



The Old-Time Times

JANUARY 2006

A Publication
of Your
Nashville
Old-Time
String Band
Association

UPCOMING
ASSOCIATION
EVENTS



Thursday
January 5
Slow Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
[Two Rivers
Mansion](#)



Thursday
January 12
Regular Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
[Buchanan
Log House](#)



4th-Sunday Jam
January 22
2 PM to 6 PM
[Buchanan
Log House](#)

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Alan Jabbour and Ken Perlman to Appear in Nashville

Alan Jabbour, fiddler and dean of the old-time music revival, and Ken Perlman, the banjoist who backed Alan on his most recent CD, will perform in Nashville **on January 28 (not January 18)** as was previously published in *The Old-Time Times*.

The concert will take place from 7 to 9 PM at Ron and Diane Ault's home, 309 Canberra Court, Hermitage, Tennessee 37076.

Prior to the concert (2 to 5 PM), concurrent fiddle and banjo workshops will be held.

An old-time jam session will follow the concert.

The concert is \$15, and the workshops are \$40, **with all proceeds going to the artists**. The jam session is free.

For more information, go to www.rondiane.org, or call Ron and Diane at 615-884-8074. □

Preparations Continue for Breakin' Up Winter

Breakin' Up Winter, 2006, promises to be another great old-time music festival. It is scheduled for March 2 though 5 at Cedar of Lebanon State Park, near Lebanon, Tennessee.

Along with the usual "everywhere jam sessions," our guests will include Charlie Acuff, Tennessee's senior old-time fiddler; Mike Seeger, one of old-time music's icons; Ron Pen, fiddler and Appalachian music scholar; Timothy Reynolds, a master in the field of sacred harp singing; Chrissy Davis-Camp, Middle Tennessee's best known dance caller; Jim Griffith, an expert and lecturer in the world of folk arts; Roby Cogswell, a fine musician and Tennessee's director of Folk Arts; and Dan Knowles, champion banjoist and instrument designer.

For more information on BUW, go to www.nashvilleoldtime.org. Most of the important facts are available there, but you may also request that the BUW flyer be mailed to you. (Continued on the next page.)

If you are willing to help with the festival, contact Darlyne Kent at dkent@davidsonacademy.com or at Shamrock1@mindspring.com.

Correction: The BUW flyer recently mailed recommends that you call ahead to reserve camp site space, but the park does not make reservations. Camping and trailer hook-ups are first-come, first-served. Don't be discouraged. Last March, almost none of the spots were taken. □

Notsba Explores New Sites for Its Regularly Scheduled Jams

As you may have noticed in the Association Events box on page 1, we in Notsba are going to try holding our Slow Jams (1st Thursdays) and Regular Jams (2nd Thursdays) at sites other than Stratford High School.

January's first-Thursday Slow Jam will be held at Two Rivers Mansion. The second-Thursday Regular Jam will be held at the Buchanan Log house. January's 4th-Sunday Jam will also be held at the Buchanan Log House. *Please note that January has five Sundays this year. Unlike most months, the 4th Sunday is NOT the last Sunday.*

If you know of a good location for our jams, please e-mail Don Kent, our president, at dkent@nashvilleoldtime.org, or call him at 615-868-9951. □

Directions to the Jams

The Slow Jam on Thursday, January 5, at [Two Rivers Mansion](#) (Nashville 37214):

From the south or east of Nashville, take I-40 East to Briley Parkway North (State Route 155).

Exit Briley Parkway at the Two Rivers Parkway Exit, taking Two River's Parkway East.

Continue to McGavock Pike, and take a left (north) on McGavock Pike.

Go about ¾ mile on McGavock Pike, past McGavock High School.

Two River's Mansion is at 3130 McGavock Pike, the first driveway on the left past the high school.

From the north or west of Nashville,

Take Briley Parkway East (State Route 155) and exit at Two River's Parkway. Then follow the directions given above.

The Regular Jam on Thursday January 12, and the 4th-Sunday Jam, January 22, at the [Buchanan Log House](#) (Nashville 37214): (These directions are from Map Quest.)

From more or less the center of Nashville, take I-40 East.

From I-40 East, take the Donelson Pike Exit 216C, and merge onto Donelson Pike (State Route 255)

Go 0.8 mile on Donelson Pike and turn Right onto Elm Hill Pike.

Go 0.5 mile to the Buchanan Log House at 2910 Elm Hill Pike. □

Old-Time Music Wins New Friends

~Patsy Weiler

Several recent developments indicate a growing interest in old-time music.

MTSU has actually launched a one-hour credit course in Old-Time String Band Ensemble.

Appy State in North Carolina has announced a minor and graduate studies in Appalachian music and culture.

There was a considerable amount of interest and performance of old-time banjo and other forms of old-time music at the International Bluegrass Music Association convention this past October.

An interesting new Web site has appeared on the Internet. It is full of interesting banjo information, a lot of it in Europe, and it is long. Most likely, it will take several sittings to read it all. In spite of it's title, it also deals with old-time banjo. Go to www.internationaljazzbanjonevents.blogspot.com. □

James Bryan and Daughter Rachel Go on Tour in 2006

~Alana Stewart

James Bryan is considered by many to be the best traditional Southern fiddler playing today. In 2006, he and his daughter Rachel Bryan, on guitar, will be touring.

James Bryan began playing the fiddle at the

age of eleven. He was encouraged by his father, an old-time musician and guitarist from Boaz, Alabama, who taught him his first tunes. They played at local radio stations, dances, and fiddle conventions.

James won the Tennessee Valley Old-Time Fiddle contest the first time at age sixteen, and he won the award again three years later. After high school, he moved to Muscle Shoals, Alabama, to fiddle with Rual Yarborough's Bluegrass band.

By 1973, James had moved to Nashville and was playing with several different bands. For a time he filled in for Kenny Baker with Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys.

From 1978 though 1985, he toured and recorded with Norman and Nancy Blake as part of the Rising Fawn String Ensemble, providing tastefully brilliant fiddle work.

He continues to play festivals, concerts, dances, fiddle camps, and workshops. James is well-known for his unique Southern-style fiddling and his interpretation of traditional fiddle tunes.

As a recording artist, he has performed on numerous albums with other entertainers and has recorded several critically acclaimed fiddle albums of his own. He is an Alabama Council of the Arts Heritage Award winner and a member of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

James' most recent musical collaboration keeps him closer to home. He now performs regularly with his daughter, guitar player Rachel Bryan.

For two consecutive years Rachel has been awarded a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to continue her study of old-time music. Like her father, she is self-taught and possesses an amazing ear and a fierce, steady rhythm. Additionally, Rachel performs with her father in the esteemed company of masters like mandolinist Mike Compton and guitarist and composer Russ Barenberg.

James Bryan remains one of old-time music's favorite fiddle players. His feel for the grace and timing of old-time music, is virtually without equal. □

Editors Note: We will attempt to keep you informed when James and Rachel schedule performances in our area.

The Old-Time Times and **The Charlotte Folk Calendar to Collaborate**

Recently Wanda Hubicki, editor of the Charlotte (North Carolina) Folk Society's *Folk Calendar*, and Phil Sparks, editor of *The Old-Time Times* agreed to exchange information for the benefit of all.

The Folk Calendar is sophisticated newsletter that is typically more than ten pages long. It covers not only old-time music, but includes Bluegrass and Celtic topics and events—as well as the arts in general. The following article by Harry Taylor was taken from the *Folk Calendar*. □

What is Hetzler's Fakebook?

~Harry Taylor

How does that tune go? As a musician on both banjo and mandolin, I am constantly exposed to tunes I don't know—but would like to learn. The Charlotte Folk Society supports a wonderful resource, a music-related Web site at www.hetzlersfakebook.com.

It is a terrific tool! The site has over 495 old-time and Celtic tunes available in audio, tab, and sheet music. All the music can be downloaded using free audio software.

The greatest benefit is the ability to slow the tune without changing the key, and to change the key without changing the tempo. What a marvel! Give it a try. □

Macon Doubler Scholarships Awarded

The winners of the Macon Doubler Scholarships have been announced. The results were extremely close, and we wish there were the funds in the account to award all of the applicants a fellowship.

The winners for this year are:

Shelly Graham, dulcimer

Greer Kimbell, fiddle

Patsy Weiler

Chair, Macon Doubler Fellowship □

Hosts Needed for 2006 4th-Sunday Jams

Please e-mail Darlyne Kent (dkent@davidsonacademy.com) to schedule your home for a 2006 4th-Sunday Jam. □

A Penny Learned

The tune most of us call “Ebenezer” is, according to Alan Jabbour, also known as “West Virginia Highway” and “Alabama Girls Give the Fiddler a Dram.” Still, Alan’s preferred title seems to be “Ebenezer.” □

Correction to December’s Issue of *The Old-Time Times*

In last month’s issue, the article about Mars Hill was mistakenly attributed to Pam White. It was actually written by **Pam Hightower**. We at *The Old-Time Times* sincerely regret the error, and we apologize to Pam Hightower.

If you discover errors in our little paper, please let us know about them.

Please Contribute to Your Newsletter!

If you have information you want to submit, or if you have ideas for improving the newsletter, contact Phil Sparks.

If you are willing to review a CD or a book, contact Phil Sparks. If you don’t contact him, he will contact you!

If you have a tidbit on picking, learning tunes, caring for instruments, etc, please submit it for the “A Penny Learned” article.

HELP!!!! If you know about an upcoming old-time music event, don’t assume that we already know about it. If it’s not posted on our Web site (www.nashvilleoldtime.org), we need the information desperately. ***Please help us keep our old-time community informed.***

You can reach Phil at:

kpsparks@msn.com

or

615-797-4356

or

2020 Claylick Road

White Bluff, TN 37187

The *submission deadline* for *February’s*

newsletter is *Sunday, January 29*. □

Editor’s Note: The articles in this newsletter are placed according to when they are submitted. The first article I receive is placed at the top, the second goes next, and so on. □

General Contact Information for the Nashville Old-Time String Band

Association:

E-Mails for All Members

friends@nashvilleoldtime.org

Don Kent, President

615-868-9951

Shamrock1@mindspring.com

Ed Gregory, Web Master

615-889-5566

edgregory@comcast.net

Classified Ads

STRING BAND MUSICIANS FOR HIRE

Notsba members are willing to perform for the public for a small fee. All of our earnings go to the organization, none to the pickers. If you know of someone who might make use of our services, contact Don Kent at www.nashvilleoldtime.org, or call him at 615-868-9951.

FINE GUITAR FOR SALE

Martin D-28, Clarence White Commemorative Edition guitar. Indian rosewood back and sides and sitka spruce top. For sale by Michelle Bledsoe. Michelle is Clarence White’s daughter. She is asking \$3600 for the guitar. If you are interested, contact Michelle at 615-586-9829.