



Photo by Jennifer Hamp

Photo by Pamela Burke

Winter 2015/2016

quarter NOTES

A Tonic For Modern Gills!

Of crowds, cars and carbon footprints...

Three years ago, in an effort to reduce vehicle congestion at our Festival, the Board of Directors implemented a "vehicle permit" system. The theory was that the additional charge would provide an incentive for people to car-pool, hopefully reducing not only congestion, but also, (and more importantly) our overall carbon footprint. But, the following year, congestion was still a problem so the Board initiated long-term parking at the former Dreamfield Farm. Those who used this service were offered a ticket discount as an additional incentive to keep idle vehicles from clogging up scarce camping space on the festival grounds.

Unfortunately, none of these efforts have succeeded as intended. To a degree, they have made matters worse by leading people to believe that the vehicle permit "entitles" them to on-site parking at a spot of their choice. This misapprehension has led to disagreements with campground volunteers when they attempt to rearrange parked cars to accommodate campers.

At its recent retreat, the Board re-examined the issue of congestion and discussed several alternatives, from increasing the vehicle permit fee to acquiring additional property



Photo by Peggy Brisbane

necessary to serve larger camping units and more festival goers. Ultimately, we came to the realization that Festival attendance had simply grown beyond the carrying capacity of the Wernette Centennial Farm. Our choices were, therefore, either to accommodate perpetual overcrowding or to limit attendance. Looking at past attendance figures, we determined that too many vehicles became a problem starting in 2011. So we've decided to roll back the clock. Starting with Festival 2016, vehicle permits will be done away with. The number of adult and senior tickets sold will be reduced by 1500 from this years' numbers, not including Sunday only admissions. No weekend tickets will be sold at the gate. We hope that this will encourage everyone to buy their tickets early and significantly reduce overcrowding.

Wheatland Music Organization
Board of Directors

Wheat Scouts

A warm Wheatland welcome to new Wheatscouts Coordinator, Becki Greenman!

This children's program was started at Wheatland in 1987 with the purpose of educating children through music, dance, storytelling, crafts and nature while promoting family tradition and fellowship. Wheatscouts also gives the adults a chance to bond with other grown-ups while turning the little ones loose for a couple of hours.

Wheatscouts meets every 2nd Saturday of the month (October - May) in the Gladys Wernette Classroom Building from 11am - 1pm. These events are free and open to the public.

Upcoming Dates:

Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13,
March 12, April 9, May 14

Wheat Futures

DECEMBER

Saturday December 12
Wheatscouts
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm
WMO Jamboree
The Cabin, 2-5pm

Sunday, December 20
Open Clogging
Classroom Building, 1-3pm

JANUARY

Monday, January 4
Wheatland Music Camp
Registration Begins
wheatlandmusic.org / 989-967-8879

Saturday, January 9
Winter Wheat 7
The Intersection, Grand Rapids
12:30pm – Midnight
Wheatscouts
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm
WMO Jamboree
The Cabin, 2-5pm

Tuesday, January 12
Board of Directors Meeting
Classroom Building, 7pm

OPEN CLOGGING

At Wheatland Music's 40th festival, over 70 community and professional traditional dancers took to the stage to dance to choreographed pieces by Sharon Leahy, with music by Rick Good. The theme was Carry it on.... From that project Open Clogging evolved: Trading steps with seasoned dancers, teaching basic steps to all ages, with musicians of all skill levels playing those old timey tunes, continues the legacy to 'carry' our folk traditions to the next generation. At Open Clogging in November, a mother brought her three daughters, all under the age of five, all dressed to the nines in colorful party dresses, with matching shoes, as mom said they wanted to dress up for the dance. Marcia LeClear took mom, the kids, and fiddler Bruce Bauman, to a quieter place to let them shine while we danced. They did not know what a fiddle was - they do now. They walked, clapped, waved their arms, and marched to the beat. Doing a simple dance called Birdy in the Cage brought on giggles and high fives.

The spark to dance, play an instrument begins.

Saturday, January 16
Contra Dance w/Scarlet Runner String Band
Jerry Hickman Calling
Classroom Building, 7-10pm

Sunday, January 17
Open Clogging
Classroom Building, 1-3pm

Saturday, January 30
Squares & Contrs, Music by Morpeth Rant
Calling by Mark & Wheatland Friends
Classroom Building, 7-10pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 6
Cajun Mardi Gras Dance Party
Classroom Building, 7-10pm
Potluck at 6pm

Saturday, February 13
Quackgrass / Costabella / WMO Reunion
Classroom Building, 5pm - ?
Wheatscouts
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm
WMO Jamboree
The Cabin, 2-5pm

Saturday, February 20
Contra Dance w/Hawks & Owls
Calling by Polly
Classroom Building, 7-10pm

Wheatland Music Organization Presents

Winter Wheat 7

Saturday, January 9, 2016

12:30pm – Midnight

A Celebration of Traditional Music and Dance

Front Lounge:

1:40 - 2:30	Dan Seabolt's Scholarship Students
2:30 - 3:30	Open Jam w/ Palooka Brothers
3:50 - 5:10	Blue Water Ramblers
5:30 - 6:50	The Accidentals
7:10 - 8:30	Roosevelt Diggs
8:50 - 10:10	Gasoline Gypsies

Showroom:

12:30 - 1:30	Peat in the Creel w/ the Arden Academy of Irish Dancers
1:50 - 3:10	Megan Dooley
3:30 - 4:50	Jive at Five
5:10 - 6:30	Palooka Brothers - Squares & Contrs
6:50 - 8:20	Benzie Playboys - Cajun
8:40 - 10:00	Delilah DeWylde
10:20 - 11:40	Billy Strings & Don Julin

Sunday, February 21
Open Clogging
Classroom Building, 1-3pm

MARCH

Tuesday, March 8
Board of Directors Meeting
Classroom Building, 7pm

Saturday, March 12
Wheatscouts
Classroom Building, 11am-1pm
WMO Jamboree
The Cabin, 2-5pm

Tuesday, March 15
Traditional Arts Weekend - Tickets go on sale
wheatlandmusic.org / 998-967-8879

Saturday, March 19
Square & Contra Dance w/Rhythm Billies
Calling by Carole Howard
Classroom Building, 7-10pm
Potluck & Youth Jam at 6pm

Sunday, March 20
Open Clogging
Classroom Building, 1-3pm

Traditional Dances

January 16 – Contra Dance
Scarlet Runner String Band, Calling by Jerry Hickman

January 30 – Squares & Contrs, Music by Morpeth Rant, calling by Mark & Wheatland Friends - 7-10pm

February 6 – Cajun Mardi Gras Dance Party & Potluck
Music & instruction by Back Bayou, Potluck at 6pm

February 20 – Contra Dance
Music by Hawks & Owls String Band, Calling by Polly

March 19 – Square & Contra Dance & Potluck
Music by the Rhythm Billies, Calling by Carole Howard

Potluck @ 6pm – Youth Jam / Open Mic

April 16 – Contra & Square Dance & Potluck
Music by the Rhythm Billies, Calling by Thom & Karin

Potluck @ 6pm – Youth Jam / Open Mic

*All dances on Saturdays from 7-10pm
in the Classroom Building*

\$5 admission, Free for under 18

*No experience needed, all dances taught
Come with or without a partner*

Snacks to share are welcome - Coffee provided

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989-967-8879

Wheatland Music Organization

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The mission of the Wheatland Music Organization is to serve as a regional resource center for the preservation and presentation of traditional music and arts.