



# Green Apple Newsletter

Visit our website at [www.greenapplefolk.org](http://www.greenapplefolk.org)

May / June 2005

## Bluegrass Clippings

When you think of bluegrass music, what comes to mind? Sometimes it is hard to describe but is definitely not hard to recognize. The dictionary describes it as a type of folk music that originated in the southern United States, typically played on banjos and guitars and characterized by rapid tempos and jazz like improvisation.

I guess the definition doesn't really do it justice. So if your up to really finding out about bluegrass then get along to one of the many gigs in the area being performed by some of Green Apple musicians and performers and taste it first hand. In the meantime.....

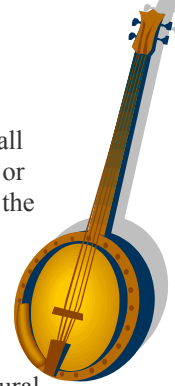
Let's dig a little deeper into the origins of bluegrass. To some extent bluegrass music patterns are very similar to Celtic music. Not surprising when you consider the roots were firmly set by the early

settlers from the British Isles—in particular Scotland and Ireland. Bluegrass songs are played with each melody instrument switching off, playing the melody in turn while the others revert to backing; this is in contrast to Old-time music, in which all instruments play the melody together or one instrument carried the lead while the others provide accompaniment.

The early versions of bluegrass were struck by the early Scottish-Irish immigrants in Appalachia. This was blended with the music styles of the rural African-Americans to form a whole new uniquely american based folk music.

Bluegrass as a style probably developed commercially sometime in the 1930s. As with any musical genre, no one person can claim to have "invented" it. Rather, bluegrass is an amalgam of old-time music, blues, ragtime and jazz.

Nevertheless, there is clearly a founding father, Bill Monroe from Rosine Kentucky.



Bill Monroe

The bluegrass style was named after his band, the Blue Grass Boys, formed in 1939. Monroe's 1945-48 band, which featured banjo player Earl Scruggs, singer/guitarist Lester Flatt, fiddler Chubby Wise and bassist Cedric Rainwater, created the definitive sound and instrumental configuration that remains the model to this day. Unlike mainstream country music, bluegrass continues to rely on acoustic stringed instruments: The fiddle, banjo, acoustic guitar or folk guitar, mandolin, and upright bass are sometimes joined by the dobro (also known as a resophonic guitar or steel guitar), and a bass guitar is occasionally substituted for the upright bass. This instrumentation originated in rural black dance bands and was being abandoned by those groups, in favor of blues and jazz ensembles, when picked up by white musicians.

Monroe played to four Presidents and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1970.

In this months GA news we are going to feature some of our own bluegrass talent.

## July-August Features

Calling all song-writers. In the July-August edition of the GA News we will feature some of our song-writing talents. Send articles to the editor by June 20.

## Main Event Schedule For 2005

May 21	HOOT (Open Mic)
Jun 25	Pick Nic at Town of Center Hall & Park
Aug 26	Camp-out (Group Site 2)
Sep 17	Annual Meeting
Oct 15	HOOT (Open Mic)
Nov 19	<b>Matt Wahl &amp; Celia Ferran in Concert</b>
Dec 10	Holiday Concert

Unless noted otherwise, all concerts begin at 7:30 PM at Bubolz Nature Preserve (4815 N Lyndale, Appleton). Ticket Sales and entrance to concert room starts at 6:45 pm

To reserve a HOOT (open-mic) performance slot Please call Dean Sauers at 920.982.2890 not more than two weeks before the scheduled date.

## Straight Up BlueGrass

Featuring the upside down banjo of  
Mike Rospenda

Straight Up BlueGrass, formerly known as Appleton's Wayfarin' Strangers, has been together for a little more than a year. During that time, the band has worked all over the state, from Lake Geneva to Sturgeon Bay, from Milwaukee to Madison and Kewaunee. They host a regular Wednesday night jam at the Menasha Grill, Main Street in Menasha.

Who are these folks?

The band has deep bluegrass roots and consists of Mike Rospenda, Rob Anderson, Terry Bane and Bill Bane.

The Shepard Express has dubbed Mike Rospenda, a Milwaukee mainstay and sideman for many years, the King of the Street Corner Musicians. Mike Plays the banjo and sings lead while fronting the group in the Jimmy Martin style. Mike's unique talent is that he plays his 1980 Goldstar upside down. Stop by and see!!! Mike has played and recorded with popular bands including the Cicero Cowboys, Pickin' Up Speed, the Milwaukee Express, and the Lost Marble Band.

Rob Anderson is a mandolin player and tenor singer— Rob is hard to beat. His 1920's Gibson A teardrop mandolin is sweet and mellow. Rob has played with California bands, most notably Wild Sage. Rob is also a talented instrument case maker, the man behind *Dunamis Designs*. He is also responsible for the artwork on Appleton's Wayfarin' Strangers CD, "Straight Up Bluegrass".

Terry Bane, our female member, is a talented rhythm guitar player and singer. She teaches the banjo at American Music Hub in Appleton. Her resume reads like a festival who's who. She has been involved in Bluegrass music since the original Mole Lake days

Bill Bane (yes they are related – by marriage) is a fine bassist and a talented singer who helps out on the four part harmonies.



Straight Up BlueGrass

For more information on this extremely talented band contact:

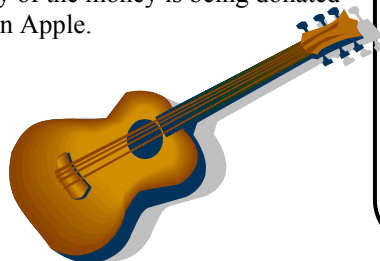
[mrospenda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mrospenda@sbcglobal.net)  
[straightupbluegrass@yahoo.com](mailto:straightupbluegrass@yahoo.com)  
Phone Melissa Rospenda  
920-991-2766

## Straight Up BlueGrass Gigs

**June 10<sup>th</sup>:**  
Heritage BlueGrass Festival, Kewaunee  
**June 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Log Cabin Days, Edgerton  
**June 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Copper Fest, Oconto  
**July 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Oostburg Town Festival, Oostburg  
**July 9<sup>th</sup>**  
Badgerland Bluegrass Classic, West Bend  
**July 17<sup>th</sup>**  
Neenah Bergstrom Art Festival, Neenah  
**July 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Art in the Park, Appleton  
August, Door County Festival, TBA

## Bluegrass Night with Bill Jorgenson

Mark your calendars for this benefit concert for Green Apple on **Saturday, September 10, 2005 at 7:30 PM** at the Wolf River Theatre in New London. Admission will be \$8.00 and the majority of the money is being donated to Green Apple.



## The Green Apple Mission

*"The Green Apple Folk Music Society seeks to promote folk music, particularly in Northeastern Wisconsin. We do this by sponsoring concerts, by holding regular 'open-mic' evenings for local performers and by providing opportunities to socialize with other people who have an interest in folk music. These are described in our newsletter and include potlucks, house concerts and area festivals."*

## Green Apple Board for 2002 – 2003

**President:**  
Steve NeSmith (920) 380-0334 Appleton

**Vice President:**  
Dan Geddes (920) 738-0254 Appleton

**Secretary:**  
Su Staron (920) 469-0575 Green Bay

**Treasurer:**  
Chuck Thomas (920) 469-0749 Green Bay

**Board Members:**

Grant Armstrong	Peter Bartman
Paul Dixon	Barb Hoffman
Elaine Hoes	Lou Hull
Keith Krisher	Steve NeSmith
Dan Peterson	Dean Sauers
Chuck Thomas	

## Newsletter Deadlines

Submit newsletter items to Mike Cove, 1020 Highland Park Rd, Neenah, WI 54956 or e-mail to :

[mcove@new.rr.com](mailto:mcove@new.rr.com)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline Date</u>
January	Dec 20
March	Feb 20
May	Apr 20
<b>July</b>	<b>Jun 20</b>
September	Aug 20
November	Oct 20

## Bluegrass Charts

Want to hear Bluegrass music but not sure what to buy? Here are the charts from last month compiled by Billboard

- 1 Del McCoury Band  
It's Just The Night
- 2 Sam Bush & David Grisman  
Hold On We're Strummin'
- 3 Nickel Creek  
This Side
- 4 Nickel Creek  
Nickel Creek
- 5 Earl Scruggs, Doc Watson & Ricky Skaggs  
The Three Pickers
- 6 Alison Krauss + Union Station  
Live
- 7 Rhonda Vincent  
One Step Ahead
- 8 Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder  
Live At The Charleston Music Hall
- 9 Robinella & The CC String Band  
Robinella & The CC String Band
- 10 Tim O'Brien  
Traveler
- 11 David Grisman  
Life Of Sorrow
- 12 Yonder Mountain String Band  
Old Hands
- 13 Blue Highway  
Wondrous Love
- 14 Alison Krauss  
Forget About it
- 15 Various Artists  
Soundtrack: O' Brother Where Art Thou?
- 16 Alison Krauss  
Now That I've Found You: A Collection
- 17 Various Artists  
Bluegrass Today
- 18 Various Artists  
Best of Bluegrass
- 19 Alison Krauss + Union Station  
New Favorite
- 20 Bela Fleck  
Bluegrass Sessions: Tales From The Acoustic Planet, Vol. 2

From BlueGrass Now  
<http://www.bluegrassnow.com/top20.php>

### Chris Murray

Every Saturday at Harmony Cafe  
lunchtime, 11:30 to 1:00 am



## Folk Odyssey Series

*Appleton Public Library* will sponsor three programs as a "Folk Odyssey" in June. The kickoff will be **June 6** at 6:30PM with a talk by Judy Rose, host of Simply Folk on Wisconsin Public Radio. On **June 13** at 6:30 there will be a video, American Roots Music: The Times They Are A-Changin', followed by discussion. The series will conclude with a concert by Bob Bovee & Gail Heil, Traditional American Folk Music at 6:00 PM on **June 20**. All programs will be in the lower level of the Library and will be free and open to the public.

## The Highwaymen Reunion

Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin presents:

### The Highwaymen

**Saturday, June 25, 2005 -- 7:30 pm**

**Fox Cities Performing Arts Center**  
400 W. College Ave., Appleton, Wisconsin

All tickets \$20, which includes a post-concert dessert reception and the opportunity to meet the artists

**Tickets on sale now** through

- \* Ticketmaster 920-731-5000
- \* The P.A.C. ticket office
- \* [www.foxcitiespac.com](http://www.foxcitiespac.com)

Remember Michael Row the Boat Ashore and Cotton Fields? Don't miss this rare reunion concert by the original group that helped launch the folk music revival of the 1960s. The concert is open to the public, and will help welcome more than 400 Goodwill Industries International executives and their families from across the world to the Fox Cities for their 2005 Delegate Assembly conference. There's a unique Fox Valley connection, as well: Steve Butts, one of the original members of the group, spent the last nine years in Appleton as a Lawrence University administrator and was a member of the local Goodwill board of directors.



The Highwaymen Circ. 1960.

## Green Apple Northwoods Jam

For those of you who haven't attended the "Green Apple Northwoods Jam" (I forgot what I called it last year) then you need to ask around to discover what you're missing. Every year during the Memorial Day Weekend Bob Sandlin and Enid Cleaves open up their home (and several of their neighbor's homes) to Green Apples and insignificant others. We pontoon on the ten lake Manitowish Chain (Bob has a brand new boat this year), eat a lot, bonfire a lot, play a lot, sing a lot and every year Bob plans a surprise. Last year a local lodge sponsored a pizza night for us and all we had to do was perform an open mike. The year before we rode on a float in a parade. This year?????

It's a four hour drive from the Valley (three if you drive like Vivian Hazel) (two if you ride with Doug Wheeler and inhale without rolling down the window).

Call Bob and Enid at (715) 543-8081 and let them know your coming. They'll find you a free place to stay, tell you what to bring and tell you how to get there. There's a rumor that the original Crystal River Trio will be appearing live and in color. You don't want to miss this 'cause these three guys ain't gonna live forever (there's a rumor that Pete Bartman is dead already and just hasn't laid down yet)..... Bob Sandlin





Green Apple Folk Music Society  
P. O. Box 5164  
Appleton, WI 54912



### Laughing Whitefish Gigs

**May 14** 1:00 - 2:00 PM  
Memorial Park Arboretum &  
Gardens, Appleton, WI

**May 28** 2:00 - 4:00 PM  
Voyageur Park, De Pere, WI

**June 12** Noon - 1:00 PM  
Log Cabin Days, Edgerton, WI

**June 15** Evening  
Way-Morr County Park, Brown  
County, WI

**August 6** 9:00 - 11:00 AM  
Lakeside Park, Highway 57  
Jacksonport, WI

**August 13, 2005** 11:00 AM - Noon  
Shawano Old Time Music & Craft  
Festival, Mielke Theater  
Shawano, WI  
[www.fishfolk.com](http://www.fishfolk.com) for more inf.

### Green Apple Compilation CD Project

Mike and Karen Cove have kindly offered to produce a new Green Apple Folk CD containing tracks from Green Apple members. The planned release is the end of September 2005. It will use existing artists tracks - by permission of the artist. The compilation will also provide an opportunity for performing GA artists who don't have a recording to record the one track free of charge at "The Cove" studio in Neenah.

Artists will be expected to pay any copyright fees that might exist (usually around \$57)

For details and to ensure that your track makes the CD please contact the Coves at [mcove@new.rr.com](mailto:mcove@new.rr.com) or call 920-751-9251

### Terry Dawson & Doug Wheeler CD release

The first CD from Terry and Doug was released recently. The project, recorded at "The Cove" titled "Fourteen Roads" is bursting with your favorite songs from these two green Applers. "Wisconsin, Ring around the Moon, Lock-Keeper and many more...

