

July 2016 Newsletter & Calendar

“Fiddle & Pick”; Home of the Musical Heritage Center of Middle Tennessee
Located at 456 Hwy 70 Pegram, TN 37143
Ph 615-646-9131

Visit www.fiddleandpick.com for information on jams and special events. Our staff of Nashville professionals teach a variety of musical styles at the center; a comfortable place for all ages and levels to get private lessons, classes, and come to participate in jams. Call Gretchen 615-812-2192 to inquire and find the right instructor. Go to the home page and sign up to get this free monthly news letter and calendar so you can be the first to know of performances, class series, workshops, pickin' parties, and be informed of any adjustments to the regularly scheduled jams. You can unsubscribe at anytime. Be sure to open the attachments in this letter to learn about details. We appreciate your support and hope you would share the flyer ads containing essential info; so your like-minded friends and family could attend unique Musical Heritage Events! This letter, the website, and Face Book are the only means we have to get the word out to the folks that are interested in traditional music and beyond!

Reflections : The month of June ended with the dynamic duo of Steve Smith and Tim May. I am pleased that folks came out and supported their fantastic show. I know their performances blow folks minds all across this great country! I can't wait to hear their new CD!

The highlight of our summer was hosting the Kids Summer Music Day Camp (held June 20-24). What a great bunch of young musicians! Such a joy to watch them learn and absorb the demonstrations, tunes, music theory, history, jamming, and the Band Scramble Game! New friendships were made along with the good music. Instructors: Stan Lawrence, Alan O'Bryant, and Gretchen Priest. Special guest presenters: Ian O'Bryant and Tim May showed their craft and offered the students instruction as well. A unexpected surprise donation came our way to sponsor kids to music camp. Big thanks to the COYOTE CAMP (Winfield friends)! Their generosity made dreams come true! Thanks to Tim and Becky for letting the Coyotes know about us and thanks to Dick for following through.

Tim & Gretchen have enjoyed some traveling, teaching and performing at music camps. We particularly loved the Colorado Roots Camp held on Pikes Peak at the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Director Charlie Hall puts on a great music camp with fantastic instructors. Many new friends were made. The Mennonite folks that run the campus are great friends and they make that place special. One of the most beautiful places on earth really. Special Thanks to Charlie and Mary Anne for such a great experience. They understand the “heart of a teacher” concept that we feel is the magic ingredient.

Announcements: Coming to the Fiddle & Pick this Aug & Sept on Monday nights starting on Aug 1 meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm or till 9:00; A very special opportunity to learn how to sing shape notes! Taught by an experienced Sacred Harp singer and leader. Contact Justin Bowen jbowen012@yahoo.com or call Justin 615-962-4539. All Ages, no experience needed, Families welcome, and its FREE!

Last Show of the Season

July 8 Fri Show; EG Smith & the Spontaneous Mountain Boyz; Bluegrass/Comedy

Announcements continued... we had wrong dates on the Irish event in the June news letter, read on:

Announcements continued....

SAVE THE DATES The 8th annual Irish Music Weekend is coming 2nd weekend of November! Mark your calendars Nov 10, 11, 12 . See the flyer and you will be amazed at this All-star cast of instructors! Thurs night Staff concert/ Fri & Sat Workshops.

(Note: Irish Music weekend has permanently moved from April to November)

Day by Day Calendar:

July 2 Sat NO "Bears" Adult fiddle class today on holiday weekend
(usually meets on the 1st & 3rd Sat each month)

Sat NO Irish session today ; SEASONAL BREAK UNTIL OCT
We will resume on 1st & 3rd Sat meetings 2:30-5:00 on Oct 1 & 15

July 4 Mon ***Happy Independence Day! Pegram has lots going on; The 10:00am parade, Pegram Station BBQ lunch, activities at the park all day and the 9:00pm fireworks show.*** We are not going to have a float or host anything indoors this year; but, as always, we put a barrier of straw bails out to "ban cars" so we can offer our Fiddle & Pick Parking lot to the public to bring their families and set up chairs to watch the am Parade and/or the pm fireworks show. NO CARS; we want a safe place for pedestrians to be seated to see the parade and the fireworks. So come to Pegram early, park nearby and reserve a spot.

July 5 Tue Jazz class with Paul Abrams 615-310-7275 (meets weekly) 7:00-8:30pm

Tue **Old-Time Jam night (meets on 1st & 3rd Tues each month) 7:00-9:30pm**
Open & inclusive multi-level jam; group hosted & spectators welcome!

July 7 Thurs "Cubs" adult fiddle class (near beginner with Gretchen) 7:00-9:00pm

Thurs **Gypsy Jazz Night** Hosted by Tim May & Stan Lawrence 7:30-10:30pm
This jam usually meets on the 1st & 3rd Thurs each month; Text Gret 615-812-2192 to get on the group e mail so you are "in the know" (*before you drive out.*) This jam is an inclusive open forum with "in house" books provided. Intermediate and up level.

Spectators are very welcome & it's Free!

July 8 Fri ***Kingston Springs Elementary Day Care Field trip to Fiddle & Pick***
9:45am-12:30pm

Fri **EG Smith & the Spontaneous Mountain Boyz Summer Sizzler Show for all ages; comedy & Bluegrass. \$15 adm / \$12 Seniors / under 18 Free!**

July 12 Tue Jazz class with Paul Abrams 615-310-7275 (meets weekly) 7:00-8:30pm

July 14 **Thur Slowjammers night** (meets on the 2nd & 4th Thurs) 6:00-8:30pm
“Not always slow” The Main rule is to have fun (multi level from ground up)
Inclusive instructor led jam; come on out, don’t be shy!

July 16 Sat “Bears” Adult intermediate fiddle class w Gretchen 10:00am-12:00pm
(usually meets on the 1st & 3rd Sat each month)

Sat Irish session is on a seasonal break; resumes Oct 1
hosted by Gretchen & friends 2:30-5:00pm
(meets on the 1st & 3rd Sat each month)
Inclusive multi-level, but not a slow jam/ Spectators always welcome

July 19 Tue Jazz class with Paul Abrams 615-310-7275 (meets weekly) 7:00-8:30pm

Tue **Old-Time Jam night (meets on 1st & 3rd Tues each month) 7:00-9:30pm**
Open & inclusive multi-level jam; group hosted & spectators welcome!

July 21 Thurs “Cubs” adult fiddle class (near beginner with Gretchen) 7:00-9:00pm

July 22 Fri FULL MOON Pickin’ Party at Warner Park; Friends of Warner Park.org has full information. I have had and hope to always have a great relationship with the Warner Park over the years and have always enjoyed seeing students old and young going out there to learn how to get into a pickin’ circle. I have learned to be cautious when I put some criticism in our newsletter and I have even been scolded for it in the past.

But this issue effects the Bluegrass pickin’ community.

It seems like the words, “pickin’ party” is changing its definition. A pickin’ party is not a concert, but there might be a Bluegrass performance at a pickin party. Or you might have the roots of Bluegrass with Old Time pickers and/or some older country songs occasionally. Other than that; If it is other kinds of music, then it simply should NOT BE CALLED A PICKIN’ PARTY.

Let me tell you how I really feel. I am losing my patience a wee bit. The park folks would like me to put up a tent to host jamming. Fact is that we are not able to put up an inclusive jamming tent ***until we can find a spot that we can hear ourselves pick.*** **It’s a problem.** I have spoken to some folks in charge there, but I am afraid that my suggestions may have fallen on deaf ears. I urge anyone to send them an e mail expressing your thoughts on this issue. They are not pickers or singers. Your input matters. They are nice folks. All suggestions should be polite. This can be solved. Read on to hear the update...

Update on what we observed last time:

A slight improvement; loud food trucks were a little further back so it they were not as loud as last year. Then what little that did was trumped by a huge disappointment. A loud “open mic group” that had amps, mics, speakers, and it was unimaginably loud!

This is totally against what they advertised. I do not know who’s idea that was!

Bottom line is that pickers are still disappointed that they cannot hear themselves pick due to the current location of the stage. The acts are facing where pickers are. It just doesn’t work. Any musician/singer can tell this new layout was decided by someone that doesn’t sing or pick. I cringed as I watched our guitar picker friend, Debbie Hawkins (who has an absolutely beautiful voice), trying to lead and encourage a picking circle while she had to strain her voice in order for the circle to hear her sing! This could seriously hurt that beautiful voice of hers! This is wrong and she is not the only one.

Many folks this year have not returned after this same experience last year. I’m sad and I fear we are losing our wonderful gathering that we loved to attend for almost 20 years. They do not know the definition of Pickin’ Party. Like I said; they are nice folks, but if each of you could send them a polite e mail or a voice mail on the issue, it might help.

The old way that worked for 20 years had the bands on the other side of the barn.

The party starts at 6:30 or 7:00 and ends 11:00. We will not have a tent up until we see positive changes so we can hear ourselves again. It is good to support our parks but this was supposed to be fun and a win win for everyone. Squeaky wheels can be heard!

July 26 Tue Jazz Class with Paul Abrams (meets weekly) 7:00-9:00pm

July 28 **Thur Slowjammers night** (meets on the 2nd & 4th Thurs) 6:00-8:30pm

“Not always slow” The Main rule is to have fun! (multi level from ground up)

If you play just a wee bit or a whole lot; you will fit in! Instructor hosted.

Gretchen hosts slowjammers this evening

July 30 Sat “Bears” Adult intermediate fiddle class w Gretchen 10:00am-12:00pm
(usually meets on the 1st & 3rd Sat each month)

August Sneak Peaks and beyond...

Aug 1 Monday nights Shape note singing series starts!

Coming to the Fiddle & Pick this Aug & Sept on Monday nights starting on Aug 1 meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm or till 9:00; A very special opportunity to learn how to sing shape notes! Taught by an experienced Sacred Harp singer and leader. Contact Justin Bowen jbowen012@yahoo.com or call Justin 615-962-4539. All Ages, no experience needed, individuals, families welcome, and its FREE!

September 24 (possible YARD SALE date) at the Fiddle & Pick to raise money for new oven at the Pegram Community Center. Note: we need to get an oven to feed everyone at the the Irish weekend and the Old time weekend. The PCC has other priorities much more urgent than an oven. So Gretchen is having a sale to raise money. For years we have been cooking and driving the food over for these big events. Its time to solve this issue and get'r done! Anyone want to help? Text Gretchen 615-812-2192

Oct 1 Sat The Room at the Inn Fundraiser at the Fiddle & Pick hosted by Pegram Church of Christ . Fun evening of music to help folks on the street find a new path.

Oct Student Hoedown date TBA (Oct 9 or 23?)
Sunday rehearsal 2:00 /concert 4:00/potluck 5:00

Oct 15 weekend Robert Dunn, David Grier and Friends Trad music festival at Hayshed Farms in Kingston Springs. More info is coming.

Nov 10,11, 12 (Th, Fri, Sat) 8th annual IRISH MUSIC WEEKEND
Staff concert Thurs night with open session & two days of workshops on Fri & Sat.
History, mini-concerts, sessions!
See the flyer of the in credible staff! SAVE THE DATES! More to be announced.

Dec 4 Sunday..... Student Christmas Holiday Concert

Dec 23 FridaySpontaneous Mountain Boyz Christmas Spectacular

SAVE THE DATES: Jan 5, 6, 7, 2017
The Eighth of January Old Time Music Weekend (5th annual is early this year!)

SAVE THE DATES: April 6, 7, 8 Traditional Music & Song weekend (2nd annual)

Musically yours,
Miss Gretchen

