

### Note from the Editor

Our newsletter is an important part of our organization, and I invite every member to contribute ideas and/or articles any time you want to do so. You can reach me at [sylvia.s.williams@pobox.com](mailto:sylvia.s.williams@pobox.com) or 256-728-2359 or 1334 Columbus City Road, Scottsboro, AL 35769. I hope to hear from you soon.

---



### Inside this Issue:

- Page 2:** HTMA President's Notes
- Page 3-4:** Beautiful Music At The April Coffee House
- Page 4:** HTMA Backup Sound Technician Needed
- Page 5:** Notes from the Berry Patch
- Page 6:** Bluegrass Schedule May/June 2008
- Page 7:** Uptown Concert
- Page 8:** HTMA Members Perform At Coffee Tree; May Coffee House To Feature Outstanding Guitarist Dale Ramsey
- Page 9:** Mr. Bill's Gigs; Calendar of Events for May; HTMA Officers and Committees

The Huntsville Traditional Music Association meets on the third Sunday of each month. Our next meeting is on:  
Sunday, May 18th, 2:00 - 4:30 PM  
In the Huntsville Public Library Auditorium  
915 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL

---

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

[www.huntsvillefolk.org](http://www.huntsvillefolk.org)



## HTMA President's Notes

May 2008

Spring is almost past, and summer's right around the corner. That means that it's time to be thinking about the HTMA summer concert at the Burrirt Museum gazebo coming up July 20th. We'll have a performer signup sheet for that concert at the next meeting. The Burrirt gazebo production is a great opportunity for all HTMA members to share a few of their favorite songs with other members and the enthusiastic audience we find there. I'd also be happy to see a volunteer sign up to bring a few refreshments for the people who are performing and working the show. It's hard to carry a cooler when you already have your hands full of instruments or sound gear.

As we get closer to completing the non-profit filing status for the Association, I am looking forward to the growth opportunities that the new status may afford us. There are things we'd really like to do, and the association can use help from an expanded cadre of volunteers.

A top item on the wish list for many members is a permanent home for HTMA, where we can hold meetings and put on workshops, concerts, and coffeehouses more easily and more frequently. If you know of a space that might be available to HTMA for meetings and performances, please contact the board.

What do we need? We'd like to find:

- A room a little bigger than the old church at Burrirt, so we can host larger gatherings

- A room with more than one meeting area, so we can subdivide our regular meetings for more than one style of jam session
- Along with the bigger room, we need adequate parking
- Ideally, a place we can rent, or rent-to-own, so we can keep the HTMA sound system set up to facilitate more frequent performances. Failing that, at least a secure closet where we can store equipment between gigs.
- A venue that's accessible to our members and audiences (a delightful room in Lick Skillet may be a mile or two too far to go for our members)
- Affordability. I think that we can grow the HTMA performance schedule till we are doing a gig every weekend, but it will take a while to develop the performer list, the audience, and the volunteer base to do this operation. I expect that it may take a year before HTMA operations begin to cover the cost of renting and operating a venue, so the rent has to be low enough to be covered by our donation-based budget.

I should open that last item for discussion. Over the past fifteen years that I've been involved with HTMA, all of our coffeehouses have been "free". They really aren't free, of course. Our volunteers work hard for no pay, but we do pay at least minimal fees to performers, and for a long time at UAH (before HTMA had a sound system) we paid a student sound system operator.

Association costs for performances have been covered by audience and member donations. If we go to a permanent venue, I think that will have to change - we'll need to charge a cover to ensure that we meet our budget. I don't see that as a bad thing. Free music drives out music you have to pay for just like bad money (inflation) drives out good money. I'd like to see HTMA in a position to pay more to artists, so we can get a wider range of talent and maybe afford to put on larger groups than one or two people from time to time.

That's my theory about how HTMA should

be expanding. I'm president to serve the membership, though. Please take time to write and email, or call me, if you have other ideas about what HTMA should be doing in the way of public performances.

Your opinions are important. I'd especially like to know if our members feel that we shouldn't be moving away from the donation-based financial paradigm for funding our operations, or if you might be willing to make a substantial donation to help kick-start our expansion plans.

Two or three major HTMA "angels" could help make the permanent venue dream a reality, by funding the first year's lease on a property. If you want a place to enjoy live music with your friends every Saturday (or any other day), your big chance to make it happen is coming up as soon as we get the non-profit certification. Whatever your thoughts are, I'd like to hear from you, so the decisions the Association board members make on your behalf are as close a possible to what we'd get if we all had time to get together and reach a consensus with all members.

Keep picking!

*Jerry LeCroy*

---

## Beautiful Music At The April Coffeehouse

**Ashleigh Marie Luna**  
Steve McGehee

Ashleigh Marie Luna was our warm up band performing with her guitar teacher who actually took center stage himself and played a David Wilcox song that I had never heard before. Being only 12 years old, Ashleigh's guitar was bigger than she was - but she was confident, witty, and very good on stage. I liked to have fallen out in the floor laughing when we were doing a mic check and she turned to me and asked "do you think I sound like a chipmunk?" Keep that line kid...at least 'til your voice changes.



She was so good I think there might actually be hope for the future of folk music if the association could convince her to pursue it. Please send encouragement and positive comments to her website:

<http://www.ashleighsmusic.com>

By the way Ashleigh, my favorite song you did was *Chicken Truck* cowritten by our own Jim Parker with John Anderson.

Note From Steve: Bobby Blackburn showed up on top of the mountain for our April coffeehouse concert. Lou gave him his guitar and Jerry made him pick while we set up the sound equipment. Man what a sound check that was. He sounded great, looked great, and it was good to see one of our members from the past.

### Athens Dulcimer Club

Lou Beasley

Members of the Athens Dulcimer Club were the featured act in their second performance for the HTMA Coffee House. This dulcimer club has somewhere around 40-50 members who play regularly at their bi-monthly meetings at the Athens High School Recreation Center. Their entire membership would fill the Old Church, so only about eight players were present at this performance. The dulcimer players were lead by Jerry and Louise Todd and Roger Patterson, and were supported by Harold Swinney on guitar and Billy Craig on his Mexican guitar, the Guitarro, which serves as the bass. The other dulcimer players included Nancy Swinney, Grady and Janice Swanner.



They opened with several religious tunes which included *Old Country Church*, *Canaan Land*, *Sweet Bye and Bye*, and *When the Roll is Called up Yonder*. The group then smoothly moved into some old time and country standards including *Home Sweet Home*, *Eight More Miles to Louisville*, *Waltz of the Leaves*, *Wildwood Flower*, *Westphalia Waltz*, and *Southwind*. Bluegrass tunes were not slighted as they really got into a few standards, including *Black Mountain Rag*, *Chinese Breakdown*, *Whiskey Before Breakfast*, *Sugar Hill*, and *Flop Eared Mule*. During some of these fast fiddle tunes, Louise entertained with her dancing Limber Jack doll she named 'Franklin Ray', and his dog 'Sport' (Franklin Ray often rides Sport). They then moved on to a few vocals by Harold, to include *Wild Mountain Flowers for Mary*, *Thank You for Touching My Life*, and a couple others on which Grady also sang. They closed with *Amazing Grace* and *God Bless America*.

As evidenced by the wide range of music played, this is an accomplished group of dulcimer players who love to share their musical talents. They regularly play at various nursing homes and schools in the Athens area, and the Todds often teach dulcimer at music events. Most of them are regulars at the dulcimer and music festivals in the AL, TN, and MS areas. In addition to being great musicians, they are some really nice folks. Why, they even let me play rhythm guitar for them at this performance.

## HTMA Backup Sound Technician Needed

Jerry LeCroy

For the past several years, George Williams has served as the primary "sound guy" at HTMA coffeehouses and retirement home gigs. George continues to do a great job, but like a few of the rest of us, he also has a life, and can't always be available when our performances are scheduled. Up until the past year, Jerry LeCroy was able to work as a backup for gigs that George couldn't make, but lately Jerry's work is interfering with his availability, and as a result we are at risk of running short on a critical resource - people who are willing and able to run the sound for HTMA gigs.

For all its importance, setting up the sound and lights for an HTMA performance isn't a tough job, and George and Jerry have written down the recipes for success in short work instructions, like the quality engineers they are. What we need now is two or three members willing to help participate in the sound system setup at a gig or two in the next few months, to get some on-the-job training. If you are interested, but not able to make it to a coffeehouse, we can pick an alternate time to introduce you to the sound system setup, and how to manage the sound board to provide the best possible experience for our performers and audience.

Getting the sound right at our shows is the second most important contributor to a show's success. The most important thing is the effort that our performers make, but often nobody in the audience will hear the music without the sound operator working the microphones, etc.

If you think this is your opportunity to make a contribution to HTMA success, and to have a good time doing it, you're right. Please call George or Jerry to schedule a time to work with the sound system. Even if you aren't sure you can manager the sound - give them a call or an email, and they will send you a copy of the setup guide, to give you an idea what's involved. Thanks in advance for volunteering!



## Notes From The Berry Patch

I look forward to July and a trip to Yellowstone National Park with Linda and Brooke (our granddaughter).

In looking at maps of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, several things come to mind, things I would like to share with Brooke as we travel. Things about our history that I would like for this dear child to know and understand. Things like The Bozeman Trail and the sad cry of Joseph, Nez Perce Indian Chief.

I want Brooke to know Chief Joseph's words of October 5, 1877, the day of his surrender to the American Army, when he said, *"I am tired of fighting. The old men are all dead. [My brother] who led the young men is dead. It is cold, and we have no blankets. The little children are freezing to death. My people, some of them, have run away to the hills. No one knows where they are. I want to have some time to look for my children. Maybe I shall find them among the dead. I am tired, my heart is sick and sad. Hear me, my chiefs. From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever."* To the extent possible, I want Brooke to understand his emotions when those words were spoken.

On our trip this summer to the land where Chief Joseph led some 500 of his people, mostly women and children, in their seventy-five day flight from eastern Oregon and western Idaho more than 1500 miles across present-day Yellowstone National Park and Montana, I will try to explain to Brooke why Chief Joseph and his people were fleeing from the United States Army because they did not want to be confined to a smaller reservation as the white man demanded.

On our trip, I will try to get Brooke to know how Chief Joseph's ancestors had fed Lewis and Clark in their travels to this same country more than seventy years earlier. Not only fed, but likely saved the lives of these white explorers in doing so.

Time allowing this summer, I will tell Brooke of The Bozeman Trail and its bringing more and more whites to the land that had been claimed by Chief Joseph's people for longer than the memory of man and the problems caused by the coming of the white man.

This summer as we visit some of the most beautiful country that God has ever made, I will try to help Brooke understand some parts of our national history that are not very pretty. I will do this for two reasons. She needs to understand. And, so do I.

*Joe M. Berry*

---

**BLUEGRASS SCHEDULE MAY/JUNE**  
**2008**

**(CALL CONTACT NUMBER BEFORE TRAVELING, AS DATES MAY CHANGE OR EVENTS CANCELED.)**

MAY 16-17, 2008, PLEASANT VALLEY BLUEGRASS PICKIN', 725 COUNTY ROAD 111, KILLEN, AL, GLEN & CHARLOTTE ENGLAND, 256-757-4325 OR BILL MORRISON, 256-764-6109; 3.3 MILES OFF HWY 72, GOING EAST, TURN RIGHT ONTO CO. RD. 33 AT NORTH AL FLEA MARKET. GO 1/2 MILE, TURN LEFT ON CO. RD. 111, GO 2 MILES TO STOP SIGN, TURN RIGHT AND GO 1/2 MILE. FRIDAY NIGHT: WEINER ROAST, SATURDAY NIGHT: POT LUCK W/ WHITE BEANS, BRING A DISH & JOIN US.

MAY 16-26, 2008, INDIAN CAMP CREEK, ST. FLORIAN. Charles & Jean Anthony 256-766-9994, JAMMING, SOUND EQUIPMENT ON STAGE MAY 24-25, CAMPING \$10 EACH NIGHT. FROM HWY 72W, TURN RIGHT ON COX CREEK PARKWAY (HWY 133), GO APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES AND TURN NORTH (RIGHT) ON OLD JACKSON HWY (LAUDERDALE CO. 47), GO APPROX. 4 MILES, TURN LEFT ON BUTLER CREEK ROAD (LAUDERDALE CO. 61), GO APPROX. 3 MILES TO MT. ZION CHURCH, TURN RIGHT BY CHURCH, GO APPROX. 1/4 MILE AND TURN LEFT AT INDIAN CAMP CREEK BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL. OR FROM HWY 72W, TURN RIGHT AT CO RD 323 (BY WOODLAWN CHURCH OF CHRIST), THEN RIGHT ON LAUDERDALE CO. 47 (OLD JACKSON HWY), THEN LEFT ON BUTLER CREEK ROAD (BY POP'S BBQ)(LAUDERDALE CO. 61), GO APPROX. 3 MILES TO MT. ZION CHURCH TURN RIGHT BY CHURCH, GO APPROX. 1/4 MILE AND TURN LEFT AT INDIAN CAMP CREEK BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL.

JUNE 6-7, 2008, FOGGY HOLLOW BLUEGRASS GATHERIN', WEBSTER'S CHAPEL, AL, HALF WAY BETWEEN

GADSDEN AND ANNISTON. 256-492-3700, Directions on website,

<http://www.foggyhollow.com>

JUNE 13-14, 2008, WHITE'S MOUNTAIN BG FESTIVAL, ST. CLAIR SPRINGS, AL, Contact: Tommy R. White, 40 Whites Mountain Lane, Springville, AL 35146, 205-467-6927, Directions on website,

<http://www.whitesmtnbluegrass.com>

JUNE 19-21, 2008, SUMMERTOWN BLUEGRASS REUNION, (931) 964-2100, SUMMERTOWN, TN,

<http://www.chamberofcommerce.lawrence.tn.us>

(Go to: calendar, then sort by: Music)

JUNE 19-21, 2008, NORTH CAROLINA STATE BG FESTIVAL, CHEROKEE, NC,

<http://www.aandabluegrass.com>

JUNE 27-28, 2008, ANNUAL DICKSON FIDDLERS CONTEST & FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL, DICKSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, CONTACT: BOBBY PROSSER 615-446-5914,

<http://www.dicksoncountychamber.com>  
(What's Happening)

**Editor's Note:** Thanks to Danny Charles for providing this wonderful schedule of events to the newsletter for the HTMA members' use. There will be a July/August posting and a Sept/October postings as well.

---

## Uptown Concert

Bill McCampbell

Aunt Betsy said, "Jackie, When you get to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, look up cousin Joey. He will be glad to see you." Well, he was. However, he was very intent on weaning me from my East Tennessee hillbilly culture. Like hillbilly music. My idea of a perfect weekend was to spend from 3:00 evening on Friday night to 3:00 Sunday morning hearing fiddles and such at an old time fiddlers convention.

I went to hear his concert anyway. It was something to behold. First, you would think everybody was going to church. All the audience was dressed up. They was all as serious as if they were going to a funeral. They was all them people on the stage and they was all dressed in black like they was undertakers or something. I didn't like the looks of it at all and told Joey that. Hell, I was used to people having a lot of fun at a music event.

Like I said, they was a whole bunch of people on the stage dressed like undertakers. No, actually they looked more like them pigeons from the South Pole you see on television.

They was all setting there, and here come this feller out with a fiddle and plays just one note and just sets down. And guess what? Everbody plays the same note - A, I think... And what a racket it was. You cannot imagine such a bunch of sounds all at once, because they must have been fifty different kinds of instruments. If you ain't never seen nothing like it, you can't imagine the racket. It sounded like a bunch of cats fighting-- or maybe a bit worse. Like maybe a bunch of women at a meeting of the First Church's Ladies Aid Society. Thank the Lord, it didn't last long. Then there was this little flute like thing that was barely bigger than a fountain pen that had this man playing it that must of weighed three hundred pounds.

Of course they was different sized fiddles and they had them in different bunches. At least they was shaped like fiddles and they played them with a bow. They was some fiddles that stood one end on the floor, but small enough you could set down and play them. They was some others that was played by little fellers that had to stretch to reach the end of the neck.

Then they was all them flutes and things like that. Some of them made wheezing rackets. They had some that was so big one end was on the floor but they was played setting down. And then, off to our left was a bunch of things that this one feller just roamed around and ever once in a while he would do something like whacking on this big thing that looked like a wash tub but was round on the bottom. Then he would whup up on this things that had a bunch of little wood bars side by side. They was some others.

Here come out this piano player after the orchestra had played a minute or two. His name was Rube something or the other. He must have been at least ninety. You would think he wasn't going to make it over to the piano, but he did. He flipped his coattail over the bench and waited till it was time for him to start "*Theme and Variations on Twinkle Twinkle Star.*"

The thing they handed us said it was wrote by some kid named Wolfpack Mozark when he was five years old. I asked Joey where the feller was now and he said the guy was dead already. It is too bad. If the little feller had growed up, he might have been as famous as, for instance, Elvis.

Well, ever thing started out just like you would think it oughta. But then he really whupped up on that little tune. He swung it, he waltzed it, he jazzed it, till you just barely could recognize it. Still, it sounded good. Right when he got that finished, he stopped and them other people stopped playing. Like I said, I liked it a lot, and I let that Rube guy know it. I stood up and clapped my hands and yelled out, "Attaway to go, Rube." Sorta loud. And guess what. Here come these two big fellers with bellhop caps on and drug me right out on the street. It was cold out there. When the thing was over, Joey come out and walked right by me, and he didn't let on like he even noticed me.

I had to take street cars back to the Flushing Avenue Navy barracks. After sixty years, Joey won't even talk to me. I wrote Aunt Betsy and told her, "Cousin Joey sure is tetchy. I fear he must be wacko or something."

---

## HTMA Members Perform at Coffee Tree

James Smith, The Auto Harp Man, had several HTMA folks play in a program with him at the Coffee Tree recently. On Thursday night, May 1, Collier Rawls, Joe Berry and Jim England joined James, playing and/or telling stories for the folks enjoying their supper and the entertainment. Landon Grace recorded the show and part of it is on an internet TV that can be viewed at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/james-smith---coffee-tree>

**Editor's Note:** Thanks to Jim England for providing this information and the link. Watch and enjoy!

---

## May Coffee House To Feature Outstanding Guitarist Dale Ramsey

On Thursday, May 22, at The Old Church at Burritt On The Mountain, we will be privileged to hear very contrasting styles of wonderful music from headliner Dale Ramsey and opening act *Kaleidoscope*, Katrina and Chuck Weber.



Dale began his musical journey over thirty years ago in East Texas, where he first heard the acoustic blues of Mississippi John Hurt and Mance Lipscomb and the songs of Texas

songwriters such as Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt. Since moving to Huntsville, Dale's musical career has taken several interesting paths, highlighted by the opportunities to play electric blues with The Daddy Rabbits and gypsy jazz with the Hot Club of Huntsville. Now Dale has comfortably returned to his roots of old blues with a special appreciation for the pre-war masters of acoustic slide guitar. Dale will perform these songs in a variety of tunings on his standard acoustic and National Resophonic Tricone guitars.

Opening for Dale will be *Kaleidoscope*, which consists of Katrina and Chuck Weber, playing piano and fiddle. The band strives for a balance of variety and consistency. It takes its name from its music, which typically includes reels, jigs, waltzes, and other forms from various traditions -- American "old-time," French Canadian, Latin, and Celtic, along with a sprinkling of rags, blues, and other jazz-based tunes, including some songs written by members of the band.

*Kaleidoscope* has played for contradances across the US Southeast, as well as many other types of functions. Visit their website at:

<http://www.knology.net/~chuckkat>

As always, admission to HTMA coffeehouses is free with donations gratefully accepted. Come and enjoy these wonderful musicians and their distinctly different music!

---

## Mr. Bill's Gigs

### May 2008 Nursing Home Gigs

Nursing Home Gigs are on Saturdays at 3:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

MAY 3 3:00 PM  
HEARTHSTONE ASSISTED LIVING  
8020 Benaroya Lane Huntsville 35802

NOTE: THERE IS ONLY THIS ONE GIG SCHEDULED FOR MAY

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Bill McCampbell at 882-2400 or [mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net](mailto:mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net)

---

## Calendar of Events for May.

**May 3** - Annual All Day Shaped Note Singing at Burritt Museum

**May 4 - 9** - Clawhammer Banjo Workshop, Dan Levenson, at Alabama Folk School. Information at:  
[http://www.campmcdowell.com/FolkSchool/Classes/2008\\_spring/Clawhammerbanjo\\_Levenson.htm](http://www.campmcdowell.com/FolkSchool/Classes/2008_spring/Clawhammerbanjo_Levenson.htm)

**May 8 - 10** - Annual May Dulci-Fest sponsored by Morgan County Dulcimer Association and Fretted Friends, at Pont Mallard Campground. For more information: Janet Henderson, 256-353-4239  
[dulcimernotes@bellsouth.net](mailto:dulcimernotes@bellsouth.net)

**May 10** - Jam session from 1 - 4:00 PM at Constitution Village, downtown Huntsville

**May 18** - HTMA Meeting 2:00 - 4:00 PM. At the Huntsville Public Library Auditorium

**May 22 - April Coffee House - 7:00 PM**  
Guitarist Dale Ramsey. Opening will be Kaleidoscope (Katrina & Chuck Weber). At The Old Church at Burritt on the Mountain. Free; donations accepted

---

## HTMA Officers & Committees

President: Jerry LeCroy 880-6234  
[jelecroy@knology.net](mailto:jelecroy@knology.net)

Vice President: Jim England 582-5740  
[jengland@knology.net](mailto:jengland@knology.net)

Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Long 539-7211  
[plong@hiwaay.net](mailto:plong@hiwaay.net)

Publicity and Outreach Committee:  
Chair: Sue Charles 852-5243  
[scharles32@mchsi.com](mailto:scharles32@mchsi.com)

Lou Beasley 859-5016  
[lrbeasley@mchsi.com](mailto:lrbeasley@mchsi.com)

Public Service Chair / Pres. Emeritus:  
Bill McCampbell 882-2400  
[mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net](mailto:mccampbellwm@bellsouth.net)

Performance Committee:  
Co-chairs: Steve McGehee 858-2032  
[catwithnotail69@aol.com](mailto:catwithnotail69@aol.com)

and Lou Beasley 859-5016  
[lrbeasley@mchsi.com](mailto:lrbeasley@mchsi.com)  
Jerry Lecroy

Newsletter Committee:  
Editor: Sylvia Williams 728-2359  
[sylvia.s.williams@pobox.com](mailto:sylvia.s.williams@pobox.com)  
George Williams  
Lou Beasley

Operations Committee:  
Chair: George Williams 728-2359  
[george.p.williams@pobox.com](mailto:george.p.williams@pobox.com)  
Jerry LeCroy  
Steve McGehee

---