

The Boozy Creek String Band Makes CFS Debut April 13th

By Wanda Hubicki

Friday the 13th will be a lucky day for old-time music fans when **The Boozy Creek String Band** performs at our April Gathering concert. For a guaranteed toe-tapping good time, join us at 7:30 PM in the Bryant Recital Hall of the Sloan-Morgan Building on the Central CPCC Campus at 1220 Elizabeth Avenue in Charlotte.



The Boozy Creek String Band

CFS Gatherings are family-friendly and free, although donations are appreciated. Enjoy a short refreshment break after the concert and stay on for a jam session or song circle. Free parking is available in the Central Piedmont Community College Staff Deck off Fourth Street, between Independence Boulevard and Kings Drive. Questions? Call 704-563-7080.

Question: What has ten legs, 81 strings, and 100+ years collective playing experience? Answer: **The Boozy Creek String Band**. The five-piece group includes Jeff Winegar (fiddle), Steve Davidson (upright stick bass), Gerry Davidson (guitar), Jake McMurray

(banjo), and Scott Reed (hammered dulcimer); all contribute on the vocals. The hammered dulcimer may not be considered a standard instrument among old-time bands, but it works beautifully, brightening the sound and adding its percussion to the mix.

The Boozy Creek String Band, like many bands, started by chance. Steve Davidson and Jeff Winegar

began playing together in 1974 and the next year they began jamming with Gerry Davidson, Steve's brother. Many evenings were spent playing tunes on the banks of the Holston River in Scott County, Virginia. In 1976 they teamed up with fiddler Greg Bond and guitar player and singer Rita Sims Quillen to form **The Dead String Squawkers**. In 1979 Greg and Rita left due to other obligations and it was back to just three. The remaining players chose **Boozy Creek String Band** as the band's name and played as a trio until 1983, at times joined by Richard Blaustein on the fiddle.

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Betty Smith Presents Jane Hicks Gentry April 21st

Lovers of folk music have a special opportunity this month! Madison County storyteller, ballad singer, and musician Betty Smith will introduce her audience to Jane Hicks Gentry during a **free** program on Saturday, April 21, at 3 PM in the Francis Auditorium of the Main Library, 310 North Tryon Street, in downtown Charlotte. Betty Smith will intersperse the story of Gentry with ballads, songs, tales, and riddles. **Reservations are required; call 704-336-2074 to reserve your place.**

Gentry was a North Carolina mountain woman whose life revolved around her family and an oral tradition of story and song; she is renowned for having shared more songs and ballads with famous British folk song collector Cecil Sharp than any other singer in the southern mountains. Forty of these songs are found in Sharp's **English Folk Songs from the Southern Appalachians**.

Betty Smith (M.Ed., Georgia State University) has performed, taught, and shared the traditional music of the South for more than 35 years in classrooms, concert halls, workshops, and festivals. She has combined her musical

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Gerry moved to Chicago. Steve started to play more progressive music with his other friends and Jeff moved to Charlotte and ran around the country playing with the **Rough Riders**. Through the years, though, they continued to reconnect and play at pig pickins and parties for their Big Moccasin (Virginia) friends and fellow Scott County natives several times a year.

Then, Jeff's nephew Jake Mcmurray took to the claw hammer banjo like a duck to water and their old friend and jamming buddy Scott Reed joined them on his hammered dulcimer and he fit right in. Keeping to the tradition of all Scott County boys, the Boozy Creek Boys are refueled and ready to roll.

The Boozy Creek String Band, now celebrating thirty-three years together, has recorded twenty songs and tunes on the newly released CD, **Now More Than Ever**. To listen to samples, visit www.boozycreekstringband.com or www.folksociety.org.



The vitality of the performances on this recording makes me really anticipate hearing the band live in April. I have to agree with Dale Jett of Carter's Fold in Hiltons, Virginia: "In Scott County, Virginia a small stream begins, initially fed by spring water. As it winds its way into East Tennessee, it increases in size, fed by runoff water from the many hills and hollers. It's called Boozy Creek. There are a lot of good things that come out of those hills and hollers. The water, the people, the moonshine, the music. Have a little taste of Boozy Creek. I think you'll be glad you did."

(*Betty Smith, continued from page 1.*)

roots and talents with her skills as a communicator to present musical experiences that have been described as "unique" and "magical."



Betty Smith

With her extensive collection of Southern, Appalachian, and British ballads, folk songs, and hymns, she takes her audience on a cultural voyage.

Betty Smith is the author of **Jane Hicks Gentry: A Singer Among Singers**, and a one-woman play, **A Mountain Riddle**, and has received numerous awards in recognition of her research, writing, and contributions to preserving folklife traditions. Among these are "The Historian of the West 2000" and the "Willie Parker Peace History Book Award 1998" by the North Carolina Society of Historians. In 2001, the North Carolina Folklore Society's presented her with the Brown-Hudson Award for her contributions to the study and appreciation of folklife in North Carolina. Ms. Smith was awarded the 2002 Bascom Lamar Lunsford Award for leadership efforts to preserve and encourage traditional Southern Appalachian culture at the 75th Mountain Dance and Folk Festival. Visit www.bettysmithballads.com to sample Betty Smith's performance

and to learn more about this remarkable collector and preservationist of our cultural heritage.

This presentation is jointly sponsored by the Charlotte Folk Society and the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County and is made possible through a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council's Humanities Forum, a Speakers Bureau of the NCHC.

Art Before Dark April 26th

On Thursday, April 26th, Myers Park Baptist Church, 1931 Selwyn Avenue, will hold its annual **Art Before Dark** celebration, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. This arts event is for children in the weekday school at the church. The Folk Society participates each year in appreciation of our use of space in the building. Volunteer CFS musicians will hold a jam session in the rotunda of the Education Building. Please contact Harry Taylor at 704-366-1869 or hataylor@ccim.net if you are able to join the jam.

Member Ads

Painting, Wallpaper, and Interior Renovation by Salem Enterprises, Inc. Call Lee Howard for a free estimate; 704-763-0809 or 704-573-0864.

Wanted: old steel anvil for blacksmithing. Call Marilyn Price at 803-548-5671; email marijim-price@comporium.net.

