

**Bill Cowie, Movin' On
News and Information
about events in the
folk world**

NEFFA
NEW ENGLAND FOLK FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION
NEWS
Spring 2015 – Vol. XLI #1

**Don't Forget: The
NEFFA Festival is in
Mansfield, MA
April 24-26, 2015
OUR 71st YEAR!**

Presidential Farewell

Bill Cowie



Dear Members and friends of NEFFA,

It has been a great honor to serve as your President for the past four years – just one portion of a tradition that has spanned 71 years. This is my last letter to you as President of NEFFA, as my second and final term will end this April. I have been surrounded by a wonderful and passionate group of people who have spent an amazing amount of time and energy to bring the Festival together every year. And I have had the pleasure of seeing so many of you with smiles on your faces, knowing that I was one small part of the reason you were there.

When I first asked you to support my candidacy, I told you that I felt a certain “magic” about this great event. I used that term to try to capture the essence of a group of people with a common spirit who come together each year for a weekend of fun and celebration. I have seen that magic unfold many times in the past four years, and in ways that I never expected.

The most memorable time was in April of 2013, when we awoke on the Friday morning of the Festival to the news of a lockdown in the Boston area. Although the Festival was being held some 30 miles away, our first concern was for the safety of our friends and loved ones in the area. By late morning, we had confirmed that all were safe and had made an

Last-Minute Reminder: NEFFA Night at Club Passim – March 20th

At press time, tickets are still available for “NEFFA Night” at Club Passim: a musical preview of the New England Folk Festival! We’ve lined up some special performers in an eclectic program that mirrors the exciting variety of the Festival itself.

- Julie Metcalf (Old-time/Québécois fiddle)
- Lydia and Andrea (Scandinavian fiddle)
- Outrageous Fortune (Jug Band)
- Marylou Ferrante (Blues)
- Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards (Folk)
- Mierlita (Romanian fiddle)

The program starts at 8pm, and tickets (\$15) are available at www.clubpassim.org

assessment of how the Festival would be affected if the lockdown remained in place. With the clock ticking, we began putting contingency plans into place. Every Board member and Committee member was determined to do whatever it took to bring the Festival to life that evening, and I even received calls and messages from NEFFA members, volunteers and friends, offering their assistance in any way needed. Together, we worked our way through any issue that arose, and opened the doors that evening to an enthusiastic and grateful crowd.

Many of us will also remember the Festival of 2014, when we finally had the first rainy weekend since moving to Mansfield. But attendance was just as strong and enthusiastic as ever, and as the last Festival-goers departed on Sunday afternoon, a magnificent rainbow appeared in the eastern sky.

I saw the magic in many more ways, many of them seemingly mundane. Regardless of the circumstances, we were always able to meet any challenge. And after all the time and effort spent each year, there is always a Festival. Thousands of us come together, and there are smiles on our faces and laughter in our bellies, music in our ears and dancing in our feet, and all manner of joy and celebration in our hearts. That is the magic of NEFFA, and with your continued support, it will always be special.

As I look to the future of NEFFA, I am thrilled to see the number of young people who have joined the Board and taken on various committee work. They have brought with them a refreshing set of new ideas, along with the energy and enthusiasm to bring them to life. This younger generation is the future of NEFFA, and I am very happy that the future looks so bright.

Once again, I thank all of you, the members of NEFFA, for your continued support, your kind words, and your enthusiastic participation in the Festival and the many other activities of this wonderful organization.

As I said during those tumultuous days of 2013, I look forward to joining with you as we carry on this tradition of peaceful and joyous celebration for many years to come.

Don't Get Mad, Go to TradMad!

Traditional Music and Dance Camp 2015 (TradMaD). From August 29 to September 4, 2015, there will be singing, picking, dancing, and jamming galore (along with time for swimming, socializing, and relaxing) at Pinewoods Camp in Plymouth, MA. The staff includes (in alphabetical order): Sheila Kay Adams, Anita Best, Eliza Carthy, Andy Cohen, Amy Conley, Bob Dupré, Sue Dupré, Craig Edwards, Emma Gorin, Grand Picnic, Bennett Hammond, Lorraine Hammond, Scott Higgs, Allen Hopkins, John Kirk, Jen Larson, Trish Miller, Emily O'Brien, Caroline Paton, Linnea Paton, John Roberts, Jacqueline Schwab, Ryan & Brennish Thomson, Bob Walser, and Elissa Weiss. Co-directors are Joy Bennett and Heather Wood. To register, visit: www.tradmadcamp.org

If you have any questions, please let me know! Thanks very much.
Suzanne Mrozak



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Issue	Deadline
Spring	Feb. 1
Summer	May 15
Fall	Aug. 15
Winter	Nov. 1

“A Taste of Maple” –French Traditions Celebrated

The French Heritage Center’s 5th year anniversary event—“A Taste of Maple” celebrates two French Canadian traditions; fiddle music and maple “sugaring”. The event will be held at Assumption Church hall, (Holy Name Parish) 94 Springfield St., Chicopee, on Sunday, April 19th at 2:00 p.m. Included will be maple delicacies to satisfy your sweet tooth, a patisserie, a raffle and door prizes.



Quebecois fiddler/composer Daniel Boucher (Bristol, CT) will be featured. Performances include the Quebec 400 celebrations in Quebec City, French Day at the State Capital in Hartford and folk festivals in New England and Canada. He was also invited to perform in Washington D.C. at both The Library of Congress as well as The Kennedy Center Millennium Stage. Joining Daniel are his two “bons amis” (good friends)--Bill Walach, Mandolin, who has opened for Charlie Daniels, and Ken Karpowicz, who opened for Beausoleil. Their varied backgrounds guarantee an

exciting and unique musical afternoon.

Maple syrup is synonymous with Canada. With over 13,000 maple producers, Quebec has been a leading producer of the golden liquid, responsible for over 75% of the world’s output. Maple syrup and its derivative products are an integral part of Quebec culture and cuisine. Here in Western Mass., how sweet it is to have a concentration of “sugar shacks”! Owners of The Maple Hut sugar house in Agawam will be on hand to represent the Mass. Maple Producers Assoc. with an informative display.

An entrance fee of \$15 (\$10 for members) will be collected at the door, which opens at 1:00 p.m. Proceeds will support future programs and the French Heritage Center Building Fund.



The mission of the French Heritage Center is to honor, preserve and promote the legacy of Franco-Americans. This event provides the opportunity to keep the rich heritage of our forefathers alive as well as bringing us one step closer to fulfilling the dream of establishing a French Heritage Center. Anyone interested in becoming involved with the committee or wishing to become an “ami” of the center or a sponsor of this event can contact Marie Proulx Meder at frenchconnection104@gmail.com or call Jeanne Hebert at 413-594-9332.

Marie Proulx Meder

French Heritage Center



Don't miss the NEFFA Festival
April 24-26, 2015. Mansfield High School,
Mansfield MA.

Need questions answered at the Festival?
Visit either Information Table or ask one
of our roaming Information people wearing
this badge!

The snowed-out memorial event for long-time NEFFA member and
volunteer Dick Forsyth has been rescheduled for
Saturday May 23rd.
More information at
<http://dick.forsyths.org/event/index.html>



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