



Celebrating our 29<sup>th</sup> year

Merry Christmas



December 2013 Volume 29 Number 12

# THE SEBA BREAKDOWN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHEASTERN BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION

## Bob Saturn Honored

Woodstock Ga SEBA members and officials honored long time active member Bob Saturn at the organization's 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting on Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>. The often quiet reserved

Saturn received one of SEBA's highest honors, The Founders Award.

He was modest in accepting the award from President Dan Daniel saying, "Well I'm really more of a second tier founder. Because I came in after the initial gatherings that got it all started."

The Board of Directors were aware of this and they were also aware of his involvement in structuring much of the way SEBA operates today. Having served on the board and drafting the By Laws we operate under today.

Saturn shared his history with SEBA recalling his 'Yankee' roots and how back in 1984 he wanted to learn to play the banjo and how SEBA and others helped him along and made a northern boy feel a part of the community. "I got a lot of help from a lot of good folks" he said. Saturn also touched on the great times he had at Geoff Hoenwald's music store and the old Garden Hills meeting spots in the early days of SEBA.

We are proud to congratulate Bob Saturn on this most deserved award and thank him for his past service to SEBA. Today Bob is still an active member of SEBA Central in Decatur GA, playing his banjo and is still sought out for his ideas and advise.



Bob Saturn

## SEBA's Annual Meeting

Woodstock GA was the site of SEBA 29<sup>th</sup> annual meeting and elections held November 16<sup>th</sup>. This years gathering was a very good one, in that, all the activities were better than expected. As members and guests arrived the food was being prepared during the annual meeting held in the auditorium of the Woodstock Community Church.

**The Meeting:** This year's meeting was conducted by Don Simons a long time Board member, Chairman of the Membership and Finance Committees. All the usual facts and figures were presented and a short open discussion was offered up, but everyone seemed pleased with the information presented.

**The Elections:** SEBA elections are held once a year and this year's was no exception. We should point out that your Board of Directors are voted in first and then receive their appointments to the various committees they serve on. Your proxy votes this year were very much appreciated as we understand not everyone is able to travel to the annual meeting. Participation by all our members is an important part of membership. The election results are as follows:

All nominees were voted on an accepted

## Congratulations to SEBA's Elected Officials for 2014

Dan Daniel	Danette Kellner
Don Simons	Becky Lawson
Dickson Lester	Joe Suroweic
Mike Wood	





## SEBA PUBLICATIONS

Editor C.S. "Charlie" Robinson 678 665-1112

Email [Breakdown@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:Breakdown@sebabluegrass.org)

Contributors to this month's issue:

Bryan Alper	Joe Surowiec	Dan Daniel
Jimmy "Duck" Adkins	Little Roy Lewis	Bonnie Johnson
Suzan Bardwell	Where's 'your name?'	Robinson
	Painter Dickson	Wayne Ford
	Lester	Walter Stark

We're still looking for your name on our contributions list too!

### 2013 SEBA Board of Directors

	Chairman of the Board Secretary  Danette Kellner 678 445-7020 <a href="mailto:Chairman@sebabluegrass.org">Chairman@sebabluegrass.org</a>		President/CEO Chapters Chair  Dan Daniel 770 900-7472 <a href="mailto:President@sebabluegrass.org">President@sebabluegrass.org</a>
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Address for all memberships, subscriptions and submissions to: SEBA's Po Box or

email us at [Breakdown@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:Breakdown@sebabluegrass.org)

Deadline for all submissions is the 1st of each month.

### SEBA's Mission Statement

The Southeastern Bluegrass Association (SEBA) is a nonprofit organization consisting of members, fans, bands, promoters, businesses, vendors, musicians, and friends of bluegrass music. Working together to reach a common goal: The preservation and promotion of Bluegrass Music, bringing it to the Community through performers, instructors, jam sessions, venues and events and providing information to all through our publications, the Award Winning SEBA Breakdown and the SEBA websites



**Did you know?** The SEBA Breakdown is available in printed black and white and electronic color PDF formats. Some content in our newsletter contains embedded links to websites and other information for your convenience not found in the printed version.

We invite you to visit our publications website to see your SEBA Breakdown in color with links at: [SEBAPublications.org](http://SEBAPublications.org)

### From the Editor's Desk



This is the last issue of the SEBA Breakdown for 2013. It has been my pleasure to try and provide you with a newsletter we can all be proud of. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made my job easier this year in so many different ways. It means a lot to me, but I hope it means more to you to be of service to others. So few people understand the value of such work and regardless of the amount of effort made, you are the fortunate ones, because you know and enjoy the personal satisfaction of being part of a great team and organization. And YES! We are still waiting to hear from some of you. From Miss Bonnie and myself we wish a Merry Christmas for everyone!

C.S. "Charlie" Robinson  
SEBA Publications Editor

**Until next month keep posting those events for FREE at**  
[www.sebabluegrass.org/events/wpw/submit.php](http://www.sebabluegrass.org/events/wpw/submit.php)

**Letters to the Editor** Letters to the editors are always welcomed. We want your thoughts, ideas and comments. Your opinion counts and we are ready to listen. We are looking forward to hearing from you in future editions of your Breakdown newsletters.



### IMPORTANT MESSAGES:



#### Error Correction:

Last month's Favorite Picture we miss identified Dickson Lester's wife as Cathy. This was incorrect.

**Her name is Chris**  
**Our Apologies Chris.**



Anderson Bluegrass LLC shows can be found on the SEBA website and we encourage you to attendance at any of these fine shows Check the SEBA site for more as they become available.

### The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual New Year's Bluegrass Festival

**At the Brand NEW**  
**Jekyll Island Convention Center**  
**Jekyll Island, GA 31527**

**January 2-4, 2014**

See the flier in this issue and on line at  
[http://sebapublications.org/Festival\\_Event\\_Fliers\\_Want\\_.html](http://sebapublications.org/Festival_Event_Fliers_Want_.html)



*In the Spotlight!*

*And the Winners Are?*

# SOUTHEASTERN BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION 2013 Award Winners

<i>Founders Award</i>  <b>Bob Saturn</b>	<i>Chapter of the Year</i>  <b>RABUN CHAPTER</b>	<i>Venue of the Year</i>  <b>Everetts Music Barn</b>
<i>Promoter of the Year</i>  <b>Cindy Pinion</b>	<i>Music Community Service Award</i>  <b>Harold &amp; Charlotte Kirkland</b>	<i>Volunteer of the Year</i>  <b>Rebecca Lawson</b>
<i>Outstanding Achievement Award</i>  <b>C.S. "CHARLIE" ROBINSON</b>		

*A Special Thanks*

*to Banjo.com for furnishing many of the prizes awarded at our annual meeting.*





## Annual Meeting Show Simply Outstanding

When you see seven kids get up on the stage you are apt to say something like "That's nice" But when those well dressed kids begin to knock your socks off, you go from "That's nice" to "That's Awesome" Such was the case at SEBA's annual meeting stage performance by



Fish & Picks, If that wasn't amazing enough, they are all brothers and sisters and half way into their 45 minute set they brought their other brother and 2 sisters up on stage to perform too! Now wait a minute!

That's 1, 2, 3, 4,  
DANG that's 10 kids.

And what a show they put on. Some of the tightest musicianship we've seen from young folks in a long while and all the while their proud parents sat and enjoyed it as much as the audience did. Please Visit them at <http://fishandpicks.com/>



Parents Paul & Victoria Fish  
Sharing a proud moment.

The Foxfire Boys provided the kind of old time performance most of us long to see. Traditional songs with a traditional sound that we all would like to hear more of too. The group had great harmonies and even delivered on old acapella version of a mining song many



had never heard. Most notable was the quality of the band's musicianship. Outstanding job fellas Thanks. Learn more about them at: [www.foxfire.org](http://www.foxfire.org).

James McKinney literally blew away many of the audience members with an amazing display of banjo mastery and bass accompaniment by Nicki Portman (Mrs. James McKinney). So much so, that some were



saying "Why haven't I heard of these folks before" Rest assured once you've experienced The Night Travelers you'll not soon forget the magic everyone enjoyed. Visit them at [www.nighttravelers.com/](http://www.nighttravelers.com/)

We want to thank all the performers for donating their time and talent to SEBA You made our event special and you will be remembered for talent and generosity a long, long time We love ya!

## Merry Christmas SEBA Central's Christmas Party You're Invited

*As is our custom we will once again meet in yuletide cheer, and celebrate the season and bluegrass music. The December meeting on Dec. 8th, will be preceded by a Holiday dinner. Festivities begin at 1:00 and the picking will begin at 3:00 or as soon as we can wash our hands and tune up. We will meet as always at the Emory*

*Brush up your best Christmas bluegrass songs and come on down. I have heard that Rebecca Lawson is smoking some butts, and we will have some beverages and paper plates etc. The rest is up to you. Bring a vegetable, a side dish, a desert or whatever you want to eat and won't mind sharing. Everyone is welcome even if you usually frequent one of those other chapters. Come on down, we'll leave a light on for you. Walter Starke Chapter VP*



## Peace Center offers 25% Off Tickets for SEBA Members

### Mark O'Connor & Friends "An Appalachian Christmas"

Greenville, S.C. The Peace Center has long been a premier venue for the arts in the "Upstate" of the Carolinas. So, we were delighted when contacted by Spencer Pinson with a discount offer for our members to see Mark O'Connor and Friends in concert, "An Appalachian Christmas" is to be held on Tuesday, Dec 10 at the Peace Center for the Performing Arts in Greenville, SC.

The Peace Center is a reasonably close distance from Asheville, N.C. Columbia SC and Atlanta. And is a must see for fans of the award winning fiddler we've all grown to admire and respect.. Make your plans now and call the Peace Center Today!

For SEBA members, \$35 tickets have been discounted to \$26, and \$25 tickets have been discounted to \$19..... a 25% discount. But, **Tickets must be purchased in advance.**

The event is posted on the December page of events of "Live & Pickin'" at the SEBA website and can be found on page 8 too.

Simply call the Peace Center Box Office at 864-467-3000 or 800-888-7768 to get the discount. **Merry Christmas from SEBA and The Peace Center!**



## The SEBA Breakdown's New

### "Take Along Sharing & Information Page"

Not many folks carry a copy of the SEBA Breakdown around with them. Just when you need information to use or share with someone about an event or need a membership application for someone, you miss your opportunity. But now, this handy single page can be used to carry in your vehicle or instrument case. Keep it close by for event information dates, or Chapter information or share the Membership Application the back side of this page. You can help someone join SEBA or renew yourself with this form. The Membership Application on the back the page is designed so you can tear off the application and still have all the great information handy for you to use.

*We hope you find this new feature helpful. And Thanks for supporting SEBA!*

Start your own SEBA chapter or Jam Site

Contact [ChaptersCommittee@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:ChaptersCommittee@sebabluegrass.org)

To view or post Festivals go to <http://www.sebabluegrass.org/events/festivals.php>

For all other events go to <http://www.sebabluegrass.org/events/wpw/index.php>

### **YOUR SEBA CHAPTERS, VICE PRESIDENTS, LOCATIONS & MEETING & JAM DATES**

For more information go to [www.sebabluegrass.org](http://www.sebabluegrass.org)

#### **New SEBA Stable (Ballplay/Gadsden, AL) New**

VP Dan Nelson 256 490-4360

[SEBASTableJam@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBASTableJam@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

191 Thornton Lakes Road Ballplay, AL 35903

[SEBASTableJam@SEBAbbluegrass.org](mailto:SEBASTableJam@SEBAbbluegrass.org)

3rd Saturday 12pm till whenever..



Please check or call before you go

#### **New SEBA Rabun (Clayton,GA) New**

VP Dean English 706 782-9852

[SEBARabun@SEBAbbluegrass.org](mailto:SEBARabun@SEBAbbluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Blueridge Music Store

629 Duggan Hill Rd. Clayton, GA 30525

1st Saturday 12pm - 3pm

#### **SEBA Blairsville,GA**

VP Mark Cox 706 745-5888

[SEBAbairsville@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAbairsville@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Blairsville's Historic Hole In The Wall Diner

12 Town Square Blairsville GA 3rd Friday 6 - 9 pm

#### **SEBA CALHOUN, GA**

VP Howard Withrow 770-773-9431

[SEBACalhoun@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBACalhoun@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Oostanaula Community Center, 1595 Oostanaula Bend

Rd. Calhoun, GA 30701 2nd Sunday 2 - 5pm

#### **SEBA CENTRAL (Atlanta Metro)**

Walter Stark 404 315-6161

[SEBACentral@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBACentral@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Emory Presbyterian Church 1886 N. Decatur Rd

Atlanta, GA 30307 2nd Sunday 3 - 6pm

#### **SEBA Columbus, GA**

VP Andy Gilbert 706-561-9675

[SEBAColumbus@SEBAbbluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAColumbus@SEBAbbluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Lake Pines RV Park & Campground

6404 Garrett Road Columbus, Georgia 31820

The last Sunday of every month.

#### **SEBA DAHLONEGA, GA New Location**

VP Ben Maloy 770 827-9383

[SEBADahlonga@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBADahlonga@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

United Community Bank, 206 Morrison Memorial

Parkway . Dahlonega, GA 30533

3rd Sun 2 - 5pm

#### **SEBA JACKSONVILLE, FI**

VP Ronnie Davis 904-813-1761

[SEBAJacksonville@SEBAbbluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAJacksonville@SEBAbbluegrass.org)

Edgewood Heights Baptist Church

4011 Gilmore St. Jax., FL 32205 [Click for Map](#)

2nd Sat of each Month from 4 to 8 PM

#### **SEBA FAYETTEVILLE, GA**

VP Tommy Johnston 770-964-3473

[SEBAFayetteville@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAFayetteville@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Shadnor First Baptist Church

6320 Westbrook Ave Union City ,Ga. 30291

3rd Sunday 3 - 6pm

#### **SEBA FOOTHILLS, Pendleton\Anderson SC**

VP Don Acevedo 864 376-1482

[SEBAFoothills@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAFoothills@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Breazeale's Grocery Bluegrass

5109 Liberty Hwy Pendleton, SC 29670

4th Saturday 6:30 - 11pm

#### **SEBA MARIETTA GA**

VP Dan Daniel 770 971-2154

[SEBAMarietta@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAMarietta@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Woodstock Community Church

237 Rope Mill Road Woodstock, Georgia. 30188

3rd Sunday 1:30 - 4:30pm

#### **SEBA Middle Georgia Bluegrass Macon Ga**

VP Sam Whaley 478-258-4818

[SEBAMiddlegeorgia@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAMiddlegeorgia@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Young America Music School (YAMS)

6361 Zebulon Rd, Macon, GA 31220

1st Monday 6pm -9pm

#### **SEBA TAG (Chattanooga, TN)**

VP Carson Madewell 423-624-3063

[SEBATAG@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBATAG@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

Cumberland Presbyterian Church,

7407 Bonny Oaks Drive, Chattanooga, TN. 37421

3rd Sunday 2 -5pm

#### **SEBA WINDER, GA**

VP Scott & Elizabeth Weber 770-207-9223

[SEBAWinder@sebabluegrass.org](mailto:SEBAWinder@sebabluegrass.org) [Click for Map](#)

St. Anthony's Episcopal Church 174 St. Anthony's

Dr Winder, GA 30680

1st Sunday 3 -6pm

## **GREAT NEW SEBA JAM SITE LOCATIONS AND MORE TO COME**

Get YOUR favorite jam site officially supported by SEBA

#### **Bill's Music Shop & Pickin' Parlor**

710 Meeting St West Columbia, SC  
29169

(803) 796-6477

[info@billsmusicshop.com](mailto:info@billsmusicshop.com)

Every Friday Night 7:30 PM

#### **Australian Bakery**

48 South Park Sq NE Marietta, GA  
30060

678 797-6222

[contact@australianbakery.com](mailto:contact@australianbakery.com)

Every Tuesday Night 7 - 9 pm

#### **New Lone Star Barbecue New**

2212 State Park Road  
Santee, SC 29142

Phone: 803-854-2000

[santeepat24@yahoo.com](mailto:santeepat24@yahoo.com)

1st and 3rd Friday of each month

#### **Pickers Paradise**

Hwy 59 and Hwy 31 Stapleton, AL  
36578

251-937-0511

[pickersparadisemusicstore@gmail.com](mailto:pickersparadisemusicstore@gmail.com)

3rd Thursday 7 - 10pm

Please check or call before you go

Thanks for patronizing our supporters





Little Roy Lewis & Lizzy Long  
endorse joining SEBA



## SEBA Membership

### Application Form

**Yes** ☐ I want to Join SEBA & get the Monthly issue of The Breakdown with Internet Access, Member Directory & **FREE Want Ads.**

Fill in & mail form **or** on line at [SEBAbuegrass.org](http://SEBAbuegrass.org)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ I'M A NEW MEMBER ☐  
MEMBER RENEWAL ☐ DONATION ONLY ☐  
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATE ☐

### Economy Electronic Memberships

(E-memberships are for access to the SEBA Breakdown newsletter, in color on line. For Internet access only.  
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E-MEMBER \$15 ☐ E-FAMILY MEMBER \$20 ☐

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BAND & ENTERTAINERS \$25 ☐ BUSINESS \$25 ☐  
MUSIC INSTRUCTORS \$25 ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$25 ☐

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MUSIC INSTRUCTORS ☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

To apply on line go to [www.SEBAbuegrass.org](http://www.SEBAbuegrass.org)  
**What is the closest SEBA chapter to you?**

**SEE this issue or our web site for current locations.**

**I want a SEBA chapter near me.** ☐

**Where ?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Include me in The SEBA Member Directory** ☐

**Mail your Form & Payment to :**

**SEBA**

**P. O. Box 20286**

**Atlanta, GA 30325**

**Let's keep posting those events at** [www.sebabuegrass.org/events/wpw/submit.php](http://www.sebabuegrass.org/events/wpw/submit.php)

**Your Monthly guide to ...**

## LIVE & PICKIN

**Call before you go!**

Nov 28-Dec 1~Thu-Sun~Barbwire Bluegrass, SERTOMA Youth Ranch BG Festival, Brooksville, FL, 12:00 noon till????, <http://sertomayouthranch.org/Home.php>, Mitch Lind, [mitch@lindentertainment.com](mailto:mitch@lindentertainment.com), 863/984-8445

Dec 1~Sun~Tucker Station String Band, The Greater Good BBQ, Tucker, GA, 6pm -8pm, <http://www.tuckerstation.com>, [seamusmurphy@comcast.net](mailto:seamusmurphy@comcast.net)

Dec 6~Fri~CARTERSVILLE ACCOUSTIC Bluegrass&Country, MONTHLY JAM Bluegrass &Country, CARTERSVILLE, GA, 6PM - 10PM, PAUL ROGERS, [PROGERSLS@YAHOO.COM](mailto:PROGERSLS@YAHOO.COM), 770-316-0007

Dec 7~Sat~Eddie Owen Presents MAMA'S BLUE DRESS, Red Clay Theatre, Duluth, GA, 8:00pm-11:00pm, doors at 7:00pm, <http://public.ticketbiscuit.com/EddieOwenPresents/Events/180597>, Rhiannon Clark, [info@eddieowenpresents.com](mailto:info@eddieowenpresents.com), 404-478-2749

Dec 8~Sun~Nora Jane Struthers and the Party Line, Acoustics at Oak's End, Smyrna, GA, 7:00 pm, Doors open at 6:30 pm, <http://www.cruisewomen.com/aaoc/acoustics.htm>, Gregg H Averett, [ghaverett@charter.net](mailto:ghaverett@charter.net), 7709716696

Dec 8~Sun~SEBA Central Jamb, Emory Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA, 3pm-6pm, <http://www.emorypresbyterian.org/>, Walter Stark, [puppetstark@comcast.net](mailto:puppetstark@comcast.net), 404-315-6161

Dec 10~Tue~Mark O'Connor & Friends, The Peace Center for the Performing Arts, Greenville, SC, 7:30 PM, <http://peacecenter.org>, [cquamme@peacecenter.org](mailto:cquamme@peacecenter.org)

Dec 15~Sun~SEBA MARIETTA CHAPTER, Woodstock Community Church, Woodstock, GA, 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, <http://www.woodstockcommunitychurch.org/>, Dan Daniel, [danielemail@comcast.net](mailto:danielemail@comcast.net), 770-900-7472

Dec 21~Sat~Barry Waldrep's Bluegrass Jingle Jam, Red Clay Theatre, Duluth, GA, 8:00pm-11:00pm, doors at 7:00pm, <http://public.ticketbiscuit.com/EddieOwenPresents/Events/180608>, Rhiannon Clark, [info@eddieowenpresents.com](mailto:info@eddieowenpresents.com), 404-478-2749

Feb 1~Sat~Aunt Sue's Bluegrass and Seafood, Aunt Sue's Country Corner, Pickens, SC, 5pm to 9pm, <http://Wwww.auntsuescountrycorner.com>, Ed Lewis, [Telewis6259@att.net](mailto:Telewis6259@att.net), 864-878-4366

Feb 20~Thu~Tim O'Brien + Darrell Scott, Red Clay Theatre, Duluth, GA, 8:00pm-11:00pm, doors at 7:00pm, <http://public.ticketbiscuit.com/EddieOwenPresents/Events/179645>, Rhiannon Clark, [info@eddieowenpresents.com](mailto:info@eddieowenpresents.com), 404-478-2749

Feb 21~Fri~Tim O'Brien + Darrell Scott, Red Clay Theatre, Duluth, GA, 8:00pm-11:00pm, doors at 7:00pm, <http://public.ticketbiscuit.com/EddieOwenPresents/Events/179646>, Rhiannon Clark, [info@eddieowenpresents.com](mailto:info@eddieowenpresents.com), 404-478-2749

**Your Monthly guide to**

## FESTIVALS

**Call before you go!**

NOV 24~Midland Bluegrass Reunion, <http://www.midlandbluegrass.com>~Columbus, GA~7065619675

JAN 18~Winter Bluegrass Jubilee, <http://www.yamupstate.com/2014-winter-bluegrass-jubilee-home.html>~Pickens, SC~864-637-8766

MAY 28-Jun 1~Bluegrass On The Plains, <http://www.bluegrassonthepains.com>~Auburn, AL~333-821-8968

JUL 4-5~Smithville Fiddlers' Jamboree and Crafts Festival, <http://smithvillejamboree.com/>~Smithville, TN~615-597-8500

AUG 21-23~Bean Blossom Blues Fest, <http://beanblossomblues.com>~Nashville, IN~317-851-8795





# The Road to Isis Continues...

with an interview with Town Mountain's Robert Greer

By Bryan Alper

## Add a pool of sunshine to the garden

with a massed planting of Black-Eyed Susans, and she is a sunflower. Add a pool of sunshine to the music with a massed picking of five instruments with strings, and she is bluegrass music.

So what do sunflowers and bluegrass music have anything to do with each other? Let's see, well, Town Mountain's 2008 Heroes and Heretics album first drew me in with their first track, which is a Bruce Springsteen cover song of I'm on Fire and then track two, Black-Eyed Susan instantly became a quick favorite song too. "Rain...Rain...Rain...Yeah, she got picked and I never even knew her name."

So speaking of picking, I am picking up with a recent interview with rhythm guitar player and lead vocalist, Robert Greer, of Town Mountain who I met at Isis Music Hall and Restaurant in West Asheville, North Carolina. The first several tracks of his band's most recent 2013 album release of Leave the Bottle are excellent. The first track, Lookin In the



Robert Greer

Mirror, is fantastic and familiarly metaphoric and is one of those songs that I play over and over and over again. Up the Ladder, track three, has been getting a lot of air play these days. It's a vibrant song and reminds me of a tricked up bluegrass version of Jerry Lee Lewis' Great Balls of Fire. Try to catch up, everything is a clatter, oohh son, now get up the ladder!"

Town Mountain was recently nominated for three IBMA



Town Mountain at a recent performance

Momentum Awards, Greer claimed two of the prestigious awards receiving "Momentum Vocalist of the Year" and his band receiving "Momentum Performance Band of the Year", which were presented on September 25TH in Raleigh, NC.

So, how did he come so far in the music world? Greer grew up in Cuthbert, Georgia and then in Brevard, North Carolina. Into his late teens he became interested in bluegrass music. He explains, "My dad was a bluegrass music fan and he comes from a musical family, just not a bluegrass musical family." Nobody in Town Mountain grew up in a bluegrass music family. For instance, fiddle player Bobby Britt is a classical style, Suzuki trained violinist.

Music influences in Greer's life have included Country, Southern Rock and Classic Rock, including Talking Heads, George Jones, Keith Whitley, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Grateful Dead and Allman Brothers. Some favorite traditional bluegrass artist favorites include Stanley Brothers and Lonesome River Band.

Greer received a standard dreadnought guitar for his 25TH birthday. When he was 27 years-old he moved to Asheville, North Carolina and continued to pursue his bluegrass music passion and started to play music with people his own age at open jams and picking parties. He explains, "Asheville is a smaller town with a smaller bluegrass music scene and that's how I met my band members."

Town Mountain's direction is headed mainly towards making good music, but you could also expect to find them traveling the world and playing more music festivals and potentially gaining global dominance with their incredible sound. The collaboration of their string instruments, solo breaks and haunting delivery of Greer's vocals and the contributing harmonies will keep gaining more fans. They plan to keep playing for a wide array of folks including an older generation at regional bluegrass festivals, middle-aged crowds at house concerts and younger crowds in college towns. Greer explains, "We love to play for all. What you see is what you get. There are no smokin' mirrors."

Several upcoming Town Mountain shows include appearances at The Poor House Music Hall in Raleigh, North Carolina on December 13TH, Clementine Cafe in Harrisonburg, Virginia on December 14TH, High Rock Outfitters in Lexington, North Carolina on December 19TH and at Isis Music Hall and Restaurant in Asheville, North Carolina on December 20TH.

To learn more Visit [www.townmountain.net/](http://www.townmountain.net/)

## James Drake

stood in the empty confines of the Gospel Tabernacle on a hot afternoon in early August. He reached into a guitar case, heavily worn around the edges, and lifted his guitar, then leaned his aged body lightly against an old church pew. Easily and without effort, his fingers pinched music from the strings. Loud with the twang of bluegrass, the acoustic guitar released its song.

"This has been through the hackles," Drake said of his 1972 Martin D35 guitar. "When I was a fan of hillbilly music and all like that, I was rough on 'em. Well, I'm still rough on 'em."

The guitar's scars may have reflected decades of music-making, but Drake said it's music "just as good as any of 'em."

In Drake's heyday of playing hillbilly and country music, he and others formed a band in 1951 called the Georgia Mountain Boys, which became the house band for Shoal Creek Park when it was a country music venue in Lavonia. But a lot happened in the intervening years. Drake clung with his heartstrings to a mountain style of old gospel music.

"I had a wreck on a tractor in 1983 - it turned over on me. Broke seven ribs, cracked the rest, punctured my lungs, cut my liver, broke my shoulder blade all to pieces. Doctor told my wife, 'He won't walk no more.' After that, we went into gospel," said Drake.

He and his wife, Rebecca, with the help of friends built the Gospel Tabernacle, now a rural landmark in Carlton, GA just up the road from Watson Mill State Park. Seating ranged from metal folding chairs to old church pews and seats pulled from a bus. Pictures adorned the walls, along with hand-painted signs warning "no smoking," "no cussing" and "no halter tops." "My wife made that sign," Drake said.

He came to know many musicians and singers through the years. Among them life long friend Little Roy Lewis.

"Me and Bill (Monroe) was good friends. I was sick when he died, and I wasn't able to go to the funeral. I played with him once or twice. I played with Lester Flatts several programs. We opened up for him."

The band later changed its name - but not by choice.

"There was another Georgia Mountain Boys up above Toccoa, and they made an album. We didn't have the money to make an album, so it killed our name. When they done that, we went to the Blue Mountain Boys."

As fate would have it, the band actually dismantled about three weeks before Drake's life passed the crossroads of tragedy.

"In '68, my family got killed in an accident. My wife and three kids," he said. "I liked to have went crazy - just all at once."

A well-digging truck had hit his wife's car. She and the couple's children, ages 17, 12 and 11, all died at the scene. Some people told Drake to sue.

"I got funeral expenses out of it," he recalled as his voice lowered. "I didn't want any money. I wanted my family. I couldn't get over it."

Drake - the farmer, country singer and family man - was suddenly alone in the world. But he would soon start a new life, with the fore mentioned Rebecca.

Drake said "She's a good woman. The Lord has blessed me," Drake said of his wife, who plays bass in the band. "Rebecca was divorced and had two kids. I know'd her, and I married her. We've been together now for 40 years."

*This story is accurate, although it has been modified from its original publication in 2009 by Athens Banner-Herald writer Wayne Ford. Little Roy Lewis contacted us to let us know There will be no more tragedy in James Drake's life. He has been a good friend and servant of the Lord. James again met tragedy on Friday, October 25, 2013 in a house fire.*

Continued on page 9





## I AM A WINNER!

(by Bonnie Johnson-Robinson)



After years of competing in the "Eat Yer Veggies" contest at the SEBA Annual Meeting, I finally won the prize for the best vegetable dish! What a surprise! However, I must confess that I did not prepare the dish (which I shared with the audience at the meeting). It was created by my little sister, Suzan Bardwell, who is one of the best cooks I have ever known. The casserole was delicious, different and used hominy, a vegetable that I have not tasted in years.

Here is the winning recipe

### HOMINY CASSEROLE

3 cans hominy, 2 yellow, 1 white, drained and rinsed  
 3/4 cup grated cheddar, divided (see below)  
 1 (4 oz) can green chilies, drained  
 3/4 cup sour cream  
 3/4 cup Mexican Velveta cheese, cubed  
 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded, halved and divided (see below)

Combine hominy, 1/2 cup cheddar, chilies, sour cream, Velveta and 1/2 jalapeño, finely minced, in mixing bowl. Pour in 8 or 9" baking dish. Sprinkle with 1/4 cup remaining cheddar. Garnish top with remaining jalapeño slices, thinly sliced.

Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

ENJOY!!



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 Tom Nixon VP  
 &  
 Dean English VP







## Precious Memories

**James Luther Drake**, 83, from Carlton, Georgia, passed away on Friday, October 25, 2013. He was the son of the late Aldean and Addie Drake. James was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who cherished his family. James was a farmer and raised chickens for 46 years and was the owner/operator of The Gospel Tabernacle in Carlton, Georgia, where monthly gospel singings were held. He loved music, especially Bluegrass Gospel, and played with several music groups over his 67 years in music. He still traveled to many festivals and played his guitar and sang until his passing. It is our wish here at SEBA to extend our thoughts and prayers out to James' wife Rebecca and the family. And to his extended musical family and many friends.

*From the editor: The preceding story about Mr. Drake comes at the Christmas season and is most appropriate to and for those of us who understand or have yet to understand how blessed we really are. Tears are a rare occurrence for me, but these tears are for the celebration of a man who through all his misfortunes in life, held firm to his faith and love of God, family and the gift of music through which he chose to praise his creator and share his faith with others.*

*May the gifts you give or receive be as rich,  
as those James Luther Drake has left us!*



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