

Central New York Bluegrass Association

Thanks to our Departing President

At the monthly meeting of the CNYBA held in Baldwinsville, NY, on February 10, 2008, a difficult decision was made by President Albert (Butch) DeForge to submit his resignation, effective immediately. Butch indicated a number of reasons leading to this decision. The CNYBA owes Butch a great deal of thanks for taking on the challenge of being president of the organization. He was instrumental in a number of positive changes including:

- 1) Relocating our meetings to Canton Woods (Baldwinsville) Senior Center
- 2) Making inroads on finding a new location for mini-jams
- 3) Working towards creating a youth program to keep the CNYBA organization vital
- 4) Attracting other area musicians and band members to attend the monthly jams and events
- 5) Working to ensure good food is available at the monthly meetings
- 6) Trying to find a lower-cost location for the annual CNYBA Bluegrass Festival.

When no one else would step up to the plate, Butch took on the task. Though his tenure was relatively short, he has made the organization stronger and ready to take on the challenges that lie ahead.



Butch, on behalf of the entire CNYBA, please accept our heartfelt thanks. We look forward to your continued friendship as an active member of the CNYBA. You can be proud of your efforts and accomplishments. As a note of record, it was decided unanimously (with one abstention) to have Dennis Crawford serve as acting President of CNYBA until a new president is elected and takes his/her term of office. The CNYBA officers, board members, and general membership are thankful to Dennis for taking on this position. Please give Dennis your support during this transition period.

– CNYBA Board of Directors

See "From the President" later in this newsletter for more information from our Acting President, Dennis Crawford

Check us out online at <http://www.cnyba.com>



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Edward Campbell

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MEMBERSHIP and SUNSHINE
Helen Weldon
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Cato, NY 13033
315-626-2603





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

EVERY SECOND SUNDAY: CNYBA meeting - Canton Woods Senior Center -- 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.

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 2-6 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. **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



Grandma Brown's Parlor: with Nancy Brown, Saturday 12 midnight - 3 am **WVOA FM** (103.9). Nancy's show is now also on wvoaradio.com the same time it is heard on the radio.

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: "Gospel Doings" is aired on **WACK** 1420 AM on Sunday at 6:30 am. For further information or to let Bruce know of happenings you would like mentioned, email jockey1170@verizon.net



Thousand Islands Bluegrass Preservation Society's Seventh Annual "Winter Getaway" Weekend!

April 4-5, 2008 at Bonnie Castle Resort, Holland Street, Alexandria Bay, NY. Dave Nichols and Spare Change will open both Friday and Saturday Shows. Free jamming every day, including Sunday. There will also be a guitar raffle (Martin Sigma, donated by Dave Nichols) and 50/50 raffles.

Shows: Friday 7-10 p.m. - **The Abrams Brothers** (\$10.00 per person)

Saturday 7-10 p.m. - **Creek Bend** (\$10.00 per person)

For room rates and reservations, call Bonnie Castle **NOW**: 1-800-955-4511 (\$50 per room; \$65 for room with Jacuzzi). For more information, contact TIBPS president Dick Bartlett - 315-658-2679. Tickets are available only at the door.

James Reams and the Barnstormers Concert -- Capital Theater, **May 17, 2008**

220 W. Dominick St., Rome, NY

Information: <http://www.mvbga.com/2008.html>

6th Annual Mohawk Valley Bluegrass Festival

Westernville Firemans Field

Rt. 46N, Westernville, NY

July 18 - 20, 2008 -- James Reams and the Barnstormers are playing on **July 19th only**.

Other bands include the Delaney Brothers, Cabin Fever Band, Acoustic Blue, Diamond Sunday, Off the Wall, Stump Hollow Bluegrass Band, The Sail Cats, The Nearly Brothers, The Flophouse String Band, and Blue Lightning



RAMBLIN' WITH HELEN

As I start our visit on 2/20, the sun is shining here—but it is bitter COLD! I'll try to keep my news in the order received since our last visit sent to our new editor in mid-December. First, congratulations to Ann for a very professional looking newsletter for January and assure you, Ann, it will be easier the more you do. I received many Christmas cards, and want to share the news received from the following members: **Dot Malouin** wrote regarding all the memories they made when they went to Cato and the "Bluegrass Ramble" tapings and said it's helping to keep her sanity since losing her husband, Al. I really believe a cheerful note or..... "Thinking of You" card sent to: 5 Power Mill Rd, Phillipston, MA 01331 would help those long days spent in a wheelchair. **Bill Kretschmer** wrote he and Ursula

are "hanging in there" even tho' he has some heart problems, and they think of us all often, loves reading the CNYBA newsletter and wished everyone a happy Holiday Season. **Bert Mehlenbacher** wrote both he and Alice, who is now on oxygen all the time and walks with a walker, are pretty good. They are sorry to hear we're not having a festival this year, and IF we get a nice Sunday, he will try to make a meeting. We'd all love to see you, Bert, and, again, a card to 200 Kidd Castle Way, Apt. 143, Webster, NY 14580 would be most welcome. **George Hall** wrote he and **Bibiane** are enjoying themselves, watch the weather reports of all the snow up here, and told me to stay out of it and let it all fall on the ground! **George** and **Mable Reese** wished everyone a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

James Reams and **Tina** sent Happy Holiday greetings and the best for 2008. He also called me New Year's Day to ask me to thank everyone for all we do to keep our Bluegrass Music alive. Elsewhere in the newsletter (see above) you'll see where and when they will be in our area. Do go see them, and let them know you are a CNYBA member.

To each of you who wrote, sent e-mails or called me regarding my years of doing the newsletter, each and every one meant so much to me. Some indicated that they think I also gave up writing the Ramblin' but want you to know I'll continue to do that part of the newsletter as long as I feel comfortable in doing so. It is very hard now that our newsletter is only sent every three months, but please keep sending me news anytime. When our long-time member **Shirley Miller** sent

her renewal, she said she doesn't get out much anymore, but was able to attend three weddings and a family reunion where she met two great-granddaughters from South Carolina, and they are awesome! Couldn't agree any more than I do regarding those "greats" Shirley and only wish yours were closer for you to enjoy. **Theresa Caltabiano** wrote that they live in Fulton and will try and make it to our new meeting location, Canton Woods, sometime this year—by the sounds of your weather, Theresa, you'd better wait until Spring!

Lyle Hobart's newsletter was returned due to no mailbox to put it into, and in checking, discovered his PO Box # had been left off. I called him and learned he and Evelyn didn't go to Florida this year—or at least not yet. Talking to Evelyn, she said the reason was due to having some thyroid problems along with very high blood pressure readings.

Our board member **John Crouch's** wife, **Martha**, who had been able to return to their trailer, had surgery on January 14th, and had to return to the nursing home for rehab. It is with sorrow I have to report Martha passed away February 15th, and there will be a memorial service held later for the family. Expressions of sympathy were sent, and know John would appreciate cards sent to—956 Middle Road, Lot 27A, Oswego, NY 13126. I was glad to have a chance to meet Martha when she attended our October and November meetings, and know many who go to the jam sessions at Marcellus Legion Hall on Friday nights know them both very well.

Ellen Owen, a long-time member, was in an automobile accident on December 12th, (I didn't hear about it in time to get it in my December Ramblin'.) and is still at St. Camillus Rehab Center for therapy. Her leg was shattered so badly that doctors predict four months at least before she can possibly attempt to walk. Please send cards to her home address—2399 Co. Rt. 37, Central Square, NY 13036, and they will be taken to her.

I'm sure many of you know by now about the passing of our Charter Member and long-time treasurer, **Peter Carr's** beloved **wife, Mary**, on January 25th; after a long and courageous battle with bone cancer. Mary and Pete had been married 28 years (after being introduced by members of CNYBA) and both were active at every CNYBA meeting or event all those years. Mary was pre-deceased by her first husband, Edwin Harris, in 1977, and is survived by two sons, one daughter, two sisters, nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. The funeral was Wednesday, January 30th, 11 a.m., with burial in Riverview Cemetery. Contributions can be sent to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, CNY Chapter, 401 Salina St., Learbury Centre, Syracuse, NY 13203. I have so many fond memories of Mary as we graduated together in 1946, and when I came to the Cato-Meridian School in 1942 as a freshman, Mary was one of the first to help me find my way around the school. She served as a board member for CNYBA on several different occasions and was always willing and always

volunteering to help wherever and whenever needed. She was the recipient of both the **Irene Thurston and Bud Artlip awards** and was an honorary member of CNYBA. During the past year of her illness, her outlook was always positive—one never heard her complain. Please take a moment and send a note to Pete: 2177 W. Genesee Rd., Baldwinsville, NY 13027.

Our treasurer, **Cathy Campbell**, called and asked me to let our members know that **donations of \$50** have been received by CNYBA from **Lois Artlip and Peg & Jerry Miller in memory of Mary** and she sent thank-yous to both. May you rest in peace, Mary, and the following most certainly expresses her wishes to us all: *I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one, I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun of happy memories that I leave when life is done.*

Thanks to another long-time member, **Homer Reynolds** for the nice valentine—the first one Homer! I had an e-mail from Tina on February 6th telling me that **James Reams** had an emergency appendectomy on February 4th but was home and doing fine. They were able to do it the "new way," but it still is a shock to anyone's system. I sent him a card from CNYBA. **Maryan VanDusen** called to say **Joanne Bartholemew's** Mom had a heart attack. I called and talked to

Joanne on Feb. 10th, and learned her mom fell and broke her bone below the hip and then had a heart attack. She is in a nursing home and not doing very well. During our conversation, she spoke about having received a picture from Lois (I assume it was one when she and Dean were presented the Bud Artlip Award as she said Lois was in the picture.) and asked me to thank Lois for it and say how much she enjoys it. Her writing time is pretty scarce these days, and, Joanne, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

John VanDusen called to say another long-time member, **John Long**, passed away sometime the second week of February. An expression of sympathy was sent to his widow, and his membership thru September '08 has been changed to her name. **Emma Teachout** wrote a nice letter on January 22nd saying she was doing about the same. They hadn't had too much snow in Liverpool, but where her husband, **Rex**, is—Pulaski—a much different story! She said they both are getting a little forgetful, but, Emma, we all do that. On the 21st the "Misfits" consisting of Lee Teachout, his wife Vicki and Vicki's father, Herb Smith, entertained at Buckley Landing, and the residents enjoyed them so much.

A big **THANK YOU** to **Shirley Stevens** for the fantastic job she did in getting Mary Carr's passing on our website and thru an e-mail to so many. This really was a necessity due to no newsletter going out for February. Also thanks to all who passed the news on to others when I sent word to them of the details.

Mary Phillips and I have kept in contact thru e-mails since Andy's passing, and, folks, I can't begin to tell you of all the serious illnesses of her sisters and their families. At one time her sister Tillie and her husband were both in the hospital at the same time, along with her other sister, Anne. At the present time her sister, Tillie, and her husband are at St. Luke's Nursing Home for therapy. Along with all of this, their neighbor, only 41 years old, passed away. Mary did what she could—cooked food and took it over. This week they are entertaining their two little granddaughters and am sure they will most certainly brighten their days. Mary and Ted, our thoughts and prayers are with all your family and, of course, both of you as you help them thru their illnesses.

I'm sorry I didn't make the January meeting, but was "entertaining" a bad sore throat and just felt yucky. **Thanks to Joy and Ray Crouch and Neil Shortslef** who both offered to come my way. When I heard the time some had getting home due to heavy snow, I was glad I stayed put. Best wishes to **Dennis Crawford** and those who volunteered to help him get our music into the schools, get instruments and instructors to give lessons to those young people showing an interest to learn—something that needs to be done to help keep bluegrass music alive.

Well, folks, I think this covers all the news I've had or heard of. Please keep in touch, and as things stand now our next visit will be in June. So, Happy St. Pat's Day, a blessed Easter, Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, and have a

safe but happy Memorial Day Weekend. -- **Helen**



Jericho Arts Council
P.O. Box 62
Bainbridge, NY 13733
Upcoming Shows:

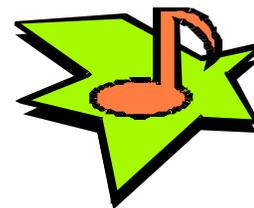
Saturday Night, March 29 - David Davis and Warrior River Boys - They offer audiences a rare glimpse at the role of the frontman in American music.

Saturday Night, April 26 - Dan Paisley and Southern Grass - Dan Paisley has developed into one of the most distinctive and expressive vocal stylists in bluegrass music today.

Saturday Night, May 17th - Bristol Brothers - Don Springer and Richard Hood bring decades of experience in old time and bluegrass music to the stage with a show based deep in the roots of bluegrass.

All shows are at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the door the night of the performance or **reserve ahead by calling 607-967-7228**. Table reservations are available!

For more information, call Elaine Sherman @607-967-8059



FOX FAMILY FESTIVAL IS NO MORE

(adapted from *'Grass Clippings'*, Jan. 2008)

After 18 years, the Fox Family Bluegrass Festival has come to the end of the road. Kim, Barb, and Joel Fox and all the members of the Fox Family put their hearts and souls into the event, but, as they said, "all good things must come to an end."

They thank all their helpers -- gate workers, burger flippers, announcers, and other contributors -- and all the business owners who helped to sponsor the show. Next, they wish to thank all the wonderful bands who shared their talent with the people of upstate New York. Finally, they extend thanks to all the festival-goers who have become a part of their family by returning each and every year with smiles on their faces, ready for anything.

Kim, Barb, and Joel want all to know that they will miss everyone this August.

FROM THE PRESIDENT -----

First, let me take this opportunity to thank the membership of CNYBA for the privilege of serving as acting President for the next few months. As any past president will tell you, this is a large responsibility. I will serve the office as best I can, and I have one goal: build a stronger organization, with the ability to fulfill the purposes of this Association. I also want to thank Butch DeForge for his tremendous efforts as President. He truly has the best interests of CNYBA at heart.

In the past few weeks, I've spent much time speaking with the board, officers, and members of this Association. I'm encouraged by what I hear. Every one of you has expressed, in one way or another, the wish for CNYBA to continue. There is a strong feeling that CNYBA is important to both the community at large and to individual members.

That is not to say that our musical family does not have problems. We are facing serious short-term troubles that threaten the existence of CNYBA. These issues need to be solved if we are to continue

From the President:

to fulfill our charter to promote bluegrass and old-time music in central New York.

Briefly I will summarize some of these problems, as I understand them:

1) The problem of money:

We do not have the cash flow required to promote 'our' music in the manner we want to. Because we lack cash flow, we cannot invest in the growth of events that will promote bluegrass or old-time music.

2) The problem of helpers:

We are an organization that is over 250-strong. Yet we seem to have forgotten that many hands make light work.

3) The problem of disagreements:

We are a large family, and we won't always agree with each other. How we handle our disagreements can make CNYBA stronger or can tear it apart.

These problems cannot be solved by the President.

They cannot be solved by the Board of Directors. But they can be solved by YOU, the members of CNYBA. If our Association is to survive, we need an active and involved membership. We need your ideas, your time, and your support.

In the next few weeks, I plan to contact many of you to discuss any concerns you have about the Association. I'd also like to hear your ideas for promoting bluegrass and old-time music in central New York. I encourage you to contact me either by email dcrawford@clarityconnect.com or phone (607-764-8453 - before 9:00 pm please).

Finally, I encourage you to attend the monthly sessions, both for the jamming and for the meetings. It's a way to socialize with a great musical family, and you can help us make CNYBA a strong force for promoting 'our' special music.

Dennis Crawford, Acting President

About Meeting Locations

The March meeting will be our last at Canton Woods Senior Center. We've had extensive discussion with representatives of Canton Woods Senior Center; unfortunately, we cannot reach agreement for further use of their facility. As a result, our meeting locations will be:

March 16 – Canton Woods Senior Center – Baldwinsville
(doors open at 9:00 am)

April 13 (Elections Held) – American Legion – Marcellus
(doors open at 9:00 am)

May 11 – American Legion – Marcellus (doors open at 9:00 am)

We'll ask for a \$2.00 donation from everyone at all meetings to cover the cost of heat, lights, and other facilities use. There is a small kitchen facility in the Marcellus Legion Hall, so we can continue to have food available. The Legion has generously offered to provide coffee through the day.

It's unfortunate that we have to change our meeting location again in such a short time, and we understand that it may cause problems for some of you. I ask everyone's patience as we look for a new home. -- Dennis

About Elections

In April we will have election of officers and directors. I am asking for four (4) concerned members to serve on a nominating committee, to be appointed in March. It is the purpose of this committee to present a slate of officers to the membership in April. I also ask each of you to consider making a contribution to CNYBA by serving either as an officer or on the board of directors.

This may be one of the most important elections in CNYBA's history. We have a serious need to find a dedicated, hard-working team to confront our problems, and find new and creative solutions.

If you think you can help your association, please contact me:

Email : dcrawford@clarityconnect.com

Phone : (607-764-8453 – before 9:00 pm please).

Thanks! -- Dennis



24th Annual Norwich Family Bluegrass Festival Chenango Fairgrounds, Norwich, NY

July 24, 25, 26, & 27, 2008

Host Bands: The Cabin Fever Band, NY (Sat, Sun)

Doerfel Family Band, NY (Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun)

Featured Bands:

The James King Band, VA (Fri, Sat)

Dan Paisley & the Southern Grass, PA (Sat, Sun)

Dave Nichols & Spare Change, NY (Thu, Fri, Sat)

Bill & Maggie Anderson, VA (Fri, Sat, Sun)

Smokey Greene, NY & FL (Fri, Sat)

Plexigrass, NY (Thu, Fri)

Carolina Sonshine, NC (Thu, Fri)

Nearly Brother, NY (Fri, Sat, Sun)

Dean Sapp & Hartford Express, MD (Fri, Sat)

Blue Ridge Mountain Boys, PA (Sat, Sun)

Angelica Grim & High Action, CA (Thu, Fri)

4-day weekend ticket includes Thu, Fri and Sat dry camping -- At the Gate - \$50; Advance (order by July 1) - \$40

Info: Mike and Maryann Tirella (518) 783-3154 or cabinfevertirell@aol.com

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?

Comments/Questions:

Make checks payable to CNYBA and mail to Helen Weldon, 2446 Hillview Dr., #17, Caton, NY 13033; 315-626-2603, e-mail: helwel80@hotmail.com. Members receive a quarterly newsletter.

Central New York Bluegrass Association
c/o A. DeForge
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