



HTMA President's Notes

August 2009

The Association summer concert at Burritt Museum was a lot of fun for both performers and the audience, though there were some snags. Some folks in the audience seem to think that we'd be better off facing north instead of south, and the Burritt visitor center staff may have expected us to finish early enough to be out of the park by 5:00. We will work with Burritt management to head off future miscommunications about our schedules. On the stage direction – I think we've done it both ways in the past, but for the last several years we've always had the performers facing south. I've done that because the picnic tables on that side give people a place to sit, and when we are facing south, the sun is not in the audience's eyes. I'd like to get input from HTMA members, especially people who play at the concert, about which side of the Gazebo you would rather play to.

One thing we need to do more as HTMA members is to express appreciation to our many supporters. Friends like Beth Wheeler Dean, our sponsor at the Huntsville Library, and Stephanie Timberlake at Burritt Museum, and Catherine Shearer at the Flying Monkey.
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**The Huntsville Traditional Music Association normally meets on the third Sunday of each month.
Our next meeting is on:
Sunday, August 16th
2:00 - 4:30 PM**

Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

Don Pedi, Old-Time Dulcimer Player (and preserver of mountain tunes) from Madison Co., W. North Carolina will be presenting a FREE Concert on Sept. 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM at McCandless Hall on the campus of Athens State University. Don has been billed as the only dulcimer player that can play all the notes a fiddle player can make! He is dedicated to the preservation of old traditional music with over 40 yrs. of experience. He performs and teaches at festivals, workshops and music camps across the country. (He will be teaching at Madison and Guntersville before and after this concert). PEDI has played music and appeared in the movies *Songcatcher* and *The Journey of August King*. In 2003, he represented the dulcimer and Southern Appalachia at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Be prepared to be entertained at this FREE concert sponsored by ASU and Athens Dulcimers.

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Calendar of Events for August

Saturday, August 9th, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Traditional and Old-time Jam (Free admission for musicians, regular admission for non-musicians) at Constitution Hall Village

Sunday, August 16th, 2:00 - 4:30 PM

HTMA regular monthly member meeting and jam session, at the Huntsville Public Library Auditorium.

Thursday, August 27th, 7:00 PM

Opening with Harpist **Katherine Newman** (<http://goldenharps.com>), and featuring the band ***Hanging by A String***

For more information on all HTMA meetings, concerts, coffeehouses, and other events, visit our website at www.huntsvillefolk.org.



August 2009 NURSING HOME GIGS

Nursing Home Gigs are on Saturdays at 3:00 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

AUGUST 01 3:00 PM

GRANDVIEW AT REDSTONE VILLAGE
12000 Turnmeyer Dr. Huntsville 35803

AUGUST 15 3:00 PM

HEARTHSTONE ASSISTED LIVING
8020 Benaroya Lane Huntsville 35802

AUGUST 22 NOTE: 3:15 PM

Regency Assisted Living Center (Formerly Park View)
2004 Max Luther Dr. Huntsville 3581

AUGUST 29 3:00 PM

TUT FANN VETERANS HOME
2701 Meridian St. N. Huntsville 35811

If you have any questions or suggestions for retirement home performances, please contact Bill McCampbell at 882-2400, or mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net

HTMA Executive Board

President: **Jerry LeCroy** 880-6234
jelecroy@knology.net

Vice President: **Jim England** 852-5740
jengland@knology.net

Sec/Treasurer: **Pat Long** 539-7211
plong@hiwaay.net

Publicity Chair: **Position Available!** (Great Pay and Benefits)

Public Service Chair / Pres. Emeritus:
Bill McCampbell 882-2400
mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net

Performance Chair: **Lou Beasley** 859-5016
lrbeasley@mchsi.com

Newsletter Editor: **Position Available!** (Great Pay and Benefits)

Operations Co-Chairs:
George Williams 880-6234
george.p.williams@pobox.com
Steve McGehee 858-2032
catwithnotail69@aol.com

Report from the Retirement Home Circuit

(Grand View Retirement home, August 1st)

Yes, we had a good time at Grandview. There were Jerry McGough, Jim England, Collier Rawls, Danny Davis, Cyndi Carter, Ken Hinkle, WMM, and James Smith. The people had everything set up for us, including chairs without arms. From the comments we get from the residents, you would think we were just the greatest ever. It is nice to be appreciated.

Bill McCampbell

Help Wanted Needed!!

Our terrific Publicity Chair Claire Mikkelsen is benched on the injured list, and may not be able to resume those duties for a while. Please contact Jerry LeCroy or Jim England if you might be able to help HTMA with getting our event notifications to the newspaper and radio stations, and help send out email announcements to our members and fans. Not a tough job, maybe, but those announcements are critically important to our audience and artists.

And please keep Claire in your thoughts and prayers.



NOTES FROM THE BERRY PATCH: IMPOSSIBLE PROMISE

I love our Country and its history.

Often, I think of the great promises “we the people” have made to ourselves and to each other. Many of these promises center around the concept of equality. Equal protection of law. Equal opportunity. Equal benefit. Equal voting and civil rights. Equal right to speak and worship. The list goes on and on. These promises have evolved along with our country.

It is hard for the human mind to conceive and for any nation to grant a more noble promise than equality among all people.

Yet, both experience and logic tells this promise of equality is an unrealistic one. We are all different people, all with different minds, wishes, needs, abilities, potentials, and opportunities. In this life, equality in all things and for all people will never be.

More now, than as a young man, I think of the cruelty to some that is inherent in broken promises. I ask myself, “Have we promised too much? Should we modify, even withdraw the promise of equality?”

My thinking always leads me to the conclusion that the promise, although unrealistic, is needed. Our reach needs to exceed our grasp. We must always reach.....

Joe M. Berry

July, 2009

(President’s Notes, cont’d from page 1)
All of these folks help make HTMA’s meetings, concerts, and other events possible. We’ve also received help from area organizations including Trinity Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Church, Huntsville Times, and Region’s Bank (who provide HTMA banking services gratis). If you have on occasion to contract any of these folks, please be sure to thank them for their support. Much of what HTMA does for our members and for the community is made possible by the support we get from our community friends.

Speaking of supporters, you may get a call this month from Ken Hinkle, who will be looking for volunteers to help work on the John McCutcheon concert. If Ken calls, please volunteer to take on one of the many jobs that need to get done to make this concert a success. Or better yet, give Ken a call right now and ask him how you can help. Don’t forget to tell your friends about this concert, and offer to pick up their advance tickets. Bringing John McCutcheon in to Huntsville is a huge deal for HTMA, and we need to do everything possible to ensure that this show is a success both artistically and economically.

Donations have been down at HTMA functions lately, with the donations at the Burritt concert only about a third of what we have received in previous years. Last weekend we had a reminder of how important those gifts are to our continuing operations. When Steve McGehee and I were doing a test setup of the sound system to get ready for the Burritt show, we found that one of our 20+ year-old main speakers has failed. We borrowed temporary replacements from Bobby Green, but have to get replacements to be able to continue to present high-quality traditional music. Where does the money come from to buy stag equipment (mikes, mixers, amps, speakers, etc)?

You guessed it – the money for production equipment comes out of any surplus left after we pay the performers and other production costs. HTMA production costs are very low – mainly because each person working the production for each show is an unpaid volunteer. Only the artists get paid, and then only non-member performers (by policy we do not compensate members for playing at HTMA gigs. That said, much of our sound equipment is now close to twenty year old – including stage monitors, audio amplifier, our ADAT audio recorder. Some of our equipment, like the ADAT recorder and our old Tascam mixer, is pretty obsolete, and some of it is getting flaky (our light controller is getting intermittent). We need to budget to replace broken and unusable equipment. If you would like to help make a difference in HTMA productions, please consider making a donation to the HTMA equipment fund. Your donations are tax deductible, since HTMA has qualified as a 501.c.3 non-profit organization. If you would like to make a donation in kind instead of in cash, please call George Williams or me to talk about that option. There are always things we need to add to our operations equipment closet.

Jerry LeCroy

GETTING READY FOR JOHN McCUTCHEON'S SHOW IN HUNTSVILLE SUNDAY NIGHT; OCTOBER 4th!

Ken Hinkle

Two months may sound like plenty of time to prepare the way for John McCutcheon's performance to be a BIG hit in Huntsville but Linda Berry and I (co-chairs for publicizing the event) need to remind everyone that there are lots of tasks to be completed betwixt now and October 4th! We most definitely need volunteers for tasks small and medium . . . I don't think we have any extremely difficult things to do . . . just things that need to be done. We want to make sure there's not a soul in Huntsville that doesn't know who JOHN McCUTCHEON is and that they simply MUST be at Trinity Methodist Churches "The New Room" on Sunday evening October 4th at 7:00 p.m.!! Allow yourself to imagine a large cheering crowd welcoming one of the nations best storytellers and true representative of the spirit of our American people . . . then; PASS THAT IMAGE ON TO EVERYONE YOU MEET as we publicize this show!

Of course, word of mouth, just talking it up wherever you go is a small test we can all do . . . at our schools, churches, coffee shops, therapy groups?, well anyway; you get the idea. We also can call the request line at WLRH and request his songs. That will be particularly useful during September and as the date draws closer. However, even now, it couldn't hurt. But there are also many, mostly easy, but important tasks that need the helping hand of almost everyone of our members as volunteer promoters. Here's an (admittedly) incomplete (but very representative) list of actions either already underway or needing to be underway very soon:

- Tickets go on sale September 1st; that means:
 - Tickets need to be printed, and ticket accounting established
 - Tickets need to be in the hands of a few strategic businesses and individuals.
- Promo posters need to be finalized (specific overlays to our venue added) and posted strategically by early September.
- Single page "fliers" need to be printed and ready in quantity for distribution at all events during September (especially at TVOTFC which is the same weekend that John's concert takes place).
- We're in conversation with WLRH about a John McCutcheon emphasis day and also the possibilities of a phone interview with John to be broadcast near the time of his appearance. This is under discussion but several actions are still pending for this to actually happen . . . and we think there are VERY important elements for our publicity! Of course, the promo CD will be in WLRH's hands as promo material.
- Rooms and services for John and his manager need to be reserved .
- Materials (Banners, etc.) especially aimed for a major emphasis during the days of the TVOTFA (fiddlers convention) at Athens at our HTMA booth. Every person involved there should know all there is about John and his repertoire to help publicize what's happening Sunday night.
- Traffic and hallway assistants are needed for the night of the show (arrows posted in the parking area to assist getting to "The New Room" and John's concert.
- Ticket takers / assistants prior to the show as needed for CD tables, etc. We will need two ticket sellers, two ticket takers, and two folks to man the McCutcheon merchandise table, plus folks to assist John and his stage manager.
- Linda Berry has volunteered to be our Concert "Mama" , gofer lady during the time he's here but I've no doubt that item, alone, will require several volunteers . . . (food, water, etc.)

Anyway; you get the picture. It should be a fun event but there is NO excuse for not being involved in some way and I'm not being a hard taskmaster here . . . we should be able to do all that's required and have fun at the same time. John is a fine fellow and I'm looking forward to seeing hearing and maybe even "rubbin' elbows" with such a talented fellow!

Ken & Linda

IN CONCERT

John
McCutcheon

“His concerts are little feats of magic ... storytelling with the richness of literature.”

-The Washington Post

The Huntsville Traditional Music Association will present

John McCutcheon in concert Sunday October 4th 2009, 7:00, at Trinity Methodist Church, on the corner of Airport Road and Whitesburg in SE Huntsville
Tickets are \$20, in advance or at the door.
Seating will be limited, so get your tickets early!!



Booking: Mike Green & Associates • 734.769.7254 • www.mikegreenassociates.com
For more John McCutcheon information and lots of Cool Stuff, visit John's website: www.folkmusic.com