

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FIDDLERS ASSOCIATION/Robert Waldo Gray 601.898.8265 eves.

GREAT BIG YAM POTATOES FIDDLE CONTEST & OLD TIME MUSIC GATHERING

The Mississippi Fiddlers Association is proud to host the fourth Annual Great Big Yam Potatoes *Fiddle Contest* & Old Time Music Gathering in Washington, Mississippi.

On Friday evening, May 13, in the West Wing building of Historic Jefferson College, Dr. Edwin McAllister, Dr. Jack Magee and Captain Johnny Rawls will present a program of Mississippi string band music. Research material about the golden era of Mississippi's string bands will augment their program, providing an opportunity to learn about our Mississippi musical heritage. Join us for this covered dish event hosted by the Mississippi Old Time Music Society and the Mississippi Fiddlers Association.

The Great Big Yam Potatoes is a free event and opened to the public and is held on the grounds of Historic Jefferson College. Saturday, May 14, 2011 the day begins with the registration desk for the fiddle contest, opening at 8 a.m.

In keeping with the traditions of Historic Jefferson College a presentation of the colors will be held at 8:45 a.m. Miss Rachel Ward will play the National Anthem on the fiddle.

Following the National Anthem, the fiddle contest begins with elementary school fiddlers in the Pee Wee division playing one tune of choice. Following the Pee Wees the Juniors will be required to play a breakdown and a waltz.

The fiddle contest starts at nine o'clock, as well as an outside stage featuring Mississippi Old Time String musicians.

Beth and Johnny Rawls start the day under the antique live oak with a duo of guitar and clawhammer banjo music.

Mr. Reeves Jones, on flat top guitar, will guide us through the Mississippi landscape of the Blues and regional musical influences and storytelling.

Hal & Connie Jeannes, original Big Yam collaborators and ardent musical practitioners of all things southern and musical; present a program of Gospel, early country, and Old Time. Hal also provides brief vignettes of their material.

The Cane Grinders' Buddy & Faith McClure hearken to the heyday of string band music in the *Deep South* with obscure material researched over many a campfire and the unending pot of coffee, with fiddler Buzz Sibley and his undeniable joy de vie for his instrument. Joining the Cane Grinders from the high plateau country of Boulder, Colorado Ellen Rosenberg playing her antique Washburn and banjo uke.

Pat & Cindy's, Cajun Old Time Review & Rhythm have Pat's accordion wheezing two steps, waltzes and Ms Cindy's driving right hand will be keeping tempo on her Taylor flat top. The rhythm section sings too in the patois of the genre. Pat O'Mire a long time practitioner of Old Time fiddling as well, will offer cross tunings of breakdowns, and waltzes. This is old school old time and Cajun-hot no A/C.

Dr. Jack Magee & Sound Wagon. Mississippi fiddler Jack Magee, will gets us back to our Mississippi roots of Old Timey fiddle, with material from the Great Big Yam Potatoes recording.

Arthur Davis from the Old Country Store in Lorman, Mississippi will set up to fry chicken for lunch starting around eleven in the morning.

Last years Great Big Yam Potatoes fiddle contest emerged as the event, which provided entertainment and drama, as the contestants worked out their tunes for the judges in the main building. This year's fiddle contest should be as captivating; from the youngest to the oldest fiddlers providing a very emotional component to Mississippi's only Old Time Music event.

The Fiddle Contest will host the playing of the Rimmer family from Clinton for a half hour set and since it is lunchtime we like to refer to them as the Fried Okra String Band. MS Lizzie Turner, storyteller from Madison, Mississippi who completely captivated the room last year with her wit, grace and Southern charm will follow the Fried Okra's.

Senior fiddlers are scheduled to begin at one thirty in the West Wing and will play until they are done. Seniors may compete in any of four categories: Breakdowns, Waltz, Cross Tunings, and Tune of Choice. Cash prizes awarded to contestants once the judging is complete.

Historic Jefferson College makes the grounds available for primitive camping beginning Friday afternoon on May thirteenth till Sunday May fifteenth. Campers and jamming is encouraged.

Hook ups and electricity are not available, primitive camping only. If you did not bring it, don't expect it to be there.

The Mississippi Fiddlers Association was formed in late 2007 by like-minded individual to advance an interest in rural fiddle music as it was played in the past and bring awareness of this art form to the present.

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