

A Different Strummer

Grand Sing-Along Opens 2015 Folk Festival

Interview by D. Boston

The **festival** is adding a special new feature this year: an **opening Sing-Along event** in the main tent on **Saturday morning (10:00am)** featuring Bill Cohen and Carl Yaffey (aka *The Folk Ramblers*), who are a well known favorite around town for sing-alongs.

Be forewarned for the following article that Bill is a bit more effusive than Carl when it comes to written word replies.

Diane: What is special about a Sing-Along, as opposed to music performance where the audience just listens?

Bill: When everybody sings along, there's a special feeling of community that bubbles up almost immediately. There's a feeling that "hey, we've all got something to



contribute" and it's not just a one-way thing where a performer is giving something to an audience. A sense of

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Grassahol Headlines 2015 Central Ohio Folk Festival

Interview by Bill Cohen



"Their songs are a reflection of the many musical influences of the band members themselves – bluegrass, Americana, folk, blues, jazz and even rock. *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine called their music, 'original, contemporary bluegrass at its finest.'"

What follows is an interview previously done and chock full of interesting stuff which is well worth reprinting. AND read to the end -- to see additional comments by band members about their headlining performance on May 2.

Bill Cohen: How would you describe the music you play, and what adjectives would you use to describe your performances?

Chas Williams: We play a mixture of Bluegrass, old time, swing and modern tunes in a bluegrass setting. It's rare that Grassahol will play two songs that sound the same back to back. Our performances are fun and

intense, and emotional all at the same time. Bluegrass and its songs are primarily expressions of straight forward emotions, much like country music, just not as self-absorbed. That's what I like about it. It's right up front. You always know where you stand in Bluegrass music, whether it be dead and floating down a river, going up to meet

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2015 CENTRAL OHIO FOLK FESTIVAL!

We hope you are either at the Central Ohio Folk Festival (reading this) or are planning on attending on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4. This promises to be a great festival, including some new offerings this year.

On page 4, you'll see a listing of the various events and times. Or you can check out our website at:

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

to find even more detailed information.

We hope to see you soon!

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Grassahol - from page 1

the creator, riding that midnight train, or drinkin' dark whiskey. It's all good.

Heidi Haupt: If we all like the song, it's fair game. We've strayed from traditional Bluegrass without disrespecting the original form.

Scott Brooks: We have tried, with limited success, to verbally describe our music to booking agents and have come up with phrases like roots-based, acoustic music influenced by bluegrass, folk, blues, minstrel, swing, country, rock and jazz. But, the fact is that the five instruments: banjo, guitar, mandolin, fiddle and bass make such a perfect combo that when you add some voices you have a musical palette from which you can create a variety of musical ideas. And that's what we do. We sing and play just about anything we like and they all come out sounding like – *Grassahol*.

Bill: Your members have many years of musical experience, and some have been in musical groups besides Grassahol. Can each of you tell us how many years you've been performing, how many groups you've been in, and how many instruments you each play?

Carl Yaffey: I started in 1962. [I've] probably been in 15 groups or more. I play banjo primarily but also play guitar, mandolin, and bass.

Chas: I have played in over a half dozen musical groups, and have been playing folk music, old time, rock and bluegrass for too many years to count at this point. I started in middle school, but played piano before that. I play the piano, guitar, harmonica, kazoo (does that count?), mandolin, fiddle, and banjo. I just sold my hammered dulcimer, so I don't play that anymore. My instrument in the band today is the fiddle (and kazoo, if that counts.)

Heidi: I spent my youth at the piano and learning to sing harmonies with my musical family. I picked up the guitar in a fingerpicking style when I wanted to start singing at coffeehouses and bars in college. Soon after, I met my husband (the drummer) while singing in a rock band. After hearing live the incredible quality of bluegrass musicians both instrumentally and vocally I knew that's what I needed to be doing. Since I am helpless with a pick in my hand, I learned to play the bass so I could sing harmonies with my friends. I met Carl at

a bluegrass jam and Grassahol was born shortly after.

Lacy Wright: Mom taught me how to sing harmony parts when I was six. I can't sing harmony in a song now without thinking of her.

I started playing seriously during the 60's. I've played classic rock, country and oldies over the years. I play guitar primarily but also play bass guitar and pedal steel guitar. I can fumble some with a banjo but Carl's position isn't in jeopardy.

Scott: Music for me, started in my family, singing around the piano. Everyone in my family played a band instrument and sang. I had an early interest in musical production and worked in radio, advertising and my own recording studio. I only moved to the



Grassahol performing at the Ohio Statehouse

performance side of things a few years back, after picking up the mandolin. My primary interest is still in singing – especially harmonies.

Bill: Who are your musical influences and heroes ?

Scott: So many: the Beatles, CSNY, too many jazz folks to mention – Miles, Brubeck, Chet Baker – mainly cool and be-bop. I'm really into music from the swing era – the Great American Songbook. My bluegrass heroes are Monroe, Lester Flatt, and the Bluegrass Album Band and I really dig the new sound bluegrass is taking root in with Chris Thile, Stringdusters, Steel Drivers, Cadillac Sky and others.

Carl: Earl Scruggs, Jens Jruger, Chris Thile, J.D. Crowe and Tony Rice.

Lacy: Vocally, Merle Haggard and probably Conway Twitty and Tony Rice. On electric guitar, Albert Lee, Danny Gatton and George Harrison. Tony Rice is the king of bluegrass guitar in my opinion.

Chas: I have so many heroes. I love the founding fathers: Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, Flat and Scruggs. I love the modern players, too: Tony Rice, David Grisman, Sammy Shelor, Jerry Douglas, Ricky Skaggs, and Alison Krauss. Of the fiddlers, Kenny Baker comes to mind, and Brad Leftwich, Aubrey Haynie, Mark O'Connor, and lots of others.

My banjo hero is Carl Yaffey. Wait, he's in the band. (Does that count?)

Bill: Please give us an example of what you consider the best and most satisfying performance Grassahol ever did.

Heidi: We played at a retirement center in Westerville. The room was packed with folks with walkers and wheelchairs with big smiles on their faces. When we started the intro to "Tennessee Waltz" I heard a collective sigh from the audience and they were all singing along for the entire song. I almost couldn't continue singing because it moved me so.

Scott: I guess the time we played in the atrium of the Ohio Statehouse, a huge space with marble floors and walls. The place sounded like a giant echo chamber and really made everything sound amazing. That, coupled with the honor of being there and the pomp and ceremony, made for a pretty cool gig.

Carl: Playing at a Thom McCain house concert.

Lacy: I agree with Carl – playing at a Thom McCain house concert. Those folks listen close and appreciate your efforts. As performers, we feed off that.

Chas: My favorite Grassahol performance is any performance where we are asked to do an encore. I am an absolute idiot about encores. Other than this, there have been lots of great shows. We did a summer show at Buckeye Lake [in 2013], the sun was setting over the lake, boats were floating by, folks were drinking summer wine, the weather was glorious, we played great, and everyone was on board. That was a Zen moment for the band. Finally, you can't beat the crowds at Byrne's on the right Friday night. Familiar faces all around and a love for the music. What's not to like?

Bill: What do you recall as the worst performance situation Grassahol ever faced?

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Grassahol - from page 2

Chas: Early [in 2013] we played in Centerburg for a city festival that got rained out. We played to 3 people. They had fun, but we didn't. 'Nuff said.

Carl: Playing outdoors near Lake Erie with the sun in our eyes and 20 billion mosquitos feasting on us.

Heidi: The venue will go unnamed, but we travelled quite a distance three times on the promise that the sound reinforcement had been improved. Bad sound takes away all the joy.

Bill: When people see a Grassahol show, what do you want them to come away with?

Heidi: "Boy, that band looks like it's having a great time!" Whenever I see a band like that I always have fun too.

Chas: What I want is for people to enter my world of music. I want to lead them willingly into the songs, to feel the stories, to be instructed by the lyrics, think about their own lives in context, and go away with a little "wow, that was a great show." It's like all theater. There has to be some suspension of disbelief; the audience should forget about the world outside and come into the world of great stories told in song and once back out in the real world feel uplifted.

Carl: Feeling like they had a great time. And, liking bluegrass if they weren't already.

Bill: We all know that folk music groups like Grassahol make big bucks (right), but besides the money, why do you perform with Grassahol?

Carl: I love the challenge of working out the tunes, getting the arrangements right, and getting to play banjo with a great group of folks. It's fun!

Chas: I perform because I am a frustrated magician; because there is magic in music, because music is God's chosen language, and because music well done makes people happy. In the

end, we are here to make the world a better place. I can do that with my music.

Lacy: If it wasn't fun I wouldn't do it. And I like the challenge. For me music is my therapy, my escape from the pressures of life. And my band-mates are great! We enjoy each other and it makes working up new material great fun.

Heidi: I originally started playing bluegrass because of the social nature of the music. Groups of people I met stood in circles in the kitchen and played and laughed all evening long. It never occurred to me to be in a band until Carl asked. Now all of the fellows who make music with me are like my brothers. And my favorite times are not on a stage, but in a circle, making tight exciting harmonies together.

Scott: The whole experience of playing with this band is such a positive social experience for me. The band has the camaraderie of a winning sports team. We support each other musically on stage. And, we spend many hours together practicing and performing our music together. And, we get the chance to expand our circle of friends to include the friends of our other band-mates and the many people who we get to know in our audiences. The Grassahol experience has introduced me to many cool people who I wouldn't have known otherwise.

Bill: How do you feel about headlining the festival this year? (Yeah I know you've headlined at a lot bigger and more prominent events, but . . .)

Chas: I feel great about headlining for the festival. It will give us a great way to connect with your audience, hopefully in a joyous and thoughtful experience. The setting is great, the audience is always appreciative, and that makes it so much more fun for us.

Scott: It's a real honor and responsibility to be selected. I've been a fan of several of your past headliners. Mike Seeger was one of my favorites – I enjoyed his workshop so much. So, I'm feeling like we have to rise to the

occasion and perform at our very best and create a workshop that is entertaining and useful.

Carl: It's great to be chosen for this. The COFF audience is *absolutely the best* to perform for. We're excited!

Bill: Do you have anything up your sleeve for our audience this year?

Carl: We have some new material that we'll be doing. I can't tell you what it will be since it's a surprise!

Scott: I always keep a dozen extra picks up my sleeve just in case I drop mine while playing. :) Other than that, one never really knows what music will come out when you take that leap of faith to begin a mandolin solo (break). I've been playing a lot of jazz lately on my electric mandolin and that's having some effect on my approach to acoustic mando. So, I really hope that some inspired stuff comes out of my [personal] sleeve when we take the stage at COFF. I'll be practicing!

Chas: There will be new material, and what emerges from all those strings, is always a surprise, even if you think you know what's going to happen. It will be lovely.



Details of Performance:

Saturday, May 2 - Central Ohio Folk Festival
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 10 p.m. Dawson Cooper Band (Opener) followed by Grassahol. Tickets required & available in store tent. Very special surprise at the end of the evening.

Where: Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park (Indian Ridge area); 1775 Darby Creek Dr., Galloway, OH 43119. From I-270, take W. Broad St. (US 40) exit west; go approximately 5 miles; turn left onto Darby Creek Drive and follow the signs.

Columbus Foundation sponsors Big Give Event

The Columbus Folk Music Society is registered with The Columbus Foundation and is part of the upcoming "Big Give" event running from 10 a.m., May 12 thru 10 a.m., May 13. Basically, if you donate

online during the specified time period, not only will CFMS receive 100% of your donation, but a "pro-rated" additional amount will be added onto your donation by The Columbus Foundation.

So please consider this means to help out the Society! The website link for donating is: <http://columbusfoundation.org>. Just click on the "Big Give" banner between the designated hours on May 12 or 13.

Schedule of Events & Workshop Listings for the 2015 Central Ohio Folk Festival

2015 Central Ohio Folk Festival - Saturday

Lineup of Concert Performers at the Bob Kirby Main Stage/Tent;
Young Musician's Showcase Tent & Dance Pavilion
With exception of the Sat. evening concert, all events below are free

Saturday, May 2 - Kirby Main Stage

- 10:00 a.m. **The Folk Ramblers** (Bill Cohen & Carl Yaffey)
– leading a giant Sing-Along
- 11:00 a.m. **AbNormal Sines** Old-time/Traditional
- 12:00 noon **Squirrel Hillbillies** Folk/Country/Blues Singer-songwriter duo
- 1:00 p.m. **Storytellers of Central Ohio**
- 2:00 p.m. **Mad Maudlin** Scottish/Celtic band
- 3:00 p.m. **Randy Clepper**
& **John Sherman** Irish traditional duo
- 4:00 p.m. **Bob Kirby Scholarship Award**
followed by **Dave Hawkins** Singer/songwriter
- 7:00 p.m. **Evening Concert (tickets required)**
Dawson Cooper Band (Opener)
Grassahol (Headliner American Roots / Bluegrass band)

Saturday, May 2 - Young Musician's Showcase Stage

- 11:30 a.m. **Suzuki Music Columbus** fiddle tunes (until 1:50 p.m.)
- 2:00 p.m. **Colin Richards** folk singer
- 3:00 p.m. **The Scioto Ramblers** Bluegrass/Folk/Country band
- 4:00 p.m. **Eric Clemens**
& **Dani Harness** Singer-songwriters

Saturday, May 2 - Dance Pavilion (new this year!)

- 12:00 noon **Irwin Academy for Irish Dance** Performance
- 1:00 p.m. **Square Dance** Participatory; beginners welcome!
live music by Blue Water Ramblers (until 2:45 p.m.)
- 3:00 p.m. **Easy International Folk** Participatory; beginners welcome!
Dancing; live music by Mixed Bag (until 3:50 p.m.)

On Saturday, please also check out:

Our giant drum circle (5-6:30 p.m.) led by drummers' Stephen Schneider & "Queen" (all are invited to participate; rhythm instruments will be available)

Our Children's Area featuring:

The Children's Tent: featuring storytelling, performances & sing-a-longs, and a drum circle especially for kids

Craft Area: where kids can make music related crafts

Instrument "Petting Zoo": where kids can look at and try out all kinds of instruments: guitar, fiddle, dulcimer, shakers, pots & pans and more

Metro Parks Nature Displays

2015 Central Ohio Folk Festival - Sunday

Lineup of Concert Performers at the Bob Kirby Main Stage/Tent;
Young Musician's Showcase Tent & Dance Pavilion
With exception of the Sat. evening concert, all events below are free

Sunday, May 3 - Kirby Main Stage

- 10:00 a.m. **Celebration of Life** led by Bill Schilling & Mark Palms
- 11:00 a.m. **Don & Terry C. & friends** Folk/Americana/Country band
- 12:00 noon **Jim's Red Pants** Celtic/Scandinavian/historic & contemporary American folk duo
- 1:00 p.m. **Blue Water Ramblers** Folk band
- 2:00 p.m. **The Relentless Mules** Bluegrass band
- 3:00 p.m. **Halfway Home** Americana / roots band

Sunday, May 3 - Young Musician's Showcase Stage

- 11:15 a.m. **Past Kirby Scholarship recipients perform**
- 12:00 Noon **Elisa Hoffman** Singer-songwriter
(with Brian Szuch)
- 1:00 p.m. **Grapefruit Moon** Folk/Americana/Country duo
- 2:00 p.m. **Toering Duo** Folk/Americana duo
- 3:00 p.m. **Old-Time Music led by** Performance
young old-time musicians

Sunday, May 3 - Dance Pavilion (new this year!)

- 12:00 noon **Contra Dance** Participatory; beginners welcome!
live music by Donkey Nation (until 1:45 p.m.)
- 2:00 p.m. **Hillel International**
Folk Dancing Performance; some participatory

On Sunday, please also check out:

Our Children's Area featuring:

The Children's Tent: featuring storytelling, performances & sing-a-longs, and a drum circle especially for kids

Craft Area: where kids can make music related crafts

Instrument "Petting Zoo": where kids can look at and try out all kinds of instruments: guitar, fiddle, dulcimer, shakers, pots & pans and more

Metro Parks Nature Displays

Closing Song/Jam Circle (4:00 p.m. - ??) led by Terry C. Keller

Battelle-Darby Creek Metro Park: consider enjoying the park after the festivities; park closes at dark.

And over 45 music related workshops (registration required).

We only have room to list Saturday's workshops. Please visit www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org for a complete listing for both days, along with the presenters and a description of each workshop. In addition to the old favorites, we have a number of new instructors this year and some new topics, including tips on getting gigs and keeping them, the basics of home recording and music production and how to run house concerts.

SATURDAY

Sea Shanty Workshop

Drama of Drop D Tuning for Guitar

Playing theSpoons

Examining Sweet Bye & Bye Songs

Union, Civil Rights and Anti-War Songs of the 50's- 70's

Intermediate/Advanced Bluegrass Mandolin

The Amazing Fretboard on Mountain Dulcimer (I, IV, V & VIM)

Death, Disorder & Banjos: Ballads! (Examining ballads and tips on writing your own)

Write Together: Songwriter's Support

Basic Rhythms (rhythm instruments available)

Beginning Mountain Dulcimer

Intermediate/Advanced Old-Time Banjo

Beginning Old-Time Fiddle

Intermediate/Advanced Bluegrass Fiddle

Classical Music Themes on Mountain Dulcimer

Working up a Song from Scratch

Guitar for Beginners (loaners guitars available)

Advanced Old-time Fiddle

'Tis the Last Rose of Summer (by Sir Thomas Moore) on Mountain Dulcimer

Celtic Tunes for Mandolin


Intermediate Guitar


Cajun Fiddle

Duets for the Mountain Dulcimer


Understanding Modes (Related Scales) for

SAVE THE DATE. . .

 The **Saturday Music Jam** at the **Worthington Farmers' Market** **9:30 - 11:30 a.m.** – May finds the group back outside on the southeast quad of Worthington Square. All are welcome to play. Consider bringing a chair.

 **May 1: Central Ohio Folk Festival "Meet and Greet"** – **6 - 9:30 p.m.** Cedar Ridge Lodge at Battelle Darby Creek Metro

Park. Buffet/Pot Luck Supper and plenty of jamming. Lots of food – lots of good cooks! If you want to bring something, feel free, but don't stay away if you can't furnish food. 8:00 p.m. - "Worst Song in the World" contest. **You can also pick up your registration materials.**

 **May 2 & 3: Central Ohio Folk Festival.** Indian Ridge area

at Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park; follow the signs. If you want to attend any of the workshops or Saturday evening concert, registration is required.

Registration & food service opens at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday and 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Festival runs until 10pm on Saturday and approximately 5pm on Sunday (park closes at dark). Visit website for more details.



Don Newton with "Thursdays Pick" "Singing In Concert"

With appreciation for the music of:
Cheryl Wheeler – John Gorka – Rj Cowdery
– Gillian Welch

Sat. May 30th – 8:00 until . . .

At Maynard Ave. UMC (Corner of Maynard Ave. & Indianola in "Old North Columbus")

A benefit for Maynard Ave's "Accessibility Campaign". Don will be singing a large selection of his favorites from each featured artist's repertoire.

Included on the evening's bill are: Roger Baccus (keyboards) – Brian Szuch (lead & assorted guitars) – Maury Falkoff (mandolin & dobro) – Martin O. Brown (bass guitar) – Frank Lapinski (percussion) and not at all least – Paisha Thomas & Jill Roth (back-up vocals).

The natural, all wood, interior of this old church creates an ideal venue to proudly host this mellow acoustic presentation.

Join us for an evening of listening pleasure!

(A \$10.00 donation will be appreciated at the door.)

**WELCOME TO
OUR NEW AND
RETURNING
MEMBERS:**

Betty Kattelman (new)



**How can I find out more
about the *Columbus Folk
Music Society*
and/or it's events?**

Visit us at:

www.columbusfolkmusicsociety.org

OR you can join us as a member. Benefits include: camaraderie with the folkies in town, discounts on certain admissions, this monthly newsletter and the comfort of knowing that all events are family friendly! A membership form is provided on the last page of this newsletter.

FOLLOWING OUR OWN. . .

Friday, May 1: Whinestopper – **8:00 p.m.** Tara Hall, 274 East Innis Ave, Columbus, OH. No Cover.

Friday, May 22: Grassahol – **6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Westerville 4th Friday

Celebration, North stage in historic Uptown Westerville.

Saturday, May 23: The Hardtackers – **2:30 p.m.** Ohio History Center, 800 E. 17th Avenue, Columbus.

Saturday, May 30: Don Newton and Thursday's Pick Singing in Concert – **8:00 p.m.** Maynard Avenue Church (see inset above).

Sing Along - from page 1

community is a rare thing that many people are seeking these days. Folk music in general has that sense of community, and sing-alongs in particular have an even greater sense of that. I think that's why Pete Seeger was such a big fan of sing-alongs.

Carl: What he said!

Diane: The festival folks see this opening sing-along as a great way to get participating folks 'revved up' for the festival events of the weekend. Can you expound on this?

Bill: Yes, we hope this opening event will set the tone for the whole weekend: a feeling of community, of optimism, of energy, of memories, of anticipation, of history, and of participation. People can come with their coffee in hand, ready to start a full two days of a magical mix of music and nature. And remember — we'll be wrapping up the entire festival with a similar sing-along, led by veteran folkie Terry C. Keller, late Sunday afternoon. That will be a perfect way to

punctuate the feeling of community we've built throughout the weekend.



Carl: What he said!

"We hope this opening event will set the tone for the whole weekend: a feeling of community, of optimism, of energy, of memories, of anticipation, of history, and of participation. People can come with their coffee in hand, ready to start a full two days of a magical mix of music and nature."

-- Bill Cohen

Diane: What songs can folks expect to sing along to?

Bill: We'll be doing songs of what's often been called "the great folk music revival" of the 1950's and 60's, songs made famous by the likes of the Weavers, Peter Paul and Mary, Bob Dylan, Harry Belafonte, Tom Paxton, Joan Baez, Malvina Reynolds, the Kingston Trio, and others. For example: *If I Had a Hammer*, *Where Have All the Flowers Gone*, *Charlie on the MTA*, *Wimoweh*, *Jamaica Farewell*, *Turn Turn Turn*, and more. For many of us, these songs spark fond memories of our youth because we recall when we first learned and sang them — at summer camp, on family outings, at religious gatherings, perhaps even at anti-war or civil rights protests.

Carl: What he said!

Ed. Note: So, in spite of what Carl says or does not say, join us on Saturday morning at the park for the Opening Grand Sing-along! The food truck on the festival grounds opens at 8:30 a.m. and, if you so choose, offers hot coffee and even some breakfast food!

Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park - some of its many offerings

Home of the *Central Ohio Folk Festival* (always the first full weekend in May), the park offers a multitude of other activities for folks, whether during the festival weekend or at other times. The park is a real treasure and is known



for its resident bison. Last year, a new Nature Center was opened which provides

visitors with educational information about the park and its inhabitants. So consider checking out the park while you are visiting or, better yet, come back for another visit and consider spending part of a day there!

Meanwhile, we asked a few questions of Park Naturalist, Tim Taylor, pertaining to the Metro Park offerings on the weekend of the festival.

Diane: What can folks expect if they come out for the *Birding at its Best* program at 8am on Saturday, May 2?

Tim Taylor: The great thing about bird programs is that you're never sure what



to expect. On May 2, we will be in the middle of songbird migration here in central Ohio and if the weather cooperates our trees should be a palate of color as the migrating warblers and vireos pass through the area.

Diane: What kind of nature displays and experiences can families expect during the festival?

Tim: Every year the Naturalists who work in the park, put up natural history displays for the festival. This year, on Saturday, it will be a display of mammal

pelts from the native mammals found in the park. On Sunday, as long as the weather isn't too cold, we're planning on bringing out our Cold Blooded Critters display. This is a live animal display, which includes a black rat snake over 6 foot in length, salamanders, toads, frogs and turtles.

Diane: Do you want to say any things about Battelle Darby and why its a great park to explore?

Tim: Battelle Darby Creek is the largest Metro Park in the state of Ohio; over 7500 acres are being protected. Big and Little Darby Creeks are State and National Scenic Rivers where over 100 species of fish and 44 varieties of freshwater mussels reside. The creeks are biological gems. Between this park and Prairie Oaks Metro Park, we are preserving about 16 miles of the waterways. The park has over 20 miles



of trails, several picnic areas (some can be

See Battelle Darby - page 7

Two Kirby Scholarship Winners Symbolize Bright Future of Folk Music

by Bill Cohen

The Columbus Folk Music Society is proud to announce the 2015 winners of the Bob Kirby Scholarship for Folk Music. The Scholarship honors the memory of CFMS member Bob Kirby, who constantly strove to get young people involved in folk music, so that a new wave of folkies would keep the movement alive with new energy and spirit.

11 year old Kai Groslosk personifies the children who are fascinated not only by more than one folk instrument but also by more than one style of folk music. Kai has taken Suzuki violin lessons for six years, but now he reports branching out, learning to play old-time and Irish fiddle music.



With help from his instrumental music teacher Caleb Powers, Kai plans to use money from the scholarship to learn how to play upright bass and to improve his fiddle playing even more.

Kai has already experienced the thrill of performing in various venues. He says that the Irish fiddle group he's a member of has played at "some pretty cool events

like Comfest, the Dublin Irish Festival, farmers markets, Christmas tree lighting festivals, and the Irish Pub at Polaris." On St. Patrick's Day in 2014, he was excited to play Irish fiddle when the group performed on the local TV program Good Morning Columbus.

Our other scholarship winner is also an 11 year old, 4th grader Lena Coyer. She's gotten excited about making music, after participating in two music projects at Run the Race after school program, on Columbus' Southwest side that CFMS has been helping facilitate.

Lena has taken classes on how to play the drum and the tin whistle, and now she's eager to learn to play the violin like her aunt does. Lena plans to use the Kirby scholarship to buy a violin and to pay for lessons.



Plan on coming out to the **Central Ohio Folk Festival** to meet and to hear the Kirby winners perform.

The awards will be presented at the Kirby main stage at 4pm on Saturday, May 2.

Battelle Darby - from page 6

reserved, other are first come first serve). We also have 9 bison that can be seen from the new Nature Center. Visuals of the bison can be either first hand if they're close or by our bison cam which can follow the animals into almost all parts of the prairie pastures. The Nature Center also has a living stream where you can see many of the species of the animals that call the creeks home. Also, there are many hands-on displays that will keep you busy as you visit the center.

Upcoming Events at BDC:

Saturday, May 2

8:00 a.m. Birding at Its Best – Enjoy the morning chorus of warblers, finches, orioles and other birds! (Indian Ridge Bulletin Board)

8:30 a.m. – Registration opens for **Central Ohio Folk Festival** (Indian Ridge area)

Saturday, May 9

11:30 a.m. Yoga – Learn basic yoga movements to rejuvenate your mind and body. Bring a mat or blanket. (Ranger Station)

1:00 p.m. Wild Teas Workshop – Take a short hike to identify wild plants that make great teas and enjoy some brewed tea samples.

Sunday, May 10

1:00 p.m. Wildflowers of Spring – Discover spectacular shows of trillium, trout lilies, Dutchman's breeches and other wildflowers on a 2-mile hike. (Ranger Station)

4:00 p.m. Bison – Take a 1-mile hike to see North America's largest land mammal.

Battelle Darby Creek Metro Park: 1775 Darby Creek Dr., Galloway, OH 43119. From I-270, take W. Broad St. (US 40) exit west; go approximately 5 miles; turn left onto Darby Creek Drive and follow the signs.

THE COLUMBUS FOLK MUSIC SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

OFFICERS

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**The Columbus Folk
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I enjoy the annual Central Ohio Folk Festival (early May): Lots 5 4 3 2 1 Not (please circle one)