



October 2024 Newsletter and calendar

Howdy Folks! Happy Fall to All!

A few reflections of recent history:

On SUN Sept 8, 2024, I had the honor of organizing a string band of great musicians to play for the unveiling of a National Monument to honor fiddlin' Arthur Smith at the James Cemetery in McEwen Tenn. Ted Rice, the Director of the Humphreys County Historical Society contacted me about providing music for the occasion. Some of his team of historians spoke. Family owned, James Cemetery representative, Gina Buchanan (in photo) had much to do with this event coming together. Present were music historians, Arthur Fans, and members of Arthur's family including his last living son (out of 13 children), William Smith (age 89 In photo below). William "Billy" spoke and hung out with the musicians under the big tent and even danced a bit. It was lovely to see some other folks were dancing too. Musicians performing in the 12-piece string band to name a few, included Alan O'Bryant (Nashville Bluegrass Band), David Johnson (Fiddler for Randy Travis), Andy Smith (Stillhouse Reelers), Gretchen Priest (PLAIDGRASS), Henry Hartman on Bass, and Phillip Steinmetz (Grand Nephew of Grampa Jones).

Other excellent musicians (see photo with all the names) from the Fiddle & Pick Old-Time Jam were also in the string band playing a wide array of Fiddlin' Arthur Smith tunes and songs. Family members contributed great stories of the songs we played. Phillip played guitar and sang "Bound to Ride" and he also played Arthur's "Bonaparte's Retreat" on the clawhammer banjo. Alan Sang "Chitlin' Cookin' Time in Cheatham County and everyone sang the chorus together. It was a unique organic event in the beautiful countryside. I encourage everyone to look online to read about Arthur's incredible bio and life story and his long career in music. Here is a special note of history: While working at the Opry, Roy Acuff got word about Arthur's passing and announced it to the audience. He said Arthur was the "King of the Fiddlers"! When I moved to Nashville a long time ago, I had met my fiddle icon, Kenny Baker a couple times and he told me the best fiddler he ever heard was Fiddlin' Arthur Smith. That stuck with me and inspired me to learn some of his music. I could have never dreamed I would play for Arthur's National Monument Ceremony. I call these moments in life "God Winks". We all get God Winks, and most of us take heart and notice them and wink remember to wink back.

Another Fiddler extraordinaire passed recently. Legendary Bluegrass Fiddler, Bobby Hicks. There is so much to say about him. I was fortunate to meet him at the Violin Shop a few times when I first moved to Nashville. I just read a great article in Bluegrass Unlimited Magazine about Bobby's life, and fiddle career. There are some great personal testimonies and thoughts of Bobby included in the article.

I recommend you read about Bobby, and recommend subscribing to the magazine that is now owed by the Bluegrass Hall of Fame in Owensboro, KY.

**Announcements of Fiddle & Pick Jams and Classes.
Seasonal adjustments...**

Gretchen hosts the following IRISH MUSIC programs:

~ **Tues Irish session starts back up on 2nd & 4th Tues starts Oct 22 7:15-9:15**

The session is a MID- TEMPO Session. Donations appreciated.

~The Irish music class that had been meeting on Tues in the summer season *will now move to 2nd & 4th Fridays*

Irish Music Class Happy Hour Class. The class is for folks already playing Irish; (a sliding scale fee starting at \$25+ per meeting. It is a multi-instrument class.
Starts on Fri Nov 8 & 22 6:30-8:30

For those that play fiddle and want to start learning Irish Session Tunes:
“Newbies Irish Music Class” on 2nd & 4th Sat mornings 10:30 am-Noon
Starting Nov 9 & 23 (Text 615-812-2192 *after Oct 27* to inquire)

~**The Old-time Jam** 1st & 3rd Tues 7:15-9:15

~**Kids Jam** 1st & 3rd Mon 6:15-7:30

~**Bluegrass Jamming class** meeting on the 2nd & 4th Monday 7:15-9:15

Co-hosted by Erinn Peet Lukes and Gretchen Priest

~**Jazz class** with Paul Abrams on Tues.

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

Scroll to the end to See the flyer

NOTE: on Oct Sat 26 need volunteers to load up and set up the show at Garage Mahal meeting at noon at FP.

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

**SAVE THE DATES! Eighth of Jan Old-time Music Weekend
Jan10 & 11 (more details in November)**

Keep on your radar the Annual Fundraiser event with Silent Auction.

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)

Musically yours,

Miss Gretchen

“See you on the Funway”



Left to right: Andy Smith, Alan O'Bryant, Paul Hart, Henry Hartman, Gretchen Priest, William (Billy) Smith, David Johnson, Mary Alice Bernal, Danial Charlton, Bill Slagle, Joe Sartino, Phillip Steinmenz

keep scrolling!



SMITH

ARTHUR L.
APR. 10, 1898
FEB. 28, 1971

NETTIE BAKER
OCT. 11, 1899
AUG. 18, 1984



This is the back of the monument marker

Front of the marker is on the next page
keep scrolling to see photo with Gini Buchanon



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ARTHUR "FIDDLIN" SMITH
Circa 1898-1971

Born on April 10, 1898 in Bolds Springs, Tennessee, Arthur "Fiddlin" Smith learned to play at an early age. At the age of 16, in 1914 he married Nettie Jewel Baker, who played the guitar. On December 23, 1927, Smith made his debut on the Grand Ole Opry playing a thirty-minute solo fiddle set accompanied on guitar by his cousin Homer Smith. In the 1930s, he formed the Fiddlin' Arthur Smith and the Dixieliners Band, and his daughter LaVonne played the piano. During the same era Smith became a member of the Grand Ole Opry, on which he became a regular act.

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String Band of Arthur Smith Tunes

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Musical Heritage Center

~ presents ~

17th Annual HOEDOWN Show!

Featuring Fiddle & Pick Music Students

Sunday October 27th, 2024 @ 4:00pm

@ the Garage MaHal

(Darrel & Candy's)

1025 Ed Burgess Dr. Ashland City

Join the Fun & Wear your
Hoedown Attire &
Invite your Peeps!

Students arrive 1:30 pm to rehearse
(Be sure to eat something before you come)

Showtime 4pm

Bring your Instruments, Music Stand, & a Big Smile
Help Needed! Haulin Tables/chairs before and after
show, Text 615-812-2192

**Pot Luck Reception to
follow**

