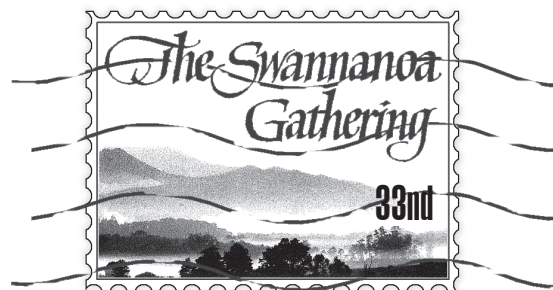


**Cover:** Each July and August, the NC mountains are home to the Swannanoa Gathering, held on the campus of Warren Wilson College, near Asheville. With the sweet sounds of fiddles, guitars, banjos and songs filling the air, the only thing missing is you!



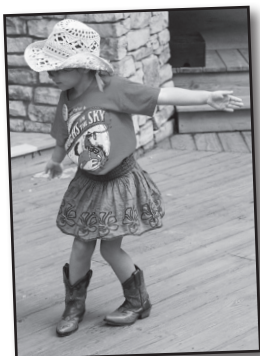
## Dear Friends,



Welcome to this year's edition of our newsletter, the **Postcard from Swannanoa**.

Last year was our second in-person workshops since the Covid pandemic, and we are hopeful that our return to a real Swannanoa Gathering will now be permanent.

Once again, all participants were required to provide documentation that they had been fully vaccinated and boosted. Even so, with CDC tracking of the virus trending low, and weekly deaths nationwide below 100, Covid was still with us. As mentioned at Orientation, Covid was 'forgotten but not gone.' Out of **1,213** total attendees, with everyone vaccinated, we still had **8** positive cases. All of these folks left immediately after their positive test, out of concern for their fellow attendees who might have been exposed. For that consideration for everyone's safety, they have the thanks of the entire Swannanoa Gathering community. We were able to restore dances and our Children's Program during Traditional Song, Celtic and Old-Time Weeks - both developments additional signs of normalcy.



For the most part, weather was great all summer; not too hot and only occasional rain. Due to new fire code regulations, our 'beer tent' was relocated to the area adjacent to our food truck, with tables and chairs added to make a roomy, central concessions area in the evenings that proved very popular.

## Fall 2023

Next summer's workshops will again be held in-person. After constant monitoring of the CDC's Covid Tracker over the last three years, we are feeling a bit more confident that Covid has eased up to the point where we can take a few more steps toward returning to 'normal'. **We will no longer require proof of vaccination against Covid, but we strongly recommend that all attendees receive the latest updated Covid vaccine.** Covid is still around and vaccination is still the best way to keep everyone safe. If these conditions should change, we will notify all those who have registered for the workshops. If Covid remains fairly quiet, we hope to be able to open some of our staff concerts to the public as well. Look for more information in our spring catalog.



Some may remember that, during the 2022 workshops, violent weather destroyed the big tent on the Sunderland lawn. This year we replaced it, with bigger stakes and stronger ropes to secure the tents, and the result? Weather destroyed the new tent **again**. So the message from the Universe was pretty clear: in the future, no more tents on the Sunderland lawn!

Check out the "Coming Next Summer" section below for a sneak preview of what we have planned for 2024.



## Family News...



*Al Petteway*

Any of you with news of interest to the Gathering community should send a copy to the Gathering office, so we can publish it here... This year was notable for the loss of so many great friends and musical influences. Among the more notable losses to the folk community were David Crosby, Jimmy Buffett, David Lindley, Jesse McReynolds, Gordon Lightfoot, Bobby Osborne, and Robbie Robertson. But it is the loss of Gathering friends that cuts most deeply. All of us here in Swannanoa continue to mourn the passing of our great friend and wonderful human being, **Al Petteway** after a brief struggle with cancer. Al was the original Coordinator of our Guitar Week, a position he held for nearly 25 years. He won a Grammy, 45 WAMMIES (Washington Area Music Awards) and was a recipient of the Gathering's Master Music Maker Award for lifetime achievement. If you've ever listened to Dream Guitars' demo videos, chances are you've heard Al. His music is featured in several of Ken Burns' films including *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* and the recently released, *The American Buffalo*. But as brilliant a composer and fingerstyle guitarist as he was, he was an even better person, unfailingly kind, cheerful and humble. The world has lost some of its color without Al in it... We note the inaugural year for two new Coordinators: **Matt Watroba** for Traditional Song Week and **Andrew Finn Magill** for Fiddle Week, as well as the arrival of Warren Wilson College's new President, **Damián Fernández**... Too late for last year's newsletter, we note here the passing of long-time staffer and wonderful friend of the Gathering, **David Surette**. He is already missed... This summer's Gathering missed the familiar voice and face of **Jon Zachary** who passed in November... In January, we lost the great acoustic bluesman **Steve James**. Steve was one of the mainstays of



our Guitar Week, in which he taught for more than 25 years. His knowledge and reverence of acoustic blues traditions, his teaching skill and powerhouse performances were incomparable and

he is dearly missed... Former staffer and wonderful fiddler **Pete Sutherland** left us last December. He was such an influence on so many... Congratulations go to staffers **John Reischman** and **Patrick Sauber** for their contributions to the International Bluegrass Music Association's (IBMA) Collaborative Recording of the Year, Gordon Lightfoot's "Alberta Bound"... Teachers please note that the Swannanoa Gathering offers **teacher renewal certification hours** for any of our weeks. Contact your local school board for prior approval... Don't forget to support your local **Public Radio** and **Television** stations. For other folk news, don't forget the online resources **AcousticGuitarForum.com**, **UMGF.com** (The Unofficial Martin Guitar Forum), **MandolinCafe.com**, **BanjoHangout.com**, **Mandozine.com** and magazines **The Old-Time Herald**, **Acoustic Guitar**, **Dulcimer Players News** and **Fiddler**.



## Coming Next Summer...

**Mando & Banjo Week, June 30-July 6**  
**Fiddle Week, June 30-July 6**  
**Traditional Song Week, July 7-13**  
**Celtic Week, July 14-20**  
**Old-Time Week, July 21-27**  
**Contemporary Folk Week, July 28-August 3**  
**Guitar Week, July 28-August 3**

We're pleased to announce that our workshops next summer will again be held in-person, for what we hope will be a permanent return to our usual event. Next year we will not require vaccination against Covid, although we strongly recommend that all participants get the latest booster shot. as always, we will be guided by the recommendations of the

CDC, and the Health departments of the state of North Carolina and Buncombe County. Look for more information in our spring catalog.



The Swannanoa Gathering is structured around what we call an 'open format', which allows students to create their own curriculum and take as many classes as there are periods in the day. Classes usually have a maximum of 15 students. We require that students register for specific classes, but allow them to switch after the first day into another, open class if they find they have made an inappropriate choice. After this 'settling-in' period, we expect that students will remain in those classes, and we discourage dropping in and out of classes during the week. This structure allows students considerable flexibility, and is an essential element of our program's character and appeal. Many of our classes may include musical notation or tablature, though in general, we emphasize learning by ear.

Many of our workshops fill up early and we expect that trend to continue as more of our programs approach their limits, and although our schedule of classes is not currently complete, **pre-registrations are strongly encouraged.** While it doesn't guarantee that you'll get all the classes you want, pre-registration definitely gives you the best chance at doing so. Folks may register with a tuition deposit of **\$100** and may reserve housing without a deposit. The deadline for pre-registration is Feb. 6. If your contact info has changed, please send us your updated info. Pre-registrants will be sent a class schedule as soon as it is ready and given priority in class assignments. Full payment is required by May 31 to guarantee a space. After that date, class reservations will be unconfirmed until we receive the balance. If we are

holding a space for a student in a class that is full, and their balance is unpaid after May 31, we may release that space to another student.

Warren Wilson summer adult learning classes are back after a great inaugural season in 2023!



World-wide trips in May will include a Civil Rights tour of the South, Performing Arts and Rituals in Bali, and Traditional Music and Dance in Ireland with our own Phil Jamison.

On-campus classes plan to include crafts such as fiber arts, fine woodworking and blacksmithing, as well as Appalachian and natural history. Classes will be offered in the last two weeks in May as well as many running concurrently with Traditional Song, Celtic and Old-Time Weeks.

For more information, please sign up for the Mountain Term newsletter on the website: [www.wwc-mountainterm.com](http://www.wwc-mountainterm.com)

At present, we are completing our staff selections for next year, but many of our instructors have already confirmed. The online version of this newsletter will be continually updated with the most current staff roster.

### **Fiddle Week, June 30-July 6,**

explores such fiddle styles as bluegrass, old-time, progressive, swing, blues/improv, Irish, western swing and more and will continue its integration with several features of Mando & Banjo Week. Coordinator **Andrew Finn Magill's** staff currently includes our Master Music Maker and improv wildman **Joe Craven**, swing fiddler **Evan Price**, Irish fiddling great **Liz Knowles**, jazz fiddler **Sara Caswell**, six-time National Fiddle Champion **Katie Glassman**, old-time fiddlers **Libby Weitnauer** and **Emma McDowell**, and progressive fiddler **Natalya Weinstein**. The program also includes bassist **Kevin Kehrberg**, and gypsy jazz guitarist **Greg Ruby**. The program's Luthiers Exhibit will include bowmaker **Sarah Bystrom Andal** and violin maker **Gordon Gross**.



**Mando & Banjo Week, June 30-July 6,** features classes in bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, swing/jazz, newgrass & more, as well as a few classes in guitar accompaniment. The program continues to be integrated with **Fiddle Week** and there's a lot of collaboration between the two programs throughout the week. **Mike Marshall** heads up the mandolin



staff, which also includes new staff member **David Benedict**, a founding member of the IBMA-winning group, Mile Twelve, bluegrass players **John Reischman**, **Emory Lester**, **Casey Campbell** and **Alan Bibey**, progressive mandolinist **Matt Flinner**, classical master **Caterina Lichtenberg**, and guitarist **Ed Dodson**. This year **Joe K. Walsh** will be teaching swing and Celtic musician **Alan Murray** does double duty on Irish guitar and bouzouki. **Bill Evans** will be instructing the bluegrass banjo players, and old-time pickers **Matt Brown** and **Rachel Eddy** will teach clawhammer-style banjo. Famed luthier **Lynn Dudenbostel** will once again be on hand to offer repair services.



**Traditional Song Week, July 7-13**, promotes a wide variety of traditional singing styles. For next year, Coordinator **Matt Watroba** welcomes Irish singer **Cathie Ryan**, ballad singers **Saro Lynch Thomason**, **Sam Gleaves** and National Heritage Award winner **Sheila Kay Adams**, Americana singer **Susan Cattaneo**,

**Reggie Harris**, with songs from the African American experience, American roots artist **Kay Justice**, maritime and sea shandy specialist **Chris Koldeway**, multi-talented Appalachian musician **Josh Goforth**, and gospel singers **Rev. Robert Jones**, **Pamela English** and **Shirley Smith**.

For **Celtic Week, July 14-20**, returning staff include fiddlers **Liz Knowles**, **Colin Farrell**, **Brian Conway**, **Mari Black**, **Andrew Finn Magill**, **Jenna Moynihan** and **Caitlin Warbelow**. New to Celtic Week are Scottish singer **Allan Carr**, flute player **Josh Dukes**, dancer **Shannon Dunne**, and mandolin and tenor banjo player **Shane Farrell**. Other staff include whistle players **Sean Gavin** and **Kathleen Conneely**, Chieftains guitarist **Will MacMorran**, bodhran player **Anna Colliton**, Irish singers **Cathie Ryan** and **Dave Curley**, Irish guitarist and singer **John Doyle**, Lúnasa's **Cillian Vallely** and **Kevin Crawford**, guitarist **Eamon O'Leary**, Irish singer

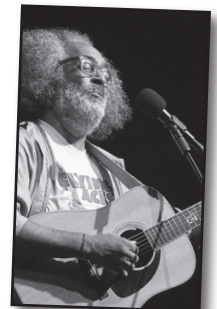
and flute player **Nuala Kennedy**, Celtic Week Host **John Skelton**, harper/concertina player **Gráinne Hambly**, harper **Billy Jackson** and fret wizard **Robin Bullock**.

**Old-Time Music & Dance Week, July 21-27**, is one of the Gathering's original programs and its oldest. For 2024, Coordinator **Erynn Marshall** has recruited another fine group of old-time players, featuring **Phil Jamison**, **Ron Pen**, **Rhys Jones**, **Rodney Sutton**, **John Hollandsworth**, **Tessa McCoy**, **Chance McCoy**, **AJ Scrubas**, **Rina Rossi**, **Earl White**, **Gordy Hinners**, **Ellie Grace**, **Reed Stutz**, **Kelli Jones**, **Chas Justice**, **Ben Nelson**, **Gina Dilg**, **Meredith McIntosh**, **John Herrmann**, **Cary Moskovitz**, **Mark Olitsky**, **Cary Fridley**, **Aaron O'Rourke** and **Carl Jones**. Guest Master Artists include **Bruce Greene & Don Pedi**, **Thomas Maupin & Daniel Rothwell**. Classes will include fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, dulcimer, autoharp, bass, clogging, dance calling, harmony singing, string band, shaped-note singing and more.



**Contemporary Folk Week, July 28- August 3**, offers an inspiring week of artist development for all acoustic performers. Classes include songwriting, performance, vocal coaching and more, taught by an outstanding lineup of seasoned professionals passionate about their art and equally passionate about inspiring others to develop their own unique gifts. New to the staff this year are singer/songwriters **Tyler Ramsey** and **Crys Matthews**. We welcome back Grammy-winning songwriter **Don Henry**, singer/songwriters **John Gorka**, **Nora Jane Struthers**, **Cliff Eberhardt**, **Ellis Paul**, **David Wilcox**, **Greg Greenway** and **Vance Gilbert**. Singers **Laurie MacAllister** of Red Molly and **Elise Witt** will serve as the vocal coaching staff.

**Guitar Week, July 28- August 3**, offers classes in fingerstyle and flat-picking guitar in a wide variety of styles. This summer's program will





be dedicated to the memory of **Al Petteway**, who was our first Guitar Week Coordinator and served in that role for more than two decades. New this year is versatile guitarist **Josh Turner**, and Coordinator **Greg Ruby** brings back a number of old friends including Master Music Maker **Robin Bullock**, slack-key guitarist **Patrick Landeza**, and

**Ray Chesna**, multi-genre virtuoso **Clive Carroll**, Celtic guitarist **Tony McManus**, jazz guitarist **Sean McGowan**, bluegrass player **Ed Dodson**, blues guitarists **Toby Walker** and **Scott Ainslie**, percussive innovator **Vicki Genfan**, multi-instrumentalist **Danny Knicely** and Brazilian choro player **Cesar Garabini**. This year's Luthier's Exhibit will feature the guitars of master luthiers **John Slobod** ([www.circaguitars.com](http://www.circaguitars.com)), **Judson Riviere** ([www.riviereguitars.com/](http://www.riviereguitars.com/)) and more.

*P.S.*



- If you know someone who's considering a college, our **Admissions Office** would like to know about them! Contact them at 1-800-934-3536 or <[admit@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:admit@warren-wilson.edu)>

- If you're considering joining us and are wondering what kind of environment you can expect, just remember that

the Swannanoa Gathering is not a conference center or resort, but a music camp held on a college campus (Remember camp? Remember college?). Although

the support services of the college do a great job accommodating our requests, they also have their own schedules and other duties. We may not be Club Med, but we work hard to make everyone feel welcome. And, unfortunately, until we can afford that biodome, I'm afraid we can't control the weather, either.



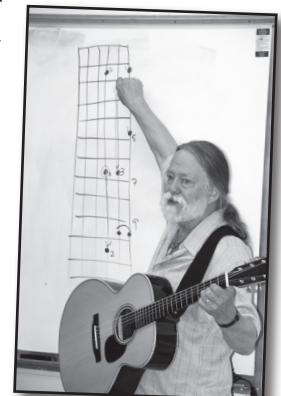
- If you're interested in carpooling to the Gathering, check out the 'RideShare' page at our website.

- One common question on our evaluations concerns why different instructors teaching the same class are scheduled at the same time, since many folks expressed a desire to study with both. The reason we have additional sections of the same class is not to provide a double shot of the course to the same group of students, but to allow more students to take the class. To achieve this, we schedule them at the same time to have people choose. The good news is that we work hard to ensure that any choice will be a winner. And for you Celtic and Old-Time Week fiddlers, **Fiddle Week** should offer you a second opportunity to take classes in your favorite styles.

- Children under 12 may continue to stay in a room with two adults, at least one of whom is a registered student, at no charge. The accompanying adult should provide bedding for the child and the second adult must agree to the arrangement, otherwise it will be charged as a single room.

If you got this newsletter in the mail, you're already on our mailing list. **Please check to make sure that we have your current address and notify us if we need to update it.** If

this newsletter came to you by some other means, be sure to provide us with your contact info to make sure that you'll receive a copy of our catalog in March. You can email, call or mail in the form here, but the best way is to fill out the form on the 'Join Our Mailing List' page at our website. You can



find it under the first menu item at the top labeled 'About Us'. If you're online, you'll find that the text of this newsletter and our catalog will appear at our website around the time hardcopies appear in the mail. It's a good idea to check the website occasionally for any program and/or staff updates.

From the course schedule found in our catalog, each student can plan a curriculum tailored to his or her needs and interests. Although it's possible to register for as many courses as there are class periods for that week, **we recommend that students consider carefully how many classes they want to take**, since too many may not leave enough

opportunity and/or practice time to absorb all the material presented. Those taking a double-length fiddle class during Celtic Week, for example, may find it to be all they can handle. Also, because class space is limited, we ask that students adopt a "take all you want, but want all you take" attitude out of consideration for their fellow students. That being said, however, overachievement is certainly available for those type-A's who thrive on that sort of thing. Evening activities include open mikes, staff concerts, student showcases, jam sessions, song swaps and more. Each week's schedule has its own characteristic variations, but in general, the sample schedule below shows what a typical day's activities might be.

7:30-8:30	Breakfast
9:00-10:15	Class Session 1
10:15-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:00	Class Session 2
11:30-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	Communal Gathering (announcements & special events)
2:15-3:30	Class Session 3
3:45-5:00	Class Session 4
5:00-6:30	Supper
6:30-7:30	Slow jams, Group singing, Potluck Sessions, etc.
7:30-11:00	Evening events (concerts, open mikes, etc.)
11:00-?	Jam Sessions

### *Please Note:*

**We highly recommend Pre-Registration using the 'Register' page at our website as the quickest and easiest way to get signed-up for our workshops.**

We include a hardcopy Pre-Registration form here as a courtesy for those who prefer it. Simply copy or cut out the form and mail it back to us at the included address.

## Registration, fees, etc.

If you would like us to send you our free catalog when they become available early next year, or have a friend to add to our mailing list, or want to go ahead and pre-register for next summer, fill out the form below and send it to us. Until the catalog is published, you can also pre-register from the 'Register' page at our website. **While it doesn't guarantee that you'll get all the classes you want, pre-registration definitely gives you the best chance at doing so.** Pre-registrants will be sent a class schedule as soon as it is printed, before our bulk mailing, and given priority in class assignments. The deadline for pre-registration is Feb. 5. Tuition is \$625 per week. The optional housing fee of \$540 includes lodging in campus dormitories for six nights and 3 buffet-style meals a day in the college cafeteria. Some single rooms may be available for an additional \$230. Non-students from outside the Asheville area may accompany an enrolled student for the housing fee of \$540 and an activities fee of \$200. We no longer offer Saturday stayovers or airport shuttle service. A tuition deposit of \$100 is required for student registration, with a \$50 deposit required for non-students. **Deposits are non-refundable and non-transferrable,** and payable by check, money order or VISA/MC/AMEX (online only). Full payment at registration is greatly appreciated. If sending deposits, please remember that full payment is required by May 31 to guarantee your class choices.

## 2024 Pre-Registration Form

☐ Please send me a copy of your 2024 catalog.

☐ Send my friend one too!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please register me for: ☐ Mando & Banjo Week, June 30-July 6

☐ Old-Time Week, July 21-27

☐ Fiddle Week, June 30-July 6

☐ Contemporary Folk Week, July 28- Aug. 3

☐ Traditional Song Week, July 7-13

☐ Guitar Week, July 28- Aug. 3

☐ Celtic Week, July 14-20

**THE DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATIONS IS FEB. 5. DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERRABLE.**

☐ I would like to reserve housing for \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Single ☐ Shared

☐ Accompanying me will be the non-student (name) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my:

☐ check/money order, Check#: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**The Swannanoa Gathering  
Warren Wilson College  
PO Box 9000  
Asheville, NC 28815-9000**

Tuition deposit, \$100/week ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Non-student deposit, \$50/week..... \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL..... \_\_\_\_\_

**phone/fax: (828) 298-3434  
gathering@warren-wilson.edu  
www.swangathering.com**