

Comin' Down the Road

Important dates for MABA members

October 5-8, 2006

**Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass
Celebration**

Rosine, Kentucky

October 14, 2006

Riverfest

Mud Island – Memphis, TN

November 9-11, 2006

Fall Bluegrass Festival

Ozark Folk Center Auditorium
Mountain View, AK

November 17th, 2006

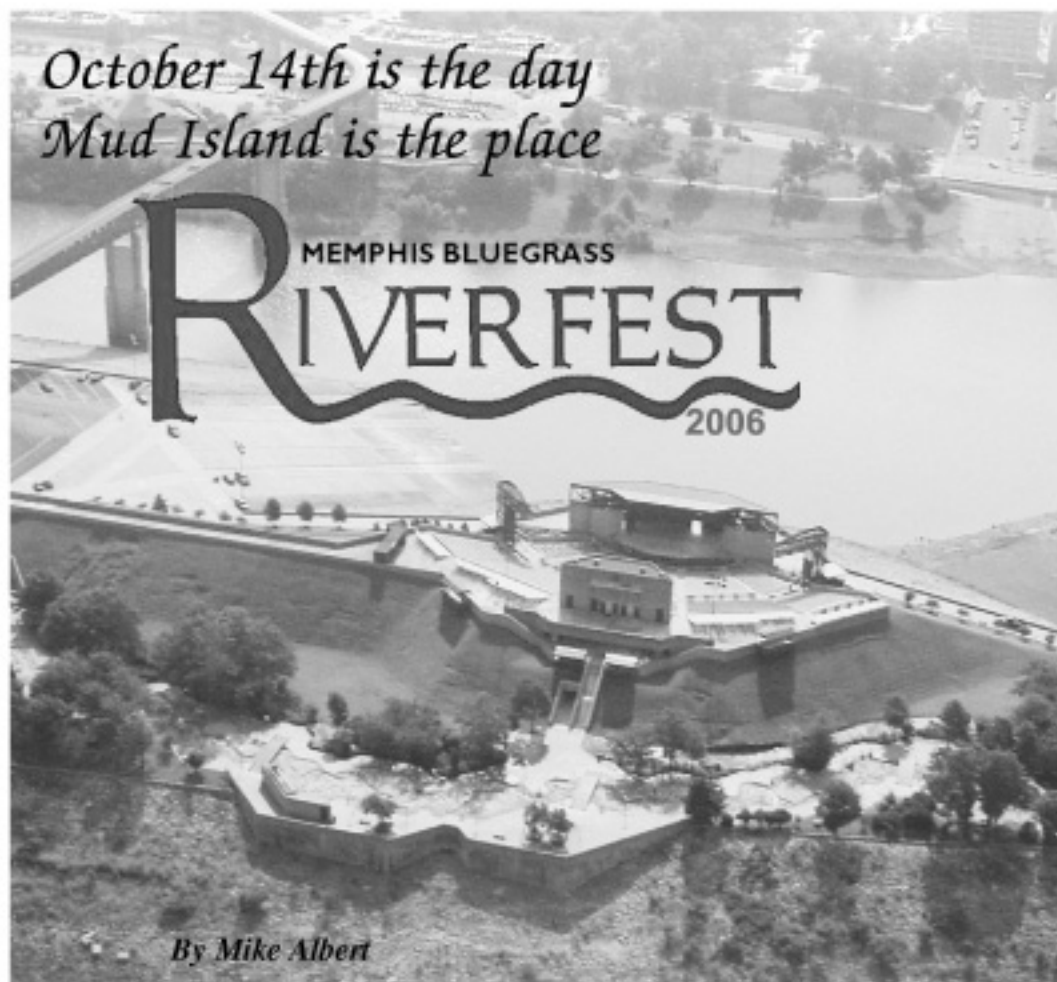
Kenny and Amanda Smith

Lucy Opry at BPACC

January 20-21, 2007

**5th Annual Family Entertainment
Bluegrass Jamboree**

Desoto County Civic Center



By Mike Albert

The third annual Memphis Bluegrass Riverfest is scheduled for Saturday, October 14th at Mud Island in downtown Memphis. There will be approximately 14 MABA bands performing on two stages, one at each end of the park, from 11am till 5pm. This is a great event and something that shouldn't be missed. Bring your instruments and spend the day at the park playing and singing bluegrass music, or bring your folding chair and listen along with your friends. There's not a better way to spend a Saturday!

Mud Island opens at 10am, and admission is FREE. There's lots of parking in their garage on Front Street. From the parking garage, you can

walk across the pedestrian bridge or pay \$2 for a round trip monorail ride. Besides the music, they have canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and bicycles to rent. Mud Island, despite some negative publicity, is really a jewel. It's very clean, safe, and beautifully maintained with lots of flowers, trees and shrubs. For more info, check out their website at: www.mudisland.com

John Gay does a great job putting this festival together along with the help of dozens of MABA members. If you're going to be there, consider volunteering an hour to help out at one of the stages or MABA booths.

See Riverfest 2006, page 2

Visit our website:

www.memphis-bluegrass.org

Join our Yahoo Group:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/
group/maba](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maba)



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Riverfest 2006, continued from page 1

THE PRELIMINARY* SCHEDULE FOR RIVERFEST IS:

COURTYARD STAGE

BAND	TIME
Special Edition	11:00
Ghost River	11:50
Harmony Station	12:40
Hard Drive	1:30
Loosahatchie Grass	2:20
Town Square Pickers	3:10
Single Tree	4:00

GROVE STAGE

BAND	TIME
Critical Path	1:00
HalfGrass	11:50
Grass Fire	12:40
Wolf River Travellers	1:30
Cypress Creek	2:20
Bluegrass Conspiracy	3:10
Gone South	4:00

** Please be aware that this schedule may change.*

I hope to see you there.

- Mike Albert

New Members to date in 2006

Michael W. Avent

Bill Heagerty

Mountain View Bluegrass

Dianna Barbour

Robert E Higginbottom II

Patrick Patchell

Homer Bunker

Earl Hoggard

Bill Pickens

Phil Campbell

Matthew Jackson

Lisa Reinhardt

Henry Carls

Marty Kempke

Bill Seaton

Cockrell Dana

Jeff Koontz

Jeff Smith

Ron Day

Doug Lamb

Linda Sowell

Donna Denly

Perry Main

Douglas Tate

Ron Foskey

Bob Martin

Houston & Dana Tucker

Jim Gafford

Carla Maxwell

Steven D.Tyler

Steve Gaines

Thomas McKeon

Jim Wilson

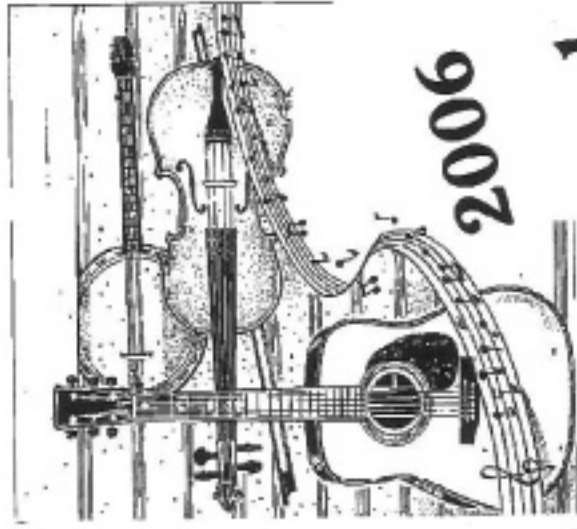
Erie Hadaway

Charles E Mooney

Larry Allen Young

Fall Bluegrass Festival

November 9, 10 & 11



4th Annual

Mountain View

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 The Keisler Brothers ... TF
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 Friday 12:15 PM to 10:00 PM. \$15.00
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Saturday 12:15 PM to 10:30 PM \$18.00
 (All Day Pass)



(All Day Pass)

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or

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*Memphis bluegrassers mix it up
at MABA's Fall Picnic*



Review of Concert by **BLUE HIGHWAY** at the Lucy Opry on September 23, 2006

Neither rain, nor wind, nor threats of thunderstorms with the possibility of tornadoes, could keep the enthusiastic fans of Blue Highway out of the Lucy Opry on September 23, 2006. Bluegrass musicians and fans thrive on adversity, especially where it concerns weather, and there we all were to see the International Bluegrass Music Association-nominated band perform. The house was full of folks who follow and support Blue Highway. Popular favorites at the IBMA and everywhere else they go, Blue Highway makes an annual stop at the Lucy Opry in the Bartlett Performing Arts & Conference Center (BPACC) before they head out to Nashville, TN, and the World of Bluegrass, which is held at the Renaissance Center. Going to a bluegrass search site for groups which represent the tightest vocals and finest instrumental work, the reader would find Blue Highway right there at the top of the list.

Tim Stafford is a spokesman for Blue Highway, and a songwriter's songwriter. Along with his great gift for songwriting, Tim is a master vocalist and guitarist. He has deep roots in West Tennessee, and his sister and brother-in-law are almost always in attendance when Blue Highway plays in these parts. Stafford has managed to nail down the expressions and voice of Ralph Stanley, and he works it into every show, sharing a bit of "O Death," and such songs which Ralph made famous over the years. The routine breaks up the band about as much as it does the audience.

Shawn Lane doesn't say a lot on stage; rather, he saves it for the many songs he has written, for his vocals, and for fine mandolin and fiddle work. Originally from Cattown in Virginia, Shawn Lane now lives in South Carolina. He is something to watch as his hands literally fly on the mandolin. His soulful fiddle reflects how fine it is not to hear every note in the world, but to hear spaces in his work. It takes a real pro to figure those things out, and Shawn Lane is a real pro!

Wayne Taylor is from Abingdon, Virginia, and he, too, writes fine songs and sings with the most amazing quality to his voice. With his 'broomstick' bass tuned perfectly to sound like an upright bass, and his soaring vocals, Wayne Taylor catches everyone's attention as another spokesman for Blue Highway. He is NOT the Wayne Taylor of the US Navy's bluegrass band, Country Current, although they are often confused with each other by folks who don't pay close attention.

Jason Burleson is the only performer in the group who ever left at some point. Fans have noticed that he was gone only a short while and is back. Blue Highway has had its original members for twelve years—an amazing feat in this era of constant change. One of the most solid and clean banjo players you will ever hear, Jason is from North Carolina, which seems to just grow fine banjo players. A guy who really doesn't say anything, Jason lets his banjo do the talking, and talk it does!

Rob Ickes is the shy guy in Blue Highway, but what an awesome performer he is! He ranks as one of the finest Dobro players in the world. He sings, too, folks, and writes song. Originally from, as

Wayne Taylor said, "the home of bluegrass music. . . San Francisco, California" (pause to let it sink in), Rob and his family now live in Franklin, Tennessee. Watching him work is such a joy, as it is to watch each man in the band. Rob Ickes gives workshops for aspiring Dobro players and has the reputation of being an excellent teacher.

FIRST SET

1. Marbletown (written by Mark Knopfler, from CD of the same name),
2. Three-fingered Jack (written by Jason Burleson and Shawn Lane),
3. Lonesome Pines (NA, featured Wayne Taylor),
4. I Am Near the Gate (written by Shawn Lane, a cappella, featured Shawn Lane, Tim Stafford, Wayne Taylor, Rob Ickes),
5. Born with a Hammer in My Hand (written by Tim Stafford),
6. Monrobro (written by Rob Ickes and Aubrey Haynie),
7. I Used to Love Parades (written by Tim Stafford),
8. Tears Fell on Missouri (written by Shawn Lane),
9. Lord, Won't You Help Me (written by Norman Blake, dedicated to Tim Stafford's sister and brother-in-law),
10. Lonesome Road Blues (written by Henry Whittier, often attributed to Woody Guthrie),
11. Wondrous Love (traditional, arranged by members of Blue Highway; Sacred Harp song using shape-note singing, with each member coming separately into the vocals),
12. Machine Gun Kelly (from Rob Ickes' CD "Big Time").

SECOND SET

1. Hung My Head (written by Sting),
2. Wild Urge to Ramble (written by Shawn Lane),
3. Still Climbing Mountains (written by Tim Stafford and Shawn Lane),
4. Lazarus (written by Gary Scroggs, on Marbletown CD),
5. Some Day (written by Olive Stockton and Tim Stafford; Tim's wife's aunt wrote it for her own eulogy),
6. Cold Harbor (written by Tim Stafford, about a Civil War battlefield in Virginia),
7. Riding the Danville Pike (written by Wayne Taylor),
8. He Walked All the Way Home (written by David Norris; about a Civil War soldier),
9. The Ground Is Level at the Foot of the Cross (written by Tim Stafford),
10. The Old Rugged Cross (traditional, arranged by Rob Ickes),
11. Love Me Darlin' Just Tonight (written by Carter Stanley),
12. Between the Rows (written by Shawn Lane and his brother),
13. Nothin' but a Whippoorwill (written by Tim Stafford and Steve Gulley; dedicated to the memory of Doug Cole, founder of the Lucy Opry),
- and 14. the encore was the powerful Seven Sundays in a Row (written by Wayne Taylor, Kim Williams, and Larry Shell).

Take advantage of the opportunity to hear Blue Highway whenever you can. Get their CDs and instructional materials. Take the Alaska Bluegrass Cruise in July of 2007, which features Blue Highway and the Claire Lynch Band. Being with them on a week-long cruise to Juneau, Ketchikan, Skagway, Sawyer Glacier, and Vancouver, BC, would be mighty fine! Passports are required.

Additional information:
www.bluehighwayband.com
www.alaskabluegrasscruise.com

— By Betty Westmoreland

RANDOM NOTES

ANNUAL JERUSALEM RIDGE BLUEGRASS CELEBRATION - October 5th - 8th at Bill Monroe's Birthplace in Rosine, KY. Over 40 bands appearing, including Ralph Stanley. For info call 270-274-9181.

RIVERFEST OCTOBER 14, 2006

As in the prior two festivals, we'll need our members to step forward with bands, sound equipment, people to run the sound, stage help, etc...

DAN LEVENSON BANJO WORKSHOP AND EVENING CONCERT, Sun., Nov. 5 in Nashville at the newly opened Deering Showroom, 1903 Omohundro Ct. The cost for the workshop

and the two hour concert is \$50. To attend just the workshop, the fee is \$40. The charge for the performance is \$10 advance and \$12 at the door. Checks for this event should be made out and mailed to: Todd Wright, c/o Deering Banjo, PO Box 290007, Nashville, TN 37229-0007.

OCTOBER 7: BUTTERFLY GAP (Lee Cagle, mountain dulcimer and Betty Dawson, hammered dulcimer) will perform at The Memphis Farmers' Market from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. as part of their Art Appreciation Day. Exhibits from 40 local artists will be on display as well as fruits, vegetables and flowers. Come out and support our local artists and farmers. Located at the pavillion at Central Station on G.E. Patterson

OCTOBER 5, 19, and 26 -- MOUNTAIN DULCIMER FOR NEW PLAYERS. The class will focus on tuning, strumming techniques and reading tablature. No music experience necessary. Some loaner instruments available. \$10 materials fee payable in class.

NEW FOR THIS FALL: Germantown Parks and Recreation Department has invited Lee Cagle to teach classes in October and November at Union University (formerly Emmanuel Baptist Church), 2745 Hacks Cross Road. Cost: \$70.

BASS WORKSHOP OCT. 28TH AT LOL. Bob Waters and Steve Craig will teach. Thanks

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Matthew Jackson

Grassified space is reserved for members for bluegrass-related items. As with other copy for NewsGrass, the deadline is the 20th of the month prior to publication.

DEADLINE NOTICE

Submit your stories, photos and ads to editor Duke Walker, dukeonbass@yahoo.com by October 20th for publication in the November NewsGrass

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TURN!

VOLUNTEER



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The Lucy Opry

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