

ARTS/ALIVE

Art News from West Plains Council on the Arts

Gallery At the Center: "The Ozarks in Reality and Imagination" Art Exhibit— Current and Retired Art Teachers—Sept. 15 - Oct. 13

September 19 (5:30-7 p.m.) Opening for Ozarks Studies Symposium and Meet the Artists

September 19 - 21— Ozarks Studies Symposium "The Ozarks in Reality and Imagination"

November 3 (2:30 p.m.) - Community Messiah Sing



The Old-Time Music, Ozarks Heritage Festival will celebrate its 25th year Friday and Saturday, May 31 and June 1. The two-day annual event in downtown West Plains, Mo., celebrates the distinctive music and culture of the Ozarks High-

lands. Admission to all festival events is free. Festival hours will be noon—9 p.m. both days.

"The overall mission of the Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival is about preserving traditions, and there are few traditions as close to people's hearts as music," said festival organizers. "For our 25th year, we've invited back many of the artists who have performed over the years, as well as a few who were on the organizing committee for the Festival in the beginning. Our performers this year were chosen for their long-standing artistic excellence, career milestones and legacies that span ages and tradition. It is a combination that will be special for audiences of all ages. These performers truly exhibit that great music rooted in storied traditions transcends generations."

THE CREEK ROCKS – 8 p.m. Friday, May 31

The Creek Rocks are a folk group from the Ozarks led by banjoist Cindy Woolf and guitarist Mark Bilyeu. These longtime musical collaborators worked together on Cindy's three CDs of original songs starting in 2005, then got married in 2013, and established The Creek Rocks in 2015. Mark is a founding member of the Ozarks family band Big Smith.



The duo version of The Creek Rocks will headline at this year's festival! In addition to their Wolf-Hunter material, they'll be performing

arrangements of songs from yet another treasure trove of Ozarks folkways, the Mary Celestia Parler Collection. Ms. Parler gathered and recorded while she taught Folklore and English at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, from 1949 to 1978. When it comes to folk music, she ultimately out-collected her better-known male counterparts Hunter, Wolf and even Vance Randolph, who she married in 1962. The Creek Rocks joins other enthusiasts who want to bring more attention to Mary and her accomplishments.

NORA JANE STRUTHERS – 8 p.m. Saturday, June 1



Nora Jane Struthers has written "some of the most quietly powerful narratives within the new wave of Americana artists," says Ann Powers of NPR Music.

There's an honesty and energy to Nora Jane's stage presence; a vulnerability that is part and parcel of great artistry. In one moment, she joyfully leads the audience in a dance party ... in the next, she lays her soul bare for the world to hear. A performance by Nora Jane and her band is full to the brim with stellar musicianship, unexpected arrangements that blur the lines between folk, roots, and rock, and an audible sense that everyone in the room is having a damn good time.

Born in Virginia and raised in New Jersey, Nora Jane grew up playing and singing bluegrass and country music with her banjo-playing father. After a move to Nashville, Tennessee and a brief stint fronting the band Bearfoot, in 2012 she formed her band the Party Line and started taking her songs on the road, creating a sound that blends infectious rock with her country roots. She fronts the band on acoustic and electric guitar and is joined by Joe Overton (banjo, fiddle and steel guitar), Josh Vana (electric guitar and harp), Brian Miller (bass) and Drew Lawhorn (drums). Now, after hundreds of performances at venues and festivals from coast to coast, the band is known as much for their tight, high energy live show as for Struthers' smart and disarming lyrics.

Nora Jane Struthers is "remarkable," says Ann Powers of NPR Music, and writes music that is "as powerful as anything Jason Isbell released this year." The songs that last decades and weave themselves into the fabric of listeners' lives are usually the ones in which an artist lays her soul bare for the world to hear. Struthers' new album *Champion*, released at the close of 2017, is built on these kinds of songs.

Struthers wrote and recorded the album with her longtime road band the Party Line, and the chemistry between her and the other players is palpable. *Champion* is the follow-up to 2015's *Wake*, and earned Struthers acclaim from major outlets like NPR's *Fresh Air*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Vice/Noisey*, who raved that "Nora Jane Struthers and her band sound ready to take over Americana completely ... bringing a fuller, harder sound to the table."

Patt & Possum – Learn an Ozark Fiddle Tune – Friday noon

After twenty plus years of playing traditional music together Patt Plunkett and Charlie Walden (aka Patt & Possum) have learned a thing or two about Ozark fiddling. Charlie and Patt both grew up listening to and playing traditional mid-western fiddle music. Charlie learned as a teenager at the feet of some of Missouri's finest old-time fiddlers, including Pete McMahan, Taylor McBaine and Cyril Stinnett.

Jig Dance Workshop for Area Students – Steve Green with the Roe Family Band – Friday 1PM

Steve is a traditional dancer who delights in introducing young folks of all ages to Old Time square dancing, percussion, and percussive dance. His approach to teaching Flatfoot and Buck dance is to find and encourage the inner drummer and noisemaker that exists in all of us! The Ozark Heritage Workshop will start with the joyful noise of hand clapping and foot stomping to get the sounds in our heads, and then begin connecting those sounds to the rhythms of Old-Time music.

Banjo – Van Colbert – Friday 2PM

Old-time music has been a family tradition for generations for Colbert Brothers Leon, Van, Vernon and John. "Mom and Dad instilled in us the love of their music," said Van, who is known for his unique "two-finger" roll style on banjo.

Old-Time Fiddle – Billy Mathews – Special two-hour workshop Friday, 3-5PM

Billy Mathews (Carroll County) is an Arkansas State Champion, the first recipient of the J. Mulkey Kent award and has just completed the "500 Fiddle Tunes – Old-Time Archive" book transcribed by Emily Elam from Mountain View, Arkansas.

Jig Dance Workshop – Kim Roe and the Roe Family Band – Saturday Noon

Kim Roe is a traditional dancer who loves introducing folks of all ages to her unique style of Appalachian Clogging. She has been dancing most of her life, and clogging with the Roe Family Singers, for 6 years. Her personal style of Appalachian Clogging focuses on joyful and non-choreographed improvisation based on responding to the music she is dancing to. Kim's workshop is for all ages and experience levels. It will start with the basic foot work involved in clogging and will progress to putting the steps together to form simple routines, with an emphasis on improvisation and self-expression through dance.

Ozark Square Dance Fiddle – Michael Fraser of Shortleaf – Saturday 1PM

"Where have all the dancers gone, gone to graveyards every one."

This statement begs the question of why are there not more young folks getting involved in the traditional dances of the Ozarks?

It is **not** a workshop on how to square dance but will give an introduction to the things that make this style of dancing and fiddling unique as compared to modern square dancing.

Mandolin – Michael Fraser of Shortleaf – Saturday 2PM

"If you want to play the fiddle learn the mandolin. If you don't want to play the fiddle learn mandolin anyway".

Many fiddlers that I have come across also play mandolin. The instrument is a great tool for learning tunes and chords that will allow participation in jam sessions or performance. The workshop will cover the basics of mandolin techniques for learning Old-Time and Celtic styles. The workshop will be most beneficial to beginners and intermediate players.

Musical Saw – Duane Porterfield – Saturday 3PM

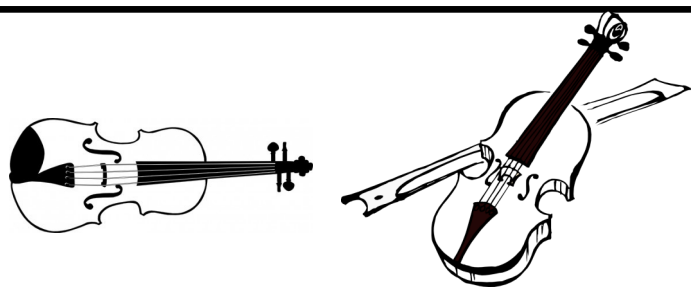
Eerie, weird, beautiful, horrible; Just a few of the words used to describe the "music" of the saw. Duane Porterfield provides the experience for this workshop. Check the website for specifics of saw and bow requirements. The main focus of the workshop will be dedicated to learning the technique used to produce musical notes on the saw. Every band needs a saw player, kinda..

Dulcimer and Harp – Stringfield – Saturday 4PM

Victoria Johnson and Turner Collins will demonstrate and discuss the history of hammer dulcimer and harp. Come and learn all about the instruments. Bring your instrument if you have one.

Fingerpicking Guitar – Dennis Crider – Saturday 5PM

Inspired by Chet Atkins and Merle Travis, Dennis Crider learned the fingerpicking technique at the age of 12. This workshop will illustrate several methods of picking a guitar without the aid of picks.....only a thumb and three fingers. Another focus will involve playing rhythm fingerstyle.



**"Ideal" Pickin' Spot this year at the
Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival**

This year Festival organizers are preparing an "ideal" spot for pickin'. All Saints Episcopal Church will once again open their side yard on East Main to festival attendees, and this grassy, shady area will make a great spot for our guests to sit and jam. We'll have strawbales and chairs placed there and hope our visiting musicians will take advantage of this cool spot to get together and make music. It's just far enough from the outside stage to eliminate conflicting music. Hope to see it used all throughout the two days!

FRIDAY PERFORMERS

Full descriptions available on the website www.oldtimemusic.org/2019 Performers

Shortleaf – A Tribute to Cathy Barton Para Friday, 6PM – Outside Stage

Veteran performers Michael Fraser, and Tenley Hansen return once again with music inspired by Ozark's culture past and present. They are joined by David Wilson and Jodie Forbes, with guest performances by Marideth Sisco and Van Colbert. This performance will be a tribute to old-time musician Cathy Barton Para, who passed away in April.

Noon Friday – Outside Stage – Youth Showcase

Fiddlers from the Southern Ozarks Youth Orchestra will showcase their old-time music skills. Simple gifts, Ashoken Farewell, Peekaboo Waltz, and Arkansas Traveler will be among their offerings. Begun in 2013, Director Danyal Sallee says, "I teach some fiddle tunes so the students can be exposed to all types of music and continue the heritage of the Ozarks."

Noon Friday – Theater Stage - Shortleaf

The Ozarks' Comes Alive! – Through storytelling, and music, as performed by The Shortleaf Band. Veteran performers Michael Fraser, and Tenley Hansen return once again with music inspired by Ozark's culture past and present. The music and stories of the Scots/Irish settlers were inspired through a combination of where they came from, where they settled and how they survived.

1 p.m. Friday – Theater Stage – Fiddin' Banjo Billy and The Old Time Players

Billy Mathews and The Old Time Players (Paul and Christine Breen) are a unique group of dedicated old-time musicians committed to the preservation of our American musical heritage. This group plays a wide variety of traditional American musical styles including hoedowns, schottische, jigs, reels, cakewalks, polkas, waltzes and ragtime pieces from the early 20th century.

1 p.m. Friday – Outside Stage – Finley River Boys

The Finley River Boys is a high-energy, acoustic bluegrass band that performs a wide variety of bluegrass, country, folk, and gospel songs. The band's unique, rich blend of tight, four-part harmonies and intricate instrumental breaks captivate audiences everywhere. The Finley River Boys feature Brad Reynolds, Bill Crider, Brett Dudenhoeffer, and Alan Johnston.

2 p.m. Friday – Theater Stage – McAlister and Lansford

Kim Lansford and Nathan McAlister bring together fiddle, banjo, guitar and vocal harmonies to tell the story of the Ozark hills through song. Kim and Nathan join together to offer a unique and raw approach to Ozarks and traditional southern mountain music.

2 p.m. Friday – Outside Stage – Patt & Possum: Old Time Fiddle & Piano - Missouri Style

After twenty plus years of playing traditional music together Patt Plunkett and Charlie Walden (aka Patt & Possum) have learned a thing or two about getting along musically. Charlie and Patt both grew up listening to and playing traditional mid-western fiddle music. They serve as instructors at several music camps, giving instruction on fiddle, piano styles, traditional dance and vocal music.

3 p.m. Friday – Theater Stage – Judy Domeny Bowen

Rogersville, Missouri native Judy Domeny Bowen is a well-respected performer of traditional Ozark folk songs and ballads as well as contemporary farm-oriented songs and original songs based on her career as school teacher. Judy's energetic delivery, clear singing, excellent guitar playing and witty commentary will put a smile on your face and bring back happy memories of days gone by.

3 p.m. Friday – Outside Stage – Steve Green with the Roe Family Band

Steve Green is a percussive dancer, and teaches flatfoot and buck dance, but delights in combining traditional styles in what he calls "smooth buck". He has performed and taught by invitation at festivals in Ireland, Scotland, and England. In 2015 he won firsts at the National Buck Dancing Championship in Murfreesboro, the Clifftop Old-Time Music Festival, and the August Heritage Festival.

4 p.m. Friday – Theater Stage – Davis Creek Rounders

It's the long-awaited return of one of this festival's earliest old-time music groups - the Davis Creek Rounders. Over the decades a number of musicians, both local and those passing through, sat in every Thursday in the music room at the home of MSU biology professor Rick Cochran. Crider, Wagoner and Sisco are pleased to be returning to the OTMF stage.

4 p.m. Friday – Outside Stage – Lyal Strickland

The songs Lyal Strickland writes are like the world he lives in: A little tough sometimes, doggedly inspiring at others, but always absolutely real.

5 p.m. Friday – Outside Stage – Willi Carlisle

Willi Carlisle is a folksinger and storyteller based in Arkansas. With years of collecting folklore, calling square dances, mentoring under old masters, and tirelessly touring festivals, honky-tonks, and house-concerts, Willi Carlisle is a multi-faceted writer, performer, and instrumentalist with a big voice, a banjo, fiddle, guitar, button-box, and more.

More detailed information and schedule of all the artists and events is available at the website <http://www.oldtimemusic.org>

SATURDAY PERFORMERS

Full descriptions available on the website www.OLDTIMEMUSIC.ORG/2019 Performers

6PM Saturday – Outside Stage – Roe Family Singers

The Roe Family Singers (Kim Roe, Quillan Roe, Eric Paulson, and Ric Lee) are a Good-Time, Old-Time Hillbilly band led by wife & husband Kim and Quillan Roe featuring banjo, Autoharp, guitar, and Appalachian clogging. They mix original music and contemporary takes on old-time, traditional, and gospel tunes into one roiling & rollicking river of fresh yet familiar American music.

Noon Saturday – Theater Stage – The Colbert Brothers

Old-time music has been a family tradition for generations for Colbert Brothers Leon, Van, Vernon and John, all of whom hail from Willow Springs, Mo. "Mom and Dad instilled in us the love of their music, and to this day we play, sing and remember," said Van, who is known for his unique "two-finger" roll style on banjo.

Noon Saturday – Outside Stage – Ozark Mountain Dulcimers

Ozark Mountain Dulcimers is a mountain dulcimer group which has been together since March 2017. The members of Ozark Mountain Dulcimers share a passion for the mountain dulcimer. Their main music genre is traditional folk music, but there are also splashes of Celtic, country, bluegrass, and gospel. Members are Ginny White, Rhonda Jones, Joyce Creed, June Day, and Becky Marsolf.

1 p.m. Saturday – Theater Stage – Duane Porterfield

Duane Porterfield is an award-winning multi-instrumentalist or as he is often referred to, "That dulcimer player that always wears those overalls." "The mountain dulcimer has been the medicine that relieves my headache, has taken me back to a simpler time, and has introduced me to some of my closest friends," he says.

1 p.m. Saturday – Outside Stage – D Clinton Cochran

The D Clinton Cochran duo features veteran guitarists Donnie (D Clinton) Thompson and Michael Cochran. Friends since the '70s, the two guitarists started working together in 2016, developing a repertoire of originals, old favorites and obscure gems.

2 p.m. Saturday – Outside Stage – Jeremy Myers

Singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jeremy Myers artfully presents his hopes, dreams, victories, and adventures in song to weave a vibrant tapestry of a distinctly American countryside that will make you feel right at home. Jeremy captivates audiences with his skillful command of fiddle, mandolin, clawhammer banjo, and cello

Towards an African-American History of Olden and West

Plains, Missouri presentation by Dr. Jason McCollom, Assistant Professor of History at Missouri State University-West Plains., will be showcased at 10 a.m. Saturday, June 1 at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 112 Aid Avenue in West Plains, with refreshments to follow..

3 p.m. Saturday – Theater Stage – Springfield

Stringfield is a truly unique band that always includes the unique sound of the hammer dulcimer. It includes Victoria Johnson, Celtic harper Turner Collins, and Lonnie Jones on bass.

3 p.m. Saturday – Outside Stage – Ozark Highballers

The Ozark Highballers, a string band from Fayetteville, Arkansas, and their music reflects the spirit and drive of the rural Ozark string bands of the 1920s and '30s. Members include Roy Pilgrim, Clarke Buehling, and Aviva Steigmeyer. The band is often joined by Fayetteville fiddler Pete Howard.

4 p.m. Saturday – Theater Stage – Emily Dowden Band

Emily Dowden Estes is a musician/singer/songwriter from the Missouri Ozarks, and grew up around old-time and bluegrass music, playing professionally with her sisters at a young age. Emily performed at the very first Festival as a kid, with her family band.

4 p.m. Saturday – Outside Stage – Fiddlin' Banjo Billy and The Old Time Players

Billy Mathews and The Old Time Players (Paul and Christine Breen) are a unique group of dedicated old-time musicians, committed to the preservation of our American musical heritage. This group plays a wide variety of traditional American musical styles including hoedowns, schottische, jigs, reels, cakewalks, polkas, waltzes and ragtime pieces from the early 20th century.

5 p.m. Saturday – Theater Stage – Drifters Mile

Drifters Mile is a group of guys brought together by a love for country/ bluegrass music. In concert, you can expect to see a high energy performance filled with a wide range of country music from original compositions and old timey bluegrass standards, to smile-inducing covers from the 70's and 80's.

5 p.m. Saturday – Outside Stage – Bona Fide String Band

The Bona Fide String Band, an old-time group based in Hardy, Ark, include members Greg Cox, Lisa Culver, Jeff Kamps, and Debbie Kamps and plan to turn back the clock for some old-time string band music and vocals.



The State of Missouri turns 200 years old on August 10, 2021. Missouri Bicentennial Paint For A Cause was created to celebrate this event.

The crawfish section of the mural will be available for individuals to paint at this year's Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival. There is no charge to participate, but donations will be accepted.

Information about the full project is available at the Missouri 2021 website missouri2021.org/ or the Facebook page www.facebook.com/MissouriBicentennialPaintForACause/

For more information about this Paint for a Cause activity in West Plains, contact Paula Speraneo at 417-293-2325 or the West Plains Council on the Arts at info@westplainsarts.org

Old Time Music Festival, contd.

—EVENT HIGHLIGHTS—

What's Cookin' Stage, sponsored by Aid Downtown Antiques, celebrates its 15th Anniversary,

12th Annual Mule Jump— Demonstration at 3 p.m. and competition 6 p.m. - both on Saturday

Square Dancing— 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday

17th Annual Bob Holt Old-Time Jig Dancing Competition— 2 p.m. Saturday, in the Civic Center theater.

Bicentennial Paint for a Cause— Civic Center lobby both days

Kennel Club Demonstrations—1 PM Saturday at E. Main and Curry

Bucket Brigade— 3 and 6 p.m. Friday; 1, 3 and 6 p.m. Saturday

Children's Activities for all ages—East Lawn, 5-8 p.m. both days

Fiddlers Frolic—5 p.m. Friday in the Civic Center theater.

Quilt Show in the Magnolia Room, upstairs at the Civic Center, and "Quilt Turning" demonstrations on the mezzanine.

Beards of the Ozarks Competition 6 p.m. Saturday, Dogwood Room

Artisans/Demonstrators will include:

Country Heritage Spinners and Weavers Guild - Ava, MO

Elohi Spirit Gourds—Pottersville, MO

GOFarm Market - West Plains, MO

Heat, Beat and Repeat—Granby, MO

Diane Hermann—Gepp, AR

June's Brooms—Granby, MO

Missouri Department of Conservation—West Plains, MO

Ozark Older Iron Club—West Plains, MO

Quiet Lady Beadwork—Caulfield, MO

Tena Redfield, Soap Maker—West Plains, MO

Southern Belle Grandmothers Club - Quilt Show - West Plains, MO

South Central Missouri Kennel Club—West Plains, MO

West Plains Area Farmers Market—West Plains, MO

The Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival is the signature event for West Plains. The two-day festival seeks to celebrate, preserve, pass on and nurture an appreciation of the old-time music and folk life traditions distinctive to the Ozark Highlands.

Festival Partners include West Plains Council on the Arts, City of West Plains, Ozark Heritage Welcome Center, West Plains Civic Center, and Missouri State University-West Plains. Partial funding for this event was provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.

Questions should be sent to info@westplainsarts.org

The Ozarks in Reality and Imagination

Ozarks Studies Symposium and Art Exhibit



Sept. 15 - Oct. 13, 2019— the Current and Retired Art Teachers "The Ozarks in Reality and Imagination" mixed media exhibit will be featured on the mezzanine at the West Plains Civic Center. This exhibit will complement the Ozarks Studies Symposium of the same theme to be held September 19 - 21.

Symposium information is available through their website: <https://ozarksymposium.wp.missouristate.edu/>

Ozark Heritage Show

L.L. Broadfoot
Collection
May 30th - June 29th



Broadfoot's "Pioneer of the Ozarks" series will be on display at the Harlin Museum, as well as projections of his lesser known "Stoney of the Wildwood" series during the Ozark Heritage Show May 30 through June 29. This is the only time during the calendar year that the public can view the majority of the Broadfoot collection. This display will be available during the Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival May 31 and June 1. There is also a planned event at the museum that will include the descendants of those residents immortalized in the Pioneer of the Ozarks series.

Thru 5/26: 2019 Harlin Museum Photography Show

6/1: June Gala Night @ the Museum: Celebrating the Works of L.L. Broadfoot w/music by Sean McCormick

Visitors can check the museum's website at www.harlinmuseum.com for up-to-date event info or follow the museum on FB @HarlinMuseumWP or IG @Harlin.Museum.WP to receive show & workshop information, art news, and historical pieces about the Southern Missouri/Northern Arkansas Ozarks region.

Disney's
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL



MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN
LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN & TIM RICE

The Avenue Theater Presents Disney's Beauty and the Beast

July 12-21, 2019

Details on their calendar at:

<http://theavenuetheatre.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheAvenueTheatre/>

[TheAvenueTheatre/](http://theavenuetheatre.org)



"500 Fiddle Tunes – Old-Time Archive" Book Signing at Festival

Festival organizers will host a book signing by Fiddlin' Banjo Billy Mathews for his new archive of old-time fiddle tunes. The author will be available on Saturday, June 1, at 5:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Lobby for a meet-and-greet, and will have available his new CD "Jambusters I."

WPCA NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 339

West Plains, MO 65775

**WPCA receives funding from the
Missouri Arts Council, a state agency,**



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UPCOMING EVENTS IN WEST PLAINS



**The Fine Arts Academy of the Avenue
Theatre will present Wind in the Willows
at the Avenue June 6-9, 2019**



**Children's Ballet of the Ozarks
presents The Little Mermaid Bal-
let June 14 and 15, 2 p.m. and 7
p.m. each day at the West Plains
Civic Center Theater.**



West Plains Council on the Arts board members include Leigh Adams, Terri Combs, Kerri Jones, Tiffany Neece, Kris Norman, and Arts Administrator Paula Speraneo. Website: <http://www.westplainsarts.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/westplainsarts>