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Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association
106 Pancake Hollow Road
Highland, NY 12528



Jamboree

The Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

Summer 2006

online at www.hvbluegrass.org

Number 42

Grey Fox turns 30

Jeff Anzevino

Don't you believe it! You know, the old saying "don't trust anyone over 30."

The Grey Fox Family Bluegrass Festival--our local favorite "internationally acclaimed bluegrass festival"-- turns 30 this year.

We all know and love Grey Fox, held this year on the Rothvoss Farm July 13-16. Many of us have been attending since the days of the Berkshire Mountain Bluegrass Festival. Some--like me--can't stop calling it Winterhawk. Others, inspired by the area's natural beauty, even have bought homes nearby.

My first experience "on the hill" was in the mid-80s as a college student in Baltimore. I drove up I-95 hoping to look up my friend Dave Geigerich and wife, Pam, who would be attending. Fat chance finding them in the crowds, I thought. I happened to pull in line at the gate right behind them, thus saving me the trouble of searching the hill amongst thousands of revelers.

Much has changed since the early days. Grey Fox has been twice nominated by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) as "Event of the Year." The fest was featured in "Bluegrass Journey." And, just this past January the BBC selected Grey Fox to kick off its World's Destination Music, a 13-part series featuring music festivals from across the globe.

But tagging Grey Fox a "festival" is a gross understatement. Grey Fox is community. How many of us look forward to meeting



up with our festival friends--people who may live several states away, but we see them every year at the farm? Grey Fox is a virtual bluegrass city--far exceeding Columbia County's seat, Hudson (population 7,500). It's all become such a happening and part of our lives that we look forward to the thunderstorms, occasional 100-degree heat, and chilly nights on the hill, viewing them as part of the experience.

Grey Fox's Main Stage, nestled in a natural amphitheater known simply and affectionately as "The Hill" features over
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Message from the President

E-list reminders

Many thanks to Lynn Lipton, the keeper of our E-list. She collects and distributes bluegrass-related e-mail messages to HVBA members -- and, as you'll read further down -- others.

The service provides helpful reminders to nearly 200 people of our twice monthly jam sessions, local concerts, and occasionally, instruments for sale or other bluegrass-related news. Send bluegrass-related messages to Lynn at HVBluegrass@hvc.rr.com

When responding to the the messages from me (i.e. for articles in the newsletters etc), please use hvba@optonline.net so that your message goes to me (not Lynn). That saves her from having to forward things back to me. And I will promise to always include that address in my messages to you.

Also, many on the list are NOT members of the HVBA. Membership is just \$10 per year and covers everyone in your household. We keep membership low so that everyone who attends our jams or receives our e-alerts can afford it. Of course, additional donations are gratefully accepted. We are a 501(c)3 not-for-profit arts and educational organization and, as such, your donations are tax deductible.

So, if you haven't already, please join The HVBA. As a member, you receive Jamboree, our quarterly newsletter, discounts to our shows, and, perhaps most importantly, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing your part to promote bluegrass music in our area. Also, your dues and contributions help with newsletter expenses -- which are nearly \$300 per issue.

As an aside, one of our founders, Jim Conklin, still battles cancer and has been out of work since last fall. While he seems to be beating the cancer, the chemotherapy has him in and out of the hospital and he still struggles.

I am working with his network of friends to arrange a benefit concert this summer. Any bands want to play? If so, please contact me at hvba@optonline.net.

Jeff Anzevino

Sign me up! Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

Send to: Joyce Cullen, 395 Peekskill Hollow Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579

Enclosed is \$10 for new membership / renewal
Additional donation
Total

Name: Email

Address:

Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association

a 501 (c) 3 not for profit arts and educational organization

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(845) 526-2275
Rob Bradley

Also, I am collecting checks for Jim to help tide him over. If you are willing and able send get well cards-- and checks made out to "Jim Conklin" Hudson Valley Bluegrass Association, 106 Pancake Hollow Road, Highland, NY 12528.

Cards and notes of encouragement can be sent to Jim at 265 Springtown Road, Apartment B, New Paltz, NY 12561

Jun 30: Out Among The Stars (OATS) Festival with The Grascals, James King Band, Special Consensus, Dan Paisley & Southern Grass, James Reams and The Barnstormers, Heavy Traffic, Benton, PA www.oatsfestival.com

July 1: Hunger Mountain Boys at The Rosendale Café, Rosendale, NY

July 1: Fiddle Contest, Brandon, VT 3:30PM

July 1: Gitfiddle Wooster Park, Walden, NY 6:30-8:30

July 7-8: Hunger Mountain Boys at The Prince Edward Island Bluegrass & Old Time Music festival www.hungermountainboys.com

July 8: Too Blue at Millbrook Farmer's Market Sheep and wool day! Millbrook NY. 10 am - noon www.toobluemusic.com

July 8: The String Dusters at Sunset Park, Cohoes, NY 6:30PM

July 7-9: Basin Bluegrass Festival, Brandon, VT with Bluegrass Patriots, Carolina Rebels, Big Spike and many more basinbluegrass@yahoo.com

July 10-13: Pete Wernick's Bluegrass Jam Camp preceding Grey Fox, Copake, NY www.drbanjo.com

July 13-16: Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Del McCoury Band, Steve Earle & The Bluegrass Dukes, The Jerry Douglas Band, Tim O'Brien & Cornbread Nation, Railroad Earth, Larry Sparks, Austin Lounge Lizards, Seeldom Scene, Mountain Heart, Tim & Mollie O'Brien, John Cowan, Darrell Scott & Pat Flynn, The Grascals, Danny Paisley & Southern Grass, King Wilkie, Uncle Earl, Crooked Still, Abigail Washburn, Pete Wernick's Bluegrass Jam Campers, Grey Fox Academy for Kids, More Main Stage artists to be announced. Rothvoss Farm, Hillsdale, NY www.greyfoxbluegrass.com

July 14: Hunger Mountain Boys at Higher Ground, South Burlington, VT

July 15: Hunger Mountain Boys at Green River Fest, Greenfield, MA

July 15-16: James Reams and The Barnstormers at Bluegrass In The Hills - Mickey's Mountain Hopedale, OH

July 20: The String Dusters at Ambition Cafe & Eatery, Schenectady, NY 5:30PM

July 21: Gitfiddle at Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie, NY 7-9PM

July 20-23: Falcon Ridge Folk Festival with Peter Rowan & Tony Rice Quartet, Stillhouse Rounders, The Walker Family Band, The Rowan Brothers, Paul Rosenberg, Geno delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie, Cheryl Wheeler, Tracy Grammar, and many more(at new location) www.falconridgefolk.com

July 21: Too Blue at Liquid Lunch, Shelton CT Listening room, coffees & lite fare. BYOB. 7:30 - 10:30 pm 434 Howe Ave. in downtown Shelton, CT. www.liquidlunchrestaurant.com; www.toobluemusic.com

July 22: Too Blue at Olana Historic Site, NY. Outdoors. 6:30 - 8:30PM

July 22: Gitfiddle at Rosendale Street Fest, noon-1PM

July 22: Hunger Mountain Boys at Bluegrass at Buttery Brook Fest, South Hadley, MA

July 29: Annual Chilson Music Fest with Shady Crteek, The String Dusters, The Dave bevins Band and more, Ticonderoga Park, Ticonderoga, NY

Aug 3-6: 8th Annual CNYBA Apple Valley Bluegrass Festival, with The Backwoodsmen, Carolina rebels, Low Profile and more LaFayette, NY www.cnyba.com

Aug 3-6: 11th Annual Podunk Bluegrass Festival with Del McCoury Band, Rhonda Vincent, Sam Bush, King Wilkie, Cherryholmes, Kruger Bros, and more; East Hartford, CT www.podunkbluegrass.net

August 4: Bates + Barr at Town Park, Hadley, NY

Aug 10-13: 17th Annual Fox Family Bluegrass festival with Larry Sparks, Lonesome River Band, The James King Band, 3 Fox Drive, Cabin Fever and more, Old Forge NY www.foxfamilybluegrass.com

August 12: Bates + Barr at Piseco Firemen's Day, Ox Bow Inn, Route 8, Piseco, NY

Aug 12: Too Blue at Liquid Lunch, Shelton CT Listening room, coffees & lite fare. BYOB. Noon - 2:30 PM 434 Howe Ave. in downtown Shelton, CT. www.liquidlunchrestaurant.com

Aug 19: Too Blue in concert at Puppet House Theater, Stoney Creek CT 7:30 pm. 128 Thimble Islands Rd., Stoney Creek, CT (Branford) www.puppethouse.org

Aug 19: Gitfiddle at Rib Fest, Ulster County Fairgrounds, New Paltz

Sept 9-10: Too Blue at Hudson Valley Wine & Food Fest, Greig Farm, Red Hook, NY (Sat. 11:30 am - 2:00 pm and Sunday 11:30 am - 1:00 pm) www.hudsonvalleywinefest.com

Save the Date:

Bluegrass Between the Bridges: September 16

Tune in to Kat Mills on the radio!

June 7: at noon with Gatine on WDST FM100.1 FM Woodstock NY or at wdst.com

June 16: at 2:30p on WKZE 98.1 FM Hudson Valley/Western CT or wkze.com

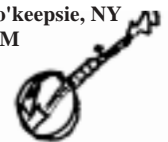
HVBA Jam Sessions

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month

Pirate Canoe Club, Po'keepsie, NY
Slow Jam starts at 6PM
Jam ends at 10 PM

\$3 admission

(845) 691-6784 for more info



Music and Dance Scene

MAD Scene is provided as a service to HVBA members and bands. Play it safe! Call before you go.

List your event by sending pertinent details to hvba@optonline.net

Ongoing Jams, Dances, Gigs etc.

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month: HVBA Jam at Pirate Canoe Club, Poughkeepsie, NY 6-10 PM (845) 691-6784 or (914) 276-2239

Every Friday: Jammin' at the Legion Hall, Marcellus, NY; (315) 673-2329 or 1844

Every Monday: Bluegrass night at Parkside Lounge, NYC

Every Monday: The Alphabet City Opry at The Parkside Lounge, Houston St. betw. Ave A & B in Manhattan; 9 PM

Every Monday: Irish Folk Session at The Baggott Inn, Manhattan

Every Monday: Riverbank Banjo Band, Umberto's, Poughkeepsie, NY

First Monday: ABL Jam at The Parting Glass, Saratoga Springs, NY 7PM

2nd Tuesday of Each Month: North East Bluegrass Jam, Malt River Brewing Co., Latham NY, 8 PM, (518) 489-2369

4th Tuesday of Each Month: Jam at Lark Tavern, Albany, NY (518) 489-2369

Every Wednesday: Minetta Creek Band, Carpos, New York City (212) 353-2889

Every Wednesday: Bluegrass & Good Times Jam with host Sheriff Bob at The Baggott Inn, Manhattan 9 PM

2nd & 4th Wednesday: Warren Academy, Warrren, CT 7 PM (201) 868-7659

Every Thursday: Bluegrass Clubhouse with Saturday Night Bluegrass Band at Colony Cafe, Woodstock, NY (but not June 23rd) 7:30PM

1st Saturday of Every Month: Jam hosted by Roger Sprung, United Methodist Church, Sandy Hook, CT (203) 426-5243 (NOT IN JULY OR AUGUST)

1st Saturday of Every Month: Open Mic/Bluegrass/Folk Jam; Unitarian Church; Rock Tavern, NY (845) 496-0771

1st Saturday of Every Month: Contra Dance at St. Phillips Church Parish House, Route 9D, Garrison, NY (845) 265-4011, 265-7201, 265-0032

2nd Saturday of Every Month (Oct-May): Walkabout Clearwater, White Plains, NY (914) 242-0374

3rd Sat. of Every Month: Restoration Coffee House Open Mic; Old Dutch Reformed Church, Bloomingburg, NY; 7 PM; (845) 647-6491

3rd Saturday of Every Month: Hudson Valley Folk Guild Poughkeepsie Chapter, (845) 297-6372

Every Other Saturday: (Old Time only!!) Thady Con's Pub NYC; (212) 688-9700

Every Sunday: Woodstock Jam at Catskill Mtn Pizza 1PM (845) 679-7969

Every Sunday: Bluegrass Session at Paddy O'Reilly's Bar, 4 PM; NYC (718) 884-5721

Every Sunday: Club 9C in Manhattan 5 PM - ???; (212)-358-0048

4th Sunday: Finger Lakes Bluegrass Monthly Jam 2-8 Pm at the Ontario County Arts Council, Canandaigua, NY (716) 396-0087 or 924-3117

More Music!!

Jun 15: Kat Mills at SoNo Caffeine, South Norwalk CT. 8-10PM <http://www.sonocaffeine.com>

Jun 15: Hunger Mountain Boys at "Taste of Amherst," Amherst, MA

Jun 16: Hunger Mountain Boys at The Guthrie Center, Great Barrington, MA www.hungermountainboys.com

Jun 17-18: Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival with many great acts including Kat Mills (6/18 at 12:30PM) <http://www.clearwater.org>

Jun 22-25: 6th Annual Jenny Brook Family Bluegrass Festival with The Gibson Brothers, Springfield Exit with Tom Adams and Marshal Wilborn, Leroy Troy, Smoky Greene, Junior Barber and Beartracks, Southern Rail, Big Spike, and more www.jennybrookfestival.com/

Jun 23-25: Madrid Bluegrass Festival with Buddy Merriam and Back Roads, Delaney Brothers, Andy Pawlenko & The Smokey Hollow Boys and more Madrid, NY <http://web.northnet.org/madridbluegrassfest/>

Jun 23, 24, and 25: Norwich Family Bluegrass Festival/Delaney Brothers with Dan Paisley & The Southern Grass, Dave Nichols & Spare Change, The Hunger Mountain Boys, Atkinson Family, Bill & Maggie Anderson, Smokey Greene, Al & Kathy Bain, Lynwood Lunsford with host bands The Cabin Fever Band and Doerfel Family Bluegrass at Chenango Fairgrounds, in Norwich, NY www.norwichfamilybluegrass.com or (518) 783-3154

Jun 24: Beartracks at Jenny Brook Bluegrass Festival, Weston, VT

Jun 24-25: James Reams and The Barnstormers at Smoked Country Jam Bluegrass Festival McElhattan, PA

June 25: Hunger Mountain Boys at The Stone Church, New Market, NH

June 29: Hunger Mountain Boys at Club Passim, Cambridge, MA

June 24: Too Blue at Catskill Animal Sanctuary, Saugerties NY, 5th Anniversary Shindig, 12 - 6 pm. Too Blue will perform 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Bluegrass jamming between stage entertainment, jammers welcome. 316 Old Stage Rd., Saugerties, NY. (845)336-8447 www.casantry.org; www.toobluemusic.com

June 30: Hunger Mountain Boys at Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton, MA

Norwich Bluegrass Festival

Mike Tirella

This festival, held June 25-27, is one of Central New York's premier Bluegrass events. Located on the beautiful Chenango Fairground site, in Norwich New York, it is becoming synonymous with good bluegrass music and fun for the whole family.

Its location in Chenango County between Syracuse, Utica, Oneonta, Binghamton and Cortland makes it accessible from much of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Canada. Legend has it that all roads lead to Norwich.

The Fairgrounds, with lots of level land for RVs and tents, is the perfect location for this venue. There are also several covered areas for late night (or all day) picking, restrooms with hot showers on the grounds (always a nice change from the port-a-potty scene). But don't fret, if you prefer a shorter walk, there are plenty of porta potties, too. There will also be plenty of good food and craft vendors, as well as the famous breakfast spread provided by the local Grange at a very reasonable price. The Roadhouse Bar-B-Que Restaurant will be preparing the Chicken BBQ dinner for Saturday night which is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Other food vendors will be available, as well as craft vendors, instrument repairs, parts and sales.

But what the Norwich Bluegrass Festival is really about is good bluegrass music accessible and affordable to all. The bands this year are local, regional and national--a nice mix of new, young blood and seasoned

musicians. The bands this year include: The Delaney Brothers, Dan Paisley and Southern Grass, Lynwood Lunsford and the Misty Valley Boys, Al & Kathy Bain, the Atkinson Family, Smokey Greene, The Hunger Mountain Boys, Dave Nichols and Spare Change and Bill and Maggie Anderson. The host bands are the Cabin Fever Band and the Doerfel Family Band who will also be performing.

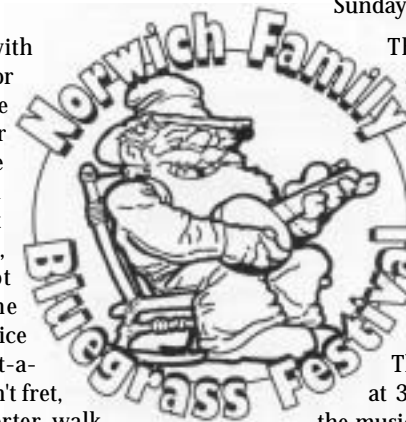
Admission prices are \$45 for three days of music, \$36 in advance. For just Friday, it is \$12; all day Saturday is only \$24, and Sunday is \$12.

The festival will unofficially start on Thursday, June 24th with the Doerfel Family Bluegrass Band playing at the park at 7 pm for a free concert. This family of 10 children has spent the winter "taking the south by storm." They recently won 7th place in a national bluegrass band competition.

The festival officially kicks off at 3 pm on Friday the 25th and the music will be non-stop til 10PM.

On Saturday, there will be music from 10 am to 10PM with a dinner break. Bring your instrument, there will be workshops run by some of the best in the business on Saturday, all levels of ability are welcome. The workshops are included in the admission price.

On Sunday, the Gospel set will start around 10 am and the festival will conclude Sunday afternoon at 3 pm. Advance admission tickets are available from Mike and Maryann Tirella at (518) 783-3154 or cabinfevertirell@aol.com or from Bill and Marion Kleine at (914) 466-0012. ✍



HVBA News Briefs

Play bluegrass help animals!

On June 24 from noon to 6 PM the Catskill Animal Sanctuary's 5th anniversary Shindig will be a picker's paradise. Join in informal bluegrass jams between mainstage events featuring TOO BLUE. The event is FREE for jammers—just flash your instrument case. Feel free to come a bit early (11:45) to set up and start. For more information about the event, directions, etc. and CAS, visit www.casanctuary.org. The Catskill Animal Sanctuary is a great organization, so come on out and have fun. And thanks to Too Blue for their generous contribution to the cause.

And speaking of Too Blue

Too Blue recently opened for IIIrd Tyme Out for the Boston Bluegrass Union. Now their touring season is in full swing, including a recent appearance on June 2 at a new bluegrass venue--the Red Hook Inn.

.If you missed them in Red Hook, don't fret. The Catskill Animal Sanctuary benefit is around the corner. You can also catch them at the Olana Historic Site (July 22) or, for you gourmets, the Hudson Valley Food & WineFest (Sept 9-10).

For those living on another planet, Too Blue hails from NY & CT, and performs a unique blend of bluegrass, swing and originals. The band features Joan Harrison on banjo, Betsy Rome on guitar, Michael Sassano on mandolin and Jack Murphy on bass. More info at www.toobluemusic.com

And then there were three

Hey folks. Big news from the Hunger Mt. Boys here. The rumors are true. With the addition of great bassist and good friend Matt Downing, The duo is now a trio. With the exception of the European tour and a few mid-western dates this summer, they'll be traveling as a trio for all upcoming shows!

Matt has traveled all over north America and Europe playing bass with Jim & Jennie & The Pinetops over the past several years. He also plays ukulele and tenor guitar in the Berkshire-based Blue Ribbon Boys with Teddy. Matt will play an integral role in their next album coming out on Old-Fi Records on June 8, just in time for the Wind Gap Festival..

Bluegrass Clubhouse

It will be another year of Thursdays. The Bluegrass Clubhouse at the Colony Café in Woodstock celebrated its first anniversary on Thursday, April 13. Organizer Brian Hollander called it "a glorious year of hanging out, playing for (sometimes very) small audiences, inviting guests to play and having a good time."

Band members looked suspiciously like the Saturday Night Bluegrass Band, only on Thursdays: Brian Hollander, guitar, vocals; Tim Kapeluck, mandolin, vocals; Geoff Harden, bass and vocals; Guy 'Fooch' Fishetti, fiddle, and sometimes pedal steel guitar; and Bill Keith, banjo, and occasionally coaxed into some sort of vocalization.

Many guests sat in over the past year: Tom Pacheco; the late, great John Herald; Mark Patton; HVBA's Jeff Anzevino; Marc Black, George Quinn... Francine Hollander comes by and sings some Patsy Cline songs once in a while...

It's still every Thursday, at 8 p.m. at the Colony Café, on Rock City Road, just before you get to the Woodstock Cemetery (nothing allegorical about that...) The phone number is 845-679-5342, and you get to pay whatever you want for admission...

Wayne's World

Wayne Fugate has been performing locally with guitarist Kevin Ege. They play a mix of

continued on page 10

Soon Be Time

Bruce Molsky

Bruce Molsky warns: "beware of labels." While most of us--me included--consider Molsky "Old Time," he's really much, much more. And this CD proves it!

Arguably one of America's most talented musicians, he has toured the world delivering one of our last remaining exports: music. But, in spite of deeply-rooted southern Appalachian influences, his latest CD, *Soon Be Time*, also includes work of multicultural origins. To delightfully confound the fusion, he fingerpicks (Swedish) fiddler Kjell Erik Eriksson's *Come Home* and a 1960s Bulgarian brass band tune, *Ruchenitsa*--two of my favorites.

Molsky plays to perfection fiddle, guitar and clawhammer banjo, in a sequence of tunes that makes the record flow like a river. It's hard to believe that this is the music of just one man. Who needs a band when such a variety of texture is provided?

And, if his instrumental prowess weren't enough, Molsky's deep resonant voice overlaid with perfectly harmonized fiddle riffs will chill you to the bone. Listen deeply because the music will move you.

A local (Beacon) resident of global significance, Bruce Molsky deserves your ear. You owe it to yourself!

Jeffro



Lazy John/The Bucking Mule;
Wandering Boy; Buckdancer's Choice
Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie;
The Brass Band Ruchenitsa
Georgia Belle; The Golden Willow
Tree; Come Home; Forked Deer
Fare Thee Well Blues; Cider;
Cotton Eyed Joe; On My Street;
John Brown's Dream; Three Forks of
Cheat

www.brucemolsky.com

Wild Card

James Reams, Walter Hensley
and The Barons of Bluegrass

If you like your bluegrass served up Kentucky- style, bet on "Wild Card" for a good deal.

James Reams and the "Banjo Baron of Baltimore," Walter Hensley team up in their second project, Wild Card The CD taps the tried and true repertoire and instrumentation sure to please the most hard core bluegrass fan.

Fiddle monster Jon Glick comes through with some of the best bluegrass fiddling anywhere. Period. Need proof? Check out Monroe's classic *Road to Columbus*.

Even the honky tonk songs of Johnny Paycheck and Eddy Arnold (*We're the Kind of People That Make the Jukebox Play, You Must Walk the Line*) are decorated with enough bluegrass fills to make the bluegrasser smile. The title track--Hensley's *Wild Card*--is a melodic five string royal flush with Glick and Barnstorming Mandolinist Mark Farrell dealing out a winning hand. And James Reams and Tina Aridas team up to write yet another winner--*Where The Heart Goes Hungry*.

There are many more worth describing, but I am out of space. Buy the record and see for yourself!

Jeffro



I Caught A Keeper; Hump-Back Mule
Kentucky Mountain; Road To
Columbus; Where No Heart Goes
Hungry; We're The Kind Of People
That Make The Jukebox Play;
Dreaming Of A Little Cabin; Wild
Card; You Don't Tell Me That You
Love Me Anymore; Old Cane Press
You Must Walk The Line; Working On
A Building

www.jamesreams.com

Old School, Mountain Style

The Southern Schoolhouse Rascals

The Southern Schoolhouse Rascals describe the music on their new CD, "Old School, Mountain Style," as old time country music, and that description, like the CD itself, covers a lot of ground. Sure, the Round Peak fiddle and banjo tunes are here, including a great cover of Fred Cockerham's *Roustabout* with Gil Sayre's rustic vocal, but the Rascals also step out on *Worried Blues*, a country blues that really swings, as well as two songs that are popular in bluegrass gospel, *Paul and Silas* and *Walking in Jerusalem*. They aren't afraid to rework familiar folk tunes—if you think you know *On Top of Old Smokey*, listen to *Old Smokey* done Rascals' style. Their relaxed old time groove and some lyrics I had not heard before make the old standard vibrant and new.

The Rascals pay homage to such varied old-time giants as the Delmore Brothers, Leadbelly, Dock Boggs and Tommy Jarrell as well, but they never merely imitate—this band brings its own spirit to every tune. A large part of the credit for the Rascals' fresh style goes to the HVBA's own Ambrose Verdibello on fiddle.

Old time fans know that the fiddle is the key instrument in the music, and Ambrose shines here, both on the fiddle tunes and in backing up the vocals and other instruments. Listen especially to *Sunny Home in Dixie* and *Jonah in the Windstorm* to hear his mastery. His playing is always appropriate to the music, never flashy for its own sake. The other key old time instrument is the banjo, and the Rascals include Ray Alden, a national old time banjo treasure. You'll hear why on especially on *Lulu Loves Them Young* and *Little Pink*, a haunting modal vocal number with words that match its lonesome melody.

One aspect of the CD that I enjoyed very much is that, unlike many old time bands, the Rascals sing a lot, and they have an absolute gem of a traditional singer in Gil Sayre from West Virginia. Gil grew up with this music, and he brings to it a sound and feeling that come straight off the true vine. His heartfelt rendition of *Gone Home* displays great feeling and power. And his vocal on *Riley and Spencer* would make even a teetotaler thirsty. And Gil displays his banjo chops with Ray on *Hook and Line*.

Another aspect of this band that I enjoyed very much is the presence of the mandolin, in the capable hands of Dave Howard, an old time veteran. Like Ambrose, he's a master who can take center stage, as on his wonderful kickoff on *Going Back to the Blue Ridge Mountains*, or swing sweetly in backup or unison with the other instruments. And he's the group's other



**Red Mountain Wine; Roustabout
Lulu Loves Them Young, Little
Pink, Western Plains, Sunny
Home in Dixie, Gone Home
Worried Blues, Going Back to
the Blue Ridge Mountains;
Jonah In The Windstorm; Old
Smokey Hook and Line;
Mistreated Mama Blues; Paul
and Silas; Ship in the Clouds;
Riley and Spencer; Walking in
Jerusalem; Had a Big Time
Today; Titanic
Ain't Got No Honey Baby Now**

lead singer, shining on *Red Mountain Wine* and *Western Plains*, the band's one cowboy number.

Rounding out the band on bass fiddle and harmony vocals is Pat Plankey. Like Ambrose, her playing is always appropriate, and her solid rhythm anchors the group. This is an exceptional recording by a group of old time masters who, simply put, are the real deal. And there's a lot to like—the CD's 20 tunes clock in at about an hour. So enjoy "Old School" Rascals-style.

Andy Bing

www.southern-schoolhouse-rascals.com

Coming next issue!

**Bruce Molsky
concert review**

by Ambrose Verdibello



Tin Roof anniversary

Since the last issue of the Jamboree Tin Roof has played a bunch of really, *really* nice gigs. They appeared on Jay Ungar & Molly Mason's Public Radio show "Dancing On The Air" and had a blast. The room was filled with an enthusiastic crowd and the band was joined for the encore by Jay, Molly and multi-instrumentalist extraordinaire, Peter Davis.

A few nights later the band played to a really appreciative audience at Ben Freed's & Mike Burns' "Westchester Bluegrass Club" in Purdys. Note from Wayne ... "For anyone who hasn't checked this venue out yet ... Go! Its a great room and the combination of open jam, open mic and guest band really has something to offer for everyone!"

Rachel Handman and Wayne Fugate played a "duo" gig to a packed house at the opening of the 7th Season of the Schultsville Open Mic. Among the many diverse selections they performed was Rachel's solo performance of the Prelude to Bach's Partita in E for solo violin. Rachel played it flawlessly and when she was finished the entire crowd leapt to their feet for a standing ovation that lasted for a well deserved l-o-n-g time. When things



Tin Roof -- house band at the Apple Blossom Bluegrass Festival in Warwick, NY

finally calmed down, the concert's producer said that in all the years he had been involved in running the event, Rachel's performance marked the first time that any performer had received a standing ovation!!

Tin Roof celebrated their one year "band" anniversary by returning to the venue that played host to their very first gig, Bodles Opera House. It was a special celebration attended by friends old & new!

Most recently Tin Roof was the "House Band" at the Apple Blossom Bluegrass Festival in Warwick, NY. By all accounts the festival was a success (in spite of the weather) with many people commenting on the beautiful setting for the festival and the amazing talent that performed over the two days. Special thanks to Mike Baglione and Suzy Arnowitz for all the incredible, hard work they do in putting this festival together and for giving the Hudson Valley a great Bluegrass festival!

Upcoming gigs for Tin Roof include The Parkside Lounge in NY on June 19th, a tentative date at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, NY on June 25th, and a very

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Rachel Handman

Grey Fox at 30

two dozen outstanding acts. A sampling of this year's bands includes Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Del McCoury Band, Steve Earle & The Bluegrass Dukes, The Jerry Douglas Band, Tim O'Brien & Cornbread Nation, and Railroad Earth. Of course, The Dry Branch Fire Squad hosts the proceedings.

The Masters Workshop Stage provides an intimate, shaded setting to experience unique combinations of musicians telling stories, answering questions, and playing in a more informal forum.

The Grass Roots Tent attracts amateur musicians seeking to improve their chops. It's a hands-on learning session in banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle, dobro and bass taught by top players and teachers including Bill Keith, Ron Thomason and Jeff Horton. Bring your instrument; the premise of the Grass Roots Tent is participation.

Prefer a little more physical activity with your music? Then the Dance Tent is for you. No partner is necessary; everyone's welcome! John Kirk, Trish Miller, Jim Christiansen and Michelle Kaminsky teach Appalachian, Cajun, Zydeco, square and swing dancing during the day. At night, revel to the sounds of the Red Stick Ramblers, Girl Howdy and Magnolia, Quickstep and Fiddlestyx.

As if the world-class entertainment and dancing wasn't enough, Grey Fox's organizers are committed to ensuring ample opportunity to improve your musicianship, if you are so inclined. At the Grey Fox Slow Jam Tent-- Grey Fox's newest addition--beginners of all ages are encouraged to jam with others at a comfortable pace. Paul Dube and his staff of "patient mentors" guide new pickers through the bluegrass chestnuts providing helpful pointers such as how to tune your instrument, when to take a break--and when to back off--as well as the basics of jam etiquette.

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Even kids have their moments to shine. The Grey Fox Bluegrass Academy for Kids (BGA) provides an intensive four-day learning program. Approximately 80 students--mostly age 8 and up--learn how to play, sing and perform bluegrass music, including classes on sectional lessons, ensemble practice, harmony singing and specially designed electives. BGA students "graduate" with a Main Stage performance on Sunday afternoon.

So pack up the car and head on up to the Rothvoss Farm to experience the music, dancing and community provided nowhere else than at Grey Fox. You'll be sure to see many of your friends there--and make new ones to boot. 🍷

www.greyfoxbuegrass.com

Grey Fox Lineup!!

Hosted as always by

Dry Branch Fire Squad (all 4 days)

And presenting on the Main Stage:

Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder (Sat)
 Del McCoury Band (Fri)
 Steve Earle & The Bluegrass Dukes (Sat)
 The Jerry Douglas Band (Fri)
 Tim O'Brien & Cornbread Nation (Fri)
 Austin Lounge Lizards (Thu)
 Seldom Scene (Fri)
 Tim & Mollie O'Brien (Thur)
 John Cowan, Darrell Scott & Pat Flynn (Fri)
 The Grascals (Sat)
 Danny Paisley & Southern Grass (Fri)
 King Wilkie (Sat, Sun)
 Uncle Earl (Thu, Fri)
 Crooked Still (Sat)
 Mountain Heart (Sat)
 Abigail Washburn (Sat)
 Railroad Earth (Thu)
 Pete Wernick's Bluegrass Jam Campers (Th)
 Grey Fox Academy for Kids (Sun).....and others

And at the Dance Stage...

Red Stick Ramblers (Thu, Fri, Sat)
 Li'l Anne & Hot Cayenne (Fri, Sat)
 Girl Howdy (Fri, Sat)
 Magnolia (Fri, Sat).....and others

Bluegrass Jam Camp precedes Grey Fox

Jeff Anzevino

Those who've always dreamed of playing bluegrass music along with others but lacked the confidence to do so, don't fret. Dr. Banjo--a.k.a. Pete Wernick-- is coming to Copake, NY July 10-13. His four day Bluegrass Jam Camp is conveniently timed and associated with the acclaimed Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival.

I caught up with Fred Laing, a farmer sowing sweet corn, blueberries, raspberries, and garlic in fields not too far from the Grey Fox Festival. "Banjo Fred" shed his tenor banjo for the fiddle and attended Dr. Banjo's Bluegrass Jam camp in order to learn how to jam with others.

The instructors try to arrange classes by combining students living near one another. This worked out well for Fred, who met Denise Adorante (banjo, mandolin), and Cameron Collins (guitar) at last year's camp. Together with Octavio Hernand (bass) they formed "The Night Blooming Jasmine" and have begun gigging locally.

"I've learned a lot of good information from Pete," says Fred, "that I've carried with me and that I value." He explained that the camp was invaluable in better understanding the protocol necessary for better musical communication.

See the ad on page 7 to learn more about the Jam Camp or visit www.drbanjo.com. Tell them the HVBA sent you! 🍷

www.drbanjo.com

Tin Roof

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special, important show for the band at the Towne Crier Cafe in Pawling NY on June 9th. Tin Roof will be "headlining" this show with the Rowan Brothers (siblings of Bluegrass great Peter Rowan) sharing the evening. Rumor has it that if the band does well at this performance, it might possibly lead to an opportunity to perform at a major festival (can't name names at this point as it's all tentative). The band has its fingers crossed that the great support they've enjoyed from the HVBA will continue and that a large turnout of its members will be there for this important show! Circle June 9th on your calendars. 🍷

News Briefs

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project and will include some favorite fingerpicking tunes, the usually eclectic flatpicking stuff, and some singing). He will be teaching at prestigious week-long summer music camps Common Ground On The Hill and Elkins Heritage Center. Check www.orrinstar.com

Heavy Traffic ahead

Heavy Traffic has produced a new CD of five live songs, recorded at Willow Creek Bluegrass Festival in 2005

<http://www.heavytrafficbluegrass.com>

Kat coming to town

Kat Mills is packing the car for the first trip north of the season! See Music and Dance Scene (p14-15) for dates. Her new CD is so, so close she can taste it.

<http://www.sweetcut.com/kat>

and, last but not least

Thanks to Countryman Dan, Cold Feet, Wickers Creek, No Brakes, Beartracks, and Too Blue for playing at our recent fundraiser. 🍷

News Briefs

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music that focuses on Brazilian Chorus music, but runs the gamut from Celtic to Bluegrass to Jazz standards as well. You can catch them at one of their upcoming performances at the Cafe Dolce (845-497-3846) in Washingtonville, NY.



Dwight Faulkner

Wayne Fugate and Kevin Ege

Wayne will be performing in a "Tribute to Patsy Cline" as part of Patsy's band at Bodles Opera House (845-469-4595) on June 16th and 17th. This show always sells out quickly so if the thought of an electric mandolin doesn't scare you and you like the music of Patsy Cline, make your reservations early!!!

Wayne recently applied and was accepted to audit a professional training workshop sponsored by Carnegie Hall. The workshop, called "The Porous Borders of Music" brought together 16 of the country's most talented young people from a diverse set of musical backgrounds. Under the guidance of "coaches" Mike Marshall, Chris Thile, Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas and Edgar Meyer, the group refined and polished the original compositions they had brought to the workshop culminating in a performance at Zankel Hall in New York.

Gitfiddle on TV and HVSMF

Gitfiddle plugged the HCC's Hudson Valley Summer Music Festival on the news on May 19 via channel 18.

Just Another Bluegrass Boy

The late, John Herald's CD, *Just Another Bluegrass Boy*, has been released. His friends Brian Hollander and Sam Hood decided to finish the album Herald had been working on at the time of his death last July. The result is a fine compilation of signature Herald tunes, beautifully produced by Hollander and Herald himself and recorded at Bearsville Studios in the 1970s and 90s and live at The Joyous Lake in the 80s. It features John with great players, including Bill Keith, Eric Weissberg, Cindy Cashdollar, Caroline Dutton, Jay Ungar and George Quinn. Proceeds from the album benefit the John Herald Fund, administered by FAMILY. FAMILY will also donate 10 percent of the album proceeds to the Blue Grass Trust Fund, a national organization that helps older musicians. The album is available at local book and music stores or through www.johnherald.com

Orrin Star update

Orrin is preparing to record a new CD--an intimate solo and duo guitar-oriented

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ROTHVOSS FARM UPDATE

The Rothvoss Farm in Ancramdale is still for sale. Lots of bluegrass fans and festival supporters would like us to be able to stay on the farm, and consequently many avenues and possibilities are being explored. We do have our eyes and ears open for possible new sites should Grey Fox have to move, but we hope that doesn't happen soon. We are enormously fond of the Rothvoss Family and we also love having the festival in Columbia County. If we eventually do have to move, we hope to find something comparable close by.

Mary Burdette, Assistant Director, Grey Fox

WHO DO YOU KNOW WHO COULD USE A BLUEGRASS JAM CAMP?

PETE WERNICK'S BLUEGRASS JAM CAMP

Happy Campers

☺ Your camp had an enormous impact on this "closet picker"! I had never played with a group before and certainly never with strangers. Now, I solo pretty effectively, and frequently. ☺

☺ It was exactly what I needed! I will now have the courage to take my banjo to jam sessions. ☺

DrBanjo.com for camp details/registration and full listing of Jam Camps nationwide. Discounts available.

A friendly, "safe" situation to learn. Lots of jamming, everyone participating at their own level. YOU CAN do it!

COPAKE, NY

JULY 10-13

Preceding Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival

9-5 Mon.-Tues., 9-6 Wed. (with long midday break), 9-3:30 Thurs. • Copake Grange Hall

DRBANJO.COM

TWO NEW DVD's RELEASED!

Bluegrass Slow Jam for the Total Beginner
The easiest possible play-along, suitable for a brand new picker, four chords, 17 songs!

Intermediate Jamming
Medium tempos, two soloing opportunities per song, 22 songs with lyric book as well as many higher level jamming pointers.

ORDER FROM DRBANJO.COM

HVBA Fundraiser at River Station

by the anonymous photographers



Fiddling Jennifer Kara stole the show



Headliners Too Blue



Happy Birthday Mr. Martinez!!



Full house at River Station



Jennifer with proud pop, Frank Kara



The Wickers Creek Band in a groove