

MAY YOU FEEL THE LOVE



The Table Rock Complex Fire, which began on March 21, 2025, was, according to news reports, declared the largest mountain wildfire in SC History, burning over 15,000 acres at its culmination. This evoked numerous firefighter units to spring to action to combat this fire which was spreading rapidly and obstinately resisting containment. These firefighters made many personal sacrifices as they battled to save lives and homes.

Days upon days wore by without total containment, but they continued to persevere. At one point, many residents were required to evacuate from their homes. One such resident was Janet Hardin, our YAM Program Director and Evening Program instructor. When asked what thoughts ran through her mind she stated, "It's quite scary to pack up and leave home." Janet stated, "The firefighters did a wonderful job of staying on top of things until the fire was contained. Communication to the public was timely and helped me feel secure in what was being done for the homes near the fire."

Donations for practical items were requested for the firefighters as the fire continued to march on, and the community rallied around these brave firefighters. Local churches and businesses served meals, collected necessary items for the firefighters, and prayed for their safety and success.

Dr. Betty McDaniel, our Yam Co-Director, joined the ranks of the volunteers and began with a group of others preparing sandwiches and other food items for approximately 600 firefighters each day. She went further to ask students in schools throughout Pickens County to compose "Thank You" cards to mail in packets to the firefighters, which they did in amazing numbers!

Many throughout neighboring communities took on the initiative to show appreciation and encouragement to the numerous firefighters who were serving so unselfishly. Danielle Yother, one of our YAM alumni, wanted to share her gifts by showing love and appreciation to them as well. Being a gifted musician, vocalist, and songwriter, Danielle took to her pen and paper and composed a song honoring them for their unselfish service. One of the most touching verses is recorded below:

*May you feel the love,
That you've left here in these mountains to grow up
Strong as the ivy and free as the children
May their laughter remind you of what you've given
Though we won't see days where tough is getting tough
Know it's then we pray that
You may
Feel the love.*

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MAY YOU FEEL THE LOVE - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This amazing manifestation of love toward the efforts of the firefighters was “preserved” by Bryan Owens (Blue Lion Digital) and Jim Cauthon, who videoed Danielle and Molly Johnson, (accompanying her on the banjo), performing the song with beautiful Table Rock actually showing in the background. The audio was skillfully executed by Josh Johnson.

Being too wonderful to withhold from sharing, the video was made available for viewing by the firefighters themselves at a “Celebration of Our Heroes” held on June 17th at Pickens Sr. Center. Refreshments for the firefighters and other attendees followed the 30-minute viewings.

You may view the video by visiting VisitPickens.org/video and we trust you “Feel the Love”!



A “PRESENT” TO MR. WAYNE ERBSEN!

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” - William Arthur Ward

William Arthur Ward once said, “Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.” In this spirit, we at YAM would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Wayne Erbsen for his generous donation of over 1,000 books from his bookstore, Native Ground Books & Music Store, to the YAM Program to distribute as we desire among our program directors, instructors, the libraries at Pickens County Schools, our public libraries, and others.

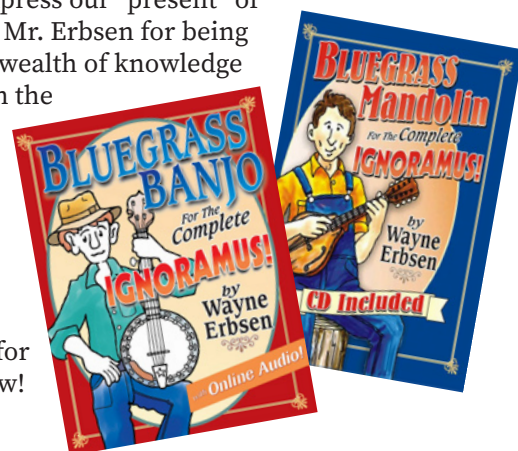
Mr. Erbsen has published numerous instructional books for traditional music. His most famous may well be his series of books that are entitled, How to Play the Banjo, (Mandolin, Ukulele, Guitar, Ukulele, or Fiddle) For the Complete Ignoramus.

A master of numerous styles of music, including bluegrass, old-time, southern gospel, folk, and music of the Civil War, just to name a few, Mr. Erbsen is proficient in bluegrass and clawhammer banjo, fiddle, mandolin, and guitar. He placed first in the clawhammer competition in banjo at Galax, VA in 1973, and 1st in the senior old-time fiddler division at Fiddler’s Grove, NC in 2004.

Adding to his accolades, Mr. Erbsen has taught courses in bluegrass and old-time music and acoustic instruments at

Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC, Central Piedmont Community College, the University of NC – Asheville, and the Log Cabin Music and Cooking Center, also in Asheville. Additionally, he has established a performing band, entitled The Wayne Erbsen Band, and has performed at numerous parties, weddings, celebrations, conferences, colleges, has appeared on Sesame Street, and has performed at festivals both in America and in Western Europe. He has recorded approximately twenty solo CD’s and has hosted his own radio show called, “Country Roots.”

We again wish to express our “present” of sincere gratitude to Mr. Erbsen for being willing to share his wealth of knowledge and experience with the YAM Program in so generously donating these books to help promote our mission of preserving the love of bluegrass music for generations to follow!



A DOUBLY DELICIOUS EXPERIENCE!

Campers participating in the Traditional Arts and Music YAM Camp made possible by the Young Appalachian Musicians and POSAM (Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music), the organization that sponsors YAM, will be in for a “doubly delicious” experience July 14th - 18th! The venue for this event will be the Historic Hagood Mill, 138 Hagood Mill Rd., Pickens.

From whittling to making a gee-haw whimmy diddle, taught by Dave Lindsey, to creating an eye-appealing piece of stained glass, taught by Dale Cleaveland, to making hand-woven bouquets, taught by Tina Alexander, to tooling and stamping taught by leathersmith, Elijah Ellenburg, campers will be enthralled with the various Appalachian activities!

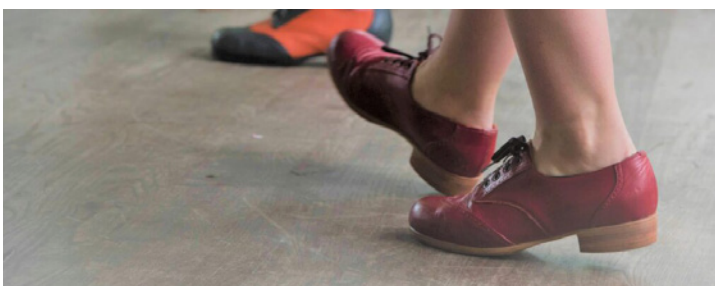
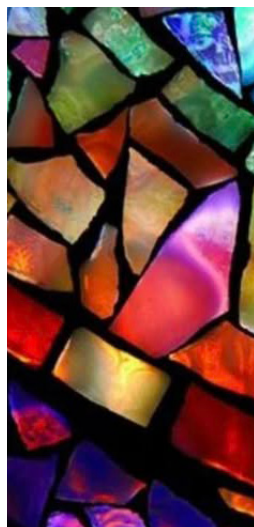
The list goes on with Alyssa White instructing campers in the art of weaving a hand-braided mini-rug, Richard Hardin striking up his story-telling skills with some of the most beloved Jack Tales, with Allison Gillespie bringing on her clogging, square dancing, and the Virginia Reel – all Appalachian style! Artisan, Michelle Petty will be leading in the creation of clay pinch pots and thumb bowls, utilizing items from nature to adorn them.

Then, add to these many activities the expertise of the well-known Nancy Basket leading in the making of kudzu paper and Lacey Ellenburg leading in bell wreath making. Janet Hardin will throw in her expertise on the stringed instrument, the ukulele, and of course, Terry York, will

kick off his jug band class, with some quite pleasing unusual sounds.

What camper does not enjoy playing a bit?! There will be plenty of that, as well, with a whirligig, jump ropes, and bean-in-the-can games. Add to that horseshoe tournaments, creek play, and the traditional shaving cream battle!

TAM YAM CAMP 2025!



What a fabulously educational and enjoyable week! – Learning to play a stringed instrument during the morning sessions and enjoying tons of Appalachian activities during the afternoon sessions! – A doubly delicious experience indeed!

CONSCIOUS OF OUR TREASURES!



The Cliffs Residents Outreach – The Vineyards is a true treasure! Their focus on the literacy, wellness, health, and education of the children in Pickens County has been realized repeatedly in our experiences with them in the YAM Program. They have been an essential lifeline for our YAM students in astounding ways, assisting us in removing those impediments that prevent children from having the opportunity to succeed in this extremely competitive society in which we live.

During Covid times when we were attempting to navigate the uncharted course through the challenges we faced to maintain our vibrant program, CRO-V was there as donors to assist in funding our ever-popular summer event, TAM YAM Camp. We were able to hold it at the location of another one of our partners, the Hagood Mill Foundation. The Pavilion, with its then open walls was perfect for providing social distancing, while at the same time having the roof to shelter against excessive heat and potential rain and storms. This extra funding from CRO-V also allowed us to provide instruction and enrichment for all our campers, along with music education in either fiddle, banjo, mandolin, or guitar, as well as provide activities in our Appalachian culture and heritage.

Another project CRO-V took on was funding academic tutoring in the aftermath of Covid19 for Hagood Elementary and Pickens Elementary for those students who were encountering difficulties due to the learning lost during those challenging times.

CRO-V has also been instrumental in assisting in funding and also providing some of its residents as volunteers during the evening of our major fundraiser of the year each January, the Winter Bluegrass Jubilee. This is an event that attracts attendees from all over the state of SC, and also attendees from neighboring states and beyond. We cannot say enough about the amazing friendships we have made with CRO-V, who have such a vision for the children of our community and work so diligently to make this fundraiser a tremendous success. One resident, Char Burgner, stated it this way: "We may give a lot, but we receive a whole lot more."

Most recently, CRO-V supported the adding of two new elementary schools, East End and Crosswell, to the list of

Pickens County YAM schools participating in music lessons after the school day ends. They have also made funding available to add Forest Acres as a YAM school in the 2025-26 school year. What a treasure indeed!

Again this year, **Hagood Mill Foundation** has opened wide its arms and allowed us to use Historic Hagood Mill as the venue for our TAM YAM Camp 2025 while the Pavilion is under construction. This will provide a wonderfully different rendering of camp for the 90 campers signed up to enjoy the week of July 14 – 18th!



The Hagood Mill Foundation also allows the YAM Program to partner with them on the third Saturday of each March to hold our annual Kidsfest event. This is the time that students from each school perform on the historic stage, as do the Sweet Potato Pie Kids. The event usually culminates with a Talent Show with each performer receiving a participation ribbon.

The Holly Springs Center is another one of our business partners who has served the YAM Program well down

through the years. From its inception in 2017, the Holly Springs Center has allowed the YAM Program to rent storage rooms from them to house our many instruments



used in the program. There, instruments are stored in a climate-controlled environment year-round. Instruments are inventoried, repaired, restrung, and prepared to send out to the schools from that location.

Also the site of many TAM YAM Camps, the Holly Springs Center has allowed the YAM Program to use their facility for many years as we held two-week camps to accommodate our many enthusiastic campers.

Thornton Wilder once stated, "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures!" Today, we are extremely conscious of our treasures – CRO-V, Hagood Mill Foundation, and Holly Springs Center!

GRATITUDE - THE MEMORY OF THE HEART

SALUTING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PICKENS COUNTY



Since the Young Appalachian Musicians (YAM) Program's inception back in 2008, the School District of Pickens County has been an essential business partner for the success of our program. The SDPC has provided their facilities free of charge to us in order for students to participate in

acoustic instrument classes right after the school day ends. This has made it possible for students who had transportation issues to be able to take lessons, as well as for those whose parents would not be able to afford to pay for typical private instrument lessons elsewhere for their child(ren).

The SDPC also stepped up to the plate when the need was great for tutoring following the COVID19 pandemic by providing funding for the most academically challenged students to be able to stay for tutoring in core courses and also be able to take music lessons free of charge. They could also stay for childcare until all students were dismissed for the day. Further, enrichment classes were offered periodically for all students during this time to promote renewed enthusiasm for learning new skills. Students were also given incentive parties at the end of the semester and presented a musical performance for parents to be able to enjoy witnessing the progress of their children. None of this would have been possible without the financial assistance provided by the SDPC.

Over the years the program has now grown to approximately 400 students. Eleven elementary schools participated in the 2024-25 school year: Dacusville Ele, Ambler Elementary, Hagood Elementary, Pickens Elementary, Six Mile Elementary, Liberty Elementary, Central Academy of the Arts, McKissick Academy of Math and Science, West End Elementary, Crosswell Elementary, and East End Elementary. Of these eleven schools, the first

nine were funded by the SDPC, while the Cliffs Residence Outreach – The Vineyards funded the two new schools (Crosswell and East End).

For the nine existing schools, the funds contributed by the SDPC provided for the YAM staff, which consisted of Instructors of fiddle, mandolin, banjo, and guitar; the Program Directors at each school who oversaw the smooth operation of the classes and provided for the safe dismissal of all students; a Homework Center Coordinator who worked with teachers to cover pertinent assignments and monitored students staying on task; and a Homework Center tutor for our largest program to assist the Homework Center Coordinator, (Liberty Elementary with an enrollment of 70 students!)

Another incredible means that the SDPC assists the YAM Program is in allowing YAM to advertise within their facilities for new students, to hold Parent Nights, and to allow our YAM performing band, the Sweet Potato Pie Kids, and other YAM bands to perform in their facilities at Open House Events and at other times to solicit new students. This is an invaluable aid to the YAM Program as well!

Without the funding from the SDPC and their willingness to provide their facilities for lessons each week, we would not be able to provide the level of quality lessons to a broad spectrum of students as presently is the case.

We sincerely appreciate and know the value of the service provided to us by The School District of Pickens County, and with this in mind, we are blessed to express our gratitude as a fond “memory of the heart!” (adapted from Jean-Baptiste Massieu)

BECAUSE OF YOU

A MESSAGE OF THANKS TO OUR DONORS



We, as all non-profit organizations know, rely heavily upon our donors for grants and contributions to sustain our program.



The South Carolina Arts Commission, established in 1967, has been one of our grant funders who has truly promoted access to the arts and has helped to cultivate creativity throughout the state of South Carolina.

They have made possible such activities as free poetry readings, ticketed music, dance, and theatre performances, and basketry workshops, to name a few. The grants that have been funneled into areas in South Carolina that promote all types of art forms have been astounding.

Over the years, the South Carolina Arts Commission has funded Folklife and Traditional Arts Project Grants, which the YAM Program has received to help with Appalachian music and activities during TAM YAM Camp each summer. They were also instrumental in our introducing the YAM+ Program, which targeted academically challenged students who fell behind due to the Covid pandemic. It also aided in providing enrichment classes for all students during this same time period. Additionally, we have had several gifted YAM students who have applied for and received the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Initiative Grant, which allowed the students to study with a gifted mentor in the area of traditional or bluegrass music.

The YAM Program has been the beneficiary of Express Grants from South Arts over the years to assist in securing a top-quality Southern headliner band for our Winter Bluegrass Jubilee. South Arts is of the belief that rural communities are deserving of exceptional art, but organizations may need support in order to realize that desire. Thus, Express Grants can be applied for to help cover the cost of securing a quality band.



THE WAYNE HENDERSON GRANT, named after its founder, is a grant for which we apply each year to assist with general operating expenses and can be applied toward any overhead expense within the organization. Wayne Henderson from Grayson County, Va., is an extremely talented individual who is a top-of-the-line fingerpicker, widely known luthier, and is known as a “friend to everyone.” He was recipient of a 1995 Heritage Award presented by the National Endowment for the Arts. In the past he has promoted a music festival and guitar competition named in his honor, and with the proceeds provided a scholarship for local young musicians to be able to continue their education.

This year, the Upcountry Fiber Foundation has also been added to the list of donors for the YAM Program. We applied for and received



a grant that will help to fund our annual Traditional Arts and Music Camp, held at Hagood Historic Mill this July, with approximately 90 campers signed up to participate. The Foundation focuses on promoting youth development, human services, arts and cultural enrichment, and providing basic needs for people and pets.

To each of our donors, we wish to express deepest gratitude for the role you have played in making the YAM Program what it is today, and not only what it is today, but for the love of music and Appalachian art that is in place for future generations!

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

The YAM Program has been blessed with the most generous sites that have opened their doors to us and allowed us to utilize their facilities to meet each week for Evening Program lessons. These are the programs where adults as well as students can take lessons in fiddle, banjo, mandolin, or guitar in their separate classes. This also provides opportunities for homeschool or private school students who would like to learn to play stringed instruments, or for students who are in the YAM afterschool programs who would like to also have a bit more individualized attention to perfect their skills.

The Pickens Sr. Center, aka The Hagood Community Center, 129 Schoolhouse St, has allowed the YAM Program to meet in their facility for many years. For this opportunity for our instructors and students to meet each Thursday evening in this nice facility, we will be forever grateful.

The Easley Evening Program meets at the **Easley First Baptist Church** music wing, 300 E 1st Ave. Again, this hospitable church has allowed our YAM Program to meet in their wonderful facility on Tuesdays for many, many years and has been so gracious to meet our needs for music classrooms, even during the tough Covid times! They have most definitely added to our blessings.

Six Mile Baptist Church has also been very largehearted and has allowed the Six Mile Evening Program to meet at the Roper Building, 150 N. Main St., on Tuesday evenings for several years and also allowed us to hold our monthly slow JAM on Monday evenings there. Once again, a very definite blessing to us!

Last year, we were fortunate to add **Eagles' Nest Art Center**, 4 Eagle Ln, Salem, to our list of Evening Music Programs. Again, this wonderful arts center swung open their doors and welcomed our bluegrass music in! Wouldn't you say that's another blessing?!

This year, we have again been abundantly blessed with the **Hilltop Wesleyan Church**, 735 Golden Creek Rd, Liberty also swinging wide their doors to us on Monday evenings! When the generosity of all these supportive, kindhearted sites is added up, wouldn't you agree we have an abundance of blessings?! **For each site and their generosity, we are indeed thankful!**



PLAN TO CELEBRATE YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND THE EARL SCRUGGS WAY!

Get ready! Mark your calendars for August 29th – 31st to attend the Earl Scruggs Music Festival at the Tryon International Equestrian Center located in Mill Spring, NC. Earl Scruggs music appreciators will be coming out in groves to enjoy his amazing contributions to the music world! Get ready for bluegrass, Americana, and roots music at its finest!

This festival is presented by the Earl Scruggs Center, located in Shelby, NC. This cultural center and museum partners with radio WNCW-FM, a music station located at Isothermal Community College in beautiful Western NC.

A fascinating lineup of musicians will be present, including Alison Krauss & Union Station, Featuring Jerry Douglas, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Del McCoury Band, Sam Bush, Watchdog, The Wood Brothers, The War and Treaty, Sierra Hull, Sister Sadie, Authentic Unlimited, Darren Nicholson Band, and so many more!

WWW.EARLSCRUGGSMUSICFEST.COM



2025 JAM Sessions

Traditional Music Education Summit

Wednesday, July 9 - Saturday, July 12, 2025

Emory & Henry University, SWVA

\$50 all-inclusive for JAM Teachers, incl. room & board

Share, learn, grow, and explore with fellow instructors from JAM's
60+ programs across Central Appalachia
at Junior Appalachian Musicians' second teachers' conference!



Special Guests include Wayne Henderson, Tim Stafford, Jerry Bigfeather, Laura Boosinger, Beth Cantrell (Suzuki Method), Petrea Warneck (Alexander Technique) & more, TBA!

Attendance is limited - Register now at jamkids.org/summit2025



CONCERT - FRIDAY, JULY 11, 7:00 PM

McGlothlin Center for the Arts (E&H Campus)

Open to the Public with Performances by

WAYNE HENDERSON & FRIENDS, TIM STAFFORD, & THE WILDER FLOWER

WANTED



Instructors who play fiddle, mandolin, banjo, or guitar "by ear" and are willing to teach children in a group setting to learn to play. Please send resume, including 3 references, to Pauline at blackspm1@outlook.com.

YES I YAM

The YESIYAM Booster Club is dedicated to promoting community interest and cultivating support for the Young Appalachian Musicians Program, which is sponsored by Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music, Inc., (POSAM), a charitable non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible. Your support will help ensure the continuity of the excellent instruction the children have come to expect. Those wishing to become YESIYAM booster club members or otherwise contribute to the program, may do so by sending to: POSAM, c/o Betty McDaniel, 792 Holly Springs School Rd., Pickens, SC 29671.

For further information, please call Betty at (864)230-9695 or email yam.upstate@gmail.com.

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