

The Buckeye Dulcimer Festival, April 2025 ... more details! (December, 2024)

All of us are encouraged at how our onsite registrations have grown these past three years post pandemic. More growth is the goal for April, 2025. The focus of this festival remains to promote the opportunity to support **LIVE MUSIC** and the **love of playing music together!**

This year we welcome Nick Fowler, Recreation Unlimited contact. We had a fine meeting with him this summer and look forward to working with him this coming April.



Considerations for this year's festival include:

- 1) **SATURDAY SCHEDULE:** Featuring four – 75 minute mini-sessions focusing on both dulcimers and a wide variety of other instruments and topics. Look for the weekend schedule including sessions on the BDF website.
- 2) **FOUR HYBRID/ZOOM CLASSES:** Mountain dulcimer – Dave Haas; Hammered Dulcimer – Ruth Smith; Autoharp – Charles Whitmer; Ukulele – Steve Smith. These 10-hour sessions will take place on Thursday (4/24) and Friday (4/25).
- 3) **FESTIVAL LEADERSHIP:** Shari Wolf and Chris & Joe Steiner are moving into their fourth year of leadership of the festival since Covid. We weren't sure the festival would continue, but it has thanks to the festival support staff including Debbie & Brian Doggett, Shirley Green, Diane & Mike Hochstetler, Sandy Hengtzler, Sandy Barton, and **ALL OF YOU! THANK YOU!**
- 4) **HAMMERED AND MOUNTAIN BEGINNER/NEW PLAYERS: EXTENDED SCHEDULE and SATURDAY ONLY**
The hot topic for many discussions in the dulcimer world centers around, "How do we reach and provide for **NEW PLAYERS**, those folks that would love to learn one of our instruments?" The Buckeye Dulcimer Festival can provide the instructional opportunity with two options this April.
 - ✓ **BDF 2025 will offer an Extended 5-hour Thursday and Friday sessions (PKG #1 or #2) for a total of 10 hours.** Invite your beginner friends to take advantage of this opportunity to get a taste of the "Buckeye experience." Instructors: Hammered Dulcimer – Melanie Shapiro; Mountain Dulcimer – Diane Hochstetler
 - ✓ **NEW PLAYERS for Saturday only!** You'll see the Saturday Package registration with the option for all-day beginner sessions for autoharp, hammered dulcimer, and mountain dulcimer. Arrive Saturday morning at 8:30 and spend the day learning your instrument. Instructors: Autoharp – Phyllis Davis; Hammered Dulcimer – Melanie Shapiro; Mountain Dulcimer – Shane Braden; In addition, Phyllis Howard will be offering a 3-hour "Introduction to Harp."

Some loaner instruments are available. Be sure to mention that you need a loaner instrument on the registration form.

THE BUCKEYE DULCIMER FESTIVAL and BUCKEYE ROADSHOW ... PROMOTING LIVE MUSIC

Buckeye Roadshow (Shari, Chris, Joe) remains dedicated to playing acoustic music, helping people to learn to play music, and helping people playing music together under any circumstance possible. Living in a post pandemic world has dramatically affected group gatherings of all sorts including dulcimer clubs and onsite festivals.

RECAP of FESTIVALS and GATHERINGS in 2024 In 2024, Buckeye Roadshow truly hit the road! In February, we traveled to Maria Stein, Ohio for the Dayton Dulcimer Club's annual 'retreat', Dulcimer Doins. We promoted the Buckeye Dulcimer Festival, conducted workshops, shared a couple tunes on stage and furthered our other Live Music endeavors.

In March, it was off to Louisville, Kentucky for the Ohio Valley Gathering (OVG). This was our 2nd year of conducting workshops, vending, and sharing our music on stage. It was terrific to renew old friendships and make new ones from Cincinnati and points south. We followed this with the Buckeye Dulcimer Festival in April. After the May Bluegrass Festival, we began preparations for going to Evart, Michigan in July for the Evart Music Funfest ... and fun it was. Presenting workshops, vending, and a wonderful Friday night stage slot made for a wonderful time. The nightly jamming was superb and renewing treasured friendships was priceless.

DULCIMER PLAYER NEWS

Last year, it looked as though the DPN was going to be discontinued. Thankfully, it was purchased earlier this year. The dulcimer world's quarterly magazine is alive and well. Owner Fiona Potts and her family have breathed new life into the magazine by focusing on the dulcimer of the last 40 or so years, the dulcimer of the present, and glimpses of where the dulcimer might be headed. Buckeye Roadshow has been honored to write several articles for the magazine. One featured the monthly Buckeye Roadshow Zoom Jams with music included and another, a recap of author Sharyn McCrumb's Appalachian Ballad series and the accompanying music by Betty Smith and Sweetwater (Cindy Funk, Shelley Stevens, and Shari Wolf).

(OVER)

DULCIMER PLAYER NEWS – PODCAST – “Seven Ways to Strengthen Your Dulcimer Club”

This past October, the Dulcimer Player News sponsored a podcast with presenters Buckeye Roadshow (Chris, Joe, and Shari). We were so honored to be involved with the podcast and this topic which is so key to the survival of live dulcimer music. YOUTUBE LINK: <https://youtu.be/HbG9-x7Pq8w> For more info on the DPN, go to www.dpnews.com .

BUCKEYE ROADSHOW MOVING INTO 2025:

- **ZOOM/HYBRID JAMS** We will continue to focus on including an 'onsite' component to these Zoom jams. We love the energy of playing along with others and the clubs seem to enjoy playing with us and learning more about the Zoom Jam experience. The Early Bird classes take on new life when onsite folks are there to ask questions and respond to our teaching ideas. It is also exciting to see so many folks on Zoom that can no longer leave home to attend live festivals. The Zoom/Hybrid experience allows us to accommodate both live and online attendees.

Thanks to the following groups that have supported Buckeye Roadshow Zoom Jams: Firelands Dulcimer Club (Milan, OH); Bucyrus Area Clubs including Mansfield, Bucyrus, Sycamore friends; Findlay Dulcimer Gathering, Marilyn Garver's group in Canton, and Nine Mile Creek and Hammer Jammers in Troy. We are looking to branch out to other groups.

Would your group or club be interested in hosting a Zoom/Hybrid Jam during 2025?

For the Zoom setup, we would need a good internet connection. A big screen TV with an HDMI input would be very helpful for everyone to see our zoom participants. If your club might be interested in sponsoring a zoom jam, contact Chris Steiner at 419-721-8016 or email: cooperrider@yahoo.com .

- **SUPPORTING DULCIMER GROUPS and CLUBS**
BUCKEYE ROADSHOW would like to become more involved in helping clubs grow and prosper through presentation of workshops that could include instruction on instruments (mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer, clawhammer banjo), jamming ideas, arranging ideas, playlist or program ideas.

- **DISCOVERY CLASSES:** As an effort to reach out to new players, would your dulcimer group like to sponsor a Discovery Class? These classes are designed for folks that are interested in trying out a hammered dulcimer (Chris), clawhammer banjo (Joe), or mountain dulcimer (Shari) for a half day including their first jam.



CHRIS & JOE STEINER

This past October, Joe and Chris traveled to New Harmony, IN as headliners for the Dulcimer Chautauqua on the Wabash. They both conducted workshops with Chris on hammered dulcimer and Joe teaching mountain dulcimer and ukulele. Being new to this festival, they made many new music friends. They will be returning in October, 2025.



In addition to the Buckeye Roadshow activities, Chris and Joe have been busy with other musical endeavors. With covid providing the impetus to look into virtual meetings, they have both started to include "online" lessons along with their private in-person lessons. Although they MUCH prefer to be "live" with their students, it does provide an excellent option to some.

If you know Joe at all, you know.... **It's All About The Banjo!** Bluegrass music has been one of his passions since college, and you can tell. His radio show is now in its 26th year. It's on every Monday night, from 8-10 pm on the internet at <https://pulse.findlay.edu/listen-live> (or if you are local... 88.3 WLFC on your radio dial). Although it is mostly bluegrass, there is always a nice selection of Old Timey music, too, with some of your favorite Buckeye instructors and others.

This winter, they will both be very busy planning the 49th TriState Bluegrass Festival at Kendallville, Indiana, both Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. Camping at the fairgrounds surrounded with jamming and great concerts is an exciting and inexpensive way to spend the holiday weekends. For more info, contact Chris at cooperrider@yahoo.com

BUCKEYE DULCIMER FESTIVAL and BUCKEYE ROADSHOW ZOOM Email List!

Double check that you are receiving BUCKEYE DULCIMER emails filled with information on the festival, zoom jams, Buckeye Roadshow activities and more. If you would like to be added to the Buckeye Dulcimer Festival email listing, please email buckeyedulcimer@yahoo.com and we'll get you added.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN 2025!!!