

FIREBALL MAIL

Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association, Inc. Newsletter

January/February '09



SWBMAI Scholarship Programs Announced at Holiday Party

Two scholarship programs have been created to commemorate SWBMAI's 25th Anniversary. *The Founders Award* will help support a Southern Wisconsin music teacher. *The Futures Award* will help an under-18 musician.

FIREBALL MAIL

Volume 26 Issue 1

Fireball Mail is published bi-monthly: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Please send advertising inquiries, articles, calendar information, photos and letters to :
Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 7761
Madison, WI 53707-7761
Attn: Fireball Mail

Email: FireballMailEditor@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month preceding the month of publication.



SWBMAI is a member of IBMA (International Bluegrass Music Association) and the International Bluegrass Music Museum

Listen to WORT 89.9 FM

Every Tuesday

Pastures of Plenty,

9:00 am - noon with John Fabke

Every Wednesday

Back to the Country,

9:00 am - noon with Bill Malone

Every Friday

Mud Acres Bluegrass Special,

9:00 am - noon with Chris Powers



Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association, Inc.

The SWBMAI is a non-profit educational organization devoted to the preservation and promotion of bluegrass music, and supported by the volunteer efforts of its members.

The SWBMAI mission as stated in the by-laws:

- 1) To promote bluegrass music and musicians
- 2) To bring together persons of all ages who enjoy singing, playing and listening to bluegrass music
- 3) To hold regular bluegrass jam sessions
- 4) To publicize information about bluegrass concerts and festivals
- 5) To help younger persons obtain instruments and instruction in bluegrass music
- 6) To introduce bluegrass music to new listeners

SWBMAI Board of Directors

President – George Reynolds, 608-957-1200, georgelreynolds@gmail.com

Vice-President – Ellis Bauman, 608-257-2431, ellisabau@aol.com

Secretary & Membership Chair – Sharon Manion, 608-424-3408, smdw@charter.net

Treasurer – Jon Peik, jrpeik@yahoo.com

Attendant Board Members-

Jim Knobloch, 608-798-3810, knobhill@chorus.net

Catherine Rhyner, 608-835-8117, catherine.rhyner@gmail.com

Jean Knickelbine, Marketing and Public Relations, jeanknick@gmail.com

Webmaster – Scott Knickelbine, swbmai@gmail.com

Member Volunteers: Nancy Nikora, Paul Kienitz, Dale Ward, Julie Cherney, Carolyn Hegeler, Bobbie Batyko, Lorie Docken, Jim Robarts and Jamie Zahalka

Board Meetings

The board usually meets the first Wednesday of each month, at 6:00 pm at the Bar Next Door, 232 E. Olin Ave., Madison, WI. If you would like to attend, contact a board member to be sure of the date, time and location; they are subject to site availability and holiday dates.

Board Meeting Minutes

The Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association, Inc. board meeting's condensed minutes are available on line at www.swbamai.org. If you would like minutes mailed to you please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to SWBMAI Secretary Sharon Manion, P.O. Box 7761, Madison, WI 53707.

Fireball Mail

You can print off your Fireball Mail at home any time: Please send your e-mail addresses to the membership chair, Sharon Manion, at smdw@charter.net. Write *e-mail newsletter* in the subject line. This will not only get the news to you faster, but will help reduce the Association's printing and mailing costs, too.



Seeking SWBMAI Board Nominations: Two Board Members to Retire from Active Posts

SWBMAI is seeking board nominations to fill the posts of two long-time board members. Ellis Bauman and Sharon Manion are both set to retire from active SWBMAI board posts.

Ellis Bauman has served the board as Vice-President for the past eight years. He will remain on the board until the legal transition is made for the organization to operate as a 501(c)(3) and final decisions are made about another project he is working on.

Sharon Manion has served as SWBMAI board secretary for nearly three years. She will be transitioning to SWBMAI's Membership Chairperson holding a board position similar to that of Jon Peik in that both have SWBMAI board voting privileges but will not attend regular meetings.

Both Sharon and Ellis hope to end their current board tenures in March, 2009 which coincides with the end of their respective terms.

Board nominations can be made by contacting any SWBMAI board member or by submitting nominations to swbmai@gmail.com.

Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings, and according to the bylaws "shall have the power and authority to conduct the business and affairs of the Association, ... shall have authority to decide, approve, and disapprove the appointment of officers, employees and agents, the adoption of the Association's policies, and to authorize all disbursements from the general funds ..."

A Message from the President

Goodbye 2008, hello 2009.

Between the snowiest winter in a century, a tough economy, and a brutal season for the Green Bay Packers, 2008 is a year that I couldn't wait to leave behind. Even so, 2008 wasn't entirely a pit of despair. Some highlights for me included:

- Joining the SWBMAI board;
- Attending some great local music festivals including Brooklyn Bluegrass, Gandy Dancer, and Sugar Maple;
- Watching Mike Compton and the Bluegrass Boys tear it up on a summer evening;
- Helping mark the 25th Anniversary of SWBMAI;
- Approval of the revised SWBMAI by-laws and the decision to pursue a 5013(c) non-profit status;
- Development of the 2008-2009 strategic plan.

Looking ahead to 2009, I know that the southern Wisconsin community will enjoy another year playing, listening to, and learning about Bluegrass. So my New Year's SWBMAI resolutions are to:

- Put the Strategic Plan ("Listen, Play, Learn") into action;
- Work with the board to develop structures such as budgets, policies, and procedures that will ensure that SWBMAI is operationally sound;
- Expand and diversify our membership, especially working to include families and kids.

On a personal front, 2009 is the year that I resolve to:

- Practice with a metronome every time;
- Pick up an instrument daily, even if just to play a song with my kids;
- Stop making lists, and get more done.

At your service,
George
georgelreynolds@gmail.com

SWBMAI Welcomes Back Member Band: Cream City

What's the recipe for a successful bluegrass band? There are many but few are as well crafted as Cream City's recipe.

First, add a lot of bluegrass experience; collectively, they have over 80 years of playing bluegrass. Add reverence for the traditions of Bill Monroe, the Stanley brothers and Jimmy Martin. Cream City also pays attention to entertaining audiences as well as providing education and an off-beat sense of humor.

With several years spent in finding just the right ingredients, the result is one of the finest bands in southeastern Wisconsin specializing in bluegrass and gospel music. Members include Ryan Hanley on mandolin, Andy Struthers on guitar and mandolin, Harvey Riekoff on a five string banjo, Mary Stetson on fiddle as well as Joe Garenger on bass. They might also surprise you by pulling out a viola mandola, claw hammer banjo or mando cello. And almost everybody sings, too.



LarryFest 2009

August 14 & 15th, 2009 - \$50 Advance Purchase Only

Tickets are now available for the 12th Annual LarryFest which will be on August 14 and 15, 2009. Order your tickets now as there will be no tickets sold at the gate again this year.

This fun music festival is held on a maple syrup farm in the Kickapoo River Valley with free camping available near spring fed streams. All camp sites have primitive camping with limited space for RV and trailer campers but you must arrive with them before sunset on Thursday. Camping reservations are required.

Tickets are nonrefundable and cost \$50 per person for the entire festival which includes:

- Free camping
- Free sweet corn
- Free parking
- Free shuttle bus
- Free firewood
- Food stand with reasonable prices
- Carry-in beverages/food allowed
- 20+ Main Stage performances and Song Writer Stage entertainment
- Controlled audience size

To order tickets go to www.kvama.org or for more information e-mail: info@kvama.org.



22nd Annual MerleFest April 23-26, 2009 - Wilkesboro, NC

MerleFest[®]

MerleFest is a four-day event that honors the memory of instrumental virtuoso Eddy Merle Watson and the contributions of Doc and the entire Watson Family to the musical traditions of the region and nation. Held on the campus of Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, MerleFest began as a fundraiser for the college and remains the largest fundraiser for the institution. This year's line-up includes Travis Tritt

and Jerry Douglas, Emmylou Harris, The Del McCoury Band, The Carolina Chocolate Drops, BeauSoleil, Blue Highway, The Grascals, The Lovell Sisters, The Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band, Dailey and Vincent, The Dixie Beeliners, Ollabelle, Mountain Heart with Tony Rice, The Waybacks, The Greencards, Tift Merritt, Docabilly, Sam Bush, Sierra Hull and Highway 111, Missy Raines and the New Hip, Scythian, and Bearfoot. Ticket purchases can be made on the web at <http://www.merlefest.org/> or by calling 1-800-343-7857. For tickets or more information go to: <http://www.merlefest.org/>.

Musicians Sought for Showcase Performances at the World of Bluegrass 2009

In an effort to promote bluegrass and related forms of music, the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) hosts artist showcase performances at the annual World of Bluegrass event. The event will be held September 28 through October 4, 2009 at the Nashville Convention Center.

The showcase performances help meet the industry's need to see what's new in the music, as well as open doors for acts by creating an opportunity to present themselves at the World of Bluegrass Business Conference.

These presentations are one of the primary highlights of IBMA's convention, where more than 1800 music industry leaders gather annually. Bands who apply to showcase at World of Bluegrass are not required to be IBMA members, but are asked to submit a \$15 fee to help defray the expenses associated with the selection process.

The World of Bluegrass is actually three major events all occurring the same week:

🌿 IBMA Business Conference: The annual business conference for the bluegrass music industry with

artist showcases, an exhibit hall with more than 100 booths, professional development seminars, member constituency meetings, and one-on-one networking.



🌿 The 20th International Bluegrass Music Awards Show: Presented at the historic Ryman Auditorium, this is the most anticipated night of the bluegrass music year! Be there when the envelopes are opened to salute the year's most outstanding achievements, during a fast paced evening of fabulous performances and the music's major awards!

🌿 Bluegrass Fan Fest: More than 60 artists representing the best bluegrass music from around the globe! Fan Fest is the indoor music festival of the year featuring performances by the industry's top acts, Masters Workshop Stage, Roots & Branches Stage, exhibit hall, and scores of jam sessions!

For more information or to register visit IBMA's website at: www.ibma.org/events/programs/wob/index.asp

Banjoist Bill Evans & Fiddle Champion Megan Lynch Three Workshops and an Evening Concert Saturday, April 25 - Madison's Wil-Mar Center



By: Julie Cherney and Carolyn Hegeler

SWBMAI is excited to bring banjo player Bill Evans and fiddle champion Megan Lynch to the Wil-Mar Center, 953 Jenifer St., Madison, on April 25, 2009 for a full day of instruction and entertainment. Bill and Megan will each give three-hour workshops on banjo and fiddle, respectively, a two-hour jam workshop for players of all bluegrass instruments, and an evening concert. Bill C. Malone, host of WORT89.9FM's Back to the Country, will emcee the concert. A registration form is available at www.swbmai.org/downloads/evanslynch.pdf.

Advance tickets for the concert only are \$13. Concert tickets for students with ID are \$10; children under 12 admitted free. Tickets will be available in early February at locations to be announced on www.swbmai.org. Advance concert tickets can be ordered by contacting Julie Cherney at 608-260-2675 or cherney@uwalumni.com. Contact Julie for more information about the event.

Bill Evans is a 35-year veteran of the banjo who has created a varied and highly successful musical career. He hosts the annual NashCamp Banjo Retreat with Sonny Osborne and teaches at almost every important music camp in the U.S and the U.K., including NashCamp,

California Bluegrass Association's Music Camp, Midwest Banjo Camp, and Sore Fingers Bluegrass Week. He also presents workshops at folk and bluegrass festivals across the country. As a doctoral candidate in ethnomusicology from UC-Berkeley, Bill has taught American music history at various universities across the country. Additionally, he has been artist and scholar in residence at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and performer in residence at Carleton College in Northfield, MN and at Morehead State University in Morehead, KY.

Bill toured with Dry Branch Fire Squad from 1993-1997, currently plays with Bluegrass Intentions and tours extensively with Megan Lynch. He is a regular performer at the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival in San Francisco and also performs with the California-based Bill Evans' Stringed Summit.

Bill authored the book *Banjo for Dummies* and, with Dix Bruce, co-authored *Mel Bay's Parking Lot Pickers Songbook: Banjo Edition*. (Visit Bill's website: www.NativeAndFine.com for more information.)

Megan Lynch is a six-time National Fiddle Champion. She is also a regular performer at the Grand Ole' Opry. Megan has played with country star Pam Tillis as well as bluegrass greats Roland White, Larry Cordle, Jim Hurst, and Chris Jones. She is a former member of Koch recording artists 3 Fox Drive and West Coast group Due West. She is also the founder and director of FiddleStar Youth and Adult Fiddle Camps and is in high demand as an instructor for bluegrass camps across the country. "Fiddlers come out of the woodwork when they hear that Megan is leading a workshop," states Bill Evans.

The day of workshops and concert with Bill and Megan will be a wonderful opportunity for banjo players and fiddlers to learn more about playing their instruments, for all bluegrass musicians to enjoy a two-hour jam with Bill and Megan, and for everyone, kids and adults alike, to enjoy a great concert. Be sure to bring your friends and family to this SWBMAI event!

SWBMAI to present

Bill Evans and Megan Lynch

Banjo, Fiddle, Jam Workshops and Concert

Saturday, April 25, 2009, Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jenifer St., Madison, WI

Calling All Bluegrass Musicians!

This event is a wonderful opportunity not just for banjo and fiddle players. The 2-hour Jam Workshop with Bill and Megan will be great fun for mandolin, guitar, bass, Dobro, autoharp, harmonica, even spoons and washboard players. The more the merrier!

Workshop Registration Form

Please fill out the form below, indicating the package you want. Mail a check (made payable to "SWBMAI") to Julie Cherney, 1122 Curtis Ct., Madison, WI 53703. Julie will contact you to confirm receipt of your check.

To take advantage of the lower SWBMAI member fees, add the membership fee (\$20/Individual; \$28/Family; \$12/Senior) to your workshop fee.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Fees for SWBMAI Members: (Non-members add \$10 to each entry.)

_____ Banjo Workshop/Jam Workshop/Concert: \$65

_____ Fiddle Workshop/Jam Workshop/Concert: \$65

_____ Banjo Workshop/Concert: \$45

_____ Fiddle Workshop/Concert: \$45

_____ Jam Workshop/Concert: \$35 -Instrument(s): _____

SWBMAI Membership Fee (if applicable): _____

TOTAL AMOUNT (Make check payable to "SWBMAI"): _____

Events Schedule: Banjo and Fiddle Workshops: 11:00-2:30 (half hour lunch break at 12:30)
Jam Workshop: 3:30-5:30 / Concert: 7:30-9:30

Advance Concert Tickets: \$13, contact Julie Cherney at 608-260-2675 or cherney@uwalumni.com (please reference "Bill Evans Concert"). Tickets will be held for you at the door.

Day of Show Concert Tickets: \$15/SWBMAI members; \$17/Non-members; \$10/Students with student ID; Children under 12 FREE. Visit www.swbmai.org for details.

Jams and Open Mic Events January / February 2009

EVERY MONDAY

Bluegrass, Folk & Traditional Country Jam and Open Mic, Dry Bean Saloon, 6:30 - 10:30 pm, 5264 Verona Rd., Madison, WI Host: Dave Bacholl (Info: 608-906-6036)

Newgrass Jam, 6:00 -10:00 pm, Bar Next Door, 222 E. Olin Ave. Madison, WI Host: Spencer Walts (Info: eyewerks@tds.net)

EVERY TUESDAY

Learner/Beginner Jam at the Coliseum Bar, 7:00 - 10:00 pm, 232 E. Olin Ave. , Madison, WI. SWBMAI sponsored instruction on first Tuesday, 7:30 - 9:00 pm by Jon Peik, \$5.00 instructor donation requested. Other weeks are facilitated without charge. (Info: Ellis Bauman 608-257-2431)

2nd and 4th TUESDAY

FIXX Coffee House Bluegrass Jam, 3558 E. Sivyer Ave., St. Francis, WI 7:00 -10:00 PM. One 30 minute open mic set before jam. (Info: 414-482-0919 Host: James Brocksmith.)

3rd TUESDAY

Hartland Music, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, 1125 James Dr., Hartland WI. off Hwy 83, just south of Hwy 16 (Info: rwschwartz@aol.com)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Northland Ballroom, 8:00 - 11:00 pm, N10103 Hwy 49 between Rosholt and Iola, WI. Hosted by Art Stevenson, Dale Reichert, and Jim Prideaux. Call 715-677-3491 or visit www.highwatermusic.com/northland_ballroom.htm.

Emily's Restaurant, 8:00 -11:00 pm, 3747 Cedar Creek Rd., West Bend, WI. (Info: 262-677-0138 or www.emilysrestaurant.com)

1st THURSDAY

Ruby's Road House, 6:00 - 9:30 pm, free, Hwys 40 & 53, Bloomer, WI (Info: Larry Finseth, 715-926-5148)

1st & 3rd THURSDAY

Apple Holler Bluegrass Jam & BBQ, Apple Holler Restaurant/ Orchard, 5006 S. Sylvania Ave., Sturtevant, WI (Info: www.appleholler.com or call toll free at 1-800-238-3629)

1st and 3rd FRIDAY

Bluegrass Jam, Harmony Bar, 2201 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI, 9:30 pm - midnight. All playing abilities encouraged. Hosts: The Trails End String Band (Info: 608-249-4333)

2nd FRIDAY

Ron's Old-Time Jam, Black Earth Bank, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, (lower level meeting room) Black Earth, WI. Host: Ron Poast (Info: 608-767-2276) www.ragtime88.com/swotfa

3rd FRIDAY

Bluegrass Open Mic, Crossroads Coffeehouse, 7:00 - 9:30 pm, 2020 Main St, Cross Plains, WI. Info: joesnare@tds.net or call Mary at the Crossroads, 608-798-2080) Host: Joe Snare

EVERY OTHER SATURDAY

Spirits, 735 S Watertown St, Waupun 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. All playing abilities welcome. (Info: Jeff Smith (920) 324-3977)

1st SATURDAY

Riley Tavern, 2:00 pm, 8205 Klevenville-Riley Rd., Verona, WI

Take CTH PD to CTH J, turn north on CTH J. Between Mt. Horeb & Verona. Host: Archie Lowman (Info: 608-845-9150)

Waukesha Church of Christ, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, 2816 Madison St., Waukesha, WI. Host: Pastor Greg (Info: 262-470-3644)

2nd SATURDAY

R.H. Landmark Saloon, 3:00 - 6:00 pm, 138 S. Main St. Jefferson, WI. Host: John Short (Info: 920-563-7441)

Spring Green General Store, 3:00 - 6:00 pm, 137 S. Albany St., Spring Green, WI. Host: Doug Lloyd and Paul Bentzen (Info: 608-588-7070 or www.springgreengeneralstore.com). The February 14 jam for Paul Bentzen's birthday party runs from 1:00 - 5:30 pm. Free admission.

EVERY SUNDAY

Bluegrass Jam, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, R & J's Saloon, 8 American Legion Street, Mazomanie, WI, Times may change due to football schedule (Info: 608-795-2251 Debra Schroeder schroederdeb@mhasd.k12.wi.us)

EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

Old Time Acoustic Jam, Alchemy Cafe, 1980 Atwood Ave., Madison Every other Sunday at 5:00 - 7:00 pm (Info: Scott Knickelbine scottk@lcs-impact.com)

1st SUNDAY

Jam and Open Mic, Orfordville American Legion, 12:00 -6:00 pm. Orfordville, WI On Hwy 213 S, just south of Hwy 11. Host: Fritz and Donna Jaggi (Info: 608-897-4286)

Life Spring Coffee Shop, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, 7578 Hwy 51, Minocqua WI Host: Rich Gadow (Info: 715-588-9498) www.headforthedome.com

1st AND 3rd SUNDAY

Traditional music jam, Willy Street Co-op, 1221 Williamson St., Madison, WI. Info: Reid Miller at 608-852-4524 or reid4dance@yahoo.com

2nd SUNDAY

Hazelhurst (Yawkey) Town Hall, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, Hwy 51, Hazelhurst, WI. Host: Keith Justice (Info: 715-356-3793)

BBMA Bluegrass Jam, 2:00 - 5:00 pm, Borders Books, River Point Shopping Center, 8705 N. Port Washington, Fox Point, WI (Info: 414-540-1427) www.badgerlandbluegrass.org

4th SUNDAY

Viroqua Bluegrass & Gospel Music Association Bluegrass Jam, 1:30 - 4:30 pm, Park View Ct, Viroqua, WI (Info: 608-637-3820 dlpeterson@mwt.net www.viroquabluegrass.com)

Bluegrass Jam, The Attic, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, 730 Bodart Street, Green Bay (Info: www.theatticbooks.com or call 920-855-2627 or 920-884-7260)

LAST SUNDAY

Bill Jorgenson Jam, Tom's Garage, 1:00 - 5:00 pm, 222 West Franklin St., Appleton, WI (Info: (920) 882-2183)

Festivals, Workshops and Concerts

January / February / Early March 2009

January

- 17 *Cumberland Gap Connection*, Sat., 7:30 pm, Two Rivers High School, a B.K. Productions Bluegrass Show
25 8th Annual United Way Bluegrass Benefit, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave., Madison, WI. United Way Donations: \$10 adults, \$5 kids 5-12, \$20 family. Tickets available at the door. www.barrymorelive.com

February

- 8 Minneapolis Battle of the Jugbands, 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm, The Cabooze, 917 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, MN. "The oldest jug band gathering in the known universe." Now in its 27th year. www.jugbandbattle.net/home.html
21 *Honi Deaton & Dream*, 7:30 pm, Two Rivers High School, a B.K. Productions Bluegrass Show

March

- 6 - 8 MBOTMA Winter Bluegrass Weekend, Minneapolis, MN. A Festival of Bluegrass & Old-Time Music & Dance. Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 3131 Campus Dr., I-494 & Hwy 55. More than 40 groups on several stages plus dances, instrument exhibitors, workshops, & jam sessions. Info: 800-635-3037. <http://www.MinnesotaBluegrass.org>.

Member Band Schedules January / February 2009

January

- 10 *Wooden Bridges Bluegrass Band*, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Kettle Moraine State Park, Lapham Peak Cross Country Skiing
Turtle Creek Ramblers, 9:30 am, Northwoods Care Centre, Belvidere, IL
Turtle Creek Ramblers, 1:30 pm, Maple Crest Care Centre, Belvidere, IL
11 *Round the Bend*, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, Dave's Water's Edge, 324 S. Waters St., Stoughton, WI
15 *(This is the) Squirrel Hunters*, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, The Frequency, W. Main St., Madison, WI www.madisonfrequency.com; www.thisisthesquirrelhunters.com
16 *The High 48s*, 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Dulono's Pizza, 607 W. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN
Liberty Bluegrass Band, 10:00 pm, Knuckleheads Pub & Grill, 100 South Road, Eagle, WI
17 *The High 48s*, 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Dulono's Pizza, 607 W. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN
Turtle Creek Ramblers, 2:00 pm, North Pointe Terrace, Roscoe, IL
Tangled Roots, 4:00 - 8:00 pm, Mabel Tainter Winter Bluegrass Festival, Menomonie, WI
18 *Spare Time Bluegrass Band*, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, Hody Bar & Grill, 1914 Aurora St., Middleton, WI
24 *Cream City Bluegrass*, 9:00 pm to Midnight; Maxie's Southern Comfort, 6732 W. Fairview, Milwaukee, WI www.creamcitybluegrass.net; www.maxies.com/milwaukee/index.html

February

- 7 *Oak Street Ramblers*, 8:00 pm to 10:30 pm, Alchemy Cafe, 1980 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI, Christine Thompson bachgeige@tds.net, www.theoakstreetramblers.com
11 *Round the Bend*, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, The Frequency, 121 W. Main St., Madison, WI
13 *Art Stevenson & Highwater*, Swamp 'n Grass, Elkhart Lake, WI
14 *Wooden Bridges Bluegrass Band*, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Kettle Moraine State Park, Lapham Peak Cross Country Skiing
Art Stevenson & Highwater, Swamp 'n Grass, Elkhart Lake, WI
Turtle Creek Ramblers, 9:30 am, Northwoods Care Centre, Belvidere, IL
Turtle Creek Ramblers, 1:30 pm, Maple Crest Care Centre, Belvidere, IL
15 *Spare Time Bluegrass Band*, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, Hody Bar & Grill, 1914 Aurora St., Middleton, WI
19 *(This is the) Squirrel Hunters*, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, The Frequency, W. Main St., Madison, WI www.madisonfrequency.com; www.thisisthesquirrelhunters.com
20 *Art Stevenson & Highwater*, 7:30 pm, Chestnut Avenue Center for the Arts, 208 S. Chestnut Ave., Marshfield, WI
21 *Art Stevenson & Highwater*, 5:00 - 10:00 pm, Klondike Days, Eagle Waters Resort, 3958 Eagle Waters Road, Eagle River, WI
21 *Turtle Creek Ramblers*, 2:00 pm, North Pointe Terrace, Roscoe, IL
28 *Tangled Roots*, 7:30 pm, The Music Loft, Hobgoblin Music, Red Wing, MN

SWBMAI Members Take a Break

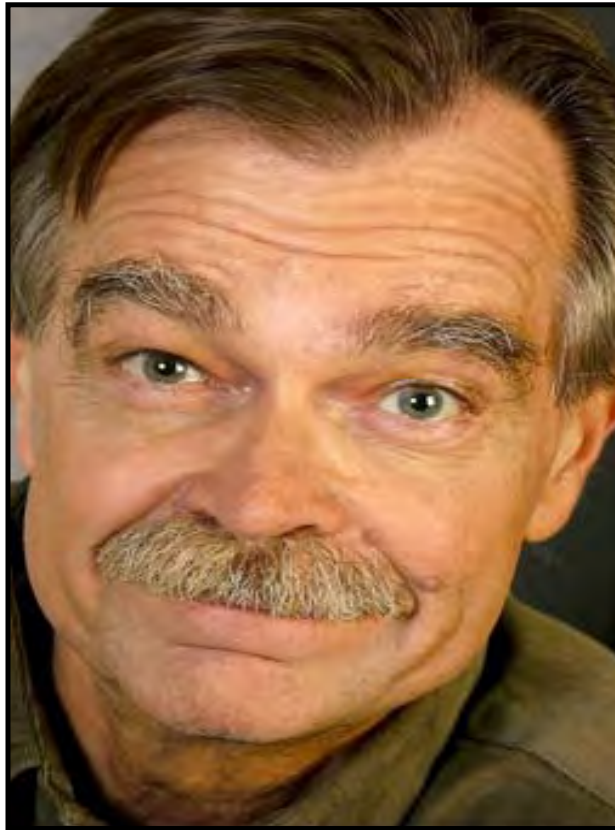
Meet Paul Bentzen

I am originally from Stevens Point, WI and became interested in folk music of all kinds during the folk revival of the '60s. I was in a couple of jug bands while in college there but didn't really get involved in bluegrass in a formal band setting until the early '70s.

With some friends I formed the Safety-Last String Band and we played a lot of gigs in the Central and Northern part of the state. Highlights include being the opening act for Lester Flatt and the Nashville Grass, John Hartford, and Mason Proffit. But we were primarily a bar band and we weren't strictly bluegrass. We also played blues and jug band tunes, country, polka, and Gordon Lightfoot covers; our model for eclecticism and sheer fun was the Goose Island Ramblers. Our "star" player was Mike Dowling who has since gone on to garner international fame as a jazz and blues guitarist.

I first came to Southwestern Wisconsin in the early '80s to work as an actor with American Players Theatre in Spring Green; this past summer marked my 26th season with them. I always maintained an interest in bluegrass and banjo playing but I became more involved when I joined SWBMAI in the early

'90s. That really revived my interest and I've made lots of new friends and I really enjoy jamming and jawing with them whenever I can.



My main playing partner these days is guitarist Doug Lloyd and we organized the Spring Green jam several years ago. We meet at the Spring Green General Store on the 2nd Saturday of the month and start about 3:00 pm and play til about 6:00. It's a great venue and every month seems to bring a different cast of players. We're fortunate to have some great local players including Mike and Lori Schmidt, Vicky Terpstra, and Michael Connors, to name a few.

The jam on February 14th will be my 14th annual Birthday and Bluegrass Bash and we hope everyone can make it out for that. Always a fun, crazy time and I'll be cooking up tons of jambalaya again. Stay tuned to WORT 89.9 FM; they always do a great job of reminding folks of this event.

Also special thanks go out to the proprietors of the Spring Green General Store, Todd and Karin Miller; my Birthday Bash was their idea and what a gift it's been! Their kindness and generosity has made the Spring Green jam a reality.

An advertisement for Lane's Lutherie & Violins. The top part features the business name in a stylized font: "LANE'S LUTHERIE & VIOLINS" with the tagline "DEALERS, MAKERS, & RESTORERS OF VIOLINS & BOWS" below it. The background shows several violins hanging on a wall. On the right side, there is a photo of a man in a dark shirt playing a violin. At the bottom, the address and contact information are listed: "4269 W. Beltline Highway Suite B • Madison, WI 53711 • (608)442-0315 • www.laneslutherie.com".

4269 W. Beltline Highway Suite B • Madison, WI 53711 • (608)442-0315 • www.laneslutherie.com

Meet Jorge Alva-Huerta



Jorge Alva-Huerta (center) poses with multiple Grammy winners Béla Fleck (left), and Chick Corea (right) after their Milwaukee performance in June, 2007.

Jorge Alva-Huerta and his wife joke that she married the only Peruvian who loves bluegrass music. His love for bluegrass began after he heard an Old and In The Way CD and after that he was hooked.

After receiving a mandolin as a Valentine's Day present in 2004 he says his life changed. He took up playing the mandolin and now is a committed student. He practices daily and often frequents the local Madison jam sessions at the Harmony Bar. Jorge was a television cameraman and avid surfer in Peru and now he is working in a machine shop and

preparing to return to school. His love for music is diverse and one might find him listening to African drums, Avant-garde jazz, Peruvian Andean huaynos or old time banjo music. His favorite artists include John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Psychograss, Orquesta Baobab and Jaime Guardia. His mandolin hero is Mike Marshall, but he also likes Sam Bush, Hamilton de Holanda, Don Stiernberg and local musician Sims Delaney-Pothoff. Jorge enjoys playing fiddle tunes, Brazilian choros and Jazz standards. He says he will never be a great player but is having a lot of fun trying.

Current SWBMAI Member Bands

Above the Town – Jerry Loughney; 262-510-1128, jerry@abovethetown.com

Art Stevenson & High Water – Art Stevenson; 715-884-6996, artstevenson@tds.net

Cork n' Bottle Stringband – Greg Dierks; (608) 241-2430, www.bignew.com

Cream City Bluegrass and Gospel Music – Harvey Riekoff; 262-497-3024, tjbanjo@wi.rr.com, <http://creamcitybluegrass.net>

Jefferson County Bluegrass Band – Doug Hodge; (608) 201 2032, dhodge1@tds.net

Liberty Bluegrass Band – James Brocksmith; 414-803-7477, www.libertybluegrass.com

Monroe Crossing – Art Blackburn; 763-213-1349, art@monroecrossing.com

New Bad Habits – Chirps Smith; chirpsdot@aol.com

Oak Street Ramblers – Jeff Schoen; kunklej@gmail.com

'Round the Bend – Fred Newmann; 608-238-6863, fnewmann@wisc.edu

Sparetime Bluegrass Band – Bob Batyko; 608-575-9945, bob@sparetimebluegrass.com

Tangled Roots – Martin J. Marrone; 651-501-9735

The High 48's – Eric Christopher; 651 271-4392, eric@thehigh48s.com

(This is the) Squirrel Hunters – Brian Ray; dasspunk@gmail.com

Turtle Creek Ramblers – Dave & Michelle Wilson; 608-361-0770, www.turtlecreekramblers.com

Wooden Bridges Bluegrass Band – Rich Schwartz; 262-719-3549, <http://home.wi.rr.com/woodenbridges/>



Paul Bentzen's
14th Annual Birthday Party
February 14, 2009
Spring Green General Store
137 South Albany Street

Jamming & Jambalaya
The Fun Starts at One
You'll Love It!





Musicians Wanted at The River

The River, a local soup kitchen and food pantry, is looking to schedule musical groups to entertain the 150-200 guests and volunteer staff that gather every Friday evening in a converted warehouse on Madison's Northeast side about a half mile from the Dane County Airport. The organizers are looking for weekly dinner entertainment from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

If you or your musical friends are interested in booking a Friday evening at The River, send an email to Dennis Harrison-Noonan at im-handy@sbcglobal.net. Be sure to suggest a date when you and/or your group want to play. Find more info at: www.theriver-madison.org.

Door County Bluegrass Camp - August 2 - 7, 2009

Visit beautiful Door County and come and join your fellow bluegrass pickers for 5 full days of expert instruction, jamming, and fun at the Wagon Trail Resort in Ellison Bay, WI.

The camp will focus on building instrumental skills for the experienced beginner through the advanced player. Each day will include morning and afternoon classes on your instrument, plus a variety of workshops including songwriting, music theory, harmony singing, chart reading and writing, tab, instrument repair and maintenance, round, square, and contra dance, yodeling, story telling with music



and jam sessions. After-supper activities will include student group performances, a dance, a film, instructor performance and of course some late night picking in the Stuga cabin. A concert/dance for the public at the end of camp will be a treat for all.

Instrumental instruction will include bluegrass bass, guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dobro, slide, small group playing and jamming and private lessons. Group classes will be limited to 10 or fewer students.

Additionally, students and their families may want to take advantage of the outdoor activities at the resort including hiking, swimming, biking, tennis, volleyball, charter fishing, boating, fitness room, indoor pool, whirlpool and sauna, wireless internet and much more.

There may be a June camp session as well. For information contact: www.violynn.com.



3 DAYS. 3 NIGHTS. LATE NIGHT SHOWS. ON-SITE CAMPING. KIDS' AREA AND ACTIVITIES. ARTIST PLAYSHOPS. BLUEGRASS BAND COMPETITION. FOOD. DRINK. ART & CRAFT FAIRE.

DelFest 2009 tickets are on sale now with a \$99 early bird deal for an adult 3-day pass while tickets last! The Del McCoury Band, Sam Bush, Railroad Earth, Peter Rowan and The Free Mexican Airforce, J.D. Crowe and The New South, Tim O'Brien, The Infamous Stringdusters, The Lee Boys, Joe Craven, Dan Paisley & The Southern Grass, the Davisson Brothers Band, and Vinegar Creek Constituency are all confirmed to appear.

Plus, the inaugural DelFest Academy will be offered May 18 - 21 at the festival site featuring three days of classes and performances for banjo, mandolin, fiddle, guitar and bass as taught by members of the Del McCoury band and others. These enormously gifted musicians will create an environment for learning offering two levels of instruction for guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, and bass (novice to intermediate and intermediate to advanced). A very limited number of spots are available for the 2009 Academy.

<http://delfest.com>



**This United Way
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 in Part by a
 Generous
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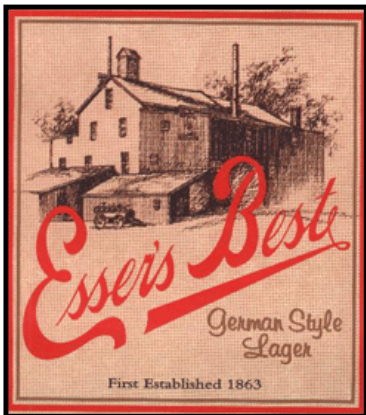
Requested Donation at the Door:

- \$10 Adults
- \$5 Children Ages 5-12
- Maximum Family Cost \$20

Tickets available at the door

The Fireball Mail is a publication of the Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association, Inc. Visit our website at www.swbmai.org

Send change of address to:
**Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass
 Music Association Inc.**
 P.O. Box 7761 Madison, WI 53707-7761
 Attn: Fireball Mail



*Thank You for the Tasty Holiday
 Party Donation!*