liz and I would then wend our way home to Rome.

At festivals, Edie would often go on stage during our gospel set and sing "In the Garden," with Sam singing harmony. She had a beautiful voice (and had studied classical singing with famed opera and popular vocalist Eileen Farrell!)

After Sam and Edie moved back to Rhode Island, we'd go down there to do a gig in Pascoag or Burrillville, and they were wonderful hosts. We always felt like family there. Edie's sense of humor was wry; Sam was funny, but Edie often "out-funnied" him. It's not a wonder that they got along so well for so long. And they did; among couples, Edie and Sam stood out for their undying devotion to each other.

Rest in peace, Edith.



I like for it to be mountain music or old-time country music or traditional bluegrass. Either one will fit me. It's traditional, basically.

Ralph Stanley

AZ QUOTES



55th Blistered Fingers 55th Family Bluegrass Music Festival August 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2021 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

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SORRY NO SMOKING, PETS, COOLERS OR
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ALLOWED IN CONCERT AREA
PETS MUST BE ON LEASH AT ALL
TIMES ON FESTIVAL GROUNDS
POOPER SCOPERS 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, A.T.V.'s, personal golf carts allowed!
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Electric Hookup
\$35 Your Entire
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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
3. Take Exit 51 (just after toll) for ME-126 to Litchfield
(signs for I-295 S/ME-126/Gardiner/Brunswick)
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 22, 2021
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 At Gate: \$90
Free Hookups \$35/entire stay - Dogs \$10/3 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
All Tickets Are Non-Refundable

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
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OFFICIAL NOTICE: BMAM 2021 ANNUAL ELECTIONS, BMAM BYLAW REVISION VOTE, AND ANNUAL MEETING

ANNUAL ELECTION & BMAM BYLAWS REVISION

The Bluegrass Music Association of Maine Annual Election to fill vacant Board seats and elect a President will be held this fall. Ballots will be sent out on September 20, 2021.

In addition to the vote to fill vacant Board seats and President position, you will also be voting on the proposed BMAM Bylaw changes. The proposed changes were reviewed by the Board of Directors at their February 2021 meeting and summarized in the Spring 2021 BMAM Newsletter for your review. No comments or questions have been received from the general membership. The current Bylaws and the proposed changes are available for review on the BMAM website at www.mainebluegrass.org under the heading Association Information/Bylaws. Also, for those not on the web, you can request a summary of the changes and/or current bylaws by emailing bmam.secretary@gmail.com or calling 207-277-3733.

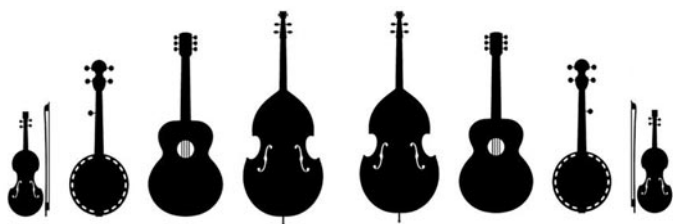
Note that the results of the Annual Election of the newly elected President, Board Members, and the BMAM Bylaw revisions will be announced at the Annual Meeting. The results will also be published in the 2021 Winter Newsletter, and posted on BMAM's website and face book page.

Please consider running for the open Board seats. If you are interested, please email bmam.secretary@gmail.com, or contact BMAM Chairman Dean Henderson at dhenderson@mainebluegrass.org or any BMAM officer / board member to express your interest.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Bluegrass Music Association of Maine's Annual Meeting will be held virtually this year on the Zoom platform, Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. The Board decided that again this year, given the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic, we would offer our members the opportunity to safely attend the Annual Meeting by using the virtual option.

If you would like to attend the Annual Meeting via Zoom, please email zoom@mainebluegrass.org to request the logon information and link at least 48 hours before the meeting to assure you receive the link in time.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - June 2021

by Joe Kennedy

This fall, after the BMAM elections of new board members and president, the board will vote in a new chairman. Last November, when I was again elected to lead our organization, I announced that this would be my last term. I have decided after six years of steady work, that I need to step down now and find myself ready to hand over the leadership.

I think this is a good time for change as we are in a strong position coming out of the pandemic and moving forward. I will stay on as a board member until the end of my term. The Board has voted Dean Henderson as temporary chair until the board votes in a permanent chair this fall. I'm grateful to Dean for stepping up to the job and I'm confident BMAM is in good hands.

...It has been an honor for me to serve as Chairman and I thank the board for all their hard work, time and support...

Dean is nearing his third year on the board and is a member of the election committee. He will be learning the ropes; making monthly agendas, writing chair reports and most importantly, staying on top of everything that we have going on and keeping it all moving forward in a timely manner.

I am very proud of what the board has accomplished during the past six years. BMAM is strong and growing stronger with a smart and capable board. It has been an honor for me to serve as Chairman and I thank the board for all their hard work, time and support. I look forward to seeing many of you members at a festival or show this summer.

2021 BMAM T-SHIRT



For this year's edition of the BMAM T-shirt, Stan Keach used the 2019 shirt, which featured a guitar, banjo, mandolin and fiddle, but Keach added, on the the back, a large drawing of an upright bass, reinforcing the idea that "The bass is the backbone of any bluegrass band."

The colors of the new shirt are also different from the 2019 shirt.

These shirts will be on sale at the BMAM tent at the Blistered Fingers festivals, the Ossipee Valley Festival, and the Thomas Point Beach Festival.

*Enjoy Bluegrass at its Best
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Shores of
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Maine!*

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SUNDAY

**CHRIS JONES &
The NIGHT DRIVERS**
FRIDAY

**HENHOUSE
PROWLERS**
FRIDAY

WILLIAMSON BRANCH
SATURDAY and SUNDAY

TWISTED PINE
2014 Showcase Winner
THURSDAY

The RUTA BEGGARS
2019 Showcase Winner
THURSDAY and FRIDAY

BACK WOODS ROAD
FRIDAY and SATURDAY

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

ADVANCED 3-Day (F, S, S)

BEFORE 8/1 \$145
3-DAY "AT THE GATE" \$150

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4-DAY "AT THE GATE" \$165

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SUNDAY *only* \$60

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SUNDAY

The GIBSON BROTHERS
SATURDAY

The PO' RAMBLIN' BOYS
SUNDAY

**MISSY RAINES &
ALLEGHENY**
Friday

**MICHAEL
CLEVELAND &
FLAMEKEEPER**
SATURDAY

The BECKY BULLER BAND
SUNDAY

**ALAN BIBBY &
GRASSTOWNE**
SATURDAY and SUNDAY

HIGH FIDELITY
SATURDAY

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

OLD ELEVEN
SATURDAY

SHOWCASE BAND COMPETITION!

THURSDAY, September 2nd

Featuring: Miners Creek, The Splinters,
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The Chicken Shack Bluegrass Band
and Stoneface Mountain Stringband

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Thursday "Cash Bingo", Late-Night Performances,
Artist Workshops, Guided Jam Tent
Daily Family Activities,
Sunday Morning Beachfront Service,
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Thomas Point Beach Offers

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

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By being a sponsor you will help to build a stronger, more vibrant future for BMAM. Donations to the Member Sponsorship Program will create an opportunity for increased participation in the Maine bluegrass community, relationship-building with bluegrass musicians and fans, and connection with new potential members.

WWW.MAINEBLUEGRASS.ORG



INTERIM CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION June 2021

by Dean Henderson

Hello everyone. I'm Dean Henderson, a banjo player, and I've been a member of BMAM since the early 2000s. I am nearing the end of my first term on the Board of Directors. The Board has voted me to serve as Interim Chair for the remainder of Joe Kennedy's term. I am looking forward to serving in that position.

First of all, I want to thank Joe Kennedy for all he has done for the Bluegrass Association of Maine. Also, thank you, Joe, for the leadership and guidance you have provided to me during my short time on the Board.

Five months into my term on the Board, everything changed. We went from meeting in person monthly to doing our business via ZOOM. We went through a summer and early fall of no festivals. Our 2020/2021 Jam schedule was cancelled. So, now here we are with a summer's worth of festivals ahead. We are ready to resume our monthly jams in the fall. It's a great time to take over as Interim Chairman.

The Board has accomplished a lot during the past year. We have significantly increased our Online/Social Media presence; we've made some overdue revisions to our by-laws, which you'll be voting to approve in our Annual Election this fall; and we managed to put on two very successful ZOOM "play-alongs" this spring with the help of some of our talented members.

The fund-raising committee has been working on an exciting project - "Play It Forward" - which you'll be hearing about very soon. There is a sneak preview in this newsletter. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of you this summer.

Remember, BMAM Jams will start up again in October!



Located at
272 Lewiston Road,
Mechanic Falls, ME 04256

To schedule a tour call:
(207) 795-1119



Bluegrass Radio Shows in Maine



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

ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL

WBFY-100.9 FM (Belfast Community Radio) AND www.belfastcommunityradio.org

• HOST: Resa Randolph • Wednesdays 5 - 6 PM & Thursdays 1 - 2 PM

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

BRONZEWOUND

WERU-89.9 FM (Blue Hill) AND www.weru.org

• HOST: Thursday 8 - 10 PM | Paul Anderson - Resa Randolph

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

MAMA'S MIDCOAST BLUEGRASS

WBOR-91.9 FM Bowdoin College Radio www.wbor.org

• HOST: Mama Beth - **STATION IS ON HIATUS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

BLUEGRASS on the RADIO MONTICELLO, MAINE (AROOSTOOK COUNTY)

THE ROOTS OF COUNTRY

WBCQ KIXX - 94.7 FM

• HOST: Stu Fleischhaker, Layla Cantafio • Friday 6 - 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 on the RADIO & on the WEB from PORTLAND, MAINE

HARDLY STRICTLY

WMPG-90.9 FM (Portland) AND www.wmpg.org - Bluegrass Americana, Roots Music

• HOST: Fred | Thursday 8:30 - 10:30 AM

MAINE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME REPORT

The promoters of two Bluegrass music festivals were 2020 inductees into the Maine Country Music Hall Of Fame Museum. Due to the pandemic the induction ceremony was canceled last year. The MCMHOF Board decided to present the awards during their respective bluegrass festivals this summer.

Sandy & Greg Cormier, promoters of the Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival, and Pati Crooker-Mulligan, who promoted Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival, will be honored for their induction in the Maine Promoter's category. Ken Brooks, MCMHOF Chairman, will make the presentation to Sandy & Greg at the August Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival. Joe Kennedy, MCMHOF Board Member and BMAM Board Member, will make the presentation to Mike Mulligan on behalf of his mom, Pati Crooker-Mulligan, at the Thomas Point Beach Festival in September.

Please join us in congratulating these 2020 Inductees. You can make an appointment to view their exhibits in Maine Country Music Hall Of Fame Museum located at 272 Lewiston Road, Mechanic Falls, ME by contacting Ken Brooks at (207) 654-2227 or Slim Andrews at (207) 795-1119.

ROCK HEARTS IBMA SHOWCASE

Congratulations to the band Rock Hearts and their mandolinist, Bill Thibodeau for being selected for IBMA Bluegrass Ramble as an Official Showcase Artist. Bill grew up in Maine and played in several Maine bands over the years, including Bluegrass Supply Company.

The IBMA Bluegrass Ramble Official showcase series is the premier platform for introducing talent and new material to the bluegrass community. Thousands of bluegrass fans fill six venues throughout Downtown Raleigh over three nights to catch the newest in bluegrass music. FMI: <https://worldofbluegrass.org/ramble/>



BMAM BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAMS

are expected to resume in
OCTOBER 2021

Check the BMAM website or Facebook page
for details as they develop!

www.mainebluegrass.org



BMAM NEW & RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

03/01/21 - 05/31/21

NEW

Arden & Shellie Williams
Clay Jackson
Dana & Eileen Green
David Estes
Doreen & Frank Kimball
Elizabeth Luckraft
Glenn Kroll
Jane & Pete Peterson
John & Nora Krainis
John & Sharon McKusick
Raymond & Rose Libby

RENEWED

Pat Averill
Glenn Bowman
Ken & Jane Brooks
Larry Corbett
Deborah Cross
Henry Thomson Sr.
Ted Danforth
Darwin Davidson
William Donahue
Theresa Winchester
Bob Forrest
Maurice Grafton
Bob Heiser
Stan & Liz Keach
John & Nora Krainis
Glenn Kroll
Jay & Laurie Littlefield-Baas
Andrew McLaughlin
Susan Reeder
Steven A. Roys
Wade & Donna Smith
Ralph W. & Marion Stanley
Nanci Stein
John & Marilyn Taylor
Guy & Marion Thivierge
Mark Wagy
Steve Williams



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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





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