



A Publication
of Your
Nashville
Old-Time
String Band
Association

ASSOCIATION
EVENTS

1st Thursday Jam
February 2
Slow Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Buchanan Log
House
♫

2nd Thursday Jam
February 9
Regular Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Two Rivers
Mansion
♫

4th-Sunday Jam
February 26
2 PM to 5 PM
Hosted by
Ellen and Ed
Gregory

The Old-Time Times

FEBRUARY 2006

In This Issue

Breakin' Up Winter, pg 1 A History of Breakin' Up Winter, pg 2 A History of Cedars of Lebanon Park, pg 3 Casual Jamming at BUW, pg 4 Jam Etiquette, pg 4 Mad Platter to Cater BUW, pg 5 FOCOL Needs Our Help, pg 5 Charlie Acuff Improving, pg 6 Notsba Group Performs, pg 6 Notsba's New Monthly Jam, pg 6 Directions to the Jams, pg 7 More Picking Opportunities, pg 7 Kelly Perdue Passes Away, pg 7 Janette Carter Jett Passes Away, pg 8 A Great Web Site, pg 8 Hetzler's Fakebook, pg 8 **Hosts Needed for 4th-Sunday Jams**, pg 8 CD Review, *Here to Play*, pg 8 CD Review, Andy Cohen, pg 9 A Penny Learned, pg 9 **Newsletter and NOTSBA Info**, pgs 9& 10 Classified Ads, pg 10

Breakin' Up Winter Slated for First Weekend in March

Breakin' Up Winter '06, NOTSBA's own old-time music festival, will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 3, 4, and 5. A few folks will show up as early as Thursday, March 2.

The festival takes place at Cedars of Lebanon State Park near Lebanon, Tennessee. The park is about 45 minutes east of Nashville. From Nashville, go about 30 miles on I-40 East. Take Exit 238 onto Highway 231 South and go about 7 miles to the park entrance, on the left.

After you enter the park, you will see the office. You can stop there to pick up a map of the park and information on trailer or tent camping. You may want to skip the office and go on down the road to the Cedar Forest Lodge to register for the festival and pick up your information packet.

The festival includes lectures, concerts, and jams involving such old-time music celebrities as Jim Griffith, Ron Pen, Mike Seeger, Charlie Acuff, Martin Fisher, Tim Reynolds, Dan Knowles, Chrissy Davis-Camp, and Roby Cogswell. Three organized Slow Jams will be held for beginners and anyone else who wants to pick up a new tune. There will also be "casual" jamming galore. (See this month's article on that topic.)

John Hatton will have his incredible selection of old-time music CDs, DVDs, tapes, supplies, etc set up in the Cedar Forrest Lodge. John has things that are available nowhere else. If you are smart, you will bring along a shopping list. Mine already has 17 items on it, and it's still growing.

Finally, the Mad Platter, one of Nashville's premiere restaurants, will cater this year's meals. Last year, the meals were a bit lack-luster, but we look forward to this year's meals with confident optimism. (See this month's article on the Mad Platter.) ***Please keep in mind that meal tickets must be purchased in advance, no later than February 17th.***

For detailed information on BUW, go to www.nashvilleoldtime.org, call Dave or Trish Cannon at 615-868-9842, call Pat Gill at 828-658-3753, or check with Phil Sparks, whose contact information is found at the end of this newsletter. □

A Short History of Breakin' Up Winter

~Trish Cannon

The idea for Breakin' Up Winter actually began with a desire to recreate the good feelings generated by a winter weekend gathering at Spider and Betty Dowell's house in Athens, Alabama. During the weekend, we played music with friends from Birmingham and Huntsville, ate a lot, talked a lot, and just generally enjoyed being together. David and I had worked on Tennessee Grassroots Days, and after that festival's demise, we often said that we would like to work on another festival. The Nashville Old-Time String Band Association gave us that opportunity.

The first gathering was informal and small, with all events held in the Cedar Forest Lodge and all meals "potluck" style. We had the support of Buddy Ingram, who had organized the Tennessee Banjo Institute in the past, and he was invaluable in getting us started at Cedars of Lebanon, "his" State Park. Also we had the support and blessing of Carl Myers of Community Education in our first attempt at a festival.

We started calling friends from Alabama and other areas of the South, while members of the String Band Association pitched in to make plans. We rented only a few cabins and tried to put compatible folks in cabins together. Charlie and Dorothy Acuff agreed to come from Alcoa, and we were able to have a dance with the help of the Nashville Country Dance group. The weekend turned out to be great fun, and we lost only a little money, which some of our stalwart members, Mary Durham, Pat Gill, Andy Smith, and the Cannons made up.

The planning for the next event began soon after, and we agreed that we would try to keep it small to maintain the informal feeling and not let it be too much work to put on. We have been fortunate to have the support of people who are masters in their fields, Dr. Charles Wolfe, who is a prolific author and scholar, Roby Cogswell, state director of Folk Arts, Martin Fisher, who has taught us about "old-time" recording techniques, and many guest presenters and musicians through the years.

We have been able to hear Will Keys play the banjo and marvel at his technique, listen to Jim Griffith lead our Sunday morning hymn singing, eat Natalie and her daughter Wanda's great home cooking, learn from George Gruhn about vintage instruments, and from John Kelley about how not to injure our body parts while playing old-time music. We have had talented people to step in when we were short a presenter, as Carol Ponder and Bob Townsend did three years ago.

There are so many memories that we have made over the past ten years, the infamous Cabin Number Nine, Doc Wilhite cooking his country ham while impeccably dressed in an outfit that would have made Uncle Dave proud, and the times we declared we could not play another note and then had to settle back for "one more tune."

We have lost friends that were dear to us, Michael McCanless, who could play "Three Thin Dimes" at the speed of light, Bill Rust, a gentleman and a banjo collector, Don Sarrell, who never missed an opportunity to play a tune or make a friend, and most recently, Earl Spielman, who could learn a tune after hearing it once and who impressed us all with his expertise in playing all styles.

We have worked together with friends from the String Band Association who always say "What can I do to help?" like Don and Darlyne Kent and those who just pitch in: the Fishers who fed us for so many Friday lunches, and Mary Dean Wolfe and all the others who put out the food for the covered dish dinner. There are friends who move the tables and chairs and set up and take down for the various presentations. There are our new friends from FOCOL who have volunteered to help with the festival by leading nature walks and helping with other tasks. All of this is done in a spirit of good will and has made me say over the years that old-time musicians are the best people to be around.

The best part about BUW is that you never know what this year's or next year's memories will be. Hopefully, the event will go on for at least another ten years, and maybe someday we can have the festival on the front lawn of "Old-Time Acres," the rest home with armless

rocking chairs on the front porch and an endless supply of old old-time musicians to enjoy our retirement years with! □

A Brief History of Cedars of Lebanon Park

~Wayne "Buddy" Ingram

Cedars of Lebanon State Park and Forest lies in the middle of the central basin of Tennessee and makes up over 9000 acres. The area was settled during the early 1800s from land grants received after the revolutionary war. The town of Lebanon was established and named for what the early settlers had associated with their Bible, the great cedars of Solomon's time.

A market for these trees soon developed, and the cedars, actually junipers, were shipped to all corners of the US where they were used for such things as roadways, sidewalks, furniture, telegraph poles, and pencils. Even the oil was pressed from the stumps and sold.

Due to bad farming practices on the shallow soil found in the central basin and heavy timbering, the natural resources had almost all been depleted by the 1900s.

The park lands as we know them today had been divided into approx. 60 small family farms, with most of the families barely getting by due to The Great Depression and poor agricultural practices. In 1935, Franklin Roosevelt's programs to combat The Great Depression came into play, purchasing family land tracks for land reclamation, job programs, and recreation. Many tracks of land were purchased in the park area for as little as \$5 an acre.

The US Forest Services, WPA, and other agencies soon developed the park and started one of the largest employment programs in the county.

The old Cedar Forest Lodge was built using materials found in some of the original homes, and became one of the show places for recreation in Middle Tennessee. Music and dance has been held in the park on a regular basis in the Lodge, with square dances taking place every Saturday night.

Cedars of Lebanon Park was turned over to the State of Tennessee for management in

1939. The park has since developed in different ways depending on the politics and economics of the time. The Group Lodge was built around 1968, and the Assembly Hall and New Cabins were added in the early '70s.

During the 1950s biologists began to recognize special natural land areas in Middle Tennessee, areas such as the numerous Cedar Glades in Cedars of Lebanon State Park. These Cedar Glades have developed in response to unique environmental conditions and are known to exist only in Middle Tennessee. These conditions include shallow or no soil and extreme temperature and moisture changes. Unique plants have evolved and adapted to these conditions.

By early March, one of the unique Cedar Glade flowers should be blooming: Leavenworthia or Glade Cress will be located in ditches and around wet glade areas. These small flowers will be in large groups with yellow and pink petals. When the wind is right and the Glade Cress is exposed to full sun, the flowers emit a very special fragrance.

The cedar trees should also be blooming in March. Sometimes, if you are lucky and the wind catches the tree right, you will see pollen burst, making the tree look like it is smoking.

Cedars of Lebanon also has many sink holes and caves located in it. This is due to the Karst Topography, made up of limestone, which is easily dissolved by water, creating underground caverns and streams. That is why no surface water exists in the park.

Jackson Cave, located behind the Cedar Forest Lodge, is close to a mile long. The cave floods during heavy rain and is muddy and wet inside. It acts as a vent for the underground stream inside when the water has no where else to go.

By the time you attend BUW, turkeys should be beginning to gobble and young fawns will be seen on the hiking trails and drives throughout the Park. □

Editor's Note: While at BUW, keep an eye out for Ranger Buddy, the author of this article. In addition to his ranger uniform, he will probably be wearing a grin, and he may be picking an old-time banjo.

Casual Jamming at Breakin' Up Winter

If BUW is anything, it is a chance to jam and jam and jam and then jam some more. We will have three scheduled "slow" jams, designed for learners and several scheduled jams with our special guest musicians, but what about casual (unorganized) jamming?

This year, we want to do everything we possibly can to facilitate casual jamming. This article will attempt to tell you where and when you can jam with your longtime or newfound friends.

If the Weather is Good

If we are blessed with pleasant weather, the sky is the limit. Here are just a few of the possibilities:

1. The picnic shelter near the Assembly Hall
2. The rock wall just outside the Assembly Hall
3. The area in front of and to the left of the Cedar Forest Lodge
4. The picnic shelters behind the Cedar Forest Lodge
5. The outdoor stage behind the Camp Store
6. The patio area just outside the Group Lodge
7. The parking lot by the swimming pool
8. The trailer camping area (until 10 PM)
9. Anyplace else you can stand, lean, or sit.

Indoor Jamming

If the weather is chilly or wet or if you just prefer to pick indoors, here are all the possibilities we've been able to conjure up:

1. The Assembly Hall

It will be unlocked as long and as late as it is needed. The only time jamming won't be allowed there is when a lecture, demonstration, or performance is being held.

2. The Cedar Forest Lodge

It will be open early and late. You can have a casual jam there unless an organized jam or singing is being held. Also, you will have to end your jam when John Hatton goes to bed. (He sleeps in the back room of the Cedar Forest Lodge.)

3. The Camp Store

It will be used for some of the organized jams, and we might be able to use it for some casual jamming. The park keeps merchandise

in the Camp Store, and last year, some of it was pilfered. If we can work out some casual jam times there, we'll post them on a sign in the Camp Store window.

4. The Group Lodge

It has two sleeping rooms and a dining hall. Please don't jam in a sleeping room. Even if it's empty when you start, someone may want to come in and sack out. *Jamming is allowed at all hours in the dining room*, as long as you don't interfere with people trying to eat.

5. The Cabins

In the past, they have been problematic. Some folks have used them for private jams, "invitation only." Others have opened their cabins to all. This year, we will ask those who want to have open jams in their cabins to post signs to that effect. This year, you will know before you knock if you are welcome. Do keep in mind, however, that your hosts may eventually want to go to bed.

As more and more people discover Breakin' Up Winter, finding someone to jam with becomes easier, but finding a place to jam becomes more difficult, especially when bad weather interferes. Be patient, and above all, be creative. □

Jam Etiquette According to Dave

~Dave Canon

I have been asked many times about jam etiquette, and having learned in the etiquette school of hard knocks, I feel relatively qualified to talk a little about it. With Breakin' Up Winter approaching, it seems a good time to talk about it. For years I have been hearing that people don't feel comfortable at BUW because they don't feel comfortable about joining jams. I hope this will help.

Will I be adding to or taking away from the music?

When you see a group playing and you are thinking of trying to join it, keep this question in mind.

Seek your own level.

You will be a lot more comfortable playing with a group at your own level. Remember that this is supposed to be fun. For learning, I

recommend joining folks that are one level above your own playing.

It seems polite to ask.

For years I have had a standard question that I ask before joining a jam session. "Would you like some company?" It has always seemed polite to me to ask. I have seen too many people just step up and start playing. I have also seen folks sit down in the back and just start playing. It has always seemed a lot more polite to ask. A nice tight jam can get real "untight" when folks just start playing without asking.

Is there room?

You can only get a certain number of players in a given space at a given time.

Do be a good jammer. Don't be a "jam buster."

Those of you old enough to remember the Romper Room might get a chuckle out of that statement. In truth a "jam buster" is a person who takes over a jam with tunes that folks just don't want to or just can't play. Be a good guest and play what others are playing. Granted, one technique for getting rid of people you do not want to jam with is to play tunes that they can't. As a rule this is considered pretty rude, especially if you are joining a jam in progress.

I am sure that other folks will think of other things to say about this subject. I am just as sure that some folks will disagree with some parts of what I have written here. Just put this in context of the statement, "Jam Etiquette According to Dave." □

Mad Platter to Cater BUW Meals

~Darlyne Kent

Located in historic Germantown in Nashville is an excellent restaurant, touting American and Caribbean cuisine, the Mad Platter.

Owners and Chefs Craig and Marcia Jervis have catered many events in Nashville since 1989. They have provided fine meals at NashCamp, Mark O'Connor's Fiddle Camp, and various movie sets in the area, as well as many weddings, receptions, corporate events, etc.

The unpretentious 19th century storefront restaurant at 1239 Sixth Avenue North is well-known for its fine entrees, including rack of lamb, filets, and various pasta dishes. They are also well-known for using fresh herbs and spices in their dishes, making them a delicious change of pace. Not to be discounted are their signature desserts, such as Bananas Foster, Chocolate Elvis and Death by Chocolate.

While they will not be serving the above mentioned signature desserts at Breakin' Up Winter, you will be pleased with the fare the Mad Platter will be catering at our Saturday and Sunday meals.

Information you provided through last year's survey indicated that the Mad Platter would be a great choice for BUW 2006. The Food Committee is confident that while not all of our fellow pickers enjoy the same foods, no one will be disappointed in the quality of food they will present. □

**Friends of Cedars of Lebanon
Need Our Help**

The Friends of Cedars of Lebanon State Park (FOCOL) is an organization dedicated to the care and improvement of Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

Recently, they received a grant from Trails and Greenways to put a new trail in the park, just behind the Park Office. The trail has already been cut. It's about a half mile long, and it leads through the Cedar Glades to an area where many wildflowers grow.

All that remains is for FOCOL to spread mulch on the trail, and they will need all the help they can muster to do that.

Please help our friends. They have done so much to help us with BUW.

When: Saturday, February 11, 9 AM

Where: Meet at the Park Office, near the entrance to the park.

Tools: If you can, bring rakes, shovels, pitchforks, and a wheelbarrow.

Tell them you are coming: Call Ken, FOCOL's president, at 615-286-1390 to let them know you are coming so enough food will be on hand to feed everyone.

Questions: If you have questions or concerns, call Ken at 615-286-1390. □

Charlie Acuff, Ill but Improving

~Patsy Weiler

Some of you may have been aware that Mr. Charlie Acuff has not been well and recently spent about a week in the hospital.

His wife Dorothy called the other day to say that he has been moved out of the hospital and into a rehab/assisted living center where he will undergo rehab for about the next three weeks.

He is still very weak, but according to Dorothy, he is improving. She asked that anyone who would like to contact Charlie may do so by sending a card at the following address:

Charlie Acuff
Morningview Village, Rom 201
2304 East Lamar Alexander Parkway
Maryville, TN 37804

It would be a good idea to call Dorothy before making a trip to East Tennessee to see him. Currently, he is still too weak to play his fiddle, but the thought of gaining enough strength to do so is, according to Dorothy, proving a great motivation for Charlie.

Please keep this precious couple in your thoughts and prayers.

If any of you would like to drop Dorothy a card of encouragement, send it to

Dorothy Acuff
942 Birch Street
Alcoa, TN 37701 □

**NOTSBA Group Performs
Opryland Convention Center**

~Ed Gregory

A small group of Notsba regulars raised money for Notsba, helped raise money for agricultural educational programs, and increased awareness of old-time music by playing and singing January 8 and 9 during the 87th American Farm Bureau national convention at Gaylord's Opryland Hotel and Convention Center.

The performance was held in the sprawling exhibit hall on the front-porch of a mock-up little white house. It included some of the standard Nashville Old-Time String Band tunes along with a selection of songs drawn

largely from the early days of the Carter Family. We were there to help draw the crowd to the Tennessee Farm Bureau delegation's exhibit, where the real star was a beautiful large-format book of rural photographs and essays, *Tennessee Country: In the Land of Their Fathers*.

Our appearance was arranged by Don Kent, Notsba's president and, it seems sometimes, nearly full-time booking agent. Dave Cannon helped us prepare and rehearsed with us, but a finger injury left him unable to play for the event. We're hoping he will be back in fine form in time for BUW.

Participating in the performance group were Don and Darlyne Kent, Mary Lou Durham, Jim Hornsby, Lilly Hsu, and Ed Gregory.

We can all say now that we played for an audience of 5000 or more, albeit in groups of a dozen or so at a time as the crowd wended its way through the convention hall exhibits.

We learned a lot about performing under those interesting conditions, where the steady background noise of babbling voices was one of the biggest challenges. We had a lot of fun, made some new friends, and helped raise money for two fine organizations—Notsba and the Farm Bureau. □

**Notsba Institutes an Additional
Monthly Jam**

Notsba will soon start sponsoring a third Thursday jam (the fourth monthly jam, if you count the 4th-Sunday jam.). Like the other Thursday jams, it will run from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Keep your eye on the Web site and future newsletters for the location. □

Directions to the Thursday Jams
The Slow Jam on Thursday February 2 at the Buchanan Log House:

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

From I-40 East, take the Donelson Pike Exit (Exit 216C), and merge onto Donelson Pike (State Route 255). Go 0.4 mile on Donelson

Pike and turn right onto Elm Hill Pike.

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

The Regular Jam on Thursday, February 9, at Two Rivers Mansion:

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ mile on McGavock Pike, past McGavock High School. to 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. □

Directions to the 4th-Sunday Jam

February's 4th-Sunday Jam will be hosted by Ellen and Ed Gregory, 4465 Baton Rouge Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076

Ellen and Ed live in a two-story red brick house with a large fir tree in one corner of the front yard. Their phone number is 615-889-5566, and their e-mail address is edgregory@comcast.net

From more or less the center of Nashville, follow I-40 East. Take the first Old-Hickory Boulevard exit (the exit sign mentions a hospital and The Hermitage) and go left (north) on Old Hickory Boulevard.

At the third traffic light, Andrew Jackson Parkway (NOT Andrew Jackson Way), take a right. (A BP station is on the right corner.)

Go about 1.3 miles on Andrew Jackson Parkway to the traffic light at Highland View Drive, and turn right into the entranceway for "Highlands of Tulip Grove."

Take the second left, which is Baton Rouge. Ellen and Ed's home is about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile up on the right. □

More Picking Opportunities

~Patsy Weiler

During the winter, the Almadille

Community Center has their music jam on the third Saturday of the month. It will go on through February. People can come out and jam, or they can come and sign up a group to play on stage. It's all free. No one is paid and no admission is charged, although a bucket is passed for donations to cover the electric bill and other expenses at the community center.

Similar gatherings are held at the Leanna Community Center in Rutherford County on second and fourth Saturdays, at the College Grove senior citizens center on Friday night, and twice a month a Timms Ford State Park.

Each gathering is a little different, and none of them actually lend themselves to the type of just sitting around and jamming that the members of Notsba tend to enjoy. Almadille probably comes closest to that, but it is a mix of both Bluegrass and old-time groups all jamming in one big room in close quarters. It can be tough to hear—especially for the casual jammer. Still, it's a great place to go for some stage experience or just enjoy some local music during the long, cold winter.

If you want more information on these things, contact me at SALT27@aol.com. □

Kelly Perdue of Mando Mafia Passes Away

~Mary Lou Durham

Sad news from Charlottesville, Virginia: Kelly Perdue was apparently stricken with a heart attack that took his life on December 15 while he was getting ready to go to work. His passing was sudden and unexpected.

Kelly was the driving force and leader of the Mando Mafia, a Clifftop favorite and multi-contest winner over the years. Kelly will be missed by all. Our deepest respects go to his family, his band members, and the community that has supported him over the years. Anyone wishing to contact Kelly's family can write to: Libby Purdue

4220 Sylvan Lane

Charlottesville, Virginia, 22911. □

Janette Carter Jett Passes Away

~Bob Cox

Sad news out of Maces Springs, Virginia: Janette Carter Jett, daughter of A.P. and Sara

Carter passed away on January 22.

She had been in failing health for months. She was recently confined to a wheel chair and was not able to participate very much at the Saturday night Carter Fold. She was preceded in death by her brother, Joe, and a son, Don, this past year.

Janette did an outstanding job of keeping alive the rich musical heritage of her talented family. Her famous dad specifically asked her to keep the Carter Family music alive just before he died in 1960. The reins of the Fold now lie squarely in the hands of her daughter, Rita, and her son, Dale.

I became acquainted with this first family of country music years ago when I worked with Don at Carolina Eastman Company. Over time, I truly came to know, appreciate, and love this outstanding musical family. We will miss you, Janette. □

A Great Web Site for Old-Time Music

~Patsy Weiler

Here is an interesting Web site providing a discussion forum for old-time music:

<http://forum.sugarinthegourd.com>

Give it a try. □

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. □

Editor's note: The preceding article is reprinted from January's *Old-Time Times* because the Web site address was incorrect in that issue.

Hosts Needed for 2006 4th-Sunday Jams
Please e-mail Darlyne Kent (dkent@david)

sonacademy.com) to schedule your home for a 2006 4th-Sunday Jam. □

CD Review: *Here to Play* By Christie Burns and Butch Ross

~Phil Sparks

Two of our fine friends from the Bowling Green, Kentucky, jams have turned out their own CD, *Here to Play*. With Christie Burns mostly on the hammered dulcimer and Butch Ross on guitar and mountain dulcimer, they work masterfully through a number of old-time classics, like "Greasy Coat," "Temperance Reel," "Booth Shot Lincoln," and "Staten Island Hornpipe."

Added to that mix are several Irish, Scottish, and Swedish tunes, as well a three original tunes, two by Christie and one by Butch.

"Rainy Day Love Song" is a slice of Tin Pan Alley written by Christie, while returning from an old-time festival in Derbyshire, England. The closing tune, "Anniversary Waltz" the other Christie composition, is a sweet and subtle sendoff.

Butch's original is "Driving Forces," an homage to the double dulcimer magic of Robert Force and Albert d'Ossche, this tune features former Yanni sideman Dan Landrum on hammered dulcimer.

Christie discovered the hammered dulcimer at a young age. This led her to discover Irish traditional music and to pursue a degree in ethnomusicology at UCLA. That educational journey drew her to Ireland where she founded the Cork Dulcimer Festival. Ironically it was there that she discovered old-time music, visiting the fabled Monday night Bluegrass jam sessions at Corner House.

Butch, already an accomplished guitarist and singer/songwriter, was given a mountain dulcimer as a gift and immediately fell in love with its primitive sound. Not one to follow convention, Butch developed his unique style of dulcimer playing, which renders his custom-built instrument upside-down, strung backwards, and held like a guitar.

Christie and Butch will be at Breakin' Up Winter and will have copies of their new CD with them. If you can't be at BUW but want a copy, they are available at <http://cdbaby>.

com/cd/burnsross. □

**CD Review: Andy Cohen's
*Ridiculous Instrumentals***

~Kurt Anderson

14 Guitar and One Piano Rag: Big Bill (The Mopper Blues) / Harlem Chocolate Babies of 1921 / Twelve Sticks / Brillo's Waltz / Free at Last / Happy Time, St Thomas / United States March / Miss Lady / Make Believe Stunt / Buckdancer's Choice / Lay Me Down in D / High Society / New Gravy Waltz / Shuffle Rag / Brady Lake Breezes

Andy's latest endeavor had me tapping my foot and chuckling while I looked for my guitar to cop some of his licks. No fancy studio tricks here, just Andy and his old Gibson J-45 playing like he was right in your living room. If you like blues, rags, Rev. Gary Davis, Big Bill Broonzy, Joseph Spence, and acoustic guitar music done in a way that'll take you back to the good old days, this just might be your ticket.

Andy Cohen is no Johnny-come-lately. He has made his living playing and singing country blues and old-time music for over 35 years. He is a multi-instrumentalist, playing 6- and 12-string guitar, old-time banjo, piano, fiddle, mandolin, and autoharp, and he's the last known performing dolceola player. (The dolceola is a small piano-like instrument that sounds like a small harpsichord.)

He was on the committee of the Kent State Folk Festival for 19 years, and he was partnered up with Joe LaRose (author of "Winder Slide") for several years, producing one album with him called *Tuxedo Blues* on the Green Linnet label.

Andy has several other CDs available through Riverlark Music (www.riverlark.com) and through www.cdbaby.com, where you can listen to some of the cuts.

Good job, Andy, old-time friend of old-time music!

PS: Andy will be at Breakin' Up Winter, hanging out with his old friend Jim Griffith, so stop by and say hello. □

A Penny Learned

The banjo, the proverbial "White man's

mountain instrument," was developed centuries ago by enslaved Africans in the North American and Caribbean colonies.

The earliest banjos were played exclusively by the enslaved at least 200 years before Whites ever considered laying hands on what was, to the slaveholding culture, a "primitive" instrument.

By the mid-1800s, White musicians had adopted the banjo for use in minstrel shows, catapulting it into mass production. The ancestors of today's banjo are still in use in West Africa.

This information was taken from the program for *Banjo: From Africa to America and Beyond*, an exhibit at the University of Tennessee's Frank H. McClung Museum in Knoxville. Our thanks go to Ron Elrod for providing it. □

**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 *March's newsletter* is *Sunday, February 26*. □

**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.