

CENTRAL NEW YORK

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Central New York Bluegrass Association



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2016

Message from CNYBA Vice-President

Neil J. Smith

No, that is not a typo in the caption. Normally this is the president's column, but I am filling in this time because our former president, Kay von Sneidern, decided that she had to step down because of health concerns. Kay has done a great job, and we all wish her the best of luck. Kay is still staying as active as she can in the bluegrass world, and if you see her please wish her well.

With Kay's departure, we need to find a new president to finish the remainder of her term, and hopefully to stand for re-election for the next term. The CNYBA board is looking for members who are interested in taking on this position. Please feel free to contact me or any other member of the board if you are interested. The position comes with responsibilities, but it also is a great opportunity

to be at the center of what is happening in the Central New York bluegrass community.

Speaking of bluegrass, make sure you check out the upcoming events in the newsletter. There are a lot of great bands out there making great music, and they need all the support that we can muster. If you have an event or show coming up, please let us know so we can help promote it.

And don't forget our monthly jam, which takes place every second Saturday each month at the Lamson Road Community Church in Phoenix. It's a great time to practice, meet with old friends, make some new friends, and sometimes just to sit and listen to some great musicians improvise.

Macon Music by Bill Knowlton



By 1919 the future of Uncle Dave's hauling company, which he started around the turn of the century, was dim indeed. The trucks were rendering his "four mules and a Mitchell wagon" obsolete. What to do!!

Fortunately there was Uncle Dave's banjo picking, song singing and joke telling; something he'd been developing since he was sixteen.

There's a tale that a wealthy farmer around Murfreesboro wanted Uncle Dave to play at his picnic but the "Dixie Dewdrop" didn't want to. So Uncle Dave asked the farmer for an outrageous sum he was sure the farmer would refuse.

Macon Music by Bill Knowlton Cont'd.

Well, the Farmer didn't and Uncle Dave found himself playing for once in a *paid* performance! And at the picnic was a talent representative for the Loew's Vaudeville Circuit!!

A week's stay at Loew's Birmingham Alabama extended to six weeks. And the professional musical career of Uncle Dave Macon was on his way.

Next came the teaming of Uncle Dave with Fiddlin' Sid Harkreader with whom he had a chance meeting in a Nashville barber shop. The duo would travel to New York City in 1924 and make Uncle Dave's first phonograph recordings.

Then a fantastic opportunity came its way in November 1925 when WSM and announcer George D. Hay, the "Solemn Old Judge," put "The WSM Barn Dance" on the air, a Saturday night country music spectacular that was renamed "The Grand Ole Opry."

Already a show business celebrity, Uncle Dave gladly joined a pioneer congregation of such Opry pioneers as Uncle Jimmy Thompson, Dr Humphrey Bate & His Possum Hunters, the Pickard Family, DeFord Bailey, the Binkley Brothers Dixie Clodhoppers, the Crook Brothers, and Sam & Kirk McGee.

But it would be Uncle Dave Macon who would top the cast as the "Squire Of Readyville," the "Dixie Dewdrop," the "King Of the Hillbillies," and the "Grand Old Man Of the Grand Ole Opry....."

more to come!! ---Bill Knowlton



Coming Events

Please send event and festival information to Shirley Stevens at stevenscny@aol.com or call 315-451-2801. Events will be featured on our Website Calendar, in this newsletter and occasional email updates.

Bluegrass Events for April, 2016

March 26, 2016 - Saturday 8 pm

Easy Ramblers at the Green Gate Pub, 2 Genesee St, Camillus NY...Music full of rich harmonies and easy bluegrass instrumentations including fiddle, banjo and guitar.

March 26, 2016 - Saturday 8 pm Free

Boots n' Shorts at the World of Beer, Destiny USA.

March 26, 2016 - Saturday 7-10 pm

Dyer Switch at the Green Wolf Brewing Company, 315 Main St., Middleburgh, NY 12122 (518) 827-6444 - www.greenwolfales.com/. The Dyer Switch Band plays hard-driving traditional, original and unique bluegrass and acoustic music. For more information about Dyer Switch, go to www.dyerswitch.com.

April 1-2, 2016 - weekend event

14th Annual Weekend Bluegrass Get A Way at Bonnie Castle Resort, Holland Street, Alexandria Bay, NY, presented by the Thousand Island Bluegrass Preservation Society. All day jamming with a Friday night concert with GrassTransit. Show admission is \$15.00 Call Bonnie Castle for room reservations - 800-955-4511.

April 2, 2016 - Saturday 2 pm

Dwyer Switch Band at Dorr's Gathering Barn, 569 Barnard Rd, North Chittenden VT. 802-483-6163 emwdorr@comcast.net The Dyer Switch Band plays hard-driving traditional, original and unique bluegrass and acoustic music. For more information about Dyer Switch, go to www.dyerswitch.com.

April 2, 2016 - Saturday Doors open at 6:45 pm, show at 7:30 pm \$16 Advance \$18 at the door

The Atkinson Family at the Ontario Center for Performing Arts (Oswego Music Hall). McCrobie Bldg., 41 Lake St., Oswego, NY <http://www.oswegomusichall.org/>

April 8, 2016 - Friday 7:30 pm \$20 for adults/\$15 for senior citizens/\$5 for students

The Crooked Road on Tour brings the music of Virginia's heritage music trail to Hamilton College, 198 College Hill Road, Clinton, N.Y. in Wellin Hall, Schambach Center. The actual Crooked Road winds for some 300 miles through the southwest corner of Virginia, from the Blue Ridge into deeper Appalachia. It is home to some of the rawest and most arresting sounds in traditional music. This concert brings those sounds to the stage. It includes performances by the Whitetop Mountain Band, banjo player Julie Sheperd-Powell, and ballad singer Sandy Shortridge. The Whitetop Mountain Band's deep roots in mountain music preserve old time and bluegrass fiddling and banjo styles.
(315) 859-4350

April 9, 2016 - Saturday 10 am to 3 pm Small donation

CNYBA Bluegrass Jam at the Lamson Road Community Church, 2259 Lamson Road, Phoenix, NY. Everyone is welcome to pick, sing and listen!

April 9, 2016 - Saturday 12 noon \$10; under 16 free Doors open 10 am;

Busy Bird Springfest at the Endicott Elks Lodge, 619 North Nanticoke Ave, Endicott NY, proceeds to benefit the main festival in July. The concert features Bug Tussle, Mathews Family Tradition, Slewfoot, Plexigrass, Molly and the Badly Bent Bluegrass Boys, Melanie and the Boys, Crop Circle Agents, and Dishonest Fiddlers. Food and refreshment all day, cash bar, raffles, 50/50, jamming room (bring your instrument).

April 16, 2016 - Saturday 7:30 pm \$30

The Isaacs at the Oneida High School Auditorium. The Isaacs have a unique style that blends tight, family harmony with contemporary acoustic instrumentation that appeals to a variety of audiences. Their musical style has been influenced by many genres of music including bluegrass, rhythm and blues, folk, and country, contemporary, acoustic and southern gospel. For tickets, go to www.oneidaperformingarts.com/store/p15/The_Isaacs.html

April 16, 2016 - Saturday 8 pm

Cooder, White and Skaggs (Ry Cooder, Sharon White and Ricky Skaggs) at the State Theatre, 105 West State Street, Ithaca, NY. Go to <https://statetheatreofithaca.frontgatetickets.com/event/yawj6s9nfknr4w5t> for more information.

April 22, 2016 - Friday 7:30 pm \$35, \$40, or \$100 for 2 tickets

The Grascals at the Kallet Theater, 4842 N. Jefferson St, Pulaski NY. Their cutting-edge modern bluegrass is delivered with a deep knowledge of, and admiration for, the work of the music's founding fathers. Timely yet timeless, The Grascals make music that is entirely relevant to the here and now, yet immersed in traditional values of soul and musicianship. It's a unique sound that has earned three Grammy® nominations and two Entertainer of the Year awards from the International Bluegrass Music Association, as well as national media attention that seems to perpetually elude acts entrenched in niche genres. Such appearances include The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Fox & Friends, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, and CBS' The Talk. For more information, go to <http://kallettheater.com/events/> or call 315-298-0007. For tickets: <http://kallettheater.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=%20821239>

April 22, 2016 - Friday 7 pm \$5 Call 518-887-5073

Dyer Switch at Howling at the Moon Cabin Fever Concert Series, Mabee Farm Historic Site, 1100 Main St. (Route 5s), Rotterdam Junction, NY. 518-887-5073. The Dyer Switch Band plays hard-driving traditional, original and unique bluegrass and acoustic music. For more information about Dyer Switch, go to www.dyerswitch.com.

April 23, 2016 - Saturday 8 to 10 pm on WAMC

Dyer Switch on the WAMC Hudson River Sampler w Wanda Fisher. The Dyer Switch Band plays hard-driving traditional, original and unique bluegrass and acoustic music. For more information about Dyer Switch, go to www.dyerswitch.com.

April 23, 2016 - Saturday 7 pm; 5 pm doors open with Meet and Greet \$28

The Grascals at the Sodus Central High School, Mill Street, Sodus NY. Doors open at 5:00 pm with a Meet & Greet in High School Cafeteria. Sponsored by the Sodus Rotary. Proceeds from this benefit event will be donated to the improvement of our local community. Opening will be Rebecca Colleen and the Chore Lads. For more information or to buy tickets, contact: Mike Garlock: Email: mgarlok@verizon.net; Phone: 315-203-1710 (H). For tickets: <http://www.sodusrotary.org/2016-bluegrass-concert/>

April 23, 2016 - Saturday 8 pm \$12; \$10 seniors and students; \$25 for family

High Lonesome Sound at the Bainbridge Town Hall Theatre/Jericho Arts Council Opry, 15 North Main Street, Bainbridge, NY. Tickets are available at the door, or reservations can be made by calling Judy Dewey at 607-967-3169. Popular shows may sell out. Opry passes are available for \$60. Delicious home-baked goodies are served at every event, so save room for dessert - coffee, tea, soda, and our delicious Town Hall Theatre popcorn, popped in our vintage 1940's popcorn machine, and served with real butter!



My Introduction to Bluegrass Music
by Kay Betts von Sneidern

Even though I had lived and worked in Nashville, Tennessee for several years, I hadn't heard bluegrass music (or so I thought) except for Bill Monroe and that was not to my liking.

When I moved back to New York, a friend asked me to go to a concert - - I went - - and found out there was a pancake breakfast and a Central New York Bluegrass Association meeting / jam the next day. I went there as well. When the visitors were asked to stand and identify themselves, I introduced myself and mentioned that I had recently moved here from Nashville. Bill Knowlton stood and welcomed me and said it was nice to meet someone from a suburb of Murfreesboro. Imagine my surprise! I didn't think anyone up here had even heard of Murfreesboro, TN.

I kept going to the bluegrass meetings every month. I can't tell you I loved the music - - I didn't - - but I really didn't have anything else to do and I had met some really nice people there (and there was that pancake breakfast before the meeting).

After a few months, I was attending a show where Andy Pawlenko and his band were playing and I went downstairs where the band was warming up. Someone started talking to me and to my amazement, I found myself thinking "I wish he would stop talking - - I really love this music". REALLY???. When did that happen? And that was just the beginning!

I talked Helen Weldon into going to a bluegrass festival with me. You would not believe what happened at that first festival in Bainbridge, NY. I think it was early June - we had packed a cooler with sandwiches and drinks and had carried our folding chairs. We no sooner got there and found out that Paul Adkins and his band had been transported to the hospital with carbon monoxide poisoning. Oh, no! That does not sound good. We found a prime spot to set up our chairs and sat down to watch the show. We were freezing!! We had worn warm clothing but had not expected the snow that was in the air. As other people arrived and sat up their chairs, I noticed that they didn't sit down to watch the show. I was beginning to worry about them - - what happened? Did they find a warm place to get out of the weather? I really didn't have a clue - - it never occurred to me that they had found like-minded people and were jamming out behind one of the buildings.

I was not only freezing during that first festival, I was confused and thought that something horrible must have happened. Where were all those people who had left their chairs and coolers in front of the stage? Why would they pay good money to attend a festival and then disappear? What was all the hugging about? What did all these people know that I didn't know? There was something going on here and I needed to go to more festivals to find out what it was.

I went to several more festivals that summer and by August I understood. It was the music! The music brought us all together. The music on the stage and the music in the parking lot out beside the campers - - were equally important - - and we loved each note! (By the end of the summer, I was even singing along.)

It was the people! The kids could go off by themselves and no one had to worry - - the whole community was looking out for them. The coolers, chairs and other belongings could be left out and no one touched them.

My Introduction to Bluegrass Music—by Kay Betts von Sneidern....Cont'd.

By the end of the first summer, and after having visited many parking lot jams, I realized that I *had* heard this music in Tennessee. When my friends would get together on Friday or Saturday night in their living room or on the porch to "make music", it was bluegrass music I heard - - they just hadn't given it a name.

Oh, and by the way, after that first year, I was even able to listen to Bill Monroe and enjoy it.



Membership Notes

Membership Notes

Please help keep us informed about membership news, particularly if a member needs prayers. We love to hear the joys too, however! Send notes to Shirley Stevens at stevenscny@aol.com, 315-451-2801, PO Box 536, Liverpool N.Y. 13088.

If you receive this newsletter by postal mail, please check the renewal date on the label. We are in the process of moving dates to either April or October, to make it easier for folks to remember when they need to renew. That's not totally done yet, but if your renewal date doesn't look right to you, please contact Shirley.

Please keep Marion Lamont in your prayers. Marion was admitted to St Josephs Hospital with an initial complaint of shortness of breath. Marion is suffering from congestive heart failure and kidney failure. She is now at James Square, 918 James St. in Syracuse, Rm. 127. Please pray for Marion, Sam, and their family. She is a wonderful friend to all of us in the CNYBA and to those who attend the Friday night jams in Marcellus. We all send our love. Cards can be sent to Marion Lamont, 13-1/2 East Main St, Marcellus, N.Y. 13108.

Long time CNYBA member, Kathy Kinney, had gall bladder surgery plus removal of a tumor, at Crouse Irving Hospital in Syracuse on February 4, 2016. Our prayers are with Kathy as she recovers. She's at home now and would like everyone to know how much she has appreciated the cards, prayers, and good wishes. It was good to see her at the Armstrong's Party/Jam on March 19. Cards can be sent to Kathy Kinney, 235 Blanchard Blvd, Syracuse, N.Y. 13209

We're happy to report that John Campolieto, who had extensive spinal surgery in November and December, is recovering very nicely. Cards can be sent to John at 9516 Chestnut St, Brewerton, N.Y. 13029.

CNYBA is proud to note that two of our members, John Cadley and Molly and the Badly Bent Bluegrass Boys, were nominated for SAMMY awards under the "Best Americana" category this year. Our hearty congratulations to both groups!!



Membership Application: CENTRAL NEW YORK BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

Please print this page, enter the information, and mail to CNYBA at the address shown below.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____
 E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Check here if you are willing to receive the newsletter via email. It saves the Association money and is appreciated.

Choose your membership:

Individual Active (\$10) _____	Family (\$15) _____
Individual Senior--62 and older (\$9) _____	Band (\$20) _____
For a Gift Certificate fill out this form:	
FROM _____	
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____	
STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____	
E-MAIL ADDRESS _____	

Make checks payable to CNYBA and mail to:

Shirley Stevens
 PO Box 536
 Liverpool, NY 13088

Members receive a newsletter and other updates. All members can vote on business matters.