

DESERT BLUEGRASS ASSOCIATION



GRASS CLIPPINGS

Volume 23 Issue 2

August/September 2017

DAVE POLSTON RECEIVES TURQUOISE AWARD

By Mike Headrick

Editor's Note: Mike Headrick is the long-time secretary of the DBA. Mike is also the first winner of the Turquoise Award.



The sixth recipient of The Desert Bluegrass Association's Turquoise Award is Dave Polston. The turquoise award is an annual recognition given to a DBA member who displays outstanding service to our bluegrass community. The recipient is determined by the prior recipients. The award was given at our 5th Annual Marana Bluegrass Festival. Dave received a plaque in the shape of the state of Arizona with a piece of turquoise attached and inscribed as follows: "Dave

Polston - in recognition of your contributions to the Desert Bluegrass Association and dedication to the preservation and promotion of bluegrass music in Southern Arizona."

Dave is from Sierra Vista where he graduated from Buena High School. This qualifies Dave as the first native Arizonian to receive the Turquoise Award.

Dave joined the DBA in August 2007 and has been increasingly active in the DBA in the years since then. Most recently, Dave was elected as the DBA's president in February of this year. Back in the day of the Tucson Bluegrass Festival at the Desert Diamond Casino and later at the AVA Amphitheater, Dave was our vendor coordinator. Then Dave was a vendor himself with his business Rustic Accents and he made a great vendor coordinator.

About a decade ago, Dave decided to learn to play banjo. He joined the East side workshop which helped him develop his skills to the point that he could perform with his first band "Drops in the River". His present band, "The 2 Lazy 2 Ranch Band" entered the DBA band contest at our 12th Desert Bluegrass Festival in one of their first performances. This year they were one of the performing bands at the 5th Annual Marana Bluegrass Festival. Obviously, Dave has developed tremendously as a performer in a relatively short time. However, what really sets Dave apart is that he has given back to the workshops. When the Marana Workshop needed a leader, Dave stepped in. When Dave saw the need for more structure in teaching bluegrass he developed a structure for use in our workshops as well as in his private teaching. This year Dave led both the eastside and the Marana workshops.

Dave has been a true leader in developing Bluegrass Music in Southern Arizona and a most deserving recipient of the Turquoise Award.



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Desert Bluegrass Association

www.desertbluegrass.org

Arizona Bluegrass Association

www.arizonabluegrass.com

Bluegrass Arizona Blog

www.bluegrassarizona.blogspot.com

Daily Dose of Bluegrass;

www.bluegrassonthetube.com

Bluegrass Lyrics

<http://bluegrasslyrics.com/>

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http://www.alltabs.com/bluegrass_tabs.php

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www.bluegrassguitar.com/

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www.fiddlehangout.com

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www.banjohangout.org

Bass:

www.bluegrassbassplace.com

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www.mandohangout.com/

<http://www.mandolincafe.com/>

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BLUEGRASS CAMP 2017

By Dave Polston, DBA President



As I turned the corner and drove up to my house, a sigh of relief hit as I saw that the trees were standing and the roof was intact. I, along with 18 others from our Bluegrass circle, had missed the first major week of monsoons. We were in Levelland, TX, at South Plains College for Bluegrass Camp. This was my first experience going to camp, any type of camp. I Felt like a kid. That's a great feeling.

I road-tripped with Jennifer Johnson and Dale Vickroy in my van. After picking them up, we were

on the road at 6 am. The time flew as we talked excitedly about going to camp!!! We met fellow caravaners from Tucson, Paul and Marlene Simpson, Dennis and Margaret Fesenmyer and my roommate for the week, Scott Warren, in Roswell (no UFO sightings to report), New Mexico. After checking in to the hotel, we all had a great dinner at



Continued on Page 5

GREETINGS FELLOW BLUEGRASS LOVERS!

By Dave Polston



Howdy Bluegrass Lovers!! The summer is in full swing and many of you are enjoying cooler temps vacationing or living in other states for the season. Soon the temps will lower and we will be able to get back in our cars without baking to that medium/rare temperature. So by the second week of September, you can put your instruments in your car without worrying that the neck will warp, and come down to the Monday and/or Tuesday night workshops.

For those who have not been to a workshop, here is a description of what will be worked on. I base the workshop on 7 chord progressions commonly found in bluegrass. We look at how these progressions are similar in their structure but change in melody. This enables us to recognize new songs and quickly pick them up at jams. We work on finding the melodies and

enhancing them during our playing. We also encourage individuals to come up and sing. We can all sing!! This is where you find your voice. We look at jam etiquette and how to lead a song in a jam setting.

One of the items that sets bluegrass apart from other genres of music is the "break". A "break" is a solo of the melody during the song. The workshop environment allows you to practice your break with other instruments and backup others without pressure or judgment. It is very friendly and safe place to improve. These workshops are not just for beginners. Can you do a break on your instruments in three different areas? Are you totally efficient playing up the neck Scruggs style backup? Can you tremolo like Sam Bush or David Grisman @ 180 bpm? Are you able to play rhythm guitar like Michael Davies? If you answered no to any of these then you are a candidate for workshop. This is not a jam. We have lots of those. This is not where you learn your instruments. We recommend lots of great teachers. This is where you learn to be part of a group of musicians who can get together and play music on the fly. It is called "jamming" and what makes Bluegrass such a great genre!!!

We will also look at the history of Bluegrass. If you are going to play this music, you must know the history and listen to the music of the first generation bands. We will start the first session at the beginning of bluegrass. Bill Monroe.

The seven vocals songs will be

1. I'M ON MY WAY BACK TO THE OLD HOME
2. I WONDER WHERE YOU ARE TONIGHT
3. WILL YOU BE LOVING ANOTHER MAN
4. MOUNTAIN DEW
5. LITTLE GEORGIA ROSE
6. ROCKY ROAD BLUES
7. CAN'T YOU HEAR ME CALLING

Fiddle tune-Gold Rush

Get your instruments tuned up and come join us. More information along with locations and times can be found on the website.

BLUEGRASS CAMP 2017 (Continued)



the local steak house. We went back and initiated the week with a jam at the hotel and no one called the police!

After breakfast and before lunch (this theme continues the for the week), we drove to Levelland. In case you don't understand the meaning of the name there is an actual plaque that states "Levelland is named for the typography of it's surroundings." They nailed it! The song, "I can see for miles and miles," got stuck in my head. We arrived at campus just as registration opened. We checked in and got our dorm rooms. I went to college (majored in partying) but never lived in a dorm. Another new experience. Scott and I got to our room and I won't bore you with the details but ironically we had door key problems. (Scott is owner of Roadrunner Lock and Key) (your welcome for the plug). It turns out we weren't only ones. Scott should bring his tools next year and trade for tuition.

We met other Tucson/AZ campers throughout the afternoon, Marshall and Betty Vest, Nancy Hildreth and her grand daughter Emma, Maria McArthur and her parents, Gene and Jolene Berg, Bob Groendyke, Doris Schatz, and Glenn and Lydia Brannin, as we settled in for the week. Time to eat! We had our first meal at the cafeteria and being in Texas, they served BBQ. The food was good, the staff friendly and plenty of dessert!!! After dinner we went to the concert hall to meet the staff and enjoy the first of the nightly concerts put on by the staff. Each year there is a different 1st generation band that the camp is



Continued on Page 11



VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

By Jeff Collins



I write this from my motel in Alaska. Got to spend some time at a local brew pub last night here in Anchorage listening to bluegrass music. Yes it's popular here too. In a few days I'll be in Nome to see my grandkids and jam with my son, his wife and their friends. This genre seems to bring people together. I know many of you went to camp

bluegrass, yea, life is good. I hope it's good for all of you.

This past month I had a short window where I was back in Tucson. Generally I'm on the road during the summer. It was hot also! My band agreed to play at the second annual Make a Wish Foundation Fundraiser. At 1912 Brewery on Forbes Blvd near Grant and I-10. The place was jammed and carried out to the parking lot; we felt like rock stars. The event went from 12-10pm, we played 5-7pm, prime



Continued on Page 10



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Would you like your services, band, and or concerts listed on our website (www.desertbluegrass.org)? Current DBA members can be listed by sending their contact information to Andy MacLeod at desertbluegrasswebmaster@gmail.com. Refer to the 'Links' tab on the homepage for the bands and instructors. For band concert information I will do my best to get your listing posted in a timely manner onto the 'Events - Concerts' tab. Please send me **plain text** with the details for the webpage. Varied fonts, colors, formatting, and inserted graphics are extremely time consuming to match in the webpage editor. A link to a pdf flyer you provide me can be inserted from your listing on the Concerts page.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT (Continued)



time. Had a great time, and the beer was good also! We raised over \$500 for Make a Wish. Hopefully it will help make some kids life extra special. Make a Wish is a very good Charity.

Dave Lahnam and myself have been busy getting the 2018 Festival going. We're just about to seal the deal with Marana on the MOU. We've been in talks with several bands to headline and have an idea of our local bands. It will also be at a new venue, just south of our old one. This is much bigger, more camping, more shade. Should be fun.

Well off to do some fishing now. I'll have some fish lies and tails next time.

Jeff

BLUEGRASS CAMP 2017 (Continued)



themed after. This year it was the Osborne Brothers. After the show we went back to the dorm to jam. We had one in our common area. They were happening all over the dorms and we met a few new people right off the bat. They also had a structured slow jam in a conference room led by an instructor so everybody was able to jam somewhere every night.

Each morning (after breakfast and before lunch), we went to our instrument or singing workshops. After lunch and before dinner (let's eat again!), we took

another workshop, then a structured jam. They had a couple for each level. After the jam there was a different type seminar/workshop for the whole group in the concert hall. My favorite was the one-hour live phone interview with Sonny Osborne. He spoke of playing for Bill Monroe when he was 14 years old. He told a very humorous story of being in jail for the first time because they made him drive the car and they were running late and Bill kept telling him to go faster and he got pulled over. Speeding and no license and they couldn't pay the fine till they got paid for the gig. So they left him there till the next morning. He also told the story of the making of the song

Continued on Page 20

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UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

By Carole Wothe - DBA Trustee



Last spring I decided to have a small group of east side DBA members join together for a jam practice.

As it turns out, within earshot of our practice session was a librarian from Bear Canyon library, and the very next day, we got a request for a concert! (oh my goodness)

I contacted Bob Frankot who agreed to set up something. We decided, that although the library has some budget for programs, that we would seek volunteers for this event.

Bob set it up, recruited three other DBA players. Reid Griffin, Andy Stark and Barry Schaeede. Reid played guitar, Andy played mandolin, Barry played bass, and, of course, Bob on the fiddle. Bob gave interesting background information on the fiddle tunes and the songs. There was a lot of toe tapping in the audience. The room was full. Sometimes the audience eagerly sang along. With a little bluegrass-flavored humor, the hour long show was a big hit at the library.

This was probably the best concert ever held at the library. That's my opinion, of course.



The other part of this story is that the practice group which triggered the request for a concert was just a few players working on their jamming skills. These were DBA members who are often daunted

by the speed and complexity of the regular DBA jams. It was a small group so everyone could have an opportunity to play and lead, try new things, work on harmonies and presentation. It is a reminder that if we want more DBA jams, or



UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES (Continued)

jams of a particular style, we can organize one ourselves and invite people. They will come and you never know what could develop.



DBA Events

AUGUST 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
JAM 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Udall Park Ramada 7200 E. Tanque Verde Road						JAM 12:00pm - 2:00 pm VA Hospital Bldg 60 6th Ave & Ajo
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	SLO-JAM (EAST SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christ Community Church 7801 E Kenyon Dr			JAM 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Pinnacle Peak Court Yard 6541 E. Tanque Verde Rd.		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				JAM 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Sierra del Sol Senior Living (Dining Room) 8151 E. Speedway		
27	28	29	30	31		
JAM 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Thirsty's Neigh- borhood Grill 2422 N. Pantano	SLO-JAM (EAST SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christ Community Church 7801 E Kenyon Dr					

DBA Events

SEPTEMBER 2017

S M T W T F S

					1	2
3 JAM 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Udall Park Ramada 7200 E. Tanque Verde Road	4	5	6	7	8	9 JAM 12:00pm - 2:00 pm VA Hospital Bldg 60 6th Ave & Ajo
10	11 WORKSHOP (EAST SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christ Community Church 7801 E Kenyon Dr	12 WORKSHOP (NW SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Marana Community Center 13251 N Lon Adams Rd., Marana	13	14	15	16
17 JAM 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Music & Arts 8320 Thornydale Rd Suite 150/170	18 WORKSHOP (EAST SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christ Community Church 7801 E Kenyon Dr	19 WORKSHOP (NW SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Marana Community Center 13251 N Lon Adams Rd., Marana	20	21 JAM 7:00pm - 9:00 pm Pinnacle Peak Court Yard 6541 E. Tanque Verde Rd.	22 Newsletter Inputs Due	23
24 JAM 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm Thirsty's Neigh- borhood Grill 2422 N. Pantano	25 WORKSHOP (EAST SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Christ Community Church 7801 E Kenyon Dr	26 WORKSHOP (NW SIDE) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Marana Community Center 13251 N Lon Adams Rd., Marana	27	28 JAM 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Sierra del Sol Senior Living (Dining Room) 8151 E. Speedway	29	30 CLINIC Reid Griffin Guitar 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Chicago Music Store 5646 E. Speedway

SUMMER JAMS



Sierra del Sol Jam



SUMMER JAMS (Continued)



VA Hospital Jam



SUMMER JAMS (Continued)



VA Hospital Jam

SUMMER JAMS (Continued)



VA Hospital Jam



BLUEGRASS CAMP 2017 (Continued)



Rocky Top, started out as a slow ballad if you can fathom that. Another highlight of the week was playing for the staff one day during lunch. Instigated and led by our own Paul Simpson, we all did Mama Don't Allow.

Another cool thing that happened was the local paper coming and covering the camp and publishing articles and pictures. Tucson got some exposure in the pictures. 19 out of 117 students were from Tucson. Our large number returning year after year has become so normal that we even have the staff saying "Go Cats!"

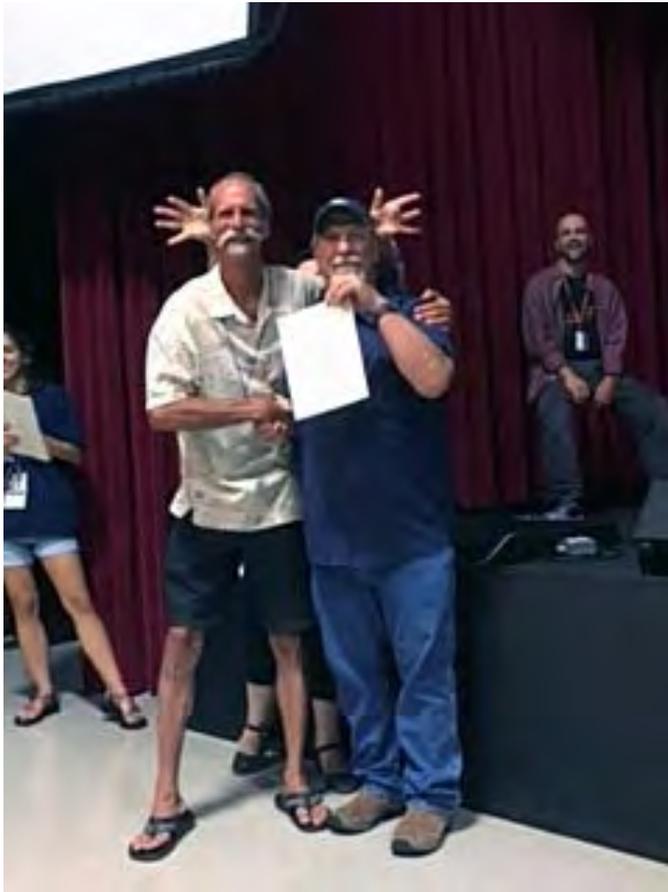
Friday morning, after breakfast and before lunch, were the student concerts. They encourage groups to form and

come up and do 2 songs. It is a great opportunity to play on a professional

Continued on Page 21



BLUEGRASS CAMP 2017 (Continued)



stage, high quality sound equipment and a professional running the sound board. I played in 2 bands. The 2nd was all of Zonies going up last and playing Crying Holy, led by Paul and then I bragged on how awesome our association is and what cool workshops and jams we have. We finished the concert with "Will the Circle Be Unbroken" in Tucson fashion. We had the whole concert hall singing the final chorus with us a capella. "Go Cats!" We then had our graduation ceremony with everyone receiving diploma and photo bomb pictures! Then we ate. We said goodbye to our new friends and packed up to go. I am really glad I went. I gained a few lbs (everybody cheer!) and have a lot of material to work on to make me a better bluegrass!! So to everyone out there - start your diet now. Take the \$20 a week spent on Twinkies and put it in that envelope marked "Bluegrass Camp"!!! See you there next year!!!



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JAMS & OPEN MICS

DBA sponsored jams are listed at www.desertbluegrass.org & on the enclosed calendar.

Southern AZ Old Time Fiddlers Assn.

Southwest Community Center
Cardinal Ave, Tucson, AZ
Tuesday 7 PM
Info: Wilbur 520-743-7086

Catalina Mountain Chapter of the AZ Old Time Fiddlers Association Fiddler's Workshop

3rd Monday at 7 PM
Info: Rusty 520-981-8152

Open Mic at The Hut on 4th Ave

Every Sunday 6 - 9:00 PM
Info: Rudy Cortese@gmail.com

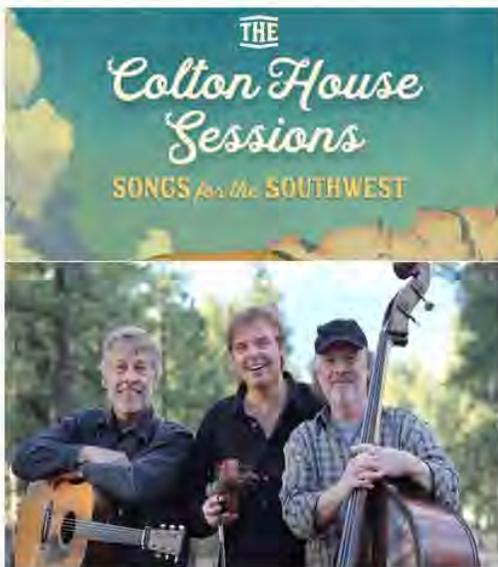
Kibbey's Jam and Open Mic

Info: Jim Howard, 520-825-9413
Twin Lakes Drive, Catalina, AZ
Every Friday Night 6:30 PM-9:00 PM

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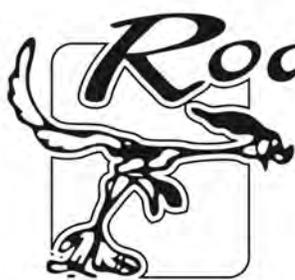
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LONESOME RIVER BAND

MAYHAYLEY'S HOUSE 2017

Mountain Home Music Company

Review By Marilyn Ryan Hulbert



Sammy Shelor, 5 time IBMA award winner for banjo player of the year, 2011 winner of the Steve Martin prize for excellence in banjo, a member of the Virginia Country Music Hall of Fame, and five time winner of the SPBGMA banjo performer of the year leads the Lonesome River Band into yet another fine recorded album of bluegrass music - our favorite music - right!

Sammy's first banjo was fashioned from the lid of a pressure cooker by his Grandfather when Sammy was only 4 years old, with the challenge that if young Sammy could learn to play two songs, he would get a real banjo. By the age of 10, he was performing in local bluegrass bands. Carnegie Hall, the David Letterman Show, Station Inn, and so many other great venues have seen Sammy perform his steady, hard driving banjo music.

Brandon Rickman is an award-winning songwriter, but he also contributes his distinctive lead vocals and guitar talents to the band. I have in my collection his debut album "Young Man Old Soul." I was so excited about his vocal abilities then in 2009, and am always so anxious to hear what his soulful and melodic voice has to offer.

Mike Hartgrove is playing some amazing fiddle on this recording.

Barry Reed is on upright bass and singing harmony vocals.

Jesse Smathers on mandolin and singing lead and harmony vocals. I had to look on YouTube to hear Jesse by himself because the voices in the band blend so well. He is bluegrass all the way from the toes to the top of his head!

Tony Creasman - drums and percussion, Jeff Collins playing piano on "Coyote Town".

The credits on the smaller album cases don't have room to tell who is on each song singing the lead, but between Jesse and Brandon, I hear some of the best lead bluegrass singing anywhere!

"Wrong Road Again" written by Allen Reynolds is an uptempo tune that is a fine start to the this CD. It is followed by "As Lonesome As I Am" by Matt Lindsey and Shawn Camp, keeping the tempo up and moving.

"Mayhayley's House" by Adam Wright is what I would call mountain modal - kind of between minor and major chords. "Oracle of the Ages" is what she called herself. Her neighbors said she was a seer, a fortune teller. This is a story about Amanda Mayhayley Lancaster -



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1878-1955. Let's go down to Mayhayley's house. I would have gone in a minute!

"Old Coyote Town." We love the West!

"Blackbirds and Crows" by Don Humphries. A little tale of murder. He didn't want to let her move away from him, but the birdies knew what happened to her. Great song!

"Ida Red" - public domain - the boys show off their pickin' abilities!

"Diggin" by Eli Johnston & Kevin McKinnon.

"As The Crow Flies" is a modern sounding country song about missing someone. The harmonies are gorgeous!

"Lonesome Bone" by Curtis Wright is another wonderful song with a chorus you will be singing, just like I did as I listened.

"I Think I'm Gonna be Alright" has some drums and is a little bit calypso in it's rhythm, but the Lonesome River Band can pull any song into a bluegrass genre and make you love the way it sounds...

LONESOME RIVER BAND MAYHAYLEY'S HOUSE 2017 (Continued)

"It Feels Real Good Goin' Down" - "another jug of wine is about to get you off my mind" is the theme here. You can sing along here too.

"Hickory Hollow Times and Country News" is a story about being in Nashville and reading about what is written in the old hometown paper, including the wedding of his high school sweetheart to his best ole' buddy. Happiness prevails.

"Fly Around My Pretty Little Miss" - Sammy is frailing the banjo! Awesome end to a wonderful album!

Song choices are varied, interesting and mostly uptempo. The musicianship and vocal abilities of this band are truly about the best you will ever hear. I did not mention each and every song writer, so you must get the album for the great music and all the information.

Stay cool and play lots of music, my friends!

Marilyn



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