

Nashville Old-Time String Band Association

April

News

2008

Post Office Box 160038 Nashville, Tennessee 37216

www.nashvilleoldtime.org

Breakin' Up Winter 13

Breakin' Up Winter XIII has come and gone, almost as quickly as the snow on Saturday, but it will not be soon forgotten!

Roby Cogswell, Director of Folk Arts for Tennessee, was a fantastic host. He shared information about each of our presenters. Roby's expertise has been so valuable to NOTSBA, and he plays a mean guitar and mandolin!

James and Rachel Bryan were a wonderful addition to our performers this year. James is certainly one of the most respected old-time musicians of this generation. James announced that Rachel had recently married Matt Combs, so we received an added bonus by having all three of them perform.

Evan Hatch of the Arts Center of Cannon County, shared some interesting information about the Spring Fed Music recordings. He spoke about the re-issue of old-time music from the middle Tennessee region.

Gerry Milnes, Coordinator of the Folklife Program at Augusta Heritage Center, demonstrated some of the West Virginia fiddle tunes, as well as led a ballad and old songs workshop. His book and cd on funny songs were a hit!

Jeff Todd Titon, Director of the PHD program in ethnomusicology at Brown University, spoke about the making of his book, Old-Time Kentucky Fiddle Tunes. Jeff has a wealth of knowledge. He provided copies of his book, and graciously autographed many of those.

And then there was Mr. Charlie Acuff. Mr. Charlie received the first NOTSBA Old-Time Music Heritage Award. When the plaque was presented to him, he was surprised, and very humble. Mr. Charlie played several of his "signature" tunes before leaving for another engagement in East Tennessee.

Martin Fisher returned with his wax cylinder recording demonstration. Several folks recorded on the wax cylinders. Martin is always so gracious to share his collection and expertise in the wax cylinders. BUW is one of the few places where these recordings are demonstrated and recorded.

Lo Gordon, of Cedar Mountain Banjo, displayed his banjos. They were available for folks to "test drive", while John Hatton, Cleff'd Ear, provided a fantastic array of all kinds of music recordings and instructional material. It's always a pleasure to have Lo and John join us at BUW.

The silent auction proved to be much more than any of us expected! Several folks brought items as they arrived. The proceeds of the silent auction help to offset the expenses of BUW. Thank you for supporting by bringing and purchasing auction items.

Rick Fretter was the facilitator for the Gospel and Hymn Singing on Sunday morning. It is always a fitting closing of the festival.

Susan Kevra was the dance caller this year, and she had an enthusiastic group of dancers on the floor. Pat Camp assisted by running the audio system for the dance.

Buddy Ingram, Cedars of Lebanon State Park Ranger, helped us tremendously by making the park accessible for our functions; we just couldn't do the festival each year without Buddy and his fellow staff members.

Our caterer, Mad Platter, provided delicious meals, and accommodated everyone who had special needs and requests. We are fortunate to have a quality caterer at the festival.

A special thank you goes out to the BUW committee, Mary Lou Durham, Pat Gill, Jim Hornsby, Don Kent, Phil Sparks and Ron Whitlow. It takes a year of planning to organize BUW, and with the committee chairs listed above, the task went very smoothly.

A special thank you goes to Ed Gregory for adding and adding, and adding to the website, which is the best one out there; Mrs. Doris Fisher, who shared her cabin and organized Thursday's supper for those who arrived early, and to Bob and Pam Hightower, who always offer to help in the crunch times and situation. They assisted Mrs. Fisher with the Thursday supper, the hospitality table on Friday morning, and filled in where they were needed. And there were many others who helped with the registration table, meal tickets, assembling packages, etc.

Every year when I share with others about the festival, I always tell them how much I enjoy seeing again the folks who attend. Someone else said, "It's like a reunion." And that it is!

I hope you will all make plans NOW for 2009. Ron Whitlow will be serving as Chairman of the BUW XIV Committee, and it will prove to be another stellar year, I'm sure. Next year the festival will be held on March 6, 7, and 8 - be sure to mark your calendar and, oh yes, we'll try to do something about that snow!

Darlyne Kent, Chair
Breakin' Up Winter XIII

Editor's Note: Darlyne Kent was the chair-person of BUW XIII, and on behalf of all of us who attended, a big thank you goes to Darlyne. She worked very hard behind the scenes and made everything look effortless. She truly did an excellent job! Thanks Darlyne!

CHARLIE ACUFF: Recipient Of First NOTSBA Heritage Award

Another successful *Breakin' Up Winter* has come and gone with our 13th year of bringing together those who love old time music in all of it's many manifestations. But this year marked a new component of the event, a heritage award. During the year the board members attended a strategic planning retreat and there was much discussion of the importance of heritage performers at *Breakin' Up Winter*. One of the suggestions made by the facilitator was to initiate a heritage award. This idea was received enthusiastically and so this year marked our first heritage award winner, Charlie Acuff.

I don't think there is anyone who has come to *BUW* who has not had an interaction with Charlie. He is one of the warmest and most loving people I have ever had the good fortune to meet. He welcomes all, and in spite of his frail physical condition, will play long after many of us are worn out and ready for bed. He has actually

been attending the event since its inception every year with the exception of several years due to health problems. You know, people like Charlie are becoming very scarce on the ground these days. At 88 years old he has the stature of being a musical legend in our area and those of us who have been privileged to know and play with him will be able to proudly pass on his tunes and our memories of him to younger generations who are interested in the music. He is truly a regional, if not national, treasure to our music community and a truly suitable recipient of our heritage award!

For those few of you who may not have attended *BUW* you might like a little more information about Charlie. He started playing the fiddle at age 12 and taught himself to play left handed in what is mostly a saw stroke style; to me his arm seems to move at the speed of light sometimes! He owns and plays three fiddles built by his father

and reveres them as well he should. They have stood up to the test of time and many, many hours of loving use. Although his dad built fiddles, most of the tunes Charlie learned came from his grandfather, Charlie Boyd Acuff. And yes, he is a second cousin to the famous Roy Acuff. In the past, Charlie has been given a Tennessee Governor's Award in the Arts, he has been a resident fiddler at the Museum of the Appalachia and has even performed on *A Prairie Home Companion*. His career consisted of working at the Alcoa Aluminum plant and he lives in Alcoa, TN. He has farming roots and he loves, and for many years raised, horses. He has one son who is living with him now and another who lives on the family farm near Alcoa and helps with the livestock. With his history with our group he is the embodiment of a heritage award winner.

~Pat Gill

Regular Jams We're back to our customary jam schedule for April:

First Thursday Slow Jam – April 3rd at Fort Negley, 6:30-8:30. We will definitely play the tune of the month, *Dry and Dusty*, at learning speed among others, both requested and suggested. Come learn a tune or bring one to teach.

Second Thursday Regular Jam – April 10th, 6:30 to 8:30 or later, at Buchanan Log House, 2910 Elm Hill Pike. Tunes are played from moderate to up-to-speed. All skill levels are welcome and everyone's encouraged to play along. A list of tunes frequently played by the group is available. The third Thursday jam has the same focus.

Third Thursday Regular Jam – Again at Ft. Negley Visitors Center, April 17th, 6:30 to 8:30. This is a central Nashville jam.

Fourth Sunday Jam – April 27th at the home of Ron and Cynthia Whitlow in Brentwood. The jam starts at 2 and lasts until around 5:30. This potluck opportunity has us bringing out snacks to share at the break. See directions below. ~MLD

Directions to the 4th Sunday Jam

Ron and Cynthia Whitlow's house
5329 Stonewall Place, Brentwood, TN 37027
615-373-7914 615-500-7669 (C)

From Nashville

- Take I-65 South away from downtown. Exit at the Old Hickory Blvd West exit.
- At the end of the ramp, turn right and go about 2 miles on Old Hickory Blvd until coming to the intersection with Granny White Pike (light).
- Turn left on Granny White, go about 1 mile to McGavock Rd (light).
- Turn left into McGavock Farms subdivision. Go about ½ mile to stop sign.
- Turn right onto Post Oak Circle; go about 100 yards.
- Turn right on Stonewall Place (street sign is on the left side of the street). 5329 is at the end of the circle-2 story brick.
- Look for red bandana on mail box. Park in circle or in drive.

From Pegram / Bellevue / the west

Take Old Hickory Blvd east to Granny White Pike. Turn right on Granny White and proceed as above.

If you have any questions or need directions from other points, call Ron at the numbers above.

Tune of the Month

We're introducing a new feature this month, our Tune of the Month. We plan to feature a different tune each month, and give you a score in the newsletter as well as a link to our web-site where you can listen a midi file an MP3 recording of the tune played at a recent NOTSBA jam.

April's tune is "Dry and Dusty," from the Morrison Twin Brothers String Band. Apsie and Abbie Morrison were old-time musicians from Searcy County, Arkansas. The title seems pretty self-explanatory, and, as our transcriber, Ray Mathes, says, can logically be followed by "Whiskey Before Breakfast" or "Give the Fiddler a Dram".....makes sense to me.

Ray's score for the way we play it at NOTSBA is shown below.

You can find the midi and MP3 files for "Dry and Dusty" www.nashvilleoldtime.org/members/tunes.

You'll find "Dry and Dusty" as well as a treasure of other tunes.

In April, our first jam of the month will be on April 3 at Ft Negley. We will play "Dry and Dusty" through first at a slow, phrase-by-phrase speed, and then once everyone catches it, we'll play it faster. We'll also be playing it more up-to-speed at the 2nd and 3rd April jams to re-enforce learning this tune.

If you would like to contribute to "Tune of the Month," let us know. Thanks to Ray Mathes and Ed Gregory for their help.

~Ron Whitlow

Dry and Dusty

- 1) DDDD DDAA DDDD DADD
- 2) DDDD DADD DDDD DADD

Old-Time
From NOTSBA Jam
Nt: Ray Mathes



Charlie Acuff is presented the first annual NOTSBA Old Time Heritage Award by Darlyne Kent, who chaired this year's Breaking Up Winter Committee.

The award recognizes old-time musicians who have dedicated their lives to preserving and promoting old-time string band music.

Later, Charlie gave us a healthy dose of left-handed fiddlin' and old-time singing

~Photo by Ed Gregory

The President's Corner

NOTSBA has made some remarkable progress in the past few years, and I am very grateful for the support of our friends and members and for all the hard work that has moved us along.

One element that has kept the organization moving ahead is the Board's determination to make things better. From the beginning, our meetings have been focused on making NOTSBA more organized, more accessible, more beneficial and more fun. We have gotten some great ideas from members, and recently Board members attended a workshop especially designed to help with planning for the future.

Through a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission, we met for two days at Cedars of Lebanon State Park with Bill Kornrich, a professional consultant, to develop a long-range plan. Mr. Kornrich specializes in the

management of non-profit organizations and has specific experience with music and cultural organizations. It was a good session and a good opportunity for Board members to talk things over and work as a team.

Mr. Kornrich has now furnished us with the written plan. It outlines where we are now and provides ideas for strengthening the internal organization, increasing membership and developing programs and activities. The complete plan is available on our website, and I encourage all our members to look it over.

It is just a suggested plan, and we can change it as our needs require; but it is a good starting point, and we are grateful to Mr. Kornrich, the Arts Commission, and Andy Shivas, who developed the grant application, for the chance to take this valuable step forward.

~ Jim Hornsby

Membership Update

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We'd like to welcome 9 new members this month. Thank you and we're glad you're here. We look forward to jamming with you and getting to know you better. Let's all make the new members feel welcome. ~RW

New Members:

Bill and Sherry Eckles	Nashville, TN	Andy Smith	Nashville, TN
Ric Landers	Nashville, TN	Steve Sloan and Rosy Devane	Young Harris, GA
Bob, Cathy, and Terra White	Huntsville, AL		

THANKS TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!

This month, we have 28 renewing members. We're glad our old friends continue to support NOTSBA. Thank you.

Renewing Members

Joy, Tyler and Nic Andal	White House, TN	Martin & Beth & Doris Fisher	Nashville, TN
Anne Williams	Nashville, TN	Pat Gill	Asheville, NC
Laura Blankenship	Nashville, TN	Joanne Murphy	Brevard, NC
Ray Mathes	Murfreesboro, TN	Phil & Kitty Sparks	White Bluff, TN
Chuck & Jo Linville	Mt Juliet, TN	Steve Overby	Scottsboro, AL
Bob & Pam Hightower	Maryville, TN	Frank "Bubba" Logan	Brentwood, TN
Carl Pagter	Walnut Creek, CA	Mary Lou Durham	Nashville, TN
Tom Johnson	Martin, TN	Ron & Cynthia Whitlow	Brentwood, TN
Lee Cagle	Ellendale, TN	Jim Hornsby	Nashville, TN
Lilly Hsu & sons, Ben & David	Nashville, TN		

Announcement ~ ~ ~ Adam Hurt Banjo Workshop

Adam Hurt will hold a clawhammer banjo workshop and house concert on Saturday, May 10, at the Deering Banjo Showroom, 1903 Omohundro Court, Nashville, TN 37210. A class for beginners will go from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM (\$30). A class for intermediate pickers will go from 1:30 to 4:30 (\$50). The house concert will go from 7:30 to 9:30 (\$20).

In spite of the fact that he is still a young man, Adam Hurt is probably the best clawhammer banjo picker alive today, and he is an excellent instructor as well. This is an opportunity that no budding old-time banjo player can afford to pass up.

If you have questions, contact Todd Wright (619-840-8739 or todd@deeringbanjos.com) or Phil Sparks (615-797-4356 or kpsparks@msn.com). See you there, and bring your recording devices. ~Phil Sparks

The NOTSBA Board of Directors

We plan to provide information to keep you current on plans and issues the Board of Directors considers in its semi-monthly meetings (which are open to NOTSBA members). We'll report on the meetings as well as talk more about the role of the board in the organization.

Starting out, we felt it would be good to make sure you know who serves on the board and also tell you a little about each member. Over the next two months, we'll complete short profiles of all the board members.

There are currently two officers serving on the board: Jim Hornsby is our president; Lilly Hsu serves as both our treasurer and secretary. In addition to those two officers, the other members of the board are: Mary Lou Durham; Martin Fisher; Pat Gill; Ed Gregory; Don Kent; Andy Shivas; Ron Whitlow; and Todd Wright.

Meet four of your board members:

Pat Gill

Pat is one of the original founders of NOTSBA, and we all can thank her for the organization's existence. Pat is a former long-time Nashvillian who now resides in Asheville, NC. Her favorite instrument is the fiddle although she's a wonderful banjo and guitar player. She was inspired to learn to play guitar after listening to Johnny Cash as a teenager. Her favorite old-time musician is William Stepp.

Ed Gregory

Ed was the president of NOTSBA for 2004-2005 when we became a chartered non-profit organization. In addition to serving on the board, Ed is our webmaster; check out our wonderful website. Ed and Ellen have the makings of their own string band with 8 children and 7 grandchildren with an 8th on the way. Ed plays mandolin, fiddle, guitar, harmonica, tin whistle, and is a fine singer, especially enjoying singing harmonies with his good high tenor voice. Art Stamper is Ed's favorite old-time musician, and Fuzzy Mountain String Band is his favorite old-time band.

Darlyne Kent

Darlyne and husband, Don, have 4 children and a 3-year-old granddaughter. Her favorite instrument is the guitar, but she has now taken up the bass and is working on the banjo-uke and concertina. Her favorite old-time musician is Uncle Dave Macon but her favorite "new" old time band is Troublesome Creek. Darlyne is especially drawn to sea music. She loves the rhythm of the shanty and some of the work songs. Ask her to play some of her favorites and you'll see why.

Ron Whitlow

Ron and Cynthia have been married for 35 years, have 4 children and 4 ½ grandchildren (June). His favorite old-time musician is James Bryan and he was thrilled to see him at BUW this year. Ron is retired from UPS and now plays guitar, mandolin, bass, and has recently taken up fiddle and hammered dulcimer. He is from SW Virginia, and although he grew up in an area that has lots of old-time music and is on the musical crooked road, he only "discovered" old time music in 2002.

Board Meeting

The NOTSBA Board of Directors meets for its semi-monthly meeting on Monday, April 21st at 6:30 at the Buchanan Log House. This replaces the meeting which would normally have happened on the third Thursday of March at BLH, but had to be changed due to a scheduling conflict at the meeting place.

Meetings are open to members and all are welcome.

Please contact Jim Hornsby, NOTSBA president, to bring business to the attention of the board.

After the meeting on April 21st, the next scheduled meeting of the board is May 19th.

Finding Old-Time Music for Listening

I've discovered that it is very difficult to locate old time music on the radio. I have learned, however, about 2 places I can go to listen to free old time radio 24 hours a day, 7 days a week without commercials. Both stations I'll talk about are on the internet, so a computer with either speakers or head-phone jack and access to the internet is required.

The first and maybe best known site is www.sugarinthegourd.com. This is a privately run station in Philadelphia, Pa. run by John Salmon who is an avid fan of old-time music and plays the guitar and claw hammer banjo. He is using a service named Loud City which allows small independent radio stations to broadcast at a relatively low fee. To access sugarinthegourd, use the following steps:

- Go to the web site at the link above
- Click on the "listen" icon which looks like a small speaker
- This will re-direct you to the Loud City site where you can create a user id and password; the first time you go there, you'll have to create a new account. It's easy and somewhat private; the information they will ask for are:
 1. a user name which is an alias you can create to represent you to the others who are listening (it can be something like banjomamma or fiddledeedee),
 2. your first and last name,
 3. your email address, and,
 4. a password you will create unique to yourself (just make it one you can remember). This info, when complete, will get you in.
- Click on the type player your computer will use; the choices are Windows Media Player, Win Amp, I Tunes, or Real Player. If you don't have any of those, you'll probably want to download a free version of Real Player, which you can get at www.realplayer.com.
- The only other information it will ask for is the speed of your connection; you can check "dial up" or "broadband" for cable.
- Once you're in, you'll see about 19 pages of small, independent stations. The one you're interested in is *sugar in the gourd*. You can page through and find it or just type *sugar in the gourd* into the search box.
- Once you've typed it in, it will take you to "Here's What We Found" and you can click on *sugar in the gourd* to start listening.

When you spend some time listening, you'll find that *sugarinthegourd* not only plays old time music, but also plays old time blues, swing, and bluegrass. It will introduce you to some songs and artists you've probably never heard of before.

There are some other nice features to *sugarinthegourd*. If you hear a tune or song you like, you can click on a 'thumbs up' icon to add that artist to your favorites list; you can also click on a shopping cart icon which will take you to Amazon.com to order the CD that tune is from if you're inclined to do so. It has a pause feature which allows you to stop the music then resume playing from that point, almost like a CD or tape player.

Try out *sugarinthegourd*. I personally like it and have been listening to it while I'm on or near my computer. As nice as it is, however, next month I'll tell you about a station that I think is the neatest thing since sliced bread. Stay tuned. ~RW

The Newsletter ~~~ We'd like to share your news or content in May or beyond. Please email us.

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