

# Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center

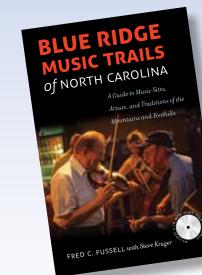
Located in Asheville at Blue Ridge Parkway milepost 384, the Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center offers a high definition movie, exhibits, information desks, and a gift shop where you can purchase the *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina* guidebook. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. 828-298-5330.

The 25 westernmost counties of the state and the Cherokee Qualla Boundary were designated the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area by Congress in 2003 in recognition of the region's natural splendor and living traditions of music, craft, agriculture, and Cherokee culture.



# **Traditional Artist Directory**

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area's online
Traditional Artist Directory is a guide to many of the
finest traditional craft artisans, musicians, dancers and
storytellers in the North Carolina mountains and foothills.
The directory contains profiles for more than 500 artists
and groups. The directory is a free resource to find an
artist for a performance; plan a trip to an artist's studio
or music event; and learn more about the region's
traditional artists and heritage.
Visit the Traditional Artist Directory online at:
BlueRidgeHeritage.com/traditional-artist-directory



### Buy the Blue Ridge Music Trails guidebook

Danbury

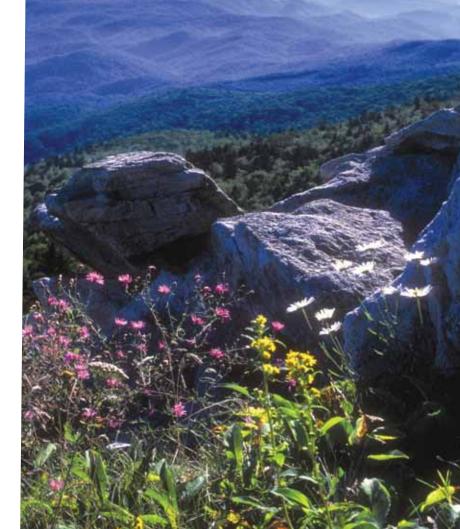
Published in association with UNC Press, the N.C. Arts Council and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership, *Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina* by folklorist Fred C. Fussell is an insider's guide to the great music and dance traditions of the mountains and foothills. It also features a 26 music track CD. Visit *BlueRidgeMusicNC.com* to purchase.







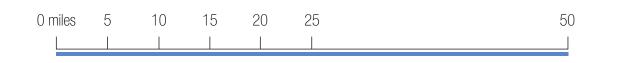






















# BlueRidgeMusicNC.com

Western North Carolina is known internationally as a region rich in traditional old-time stringband music, ballad singing and bluegrass, and abounds in opportunities to experience this authentic artistry in person.

Traditional music can be heard throughout the region in a range of settings, from hometown oprys and informal jam sessions to concert stages. Festivals and old-time music conventions, some dating back almost a century, are reliable opportunities for enjoying traditional music and dance in family-friendly settings.

The Blue Ridge Music Trails is a project of the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership to preserve and promote traditional music in Western North Carolina. Visit **BlueRidgeMusicNC.com** for more information on the region's music, venues, events, and artists.



# Western North Carolina Distinctions in Traditional Music

Western North Carolina has many distinctions in traditional music that set it apart, and here's a sample:

- No other state has had more influence on the development of the banjo in America: Earl Scruggs, Charlie Poole and Snuffy Jenkins, among many, created modern banjo styles.
- The fiddle and banjo ensemble tradition in Surry County's Round Peak community is emulated by musicians around the world.
- Flat-footing and clogging in Western N.C. are recognized as the most highly-developed dance traditions in the country. Team square dancing originated in Haywood County in the 1930s.
- One of the longest, unbroken ballad singing traditions in America is found in Madison County.
- Asheville's Mountain Dance and Folk Festival is the oldest continuous folk festival in the United States.
- WPAQ AM 740 in Mount Airy is the oldest live radio show that continues to program regional music from the Blue Ridge, first signing on in 1948.
- MerleFest is one of the nation's largest and most influential "Americana" music events. It was founded



### Along the Music Trails

The Blue Ridge Music Trails are set in the majestic landscape of the North Carolina mountains and foothills, where you will find an abundance of great experiences:

- Scenic drives with mountain views
- Historic small towns
- Invigorating hikes and nature walks
- Hidden waterfalls
- Handmade crafts
- Bustling farmers' markets
- Pit-cooked barbeque Local beers and wines

As you travel the Music Trails, you'll also encounter a variety of music styles, including:

- the lonesome strains of old-time fiddling
- the fiery rhythms of bluegrass music
- the stately charm of blues guitar, Piedmont style
- the unadorned power of shaped-note singing
- and the quiet intensity of age-old ballads





Jam sessions in Western North Carolina are friendly events where people gather to play and listen to traditional music in an informal setting. The seating or standing arrangement of the participants varies from place to place. There is a general custom that the most experienced musicians will occupy the most central positions of the group. Typically, the assembled players at jam sessions form a circle, and the veteran musicians sit or stand right in the middle of the circle.

Other musicians often place themselves closer to or more distant from the center in accordance with their particular skill levels. There are no hard-and-fast rules. Visitors are almost always welcome to participate, but every jam is different, so musicians who have an interest in joining in should be observant and respectful of local





# WNCW 88.7 FM, Spindale

Earle Theatre

Western North Carolina Public Radio offers a mix of music from bluegrass to world music. Features local artists

Live Radio Broadcast of Merry-Go-Round at the

Every Saturday from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Here's a sampling of Western North Carolina radio

Country Roots with Wayne Erbsen, Sunday at 7 p.m.

Bluegrass all day, daily, featuring a mix of classic and

current bluegrass music. Also spotlights local music

stations that play traditional music:

Close to Home, Saturdays at 8 p.m.;

(Traditional, old-time and classic folk music)

WCQS 88.1 FM, Asheville

WKYK 1450 AM, Burnsville

WDSL 1520 AM, Mocksville

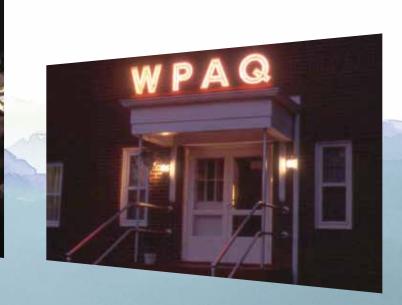
WPAQ 740 AM, Mount Airy

Bluegrass and country

Gospel, bluegrass and country

WKVS 103.3 FM, Lenoir

Bluegrass every Friday at 4 p.m.





142 North Main St., Mount Airy, NC 336-7968 The Old-Time Music Heritage Hall at the Earle Theatre Tommy Jarrell Festival February, last weekend 3899 Railroad Grade Rd., Todd, NC 336-877-5401

January – April, one Friday each month

Todd Mercantile Dances 11005 Old Hwy. 64 West, Brasstown, NC 828-837-3797 3 Clay's Corner New Year's Eve Celebration December

702 North Main St., Rutherfordton, NC December, Saturday before the 2nd Sunday Christian Harmony Singing at Saint John's Church

Crowne Plaza Resort, Asheville, NC 828-275-8650 Bluegrass First Class February

winter music venues

150 H.F.R. Building, Cullowhee, NC 828-227-7129 Mountain Heritage Center Auditorium October – May, 1st Thursdays Western Carolina University Concert & Jam Session

400 West Main St., Valdese, NC 828-879-2129 September – April, Friday or Saturday each month Bluegrass at the Old Rock School

# all-spring music venues

Cook Park, Railroad Grade Rd., Todd, NC 828-964-1362 18 Todd New River Festival October, 2nd Saturday Off NC 89, Sheppard Mill Rd., Danbury, NC 336-593-8159

Stokes Stomp September, 2nd weekend, Saturday & Sunday 1565 Collinstown Rd., Westfield, NC 336-983-4951

16 Stokes County Fiddlers' Convention October Globe Park, 153 Shakespeare Dr., Forest City, NC 877-768-3395 15 Snuffy Jenkins Festival September

Lake Junaluska, NC 828-452-2881 Lake Junaluska Conference Center, 91 N. Lakeshore Dr., Labor Day weekend, Friday & Saturday

14 Smoky Mountain Folk Festival downtown, Brevard, NC 828-884-3575 October or Movember, Saturday closest to Halloween

13 Old-Time Mountain Music Competition at Halloween 6 South Main St., Burnsville, NC 828-675-4790 Burnsville Town Center Music in the Mountains Folk Festival September, last Saturday

349 Andante Lane, Brevard, NC 828-243-3496 Brevard Music Center, Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium 111 Mountain Song Festival mid-September

Main St., Sparta, NC 800-372-5473 10 Mountain Heritage Festival September 1 University Dr., Cullowhee, NC 828-227-7129

Campus of Western Carolina University 9 Mountain Heritage Day September, last Saturday 103 South Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 704-482-7882

Old Cleveland County Courthouse October, 3rd Saturday 8 Livermush Expo and Art of Sound Music Festival

1 Folk School Rd., Brasstown, NC 800-365-5726 October, 1st full weekend

John C. Campbell Folk School Fall Festival

Milepost 382 Blue Ridge Pkwy., Asheville, NC 828-298-7928 Heritage Weekend at the Folk Art Center mid-September

Jones Farm, 3590 NC 268, Lenoir, NC 828-396-5811 September, Labor Day weekend, Friday – Sunday Happy Valley Old-Time Fiddler's Convention 813 Piney Mountain Church Rd., Ellenboro, NC 704-453-8185

Ellenboro School Auditorium November, Saturday before Thanksgiving Ellenboro Fiddlers' and Bluegrass Convention

Memorial Stadium, Asheville, NC 3 Brewgrass Festival September 100 Athletic St., Mars Hill, NC 828-689-1571 Mars Hill College Campus

and Mars Hill Heritage Festival October, 1st Saturday Sascom Lamar Lunsford "Minstrel of Appalachia" 691 W Lebanon St., Mount Airy, NC 336-786-6116 Veterans Memorial Park Autumn Leaves Festival October

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Jones House, 604 West King St., Boone, NC 828-262-4576 June – September, Fridays 3 Music at the Jones House Community Center: Concerts

251 Cowee Creek Rd., Franklin, NC 828-369-5595 May – October, Fridays

Sessions at the T.M. Rickman General Store 226 Everett St., Bryson City, NC 828-488-3681 Bryson City Depot June - October, Saturdays

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Downtown Waynesville, NC 828-456-3517 Haywood County Courthouse Late June to EarlyAugust, alternate Fridays

27 Waynesville Street Dance 121 Schoolhouse Rd., Robbinsville, NC 828-479-3364 End of June – August, Saturdays 26 Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center Concert Series

11250 Pisgah Hwy. (US 276), Pisgah Forest, NC 828-877-3130 Songcatcher Music Series at the Cradle of Forestry 2050 Blowing Rock Hwy., Linville, NC 800-468-7325 Grandfather Mountain

24 Singing on the Mountain at MacRae Meadows Pack Square Park, 121 College St., Asheville, NC 828-258-6101 July 4th - Labor Day weekend, most Saturdays 23 Shindig on the Green

Town Center, 6 South Main St., Burnsville, NC 828-682-9654 RiddleFest June, Saturday after Father's Day weekend 220 Catawba Meadows Dr., Morganton, NC 828-439-1866 Catawba Meadows Park

21 Red, White and Bluegrass Festival June 30 – July 4 On The Square, downtown, Franklin, NC 828-524-2516 Pickin' on the Square May – early August, Saturdays

9281 Hwy. 194, Lansing, NC 336-466-4790 Lansing Creeper Trail Park

354 Woodville Rd., Mount Airy, NC 336-351-5543 18 Nunn Brothers Bluegrass Festival July, last weekend 1885 US 70 West, Marion, NC 706-864-7203 Tom Johnson's Camping Center

Mid-August, Thursday – Saturday 17) North Carolina State Bluegrass Festival 207 Dale Adams Rd., Sugar Grove, NC 828-297-2200 Cove Creek School

16 Music Fest 'n Sugar Grove July, 2nd weekend, Friday & Saturday 285 M Main St., Waynesville, NC 828-456-3517 Mountain Street Dance July – August

828-258-6101; 828-257-4530 Diana Wortham Theatre, 2 South Pack Square, Asheville, NC August, 1st Thursday – Saturday 14 Mountain Dance and Folk Festival

691 West Lebanon St., Mount Airy, NC 336-345-7388 Mount Airy Veterans Memorial Park June, 1st weekend, Friday & Saturday Mount Airy Bluegrass and Old-Time Fiddlers Convention

Hendersonville Visitors Information Center Parking Area 12 Monday Night Street Dance July - August Bolick Family Pottery, Blackberry Rd., Lenoir, NC 828-295-5099

downtown, Hendersonville, NC 800-828-4244

Heritage Day and Kiln Opening at Bolick Family Pottery 190 Fines Creek Rd., Lake Junaluska, NC 828-627-3080 TO Fines Creek Bluegrass Jam August, 2nd weekend Downtown, Saluda, NC 828-749-2581

Coon Dog Day July, 1st Saturday

Elliott Family Farms, 356 London Rd., Lawndale, NC 704-472-9667 8 Glear Mountain View Music Festival August

> Christmas in July, 1st Saturday Governor Morehead Park, 422 Church St., Eden, NC

downtown, West Jefferson, NC 336-846-9196

Charlie Poole Music Festival June, 2nd Friday & Saturday 77 South Penland St., Canton, NC 828-646-3411 September June – September

Bluff Mountain Music Festival June, 2nd Saturday 1553 Wolfetown Rd., Cherokee, NC 877-782-2765

315 Bridge St., Hot Springs, NC 828-649-1301

Bluegrass in Cherokee Festival June, 2nd weekend 527 Ashe Park Rd., Jefferson, NC 336-846-9550

Ashe County Bluegrass & Old Time Fiddlers Convention 1585 U.S. 21 North, Sparta, NC 800-372-5473 Alleghany County Fiddlers' Convention July, 3rd weekend

# ummer music venues

1025 Orchard Rd., Spruce Pine, NC 888-765-9531 Milepost 328.3, Blue Ridge Parkway May – September, Wednesday – Sunday, and weekends in October orchard at Altapass Live Music

3116 Soco Rd. (Route 19), Maggie Valley 828-926-1288 April – November, Fridays & Saturdays 3 Music and Dance at the Stompin' Ground

3605 Soco Rd., Maggie Valley, NC 828-296-9336 Maggie Valley Opry House May – October 1 Banner Farm Rd., Horseshoe, NC 828-577-1889 Cummings Memorial Methodist Church May & September, Saturday before the 1st Sunday

pring-fall music venue

Etowah Christian Harmony Singing

305 North State St., Yadkinville, NC 336-679-2941 Yadkinville Elementary School April, 3rd weekend, Friday & Saturday 6 Yadkin Valley Bluegrass Convention

630 S Main St., Dobson, NC 336-401-8390 Surry Community College Surry Old Time Fiddlers Convention March

Vanhoy Farms Family Campground Old Time Fiddlers' Convention Easter Weekend 1328 S Collegiate Dr., Wilkesboro, NC 800-343-7857 Wilkes Community College

Union Grove, NC 704-539-5493

MerleFest April, last Thursday – Sunday

Warren Wilson Rd., Asheville, NC 828-771-3722 Warren Wilson College Fiddles and Folklife Festival April, 3rd Saturday 7897 Little Snowbird Rd., Robbinsville, NC 828-479-4727

LITTLE Snowbird Baptist United Memorial Day weekend, Saturday

# spring music venues

26 Mountain Music Dr., Burnsville, NC 828-675-4790 29 Young's Mountain Music Saturdays 8304 Valley Blvd., Blowing Rock, NC 828-295-3651

Woodlands Barbeque and Pickin' Parlor Earle Theatre, Mount Airy, NC 336-786-2222 27 WPAQ Merry-Go-Round Saturdays

100 East Main St., Wilkesboro, NC 336-667-3171 Vilkes Heritage Museum & the Blue Ridge Music Hall of Fame

11929 NC 268, Ferguson, NC 336-973-3237 January – March, Saturdays & Sundays April – December; open by appointment only Whippoorwill Academy and the Tom Dooley Museum

3866 Railroad Grade Rd., Todd, NC 336-877-1067 24 Todd General Store Jam Session Fridays 364 East Main St. (US 276 S), Brevard, NC 828-884-3575

Thursday Night Jam at the Silvermont Mansion Thursdays 6160 Petra Mill Rd., Granite Falls, NC 828-396-5811 22 Sims Country Bar-B-Que Fridays & Saturdays 1901 West Memorial Hwy., Union Grove, NC 704-539-4353

21 Saturday Morning Jam at the Cook Shack Saturdays

708 Redding Rd., Ronda, NC 336-984-3455 20 Redding's Country Kitchen Fridays

2425 Silas Creek Rd., Lansing, NC 336-384-2382 19 Phipps General Store Jam Fridays

Earle Theatre, 142 North Main St., Mount Airy, NC 336-786-7998 18 Old-Time Music Heritage Hall Thursdays & Saturdays Old Helton School Rd., Lansing, NC 336-384-4707

> Sturgills Community 17 Old Helton School Hog Stomp Thursdays

Mountain Gateway Museum 828-668-9259 16 Old Fort Afternoon Jams Sundays 10225 NC 67 Hwy., East Bend, NC 336-699-8693

15 O'Henry's Restaurant Fridays & Saturdays The Old Railroad Depot, Main Street, Marshall, NC 828-206-2332

14 Marshall Railroad Depot Fridays Railroad St., Marion, NC 828-652-2215 13 Marion Depot Bluegrass Thursdays

81 Slick Fisher Rd., Lake Toxaway, NC 828-966-4060 1 Folk School Rd., Brasstown, NC 800-365-5724

Fridays, 1st & 3rd Saturdays 11 John C. Campbell Folk School Concert series 220 Country Hearth Ln., Andrews, NC 828-361-6878

10 Jimmy's Pick n Grin Saturdays Jones House, 604 West King St., Boone, NC 828-262-4576 9 Jam Sessions at Jones House Community Center Thursdays 100 South Main St., Drexel, NC 704-907-8863

8 Jam Session at The Drexel Barber Shop 3715 Hendersonville Rd., Fletcher, NC 828-216-3492 Fletcher Feed & Seed Fridays & Saturdays

103 South Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 704-487-6233 Old Cleveland County Courthouse 6 Earl Scruggs Center

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays

318 South Washington St., Shelby, NC 704-487-8114 5 Don Gibson Theatre 11005 Old Hwy. 64 West, Brasstown, NC 828-837-3797

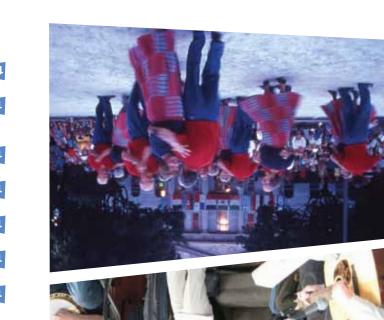
Clay's Corner Weekly Jam Session Fridays 7 North Main St., downtown Marshall, NC 828-649-1617 3 Bluegrass Jam at Zuma Coffee Thursday nights

151 Gant Rd., Eden, NC 336-706-2144 The Barn Tuesdays, 2nd & 4th Saturdays

The Spartan Theater, 25 North Main St., Sparta, NC 800-372-5473

year-round music venues

Tuesdays & Saturdays



events, please visit BlueRidgeMusicNC.com. out. For the most up-to-date information on venues and is always best to verify the information before heading though all the events listed occur on a regular basis, it As you begin your journey, keep in mind that even

invite you to sing, dance and celebrate with us. list. Whether you can spend a week or a weekend, we The venues are alphabetized in a seasonal at-a-glance

presenting the music. of major festivals and other locations dedicated to the Blue Ridge Music Trails guidebook and a sampling Carolina! Included on the map are venues featured in Welcome to the Blue Ridge Music Trails of North

Before You Hit the Trail