



A Publication  
of Your  
Nashville  
Old-Time  
String Band  
Association  
\*\*\*\*\*

ASSOCIATION  
EVENTS

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday Jam  
April 6  
Slow & Regular Jam  
6:30 to 8:30 PM  
Two Rivers  
Mansion  
♫

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday Jam  
April 13  
Regular Jam  
6:30 to 8:30 PM  
Buchanan  
Log House  
♫

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Jam  
April 20  
Slow & Regular Jam  
6:30 to 8:30 PM  
Two Rivers  
Mansion  
♫

4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday Jam  
April 23  
2 to 5 PM  
Hosted by  
Julie Mavity-Hudson  
and  
Eddie Hudson

# The Old-Time Times

APRIL 2006

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## Breakin' Up Winter 11 Is a Great Success

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Breakin' Up Winter was one of the best we have had. It was attended by 215 people, 175 of whom joined us for the entire weekend. The weather could have been warmer, but at least it didn't rain, and a good time seems to have been had by almost everyone.

The evaluations indicated that the academic day was well received. Folks thought that the variety and quality of the presenters was excellent, and the presentations took up about the right amount of time.

The slow jams were also popular. We added several to the schedule this year, and we may have to add even more next year. It is gratifying to see so many people, young and not so young, becoming involved in old-time music.

Martin Fisher's old-time recording sessions were yet another hit. Martin says he somehow expected his equipment to become "old hat" by now, but those who wanted to be recorded had him working overtime—to his delight.

This year, for the first time, we tried a silent auction, and it, too, went well. Through it, we raised several hundred dollars, all of which will go to improve future BUWs. Oddly enough the most common complaint about the silent auction was that we didn't give more people a chance to donate items to be sold. Next year the silent auction will be bigger and better.

Perhaps the major improvement over last year's BUW was the food, served by The Mad Platter. The compliments simply poured in. The nice thing is that The Mad Platter folks seem to like us as much as we like them. They have already promised to return next year, and they have given us several suggestions for making the food and the service even better.

What was the best thing about BUW? No surprise, it was clearly the jamming.

What was the worst thing about BUW? Honestly, the most common complaint on the evaluations was, "We had to go home."

We, the members of the Nashville Old-Time String Band Association, were simple thrilled, and we promise you all that we will work hard to make next year's BUW even better. □

## Thank You!

~Darlyne Kent

We could not have made it through Breakin' Up Winter alone. We sincerely appreciate all of those who moved tables and chairs, checked meal tickets, organized jams, served coffee and food, and did whatever to further the cause of old-time music.

The following people are just a few of those who shared the responsibilities:

Joy, Nic, and Tyler Andal moved furniture and helped with Friday's meals.

Mike Baugh, Martin Cerjan, Jeff Cales, Drew Fedak, and Roger Stolen helped move furniture.

Dave Cannon organized the presenters, helped with the program, worked with the silent auction, and headed the committee for BUW 11.

Trish Cannon served on the Food Committee.

Mary Lou Durham worked with our flyer, made the buttons, helped organize the dance, and lead a slow jam.

Martin Fisher once again provided his wax cylinder recordings and operating the sound system for Friday's academic day.

Rick Fretter and his friend Jamie helped move furniture.

Pat Gill turned out our flyer, took on all of the registration responsibilities, ran the registration table all day Friday, and helped with the silent auction.

Ed Gregory helped put up the signs, unloaded John Hatton's wares, and set up the meeting space on Thursday.

Jim Hornsby assisted with the slow jams and donated two fine instruments to the silent auction.

Lilly Hsu helped with Friday's lunch and processed all of the financial requests.

Don Kent led a slow jam, moved furniture, checked meal tickets, worked with the program, and assisted with the banjo workshop and the shape-note workshop.

Don Masters moved furniture and helped with Friday's lunch.

Carl Myers spent Friday and part of Saturday receiving registrations.

Jeff Rohrbough moved furniture and helped

set up for Friday's potluck dinner.

Kitty Sparks helped with the registration table and meals while Phil Sparks put up signs, helped John Hatton unload, moved furniture, and helped with a slow jam.

Cynthia Whitlow helped with Friday's potluck dinner while Ron Whitlow helped with a slow jam and the meal tickets. Ron was also the prime mover behind the silent auction and the program (assisted by his children).

So many folks who attended as guests pitched in and helped with all of the Notsba members who attended.

Bill and Doris Fisher provided supper for all jammers on Thursday evening at their cabin, and helped with Friday's hospitality table and the covered dish dinner.

A special thank you goes to Mary Ann Masters who also helped with Friday's meals.

Friends Bob and Pam Hightower set the mood by graciously assisting our new caterer, Mad Platter, and by assisting with lunch on Friday. They also checked meal tickets and moved furniture.

Melissa and Roy Turrentine helped move furniture and assisted with the shape note hymn singing.

Patsy and Randy Weiler helped tirelessly with the covered dish supper on Friday and assisted at the registration table on Saturday.

An especially heartfelt thanks goes out to Bob White and his talented cohorts for sponsoring one of our slow jams. They volunteered without being badgered and gave our beginners a chance to learn from some of the finest pickers in the mid-South.

We must also mention the good work of FOCOL (Friends of Cedars of Lebanon). These outstanding individuals volunteer their time to support Cedars of Lebanon State Park in countless ways. Last year and this year they were invaluable assets to Breakin' Up Winter.

We also appreciate the good work of park rangers Buddy Ingram and Kenny Daniel for their long and continued support of Breakin' Up Winter.

A not-for-profit organization is only as good as its volunteers, and we're not called the "Volunteer State" for nothing.

Again, thank you all for being such a vital

part of making BUW 11 a grand success, and please forgive me if I've forgotten someone. So many of you did so much, and I look forward to working with you next year! □

**Editor's Note:** Darlyne failed to mention the one person who may have done more than anyone to make BUW 11 a success, Darlyne Kent. We all thank you, Darlyne. □

### **Breakin' Up Winter: An Unbiased Opinion**

~Betty Westmoreland

Breakin' Up Winter 11 has come and gone. What a weekend! Cedars of Lebanon State Park was filled with the sounds of claw-hammer banjos, fiddles, guitars, dulcimers, mandolins, and even Sacred Harp singing. People came in from everywhere for the 11th year of this wonderful weekend of old-time string band music. The early spring days were crisp and sunny.

The schedule began with a welcome from Don Kent, followed by a memorial tribute to the late Charles Wolfe. Roby Cogswell, Folklife Program Director at the Tennessee Arts Commission, shared some greetings and opening remarks, and the weekend took off from there.

There were miniconcerts by the likes of Jim Griffith, of Tucson, Arizona; Ron Pen, of the University of Kentucky; and Mike Seeger, of Rockbridge County, Virginia. Oh, wow! The mere mention of those names is enough to make musicians everywhere take notice.

There were wonderful slow jams for learners, led by Bob White, Cathy White, Jim Holland, Dave Cannon, Mary Lou Durham, Jim Hornsby, Ed Gregory, and Phil Sparks.

There was a shape note singing school and Sunday morning shape note hymn sing led by Tim Reynolds. This form of music, also called Sacred Harp, can be heard in the movie, *Cold Mountain*, and there are Web sites and CDs available to learn about this early a cappella form of church music.

Dan Knowles, of Paris, Tennessee, led a great banjo workshop. Mike Seeger, Ron Pen, and Jim Griffith held guided jams. There was no lack of help for those wishing to improve their skills or learn new ones.

A special and unusual treat for bands and small groups was the opportunity to make a "vintage" recording with Martin Fisher, using old-time equipment and "wax" cylinders. Copies will be supplied to the groups so that they can hear what they might have sounded like in the early days of recorded music.

In addition to instruction by the very best, there were big jams, little jams, and even dancing by Thomas Maupin, who brought his own board. The parking lots, shelters, lodges, and cabins were filled with wonderful string band music. Fireplaces were ablaze, the smoke rose among the cedars, and it was the perfect place for a musician to be on a Saturday afternoon!

One parking lot jam had no less than Matt Kinman, Leroy Troy, and David Long laying down some major music. While that was going on, Roland White strolled through on his way to do a demonstration with Mike Seeger. Rebekah Weiler and some of the Blue Creek Ramblers doled out hot tunes in another area of the parking lot. Every moment was a "be there" moment—you just had to be there!

Check the Web site for the Nashville Old-Time String Band Association (Notsba) to read about the weekend and to plan for Breakin' Up Winter 12 on March 2-4, 2007. [www.nashvilleoldtime.org/BUW](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org/BUW)

Special thanks to Buddy Ingram, ranger at Cedars of Lebanon, and the rest of the crew which made the weekend perfect.

Sponsors of BUW 11 were *The Old-Time Herald*, Gruhn Guitar, Mandolin Brothers, John Kelley's "Bass Box," Shiloh Music, Martin Fisher Vintage Recordings, Cedar Mountain Banjos, Fretter's Piano Service, and Cotten Music Center, along with Friends of Cedars of Lebanon (FOCOL). Thanks for a memorable weekend!

Pick away! □

**Editor's Note:** Betty Westmoreland is a new friend of Notsba and one of our charter members. She is a native of Alexandria, Virginia, and a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University. She is a free-lance writer who enjoys covering old-time music events. Thanks Betty. □

**Notsba's Membership Drive**

We are still sorting out the paperwork, but right now, it appears that Notsba has 51 charter members. *The first two people to join were Ron and Cynthia Whitlow.* The others, listed alphabetically, are:

Mike Baugh  
 Lee Cagle  
 Daniel and Holly Casanova  
 Robert Cogswell  
 Lex Conatsor  
 Robert and Sueanna Dickenson  
 Mary Lou Durham  
 Drew Fedak  
 Bill and Doris Fisher  
 Martin Fisher  
 Pat Gill  
 Ed and Ellen Gregory  
 Bob and Pam Hightower  
 Jim Hornsby  
 Lilly Hsu  
 Eddie and Julie Hudson  
 Tom and Lorrie Ann Jaselskis  
 Tim and Patricia Johnson  
 Tom Johnson  
 Mr and Mrs Terry Jolley  
 Suzanne and Glen Keldsen  
 Don and Darlyne Kent  
 Chuck and Jo Linville  
 Frank (Bubba) Logan  
 Don and Mary Ann Masters  
 Mark Miller McLemore  
 Carl Myers  
 Carl Pagter  
 Jeff Rohrbough  
 Fred Seivers  
 Phil and Kitty Sparks  
 Roy and Melissa Turrentine  
 Betty Westmoreland  
 Roland White

We all welcome all of us to the organization © Having a list of committed members not only fulfills one of the requirements for becoming an official nonprofit entity, it gives us a wealth of resources to draw upon. ***We are off!***

If your name should have been in this list but, for some reason, was not, please contact Phil Sparks, the editor of this newsletter.

If you have not yet joined but want to, the

membership forms are available on our Web site, at our jams, or from any member of the board. Please join us! □

**The Blue Creek Ramblers Take Tennessee to San Diego**

~Patsy Weiler

Delmer Holland and the Blue Creek Ramblers, with our own Rebekah Weiler on banjo, will be taking Tennessee traditional tunes to San Diego, California, where they will perform April 22 and 23 at the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Adams Avenue Roots Festival.

The festival will take place in the historic Normal Heights section of the city and will cover a four-block area centered around the intersection of 35th Street and Adams Avenue. It is presented by the Adams Avenue Business Association.

A wide mix of music styles—from old-time to Celtic, Bluegrass, blues, cowboy music, and conjunto—will be presented on seven stages. In addition to the music, there will be a large variety of crafts, arts, dance, workshops, and food. No admission is charged. The hours are 10 AM until 9 PM on Saturday, April 22, and 10 AM until 6 PM on Sunday, April 23.

The Blue Creek Ramblers will perform on Saturday and will also participate in a song swap workshop.

The posters of this event are interesting art works in their own right. Each year, festival directors use a folk art sketch of an artist who performed at Adams Avenue but recently passed away. According to Judy Moore of the organizing committee, it is a way of honoring the memory of the many great people who have crossed the stage. Copies of their posters are used in their promotional material and ads, such as the one that appears in the *Old-Time Herald*.

For more information you can visit their Web site, <http://gothere.com/AdamsAve/BusAssn/RootsFestival/2006.htm>, contact them by e-mail at [AdamsAvenue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:AdamsAvenue@sbcglobal.net), or call (619) 282 7329.

The music for the festival is organized by Lou Curtiss, who has owned and operated the wonderful Folk Arts Rare Records in San

Diego for nearly 40 years. Lou writes a column called "Recordially"—a reference to the way he closes his writing. He also does a radio show, produces festivals, is a scribe of liner notes, and teaches.

He has a deep passion for the preservation of traditional music. Here is a selection from one of his "Recordially" columns:

"It isn't enough to sit in your lonely room contemplating all those rare records you've found. It isn't even enough to sit at your computer hawking what you've found on eBay. If you like the music enough to collect it, you've got to love it enough to want to help keep the music alive."

If you would like to read more of his thoughts you can click on this Web address: <http://www.normalheights.org/events/streetfair/2003/loucurtiss/>

Don't try to contact Lou by e-mail. He doesn't have a computer. He does have a telephone (619) 282-7833. Lou still writes his letters by his own hand and enjoys correspondence. If you're ever in San Diego, stop by his shop. It's located at 2881 Adams Avenue, San Diego, CA, 92116. □

### **Alan Jabbour Holds Fiddle Workshop on Learning Henry Reed Tunes**

Alan Jabbour will teach a three-hour hands-on class on Appalachian fiddling for intermediate and advanced fiddlers on Sunday, April 2, from 2 to 5 PM at the Pioneer Log Cabin on the campus of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, one hour north of Nashville off I-65.

Participants will learn several tunes that Alan collected from his mentor Henry Reed, with special attention to bowing patterns and fingering details. Bring your fiddle and a recording device.

The cost of the workshop is \$40, reservations only. Places are limited.

To learn more about Alan Jabbour and Henry Reed, go to [www.alanjabbour.com](http://www.alanjabbour.com).

For more information concerning the event, e-mail Erika Brady at [erika.brady@wku.edu](mailto:erika.brady@wku.edu) or call (270) 745-5902. □

### **The Fiddle Contest in Clarksville**

~Phil Sparks

Kitty and I attended the fiddlers' contest and Clarksville on Saturday, March 25. We had a great time and saw lots of old friends.

In the Old-Time Band category, Delmer Holland and the Blue Creek Ramblers (featuring Rebekah Weiler on banjo) placed second.

In the Old-Time Banjo category, Dan Knowles took first while Evan Johnson placed third. Evan was playing his fretless banjo, and I heard several total strangers raving about his picking.

I entered, with the support of Joe Fentress on guitar and Joe Peaveyhouse on bass. I won nothing but had a good time.

More of us should attend the local fiddle contests. □

### **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](mailto:lllmontgomery@aol.com). □

### **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 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 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. □

### Directions to the 4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday Jam

This month's 4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday Jam will be held at the home of Julie Mavity-Hudson and Eddie Husdon.

From Nashville, go west on I-24 (toward Clarksville and St. Louis). Take the New Hope Road Exit (Exit 31). At the bottom of the ramp, turn left.

Go through a 4-way stop with a flashing light (Clarksville Highway) and on to the next flashing light at a 2-way stop (Old Clarksville Pike).

Turn left onto Old Clarksville Pike, and then take the second road on the left, Park Lane.

Julie and Eddie live on Park Lane in the third house on the left. The house is back in the woods, so look for the number 1015 on their mailbox.

If you lose your way, call Eddie on his cell phone, 415-6931. □

## EVENTS

### TENNESSEE

#### Old-Time Fiddlers' and Bluegrass Jamboree

Held in Holladay, Saturday, April 15, at a school near the center of town. For more information, e-mail them at [holladay@netease.net](mailto:holladay@netease.net) or call 731-847-2274 or 731-584-6874. □

### GEORGIA

#### Bear on the Square Mountain Festival

Held Friday through Sunday, April 21-23, on and around the court square in Dahlonega. This festival is one of Don and Darlyne Kent's favorites. For more information go to [www.bearonthesquare.org](http://www.bearonthesquare.org) or call 678-787-0535. □

### NORTH CAROLINA

#### Merlefest

Held Thursday through Sunday, April 26-30, on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro. For more information, go to [www.merlefest.com](http://www.merlefest.com) or call 336-838-6185. □

#### Hosts for 2006 4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday Jams

We now have hosts for all of the 4<sup>th</sup>-Sunday Jams to be held in 2006. Darlyne will soon be after us to sign up for 2007. □

#### 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](http://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](mailto:kpsparks@msn.com)

or

615-797-4356

or

2020 Claylick Road

White Bluff, TN 37187

The *submission deadline for May's newsletter* is *Wednesday, April 26.* □

**General Contact Information for the  
Nashville Old-Time String Band  
Association:**

E-mails for All Members  
[friends@nashvilleoldtime.org](mailto:friends@nashvilleoldtime.org)

Don Kent, President  
615-868-9951  
[Shamrock1@mindspring.com](mailto:Shamrock1@mindspring.com)

Ed Gregory, Web Master  
615-889-5566  
[edgregory@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org), or call him at 615-868-9951. □

### FINE GUITAR FOR SALE

1995 Taylor 810 BR, Brazilian Rosewood, Original owner must sell, \$2250.

This guitar is not in collector's condition, but she's certainly worthy of a collector's attention. She has not spent her life in a case. She's played countless festivals and all-night jams, bringing home her share of dings and scratches.

Without doubt, she's a singer's guitar and has been played frequently, boldly, and lovingly. Her voice is smooth and rich and she plays like a dream all the way up the neck. She gained volume from being played, and her lovely sustain supports the female voice particularly well in a solo environment. She's won many singing contests for me over the years.

I bought this baby new at the Rock Block in 1995 for \$2000. A new 810 now runs over \$3000 with Indian rosewood. Brazilian rosewood could cost an additional grand, if they can get it. The difference in the quality of

the sound between the Brazilian and Indian rosewoods is significant.

It comes with its original case (deep fuchsia interior), which has some wear.

If you are interested in learning more about this guitar, please e-mail me, Susie Coleman, at [susieco@comcast.net](mailto:susieco@comcast.net) or call me at 615-662-5577 (Pegram, Tennessee). □

## Lost and Found

(from Breakin' Up Winter)

### Left in Cabin 6

**1 folding musician's chair: Round back and seat with "DITO" handwritten on the back**

**1 black sweatshirt, "Jerzees" brand**

### Left in the Group Lodge

**1 blue "Companion" flashlight, 6 inches long with a yellow ring near the front end and a blue cord with a yellow knob on the other end.**

**To claim these Items, contact Phil Sparks or any other member of the board. □**