

Central New York Bluegrass Association



HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR, ONE AND ALL.....



From the Prez ...

Happy New Year!

I hope your holiday season was full of family, friends, and good music.

I've learned that our friends in the Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Association have decided not to have a festival in 2009. This is further proof that many of the bluegrass organizations across the state are facing problems similar to ours. I'm happy to say they are looking forward to working with us on a project or two throughout the summer. This is a great opportunity for us to work together, and increase our focus on bluegrass and old-time country music.

Just a reminder - there will be a meeting of the festival team after the general meeting in January. Everyone with an interest in helping with a festival (2010) or other summer event is urged to attend (see Mark's reminder in the next column).

Best wishes for the New Year, and I hope to see you all at the meeting in January.

Dennis

From Mark Sostrin

Thanks to everyone who attended the CNYBA Christmas Party. The food was good, the music was entertaining, and we just about broke even, not bad! Now we can all look forward to a great 2009. So Happy New Year, and I hope to see you all at the next monthly meeting.

The 2010 Bluegrass Festival Committee meeting scheduled for December was cancelled due to inclement weather. The meeting has been rescheduled for around 3:15 PM on January 11, 2009, at Park Rose Estates, after the general meeting.

FYI -- Newsletter Deadline

In case any members or others have information to put into the monthly newsletter, be sure you email or snail mail it to Ann DeForge (see addresses at right) by the 25th of the month **prior** to the newsletter in which you want your information to be printed. Thank you!

Member



PRESIDENT
Dennis Crawford
Box 74
Mt. Upton, NY 13809
607-764-8453
dcrawford8@stny.rr.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
William Light
211 Allen Street
E. Syracuse, NY 13057
315-463-4186
wlight1@twcnny.rr.com

TREASURER
John Warner
P.O. Box 274
Sherburne, NY 13460
607-244-4831/0139
jwarner23@twcnny.rr.com

SECRETARY
TBD

BOARD MEMBERS
Shirley Stevens (451-2801) 3
Kathy Kinney - (277-1988) 3
Juergen Knauss (672-3749) 2
Les Hathaway (696-8994) 2
Mark Sostrin (637-6811) - 1
Ed VanCott (638-7617) - 1

LIASON between Board and Membership:
Butch DeForge (258-9216)
deforges@hotmail.com

SALES TABLE:
Ray Crouch
3105 Co. Rt. 45
Fulton, NY 13069
315-593-1646

MEMBERSHIP and SUNSHINE
Helen Weldon
2446 Hillview Dr., #17
Cato, NY 13033
315-626-2603
helwel80@yahoo.com



NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Ann DeForge
149 Cottage St.
Auburn, NY 13021
315-258-9216
deforges@hotmail.com

JANUARY MEETING IS ON SUNDAY, JAN. 11, 2009



What's Happening? Out and About.....

EVERY SECOND SUNDAY: CNYBA meeting - Park Rose Estates, Liverpool -- Come meet and pick!

EVERY SUNDAY 1 p.m. til? Jammin' at Kellish Hill Farm, 3192 Pompey Center Rd. (1/2 mile north of Route 20), Manlius, NY. Good old fashioned bluegrass, gospel & country music. Can bring a dish to pass. Free for the young at heart! For information, call Kathy at 315-682-1578. See page 7 about our festival!!

EVERY 3rd SUNDAY: STBA meeting at the Tuscarora Elem. School, Addison, NY. Bring a dish to pass, your table setting, a friend, your musical instrument, and/or your listening ear. Picking begins at noon; meeting called to order at 1:00 -- then lunch -- then back to picking. Info: Ken Pearson, Pres., 269 Dweight Ave., Corning, NY 14830 (607-936-3103)

FOURTH SUNDAY -- FINGER LAKES BLUEGRASS MONTHLY JAM, 2 pm - 7 pm, EXCEPT DEC. and MAY thru AUG. at the ONTARIO COUNCIL, 65 S. Main St., Canandaigua, NY. Bluegrass Acoustic instruments only. \$2.00 donation at the door; children under 5, free. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages available. Pot luck dinner -- please bring a dish to pass. For further information, call: THE ARTS COUNCIL, 585-396-0087, JOHN at 585-924-3117 or BUTCH at 585-289-4845.

EVERY MONDAY - JAM from 7-10 pm at the American Legion, Rochester St., Hannibal, NY. For information, call Bob Simmons at 564-5412 or 591-3296 or Butch Spencer at 598-1159.

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT from 7 to 10:30 pm **BLUEGRASS OPEN MIC NIGHT** with **STRING THEORY** -- Bring down your banjo, mandolin, fiddle or acoustic guitar and sign up to pick with Rochester's own String Theory. Just come to Johnny's Irish Pub. If you have questions or need more information, go to www.stringtheorybluegrass.com or call Jim Barbero at 585-489-0120. **EVERY TUESDAY: The Golden Link Folk Singing Society, Inc.** sing around 8 pm at 12 Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 S. Winton Rd., 585-234-5004 or <http://www.goldenlink.org>

EVERY WEDNESDAY (thru the summer): 7-9 pm Jam Session at the **Hillview Baptist Church Hall,** O'Brien Rd., Baldwinsville, NY (off Rt. 48, near Soroco). All welcome -- listeners and players. Phone 455-2434 or 626-2594.



EVERY THURSDAY: 7 pm - Musicians Forum at the Art Council - 108 W. Miller St., Newark, NY. Bring an acoustic instrument for a round robin of shared music -- new and old. Listeners and players welcome. Jacqueline Grey, Ex. Dir. Information: 315-331-4593.

EVERY FRIDAY: 7 pm- Jammin' at the Legion Hall in the village of Marcellus. Come join the fun! Info: Sam and marion at 315-673-2329 or Jack Burns at 315-673-1844. \$2.00 donation for hall use. See our doings on page 7! **EVERY 1st FRIDAY: COUNTRY JAM - 7pm - ?** At the **VFW POST,** Main St., Camden, NY. All are welcome: bluegrass lovers, country, fiddlers, and listeners (ring buzzer for admission).

EVERY SATURDAY - Open Forum Acoustic Jam, 7 - 11 pm - At the **Legion Hall** (next to the Fire Hall) in **Lyons, NY** - Free beverages, musicians welcome, and no cover charge for hall use. **EVERY 3rd SATURDAY: 8 am til. . .** Stittville, NY - **The Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Association** and the **Stittville Vol. Fire Dept.** -- Breakfast and jammin' begins at 8 am. Info: 315-339-2771 or 315-225-2906.

AM-FM-AM-FM



NEW- Brother Don's Internet Radio Show 10am & 10pm every day at <http://www.wdyn.net> - Independent Bluegrass and Old Time Artists. Send your CD, cassette tape, or LP To: Brother Don, 2440 Welch Road, Geneva, NY 14456-9303, bristbro@gmail.com OR Brother Don, WDYN Independent Radio, 2844 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, NY 14616 USA 1-800-816-4262

Larry Hoyt: "Common Threads" folk music, 2-5 pm; WAER FM (88.3) Syracuse - every Sunday except when SU athletic contests pre-empt the show.

Brad Edmonson: WVBR (93.5 FM) Ithaca; "The Salt Creek Show" 6-10 every Sunday, playing a mixture of music. Saltcreek@wvbr.com

Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble: Sundays 9 - midnight WCNY-FM (91.3), WUNY (89.5) and WJNY (90.0) www.wcny.org and Udmacon@aol.com

Barbara Heller Burns: Thursdays 3 pm; "String Fever" WSLU-FM (89.5) Canton, (88.9) Watertown, (91.3) Thousand Islands, and (91.7) Tupper Lake

Bruce Cutler's "Gospel Doings" (Christian Country & Bluegrass) is heard on: WACK-AM Radio 1420, Newark NY, Sundays 6:30 a.m.; also on: www.omnimedia.org, Portland OR, Mondays midnight to 1 a.m. (Eastern time) "Country Roots" (Secular Country & Bluegrass) is heard on: WETD-FM Radio 90.7; Alfred NY, Sundays 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.; also on: www.omnimedia.org, Portland, Oregon, Fridays 11 p.m. to midnight (Eastern time). Contact Bruce at jockey1170@verizon.net



RAMBLIN' with Helen: Folks, as you all read and enjoy (I

hope) our first “visit” in 2009, I hope each of you had a wonderful Holiday Season spent with family and friends. Mine was nice, and I have so many things to be thankful for. A big THANK YOU to each of you who remembered me with a Christmas Card, email or call. To **Ken and Lee Algier** of “**Banjo & Base Bluegrass**”, a special thanks for their huge box of assorted cards and two books of stamps. There were enough Christmas Cards with musical characters on to send to those CNYBA “shut-ins”, ill or “just needed to be remembered” members. **Vernon and Olive Loucks** have a “new member” living with them now, a very lovable kitten! Vernon told me when they went to see him, it got right up into Olive’s lap, and then proceeded to come and see him, so, needless to say, it was “love at first sight” for both, and how lucky that kitten is! Along the same line, when **Mary Phillips** sent their dues, (along with a book of stamps – **thanks**, Mary), she wrote about her new dog – a really big boy who loves her! She got him from a shelter and found out he had been abused, but she says he is very gentle and a lot of company. Her sister Tillie is now home, and hopefully on the road to recovery.

Mary also emailed me regarding the **CNYBA’S Christmas Party**, and reported they had a good time. It was well attended, new faces were there, and the food was good. **Congratulations to Mark Sostrin and his helpers for a job well done!** I also had an email from **Joy Crouch** who reported the same, and, like Mary, would have enjoyed a few more Christmas songs. **Ray Crouch** played a Christmas CD while all were eating, which Mary said really added a lot to the atmosphere – you are so thoughtful Ray!

THANKS to Sam and Gail Fox for the blank cards included with their renewal. Gail, like so many when they write, expressed their disappointment in there being no festival in 2008, as they enjoyed all the great bands we brought in. These were the same sentiments expressed by **Betty Jane Windhausen** when she renewed, and your kind words from both regarding my Ramblin’ were greatly appreciated. Our long-time member “**Soc**” **Nellis** included in his Christmas Card, a letter with information regarding a double CD consisting of 28 Old Time Songs and Hymns by Bradley Kincaid. **Thanks** “Soc” and I’ll check into it after the holidays. He also wanted me to send “**Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the CNYBA members**” from him and Jean. When I read about the CD, it made me think of my neglect to write in my Dec. “visit” regarding our long-time member **Gertrude Rozelle** and her move into senior housing in Whitney Point. When Gert’s husband passed away, and she had the monumental job of “downsizing” his huge record, cassette, etc. collection; she sent me a shoe box full of Bradley Kincaid cassettes, which I enjoy so much. Gert was very fortunate to sell her home, the one they moved into the day they were married, and she was in it 54 years. It was put on the market on July 16th, and closed on October 6th. As she wrote, it will take time to adjust, but knows it was the right decision to make at this point in her life. We all wish you a long, happy stay in your new home Gert, and speaking from experience; I’m sure you will never regret your move.

Wren Doubler (granddaughter of Uncle Dave Macon) and I keep in touch every year at Christmas time, and her letter revealed that she didn’t make “Uncle Dave Macon” Days this year, but maybe she will in 2009. She also told about a film crew from London that came to her home in July and filmed her talking about her grandfather Uncle Dave. They are doing a DVD on OLD COUNTRY MUSIC, with six different family interviews; including a 99 year old musician! The DVD comes out in Feb., and they assured her they will send her a copy.

Homer Reynolds wrote on his Christmas card (and, no, folks, his wasn't my first one, like in other years) that he has to have a knee replacement in the spring but is putting it off as long as he can. He wanted to be remembered to all who remember him – **Homer, we'll always remember you!!**

THANK YOU to the following who sent an additional monetary donation towards postage with their renewals, **Ray Packard, Betty Jane Windhausen, Scott Langille and Samuel A. Fox. WELCOME to new members Stacey Sutton of Syracuse and Max and Emily Aman of Interlaken** – we hope you all will be able to come to our meetings, showcases, etc.

This ends all of my accumulated notes, emails, etc. to use for my "visit" with you, except for the following email from our dear member **Joy** – "First things first: I want to wish all my friends and angels out there a very Merry Christmas. I pray God's Blessing will fall on you as snowflakes in CNY at this time – that's a lot of blessings! I wish you all good health and good life. At this time I am counting my blessings daily, and thanking God for the kindness He has shown me and for the angels He has sent to make my journey more bearable. The radiation treatments are half way over with, and I am so glad about that as the burns are getting worse all the time. I am sure once they are over, I will be able to treat and heal them. The "bug" that has come to visit so many decided to visit Ray and me, along with our daughter, but do not believe it will keep any of us from enjoying the holidays together. As I said, treatments are almost over (probably will be by the time you read this, folks) and we will be doing MRI's to see if the cancer is all gone and to map out what direction we will go in if it isn't – but that is a bridge we will cross when we get to it. Right now though, "all is well" and getting better. Everyone, please have a Blessed Holiday and we will be seeing some of you soon; and to those we won't be seeing, know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers. Love to all, **Ray and Joy Crouch.**" Please keep **Joy** in your thoughts and prayers as she finishes her treatments and endures the anticipation of the MRI's results. I know exactly how Joy and Ray feel with that "nasty bug's" visit, as it made a visit to me, liked me so well that it stayed for over two weeks, thus putting me way behind in doing all of my Christmas cards, not only for myself but for the two other organizations I do them for, my yearly baking, and, of course, decorating for Christmas. However, am doing much better, and eventually I think I got most everything done that I had planned to do – if not, there is another year! Until our next visit, remember – "The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything – they just make the best of everything."

Helen

Be sure to check out www.thebluegrassblog.com for lots of information about the latest bluegrass doings and information from bluegrass fans..... ENJOY!!

Bluegrass Music: The Roots

This article was taken from <http://www.ibma.org/about.bluegrass/history/index.asp>

The various types of music brought with the people who began migrating to America in the early 1600s are considered to be the roots of bluegrass music --including dance music and ballads from Ireland, Scotland and England, as well as African American gospel music and blues. (In fact, slaves from Africa brought the design idea for the banjo--an instrument now integral to the bluegrass sound.)

As the early Jamestown settlers began to spread out into the Carolinas, Tennessee, Kentucky and the Virginias, they composed new songs about day-to-day life experiences in the new land. Since most of these people lived in rural areas, the songs reflected life on the farm or in the hills, and this type of music was called "mountain music" or "country music." The invention of the phonograph and the onset of the radio in the early 1900s brought this old-time music out of the rural Southern mountains to people all over the United States.

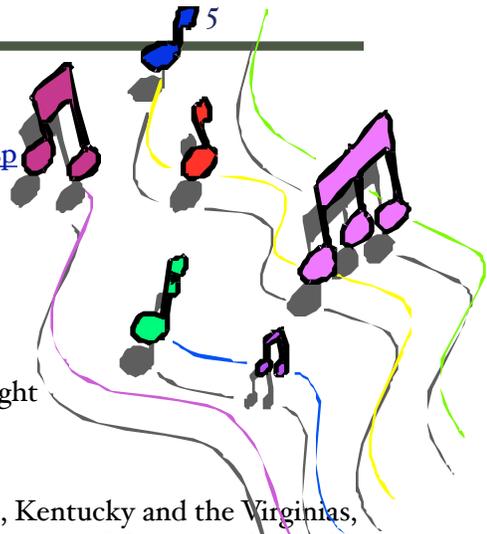
Good singing became a more important part of country music. Singing stars like Jimmie Rodgers, family bands like the Carter family from Virginia and duet teams like the Monroe Brothers from Kentucky contributed greatly to the advancement of traditional country music.

The Monroe Brothers were one of the most popular duet teams of the 1920s and into the 1930s. Charlie played the guitar, Bill played the mandolin and they sang duets in harmony. When the brothers split up as a team in 1938, both went on to form their own bands. Since Bill was a native of Kentucky, the Bluegrass State, he decided to call his band "Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys," and this band sound birthed a new form of country music.

"Bill Monroe and the Blue Grass Boys" first appeared on the Grand Ole Opry in 1939 and soon became one of the most popular touring bands out of Nashville's WSM studios. Bill's new band was different from other traditional country music bands of the time because of its hard driving and powerful sound, utilizing traditional acoustic instruments and featuring highly distinctive vocal harmonies. This music incorporated songs and rhythms from string band, gospel (black and white), work songs and "shouts" of black laborers, country and blues music repertoires. Vocal selections included duet, trio and quartet harmony singing in addition to Bill's powerful "high lonesome" solo lead singing. After experimenting with various instrumental combinations, Bill settled on mandolin, banjo, fiddle, guitar and bass as the format for his band. The guitar originally came from Spain. The mandolin, as well as the fiddle and acoustic bass (both from the violin family), originally came from Italy.



While many fans of bluegrass music date the genre back to 1939, when Monroe formed his first Blue Grass Boys band, most believe that the classic bluegrass sound jelled in 1945, shortly after Earl Scruggs, a 21 year old banjo player from North Carolina, joined the band. Scruggs played an innovative three-finger picking style on the banjo that energized enthusiastic audiences, and has since come to be called simply, "Scruggs style" banjo. Equally influential in the classic 1945 line-up of the Blue Grass Boys were Lester Flatt, from Sparta, Tenn. on guitar and lead vocals against Monroe's tenor; Chubby Wise, from Florida, on fiddle; and Howard Watts, also known by his comedian name, "Cedric Rainwater," on acoustic bass. ---- continued on page six ----



When first Earl Scruggs, and then Lester Flatt left Monroe's band and eventually formed their own group, The Foggy Mountain Boys, they decided to include the resonophonic guitar, or Dobro into their band format. The Dobro is often included in bluegrass band formats today as a result. Burkett H. "Uncle Josh" Graves, from Tellico Plains, Tenn., heard Scruggs' three-finger style of picking in 1949 and adapted it to the then, almost obscure slide bar instrument. With Flatt & Scruggs from 1955-1969, Graves introduced his widely emulated, driving, bluesy style on the Dobro. The Dobro was invented in the United States by the Dopyera Brothers, immigrant musicians/inventors originally from the Slovak Republic. The brand name, "Dobro," comes from DOPYera BROthers.

From 1948-1969, Flatt & Scruggs were a major force in introducing bluegrass music to America through national television, at major universities and coliseums, and at schoolhouse appearances in numerous towns. Scruggs wrote and recorded one of bluegrass music's most famous instrumentals, "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," which was used in the soundtrack for the film, Bonnie & Clyde. In 1969 he established an innovative solo career with his three sons as "The Earl Scruggs Revue." Scruggs still records and performs selected dates in groups that usually include his sons, Randy on guitar and Gary on bass.

After parting with Scruggs in 1969, Lester Flatt continued successfully with his own group, "The Nashville Grass," performing steadily until shortly before his death in 1979.

By the 1950s, people began referring to this style of music as "bluegrass music." Bluegrass bands began forming all over the country and Bill Monroe became the acknowledged "Father of Bluegrass Music."

In the 1960s, the concept of the "bluegrass festival" was first introduced, featuring bands that had seemed to be in competition with each other for a relatively limited audience on the same bill at weekend festivals across the country. Carlton Haney, from Reidsville, N.C., is credited with envisioning and producing the first weekend-long bluegrass music festival, held at Fincastle, Va. in 1965.

The increased availability of traditional music recordings, nationwide indoor and outdoor bluegrass festivals and movie, television and commercial soundtracks featuring bluegrass music have aided in bringing this music out of modern day obscurity. Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs & the Foggy Mountain Boys achieved national prominence with tour sponsorship by Martha White Flour and for playing the soundtrack for the previously mentioned film, Bonnie and Clyde, as well as on a television show called The Beverly Hillbillies.

For more information on the history of bluegrass music, visit:

International Bluegrass Music Museum

207 East Second Street

Owensboro, KY 42303

(270) 926-7891

888-MY-BANJO

www.bluegrass-museum.org

For information on individual bluegrass

artists, go to Bluegrass Bios at [http://](http://www.waynerice.com/bgbios/)

www.waynerice.com/bgbios/

**The rest of this article will appear
in our newsletter the next time
we have an extra page or two.
Hope you enjoyed reading it!!**

**Don't forget to check us out
online at www.cnyba.com**

Andy Pawlenko CD Available

Out Behind the Barn

A CD of 14 favorite songs sung by Andy Pawlenko.

Little Brown Shack out Back, The little shirt my Mother made for me, Old Slew Foot and more.

Order online at www.ClipClocks.com

All proceeds from this CD will go to The Charlie and Mary Haney Cancer Giving Fund to help people in Oswego County NY fighting Cancer who are without insurance.

CD compiled and burned by Andy's Daughter Deanna Hubbard

\$12 each



Happy New Year!!

The Sunny Side of Appalachia: Bluegrass from the Grassroots

This is a new book on bluegrass released by West Virginia writer B.L. Dotson-Lewis. She says that her "books are filled with oral histories, narratives, black and white photos. Great for the classroom. Original dialect, verbatim, uncut." This is the third book in this group for the Appalachian Mountain Project.

Original and authentic describes the work of B.L. Dotson-Lewis. Born in the coalfields of Southwest Virginia and raised in the coalfields of West Virginia, this author strikes out on her own to give the mountain people a voice. This book explores the exciting world of bluegrass music from the grassroots. The early years of the struggling musician comes alive.

Ride along with Bobby Osborne and Jesse McReynolds to the one-room schools and the honky tonks or stand on top of the concession stands at drive-in theaters where they first played. Near starvation, neither heartache nor uncooperative record companies stop these musicians from telling the stories of the mountain people in the high lonesome sound of bluegrass music.

The book is available on www.amazon.com, for \$15.95.

Betty Dotson-Lewis
228 Madelia Place
Mooresville, NC 28115
704-929-3118 (cell)

BLUEGRASS TALENT SHOW

The Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Association (MVBGA) is presenting its second **Musical Talent Show** on January 10th, 2009, at 7 PM at the Stittville Volunteer Firemans Hall, just off Rt 291 in Stittville, NY.

The show is open to any level of musician from beginner to professional who would like to perform in a CoffeeHouse setting. There is a **\$5 fee** for all performers. Members and non-members of the MVBGA are welcome to perform.

Spectators will also be heartily welcomed and refreshments will be available. A donation of \$5 will be asked per performer or spectator over the age of 16. Children 16 and under accompanied by an adult will be admitted and may perform free. Information can also be found on the MVBGA website – www.mvbga.com.

Musicians wishing to join in the fun and donate their talent may contact Dick Satterly at 942-2854 or Bill Fahy at 336-3390 by January 6th to pre-register for the event.

JOIN THE CENTRAL NEW YORK BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Choose your membership: Active - \$10. _____, Senior (62+) - \$9. _____

Family - \$15. _____, Band - \$20. _____

Gift Certificate**

** To _____ From _____

What instrument(s) do you play?

What band(s) are you with?

Areas/activities you can assist us with: (check all that apply)

Publicity _____ Mentoring _____ Performing _____

Your occupation _____ Fund-raising _____

Other skills _____

Make checks payable to CNYBA and mail to Helen Weldon, 2446 Hillview Dr., #17, Cato, NY 13033; 315-626-2603, e-mail: helwel80@yahoo.com.

Central New York Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 491

Baldwinsville, NY 13027



WELCOME TO 2009

*Check your
membership re-
newal date!!*

PLEASE KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CURRENT -- RENEW EARLY!!!!