

Central New York Bluegrass Association

From the President

Summer has flown by, and fall is upon us. I know this because when Karen and I got home from the Wrench Wranch festival, the maple tree on our front lawn had begun to shed its leaves. I also noted a large pile of logs waiting to be cut up and split. For some reason, the neighbors seem to stop by less this time of year. Hmmmm....

While traveling to festivals throughout the summer, I have been encouraged by the number of bluegrass musicians expressing support for CNYBA's efforts over the last few months. Word is getting out about CNYBA's continued support of bluegrass and old time country music and the musicians involved. Their response is very positive, and I hope to see many of them as members in the future.

Membership support for CNYBA has been strong throughout the summer. The attendance at the monthly summer jams has been great, and many Park Rose residents look forward to having us there. Additionally, we have held many meetings throughout the summer for planning upcoming events and outreach programs.

A huge thank you goes to the showcase committee, headed by Kathy Kinney, for their hard work throughout the summer. They have prepared a series of great live shows for the upcoming season. You can find out about these events elsewhere in the newsletter, or on the web site (www.cnyba.com).

Thanks also to Shelly and Ron Coleman for volunteering to organize our outreach program. I'll be working with them over the next few weeks to finalize a pilot program providing instruments and mentoring for our first group of young players. We expect to begin that program in September, with five or six young people.

Member



From the President (cont.)

With the return of a monthly newsletter, communication within our group should improve. Please keep an eye out for ways you can become actively involved with CNYBA. In discussions throughout the summer, I have learned that the CNYBA board has many ideas for improvement and many ideas for projects to support our music. If enough people get involved, we can make even greater progress.

Finally, I want to thank both the outgoing and incoming board members and officers. The support you have shown, both for me and CNYBA, has been tremendous. I appreciate that support, and welcome your input throughout the upcoming season.

Dennis



September Meeting:

Join us for our first fall meeting at our new location -- **Park Rose Estates in Liverpool**. Our meeting is on **September 14, 2008, at 1 p.m.**, but the pickin', per usual, will start much earlier. See you there! Directions on page five.

PRESIDENT

Dennis Crawford
Box 74
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607-764-8453
dcrawford@clarityconnect.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

William Light
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315-463-4186
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TREASURER

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jwarner23@twcny.rr.com

SECRETARY

TBD

BOARD MEMBERS

Shirley Stevens (451-2801) 3
Kathy Kinney - (277-1988) 3
John Crouch (342-6958) 2
Les Hathaway (696-8994) 2
Peter Carr (635-5800) - 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. 46
Fulton, NY 13069
315-593-1646

MEMBERSHIP and

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





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 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. **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



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



RAMBLIN' with Helen: 📍📍📍📍

I received an email from our editor, Ann DeForge, on 8/11 requesting items for our Sept. newsletter to be sent no later than 9/2, so as to give her time to get it in the mail before our Sept. 14th meeting. Since they are going to Wrench Ranch for the Labor Day weekend show, anything received early would be a big help, and knowing full well how much that helps, decided to get started as I'm going to try to keep items I've received in order of dates. Speaking of the newsletter, the approved minutes of the June 8th meeting reveal that **starting in September, our newsletter will return to the monthly status**, with July/Aug. continuing to be combined. I sincerely hope this will entice some of our long time members (if they hear about it) to decide to rejoin CNYBA.

I received a nice letter from a member who had belonged since 6/95 telling me "he had no interest in retaining his longtime membership due to discontinuance of the Apple Valley Festival and quarterly newsletter – no longer offered him the benefits he desired." He also expressed his appreciation for all I have done for the association – especially for the Ramblin' column. I wrote him regarding going back to a monthly newsletter in Sept. and hopefully our festival would and could be revived, but had no response.

Cathy Campbell, our treasurer, reported she had received **approximately \$300, for the "Bakeless Bake Sale"** effort. The profit of the show held at **Wacky Wyatts was \$454.94**, and I hear they are planning another one, which may be advertised elsewhere in this newsletter. I received a nice email from **Bill Light** telling about our annual picnic held at Mercer Park on June 8th. With the extreme heat, and the Thousand Island Festival being that weekend, 30 people were there and all enjoyed the delicious ham cooked by **Kathy Kinney**, and the many side dishes and delicious desserts were fabulous. He also told about **Les Hathaway, Bob Hayden, Mark Sostrin and himself playing at the Cystic Fibrosis "Great Stride" walkathon fundraiser held on 5/31 at the Inner Harbor in Syracuse.** **Kathy Kinney**, who has a grandson afflicted with this terrible disease, asked them to play, and joined them to sing some songs. A crew

from **Channel 10 News** was there and a short footage of them was featured later that day on their news broadcast. What a wonderful way this was for our association and our talented members to let the public know who we are, and what we are doing to keep our music alive.

On June 15th, **Ted Wrench** was taken to the cardiac unit at Wilson Hospital with acute congestive heart failure, and by turning his pacemaker lead that was off, back on, he was able to return home on the 17th, but was in constant discomfort. His heart was working good, and the doctors hoped in time the discomfort would subside – haven't heard but what he is still "hanging in there."

I received a nice long letter from **honorary member Sharon Volles**, written June 12th, expressing her disappointment at no festival but so glad to know the newsletter will once again be monthly. Her husband, Norm, was in the hospital with a badly infected finger, which was saved by an operation and treatment at University Hospital. Since he is the "bread winner" for the family, and his work entails either mechanics or running a sawmill, being "laid up" was not good; but he is back to being able to do most everything again. They have a 10 year old grandson (going on 20) that is a big help. Sharon's mother and father are both in failing health and one of their daughters takes care of them during the week. Her father has Parkinson's, and her mother is in her "own little world" with severe Alzheimer's. Please keep them all in your prayers – and I know a card or note now and then would be a big "boost" to Sharon – 378 Otisco Rd., Marietta, NY 13110.

Another longtime member, **Carol McGingley** and I correspond via email often, and I'm glad to report that she is gradually getting out and about. She has a neighbor who is also a widow, and they go to the **Jam Sessions in Hannibal on Mon. nights, and a new one in Oswego on Wed. nights.** Her comp case (ongoing for nearly 8 years) is hopefully progressing with the aid of a new lawyer, and I ask you to please pray it will soon be settled as she can't do much due to so much pain. (She was a nurse's aid, and hurt her back while lifting a patient.)

In my June Ramblin' I told about **Joy Crouch's** pending biopsy. It was cancerous, and she had surgery to remove the lump and lymph nodes. On

July 30th she found out she will have one day of chemo, off 3 weeks for 4 sessions, followed by radiation. The outlook isn't all that good, but **Joy has great faith in prayer and wants to thank one and all who have kept her in theirs and asks for continued prayers.**

I kept in touch with **Donna and Bob Walter** via email during the winter and received word on July 9th that they arrived back at their summer camp on July 2nd where they found everything dry, including the well, they thought! But, after some investigating, found it needed a "new something or other." The toilet cracked during the winter and they only stock two at the hardware; and, would you believe, when Bob went to get one, both had been sold that morning!! Somehow, they both seem to laugh and take things in stride. They have sold their motor home, but now have a van. She had seen **Perry Cleaveland** at Old Forge (Perry, along with John Rossbach, put on a show there) and he told her that his Mom, **Maxine**, is still at Loretto, doing well, and that the whole family was together in Syracuse over the 4th.

I had an email from **Mary Phillips** (one of the late Andy Pawlenko's sisters) telling me that her sister Tillie's husband, John, passed away on July 10th; and on the 11th, Tillie was admitted with pneumonia and low blood pressure. (I know that many of you know Tillie and John, as they always came with the Pawlenko Gang to our festivals.)

Joy Crouch emailed me regarding the meeting held at our **new meeting place, Park Rose Estates** and reports it is a very nice place to meet. Several of the residents came to hear the music, and one of them showed her and **Mark Sostrin's** wife Sheila her apartment. Another resident, Victor, played his harmonica; and Joy says he has a beautiful singing voice. When it was time to leave, the residents told them they were sad to see them leave but glad to hear we will be back each month. **I urge all our members to make an effort to attend our meetings**, and yours truly will do so when she can. I'll be in Old Forge on Sept. 12th thru the 14th for our 2000 Eastern Star's Group Reunion, but hopefully will be able to make the Oct. one.

I received a **new membership** from **John Hayes**, who included a letter telling about the **1st Annual Memorial Golf Tournament (in honor of**

Andy Pawlenko) on Sat., Sept. 6th (the closest Saturday to Andy's birthday). This is the golf course where Andy worked (built the buildings) and played a lot of golf. This event was advertised on our website but is a **VERY GOOD EXAMPLE of why we need our MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS, as our Sept. issue will reach our membership after the event!** They also have an **"Open Mic" jam session on Wed. evenings.** John says there are several musicians coming and would love to have some "watchers" join them.

One of our members asked me to ask all of you to please keep **Rose and Ron DePeyster** in your thoughts and prayers as Ron battles some health issues.

Well, folks, this brings me up to what was really the "highlight" of my summer – the benefit festival for Vera House held at the LaFayette Apple Valley Festival Grounds on July 31st thru Aug. 2nd. One of our **most thoughtful, kind and considerate members, Bill Light** called me on Wed., July 30th, and said he was coming to get me on Sat. to go to the festival. Folks, Bill lives in East Syracuse, (30 some miles from Cato, and in the opposite direction of the festival) and would not take NO for an answer, (but he has to give me an "A" for effort in trying to discourage him). Needless to say, I'm so thankful for his doing this and had a wonderful time, seeing and visiting with so many of you that were there. I counted over 50 of our members and am sure I missed some. I've heard our former president, **Ed Campbell** (he and **John VanDusen** were **co-chairmen of the event**) say many times that we have so much great talent right in our own "back yard" and, folks, that weekend proved it. When one of the scheduled bands was unable to be there, **Mark Sostrin** convinced **Cora Sturge to be a leader of a terrific "pick-up band"** that did an outstanding job, as did all the other scheduled bands. While there, I learned that a long overdue honor came to our dear member, and another former president, **George Hall**, when he was **inducted into the "Hall of Fame"** in Oceola this summer. **CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE** – we all are so proud of you. When Bill and I left around 7:30, over **\$22,000** had been raised for this very necessary (sad but true) organization. I'm not going to mention names, but I know that **all of our members extend sincere thanks to the three**

members of our group who, together, donated \$20,000 to this cause. Channel 5 was there to tape the presentation of these checks and the clip was aired at 6 and 11 that night. **Thanks again, Bill Light, for just being you!**

I received a call from **Donna Walter** on 8/16 telling me that she had seen in the paper that **Alice Mehlenbacher**, had **passed away on 8/12**. Alice and her husband Bert have been members since before 1996 and always supported CNYBA. Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Sat., 8/16, at the Summerville Funeral Home, Sandy Creek, NY, with burial following in Woodlawn Cemetery. There were no calling hours. Please send a card or note to **Bert Mehlenbacher**, c/o Linden Knolls, 81 Linden Ave., Rochester, NY 14610. An expression of sympathy was sent from the association, and our thoughts and prayers are with you Bert.

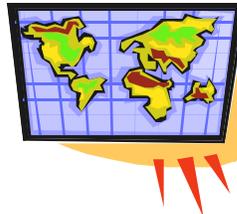
Later in the evening, I received an email from a former member, **John Hornyak**, telling me that **Bruce Cutler's wife's (Connie's)** mother had passed away, and funeral arrangements aren't complete. I also sent a sympathy card to them.

WELCOME to new members – Juergen & Beth Knauss, JoAnne Bakeman and Mark Hoffman, Pat Coleman, Bette Jerred, John P. Hayes, John M. Power, Tommy & Marlene Laursen, Hellen Wells, Keith C. Wells and John Gallup. THANKS to Ed & Barb VanCott, Perry & Caren Cleaveland, Barbara Aman, Bert C. Mehlenbacher, Stuart & Jan McWhorter, Nancy Brown, John Crouch and Clement Whalen for your additional donations when you renewed – it all helps.

Well folks, it is now Aug. 25th, and I want to give our editor a chance to work on the newsletter prior to her going away for the Labor Day Weekend, so I will finish this visit up by saying, I've enjoyed visiting with you. Hope many of you will **make a special effort to attend our Sept. 14th meeting**, with our new slate of officers in charge, and that this new year will prove to be a good "comeback" in many ways for CNYBA.

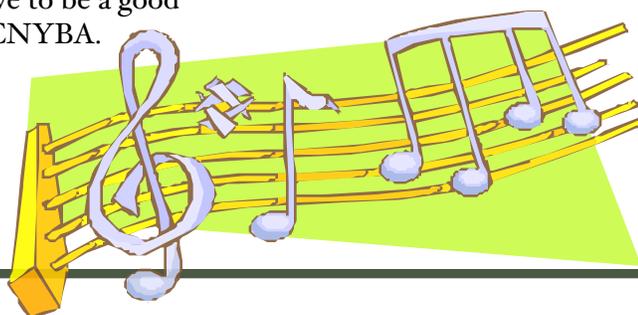
Please keep in touch, as we will now be back to monthly visits, and I need items to make this Ramblin' worthwhile. . . Thanks!

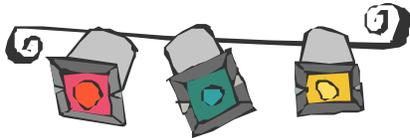
Helen



DIRECTIONS TO Park Rose Estates
7251 Janus Park Drive
Liverpool, NY 13088
(315) 452-9500

From Route 81, north or south, take the exit for Hancock Airport (Exit 27) and Taft Road. As you go down the exit, be sure you head for Taft Road, not the airport. The exit will split. Stay toward Taft Road. Take a turn onto West Taft Road. Do not go east. Continue on West Taft Road, past Fay Park Dr. on your left, Willow Rd. on your left, Allen Rd. on your right, Buckley Road on your right and left (traffic light here), and Hollywood Circle on your right. Immediately after Hollywood Circle, you will see a medical building on your left and a road that looks more like a driveway. That's Janus Park Drive. As you go down that road, you'll see a large complex off to your right that looks like an apartment building. Head toward that building. That is Park Rose Estates. There is plenty of available parking. Just head in the front door, and anyone can direct you to the Activities Room where we'll be pickin'. See you on September 14th!





CNYBA Showcase Committee

Meeting date: 08/19/08 at Marcellus Legion Hall

Committee members present:

Chairperson: Kathy Kinney

Shirley Stevens

Dennis Crawford

Jack Burns

Sam Murphy

All others were updated

The first order of business was the goals of the **October 11 Showcase for Marcellus Bluegrass and the CNYBA** to join together in keeping the traditions of the longest running Bluegrass Jam in Central New York and to celebrate their tenth year together in Marcellus.

Next we decided that the Marcellus United Methodist Church would be the venue.

It was decided that the **Abrams Burtch Connection** from Kingston, Ontario, will be the feature group. **Diamond Someday** was asked to perform and has accepted also. We're waiting to hear from **Blue Lightning**.

Ed VanCott will design our flyers and tickets. **Sharon Fultz** will email them to Staples and **Kathy Kinney** will pick them up and distribute them.

The **price per ticket is fifteen dollars.**

The **church is offering its usual chicken and biscuit dinner downstairs for six fifty.**

They will also have coffee and snacks upstairs.

All costs, intake and responsibilities will be split **75/25 percent in favor of CNYBA...**a very generous offer from the Marcellus Bluegrass group.

Timeline:

Dennis must have flyers by August 27

Media press releases must be out by September 15

Flyers out by September 15 also

All info for newsletter to Ann DeForge by September 1

Dennis will secure Blue Lightning and find out price

Dennis will also talk to Bill Knowlton

Shirley will check with Diamond Someday

Shirley will contact New Times

Program agenda:

6:30 pm Blue Lightning

7:30 pm The Abrams Burtch Connection

8:30 pm Diamond Someday

9:30 pm The Abrams Burtch Connection

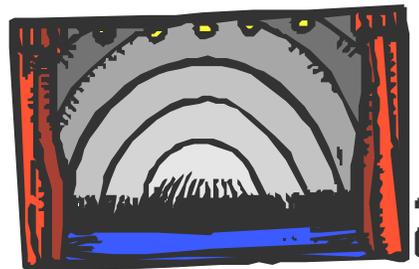
Parking:

Lonnie Warner will handle parking using the church lot, the Catholic lot across the street and the street.

To sum it up, the meeting was very productive. We all got along well, and it is a joy to work with Marcellus Bluegrass. Personally, I found that we are all one big happy family and hope to continue working and playing together. Thanks to everyone.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Kinney



Announcements and Agenda Items for September 14th Meeting

Secretary:

At the last board meeting, Pat Fellows submitted her resignation as CNYBA secretary. She is unable to fulfill the responsibilities of the office, due to an increased work schedule. The board regretfully accepted her resignation, and we wish her best of luck with her career.

Ann DeForge has offered to serve as secretary for an additional month past her term, in order to give us time to fill the position. Thank you, Ann.

It is URGENT that we find a candidate to fill the secretary's position. We need someone who can attend meetings regularly and record the proceedings, as well as handle correspondence, etc. I urge you to call either Ann DeForge or me if you can help CNYBA with this extremely important job.

General Meeting:

Agenda items for the next general meeting will include discussions about:

- 1) Plans for a 2009 CNYBA Bluegrass Festival
- 2) Report from the Outreach Committee
- 3) Report from the Showcase Committee (see minutes on page six)
- 4) Discussion of the joint Marcellus Bluegrass/CNYBA show in October (see page six)

If members have other items they would like placed on the agenda, please contact me by phone or email. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

CD Recording Project:

Mark Sostrin announced the postponement of the CD recording project. Most of those involved have been notified; but if you have questions, you can contact him directly.

Upcoming Functions at Kellish Hill Farm

Sept. 13th - 7 - 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$7.00

Midsummer Night of Bluegrass with John Cadley and The Lost Boys. Light refreshments served. After the performance, a jam with the audience, so bring your instruments!

Sept. 27th - 6 - 9:30 p.m. Tickets \$7.00

Coming Home starring Diamond Someday and Folk Strings. Light refreshments served. Finale at 9 p.m. with both bands on stage.

Oct. 4th - 6 - 10 p.m. Tickets \$5.00

Fundraiser for Kellish Hill Music Barn/Talent Show.

Bands to be announced. Ticket includes entry in our talent show! Light refreshments and munchies served. Panel of judges to be announced. Call Kathy for details at 315-682-1578.

Oct. 18th - 7 - 9 p.m. Tickets \$7.00

Fall Bluegrass Festival with the group Off the Wall. Light refreshments served.

Oct. 25th - 8 - 11 p.m. Tickets \$10.00

The Halloween Ball at Kellish Hill Farm, starring Harvey Nusbaum and the Salt Potatoes. Please come dressed appropriately to our "spooky" Halloween Ball. Refreshments and "finger food" served. We will be wailing at the moon!

To be announced -- a "**Folk Learn-Along**" hosted by Folk Strings -- coming this fall.

Check us out
online at
www.cnyba.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?

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
c/o A. DeForge
149 Cottage St.
Auburn, NY 13021



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