

FLORIDA HARPERS & FRIENDS

1ST QUARTER 2007 NEWS

February Fun ~ FHF Gathering 2/24-2/25

Our February gathering was a wonderful event with a group of 40+ folks. The organizers of the Northeast Florida Scottish Games were both welcoming and accommodating and many thanks to Kathy Pearce for helping to make the weekend happen for FHF.

If you missed the weekend, here is a short recap...and check the website for more photos!



Saturday at the Games

Friday:

After checking into the hotel, we shared dinner at a wonderful Italian restaurant. Then we traded tunes for several hours in the 'breakfast room' at the hotel.

Saturday:

Up early and off to the games at the Clay County Fair Grounds. The weather was perfect but it was still nice to have the "Harp House". There was a beginners' harp circle, harp competitions, an intermediate harp circle, playing for the Scottish dancers, and two concerts: first Nancy & Frank Clark, then Castlebay. Not to mention, outside the harp house we had mini-performances by Castlebay and local artists plus time to swap tunes and harps. And I should mention the bodhran lesson.

After packing up and checking out the caleidgh, it was off to dinner with a restaurant filled with harpers and Scots. And then back for several more hours of trading tunes in the breakfast room. This time we were joined by bagpipers.

Sunday:

Once again it was an early start, where many of us met in the breakfast room. Then Kim Adamson rushed off to the fair grounds to greet folks arriving for the workshops. The only problem with offering six workshops in two time slots was deciding which to attend. There were basic (Nancy Bick-Clark) and challenging (Julia Lane) harp workshops each hour. Then we offered bodhran (Frank Clark) and Scot singing (Fred Gosbee) workshops.

Kim and I were able to pop in and out of several (aka supervising) and each one was interesting, fun, and educational. Folks were working hard with smiles on their faces. Between the two sets of classes we broke for brunch and a very brief annual membership meeting. Everyone left with new tunes, memories, and most important new friends.

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Notes from the Annual Meeting:

11:30 AM Marg Chauvin, President, announced the meeting. (During brunch)
Reading of the previous meeting minutes was dispensed due to unavailability.
Officers will remain the same unless there are volunteers.
Call for volunteers: Officers, Newsletter, Website, Gathering coordinator.
Rosemary Stout, Jacksonville, volunteered to serve as Vice-President, she was accepted.
11:35 AM Meeting adjourned.

FHF Officers:

President: Marg Chauvin, Lantana
Vice President: Rosemary Stout, Jacksonville
Treasurer: Kim Adamson, Naples
Secretary: Vicki Mansur, Melbourne

Opportunities to contribute to the club:

Did you ever think "I wish FHF would do ...". Well, here is your opportunity to share your talents.
Newsletter editor: Compile, print, and mail a quarterly newsletter.
Website editor: Maintain the club website.
Gathering coordinator: Creative ideas for enrichment.
Interested in one of the positions? OR, create your own slot...
Email or call Marg, heartstrings@harper.net or 561-308-0118.



Saturday – Those who shared their talents.

News from the Soundboard

It is spring and a musician begins to think of vacation and summer harp camps. The Calendar page of our website, www.florida.harper.org, lists several and the list (and links) grow with each week. Be certain to check our site for quality music camps. AND, if you attend one, send us a review.

One of my favorite camps is Swannanoa, just outside Asheville North Carolina. It is always a treat to spend a week in the mountains playing music and hiking. Celtic week features both Grainne Hambly and Billy Jackson, two excellent Celtic harpers. Now, Kim Adamson, loves Somerset in New Jersey and will be attending again this year. Her description is so vivid and full of excitement that I just may need to attend this year.

Then there is always study abroad, Canada, or in the western part of the US. I hear raves on the Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp (with harp). Regardless, what you choose it will be refreshing and you will return with new perspectives. So, have fun.

Now, which camp do I want to attend...

Marg

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SOMERSET FOLK HARP FESTIVAL

www.harpsomerset.com

July 19 thru 22, 2007

What can I say about Somerset? Not nearly enough! I have worked this festival every year since it's inception, including Somerset West last year in San Jose', CA. I have over the years attended my share of instrument specific or music genre' specific camps and festivals and this one is at the top of my list. I am a person who can tire of the same style of music and this NEVER happens at Somerset. If you want to find out what type of music can be played on the harp this festival will show it all; Celtic, pop, folk, rock, classical, jazz, Latin, Paraguayan, kledzmer, hymns, country western, ensembles, duos, singles even playing while belly dancing.

From concerts to workshops and the vending hall you will have the opportunity to discover the double strung, crosses strung, and even triple stung harps. You will hear them strung with nylon, wire and gut. You will even see a pedal harp or two.

Workshops are too numerous to mention and you have your choice of about 8 per time slot. Just some of the topics covered are; beginners without a teacher, technique, learning by ear, composing, arranging, rhythm, playing with other instruments, theory, lead sheet, ensembles, stage presence, playing with inspiration, therapeutic music, workshops specific to styles of music, or how to build a harp of your own etc.

The vending hall is always a great place to go, it's worth the trip in it's self. I always count over 200 harps for sale on the floor each year. Have you wanted to see a specific builder's harps in person? This is the place. We even have a small and large harp tasting so that the harps can be heard and NOT seen while being played by two different professional players. This is to give you the opportunity to make sure you just aren't falling in love with the look only and to show how different a harp can sound in different hands. (This is where I acquired the nick name "Vanna").

The vending hall is also where you can find racks and racks of sheet music, books, CDs, jewelry and fun accessories. I have tried not to mention specific names for fear of leaving someone out, but it is such a pleasure to walk in that hall and see Sylvia Woods sitting there in person with a smile on her face and ready to help.

So come, bring a friend or make some new ones, you won't regret it.

Kim

Send your newsletter articles and volunteer questions to Marg 561-588-4775, florida@harper.org

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HARP & OTHER INSTRUMENT CAMPS/FESTIVALS

www.bigskyharpfestival.com July 4-8, 2007

Montana

www.harpsomerset.com July 19-22, 2007

New Jersey

www.meadowlarkmusiccamp.com August 19-25, 2007

Maine

<http://www.cgmusicman.com/camp/index.html> Oct. 12-14, 2007

Florida

<http://www.swangathering.com/> July 15-21, 2007

North Carolina

www.folkschool.com June 24-30, 2007 and Sept. 2-8, 2007

North Carolina

Membership Update...

We are currently 24 paid members strong.

Look for a list of the current members of Florida Harpers and Friends which will be sent to each member. I was not comfortable enclosing it with this first online newsletter.

Kim Adamson



Nancy – Rachel (Harper of the Day) – Kathy

Thank you to the editors of this issue:
Kim Adamson & Marg Chauvin