

**Country Oaks B & B in Mountain View, AR
Hosts Apple, Kirby and Rounds
on March 21, 2009**

by Betty Westmoreland

Mountain View, AR, has long since been the hotspot for bluegrass musicians and fans. No secret about that. Regardless of the season or the weather, folks from all over flock to the Ozark Folk Center, the town square, and restaurants specializing in fried catfish and steak. Bed and breakfast inns cover the area, and this writer has stayed at several of them. One of her favorites is the COUNTRY OAKS BED & BREAKFAST on Highway 9, a lovely farmhouse and carriage house on 69 acres of gorgeous land. Innkeepers JERRY and CAROLE WEBER, and their four-footed assistants, Pearl the cat, and Dusty and Tinker, the two lovable, rescued yellow Labs, provide comfy accommodations, plenty of breathin' room, a well-stocked lake, a walking trail, and breakfasts which are legendary. The Webers are pros at this innkeeper thing. They look after a guest's every need, but they don't smother. Guests appreciate that.

One very special feature of the Country Oaks B & B is something that the Webers call a PARLOR PICKIN' WEEKEND. When the Parlor Pickin' Weekend e-mail arrives in their mailboxes, fans know that there are good times ahead. Fans also know that they need to go ahead and make plans to spend the weekend at the inn because the rooms fill up quickly. For these special weekends, the Webers arrange for performers to stop by the inn on Saturday night to play and sing for their guests.

While there are many fine performers in and around Mountain View, one outstanding group always brings a good crowd to Country Oaks. APPLE, KIRBY AND ROUNDS is BRAD APPLE (guitar, vocals), PAM KIRBY (dulcimer, spoons, vocals), and GARY ROUNDS (guitar, vocals). They are some of the best in the business, separately and collectively. It is rare when these performers have time in their busy schedules to get together for a couple of hours to entertain the guests at Country Oaks. It happened on March 21, 2009, and the band dazzled us as usual with their instrumentals, their vocal harmony, and their witty chit-chat. Apple, Kirby and Rounds music is mellow, well-suited to the parlor of an inn with an old-fashioned flavor. The band and many of the guests know each other, so everyone is at ease.

The evening is filled with impromptu numbers and "Well, what are we gonna play next, y'all?" Because they rarely perform together these days, Apple, Kirby and Rounds just let it flow. Somebody thinks of a song, and they're off. They're seated in front of the fireplace, it's casual, and it works very well. The reader needs to experience the likes of Gary Rounds at least once in his/her life. Gary is one of the most talented singers anywhere, and his little remarks in between songs just keep the audience in stitches. He will occasionally just blow everybody's mind with his comments—including his bandmates!

Brad Apple and Gary Rounds kick off the show, because Pam Kirby has another engagement which keeps her away for the first few numbers. The two men perform Foggy Mountain Rock, Unknown Legend, Green Light on the Southern, and Home Sweet Home Revisited. Two guitars in the hands of experts, two of the finest singers anywhere, and the audience is just mesmerized.

Pam Kirby joins the group and they continue with their program, performing Everything That Glitters Is Not Gold, Ozark Hills, Crooked Ridge, Keep the Lamp On Sadie, Hey Baby, Little Rock, Across the Great Divide, Big Mon, Sweet Dreams, Blackberry Blossom, Crazy Love, Give Yourself to Love, Church Street Blues, Julie Ann, Watermelon, and Lime Rock. Fans were just

waiting to hear Pam sing her lovely songs and play her spoons on Watermelon. How in the world does she do that?

After a break in which the Webers serve dessert and coffee, the band plays one more set: Bonnie Lass (Scotland the Brave), You Shoulda Seen It in Color, Crazy, New Century Hornpipe, Walkaway Joe, Eight More Miles to Louisville, Neighbors (by Charlie Sandage for Pam Kirby's family), Whiskey Before Breakfast, Country Road, I Need You at the Dimming of the Day, Nine-Pound Hammer, Airship, Your Love Is Like a Flower, Doin' My Time, Knockin' on Heaven's Door, Bluebird, Thank You Mr. Martin (the D-18 song), Amy, Red Dirt Girl, and Home (one of this writer's favorites, by Karla Bonoff).

The reader can see that the band's interests range from James Taylor to Pure Prairie League, Tony Rice, Patsy Cline, Kate Wolf, Emmylou Harris, Norman Blake, Josh Graves, and Rodney Crowell. It is always a treat to see and hear the amazing, talented trio of Apple, Kirby and Rounds. It is an extra special bonus when one hears this great band in such a lovely setting as the Country Oaks B & B in the Ozark Hills of Mountain View.

For more information:

Country Oaks Bed & Breakfast: www.countryoaksbb.com or (800)455-2704

Apple, Kirby and Rounds: Contact Brad Apple at www.acousticspectrum.com