

TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

35th Annual

JUNE 19, 20, 21, 22 | 2008



ROCKY MOUNTAIN

FOLKS FESTIVAL

18TH ANNUAL

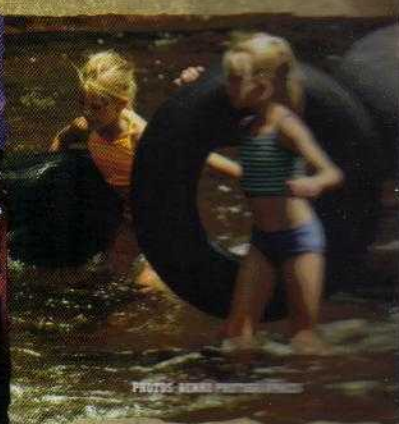
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WELCOME FESTIVARIAN NATION,

After the careful preparation, the safe pilgrimage, the joyful reunion, and the first hike to a waterfall, it's time once again to revel in Festivarian ways.

Together, we have candles to light and much to celebrate. Let's start by lighting a candle for the 35th anniversary of the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, another for the 30th reunion of Hot Rize, one for Planet Bluegrass' 20th Telluride, and candles for the many important anniversaries, blessings and memories that lift our Festivarian Nation high in this valley of the full moon.

Together, as we make a wish and blow out the candles, know that Planet Bluegrass dedicates the Festival to you, the Festivarians. You may even glimpse a reflection of yourself from the stage this year, helping to energize and inspire the performers. Planet Bluegrass is wonderfully aware that our Festivarian community is like no other – reaching far beyond the Festival. We hope that each of us will bring the experience of Festivation back into our local communities to bring peace, joy and music to an ailing planet.

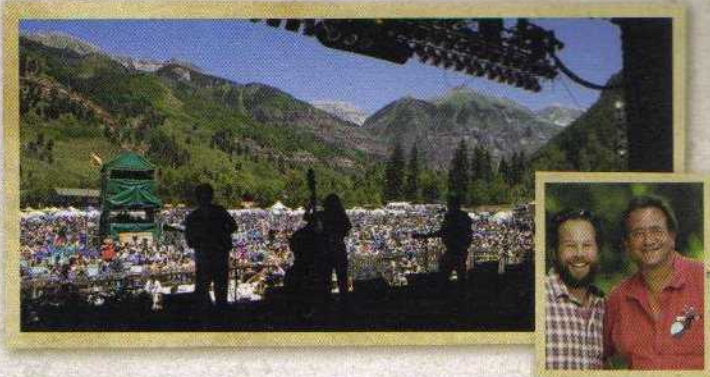
Together, we made last year's Festival the first 100% carbon-neutral music festival. Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr. acknowledged our efforts by proclaiming June 23rd, 2007 "Colorado Bluegrass Day." This year you'll be a part of the second such effort. With the help of our sustainable festivation team, we're launching a Leave No Trace campground contest and a local water campaign, and making it easier than ever to reduce, reuse and recapitulate the process after the Festival.

Together, we'll celebrate the summer solstice on Friday at 5:59pm, just as the first beat of Paolo Nutini cascades across

the canyon. We've been dreaming all year of Glen Hansard's voice echoing off the granite walls. We're certain Ryan Adams' songs will find their home here in our peaceful valley. We'll dance and dance to Yonder and Leftover; Brett and the Duhks; Ani and Tift; Drew and Billy; and the g'Earls of Uncle Earl. We'll welcome the bluegrass of Hot Rize, Spring Creek, the Steep Canyon Rangers and Cadillac Sky. We'll revere the legends: Del, Arlo, Ricky, Bruce and King Solomon. And we'll watch and listen in awe once again as the genius of Sam, Béla, Jerry, Edgar, Tim, Peter, Chris, John and Darrell swirl around our heads, reaching ever higher heights.

It's no wonder year after year we return to that classic Telluride slogan: music, mountains, magic. Thank you, Festivarian Nation, for being the magic and may you all have the time of your life.

Love, The Folks at Planet Bluegrass



TELLURIDE BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL STAFF

Festival Director: Craig Ferguson
Festival Manager: Big Jon Eaton
Park Set Up Supervisor: Rich Estes
Production Crew: Sean Reid, Torrey Rodgers, Dirk Pinto, Paul Mrozek, Tim Lafferty, Tony King, Rory Cowie, Greg Forbes, Mark Taylor, Ian Jacobs, Pat Kane & Dustin Bradshaw
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Security Supervisor: Gary Hickcox
Camping Supervisor: Denise Mongan
Mary E Camping Supervisors: Nancy Setzer & Gwen Lane
Lawson Hill Camping Supervisors: Kathleen Morgan, Fawnda Rogers & Stephanie Gebauer
Coonskin Supervisor: Michael Moore
Town Park Campground Hosts: Tim & Laura Thomas
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Vehicle Gate Supervisors: Kristen Milord, Amy Vanderbosch & Matt Kroll
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Valley E-Team Supervisor: Steve Green

Customs Gate Supervisors: Debby Guarino, Franny Cohn, Denny Powers & Larry Stewart
TP Camp Gate Supervisors: Bill Bailey & Marilyn Branch
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Backstage Catering: Chad Soulia
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Backstage Hospitality: Lauren Lortie & Billy Donovan
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Contest Supervisor: Charlie Bailey
Workshop Tent Supervisors: Edee Gail & BJ Suter
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Park Beautification: Claudia Kean & Rob Carney
NightGrass Supervisor: Amy Kimberly
2008 Poster Artist: Scott Knauer

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FOH Engineer: Tom Holmes
Monitors: Jeff Weatherby
Rigging/Stage: John Setzer
Stage/Patch: Garth Michael
Lighting Director: Dave Hall
Stage Patch: Melissa Britton
Backline: Brent Healy
Audio: Mark Miceli
Stage/Mix: Mark Dennis
Carp/Stage: Ben Heller
Stage: Chris Ruedy
Piano/Backline: John Delpit
Lights: Chris Anderson
Labor/Spots: Tim Terito
Stage: Joe Grasso
Stage: Jordan Kenning
Sound & Lights: Kingston Audio
Staging: Center Staging

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THANKS TO OUR FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

New Belgium Brewing Company, Clif Bar, point6, Renewable Choice Energy, Dos Lunas Tequila, Chaco,

Organic Valley & Organic Prairie, 97.3 KBCO, Telluride Reservation Center, Nechville Banjos, Collings Guitars, Gibson Musical Instruments, D'Addario & Co., Martin Guitars, Elvir Strings, Trust for Public Land, Shanti Guitars, Zeta Music, ASCAP, Nature's Gate, Utne Reader, Red Bird, and Allegro Coffee.

PLANET BLUEGRASS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING:

The Town of Telluride with a special thanks to Rick Herrington, the US Forest Service, the Town of Mountain Village, San Miguel County, Telluride School District & Lawson Hill Property Owners.

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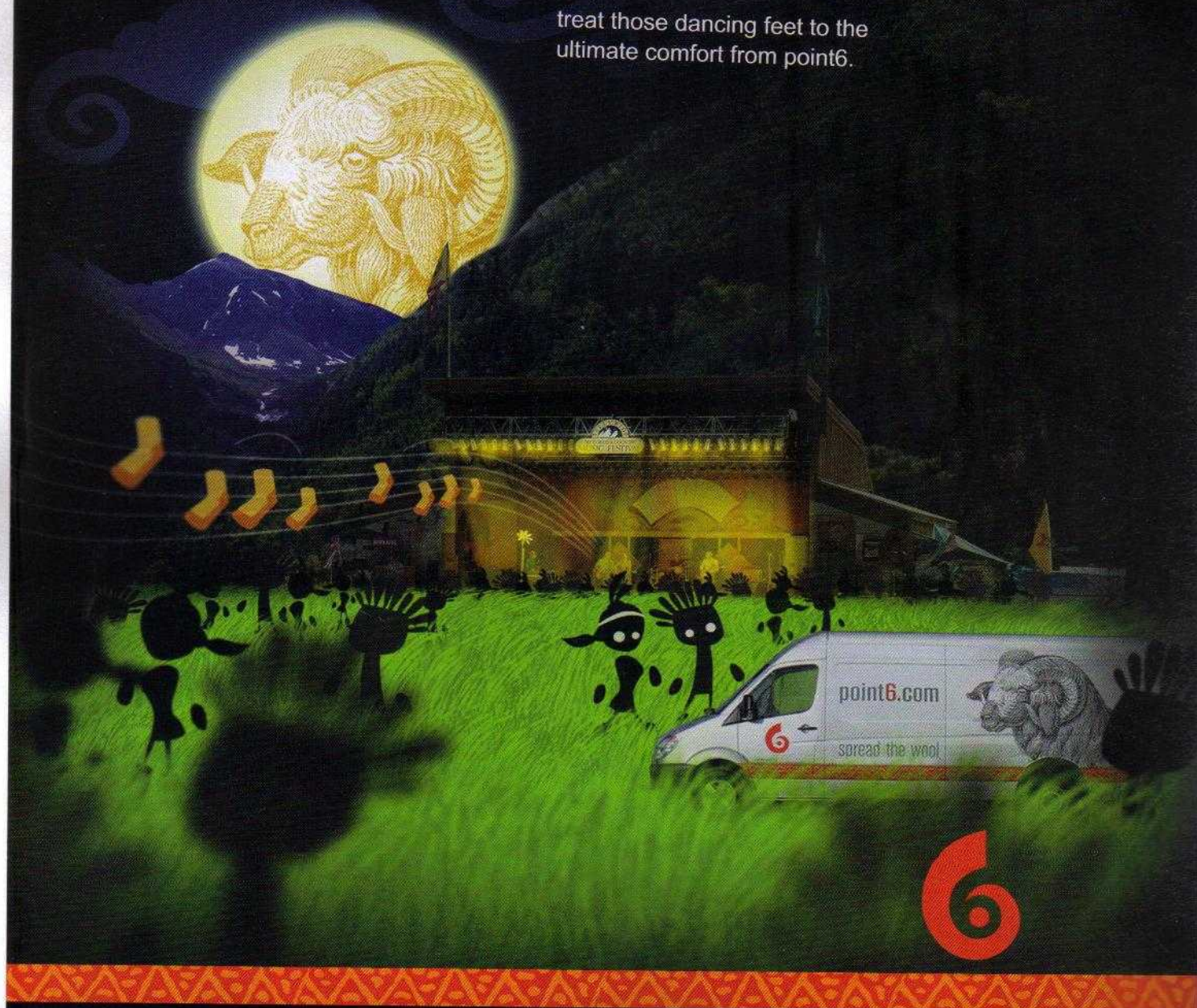
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Green SOMETHING WORTH^NOTING

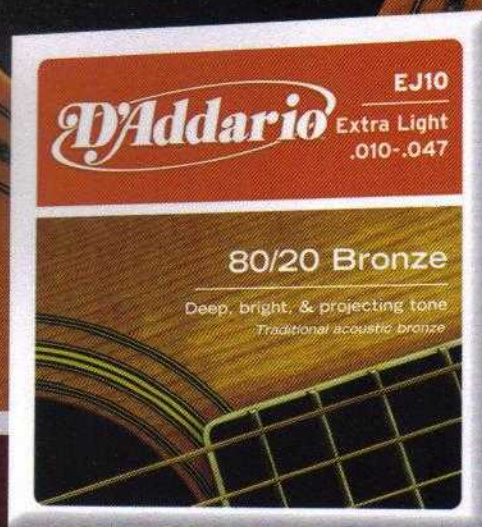
We created the CLIF Bar GreenNotes program to help bands reduce the environmental impact of their touring and encourage their fans and fellow artists to follow their lead.

We're also working with some music festivals this year, like the Telluride Bluegrass Festival, to do the same and spread the good green word. Stop by the CLIF Bar booth to get involved and try some of our new organic morsels.

Visit clifgreennotes.com for info, free downloads, and to make your Pledge to the Planet.



*Without strings,
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TEAM WONDERBIKE 9-MILLION MILES & COUNTING

(that's 360 carbon-free bike rides around the equator!)



If you took the pledge last year - many thanks. We are now more than 11,000 Wonderbikers strong, with 9 million miles pledged. We hope you've been telling your friends about what a great year you've had riding your bike... wind in your hair, no parking hassles, freedom from the pump!

And what is Team Wonderbike, anyway? Well, friends, Team Wonderbike is a laughing war whoop, a human-powered, carbon-free campaign to greatly increase the use of mankind's greatest invention... the bicycle.

The premise is simple - in fact you can join the Team this weekend right here in Telluride. All you have to do is head over to New Belgium's Wonder Lounge, pledge as many miles as you can commit to riding your bike rather than driving your car per month, then collect a high five and a Wonderkit for being such a dedicated bike commuter. Then, of course, you need to stick to your pledge.

By joining Team Wonderbike, you become part of a growing movement of folks who want to reduce oil consumption, pollution and traffic congestion all while increasing their healthfulness, good looks and personal happiness. You'll also receive updates, anecdotes and a place to express yourself as a part of this Wonderful community.

We also salute two groups of hearty Festivarians who are taking the Wonderbike pledge to an extreme. By undertaking multiple-week cycle tours to and from the Festival, these teams are providing a model for long-distance carbon-free transportation.

The Boulder, CO-based team, Bluegrass By Bike (www.BluegrassByBike.org), will again be making the 800-mile bicycle trek to and from Boulder to Telluride. They invite all Festivarians to join them for all or part of their rides to Telluride or to the two Planet Bluegrass festivals in Lyons.

Also celebrating their second year, CycleC2C (www.cyclec2c.net) will be celebrating in Telluride, as they pass the midpoint of their 40-day bicycle tour along the Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico. This ride follows last summer's successful journey to the Festival all the way from San Francisco.

We welcome these and other long-distance Festival bikers to join us for a reunion at the New Belgium Brewing booth in Greentown. 🍷

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Festivarian Bill of Rights

Festivarians are endowed by Planet Bluegrass with certain unalienable Rights, among those are music, mountains, and the uninhibited pursuit of happiness.

1. Festivarians shall not be encumbered by handling fees or service charges on any tickets
2. Festivarians shall have plentiful access to free local drinking water
3. Festivarians shall be provided with compost and recycling facilities inside the festival and in all camp grounds to manage their waste in an environmentally responsible manner
4. Festivarians shall receive support for and freedom to embrace reusable and compostable materials, including cups, containers, utensils, plates, and bags
5. Festivarians shall assume the right to occupy empty tarp spaces until said owners return, at which time Festivarians have the right to become lifelong friends
6. Festivarians shall be empowered to participate in a dialog about sustainable festivation and the continuing evolution of the Festival
7. Festivarians shall become year-round members of the world-wide Festivarian community
8. Festivarians shall have the right to enjoy magical days and nights of the greatest music on the Planet in a breathtaking setting

PAINTING THE CANDLES OF THE 35TH



Scott Knatter has been a freelance illustrator and fine artist for most of his life. He is also a hack mando picker and admits "...Sam inspires me half the time and makes me wonder 'why bother' the rest of the time..."

He hopes everyone enjoys his poster art this year as much as they enjoy the music that it celebrates. "To say the music here inspires

me would be an understatement. I'm blown away every year, Thursday morning to Sunday night. If I ever learn to paint as well as these guys jam at the festival then I will have attained one of my life's goals."

Scott still remembers the exact day in 1985 his friend put on Béla Fleck's *Deviation*. "Damn-what is this? It's amazing!" he said.

"I realized that day that I had never appreciated the virtuosity and emotion that bluegrass could attain." Hours later he had four more albums.

That summer he attended his first Telluride Bluegrass Festival, and is looking forward to his 17th festival this year. He currently lives in Salida, Colorado. ☺

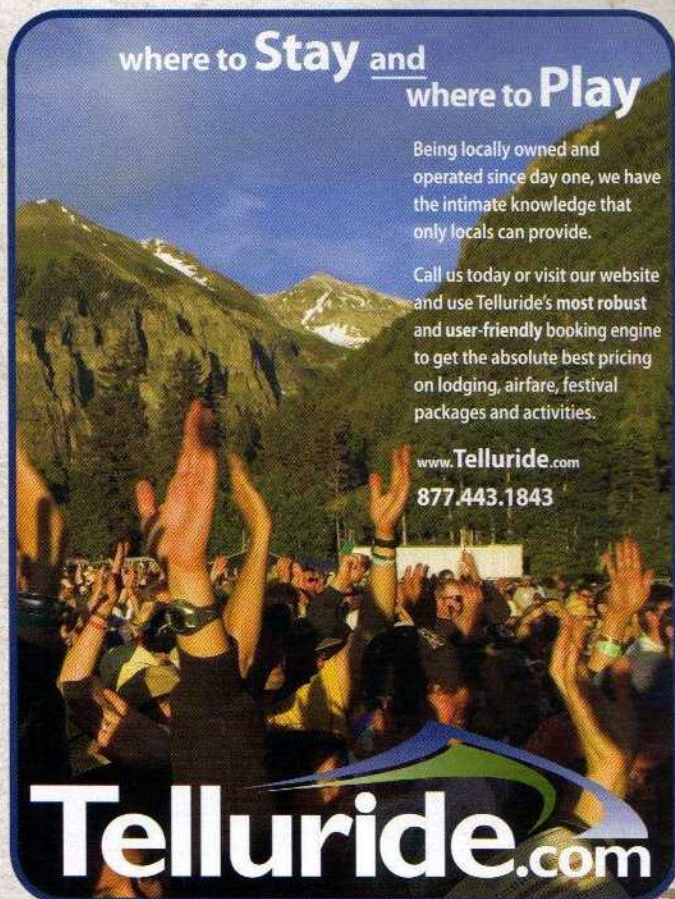
where to Stay and where to Play

Being locally owned and operated since day one, we have the intimate knowledge that only locals can provide.

Call us today or visit our website and use Telluride's most robust and user-friendly booking engine to get the absolute best pricing on lodging, airfare, festival packages and activities.

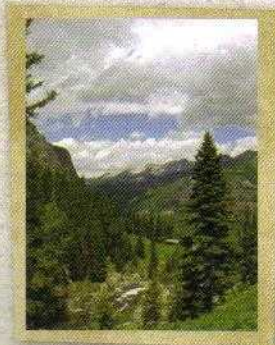
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PLANET BLUEGRASS

BALANCING THE FESTIVAL CARBON FOOTPRINT



Since 2003 - long before it became fashionable - Planet Bluegrass has been ensuring that all of the electricity consumed at its Lyons offices and at its festivals is replaced by clean, carbon-free power. Over the years, they have supported the generation of more than 5 million kilowatt hours of wind power.

Last year, Planet Bluegrass extended its commitment to include the significant impact of transportation to and from the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. That gave the 34th annual gathering the distinction of being the first 100% carbon neutral music festival in the world!

As an environmental leader, Planet Bluegrass continues to evolve their strategies for addressing carbon emissions produced by those traveling to and from Telluride - from Renewable Energy Credits in 2007 to the purchase of high-quality carbon offsets for this year's festival.

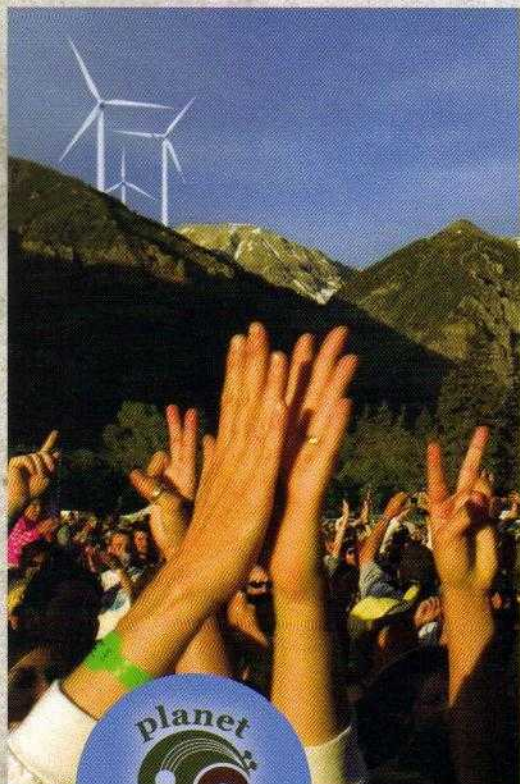
Planet Bluegrass is providing support to the Upper Rock Landfill Gas project near East Moline, Illinois. Like many

landfills in the United States, this 195-acre facility historically released large amounts of methane gas into the atmosphere - a greenhouse gas 23 times more destructive than carbon dioxide.

A project developer capped the Upper Rock Landfill so that none of the methane would enter the atmosphere. Instead, the methane is burned, creating energy that is used to generate electricity for the local region.

In some parts of the United States, governments mandate this kind of action. In other places around the world, this type of project would qualify for carbon credits under the Kyoto Protocol. But in this case, there was no government mandate and no opportunity to sell credits. The only incentive the developers had was the promise of support by voluntary purchasers of carbon offsets.

That's where Planet Bluegrass stepped in, demonstrating that Festivarians are ready to take responsibility for their impact on the environment. You can do your part too, by signing up for wind power to offset your home electricity use! Visit the wind power booth, run by Planet Bluegrass' long-time offset partner Renewable Choice Energy, to learn more. ☺



Supporting Renewable Energy for the 6th Year

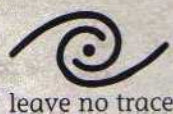
Once again, Planet Bluegrass is taking responsibility for its environmental footprint associated with the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. For every mile driven or flown, for every light switch turned on, Planet Bluegrass and Renewable Choice will offset the pollution emitted by investing in wind power and other carbon reduction efforts.

To learn more about how it works or to sign up for renewable energy for your home or business, stop by the Renewable Choice booth during the festival, visit www.renewablechoice.com or call us toll free at 1.877.810.8670.



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ENERGY

The Planet's Leader in Sustainable Festivation



CAMPSITE CHALLENGE

To extend the spirit of sustainable festivation into the campgrounds, Planet Bluegrass introduces "How Green Is Your Grass?" a new creative campsite challenge. Coordinated by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics (www.LNT.org), this contest encourages all of us to raise the bar for sustainable camping by honoring campsites that excel in achieving the highest levels of the Leave No Trace philosophy.

How Do I Participate?

The contest is open to all campers in any of the Planet Bluegrass-managed campgrounds. To nominate your own campsite or one of your neighbors:

1. Take a digital photo of the campsite
2. Print out your campsite photos at the Leave No Trace booth in Greentown.
3. Submit a campsite entry form along with your printed photos.
4. Stop by the Leave No Trace booth each day to view all the campsite entries.

Campsite finalists will be chosen daily by staff and Festivarians.

5. Planet Bluegrass will select the grand prize winner after the campground pack-out is complete on Monday. The winner will be announced in the next "Notes from the Planet" email and on www.bluegrass.com.

How Do I Win?

We will be judging on three criteria:

1. **Cleanliness.** Are you repackaging the food you bring? Are you keeping a tidy campsite? Are items secure and not susceptible to wind gusts?
2. **Sustainability.** Are you separating your recyclables & compostables? Are you reusing products instead of trashing them? Are you using alternative energy sources to power your campsite? Did you bike or carpool to the festival? Are you offsetting your carbon emissions? Did you do anything to reduce your home's energy while attending the festival?

3. **Creativity.** Does your campsite have a theme? Are you utilizing any unique and innovative camping techniques?

What Do I Win?

One nominated campsite will be chosen as a finalist each day. Finalist prizes include: Chaco Footwear, New Belgium Beer, Leave No Trace memberships & more. One grand prize winner will be selected Monday after the campground pack-out from the four daily finalists to receive a pair of Town Park Campground passes for the 2009 Festival. 🏆

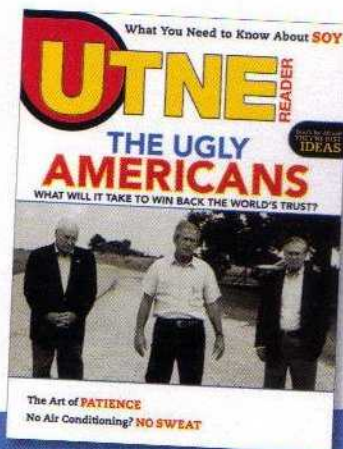


Pull up a chair and join the conversation ... We've saved you a seat!

We *dare* you to challenge conventional wisdom and look to the horizon for inspired answers about your world:



- * wide-ranging views on issues like immigration, censorship, privacy rights, gun control, abortion, and environmental and socioeconomic policy
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- * reviews of new indie music, art, books and films
- * quirky cultural and social movements



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FESTIVARIANS: OF CANYONS, CURVE BALLS & COMMUNITY

Many are mountain folk to begin with, dwellers of the Rockies. But many others journey from the furthest reaches of the continent—California to Florida to Maine. Still others travel from locales as far flung as Europe, Australia and Asia. They can come from anywhere, really. (I wouldn't rule out distant planets.)

By Charlotte Bell

They may spend most of their year working full-time or part-time, overtime or no time at all. Some live lavishly; some live simply; most live in the vast landscape in between. They might attend college, high school, grad school, grade school, trade school or preschool—studying or teaching. Some thrive on the rapid pulse of city life; others find nourishment in the leisurely pace of rural places. Some are seasoned with the wisdom of many years of living; others have barely just gotten here, fresh to this world.

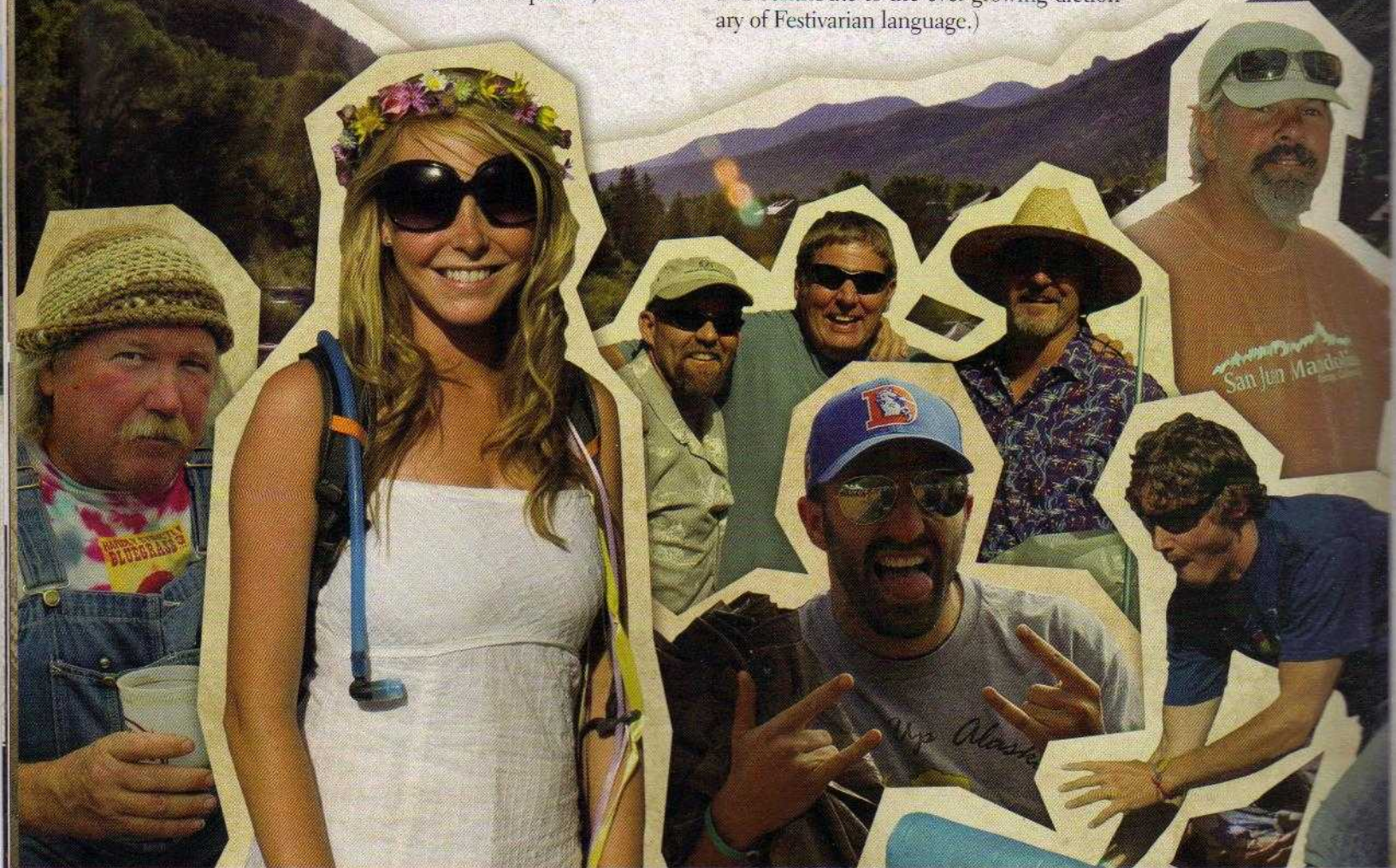
But for a few days each summer, distinctions fade as they gather in one of the world's most spectacular box canyons to create a single sea of smiles, united by a love of landscape; by virtuosic music—some familiar, some new and adventuresome—and by the community they've come to cherish.

They come knowing that they will be surprised, and at

times, awestruck. And they have a name: Festivarians.

That name, unique to Planet Bluegrass' lexicon, sprang from a casual breakfast conversation between Festival Director Craig Ferguson and a former Planet Bluegrass staff member back in 1994. It appeared, unassuming, in that year's spring brochure, the final word in a Planet Bluegrass-themed poem Ferguson adapted from C.P. Cavafy's metaphorical journey, "Ithaka."

From there, the name seeped into the very cells of Festival culture, with many appearances in Planet Bluegrass literature; declarations from Planet Bluegrass festival stages; and an almost viral multiplication—with endless variations—in Festivarian circles. (Check out the bottom of each page here for a small sampling of Festivarian-coined terms spawned from that original word. Check out the Festivarian Forum at www.festivarian.com to read and contribute to the ever-growing dictionary of Festivarian language.)



What makes one a Festivarian? Planet Bluegrass' website supplies a definition: (n) 1. One who engages in music-related celebration, esp. in beautiful, outdoor settings; 2. One who is not afraid of the elements, nor tarp lines at shows and will sacrifice family heirlooms for a live recording of Sam Bush's latest set; 3. One exhibiting extreme intelligence, compassion, and a fondness for good beer. (adj) 1. Of, relating to, or suitable for a feast or festival; festive.

Festivarians gather here, firstly, for the most reliable of reasons: The setting could hardly be more spectacular. The landscape alone is enough to draw intrepid travelers from far reaches of the planet. Veteran Festivarian Karl Davidek, who travels each year from California to make Town Park's Camp Run-a-Muck his festival home, says, "The location of the festival in the box canyon in the San Juans is unbelievable. When it comes to a natural setting, I consider it church-like. It's just gorgeous—the mountains, the waterfall—I think it steps the whole thing up a notch."

"The juice was so apparent at that moment—that those 1,500 people would be back the next year and the next year, and I'll bet you they're still out there today."

The valley floor sits at almost 9,000 feet; the climate is about as unpredictable as any you'll find in the U.S. It was the sheer tenacity of early Festivarians in the face of inclement conditions that alerted the founders that their little family Festival was turning out to be much more than they'd anticipated. Durfee Day, who's been a part of the Festival since the first year, reflects, "I'll always remember looking on that audience in 1981, with the rains four straight days—just ridiculous—and we had an audience out there of about 1,200, maybe 1,500 people at the most. They were all sitting there under their tarps and raincoats. I'll always remember looking out from the stage at that audience, knowing that they were just going nuts, having that great time. New Grass [Revival] was on the stage, and I thought to myself, [this festival] is just gonna keep going. The juice was so apparent at that moment—that those 1,500 people would be back the next year and the next year, and I'll bet you they're still out there today."

Magnificent as these mountains are, they likely would not enjoy the visitations of many thousands of Festivarians if it weren't for the music. (It was the 1983 lineup, New Grass Revival in particular, that inspired me to make my first trek; the setting turned out to be a pretty sweet bonus.) Ferguson sees Planet Bluegrass' creative booking policy as a continuation of what Festival founders began in 1973. "We focus real hard on the music. In some respects, that's a direct evolution from the first 10 to 15 years of the Festival. In my mind it seems like where we are now is a combination of diversity, curve balls and incredible artistic ability.



"We start with virtuosity. No festival is going to have greater instrumentalists. We focus on getting the folks that are best in the world on their instruments. And we never, ever ask these guys—Sam, Edgar, Jerry, Béla—what they're going to play. They know it's always a green light for them. They know that Telluride is a place that's always up for madness."

"I think Festivarians thrive on the diversity," he continues. "We like to introduce folks they may never have heard of, and it's not hard these days to find great artists that very few people have heard of. The Festivarians like us to throw curve balls, and we like throwing them."

Festivarian Jerry "Hippie" Lunsford, another annual resident of Camp Run-a-Muck, says, "Most music festivals I attend tend to stick with the 'tried and true,' and usually take few risks. TBF is not afraid to expose the audience to a wide variety of genres and styles. Gathering these musicians and giving them a chance to play on the main stage together expands everyone's musical horizons. The Telluride festival continues to lead the way into unplowed musical territory that influences every other festival in the country."

"I always look forward to my personal 'big surprise' in the form of an unfamiliar artist that hasn't yet crossed my radar. Not to mention the thrill of an early Sunday classical concert with the likes of Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile and any of the house band."

And the artists thrive on Festivarians' musical open-mindedness. "Telluride has a very smart audience, and it has developed over the years," says Béla Fleck. "... You know you can try things here that you may not be able to in other venues. The audience actually encourages the musicians to try new things. So there's kind of a circular relationship between the artists and the audience."

About five years ago, with 15 years of booking and production under its belt, the folks at Planet Bluegrass began to explore what they could do to improve the Festival experience. "We feel like it's hard to improve on the music quality, sound system, sound crew, production staff," says ▶

Ferguson. "We're as good as we're going to be on that. We haven't had a key staff member rotate out in 20 years. Everybody is really professional and really cares. We've gotten to where actual production elements are really honed. So we decided to look at how we can lessen the overall impact of the Festival on the environment. Steve [Szymanski, Planet Bluegrass vice-president] has done most of the work on this. Now we meet once a week or once every couple weeks in his office and talk about it, how we can improve on the previous year."

Trash production was an obvious place to start. When 10,000 happy Festivarians gather in such a small, fragile place for four days of "festivation" (another recently coined Festivarian term), they can produce literally tons of trash.

"For me, Telluride is the major festival that I get to attend. This is the one I can't miss. I think it goes back to that sense of community and family that we've created by choice."

In 2003, Planet Bluegrass teamed up with local, organic farmer Kris Holstrom of Tomten Farm, to institute a festival-wide composting program. Concessionaires would provide only compostable plates and utensils, and volunteers would staff composting stations to advise Festivarians on what's compostable, recycleable or trash-worthy. In its first year, the program reduced TBF's trash output by 40 percent.

Since then, Planet Bluegrass has been honing its commitment to become completely carbon neutral, by purchasing

Renewable Energy Credits for festival electricity, and offsetting the travel of artists, staff and Festivarians. "Last year we bought wind credits to offset all the travel, making us the first carbon neutral festival," says Ferguson. "Nobody has told us we're not, so we're going to hold that title until somebody tells us we're not." But the Planet Bluegrass Greenteam doesn't feel they can sit back and rest. Ferguson says the more they investigate what seem like easy answers to sustainability, the more questions arise. So, they continue to navigate the gray areas, refining their knowledge and trying new things each year.

Festivarians have begun to make the sustainable shift as well. Lunsford, who lives off the grid the rest of the year, has spearheaded sustainability efforts at Camp Run-a-Muck with the hope that other campers will follow their lead. "We use solar panels and set up a small battery-based independent solar system that generates enough energy for sound and basic lighting," he says. "Last year I had enough power to run a Cuisinart. We have in-camp espresso. Gotta drink that coffee."

Lunsford says they take advantage of Planet Bluegrass' composting program to minimize their trash output. Another Run-a-Mucker, "Auntie" Hope Lin Rowe, says that in the camp's 10-12 days last year, about 10 campers produced only three bags of garbage. This is even more astounding considering that Camp Run-a-Muck hosts as many as 20 or more guests at any given time, and invites any Festivarians who choose to participate—about 400 souls last year—to its annual Oyster Feed.



Camp Run-a-Muck is one of several big, welcoming camps—others include Fishbone and Camp Billy (a.k.a. The Arizona Bowl)—that consider Telluride to be, perhaps most of all, the site of an annual Festivarian family reunion. Lunsford crystallizes why so many of us return year after year. “We come to have a good time, listen to good music and share time with our friends. Most of these people I only get to see once a year. I communicate with them sometimes, but I don’t see them. It’s like a big family reunion.

“I would not have known to pack everything from a swimsuit to a ski jacket if it wasn’t for the forum.”

“It is that sense of community, shared experience, that can only come from attending a festival. For me, Telluride is the major festival that I get to attend. This is the one I can’t miss. I think it goes back to that sense of community and family that we’ve created by choice.”

Festivarian families are fluid—people come and go; some camp, some condo; new Festivarians are welcomed in. In fact the Festivarian community grows even in the dead of winter, when the Festival is months away. Rowe had heard about Telluride Bluegrass for 14 years before attending her first, just last year. She met her future Run-a-Muck campmates in Planet Bluegrass’ online Festivarian Forum months before. According to Lunsford, Rowe stepped right in and became an integral part of the camp—official dishwasher.

Forum-frequenting Festivarians fuel festival fever (festivitis) year round online. Not only does the Forum inspire and foster community, it dispenses useful festivation tips. Says Rowe, who lived in Florida at the time she joined the forum, “I would not have known to pack everything from a swimsuit to a ski jacket if it wasn’t for the forum.”

Many Festivarians don’t look at the lineup until well after tickets and travel plans have been secured. As guests of the Festival, they know the canyon will welcome them, the music will be superb and that they’ll get to join cherished, like-minded friends for a lovely reunion gathering. Ferguson and his staff understand this, and appreciate it, and the Festivarian community in turn influences how the Festival is booked.

“The sense of community is the key to Telluride’s success,” says Ferguson. “When you can sell one-third of the festival tickets before you even announce a name ... They trust us, it’s reliable. But they’re coming to be with their people. And it’s a circular thing. Knowing that we have that going for us allows us to load up on curve balls. We’re able to focus not on ticket sales, but on great music, without being tied to whether it will sell tickets. It’s the responsibility and joy of all of us who put it on.” ☺

Charlotte Bell is a freelance writer, oboist, yoga teacher and Festivarian of 26 years. She is the author of the book, Mindful Yoga, Mindful Life, published by Rodmell Press.



We once again thank
Planet Bluegrass and the
Telluride Bluegrass Family
for believing in our vision
of The Valley Floor
ForeverWild.

www.valleyfloor.org

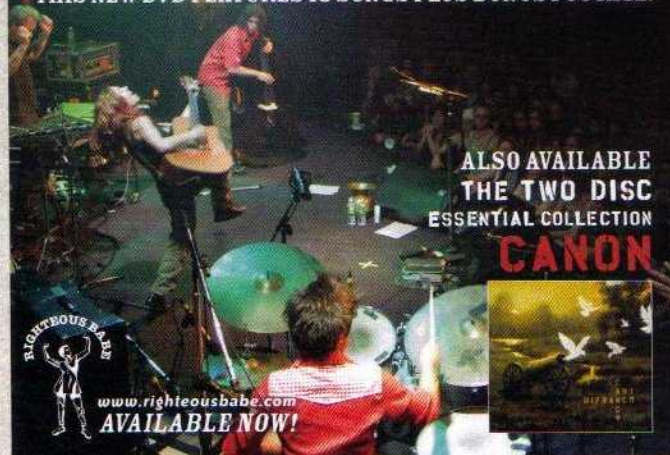
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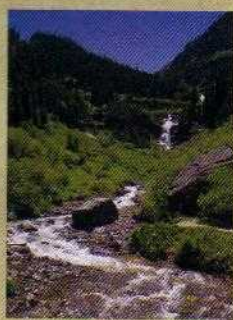
We've all heard the statistics: American consumers are drinking more bottled water every year and spending more money doing so because they think it's safer. In reality, most bottled water is no cleaner, safer or healthier than tap water.

Serious concerns also arise around equity, public health and environmental justice. Issues like taking water from communities that depend on it, polluting the environment by producing plastics, contributing to global warming by transporting bottled water over great distances, and irresponsibly disposing of billions of empty bottles.

Planet Bluegrass is providing an alternative to bottled water by offering free filtered water at the festival to help encourage our festival community to kick the bottled water habit. Look for the water booth in the back northwest corner of the festival grounds.

Telluride's water treatment plant superintendent, Bill Goldsworthy, notes, "Telluride's water is so close to the source that it is very pristine and tastes spectacular."

The town's water comes directly from two sources: one that begins above treeline high up in the Mill Creek Basin north of town, where it is collected out of Mill Creek. The water is then fed into a small settling pond at 9,600 feet on a ridge just north of the Shell Station on the valley floor. The other source begins



at 11,600 feet at the top of Coronet Creek, which feeds the Still Well reservoir, located at 9,500 feet near the Jud Wiebe Trail just off of Tomboy Road. From these two tributaries, it's a short journey to the treatment plant just west of town, where it is treated and then stored in two 250,000 gallon tanks off of Tomboy Road.

Though both sources require chlorine treatment by federal law, at the festival the chlorine will be filtered out along with other particles to assure that the tap tastes better than the bottle.

All you need to enjoy it is a safe reusable container. Food and Water Watch (www.foodandwaterwatch.org) recommends either stainless steel or lined aluminum bottles to avoid chemicals leaching from plastics.

We've also given our festival artists and their crews complimentary Klean Kanteen stainless steel containers to use during the festival and hopefully reuse again and again. We anticipate these reusable containers saving 1,560 bottles over the course of the festival alone. A limited number of these stainless steel containers will also be available at the Country Store. ☺



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A large, vertical image of a Gibson Original acoustic guitar dominates the left side of the page. The guitar is shown from the neck down to the body. The fretboard is dark with light-colored fret markers. The soundhole is visible, and the body has a dark, glossy finish with a white binding line. The background is a warm, golden-brown color.

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SUSTAINABLE NOURISHMENT BACKSTAGE CATERING GOES ORGANIC



Experts estimate that 3% of all produce sold in the US is grown organically. This year Telluride Bluegrass is striving to make that number 75% for the

nearly 1,000 meals prepared per day in the backstage kitchen.

But as the average food item travels approximately 1,300 miles from field to plate, organic is only part of the story in sustainable nourishment. The ideal combination for personal health, and the health of the planet, is locally-produced organic food.

For a festival taking place at 8,756 feet in the month of June, this is not an easy undertaking. But thanks to festival partners Organic Valley, Organic Prairie, Red Bird Farms, Allegro Coffee, and Bread Not Bombs, this lofty 75% goal is attainable. In addition, all dairy and cheese served backstage will carry the "Colorado Proud" certification – designating that the foods came from one of Colorado's 30,000 farms and ranches.

The festival's largest organic supplier, Organic Valley Family

of Farms, was founded twenty years ago in Wisconsin with a shared vision the cooperative still maintains: work in partnership to produce healthy organic food; keep family farmers farming; help revitalize rural communities while serving as stewards of the earth; and always offer a sustainable pay to its member farmers. Today, Organic Valley is the nation's largest organic farmer-owned cooperative, with more than 1,200 farmers in 34 states and one Canadian province.

When considering which foods to source from local or organic suppliers, Planet Bluegrass chef Chad Soulia considers several factors: how much the non-organic option is adulterated; whether the organic option can be packaged in bulk and thus require less packaging waste; the price difference and availability through the festival's food supplier; and the difference in taste.

"What I did this year for my menu was to look at what foods were available to me organically and met this criteria, and then designed the menu around that," says Chad. This major progress toward sustainability has been inspiring: "This will be an exciting festival with much energy, both in the dining room and kitchen." ☺



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The Mikitas, one of the Colorado farm families who own our cooperative.

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In 1988, we were seven family farmers facing extinction, so we dug in our heels and started this cooperative to practice sustainable, organic farming. We were determined to provide fresh, healthy, and delicious food for our own families and for our customers – without the use of antibiotics, synthetic hormones, pesticides, or fertilizers. We vowed to treat our animals humanely and our environment with tender care. Twenty years later, thanks to you, our partners in the organic movement, our cooperative is thriving and our journey ongoing. Which is exactly what we had in mind.

1205 FARM FAMILIES STRONG



www.organicvalley.coop

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

SETTING THE STAGE FOR MUSIC & MOUNTAINS

The Trust for Public Land is proud to have been a part of the Telluride Bluegrass Festival for the last five years. We are all about land conservation, and we have forged a special connection to the Festival, the Festivarians, and to Telluride. TPL and its partners have been working for over ten years to preserve the landscape that lies between Ouray, Silverton, and Telluride, including Telluride's spectacular mountain backdrop, one of the most recognized vistas in the West.

TPL is especially proud to have preserved critical portions of Telluride Town Park, the Bear Creek Preserve, and the backstage area of the Telluride Bluegrass Festival. In protecting these parcels, we ensure that the magical outdoor theater that envelops the Festival will never be marred by unwanted development, and will continue to be a venue for music, culture, and the enjoyment of thousands of music lovers each year.

Just last fall, TPL finalized the purchase of 230 acres in the Silver Pick basin near Telluride. The purchase

encompasses Wilson Peak, an icon of unparalleled mountain majesty and one of the most recognized peaks in the nation. This transaction began the restoration of the safest, most direct access for hikers and climbers to Wilson and its surrounding peaks.



It's easy to see why Telluride, home to some of the most spectacular high-mountain land in Colorado, is such a special place to make music. By preserving the mountains that surround Telluride and other high-altitude towns, we also help to maintain the human communities rooted in these soaring landscapes. Like our ancestors, and the musicians who grace this

stage, we thrive on the beauty, vastness and natural riches of the area. The Trust for Public Land is committed to preserving Colorado's beautiful mountain landscapes and the communities within them, with many more important conservation projects on the horizon. Stay tuned. ☺

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE SAN JUANS

In 2007 Telluride, Mountain Village and San Miguel County joined together to fund a non-profit, The New Community Coalition (TNCC). Since then the organization has been pushing forward on many fronts. In 2008 TNCC has already received 5 grants from the Governor's Energy Office for energy programs and one from the state for recycling and composting infrastructure.

The funds from the state of Colorado's Recycling Resource Economic Opportunity Grant will cover the cost of a new baler so recycled products can be made ready for shipping to markets right here rather than being shipped to Grand Junction for processing.

More exciting for festivarians is the composter. The high altitude environment isn't very conducive to composting thanks to the cool temperatures. But even more worrisome, are the concerns about bears. This grant will pay for a new, in-vessel system on a trailer, allowing festival compostable wastes to be processed without the bear concerns.

TNCC's Green Fund was set up to fund renewable energy projects. This year's energy efficiency project is to

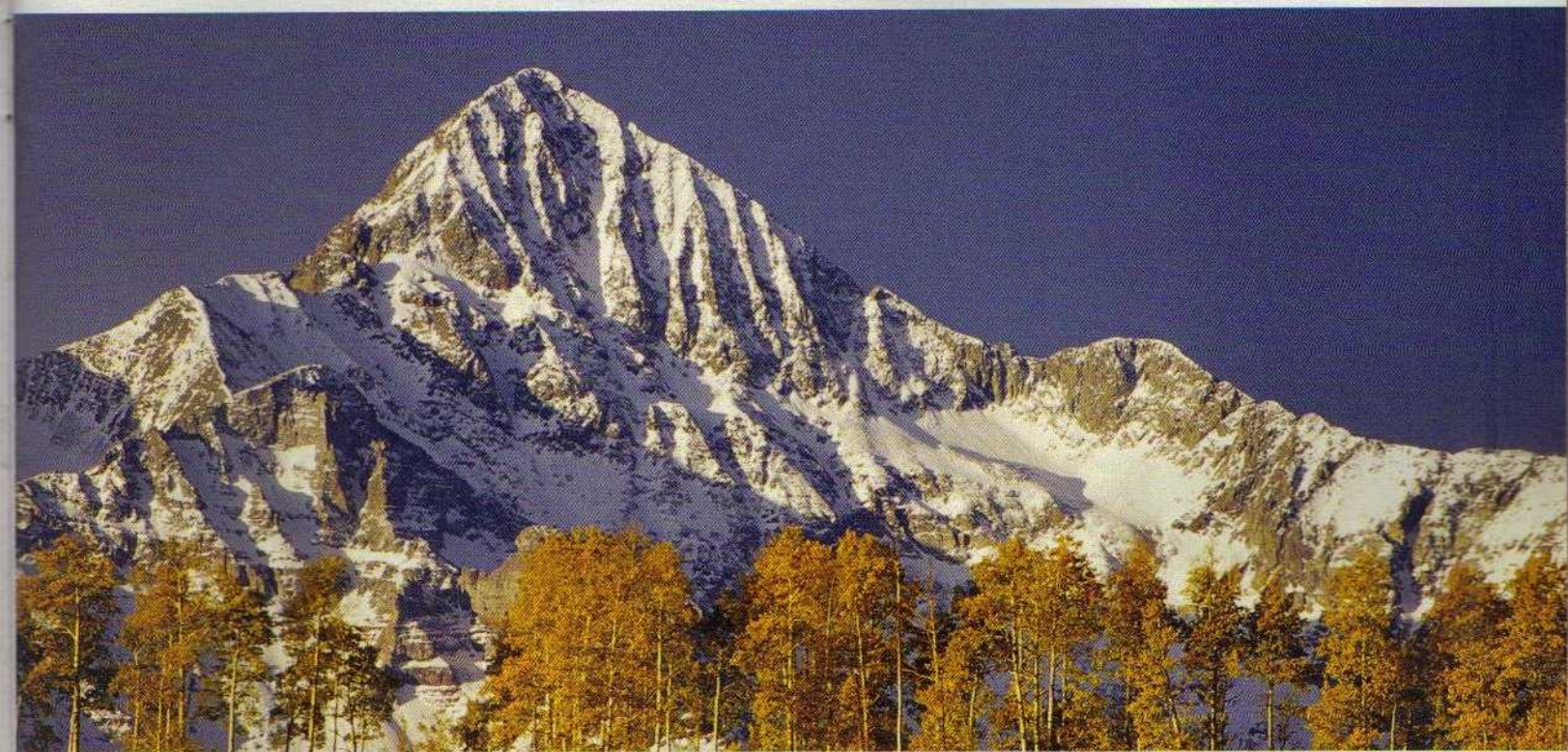
install a small solar photovoltaic system on the Telluride Middle/High School, including teacher training and curriculum.

For the next project, Kris Holstrom, Sustainability Coordinator, has her eye on Town Park. How would you like to take a hot shower, courtesy of the sun, or wash the carbon off your footprint by heating the pool with solar energy?

Food, water, energy, recycling, green building, local economies, self-reliance, resilience and community are complex and interconnected issues in creating a sustainable future. Learn more about TNCC and its programs at www.newcommunitycoalition.org or by calling 970-729-1340. ☺



You Can Get There from Here



Protecting access to Colorado's spectacular high country

The Trust for Public Land has purchased the peak of Telluride's "home mountain," and is working to restore its best and safest access point. Planet Bluegrass is pleased to support The Trust for Public Land in its efforts to conserve the mountains that make Colorado special, like Wilson Peak.

TPL is protecting the mountain environment all across Colorado and the nation—from the High Sierra to Montana's "Crown of the Continent" to the ancient peaks of New England.

The Trust for Public Land—Conserving land for people nationwide, from city parks and gardens to the San Juan Mountains of Colorado. For more information about conservation in Colorado—or wherever you may live—visit www.tpl.org. For a free subscription to *Land&People*—The Trust for Public Land's magazine on land conservation topics, go to www.tpl.org/freemag.

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



www.tpl.org

THE TELLURIDE CHILL

By John Lehdorff

On a summer day very much like today back in 1977, I rode into this obscure mountain town for the Fourth Annual Telluride Bluegrass Festival. It was a much smaller event and a looser era, but I was blown away by these people, this place and the amazing music.

In the following years I have returned almost every June, first as an audience member but mainly as a journalist. I started writing about Telluride so long ago that it was before cell phones, CDs and the Internet.

My friends, family members and co-workers sometimes ask why I keep on coming year after year. If you're reading this, you know that's a silly question. There is no cultural experience that has ever duplicated Telluride.

I come back for the Chill.

The Telluride Chill has nothing to do with the festival's notoriously cold evenings. It's a physical reaction to a mind-blowing moment that starts at the base of my spine, shoots up to my shoulders, shudders up my neck and explodes through my forehead imprinting itself in memory...

It's John Hartford fiddling the "Orange Blossom Special" off the stage and into the crowd which parted for him as the Red Sea did for Moses.

It's an unknown Texas songwriter named Lyle Lovett crooning "You Can't Refuse It" accompanied only by a cellist.

It's Bill Monroe dancing across the stage with Emmylou Harris to the music of the Bluegrass Boys.

It's Doc Watson, Norman Blake, Dan Crary and Sam Bush blasting through the "Blackberry Blossom."

It's an incredibly nervous Alison Krauss singing "Baby, Now That I've Found You" backed only by her "band," Bobby McFerrin.

It's another newbie, a frail-looking Shawn Colvin, wailing "Shotgun Down the Avalanche" as she gazed off at the surrounding snow-sculpted slopes.

It's the young, long-haired New Grass Revival teamed with Leon Russell inventing heart-pounding rhythm and bluegrass music.

It's the myriad iterations of Peter Rowan's band finding new ways to crank up our beloved anthem, "Land of the Navajo."

It's being here for the dawn of the beyond-bluegrass, instrumental fusion music Telluride is known for as well as the raucous birth of jamgrass.

For me, it's also been the opportunity to talk with Sam, John, Edgar, Béla, Tim, Pete, Bryan, Nanci and a hundred other musicians about their experience here. Telluride is never just another gig to them. They feel compelled to rise to the magnificent occasion and deliver inspired, inventive sets that go beyond our considerable expectations. They get a chill too, gazing down into the so-called poser pit filled with their musical peers and heroes. They truly respect you, one of the most musically savvy audiences they ever get to play for. It's magic when the usual wall between us and them dissolves.

You get the picture. Each of us has their own gazillion shimmering moments on and off the field over the past 35 years that have made us what we are: The Few. The Proud. The Festivarians.

We honor the great spirits who graced this place but moved on including Steve Goodman, John Hartford, Bill Monroe, Johnny Cash, Charles Sawtelle, Roy Huskey Jr., Merle Watson, Courtney Johnson, John Duffey, Kate Wolf, Michael Hedges, Rick Danko, Mark Vann, Vassar Clements, Dan Fogelberg, sound man Frank Edmundson and festival founder Fred Shellman.

I've also been privileged to see the next generation of Festivarians grow up in Town Park. My own son, now 14, has been coming to Bluegrass since he was pre-natal and feels the undeniable urge to make the pilgrimage each year. He has Béla and Edgar on his Ipod.

I've seen so many Colorado music festivals wax and then wane. Telluride has endured and for that I'm truly grateful. Let's never take it for granted.

Enjoy 2008's chills.

See you here next June. ☺



John Lehdorff, a features writer for the Rocky Mountain News, sits with his son Hans and Adam Duritz at the 2007 Festival.

FAMILY TENT



The Family Tent provides whimsical, musical and educational activities for children and their parents. We are not a daycare facility so we ask that parents sign in and accompany their kids while in this area at all times. The Family Tent is open from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM each day except Thursday (12:00-5:00), and most activities are free.

Living Folklore Clowns

Giggly Sprout and Gumbo Wobbly combine imagination and humor to create a magical environment of fun and self-discovery for children and their parents. Join them for their 12th consecutive year of Living Folklore at the Festival, including the Clown Yoga and Funny Bone Logic games that have been popular Family Tent attractions over the years.

Jugglers' Grove

The Jugglers' Grove offers lessons and free juggling balls for new and experienced jugglers each day led by juggling veteran, Laurie Watson.

Craft Hoop Decorating

Come join Betty Hoops for the best craft party of the summer. Kids & adults can decorate & keep their own hoop using fuzzy fabrics, rainbow colored tapes & 3D stickers. Betty Hoops will be teaching Hoop Dance throughout the festival all day, every day for free!

The Just Desserts

Having gathered songs from all over the globe, The Just Desserts present "Around the World in 1000 songs." The fun and interactive musical journey follows Lisa Shawley and Michael Shay - from a classic Argentinian milonga to a traditional Catalan song given an African rhythm via New Orleans.

Other Family Activities

Don't miss two of our favorite Telluride Bluegrass family traditions: the Kids Talent Show (on Saturday afternoon) and the Children's Parade through the festival grounds (on Sunday afternoon). ☺

MUSIC YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT



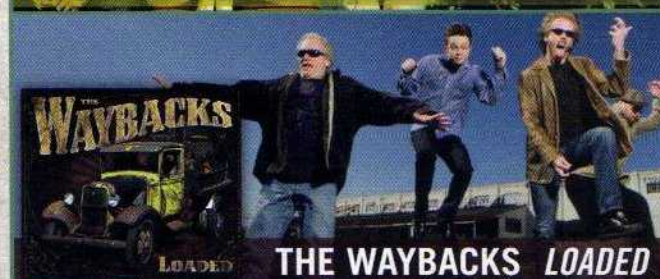
DREW EMMITT LONG ROAD



ALISON BROWN THE COMPANY YOU KEEP



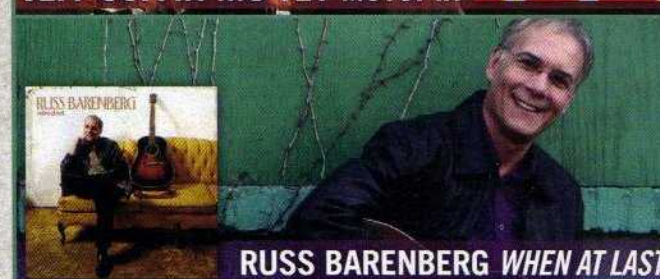
THE WAIFS SUNDIRTWATER



THE WAYBACKS LOADED



JEFF COFFIN MU'TET MUTOPIA



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MUSICAL COMPETITIONS

Every June songwriters and bands from around the country converge on Telluride to take part in the nationally-recognized Telluride troubadour and band competitions, vying for beautiful instruments, cash prizes and international recognition. There is no charge to hang out and listen to the inspiring music of fine songwriters and great string bands, so check them out at Elks Park on Thursday and Friday. Then enjoy the finalists on the Festival main stage on Saturday.

TELLURIDE BAND CONTEST

With past winners such as the Dixie Chicks, Nickel Creek, Ryan Shupe & the Rubberband, and last year's winners Spring Creek, the Telluride Band Contest is one of the world's foremost contests for acoustic stringbands. The contest winners receive a main stage slot at the 2009 festival.

2008 Telluride Band Competition Schedule

Preliminary Round

10:00am, Friday, June 20th

Elks Park Stage

Final Round

9:45am, Saturday, June 21st

Main Festival stage, inside the Festival grounds.

Contest Bands

Blue Canyon Boys
Lyons, CO

**Crystal Ridge
Bluegrass Band**
Tucson, AZ

DejaBlue Grass Band
Atlanta, GA

Grass It Up
Colorado Springs, CO

Leadfoot String Band
Chicago, IL

Oakhurst
Denver, CO

Rodeo Pony
Nashville, TN

The Random Family
String Band
Taos, NM

**The Squash
Blossom Boys**
Albuquerque, NM

**The Voluntary
String Band**
Flagstaff, AZ

The Wrong Trousers
Coronado, CA

Bands Score in These Categories

- 30% Material Selection
taste, difficulty, authenticity/ originality
- 30% Instrumental Performance
includes ability of soloists and over-all instrumental blend
- 30% Vocal Performance
lead & harmony
- 10% Stage Presence



TOP Elks Park Stage, located in downtown Telluride

MID 2007 Band Contest Winners: Spring Creek

RIGHT Custom Lucas-style Shanti guitar: 2008 troubadour grand prize



TELLURIDE TROUBADOUR CONTEST

Since 1991, the Telluride Troubadour Competition is looked to as one of the country's most respected song-writing competitions, whose past winners have include Catie Curtis, Kris Delmhurst, Deb Talan, and last year's winner Gregory Alan Isakov.

The contest is open to anyone who writes and performs original music and who is not currently signed to a major recording or publishing deal. Contestants are judged on the quality of the song's composition, vocal delivery, and the overall performance.

We received more than 400 entries this year – showcasing a remarkable breadth of styles and creativity. From these entries a team of judges selected ten finalists who will perform for us this week in Telluride. The contest winner will receive a Custom Lucas-style Shanti guitar, handcrafted for this year's Troubadour contest, featuring figured mahogany sides and back, and abalone inlays and trim.

2008 Troubadour Schedule

Preliminary Round

12:00pm, Thursday, June 19th
Elks Park Stage

Final Round

3:15pm, Friday, June 20th
Elks Park Stage

The Troubadour winner performs a fifteen-minute set at 3:45pm, Saturday, June 21st on the Festival Main Stage.

Troubadour Finalists



Chris O'Brien
Somerville, MA



J. Scott Hinkle
Kernersville, NC



John Common
Denver, CO



Lara Herscovitch
Durham, CT



Laura Meyer
Westport, CT



Lisa Sanders
San Diego, CA



Megan Burt
Denver, CO



Mike Morris
Strafford, NH



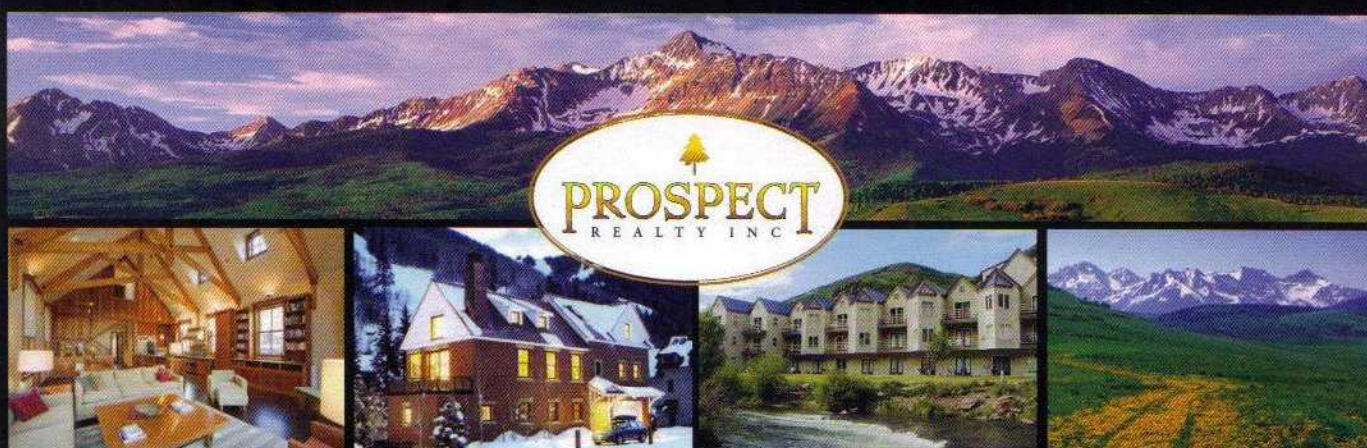
Nathan Moore
Staunton, VA



Rose Cousins
Halifax, Nova Scotia

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35TH ANNUAL TBF SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY June 19th

10:00AM
GATES OPEN

11:00 - 12:00
Darrell Scott

12:15 - 1:30
Cadillac Sky

2:00 - 3:15
Uncle Earl

3:30 - 4:45
Arlo Guthrie

5:15 - 6:45
Del McCoury Band

7:15 - 8:30
Ani DiFranco Band

9:00 - 10:30
Ryan Adams
& The Cardinals

FRIDAY June 20th

9:00AM
GATES OPEN

10:00 - 11:00
Spring Creek

11:30 - 12:45
Béla Fleck,
Duos with Friends

1:15 - 2:30
Emmitt-Nershi Band

3:00 - 4:15
Peter Rowan & the
Free Mexican Airforce

4:30 - 5:45
Tim O'Brien

5:59* - 7:30
Paolo Nutini

8:00 - 9:30
Ricky Skaggs &
Bruce Hornsby with
Kentucky Thunder

10:00 - 11:30
Leftover Salmon

SATURDAY June 21st

9:00AM
GATES OPEN

9:45 - 11:00
Band Contest Finals

11:15 - 12:15
Steep Canyon Rangers

12:30 - 1:45
Tift Merritt

2:15 - 3:30
Jerry Douglas Band

3:45 - 4:00
Telluride Troubadour

4:15 - 5:45
Yonder Mountain
String Band

6:15 - 7:30
Brett Dennen

8:00 - 10:00
Sam Bush Band

10:30 - 12:00
The Frames

SUNDAY June 22nd

9:00AM
GATES OPEN

10:15 - 11:30
Solomon Burke

12:00 - 1:15
The Duhks

1:45 - 3:00
Punch Brothers
featuring Chris Thile

3:30 - 4:45
John Cowan &
Darrell Scott Band

5:15 - 6:30
Hot Rize with
Red Knuckles
& the Trailblazers

7:00 - 8:30
The Swell Season
featuring Glen Hansard &
Marketa Irglova from the film *Once*

9:00 - 11:00
Telluride House Band
featuring Sam, Béla, Jerry, Edgar,
Bryan, & Luke

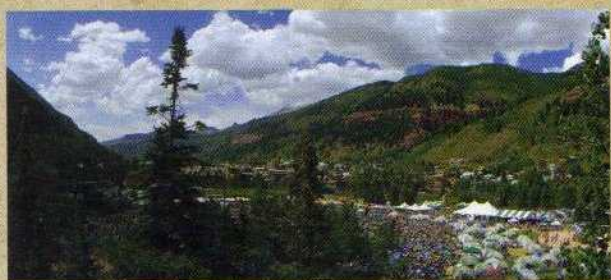
* Moment of Solstice

ELKS PARK WORKSHOP STAGE

THURSDAY June 19th

- 12:00 Telluride Troubadour Competition: Preliminary Round
- 2:00 Performance: The Turkey Creek Ramblers
- 3:15 Troubadours in the Round: Troubadour Finalists
- 4:30 How to Make a Band Work: Spring Creek

Workshops subject to change. Please check for daily updates on sign boards.



FRIDAY June 20th

- 10:00 Band Competition: Preliminary Round
- 12:30 Songwriting: Darrell Scott & Tift Merritt
- 2:00 Songs from Sparrow & More: Abigail Washburn & Béla Fleck
- 3:15 Troubadour Competition: Final Round
- 4:30 Boss Flatpicking: Chris Eldridge, Tyler Grant, Billy Nershi

SATURDAY June 21st

- 10:30 Instrument Building: Michael Hornick & Bobby Wintringham
- 11:45 Throw Your Banjo Down at Your Kora: Béla Fleck & Boubacar Diabate
- 1:00 Troubadours in the Round: Finalists
- 2:30 Songwriting: Brett Dennen & Tim O'Brien
- 3:45 New Generation Jam: Leonard Podolak, Sharon Gilchrist, The Duhks, Uncle Earl, Bryn Davies & friends
- 5:00 Glen Hansard



SUNDAY June 22nd

- 11:30 New Songs & Old Stories: John Oates
- 12:30 Troubadours in the Round: Finalists
- 2:00 Performance: Sharon Gilchrist, Bryn Davies and friends
- 3:30 Down to the River: Music & Environmentalism with The Duhks



FAMILY TENT

Parents must accompany their children while at the Family Tent area.

THURSDAY June 19th

- 12:00 – 5:00 Jugglers' Grove, Hoop Making, Arts and Crafts



FRIDAY June 20th

- 10:00 Jugglers' Grove, Hoop Making, Magic, Arts and Crafts
- 11:00 Funny Bone Logic with Giggly Sprout and Gumbo Wobbly
- 12:00 The Just Desserts
- 1:00 Magic Show with Colton Hornick
- 2:00 Gumbo Wobbly's Mad Scientist Class / Kazoo Building Workshop
- 3:00 Music with The Dragonfly Family Band

SATURDAY June 21st

- 10:00 Jugglers' Grove, Hoop Making, Magic, Arts and Crafts
- 11:00 Funny Bone Logic with Giggly Sprout and Gumbo Wobbly
- 12:00 The Giggle-Bubble Experience with special appearances from The Dragonfly Family Band
- 1:00 The Just Desserts
- 2:00 Drama Class and Star Search Talent Show sign-ups
- 3:00 11th Annual Telluride Kids Talent Show

SUNDAY June 22nd

- 10:00 Jugglers' Grove, Hoop Making, Magic, Arts and Crafts
- 11:00 Funny Bone Logic (Clown Yoga) with Giggly Sprout and Gumbo Wobbly
- 12:00 The Just Desserts
- 1:30 Music with The Dragonfly Family Band and Parade preparations (until parade begins)
- 3:00 Children's Parade during set-break followed by a closing circle

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ON STAGE THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH



DARRELL SCOTT
11:00 - 12:00

Darrell Scott is our festival gardener. At 11am, Darrell will walk onto the Shellman Stage to plant the Festivarian seed: the seed of song, the seed of voice and virtuosity, the seed of soul. Seeds that Darrell - a musical force of nature - is uniquely qualified to plant, cultivate, and harvest.

Darrell's seeds embody his birth in London, Kentucky, a youth spent in East Gary, Indiana, and experience playing guitar in roadhouses by age 16. Relocating to Nashville after studying poetry and literature at Tufts University, Darrell began to bloom. And he has only grown larger and more colorful with each passing season.

The Dixie Chicks, for whom Darrell has written several hit songs, call him "one of the great writers of our time." Count Sam Bush among the list of musicians who admire Darrell as much for his soulful vocals and multi-instrumental chops - "His playing is unreal," says Sam.

Certainly Festivarian nation knows Darrell. He has appeared in duets with Tim O'Brien, and as a member of the Sam Bush Band and Steve Earle's Bluegrass Dukes. But Telluride is about to fall in love with Darrell. And with his seed firmly implanted in the soil of the 35th, the Telluride stage is about to blossom in all directions with four days of magic all emanating from this gentle, genius soul.



CADILLAC SKY
12:15 - 1:30

Hailing from an intergalactic city of the future - a metropolis where cars cruise the skies and the cool kids play banjos - Cadillac Sky is the soundtrack to a young century. Bill Monroe remains as relevant as ever, but in this inter-stellar oasis he shares the waves with Coldplay, free jazz, and Green Day.

Formed in 2002 by country-pop songwriter and mandolinist Bryan Simpson, Cadillac Sky took flight with the initial collaboration of former National Banjo Champion Matt Menefee. Adding guitarist Mike Jump, fiddler Ross Holmes, and Andy Moritz on bass, the group has pursued a mantra of "Dangerous Fantasy Grass."

Their debut release for Skaggs Family Records ended up #35 on the 2007 Americana chart. They recently finished work on their second release, produced by Mike Marshall. Bryan Simpson shares their futuristic secret: "a spirit of spontaneity, a sort of focused recklessness."

C-Sky's music is brimming with precision and propulsion as twin fiddle-banjo leads fill ornate gaps and catchy vocal choruses synthesize roots and modern influences into an honest, seamless whole.

Asked about special plans for their Telluride debut, Bryan smiles "no doubt: something is gonna have to go down. Good behavior never makes history."



UNCLE EARL
2:00 - 3:15

In their elegantly quirky music video, Uncle Earl confronts the forces of darkness. Using Kung Fu-inspired clogging the g'Earls triumph over evil, disarming their villainous cohorts through dance and a swagging stringband romp.

It should be no surprise that a band of four women, named after an unknown man, would relish contradiction: no surprise that their latest recording should be produced by John Paul Jones of Led Zeppelin; no surprise that it be entitled *Waterloo, Tennessee* - a nod to both Napoleon's final battle and the birthplace of country music.

That these contradictions don't neatly resolve into right angles is what makes us love them. Mandolinist KC Groves, banjo player Abigail Washburn, fiddler Rayna Gellert, and guitarist Kristin Andreassen are not forcing us into a museum of retired American stringbands, they are inviting us into their own sophisticated world of shape note singing, creative songwriting, and propulsive fiddle tunes.

Uncle Earl is not seeking a neat resolution to the dilemma of forward-leaning stringbands - old-time versus our-time. They are asking us to accept them on their terms - as four gifted musicians, songwriters, and vocalists. We may dance, we may adore, or we may simply open the door to beautiful music.



ARLO GUTHRIE
3:30 - 4:45

The eldest son of America's most beloved folk-singer, Arlo Guthrie was born in Coney Island in 1947, with a guitar in one hand and a harmonica in the other. Growing up surrounded by artists - Leadbelly, Brownie McGee, Pete Seeger - Arlo gave his first public performance at age 13 and quickly became involved in the music that was shaping the world.

"On every Sunday we'd be out there with a few hundred other kids just all banging on banjos and guitars and mandolins," says Arlo. In 1967 at the Newport Folk Festival, Arlo changed the world by inviting folks to sing along with "you can get anything you want at Alice's Restaurant."

The satirical 18-minute opus is the most well-known song in Arlo's catalog, but his warm, witty live performances are reminders of the wealth of his work and his gifts as a musical storyteller - from his cover of Steve Goodman's "City of New Orleans" to his own "Coming into Los Angeles."

Now sixty years old, Arlo is a cultural historian, a journalist for a generation. With his front porch charm, he pokes fun at unbridled authority and the contradictions of our society. It is an honor to welcome Arlo to the Telluride stage for the first time - an honor that will soon be supplemented with laughter and with insight.

“Special new dresses for the big show: \$400; sunscreen and hats: \$70; flights to Colorado: \$1,300; being onstage at the Telluride Bluegrass Festival: Priceless.”

- KC Groves / Uncle Earl



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ON STAGE THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH



DEL MCCOURY BAND
5:15 - 6:45

In the twentieth century, New Year's belonged to Dick Clark. In the twenty-first, it is Del McCoury. This past winter, the nation's premiere purveyor of bluegrass music, *Sirius Bluegrass*, welcomed in the new year with an epic 36 straight hours of Del — back-to-back broadcasts of his radio show interrupted only by a live broadcast of the McCoury Family Pickin' Party.

In today's Del-loving nation, it's difficult to imagine a time when Delano Floyd McCoury wasn't the singular voice of the high lonesome sound. But during the 1960s, Del spent years working as a construction worker, a position in the Pennsylvania logging industry, and... oh yes, a member of Bill Monroe & the Bluegrass Boys.

These days Del and his boys — mandolinist Ronnie McCoury, banjo player Rob McCoury, fiddler Jason Carter, and bassist Alan Bartram — are both the gold standard for traditional bluegrass — earning 40 IBMA Awards. And rock stars. Like Phish, a band who invited him to perform at their own festival, Del is now host to his own eponymous festival, inviting superstars like Dierks Bentley to join him onstage.

Through it all, Del still cherishes the interaction with his fans: "whether they realize it or not, they entertain me more than I entertain them." Here, at the convergence of the Festivarian family and the Del-Head Nation — on the New Year's Day of the Festivarian calendar — Del and the Boys are about to be very entertained. We can't wait to watch them return the favor.



ANI DIFRANCO BAND
7:15 - 8:30

"Folk music is not an acoustic guitar," says Ani DiFranco. "It's subcorporate music that gives voice to different communities and their struggle against authority." Since she started busking on the streets of Buffalo, NY at age 9, Ani has been this voice of subcorporate music.

With Ani, the act of making music is inseparable from the process of living her life. In 1989, to close the circle on her art and her career, Ani founded her own record label. Nineteen years later, Righteous Babe Records stands as one of the most viable independent music outlets in America, signing bold young artists such as Andrew Bird and Drums & Tuba, and releasing nineteen of Ani's recordings.

As relevant and compelling today as the young firebrand who first burst on the scene, Ani continues to galvanize audiences with her gymnastic, staccato fingerpicking, vocals that jump from poetry slam to a melodic roar, and incisive lyrics that are unafraid of barbed political and social issues. With a constitutional inability to be anything less than totally real, it is no surprise that *CMJ* listed Ani alongside U2 and Nirvana, as one of the 25 most influential artists of the last 25 years.

It's been 13 years since Ani first stepped onto the Telluride stage. For this, her third TBF appearance, she'll be joined by Todd Sickafoose on upright bass, Allison Miller on drums, and Mike Dillon on percussion and vibes to remind us that "changing the world becomes plausible if you just focus on your immediate surroundings."



RYAN ADAMS & THE CARDINALS
9:00 - 10:30

"There it is: we are only one push from the nest..." In 2000, Ryan Adams, the former leader of the acclaimed alt-country band Whiskeytown, released his unassuming solo debut. Though the record prominently featured roots superstars Emmylou Harris and Gillian Welch, it managed to surprise the music world with the richness of its songwriting and the honest depth of its musical thought. Critics were abuzz about this major new talent.

"There it is: we are only one argument from death..." Ever open to his prolific muse, the North Carolinian proceeded to release eight more albums in as many years. These records explored country, indie, and classic rock through unforgettable song after song of heartbreak and renewal. Angst shared the stage with hope, and an uncommon songwriter put forth songs that demanded to be sung. Out loud. Everywhere.

"There it is..." Ryan has remained an enigmatic figure who has had substantial commercial success, yet remains beholden only to himself and his dedication to art. "I went into the dream business," says Ryan. "If people need 'em, I've got extra."

"The sun rises, but the sun also sets..." As we surrender the Telluride stage to Ryan Adams and his band, The Cardinals — multi-instrumentalists Neal Casal and Jon Graboff, bassist Chris Feinstein, and drummer Brad Pemberton — let us surrender ourselves to the power of anthems, softly sung acoustic whimsies and dynamic rock grandeur. These are the songs of a new century about to find their home. *"The sun sets, the sun also sets."*

"Are you kidding me? Telluride?!..we get to play Telluride?! Don't tell the hierarchy, but we were prepared to offer ourselves as the clean-up crew in return for letting us play."

— Cadillac Sky

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ON STAGE FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH



SPRING CREEK
10:00 - 11:00

After a winter of record-breaking snow depths, it's no surprise Spring Creek is running fast, high, and with historic power. Last year the Lyons, CO-based quartet did what no band has done before: win both the Telluride and RockyGrass band contests in a single year.

The trio of bassist Jessica Smith, guitarist Taylor Sims, and 2007 RockyGrass banjo champion Chris Elliott met at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. In 2004, while working at a dude ranch in Western Colorado, Taylor recognized a hitchhiker near Crested Butte as a fiddler he had heard at a party. That hitchhiker was mandolinist/fiddler Alex Johnstone and the quartet of Spring Creek took shape.

Boasting four talented songwriters, Spring Creek is creating its own repertoire of sweet songs, deeply rooted in the old-time Appalachian tradition, simply adorned with tasteful breaks and high lonesome harmonies — informed by Jessica's youth of growing up in a West Texas family of shaped note singers.

Recently, Spring Creek was named the Vox Populi winner of the Independent Music Awards, while their latest CD was reviewed in *Bluegrass Music Profiles* as "strong enough to push them into the national scene." A small push is all they need, for the "rivers are a-flowing, raging through the canyon, flowing to the sea."



**BÉLA FLECK,
DUOS WITH FRIENDS**
11:30 - 12:45

"When an elderly, wise person passes away in Africa," says Kora player Boubacar Diabate, "it is as if an entire library of information burns down." Whether adapting solo Bach violin partitas, exploring jazz with Chick Corea, or adventuring into uncharted landscapes with the Flecktones, Béla Anton Leos Fleck possesses one of the great libraries of the world's music.

Several years ago Béla's insatiable musical curiosity took him to Africa to explore the roots of the banjo. That journey is chronicled in the documentary *Throw Down Your Heart*, a winner of the Audience Award at the SXSW Film Festival. The film brims with not only music, but naked humanity as Béla bridges cultural and musical barriers with his five-stringed friend.

These days Béla is also finding inspiration in China, where he and his collaborators in the Sparrow Quartet are introducing the banjo — this time nearly from scratch — to another ancient musical culture.

The breadth of Béla's musical life has been recognized with Grammy nominations in more categories than any other artist. Joining us in Telluride for his twenty-seventh consecutive year, Béla will page through the books of the banjo with the help of a world of musical friends.



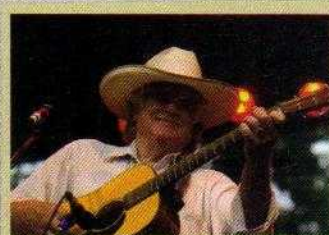
EMMITT-NERSHI BAND
1:15 - 2:30

"What's for lunch?" may be the thought on many a Festivarian mind when the newfound collaboration of Colorado Newgrass hits the stage. But don't stray too far from your tarp seeking nourishment. This afternoon's meal includes a bit of Leftover Salmon, some String Cheese, and a couple other tasty morsels to feed your ears.

The Emmitt-Nershi Band consists of multiple award-winning musicians and Telluride Bluegrass Veterans. Acoustic renaissance man and Colorado resident Drew Emmitt joins his fellow long-time Colorado resident, Billy Nershi, in this unique musical dish. Both are proven frontmen, whose instrumental talents are equaled only by their knack for songwriting.

Joining the dynamic duo are two of the best young musicians on today's national musical menu. Hailing from North Carolina, banjo player Andy Thorne has played with Larry Keel & Natural Bridge, won the RockyGrass banjo competition in 2003, and befriended Festivarians across the country seeking the acoustic spice of the banjo. Showcasing the breadth of his instrumental talents, Tyler Grant puts aside his usual instrument - guitar for The Drew Emmitt Band - to provide the bass for this delectable group.

Grab a drink and your reusable utensils, this set is sure to fill the canyon — and many a Festivarian's belly.



**PETER ROWAN & THE
FREE MEXICAN AIRFORCE**
3:00 - 4:15

Flying so high-yi-hiyeee over the steep mountain valleys above Telluride is the Free Mexican Airforce. Set aloft by the soaring yodel of Telluride's shaman, the Free Mexican Airforce is flying tonight.

At age 23, Peter became a member of Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys, an apprenticeship that endured fourteen recordings. Few Bluegrass Boys have been so reverent and so reflective about their tenure with the father of bluegrass.

A twenty-eight-year Telluride veteran, Peter is our spiritual ecologist, our seeker of spirits. Through forays into bluegrass, rock, Tex-Mex, rockabilly, and reggae, in the ensuing years Peter has scoured the American landscape for meaning, through its human characters and its panoramic vision of Earth. Peter's classic repertoire is the repertoire of the West, the Dustbowl, the Navajo, the gringos who dare wear sombreros.

As Peter's airforce prepares to lift-off on this Festival Friday, we are reminded of his many classic Telluride sets — Crucial Country, Flaco Jimenez, Crucial Reggae, Tony Rice. But from high above Festivarian nation, we also look to the future horizon — new songs, new energies, and an opportunity to watch his voice soar higher than ever before.

"Telluride is where it all started, way back in the days of pickin' in the campground. To come back to Telluride after all these years to do the Leftover Salmon late night is like a family reunion."

— Drew Emmitt

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ON STAGE FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH



TIM O'BRIEN
4:30 - 5:45

After winning a Grammy, the IBMA Male Vocalist, and the IBMA Song of the Year awards in the same year, most artists would charge ahead toward the next big thing. But this is, after all, Tim O'Brien. And he did just what he wanted: he took time to create the next small thing. No Telluride, no RockyGrass. Just family, home, songwriting, and a year to breathe.

The result is a newly inspired artist, embarking on a year of performances with a new, tight-knit band — himself. "The folksinger with a guitar is a sort of an unassailable icon," laughs the beloved thirty-two year Telluride veteran. As showcased on his solo CD *Chameleon* — that's "solo" as in: only Tim, only one instrument — he blends virtuosity, wit, and warmth with a rich and patient sense of space.

Tim is uniquely suited for the role of troubadour. He is virtuosic on everything from fiddle to mandolin to bouzouki. He can unleash a high lonesome cry and a honky tonk twang with authenticity. And he writes songs that are both timeless and reflective of the moment.

"If you want to live life, you'd better get in it," says Tim. Here, on the verge of the solstice, on the Telluride stage, we welcome Tim home with his own refrain: "Get Out There and Dance."



PAOLO NUTINI
5:59 - 7:30

While last fall's Led Zeppelin reunion was enjoyed by many Festivarians, only this Telluride artist gazed out from that stage onto the sea of golden tickets. For the 21-year-old from Paisley, Scotland the rise to international stardom has been swift and undeniable.

Growing up above the fish and chips shop his family has run for four generations, Paolo's musical inspiration came from his grandfather. "I'm doing just what he wanted," reflects Paolo, "and I'm doing it in his honor." The honor is impressive: signing with Atlantic Records at age 18, stand-out performances at Carnegie Hall and Montreux Jazz, a platinum-selling CD, and sold-out tours across Europe.

"I like music because you can express and let your soul out through it." Paolo's soul abounds in his singing — a voice that is rasping, distinct in its accent, and confident in its husk. This voice is matched only by his songwriting — taut autobiographical tales straddling soul, folk, and rock.

With tonight marking his first live performance of 2008, Paolo and his band — guitarist Donny Little, drummer Jim Duguid, and bassist Michael McDaid — promise "some ukuleles, bongos, harmonicas." We promise to control our awe for this timeless young artist.



RICKY SKAGGS & BRUCE HORNSBY
WITH KENTUCKY THUNDER
8:00 - 9:30

It was 1986 when Bruce Hornsby first sang, "listening to the bluegrass band takes the chill from the air 'til they play the last song." Since then, Bruce's wide-ranging music has combined his 88 hammers with a downstroked mandolin before — including three previous Telluride performances and the Bluegrass Grammy for his work with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

This collision of Virginia cool with Kentucky Thunder began with informal jam sessions in 1990. But as Ricky points out, tonight "it's not two great musicians, it's a stage full of great musicians." Ricky's powerful bluegrass band includes Andy Leftwich (fiddle), Cody Kilby (lead guitar), Mark Fain (bass), Darrin Vincent (guitar/vocals), Paul Brewster (guitar/vocals), and Jim Mills (banjo).

Though the pairing may challenge bluegrass traditionalists, you should recall that Bill Monroe himself enlisted Sally Ann Forrester to play another keyboard instrument, the accordion, with the Bluegrass Boys during the mid-40s.

What is novel with this full-band collaboration is how the musicians shave off places for each other in the overall sound — Kentucky Thunder offering opportunities for jazz-inflected piano solos; Bruce sliding understated piano chords snugly into a powerful bluegrass pocket.



LEFTOVER SALMON
10:00 - 11:30

As the Earth completes its tilt towards the summer solstice, Nature once again begins its annual migration. Festivarians return to their place of solace among the mountains; salmon complete their upriver journey to their spawning grounds.

For too long Vince Herman's cry of "FEESSTTIIVVAAALL" has been lost in the context of a mountain cabin; lost in the bayou that epitomizes Polyethnic Cajun Slamgrass.

For too long the San Juan mountains have longed to hear the cool night air ripple with the sounds of Drew Emmitt on mandolin and guitar, Jeff Sipe on drums, Noam Pikelney on banjo, and Bill McKay on keyboards.

For too long the Salmonheads have been fighting the rising rivers to reach their spawning grounds.

But tonight this journey is over. Perhaps it was Mayor McCheese who diverted the tributaries of time to once again converge on the valley. Perhaps it was the natural course of Nature that caused the most seminal hyperactive festival band in recent memory to return home.

It was, after all, Town Park where Drew and Vince first shared some tunes years ago, mixing their respective bands to form what is now known as Leftover Salmon. That union forever altered the Festivarian landscape. And tonight we welcome them home with eager, open arms (and fins).

"I love the community of great players, the dancing-twirling-spinning section off of stage right, the extra-thin air and extra-thick picks—the entire scene is beautiful."

— Bruce Hornsby

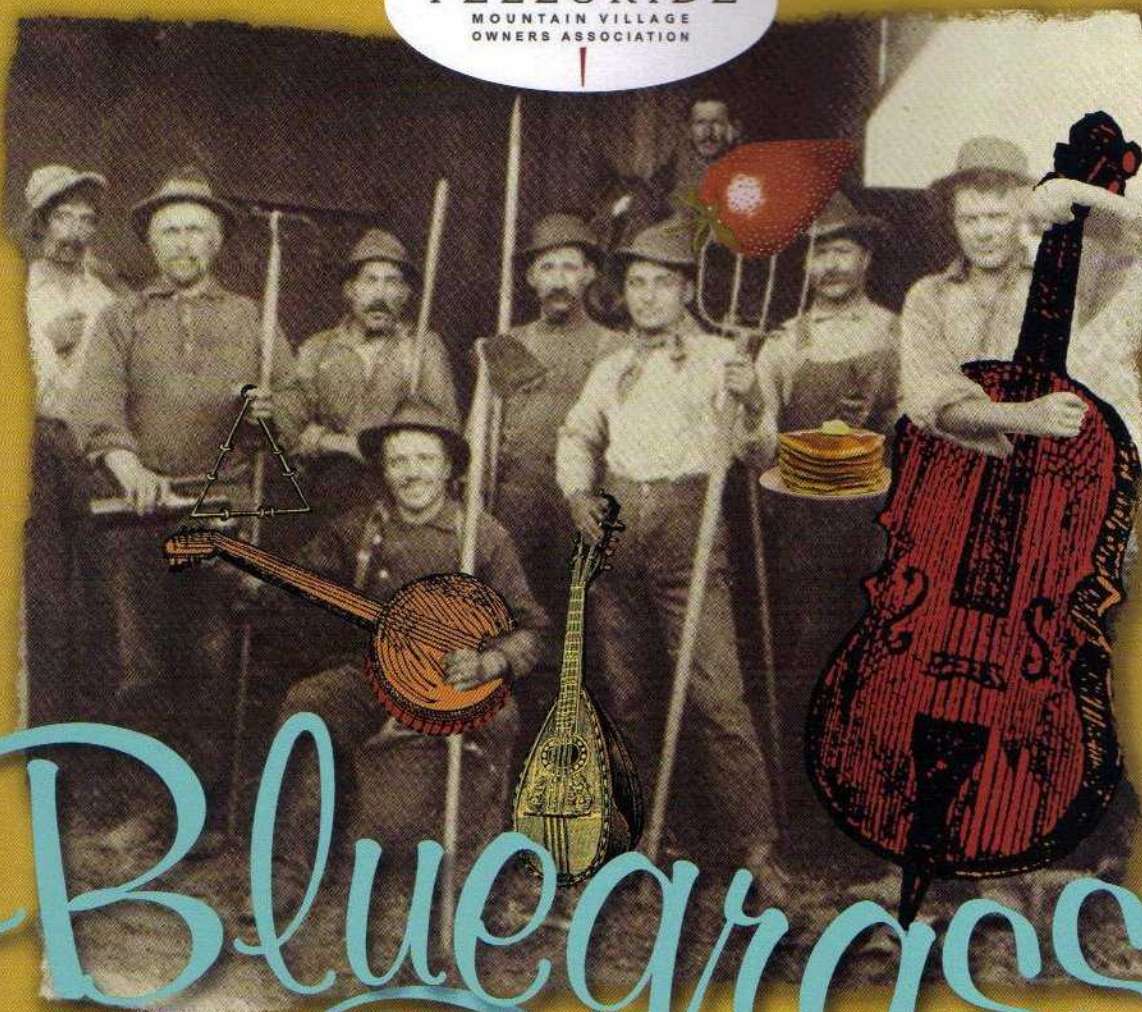


Photo: Archives/North Beach Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco

Bluegrass Brunch

Saturday
June 21, 2008

Mountain Village hosts a fun filled morning with good music, a scrumptious brunch, family fun and activities for "festivarians" of all ages!

- ★ Saturday, June 21 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- ★ Ride the free Gondola to the Telluride Conference Center Plaza in Mountain Village
- ★ \$15.00 per person. Tickets available at the door or at: www.tellurideticket.com
- ★ and Live Music Performance by Spring Creek



ON STAGE SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST



STEEP CANYON RANGERS
11:15 - 12:15

Guitarist and vocalist Woody Platt ties his own flies. When he's not on the road with the Steep Canyon Rangers, he's guiding fishing trips on the South Mills River or working at his own fishing shop, The Open Fly. This need to create an authentic connection using materials of his own creation is the philosophy of his band; the traditional-styled Steep Canyon Rangers.

Woody, banjo player Graham Sharpe, and bassist Charles Humphrey III started playing music together in the stairwells and kitchens of Chapel Hill, NC. Soon adding Woody's childhood friend, mandolinist Mike Guggino, they learned the book of bluegrass together while simultaneously writing their own sets of original material. "We have a more unique sound because of it," says Woody.

Now joined by San Francisco fiddler Nicky Sanders, the quintet identifies strongly as a group. "We're truly a band, you know? We're not a collection of well-known players," says Woody. While the band is strongly rooted in early bluegrass, the emphasis is on blues and honky tonk and original songs written by all five bandmembers.

Since turning professional in 2001, the band's crisp, fresh execution and sharp — though not necessarily high and lonesome — vocals earned them the IBMA Emerging Artist Award in 2006.



TIFT MERRITT
12:30 - 1:45

The Queen of Telluride, Emmylou Harris, first heard Tift Merritt several years ago: "She stood out like a diamond in a coal patch and everyone there knew she carried a promise of great things to come." The thirty-three year old North Carolina songstress has been busy fulfilling promises in the past year.

A Grammy nominee, her CDs have twice appeared on the New Yorker's year-end Top 10 list. To find inspiration for her latest CD, she rented a flat in Paris. "A faraway place to hide, catch up on sleep, wander alone, plunk notes on a piano," says Tift. The result is a beautiful set of contemplative songs where, "her wonderful voice, smooth and warm with throaty twang and unforced power, has free rein to do what it does best." (*Mojo*)

On stage, Tift is an alluring performer, backed by her tightly focused, tastefully poignant country-rock quartet of bassist Jay Brown, drummer Zeke Hutchins, keyboardist Danny Eisenberg, and guitarist Scott McCall. Shunning alt-country disaffection, Tift is infectiously gleeful, dancing from guitar to piano to center stage.

Generous with her praise and genuine with her affection for great art, Tift has also recently fulfilled a promise to herself "to take artists out for highly-recorded coffee" thanks to her own public radio show, *The Spark*.



JERRY DOUGLAS BAND
2:15 - 3:30

You all know the tale of Paul Bunyan's mammoth heroics with an ax. Well, friends, pull up a tarp and let me tell you the story of his brethren, Jerry Douglas.

You see Jerry grew up like everyone else in Warren, OH. That is until he heard Josh Graves. For on that fateful day, Jerry began to grow. And grow. His head and hands began to enlarge with the stylistic possibilities of the Dobro — rock, jazz, celtic. While other young dobro players grew to maturity, Jerry continued to grow, his hands able to glide over the strings with the mysterious speed of flux.

Soon Jerry was touring with JD Crowe and Alison Krauss & Union Station, recording with Ray Charles and James Taylor. In Jerry's hands the humble dobro was capable of unheard of speed, grace, and tone.

But Jerry continued to grow, appearing on over 1,600 albums and winning awards: 18 IBMA awards, 12 Grammy awards, 3 CMA Musician of the Year Awards, even a national heritage fellowship.

But still, Jerry did not stop growing. With his trusty band — fiddler Luke Bulla, guitarist Guthrie Trapp, bassist Todd Parks, and drummer Doug Belote — Jerry continues to grow to this very day. Always looking for new challenging collaborations; always presenting the Festivarians with a new side to his ever-growing musical vision.



YONDER MOUNTAIN STRING BAND
4:15 - 5:45

[Scrolling along the bottom of your tarp-ivision screen...] Effective at 4:15pm today, forecasters at TBF-News have issued a severe dust-storm warning for all counties in Festivarian Nation. Residents are encouraged to rise from their tarps, as high velocity dancing is being observed in all Town Park locales.

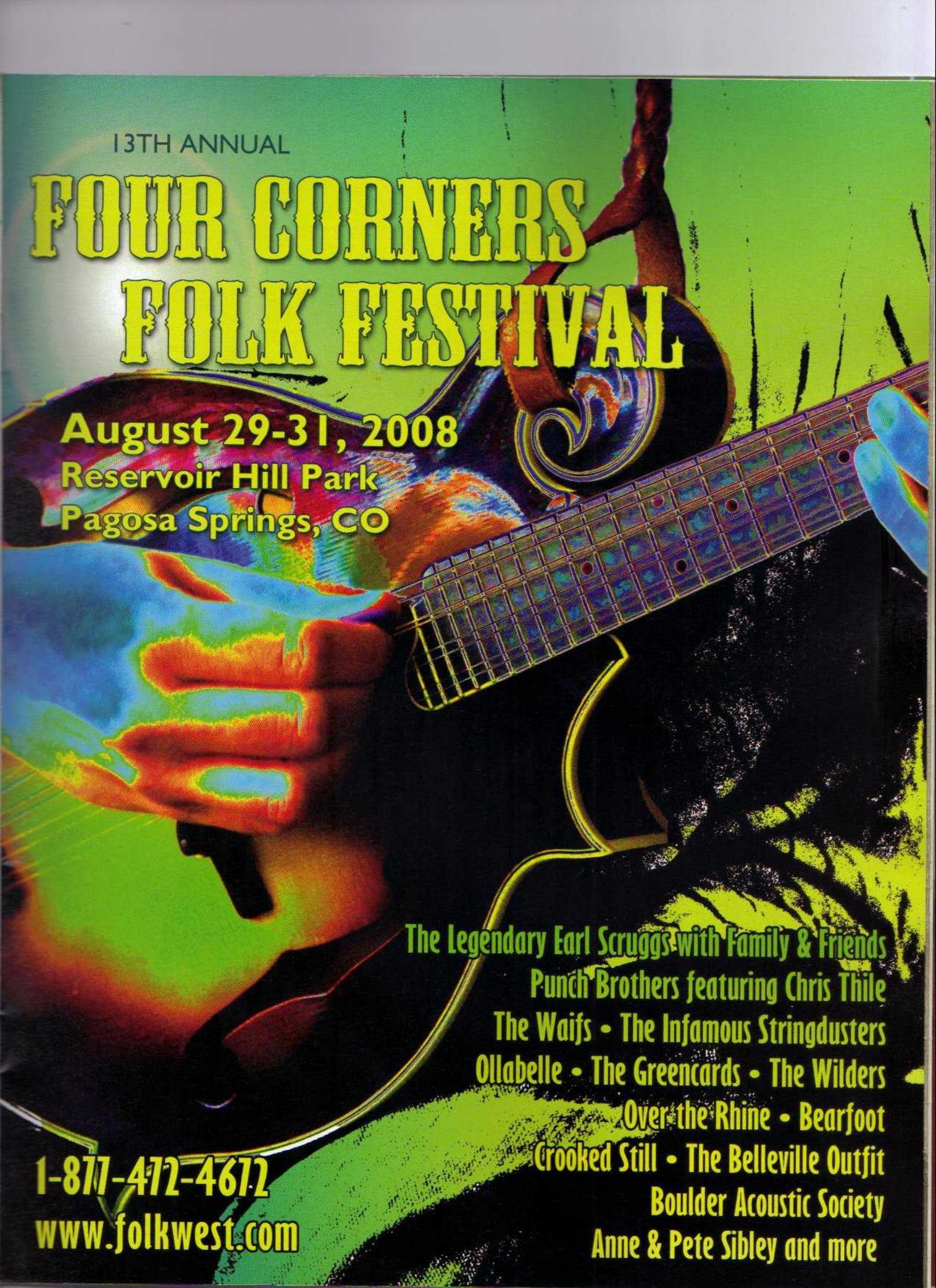
Atmospheric researchers suggest that the combined presence of Adam Aijala (guitar), Jeff Austin (mandolin), Ben Kaufman (bass), and Dave Johnston (banjo) causes such a swell of striking songwriting, improvisational sparks, and gusty jams that dust particles are willed airborne by the groovitational pull of the stage.

The Festivarian's Almanac accurately predicted this weather system, citing a similar dust cloud exactly a year ago. Record books indicate similar occurrences for the past nine years — each year more intense than the last. A high pressure system at Red Rocks last summer is being blamed on the same phenomena, with a similar one predicted for August.

Doppler-Bluegrass noted similar squalls earlier this week at the Telluride Conference Center and Sheridan Opera House, but meteorologists describe this as a historic 35 on the Tellurider scale. [We now return to your regularly scheduled music: one of the most anticipated sets of the weekend.]

"There is no opportunity this summer more exciting for us Rangers than to make the journey to Colorado and the musical mecca of the Telluride Bluegrass Festival."

— Woody Platt / Steep Canyon Rangers



13TH ANNUAL

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ON STAGE SATURDAY, JUNE 21ST



BRETT DENNEN
6:15 - 7:30

Folk/pop songwriter Brett Dennen came to national attention in 2004 with the cool, sensual vocal of his song "Desert Sunrise." The song showcased a wholly original artist with his own message, his own look, and his own distinctive voice. The home-schooled Californian had spent the early part of his twenties working as a camp counselor in Yosemite, and his musical style emerged fully formed.

These days, Brett Dennen carries this freshly risen sunshine with him wherever he goes. His music captures a laid-back vulnerability and youthful innocence, with dramatic vocal leaps into falsetto scat and rhythmic guitar lines borrowed from reggae and afro-pop.

"Songs should put you to sleep and they should also inspire you to start a revolution," says Brett. Whether co-founding his own non-profit Mosaic Project to foster peace among adolescents or donating partial concert proceeds to local charities through his Love Speaks community, Brett is working to create a better world. "It's bigger than me just singing and an audience listening," he says. "It's about making a positive change."

Somehow the restlessly creative twenty-eight-year-old also finds time for visual art. "When I hear music, I think of colors and when I see great art, I think of imagery in words." Creativity and ideas ooze out of him — "When one well is dry, the other is overflowing."

The sun, meanwhile, perches over his left shoulder lighting the world around him — a welcome warmth, even on this, the longest day of the year.



SAM BUSH BAND
8:00 - 10:00

[An address to the 2008 Festivarian National Convention...] On behalf of the great state of Telluride, the crossroads of this bold, beautiful nation, it is with the greatest gratitude that we welcome this great man and the incomparable committee he has assembled — longtime bassist Byron House, drummer Chris Brown, guitarist Stephen Mouglin, and banjo player Scott Vestal.

We stand here grateful for the diversity of music this man has introduced to the Festival — from the extended improvisations of New Grass Revival to the musical melting pot of rock, reggae, and soul.

Tonight we stand together to affirm that while we hold it self-evident that all men are created equal, our esteemed colleague is undeniably more equal than any other — his insistent mandolin chop firmly in the pocket, his joyous smile energizing an entire nation... for all four days.

But my fellow Festivarians, let us resolve that there is work still to be done. This workhorse 1935 Gibson F5 shall not go quietly into this good night. This nation was built on dancing, festivating, and jamming, and we must uphold those values tonight more than ever.

For it is the true genius of this nation that on our 35th year — as we stand together under these purple mountains — his majesty Sam Bush remains our leader, our officiant, our source. And when the candles are lit on this year's mandolin cake, Sam's hands alone will ignite 34 of these flames of truth, honor, and festivation.



THE FRAMES
10:30 - 12:00

"We have all the time in the world..." At the age of 13, effusive Irish-native Glen Hansard — a disciple of Dylan, Van Morrison, and Leonard Cohen — left school to become a musician. With his mother's blessing — "OK, if you want to sing then you better earn off it" — he began busking on the streets of Dublin, learning to lift his vocals to muscular heights.

"To get it right..." Joining together with fellow buskers, The Frames played their first live show in September 1990.

"We have all the love in the world..." Over the course of record label shifts and relocations, The Frames — Glen on guitar, Col Mac Con Iomaire on fiddle, Joseph Doyle on bass, Robert Boch-nik on guitar, and Graham Hopkins on drums — became the biggest, most adored live band in Ireland, playing to packed stadiums of frenzied full-voiced fans.

"To set alight... To set alight..." Rising from a single delicate flame, The Frames light uplifting musical fires of passion. This is rock music on an epic scale, splattered across an emotional canvas; a mass of dynamics and melody that even the broad valley of Telluride will struggle to contain.

For tonight, without us realizing it, Town Park will shrink to a tiny raucous Irish pub shared with friends. And over the course of one of many slow-building dynamic firestorms — enveloping every Festivarian voice and hope — it will become the largest most grandiose place on Earth.

"People all get ready..."

"Telluride Bluegrass, put simply, is one of this country's essential music festivals and one that Yonder Mountain won't miss. Seriously, where else would we go? And why?"

— Yonder Mountain String Band

 www.floydfest.com

FLOYDFEST 7

Amos Lee~Rusted Root~Avett Brothers
 Railroad Earth~Tea Leaf Green~David Grisman Quintet~Oliver Mtukudzi
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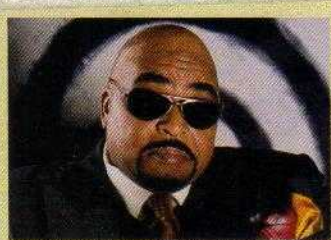
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We are deeply grateful to NM Tourism Dept. and City of Santa Fe lodger's tax for their support.

ON STAGE SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND



SOLOMON BURKE
10:15 - 11:30

Hear ye, Hear ye! In order to celebrate this anniversary of our fair kingdom, our most gracious King extends to all his loyal gentry an invitation to formally welcome a dignitary of the highest honor: the highest matriarch of country soul, a Grammy-winning member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, the legendary King Solomon Burke.

The author of soul standards "Cry to Me" and "Everybody Needs Somebody to Love," Solomon signed to Atlantic Records in 1960, releasing 32 singles during the decade. "Solomon the Resonator," is how Tom Waits describes him. "The golden voice of heart, wisdom, soul, and experience."

An active preacher who delivered his first sermon at age 7, Solomon maintains parallel lives as an entrepreneur with a chain of mortuaries, a bishop in the House of God for All People, and a father of 21.

The sixty-eight year old Royal, arrives at the personal behest of the King of Telluride. "Sam and I worked together on my country CD - *Nashville*," declares King Solomon, "and honestly, it was one of the happiest times for me in a studio, and Sam made it so." On this twenty-second day of two-thousand eight, King Solomon returns the kindness by offering his thunderous voice - a combination of gospel fervor, country gentility and R&B grit - and contagious spirit.



THE DUHKS
12:00 - 1:15

In Telluride, the worlds of environmentalism and music uniquely coincide and collide. This suits the six-year-old Canadian quintet - outspoken proponents of the "reduce, renew, offset" mantra - just fine.

Reduce. While vowing to reduce their energy consumption, The Duhks reduce the world's music to its basics: the old-time and celtic sounds of founder Leonard Podolak's banjo and Tania Elizabeth's fiddle; the North American folk of guitarist Jordan McConnell; the bilingual gospel and soul of vocalist Sarah Dugas; the Latin American percussion of her brother Christian Dugas. By firmly acknowledging their musical predecessors, the Duhks have earned praises from David Crosby, Dolly Parton and Doc Watson.

Renew. The band now fuels their tours with biodiesel, but as musicians they are renewing roots music with the vitality of the present - through exuberance, electricity, and experimentation. This fresh sound has earned them the recognition of the Grammys and the Juno awards.

Offset. Partnering with Carbonfund.org to offset its emissions, the band of five tattooed twentysomethings offsets for decades of musical experience by looking inside themselves with a jubilant irreverence. It's an inevitable byproduct of the self-described punk-folk mavericks, and a recipe for musical sustainability well into the future.



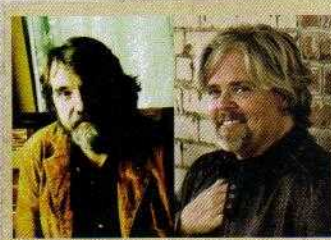
PUNCH BROTHERS
FEATURING CHRIS THILE
1:45 - 3:00

[From the *Telluride Street Journal*...] After steadily growing a band amidst a short period of mounted tensions, the firm of Punch Brothers, led by esteemed director Chris Thile, will file their annual report at a Town Park press conference Sunday.

Pundits remain bullish on the organization's structural innovations, incorporating classical composition, bluegrass timbres, and jazz improvisation: "an organic statement that not only starts a fresh branch on the newgrass tree, but on new music, period" (*Chicago Tribune*). Industry-insider Jerry Douglas describes the experience of listening to their opus *The Blind Leaving the Blind*, thusly: "I felt like I was working a crossword puzzle," adding that he "marveled at how well it all went together."

The group, which analysts at Jambase describe as "sonic citizens of the world," includes banjo player Noam Pikelný, violinist Gabe Witcher, guitarist Chris Eldridge, and bassist Greg Garrison.

Countering strong pressures, in which the firm has diversified their holdings to include The Strokes and The Beatles, our experts recommend a strong "buy." Their ability to create a music where none previously existed will allow them to continually redefine what it means to be a stringband for years to come.



JOHN COWAN & DARRELL SCOTT BAND
3:30 - 4:45

Rarely do two voices evoke emotion and raw power like those of John and Darrell. It's a collaboration made in heaven and one that is making its debut this year.

John Cowan has been performing on the Telluride stage almost since the Festival's inception. Having first arrived at the invitation of the Fall Creek Band in 1975 to headline the festival, his band New Grass Revival defined the genre of Telluride Bluegrass. New Grass went on to tell friends like Peter Rowan and John Hartford about the Festival and the rest is, as they say: history. John's soulful and sweet vocals have been a permanent fixture ever since - with his own band and with his old friend, Sam Bush.

Darrell first appeared in Telluride as the lead guitarist with the Sam Bush Band. Instantly, he staked his claim as a formidable picker and vocalist, as well as a master songsmith. After six solo recordings, Darrell has established himself as a skillful musician able to articulate the depths of the human condition with grace and grit.

Joined this Sunday afternoon by veterans Reese Wynans (keyboardist for Stevie Ray Vaughn), Tom Britt (guitarist for Vince Gill), and Billy Thomas (drummer for Emmylou Harris), we're in for a special treat because, for John and Darrell, the well runs deep.

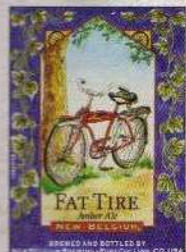
“A lot of people may look at this line-up and wonder about the connections between Paolo, Sam and myself. So, here it is... soul.”

— Solomon Burke

TWEEN•ER N. SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE BETWEEN TWO OFFICIALLY SCHEDULED ACTS.

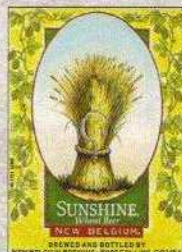


CHEERS TO THIS YEAR'S BEERS



FAT TIRE:

Fat Tire® is known about town as a friendly, inviting amber ale in the Belgian tradition. Consistently well balanced, Fat Tire is famed for its delicate hop to malt profile. Slightly floral in bouquet with a smooth, malty finish, this beer has near universal appeal and pairs well with a wide array of cuisine.



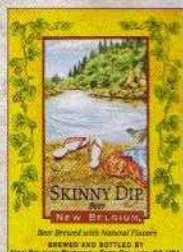
SUNSHINE:

Sunshine® Wheat is a rare filtered wheat beer with a light body and pleasantly fruity nose. Spiced in the Belgian tradition with orange peel and coriander, this wheat finishes with a citrus-like snap. People with an affinity for Hefeweizens find Sunshine to be a smooth and refreshing alternative.



1554:

1554™ plays well to both the dark and light beer drinker due to its dark malt profile countered by the use of a light lager yeast strain. Combined, these result in a flavorful, surprisingly light-bodied but darkly hued beer. Those who consider porters and stouts too heavy usually find 1554 more session-worthy and far less intimidating. Those who enjoy dark beers can revel in its midnight maltiness and rich complexity.



SKINNY DIP:

New Belgium's Skinny Dip® is a full-bodied, figure-friendly beer perfect for the lightly attired summer months. Cascade hops frolic with ample malt to create a bright, citrusy nose that's as crisp as a frothy dip in a mountain pond.

* SUMMER SOLSTICE SPECIAL: ▶

We'll tap this limited edition organic brew on Saturday morning... Once it's gone, it's gone.



MOTHERSHIP WIT:

Mothership Wit™ elevates the zesty Wit or White beers of Belgium with wheat malt, coriander and orange peel spicing - all of which are organically grown. The MOTHERSHIP experience begins with a cloudy, pale yellow appearance capped by a creamy white head. Next is the alluring, slightly spicy, floral nose. The refreshing taste is the result of a gravitational balance of citrus and sour flavors held in suspension by a bright burst of carbonation.

WHAT ARE THE
ARTISTS DRINKING
BACKSTAGE?



CHAPPELLET

The Chappellet family takes pride in being stewards of the land. They use organic farming techniques such as nutrient rich cover crops, bird boxes and compost tea in irrigation to help prevent infestation of microscopic pests and diseases in an environmentally responsible way. The hillside vineyards are renown for great cabernet and rows of solar panels satisfying 100% of the vineyard's energy needs.

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Telluride Rotary Club Scholarship fund
for Telluride High School Students.*

ON STAGE SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND



HOT RIZE WITH RED KNUCKLES & THE TRAILBLAZERS

5:15 - 6:30

We'll let you in on a little secret: the mystery ingredient in Martha White Self-Rising Flour is also the magical ingredient in our 35th Anniversary mandolin birthday cake — Hot Rize.

Formed in 1978, the eclectic Colorado quartet — multi-instrumentalist Tim O'Brien, Pete "Dr. Banjo" Wernick, bassist Nick Forster, and guitarist Charles Sawtelle — rose to prominence in the 1980s thanks to strong and soulful vocals, Dr. Banjo's trademark phase-shifter, Charles' edge-of-the-seat guitar breaks, and a rich set of original material.

With frequent appearances on "A Prairie Home Companion," the band toured coast to coast, as well as Europe, Japan, and Australia. They were gifted musicians who were also gifted entertainers; renowned for their bluegrass and for their wacky, but musically deft touring partners.

After disbanding in 1990, subsequent reunion tours, and the loss of Charles Sawtelle in 1999, the band has reunited with the addition of guitarist Bryan Sutton.

As for those touring partners... The Montana, Wyoming-based quartet of Red Knuckles, Waldo Otto, Wendell Mercantile, and newest member Swade, are excited to bring their country swing to Telluride for the first time this century. Offers Waldo, "You can bet the fans will like us better, as we are the better group."

As we celebrate Hot Rize's 15th Telluride appearance, on their 30th anniversary together, it's time to carve the cake and let this secret ingredient take hold of the valley once again.



THE SWELL SEASON

FEATURING GLEN HANSARD & MARKETA IRGLOVA
FROM THE FILM *ONCE*

7:00 - 8:30

Inevitably, there is a moment of hushed awe at the beginning of every Swell Season performance as the silver screen characters seemingly come to life on stage.

But like their brilliantly humble film, which quickly disarms viewers with its honest intimacy, the duo share themselves with the audience so freely, the connection is immediate. We are sharing an evening with old friends, until, their voices swell together in a dynamic crescendo and the ground seems to drop out from under them as they ascend together.

Taking their name from a book by author Josef Skvorecky, the duo of Czech-born Marketa Irglova and Irish-born Glen Hansard (leader of The Frames) recorded a set of songs together in 2006. Those songs led former Frames bassist John Carney to cast the two musicians in his film *Once*. And the rest...

When Glen closed his Oscar acceptance speech with "Make art! Make art!" it was a call to arms not just for filmmakers, but for performers to live in the artistic moment. That their award-winning song, "Falling Slowly," is rarely saved for an encore, reflects their confidence in this living body of work.

Tonight's Telluride performance marks the end of a nationwide sold-out spring tour. But make no mistake, this is no victory lap. To the contrary, this is their gift to everyone who believed in the magic. If you didn't believe before tonight, prepare to be converted.



TELLURIDE HOUSE BAND

FEATURING SAM, BÉLA, JERRY, EDGAR, BRYAN, & LUKE

9:00 - 11:00

The musical house of Telluride was not built by a single hand. Nay, this majestic house — with its sprawling foyer of bluegrass, wood-paneled rooms of celtic and old-time, and formal spaces of classical and jazz — is the long-term creation of these six craftsmen.

After finding the present Telluride location inspiring, sonic architects began the planning over thirty years ago. Construction began with the excavation of Bill Monroe's bluegrass music. Soon Sam Bush and Béla Fleck expanded the floorplan to include long jam-filled hallways. Jerry Douglas stepped in to add fluid colors, while Edgar Meyer developed the basement rooms into revolutionary focal points. In recent years, gifted artisans Bryan Sutton and Luke Bulla have embellished the structure with their own modern sensibilities.

The trophy room, with its doubly reinforced floor, is a popular stop. Here Grammy's, MacArthur "Genius" grants, and IBMA Awards, share shelf space with Academy of Country Music Specialty Instrument Awards, CMA Artist of the Year Awards, and National Fiddle Contest Grand Championships. As impressive as that room is, the house's power derives from its adventurous exploration of new ideas, its close proximity to perfection.

For as we stand in its courtyard extinguishing the final candles on this 35th, the house is not behind us, it surrounds us — engulfing us in the potential of musical collaboration. Sitting solidly on its property, free of boundaries, this is the greatest collection of musicians in the world. And this is their home: Telluride.

"It is my wish to extend a warm personal greeting to all of the young hippie bluegrass fans who have been waiting patiently for the return of Red Knuckles & the Trailblazers, since sometime in the last century."

— Waldo Otto

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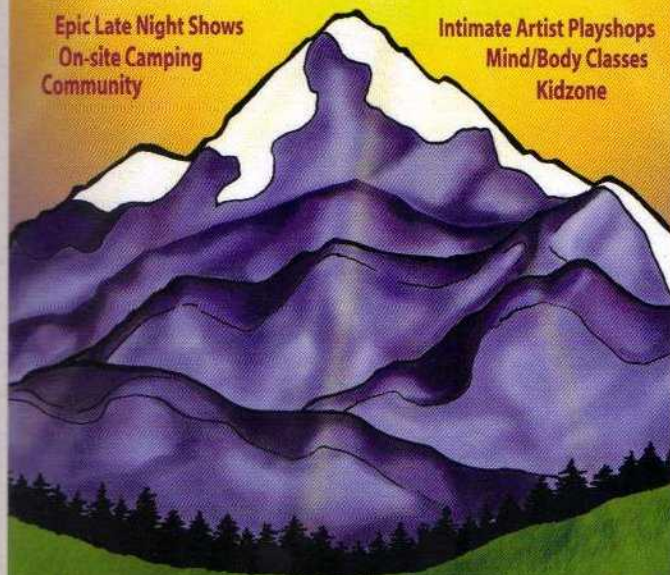
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Abigail Washburn & The Sparrow Quartet
featuring Bela Fleck
James Hunter • Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk
Charlie Hunter Trio • Buckethead • Robben Ford
Emmitt-Nershi Band • Benevento/Russo Duo
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NIGHTGRASS

PRESENTED BY:

DOS
LUNAS



With the full moon on the horizon, the longest days of the year give way to exciting late nights of music. Officially started by Amy Kimberly, co-owner of Fly Me to the Moon Saloon and Planet Bluegrass employee, the late-night NightGrass series was created to bring back the historic late-night shows of yore featuring Chris Daniels and the Kings.

On Wednesday night, Festivarians will board the gondola to Mountain Village for the official NightGrass Kick-Off party at the Conference Center, featuring Yonder Mountain String Band. Though the band has become one of the biggest names in acoustic music, they continue to look forward to their two NightGrass shows – including one of their most intimate shows of the year at the Sheridan Opera House.

When the sun goes down anything can happen, and as always, surprise guests will be the norm. This year's NightGrass series includes special collaborations from the McCoury Boys and Friends along with an intimate evening with Darrell Scott and John Cowan. The breadth of Telluride Bluegrass is well represented, from traditional bluegrass (Steep Canyon Rangers and Spring Creek) to old-time (Uncle Earl) to progressive acoustic (Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile, Cadillac Sky, and The Duhks) to high energy jams (Emmitt-Nershi).

A new dimension to this year's NightGrass schedule is the addition of films. Béla Fleck will be on-hand for the three Telluride Bluegrass premieres of *Throw Down Your Heart*, his award-winning documentary about bringing the banjo back to Africa.

NightGrass tickets went on-sale in April, including a limited number of all-venue passes for the hearty Festivarian determined not to miss a note. Any remaining NightGrass tickets will be available at Telluride Music during the day or at the venue about 45 minutes before showtime.



2008 NIGHTGRASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 18

The 7th Annual Bluegrass Kick-Off Party with Yonder Mountain String Band
Telluride Conference Center
8pm doors / 9pm show
All-Ages • \$25 advance **SOLD-OUT**

Thursday, June 19

The McCoury Boys & Friends
Sheridan Opera House
10:30pm doors / 11:00pm show
Ages 21+ (unless accompanied by parent)
\$30 advance **SOLD-OUT**

Cadillac Sky
Fly Me to the Moon Saloon
9pm doors / 10pm show
Ages 21+ • \$10 advance

An intimate evening with... John Cowan & Darrell Scott
Las Montañas
10:30pm show
Ages 21+ • \$20 advance



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Bluegrass Roots CD and other live etown music,
Hot Rize DVD and CDs
available here at the 'Country Store'

Friday, June 20

Yonder Mountain String Band
Sheridan Opera House
 10:30pm doors / 11:00pm show
 Ages 21+ (unless accompanied by parent)
 \$30 advance **SOLD-OUT**

Uncle Earl
Fly Me to the Moon Saloon
 9pm doors / 10:00pm show
 Ages 21+ • \$15 advance

Spring Creek Bluegrass Band
Las Montañas
 10:30pm show
 Ages 21+ • \$10 advance

Telluride Bluegrass Festival premiere:
Film: Throw Down Your Heart
Nugget Theatre
 Midnight screening
 All ages • \$7 door
 Personally introduced by Béla Fleck

Saturday, June 21

The Emmitt-Nershi Band
Sheridan Opera House
 10:30pm doors / 11:00pm show
 Ages 21+ (unless accompanied by parent)
 \$30 advance **SOLD-OUT**

The Duhks
Fly Me to the Moon Saloon
 9pm doors / 10:00pm show
 Ages 21+ • \$15 advance

Steep Canyon Rangers
Las Montañas
 10:30pm show
 Ages 21+ • \$10 advance

Béla Fleck's award-winning documentary:
Film: Throw Down Your Heart
Nugget Theatre
 Midnight screening
 All ages • \$7 door
 Personally introduced by Béla Fleck

Sunday, June 22

Punch Brothers feat. Chris Thile
Sheridan Opera House
 10:00pm doors / 10:30pm show
 Ages 21+ (unless accompanied by parent)
 \$30 advance

Final matinee showing...
Film: Throw Down Your Heart
Nugget Theatre
 3:30pm matinee screening
 All ages • \$7 door
 Personally introduced by Béla Fleck

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 michael kang dylan taylor terry kitcher
 lucy wilkins mark mcclurg
 mark o'connor mike meritt rianah ni chana
 paz leonhardt ric sanders rocio mamon
 scott nwa tim cardone sean hurley
 terry greywolf sam bush chris lealle lours
 vanessa mae tyronne brown willie cambell
 robbie simpkins adrian below mike hogan
 kurt chapman joseph patrick moore daniel koblatke
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for information and to order tickets online visit:

www.dunegrassfestival.com

IN MEMORIAM...

GREG RAFFAELLI

July 22, 1972 – January 30, 2007



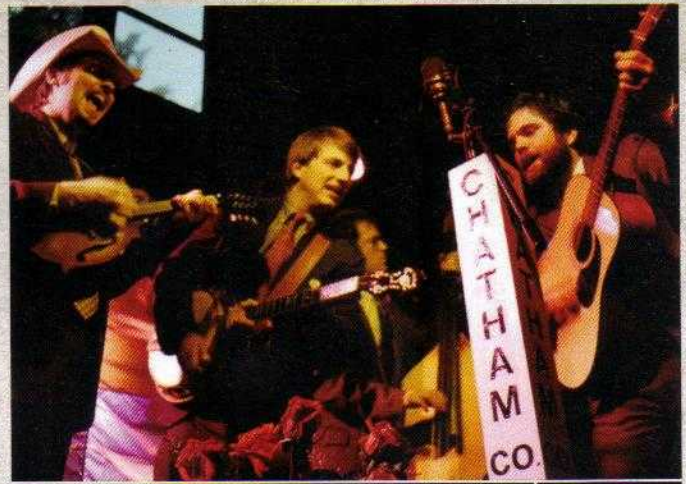
The Festival will be without one of its most loyal fans this year as we say goodbye to beloved Festivarian, and everybody's best friend, Greg Raffaelli.

Always the life of the party and the party planner, Greg rallied a huge crew to Telluride Bluegrass every year with his resounding cry of: "You can't put a price on a good time!" Nearly forty of those

friends and family – including his wife and two daughters – are gathering in Telluride this weekend to honor his memory in the one place on Earth that brought all his loves together: music, mountains, and stars.

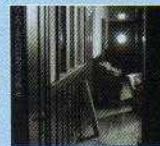
To Greg, as to all of us, Telluride Bluegrass is a very good time – the time of our lives. As we bid farewell to one of our best friends, join us in savoring these magical moments we share together and celebrating the many glories that surround us this weekend.

We'll miss you, Greg. But we know your smilin' eye is looking down on us from the skies above. ☺



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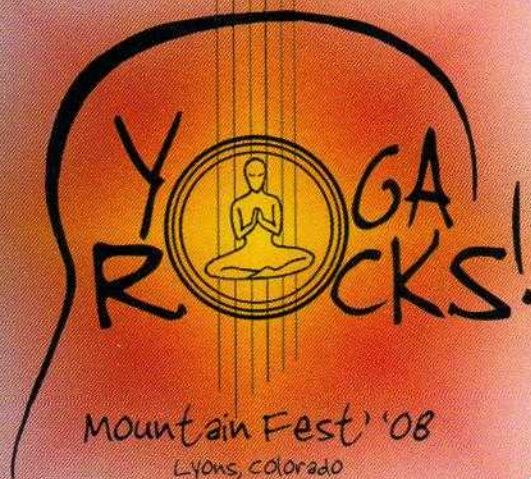
Music:

Grish, The Motet presents: Jumo What?, Shanti Groove, Donna Delory, Zivana Masango, Buddha Bomb, Charlotte Kendrick and Dan Rowe, Tuatha, Ondita, DVS and Chantel, Mountain Trance, Chris Webb Band, Muse of Tunya, Gypsy Nation, Scott Medina, Dusty Boxcar, Slippery Elm Medicine Band, Elevision live on stage with Waylon Lewis and more...

Workshops:

Darren Rhodes, Alanna Kauriya, Aaron King, Dave Farmer, Shanti Medina, Bear Tobin, Monica Gully, Regina Zwilling, Andora Freedom, Shreedevi Bringi, Jeanie Manchester, Jules Febre, Holly Horvath, Batzan Faggio, Luna Jordan, R.R. Shakti, Makaan Burt, Casey Beauchamp, Alison Litchfield, Cathy Zeeb, Eric Lorigne, and more.

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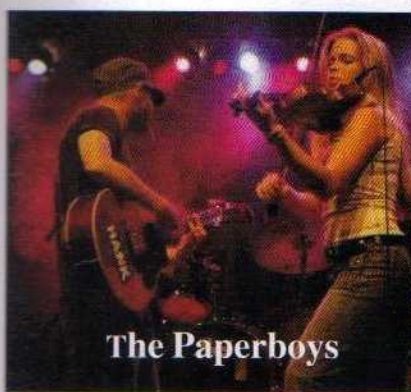
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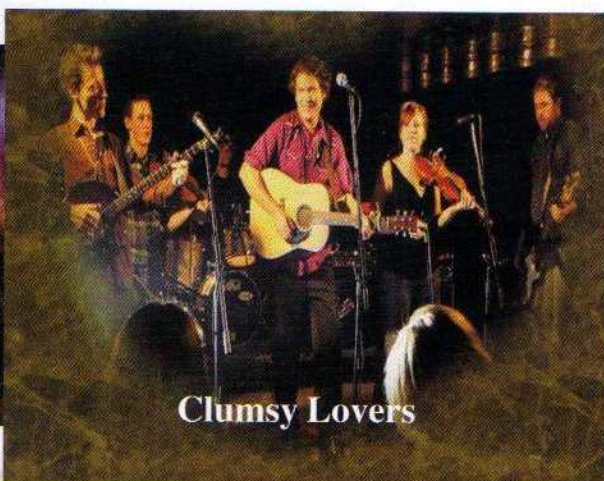
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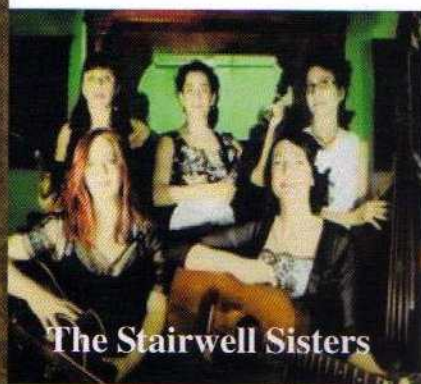
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Drew Emmitt (Leftover Salmon) with Billy Nershi (String Cheese Incident) & Friends

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