



April 2024 Newsletter and calendar

Hello everyone,

Hope your spring is going swimmingly well for you!

April 4 will be the start of our 17th year since our Grand Ole Opening in 2008!

This has been a busy year! Here is what's been happening in our little part of the world. Some reflections of this year:

We just hosted our 16th annual Irish Music Concert on **Saint Patrick's Day** at the Fiddle & Pick. Awesome show with Jigs, Slipjigs, Reels, Polkas & a Waltz; and of course, a big St Paddy's Party after the performance. A huge orchestra with students of all ages and levels. Lots of fiddlers, two guitars, two mandolins, Accordion, Flute & Concertina. Members of our Irish Music Happy Hour Class and Rowan Campbell on Bodhran served as "the house band". Keller Campbell as soundman. The concert special feature: Anna Bardaus & Dana Swan sang in harmony and played twin fiddles. Anna's poem, "The Roots", she put to an old Scottish melody "Loch Lomond". Anna also had her Irish whistle debut and Ethan Storey accompanied on Guitar. Lovely work about the fascinating beech trees and the roots sustaining the generations. (Great analogy for us and our family tree).

The Leap Day and first weekend in March ushered in the annual "Breakin' Up Winter" Old-Time Music Retreat at the Cedars of Lebanon St Park put on by NOTSBA. I attend this festival every year, but this year was quite different for me. Instead of jamming and socializing, I had a lot more responsibilities!

I had been asked to speak (for an hour, yikes!). At a short ceremony I was awarded the HERITAGE AWARD. When I returned home, I hung the plaque in the lobby at the Fiddle & Pick (and spent all the money in one place). But seriously, I am truly humbled by all those who have received the Heritage AWARD all these years prior. Such an honor!

I prepared some short history presentations along with fiddle workshops on two fiddlers of Historical note. Fiddler Arthur Smith (from long ago), and Trevor Stuart (our generation that sadly left this world too soon). It was a big responsibility to do it right as they both deserve the accolades of their music contributions. I Also taught a Kenny Baker tune and talked about other fiddlers not with us anymore, many I met at "BUW".

My bandmates, "Roadside Distraction" Emily Wilson and Tim May played a Friday Night Concert. Other workshops by Tim May on guitar and Emily Wilson on Mandolin. Earl White and Adrienne hosted workshops, lots of jams, and there were many other activities including a contra dance. Keep this festival in mind 1st weekend in March!

JUST One week before Breakin' Up Winter Retreat; we hosted our annual Fundraiser for the Musical Heritage Center, aka... Fiddle & Pick.

The Chili Cook-Off / Silent Auction & Trad Jams!

Usually, the fundraiser is the weekend just after Valentine's Day. But this year it was the last weekend of Feb. I learned the hard way to not to schedule it that late in the month! It is a lot of work and volunteers are tough to find. I had great help from Don & Darlyne Kent getting a massive amount of bid sheets ready. It is detailed work! The Campbell Kids helped me get all the silent auction items and chili items, etc in cars to go across the street to the Pegram Station and set up the great silent auction store! I scrambled for to get so much done for that and also prepare for all my responsibilities at the following weekend at "BUW". It got a little rough getting it organized; I survived!

Looking ahead to next year:

Next year's Chili Cook Off Fundraiser is Sunday Feb 16, 2025

(plan B if icy is Sun Feb 23, 2025)

The silent auction went well. We had more items than the attending population could bid on. Everyone had a big time with it and got good deals and they went home very happy with their bid items. If you came and had fun, please bring a friend next year! Big thanks to the folks that donated auction items and to the auction bidders!!

The Fundraiser was a lot of fun! The community rocked! The door shepherds and bid collectors were a HUGE help. Carol and Sophie to name a few. There were shifts so I don't even know who all was at the door, and what was going on in the front lines sometimes because I was Emcee for the Chili winners and other announcements and hosting the music. Eliza Limon had all that figured out and organized the chili people.

Our trad jams played two hours each, starting with Old-Time, then Irish and Bluegrass. HUGE thanks to all the musicians that came to play and support the cause!

We had GREAT entries for the Chili Contest. Very steep competition! Just for the record, I did not know who the judges were, nor should I. It was fun and delicious for all to participate in the "tasting" of all the entries and exercise their vote in the people's choice ballot box. I still crave the Bourbon Bacon chili and the White chili with Rabbit meat. They were all fantastic. Kudos to ALL the Chefs! They are such an important part of making this fundraiser a success. Thank you so much!

The 2024 Chili Cook-off Winners (four categories)

1st place Best Overall (Prizes and a TROPHY) winner: Jessica Reeves "Seven Seasons"

1st place "Peoples Choice" (Prizes) winner: Keller Campbell "Killer Chili"

1st place "Best Vegetarian (Prizes) winner: Joe Sartino "Very Edible Gastrological Eats"

1st Place "Best Most Unusual (Prizes) winner: Donna Lazarek 'Don't Ask Alice"

If you would like to enter your chili next year; Don't be shy! Win prizes!!!

Mark your calendar Sun Feb 16, 2025 (Plan B if icy Sun Feb 23, 2025)

We started the Year off on a good foot with our Old-Time Music Weekend which we call "The Eighth of January" Old-Time Music Weekend. Feb newsletter covered the event. "EOJ" weekend is well worth saving date on your calendar. Bring a friend next year!

Save the dates: Fri & Sat Jan 10 & 11, 2025

One of our "EOJ" fun traditions is singing "Battle of New Orleans" & "Chitlin Cookin' Time In Cheatham County. Just a note that sometime this year Fiddlin' Arthur Smith

this year will have a National Monument and ceremony at a cemetery in McEwen Tenn. When I know when etc... I will make an announcement.

Here is what is coming up this Spring into Summer and Fall! Plan ahead!
Private lessons in person and online are year round. Inquiries Text 615-812-2192

UPCOMING RECITALS!

Stephan Dudash students recital Sun April 28 arrive to rehearse 1:30/ **3:00 recital**

Erinn Peet-Lukes students recital 1:00 Sat May 11

Becca Darling students piano recital Sat May 18 rehearse 2:00/**3:00 recital**

Other announcements; Mark Calendar for student performances:

17th annual HOEDOWN SHOW Sunday Oct 27 rehearsal/4:00 show/potluck

17th annual Christmas Holiday Concert Sun Dec 15 rehearsal/3:30 show/potluck

See flyer attachments for the Following Classes and scheduled Jams (in this Order)

Kids Jam Schedule

Old-time Jam Schedule

Bluegrass Jamming Class Schedule

Irish Session Schedule

Irish Music Happy Hour Class Schedule

Other Items of interest to attend various camps in this order:

April 15-21, 2024 GREENLEAF Old-Time Music Festival

GreenLeaf St Park Braggs, OK

www.GLOTMA.ORG

Note: there is a Bluegrass GREENLEAF Festival going on simultaneously with camping on the upper level. (old-time is lower level by the lake)

May 2-5, 2024 Bluegrass & Gee's Bend (Alabama Folks School)

<https://campmcdowell.org/dates-rates/bluegrass-gees-bend-2024>

See ad attachment.

June 9-15 Kaufman Kamp Oldtime Week and other Traditional Styles

www.Flatpik.com or write: steve@flatpik.com

June 16-22 Kaufman Kamp Bluegrass Week.

See ad attachment.

Colorado Roots Camp

June 2-8, 2024 CAMP I

Aug 11-17, 2024 CAMP II

See flyer attachment

Musically yours,

Miss Gretchen

"See you on the Funway"