



Picks N' Licks

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20 th Annual Festival Ready To Roll

Well folks the bluegrass festival season is just about upon us again and the PEI Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival is the first one of the season on PEI. This year's festival is the 20th annual and is a far cry from the humble beginnings at Dunollie Travel Park in 1986. That year just a few bluegrass fanatics congregated in a small village of tents and popup campers to enjoy a couple of days of the best bands that the Maritimes had to offer at the time.

This year's festival is a whole lot bigger than the first year but still just as intimate. The tents are replaced by 30 foot 5th wheels and the popup campers are replaced by motor homes worth hundreds of thousands of dollars, but the spirit is the same; hundreds of new and life long bluegrass devotees gather to share the experience of good wholesome family fun.

This year's lineup shows the broad spectrum of music known as bluegrass. The "Bluegrass Brothers", from southwestern Virginia are as down home as it comes with their hard drivin' traditional style that is a throw back to the first generation groups such as; The Stanley Brothers and Reno and Smiley. Their show is filled with good solid



bluegrass and gospel music in the Virginia/North Carolina style.

The other end of the spectrum is Chris Stuart and Backcountry from

California. They are definitely contemporary/progressive with a strong tie to the roots of the music as well. Chris Stuart is a fine songwriter as well as a strong singer, Janet Beazley is one of the finest banjo players around and Paul Lee, formerly of Open Road, is an excellent fiddler.



Jimmy Bowen is the leader of Santa Fe and is considered one of the finest high lead/tenor voices

in the field of bluegrass today. A native of Charlotte, NC, Jimmy is a multi-instrumentalist and has been performing since the age of eight. After earning an accounting degree from The Citadel, Jimmy chose to pursue a career in music. In 1988,



Jimmy attained an invitation to the join the legendary Country Gentlemen. Jimmy traveled the United States and Canada with

the Country Gentlemen during his 7 year tenure.

In 1995, after leaving the Country Gentlemen, Jimmy had the pleasure of being a member of Continental Divide. Jimmy performed for almost 4 years with Continental Divide, and was the recipient of the 1995 IBMA Emerging Artist of the Year award.

The Hunger Mountain Boys are from Massachusetts and are the link to Old Time Music. This duo performs songs in the style of the Blue Sky Boys and the early Louvin Brothers and do it

flawlessly. If you were to close your eyes when you hear this duo you'd think that you had been transported back to the 1930s or 40s in the hay day of string band music.

Along with these US groups the 20th annual also features a strong sampling of local and regional bands including perennial favourites, The Bluegrass Diamonds, Blue River, Blue Horizon, and the very first appearance at the PEI festival for the Spinney



Brothers.

PEI is also well represented by such local stalwarts as Janet McGarry & Wind River, Bluestreak, Bluegrass Revival, Bluegrass Bound, Joe Casey & Westwind, Norm Bowser, Wayne Brown & Friends, SK Bluegrass and the first appearance in many years of Jericho Road with a special gospel show on Sunday morning. Comedy is well represented also with an appearance by Fred and Floss. Many other Island entertainers will keep your ears happy for the weekend. Bring your instruments and take part in all the parkin' lot

pickin'.

We hope to see many old friends and some new ones at the 20th annual PEI Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival **July 1, 2, & 3 at the Festival Grounds in Rollo Bay.**

Tuesday Night Workshops & Jams

Season Ends May 24 With a Bang.

During the jams we set up the PA equipment, the chairs and encouraged all to participate by performing a few songs &/or instrumentals in front of the microphones, as it would be at a real concert.



Above is a performance by David Tingley (center) who is being backed up by Peter Richards, with his new Dobro, and Norm LeClaire, with his new Goldtone banjo.



Then there was Norm with his new Craftert guitar helping the girls (left to right) Joyce Arsenault, Darleen MacWilliams, Caroline Jones and Mim Murphy ... singing "Will the Circle be Unbroken". Also in the picture are Ron Morris and Preston Steward.

Jams & Workshops were well attended this year with 20 to 30 showing up most Tuesdays at the Cotton Centre.

We'll begin again next October!

Bunbury Cotton Centre Variety Concert May 29 featuring



Bluegrass Revival, Arnold Wagner, Norm LeClaire & Leo Gallant, Stan Chaisson, Rose Beck & Kristi Heller, David Tingley, Darleen MacWilliams, Percy Arsenault, and Robert Rackham. The hall was full, which allowed us to raise over \$200 for the Society and also another \$200 for Camp Gencheff. We sold tickets on the Jubilee Guitar raffle for over \$70. The President Shirley Jay presented the Mayflower Senior's Club with a new Coffee Perculator ... and officially thanked them for the use of the hall on Tuesday Nights. After the concert, all were served Cake & Refreshments.

The Jams at the Super Store on Belvedere Ave. and in the Bunbury Cotton Centre finished in May for the season. The Executive wishes to thank all those who participated to made these evenings successful and so much fun. We hope to see everyone again in the fall and hopefully we will see some new faces also. Have a great time at the summer festivals.

I understand Ivan Bulgar, a long time active member, is recovering from his recent surgery and would probably recover even faster if he would not try to act like superman and keep up with everything he used to do. All kidding aside, Ivan,

it will be great to see you out and about and feeling better when you are ready. Take Care!!!

It was with great regret that the

society learned Ralph A. Kneabone of Riverton, PE passed away on April 29,2005. He was well known for making his fine guitars and a long time supporter of the Martime Bluegrass & Oldtime Music. He is remembered for the hard work and support he gave to the PEI Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Society during the 80's and 90's. Condolences are sent to the Kneabone

family from all the members of the PEI Bluegrass and Old Time Music Society.

Another talented musician, Jimmy Martin, passed away May 14, 2005. Jimmy lived life to the fullest. He was a great entertainer in bluegrass music.

FOR SALE ITEMS:

-Blueridge BR 160 style solid wood **guitar**. Copy of pre-war Martin D-18 for \$800. Call Don @ (709) 682-6120/email dpennell@inf.sympatico.ca

-1987 Gibson **bass guitar** & hard case- Model BassIV for \$800 call Brent @ (709) 596-3886

-Gold Tone OB250 **Banjo** & hard case for \$1000 call George @ (709) 685-5438

LOOKING FOR: **Viola** case full 17" call Helen (506) 356-8549

1st Annual West Prince Christian Music Festival will be held at the Prince County Exhibition Grounds, July 15 – 17, 2005. It will be an outdoor event with numerous performers from Maritime Canada and possibly outside. For further information call Corinda Gallant @ (902) 853-2680/email wpcmf@pei.symaptico.ca

There will be a **Fiddle Camp** in Plaster Rock, July 25-29 (day camp) @ the New Welcome Centre. Contact Helen Edgar (506) 356-8549/email dhedgar@nbnet.nb.ca

Banjo Workshop

Ross Nickerson, has 20 years of teaching experience and has written "The Banjo Encyclopedia". He will be providing valuable insight into common obstacles that hold back banjo students Friday July 29, 2005 @ 1-5pm at Stewiacke River Park Road, East Stewiacke, Nova Scotia. Cost is \$50. For further information visit www.rossnickerson.com/ www.banjoteacher.com or Contact Ross @ (866) 322-6567/ rossnickerson@aol.com

Websites for words of really Old, Old songs and Bluegrass songs
www.bluegrasslyrics.com &
www.bluegrassbox.com

New Website for the Bluegrass Diamonds
www.bluegrassdiamonds.com

Visit the **PEI Bluegrass and Old Time Music Society** Website
www.bluegrasspei.com

The objectives of the Society are:

- To foster Bluegrass & Oldtime Music in the province of Prince Edward Island.
- To assist and promote greater proficiency in the musical skills of the membership.
- To ensure that the basic human rights of all individuals are respected.
- To supervise and carry out a Bluegrass & Oldtime Music Festival.

An elected Board of Directors is empowered by the membership to look over the affairs of the Society. The Board appoints an Executive Committee (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary) to take care of the day to day business of the Society.

QUESTION: Is **Emmylou Harris** going on tour with some rock and roll dude?

ANSWER: **Emmylou Harris** will hit the road in late July for a series of nine concerts with Rock & Roll Hall of Fame member **Elvis Costello**. The tour will cover the eastern half of the U.S.

On this date in Music History

March 9 - Jimmy Fadden, "Nitty Gritty Dirt Band", born Long Beach, CA 1948.

- Jimmy Bowen's single "I'm Stickin' With You" debuted on the charts 1957.

- The Grand Ole Opry played their last Saturday night show at the Ryman, prior to moving to the new Opry House in 1974.

March 11 - Pete Pyle, "Blue Grass Boys", died in 1995.

March 13 - Bill Monroe's final performance on the Friday night Opry, 1996.

- It was announced in 2003, that the Grand Ole Opry House would undergo a renovation, costing 7.5 million dollars. The work will take approximately one year to complete.

March 14 - Bob Paisley, Bluegrass bandleader, born Ashe County, NC 1931

- Grandpa Jones, "Louis Marshall Jones", debuted on the Grand Ole Opry 1946

March 15 - Tim O'Brien, award winning singer/session player/ multi-instrumentalist, born Wheeling, WV 1954

- Ronnie McCoury, "Del McCoury Band", born 1967.

- The Ballad of Jed Clampett - Flatt & Scruggs, 1963.

March 17 - Bill Monroe recorded "Kentucky Waltz", 1951.

- Bob Carlin, Bluegrass/banjo born New York City, 1953.

March 22 - Gene Libbea, "Nashville Bluegrass Band", born Pasadena, CA 1953.

March 23 - David Grisman, Bluegrass/mandolinist/composer born Hackensack, NJ 1945.

- Roy "Pop" Lewis, age 98, of The

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Lewis Family, died 2004.

APRIL 5th - Bill Clifton, Bluegrass vocals/guitarist born "William August Marburg", Riverwood, MD 1931..... Bill organized the first ever Bluegrass festival on July 4, 1961, at Oak Leaf Park, in Luray, VA.

April 6th - Dorothy May Skaggs, age 73, died Blaine, KY 2001. Mrs. Skaggs was Ricky's mother.

May 2, 1956 - The Louvin Brothers recorded "Cash On The Barrelhead."

May 6, 1935 - The Carter Family recorded "Will The Circle Be Unbroken", in 1935, on their second straight day of recording.

May 9th - Zeke Morris, Bluegrass recording artist/multi-instrumentalist born Old Fort, NC 1916.

- Mother Maybelle Carter born 'Maybelle Addington' Nicklesville, VA 1909... Inducted CMHF 1970.

May 11th - Lester Raymond Flatt, age 64, died in Nashville in 1979. Inducted CMHF 1985 IBMAHH 1991.

May 17th - Dorris Paul Warren, Bluegrass fiddler, born Lyles, TN 1918.

- Pat Flynn, "New Grass Revival", born Los Angeles, CA 1952.

- Ralph Emery emceed four performances of a huge Country Music show held at Madison Square Garden in 1964. The show featured Buck Owens, Ernest Tubb, Bill Monroe, Webb Pierce, Bill Anderson, Stonewall Jackson, Skeeter Davis, Porter Wagoner and Leon McAuliffe. The show was a huge success.

Please send your news items for the September 2005 newsletter, two weeks prior to the 1st of the September to:

Caroline Jones

60 Nottingham Dr., Stratford, PE

C1B 1G8 Ph: 569-2471 or email

jonescb@eastlink.ca

2005 FESTIVAL & EVENTS CALENDAR

June	9-12	Digby Fish & Game Bluegrass Campout	Haynes Lake, N.S.	902-245-4886
	10-12	Memramcook Bluegrass Campout	Memramcook, N.B.	506-758-9663
	16-19	Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival	Sidney Maine	207-873-6539
	17-19	Stewiacke River Bluegrass Festival	Stewiacke N.S.	902-639-2556
	17-19	Old Mill Bluegrass Spring Campout	Magnetic Hill, N.B.	506-858-8747
	17-19	Woodstock Bluegrass Festival	Woodstock, N.B.	506-324-9241
	23-26	Fox Mountain Bluegrass Festival	Aylesford, N.S.	902-543-9732
	23-26	Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival	Vermont	802-463-1184
	24-26	1 st Woolastook Bluegrass Festival	Woolastook, N.B.	506-458-1588
July	1-3	PEI Bluegrass Festival	Rollo Bay, PEI	902-569-4501
	1-3	Stan Rogers Festival	Canso, N.S.	902-366-2325
	2	Renfrew Campground BG/Country Jam	Nine Mile River, N.S.	902-883-1681
	8-10	Evangeline Bluegrass Festival	Abram Village, PEI	902-854-2375
	8-9	Stewiacke Newfie & Country Jamboree	Stewiacke N.S.	902-639-2556
	8-10	Fredericton Bluegrass Association Camp-out	Woolastook, N.B.	506-459-4823
	15-17	Old Mill Bluegrass Festival	Magnetic Hill, N.B.	506-858-8747
	15-17	Albert Downhome Bluegrass Festival	Sainte Marie De Kent, N.B.	506-955-3074
	15-17	Kempt Shore Maritime Acoustic Festival	Kempt Shore, N.S.	902-633-2535
	15-17	Mount Pearl Bluegrass & Oldtime Festival	Mount Pearl, NFLD.	709-748-1027
	22-24	The County Bluegrass Festival	Fort Fairfield, Maine	207-472-3802
	22-24	Annapolis Valley Club Invitational camp-out	Aylesford, N.S.	902-538-3542
	22-24	Gagetown Village Jubilee	Queens County Fair Ground	506-455-3786
	29-31	Annual Nova Scotia Bluegrass Festival	Stewiacke, N.S.	902-864-1172
	29-31	Miramichi Bluegrass Festival	Miramichi, N.B.	506-388-8826
	29-31	Cape Tormentine Bluegrass Festival	Cape Tormentine, N.B.	506-538-2900
	28-31	Ossipee Valley Bluegrass Festival	Cornish, Maine	207-625-8656
August	5-7	Annual Cape Breton Bluegrass Festival	Marion Bridge, C.B.	902-727-2461
	5-7	Musquodoboit Valley Bluegrass Festival	Middle Musquodoboit, N.S.	902-384-2894
	5-7	Pemi Valley Bluegrass Festival	Campton, New Hampshire	603-726-3471
	5-7	Fox Mountain Country Music Festival	Aylesford, N.S.	902-543-9732
	12-14	Virgin Hill Bluegrass Festival	St. Paul, N.B.	506-858-9634
	12-14	Clare Bluegrass Festival	Saultnierville, N.S..	902-679-2079
	12-14	Perinstock Bluegrass Festival	Penobscot, Maine	207-326-8609
	18-21	Hank Snow Tribute	Bridgewater, N.S.	902-354-4675
	19-21	Red Clay Bluegrass & Oldtime Festival	Tignish, PEI	902-882-3820
	19-21	Kempt Shore Bluegrass & Oldtime Festival	Kempt Shore, N.S.	902-633-2535
	19-21	Bluegrass & Acadien Festival	Ste-Anne de Kent, N.B.	506-743-6953
	25-28	Blistered Fingers Bluegrass Festival	Sidney Maine	207-873-6539
	26-28	Rogersville Bluegrass Festival	Rogersville, N.B.	506-384-8655
	26-28	Pictou Bluegrass Festival	Pictou N.S.	902-924-2604
	26-28	Truro & Area Club Invitational camp-out	Stewiacke N.S..	902-895-2744
September	2-4	Stewiacke River Bluegrass Festival	Stewiacke N.S.	902-639-2556
	1-4	<i>Thomas Point Beach Bluegrass Festival</i>	<i>Brunswick, Maine</i>	<i>207-364-3063</i>
	1-4	Gaspesian Bluegrass Festival	New Richmond Quebec	418-392-4487
	8-11	Old Mill Bluegrass Fall Campout	Magnetic Hill, N.B.	506-858-8747
	9-11	East Hants Club Invitational camp-out	Stewiacke N.S..	902-883-7189
	17	Bluegrass & Gospel Coffeehouse	Milford, N.S.	902-883-7189
October	15	Eastern Canada Bluegrass Music Awards	Truro, N.S.	902-673-2597
November	19	Bluegrass & Gospel Coffeehouse	Milford, N.S.	902-883-7189
December	10	Christmas Bluegrass Jamboree	Nine Mile River, N.S.	902-883-7189
	17	Bluegrass & Gospel Coffeehouse	Milford, N.S.	902-883-7189

Please Note: Dates include only those confirmed at time of printing and are also subject to change without notice.

Advance tickets available from **JERRY** and **BERNICE** Murphy for many festivals. See them at the festivals. You may also call (902) 883-7189, or email MurphJ@chebucto.ns.ca to arrange pick-up at 1455 Highway # 2 in Lantz, NS