



The Old-Time Times

MARCH 2006

A Publication
of Your
Nashville
Old-Time
String Band
Association

ASSOCIATION
EVENTS

1st Thursday Jam
March 2
Slow & Regular Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Cedar Forest Lodge
Cedars of Lebanon
♫

2nd Thursday Jam
March 9
Regular Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Buchanan Log
House
♫

3rd Thursday Jam
March 16
Slow & Regular Jam
6:30 to 8:30 PM
Two Rivers
Mansion
♫

4th-Sunday Jam
March 26
2 PM to 5 PM
Hosted by
Darlyne and Don
Kent

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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.

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.)

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. □

NOTSBA Begins Membership Drive

Slowly but surely, The Nashville Old-Time String Band Association has been working its way toward official status as a nonprofit organization, one recognized by the State of Tennessee and the Internal Revenue Service of the federal government. We are almost there!

One of the few hurdles remaining is to enroll our members. We need to list our membership and define membership in the by-laws.

Now is the time for all good old-time music lovers to join NOTSBA!

Please read the Q and A sheet at the end of this newsletter and fill out the attached membership form. Send it, along with the appropriate fees, to the NOTSBA post office box. □

NOTE: If you want to continue receiving your newsletter, you must join.

Dr. Charles Wolfe

Dr. Charles Wolfe passed away at 9 PM, February 9, after an extended battle with diabetes and attendant complications.

Charles was a gentle giant, a prolific old-time music scholar and a beloved colleague whose presence in the MTSU English department gave new and unique meaning to the term "professor." His prolific work included nineteen scholarly books (with others still in the offing) and hundreds of articles on music, folklore, and popular culture.

Charles was born in Missouri but came to Tennessee in 1970 to teach at MTSU, where he remained until his retirement just this past year.

Though nationally and internationally known for his work with folklore, Charles never ventured far from heart and home, from family and friends. He was an unpretentious and dedicated mentor to countless students and a friend to all who knew him.

Charles has left an indelible imprint. Those who did not know him personally will miss him, and those who knew him will miss him so much more. □

On Dr. Charles Wolfe

~Don Kent

Dr. Wolfe was a true friend of old-time music and of those who loved old-time music. His informative and entertaining presentations at Breaking Up Winter were looked forward to and appreciated by all.

Year after year, both he and Mary Dean contributed so much to our small festival. They have earned more than our respect—they have earned our friendship. We will greatly miss him and his expertise in all areas of old-time music. □

Janine Chamorro

~Ed Gregory

Memorial services for Janine Chamorro, a longtime friend of NOTSBA and old-time music, were held Saturday, February 25, 2006, at Williams Funeral Home in Columbia, Tennessee.

Friends, family members, musicians, fellow teachers and former students turned out for a

stirring service that reminded us of the things we loved about her and gave us insight into many other aspects of her wonderful spirit that we might not have known.

Janine, who had successfully battled cancer years ago and then recovered from a heart attack a year ago, died February 16 as the result of head injuries sustained in a traffic accident exactly one month earlier.

Janine was eulogized by Daisy Wright, a friend, fellow educator, and minister, and by longtime friend Marilyn Harris, with whom Janine spent her final days on earth. Her sons and others also paid tribute to Janine.

At the front of the chapel was a banner containing photographs depicting the many sides of Janine's life, along with the major roles she lived out: Believer, Artisan, Musician, Mother, Educator, Gardener, Rider, Baker, World Traveler, and Dreamer.

Longtime friend Marilyn Harris said she went to Janine's home in the Santa Fe community after her death and found a hand written message that summed up Janine's optimistic and encouraging spirit: "Janine wrote 'Creemos en los sueños,' which I interpret as 'Let's believe in dreams.'" Marilyn said.

A group of Janine's NOTSBA friends, joined by several local musician friends, played some of Janine's favorite tunes in a circle at the rear of the chapel before the services. Friends and family who knew her well listened, several commenting that they were certain Janine was there with us in spirit, fiddling and smiling her ever-present smile.

Survivors include sons Micah, Ahren, and Galen, her father Joe Esposito, brothers Larry and Tom Esposito, and several beautiful grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her mother and a son, Jessie. □

Remembering Janine

~Don Kent

There are many good memories that I have of Janine Chamorro. One of her favorite tunes was "Single Footing Horse," which she could play three different ways, and one of her favorite CDs was *Fire in the Dumpster*, by Red Mountain White Trash.

Great Janine stories include the "Dave Cannon, Melvin Wine, and Cell Phone Jam" at Clifftop, and her late morning arrival at Cannons en route to Mt. Airy. The funniest story that she and her traveling buddies have ever told to me is the one about the runaway van on I-40, a van that was full of instruments, not people.

Janine almost always seemed to be contented and pleasant. She also had a serious side regarding several aspects of life, including the great unknown—the length of time we have on earth. Do you remember what she shared with us after she realized that she had a heart ailment? She articulated something that should ring true for us too. The following message is excerpted from Janine's March 19 e-mail:

Dear All,

"So little time, so much to learn" was brought home suddenly to me last Monday night. I had a heart attack. Such a surprise! So I will fiddle with fire!

Just a reminder--love one another with all you've got because you never know how long you have.

Love, Janine □

**Season's First Fiddle Contest
in Clarksville**

The first event that includes contests for fiddle, old-time banjo, and old-time string band will be held at Rossvie High School in Clarksville, Tennessee, March 24-25.

For more information, call Tad Bourne (931-552-6149), or go to www.tnfiddlers.com.

□

Mike Seeger to Appear at the Station Inn

If you cannot wait to enjoy the music of Mike Seeger at Breakin' Up Winter, you can always drop by the Station Inn on South 12th Street in downtown Nashville on Wednesday, March 1. Showtime is 9 PM. □

Banjo Exhibit in Knoxville

The Banjo: From Africa to America and Beyond is the title of an exhibit currently being held in Knoxville at the University of Tennessee's Frank H. McClung Museum.

It features the largest collection of African lutes, early banjos, and banjo paraphernalia ever assembled in the Southern United States. These rare artifacts are drawn from the collections and productions of James Bollman, Peter Szego, David Ball, and Ulf Jägfors.

The exhibit will run through April 30. For more information, go to www.mcclungmuseum.utk.edu or call 865-974-2144. □

**Jewelina Lawrence Awarded a scholarship
to Berklee College of Music**

NOTSBA's own Jewelina Lawrence has been awarded a major scholarship to Berklee College of Music in Boston. She will enter the school as a freshman in 2007.

Jewelina is now 16 and a junior at The Nashville School for the Arts, a highly selective magnet school. She began playing the fiddle at age 8 and has held a scholarship to Blair School of Music (Vanderbilt University) since she was 12.

Jewelina won her first fiddle contest at the festival in Franklin at the age of 10. Since then, she has been winning contests and performing, almost nonstop. She performed at Nashville's Fan Fair, won two championships at the Adams festival, two at Holladay, one at Athens, Alabama, and one at Smithville. Last summer, she won grand champion fiddler at the Arthur Smith Memorial Festival in Dickson. She is also active in various church music groups.

We at NOTSBA wish Jewelina the best of everything at Berklee College and beyond. □

Guitar Stolen

~Patsy Weiler

Robert Montgomery had his treasured HD28 Martin guitar, serial number 723870 stolen while he was attending SBPGMA in Nashville the first weekend of February. Both the instrument and the case were taken. The case has a yellow sticker on it.

Some of you may remember that Robert won the National Old-Time Banjo Championship contest in Murfreesboro in 2004. You can contact Robert through his mom, Laurie at lllmontgomery@aol.com. □

A New Web Site for Old-Time Music

~Patsy Weiler

Here is a new Web site for old-time music lovers: www.oldtimemusic.us.

It's run by Dan Levinson, and it deals with clawhammer banjo, fiddle, guitar, clogging, stories of the road, and much more. Check it out. □

A Great New Key Chart

Agene Parsons, one of our friends from East Tennessee has come up with an excellent new key chart, the kind of tool we can use to:

- Find the chords in a tune
- Find the notes in a key (including the sharps or flats)
- Move from one key to another
- Write chord charts with the Nashville numbering system or Roman numerals

There's no telling what other uses we will find for it.

Agene took up the mountain dulcimer and the hammered dulcimer shortly before she retired from nursing in 1999. She has arranged concerts for both Maddie MacNeil and Anne Lough and has performed with them. She now teaches others how to play both instruments, and she performs with a group called the Hilltoppers.

Agene also networks with the various music lovers in our area to keep us all informed about musical events. If you would like to receive her notices about musical events,

e-mail her at agene1336@earthlink.net.

Her key chart is attached to this newsletter.

□

**Banjo Newsletter Continues
Old-Time Music Section**

~Patsy Weiler

Those interested in old-time banjo music now have a new way to learn about this style of picking. In 2005, the venerable banjo publication *Banjo Newsletter* launched a new quarterly edition of its magazine called *The Old-Time Way*. The masterminds behind this effort are banjo players Dan Levenson and Bob Carlin.

These talented musicians bring long and successful careers of writing, teaching, documenting, and performing Southern traditional music, both in the national and international arenas, to this exciting new adventure. You can learn more about them at their Web sites. Bob Carlin's is www.cartunesrecordings.com and Dan Levenson's is www.oldtimemusic.us

For some time, Dan had been in discussions with Donald Nitchie, *BNL's* editor, about his desire to see old-time banjo styles of Southern Appalachia command a stronger presence in the magazine's pages.

With Dan serving as the editor of this new section, with Bob helping as a coeditor (as well as lending his writing skills), and with David Lynch of Asheville designing the project's distinctive masthead and logo, Donald agreed to give the effort a year's trial run.

According to Dan, the old-time music community has responded positively. The resulting increase, in both subscriptions and advertising, opened the door for *The Old-Time Way* to be continued in 2006. Dan says, "We owe the old-time community a special thanks for their support and making it happen."

The old-time section appears in January, April, July, and October and averages 12 to 16 pages. In addition to the features on past and present old-time banjo players, this section has included an open-back buyers guide (January 2005), tabs, CD reviews, and articles by guest columnists such as Bob Buckingham, Joe Ayers, Bill Dilloff, John Adams, and others.

Both Bob and Dan are eager to have feedback and suggestions concerning *The Old-Time Way*. The best way to reach them is via e-mail, Dan Levenson at OldBzrd@aol.com and Bob Carlin at Jwsweeney@aol.com.

Banjo Newsletter is a family-run business that was started in the early 1970s by the late Hub Nitchie and his wife Nancy. From its humble beginnings, it has grown to serve seven thousand subscribers and is read around the world. It is now run by the Nitchie's sons, Spencer and Donald and is available by subscription for \$25 a year.

You can subscribe to *BNL* by going to their Web page at www.banjonews.com, by calling 800-759-7425, or by writing *Banjo Newsletter*, PO Box 3418, Annapolis, MD 21403-0418. □

Rebekah Weiler Featured in the April Edition of the *Banjo Newsletter*

One of our own NOTSBA members, old-time banjo player Rebekah Weiler, will be featured in April's edition of the *Banjo Newsletter*.

The article was written by Bob Carlin. It will treat Rebekah's career and her plans for the future. □

Rebekah Weiler and Bob Carlin Endorse Goldtone Banjos

Rebekah Weiler has joined with Bob Carlin to endorse Goldtone banjos.

Rebekah first met Bob in the fall of 2004 at a workshop and house concert hosted by Ron and Diane Ault. They crossed paths again at the International Bluegrass Music Association's Nashville gathering in October 2005.

At the IBMA gathering, both Rebekah and Bob spent a good part of Saturday at the Goldtone booth, jamming and visiting—before Rebekah's appearance on the IBMA Old-Tyme Opry Variety Show.

NOTE: Those interested in Bob Carlin's music should know that Goldtone has just released an open-back Bob Carlin signature model. Bob was intensely involved in its production, from concept to creation. More

information is available at Bob's Web site, www.cartunesrecordings.com. □

Old-Time Music at Americana Retreats

~Laura Boosinger

I want to let you know about a new project that I am involved with, Americana Retreats. We are planning our first weekend April 21-23, 2006 in the mountains of North Carolina, Highlands to be exact. The weekend will include old-time music, square dancing, shaped note singing, and classes in Appalachian culture. The staff will include Sheila Kay Adams, Jim Taylor, and me. We are trying to complete preregistration by January 20 to hold our reservations in Highlands.

If you are interested, please go to our Web site, www.americanaretreats.com. You can check out my Web site at www.lauraboosing.com.

There will something for everyone at these retreats, and they are not exclusively for musicians. Come join us this spring in Highlands. We plan to have a rollicking good time! □

Directions to Jams at 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. □

Direction to Jams at Two Rivers Manson

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. 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. □

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. □

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 April's newsletter* is *Sunday, March 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. □