

# Annual Youth Fiddle Camp to be held in Bethel, Missouri

June 11 – 16, 2017

Open to aspiring fiddle and guitar players from the ages of 7 to 17.

Adult Camp, age 18 and beyond, Thursday June 15 – Saturday June 17, 2017



Structure: Participants learn in both group and one-on-one sessions that concentrate on technique and the challenging Missouri repertoire of hoedowns and waltzes. Continuing the Bethel tradition, instruction will emphasize dance as well as contest type fiddling. All students will be given the opportunity to learn to square dance, two-step and waltz at nightly dance workshops.

The camp opens with registration and get-acquainted activities beginning at 3:00 PM on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and ends on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> with a fish fry and recognition ceremony in the barn. All campers will perform tunes they have learned at camp. Campers will be housed in the somewhat rustic Bethel Bed and Breakfast facilities and take all meals together in the dining hall. The historical environment is as educational as the camp itself.

## Invited Masters for 2017:

**Vesta Johnson** of Kirkwood, MO grew up surrounded by traditional music. Her driving fiddling inspires dancers and musicians of all ages. Vesta started playing the fiddle at age seven and has a repertoire comprised of both standard rare tunes and familiar hoedowns. **Steve Hall** is a talented multi-instrumentalist. As Vesta's grandson, he grew immersed in Missouri's musical traditions. Whether playing fiddle, mandolin or guitar he is a fantastic addition to any band or jam session. **John White** from Hallsville, MO is an accomplished old time fiddler. He is an exceptional instructor who inspires and motivates young musicians to do their best. **Angela Lennie** from Ottumwa, Iowa a former Bethel camper not only brings her talent, but a background of experience and tunes learned at former camps from some of the best Masters in the field. They travel the United States taking old time music to audiences of all ages at festivals, fairs, concerts, dances, schools, libraries, camps, radio and TV programs. **Liz Amos** followed Bob Holt and the Ava dancers home from Bethel years ago and spent the following five years fiddling and dancing twenty-seven hours a day (according to some.) Guided by Bob's principle that "you've gotta give the dancers a place to put their foot down," her fiddling is driven by her love of dancing. **John Williams**, a former camper has been teaching fiddle for several years. He studied with some of the best Masters in the Midwest and has developed his own unique style. **Charlie Walden**, or "possum" as his friends call him is the reason for the Bethel Fiddle Camp. He had the vision many years ago and it has continued with success. **Kenny Applebee** is one of the most sought after guitar players at fiddle contests in Missouri and the Mid-South. His tasteful choice of chords and impeccable rhythm make him the accompanist of choice for many of today's traditional fiddlers. **Mickey Soltys** has been playing and accompanying Missouri-style fiddle for over 30 years. He appears on a legendary recording of Missouri master Pete McMahan [Ozark Mountain Waltz](#). In 2014 Mickey won the prestigious Illinois State Fiddle Championship at Effingham, IL. Mickey will be teaching in the Adult Camp. **Patt Plunkett** has been dancing, calling and teaching social dancing to others for many years and is an accomplished clogger and step-dancer. She is particularly interested in traditional square dancing, especially Western and Appalachian-type square formations. She once called the figures for the "World's Largest Square Dance" held in Chicago's Grant Park in conjunction with the WFMT Chicago Folk Festival. Patt will be teaching dancing and playing piano accompaniment throughout the week.

The camp is held at Bethel, Shelby County, Missouri, a quaint rural hamlet situated in the rolling farm country of Northeast Missouri. Contact Wendy Brumbaugh at 573-633-2640 or e-mail [brumbaughw@missouri.edu](mailto:brumbaughw@missouri.edu) for more information.

**2017 Missouri Fiddlers Gathering in Bethel, Missouri June 17, 2017.** Workshops, Jam Sessions, Performances, and Dances led by some of Missouri's finest traditional artists. Bring the Family—plenty of camping available or stay in one of the Bed & Breakfasts. Rooms are limited so call 660-284-6493 early. There is a Best Value Inn in Shelbina, which is 15 miles from Bethel, call 573-588-0020 for reservations. Located about 45 miles from Bethel are hotels in Quincy, IL, Hannibal, Kirksville, and Macon, MO.