

Fiddler's Grove
Ole Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival
May 27-29, 2016

SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE BANDS FROM THE VAN HOY FAMILY:

All of us at Fiddlers Grove want you to know how much we appreciate you, your music, your friendship and your participation in our Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival. As you know, our primary purpose at Fiddler's Grove is to promote, encourage, and perpetuate traditional music played in old time and bluegrass style. We especially enjoy providing you with an opportunity to do this surrounded by folks who, like us, appreciate your musical talents and the emotion you put into playing. We hope you will join us once more for a wonderful weekend of music and fun.

We look forward to seeing you in May!
The Van Hoy family

Special Notes to Musicians:

When we receive your electronic band registration, we will email your band leader a confirmation. Please bring that confirmation to the festival gate to receive your passes for admission. Band leaders are responsible for making sure that all members of their band enter with a confirmation. Tickets will not be mailed, but picked up upon arrival.

Those on the waiting list will be expected to pay to get in but will be reimbursed if moved from the waiting list to compete.

NOTE To encourage family members to attend, we offer passes to your spouse/partner and children only. Please let your band members know about this excellent offer. **Passes will not be mailed.**

*** Camping Note***

Space is limited in Musician camping area. SITES WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED. Payment can be done online or will be taken upon arrival. Sites will be available on a first come first served basis. Regular camping fees apply.

Fiddler's Grove® Ole Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival Junior Instrument Competition

CATEGORIES: There will be 7 contest categories: Old Time Fiddle, Bluegrass Fiddle, Banjo, Guitar, Mandolin, Bass, and Open. Open will include Dobro, Dulcimer, Harmonica, Hammered Dulcimer, Autoharp, and other traditional instruments that do not have a category of their own. Contestants may register for only one instrument category. Electric instruments are not permitted.

AGE: Contestants in Junior Competition must be 17 years old or younger on the day of competition.

REGISTRATION: Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 15 contestants in each category. There will be a wait list for those who do not make the cut off. If space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the main stage at 9:00 am.

TUNE: The mission of Fiddler's Grove is to promote, encourage, and perpetuate traditional music played in old time and bluegrass style. In preparing your competition tune, please give attention to the authenticity of the tune and to the style in which you play it. The contest tune may not exceed 2 1/2 minutes in length.

COMPETITION: Competition will begin on the Grove Stage at 10am on Saturday, May 28. Categories will be judged in the following sequence: Guitar, Banjo, Old Time Fiddle, Bluegrass Fiddle, Mandolin, Bass, and Open (all other instruments). You must be present to play during the time that your category is being judged:

Please be sure your instrument is in tune before you get on the stage. You may play solo or with one backup instrument. Judging criteria will include style, intonation, timing, tone, ability, and difficulty. "Trick & fancy" fiddle tunes (*Orange Blossom Special, Listen to the Mockingbird, Black Mountain Rag*) are not permitted. Bluegrass banjo players may not use Scruggs tuners.

Sound system adjustments will remain at the same setting throughout the competition, with the exception of feedback adjustments by the official sound technician only. In the event of a broken string or unavoidable problem, at the discretion of the judges, contestants may restart the tune, or return to the stage later to start over.

TIES: In the event of a tie, or at the judges' discretion, callbacks may be held. Contestants may be required to play a different tune in the event of a callback.

PRIZES: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded during the Award Ceremony on the Grove Stage Saturday evening.

The 1st place Junior Old Time Fiddle and Bluegrass Fiddle winners will be invited to compete for the **Fiddler of the Festival** award on the Grove Stage Saturday evening.

Judges' decisions are final. Rules are subject to modification at the sole discretion of Festival Management.

Fiddler's Grove® Ole Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival 2015

Senior Fiddle / Twin Fiddle Rules

CATEGORIES: There will be 2 individual fiddle contest categories: Bluegrass Fiddle and Old Time Fiddle. Contestants may register for only one of these categories. Electric instruments are not permitted.

Twin Fiddle Competition is open to all fiddlers regardless of age or style. One rhythm instrument is allowed in addition to the 2 fiddlers. Twin Fiddle contestants may also compete in individual competition.

TUNE: The mission of Fiddler's Grove is to promote, encourage, and perpetuate traditional music played in old time and bluegrass style. In preparing your competition tune, please give attention to the authenticity of the tune and to the style in which you play it. The contest tune may not exceed 2 1/2 minutes in length.

REGISTRATION: Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 15 contestants in each category. There will be a wait list for those who do not make the cut off. If space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the main stage at 9:00 am.

COMPETITION: Competition will begin on the Grove Stage at 12:00 noon on Saturday, May 28. Categories will be judged in the following sequence: Twin Fiddle, Senior Bluegrass Fiddle, Senior Old Time Fiddle. You must be present to play during the time that your category is being judged:

You may play solo or with one backup instrument. Judging criteria will include style, intonation, timing, tone, ability, and difficulty. "Trick & fancy" fiddle tunes (*Orange Blossom Special, Listen to the Mockingbird, Black Mountain Rag*) are not permitted.

Sound system adjustments will remain at the same setting throughout the competition, with the exception of feedback adjustments by the official sound technician only. In the event of a broken string or unavoidable problem, at the discretion of the judges, contestants may restart the tune, or return to the stage later to start over.

TIES: In the event of a tie, or at the judges' discretion, callbacks may be held. Contestants may be required to play a different tune in the event of a callback.

PRIZES: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded in each category during the Award Ceremony on the Grove Stage Saturday evening.

The 1st place Senior Old Time Fiddle and Senior Bluegrass Fiddle winners will be invited to compete for the **Fiddler of the Festival** award on the Grove Stage Saturday evening.

Judges' decisions are final. Rules are subject to modification at the sole discretion of Festival Management.

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Fiddler of the Festival Rules

This award spotlights the focal instrument of the festival and is the highest honor a fiddler can attain. The Fiddler of the Festival will be chosen from the Champions in each division. The play-off is held on the Grove Stage during the Saturday evening show.

QUALIFICATION: The 1st place winners in the following categories will be invited to compete for Fiddler of the Festival: Senior Bluegrass Fiddle, Senior Old Time Fiddle, Junior Bluegrass Fiddle, and Junior Old Time Fiddle.

The champion of each division must be present for the play-off. If the champion is not present to compete, he retains the title of Champion. However, the 2nd place winner will be invited to compete for Fiddler of the Festival in his place.

SEQUENCE: Names of the 4 contestants will be drawn at random to determine the sequence of play before the contest begins.

TUNES: Each contestant will play three tunes: (1) Fast tune, reel, jig, or hornpipe, (2) Slow tune, waltz or schottische, (3) One tune of his/her choice. No tune may exceed 3 1/2 minutes. Contestants are not required to remain in the style of the division they won. E.g. the Bluegrass Champion may play a tune in old time style, or vice versa. "Trick and fancy" tunes are allowed as tune of choice.

PRIZES: Fiddler of the Festival, Runner-Up Fiddler of the Festival, and 2nd Runner-Up Fiddler of the Festival prizes will be awarded at the end of the program on the Grove Stage Saturday evening.

After a fiddler has won the Fiddler of the Festival prize in 3 different years (whether consecutive or not), he or she will be designated a Master Fiddler and will no longer be permitted in fiddle competition. Master Fiddlers are invited to perform for the Fiddler's Grove audience in future years.

Judges' decisions are final. Rules are subject to modification at the sole discretion of Festival Management.

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Junior / Senior Hot Licks Competitions

The Hot Licks competitions give performers a chance to show off their jamming skills. Contestants are encouraged to bring their hottest licks within the old time and bluegrass styles of the festival. This popular, fast moving competition has become an audience favorite.

QUALIFICATION: The Hot Licks competitions are open to all acoustic instruments.

AGE: Contestants in Junior Hot Licks must be 17 years old or younger on the day of competition.

Senior Hot Licks is open to all ages.

REGISTRATION: Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 15 contestants in each category. There will be NO wait list for those who do not make the cut off. However, if space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the main stage at 9:00 am. Contestants must attend the Mandatory Hot Licks meeting behind the Main Stage when called back, just before the contest begins. Contestants may also register at this time if there are still spaces remaining.

TUNES: The song to be used during competition will be drawn right before competition begins. The song will be a standard vocal number based on a very standard chord progression in the key of G major, A major, or D major. Contestants unfamiliar with the tune will likely be able to pick it up very quickly. The song will be chosen from the following list:

Crying Holy unto the Lord (G)	Old Home Place (A)
On My Way Back to the Old Home (G)	Nine Pound Hammer (A)
I Saw the Light (G)	Blue Ridge Mountain Home (A)
I'm Workin' on a Building (D)	Sitting on Top of the World (G)
I'll Fly Away (G)	

MEETING BEHIND THE STAGE: There will be a mandatory meeting of all contestants behind the stage 10 minutes before the contest begins. At this time the rules will be reviewed. Contestants who are not present at this meeting will not be permitted to compete.

SEQUENCE OF PLAY: Each contestant will receive a number. Right before the competition, numbers will be drawn to determine the order of performance.

PROCESS: The singer/guitarist will kick off and end the tune at a mic off to the side. There will be 2 mics for contestants. Contestants will line up backstage. As they enter the stage, they will alternate mics, so that the next contestant can get in place and ready while the previous contestant is performing. Each contestant will play his/her 'break' to one verse and one chorus, and then exit the other side of the stage. After every fourth competitor, the singer/guitarist will sing a verse and chorus of the song solo, during which time no competitor will be allowed to play.

There will be 2 rounds with the same tune. In the 1st round, contestants will not be judged. This gives everyone a chance to see how it works, enter and exit the stage, etc. The 2nd round will begin immediately after all contestants have finished the 1st round. The 2nd round will use the same tune, and will be judged.

Contestants who attempt to use more time than allotted in the verse/chorus/break format will be disqualified.

FINALS: The judges will select 5-8 players to advance to the Final. This will include the top scoring contestant for each major instrument, and up to 3 additional players to be chosen at the sole discretion of the judges. (This could include washtub bass, autoharp, etc., and could also include more than one player of a major instrument.)

The Final Round contestants will form a band with the singer/guitarist, and they will all perform a different tune together as a band, using a simple arrangement to be worked out among the players before the Final begins. Each contestant will have a chance to play 'fill-in runs' behind one verse and chorus and also take one solo break.

Any contestant who intentionally plays out of turn or does not vamp during a fellow contestant's performance time will be disqualified.

PRIZES: 1st 2nd and 3rd place Jammer of the Festival prizes will be awarded.

SCORING CRITERIA

Arrangement: Difficulty and originality will be considered. How a sense of melody and 'hot licks'/riffs are interwoven will also be considered.

Execution and Tuning: Fingering, picking/bowing and dynamics will be considered.

Overall Impression: The general effect of the contestant's performance.

Show Value: The music should be played with life and feeling rather than appearing listless or dragging.

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Junior and Senior Band Competition

AGE for JUNIOR BAND:

There are 2 ways to qualify for Junior Band. All Junior Band members must be 17 years old or younger on the day of competition, Saturday, May 28. Alternatively, if all Jr Band members are 12 years old or younger, they may have one adult playing with them in a backup role. The adult may not participate in vocals and may not take an instrumental break or play lead.

INSTRUMENT REQUIREMENTS: Bands must consist of at least 2 melody instruments (fiddle, banjo, mandolin) plus guitar. Bands may have additional instruments (bass, another fiddle, etc.), but may not include electrical instruments or drums. A band may not exceed 6 members.

REGISTRATION: Individuals may play in only one band. Registration will be available online and is limited to the first 6 bands in each of the 4 categories. There will be a wait list for those who do not make the cut off. If space allows, registration will be open Saturday morning beside the main stage at 9:00 am.

TUNES: Bands will perform 2 tunes. One of the numbers may be a vocal number, but this is not required. Tunes must be played in either old time or bluegrass style. No tune may exceed 3 minutes in length.

OLD TIME BANDS: Tunes should be characteristic of the old time tradition and in old time style. Only one vocal number permitted, but not required. **Time not to exceed 3 minutes per tune.** *NOTE* Keeping with the Ole Time traditions, our old time bands perform in an intimate setting, unplugged before judges who hear it the way folks did more than 2 centuries ago.

BLUEGRASS BAND: Only one vocal number permitted, but not required. Traditional tunes preferred and encouraged. **Time not to exceed 3 minutes per tune.**

The purpose of the festival is to promote, encourage and perpetuate traditional music played in old time and bluegrass style. Bands will be judged on authenticity of style, balance, tuning, and timing. The judging will also be based on the smoothness of starting and stopping tunes. Bands are encouraged to play one relatively fast and one relatively slow number. Judges usually favor traditional performance over technical performance.

BAND COMPETITION: Jr. Band Competition will be held on the Grove Stage immediately following Individual competitions on Saturday, May 28, at approximately 1:30pm. Senior Band Competition will follow at approximately 3pm. Your band must be present behind the stage, and ready to play, when Junior Band competition begins. Please be sure everyone is in tune before you get on the stage. Also, in the interest of time, please do not introduce your band members during competition.

Sound system adjustments will remain at the same setting throughout the competition, with the exception of feedback adjustments by the official sound technician only. In the event of a broken string or unavoidable problem, at the discretion of the judges, contestants may restart the tune, or return to the stage later to start over.

TIES: In the event of a tie, or at the judges' discretion, callbacks may be held. The band may perform the same tunes or different tunes in the event of a callback.

FINAL COMPETITION: Three bands will be chosen to compete in Final Competition on Saturday night on the Grove stage. Band membership must remain the same as the afternoon competition. Bands are encouraged to play different tunes from the ones they performed in the afternoon, but this is not required.