

Bear on the Square keeps music, storytelling true to history

By Sharon Hall
Staff Writer

It's old time traditional mountain music. It's authentic mountain crafts and home-made goodies. It's workshops and jam sessions, a children's play and old-fashioned storytelling. And it's all free for those attending the third annual Bear on the Square Festival April 17-18.

Free concerts by recording artists Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz are scheduled for Saturday, 5-6 p.m. and Sunday, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at The Holly Theatre. The duo has been together for nine years and have a strong commitment to the southern rural culture.

Hawker is president of the West Virginia State Folk Festival and has taught at the Augusta Heritage Workshops, where her performance career began in 1984. She has performed several times at the Smithsonian, where her voice has been described as seeming to "distill the experiences of the southern Appalachians." Schwarz plays fiddle, banjo and guitar with the New Lost City Ramblers and was nominated for a Grammy this year for a recording with that group. He has toured Europe twice, promoted by the Cultural Affairs Offices of the U.S. Embassies in Spain and Portugal. The duo has recorded several CDs on the Copper Creek label. They will perform this summer at the Augusta Heritage Center's vocal week and the Sewal Mountain Gaitheys' Old Time Week.

Schwarz will join with Fletcher Bright, John Grimm and Barbara Panter to conduct a comparative fiddle styles

workshop on the lawn at the Conner House Saturday, noon-12:45 p.m. He and Hawkins will then lead an Appalachian singing workshop from 1-1:45 p.m.

With tight instrumentals and vocal blends, The Dismembered Tennesseans, a six-member band made up of Fletcher Bright on fiddle, banjo player Doc Cullis, guitarist Bobby Martin, Don Cassell on the mandolin, Louis Wamp on dobro and bass player Laura Walker, will join with Dahlonega's own Home-made Jam for a concert at the Holly Theatre, 2-3:30 p.m.

Glenda Pender on rhythm guitar, Nick Pender on bass, Don Smith on hammered dulcimer, mountain dulcimer, tin whistle, guitar and gijo and Laeta Smith on fiddle, accordion, autoharp and Celtic harp. They have been together four years after meeting during informal jam sessions at a local coffee house.

In addition to the Saturday concert with The Dismembered Tennesseans, Home-made Jam members Don and Laeta Smith will hold a workshop on the roots of Appalachian music on the lawn at the Conner House Sunday, 12:45-1:30 p.m.

An outdoor family band concert featuring The Morgans will be held at the new city green at Park and Warwick streets from 12:15-1 p.m. Three generations are represented in the group founded by Tom Morgan. He plays guitar, mandolin and bass. Rick Morgan plays bass fiddle. Scott Morgan plays lead guitar and mandolin. Scott Morgan's wife, Helen, son, Zac, and daughter, Sarah, make up the rest of the group. The Morgans



Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz are only one of the musical attractions at Bear on the Square. The duo played at last year's concert to overflow crowds.

will also host a traditional music workshop especially for children after their performance from 1:30-2:15 p.m.

Sunday 1:30-2:30 the versatile sounds of The Shoal Creek band can be heard at The Holly Shoal Creek plays a variety of music including the traditional style of Flatt & Scruggs and Bill Monroe, the mountain style of the Stanley Brothers and more progressive styles. Guitar, mandolin, banjo, bass and fiddle are played by Jim Bennett, Al Hoyle, Eddie Hoyle, Nick Pender and Steve Welsch.

Several other music workshops will be held Saturday and Sunday. Carl McDonald, a native of Lumpkin County, will lead a guitar workshop 11-11:45 a.m. Saturday. Tony Denham with the Georgia Potlickers will lead a banjo workshop Saturday, 4-4:50 p.m.

Sunday's workshops include Judy Walden and Carl McDonald's traditional Appalachian music workshop for children and Dahlonega resident and Georgia Potlickers member John Grimm's fiddle workshop from 3-3:45 p.m.

Several events besides children's workshops are planned for the younger set. Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon and Sunday, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Chris Mulholland III will tell stories at the city green at Warwick and

Park streets. Sponsored by the Lumpkin County Library and Quigley's Rare Books, Mulholland is a member of the Southern Order of Storytellers, National Storytelling Association, and guitar player in the Filthy Lucy String Band.

Mulholland is a "for fun" storyteller who tells to both adults and children tales of his adventuresome youth. Some are in the tall tale category, but he believes all his stories are true—they just may not be factual.

Both festival days at 2:30 p.m. the children's play "Goldilocks & The Three Bears on the Square" will be performed at the city green. This play was written especially for the Bear on the Square Festival by playwright Tim Quigley and is presented by The Holly Theatre Group. A Teddy Bear Picnic will be held at the city green Saturday and Sunday 3:15-4:14 p.m.

Saturday night John Kelley will call the tune at a folk dance in the Welcome Center plaza. Kelley is a member of The Tune Dogs, and old-time band from Atlanta. John Grimm, Tody

Denham and Rick Taylor, otherwise known as The Georgia Potlickers, will provide music.

Sunday morning 11 a.m. until noon the lawn of the Conner House will be filled with musicians, singers and listeners for an hour of gospel music. Home-made Jam will play, but all are welcome to join in.

There will be jam sessions on the square from opening to closing both days. Traditional mountain crafts will be exhibited and demonstrated and the Wiggin Fund for Traditional Music will have a tent featuring information and regional books on mountain music and offer a chance to meet the authors. The tent will also be open for jam sessions all day.

Bear on the Square commemorates the visit of a bear cub to the square in April 1996. The festival is presented by the Dahlonega Merchants Association and sponsored by Bank of Dahlonega, WDRG AM 1210, WKHC FM 104.3 and the Wiggin Fund. All events are free. For more information, call 864-3711.

Plan includes upgrades, building

Continued from Page 1A

at an unknown cost.

- construct a water supply reservoir over the next five years at a cost of \$4 million using a joint city/county low interest loan.

- upgrade equipment and communications in the sheriff's office from county general funds. This should be a five year process.
- update EMS and fire equipment from county general funds over the next five years.

- construct new park & rec facilities in the next two years at an unknown cost; bids are currently out for this project.

- construction of three new fire stations at a cost of \$1.2 million funded by a 1-cent sales tax.

Under the natural resources section of the plan, the county blueprint includes

- adopting environmental land use regulations to protect the water supply and bring the watershed protection up to protected river standards at an unknown cost using county general funds in 2000.

- handle the leaching landfill at an unknown cost using county general funds and state grants in the next two years.

- consider the adoption of model flood hazard prevention ordinance of Federal Emergency Management Agency at an estimated cost of \$2,000 with the assistance of FEMA and GMRDC in 2002.

Under land use, the county anticipates

- adoption of land use or zoning regulations over the next two years at an unknown cost.
- preparation of a comprehensive revision of subdivision regulations in 2002 at an estimated cost of \$5,000.

- assess the adequacy of existing land development regulations and codify into one set of regulations this year at a cost of \$10,000 funded by GMRDC.

- In housing, the county plans to
 - this year, continue to provide favorable comments and letters of support for private sector initiatives (no cost).

- review county policies to minimize negative impact on housing affordability over a five year period (no cost).

- assess local support for a countywide housing program during 1999 (no cost).

- authorize the Dahlonega Housing Authority to operate in the unincorporated area of the county in 1999 (no cost).

Economic development plans are to develop a strategic plan for overall economic development during the next two years. The county estimates no cost for this project.

One historic resource effort the county plans to make over the next five years is to encourage nomination of one historic resource to the National Register of Historic Places sometime during the next five years.

The plan is now under review by GMRDC. It will hold hearings in which concerned public agencies, and local and contiguous county governments have an opportunity to give input. The plan will then go to the Department of Community Affairs for final approval. Once approved, it will be officially adopted by the county.

"The commissioner is pretty shrewd. If anybody can get the money, Charlie Riddle can," said planning director Cecil Arendale when asked where the money for the proposed projects would come from. "He's leaning toward user pay back as much as possible. Charlie's position is that he won't spend a lot of general funds when user pay back can be implemented. This isn't pie in the sky stuff. I feel like it's attainable."

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