



October 1, 2019

Dear Mountain Laurel Friends,

The 30th Annual Gathering is coming in June, 2020! Last year we redesigned our WEB site and developed a new on-line registration system which is more precisely tailored to our needs. The on-line system worked extremely well and was so much simpler and easier to use that only a few participants used the paper form. It gives you the opportunity to use PayPal, your credit card or a personal check to pay. Most participants chose the PayPal option (you do not need to have a PayPal account), and this dramatically decreased the number of check payments and helped streamline the registration process. There are step-by-step directions in the on-line information, but a mail-in registration form is included in this packet. You may also download the form from our website (<https://www.mlag.org>) by clicking on the link under the registration TAB on the main menu. If you choose the paper form option, please include your check payment with the mailed form. Thoroughly review the information included to help get things done efficiently so we can start playing music!

The dates for the 2020 Gathering are June 24 through 28 with the campground available to us after 3 p.m. on Monday, June 22. We will be able to stay until 12 p.m. on Monday, June 29. Pre-Gathering classes will start at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23. Les Gustafson-Zook (Beginner), Ivan Stiles (Intermediate), and Karen Mueller (Advanced) will each present nine hours of small group instruction over Tuesday and Wednesday. All details are on pages 12 and 13 of this packet. Featured MLAG performers this year include Karen Mueller, Ron Wall, June Maugery, Les Gustafson-Zook, Ivan Stiles, and Cindy Harris (the 2019 Mountain Laurel Champion) and the GrayScale ContraBand.

The Little Buffalo State Park "Rules and Regulations" will apply to us and you will find them attached. As part of the registration process we ask for your signed agreement to abide by all the campground rules and to indemnify both the State and the all-volunteer MLAG Board against claims for damage to property or personal injury while attending the Gathering. If you use the paper registration form, remember to mail this signed agreement with your registration materials and your check payment.

I strongly encourage you to use our on-line registration; it makes the registration process much more efficient and secure and ensures that your information is correct. The process is available at <https://www.mlag.org>. To provide direct contact with the people responsible for each of the areas, there is a toll-free telephone "hot line." The number is: 844-994-9939. There is a numbered menu to select the information you need and it will then connect you directly to the individual Board member responsible for that area. Come celebrate our 30th anniversary year and make it the best Gathering ever!

Sincerely,

Michael

Michael E. Poole
MLAG Registrar

8 Attachments:

1. General Information - Pages 2/3
2. Featured Performers - Page 4
3. Registration Form - Pages 5/6
4. Assumption of Risk Agreement - Page 7
5. Pre-MLAG Workshop Info - Pages 8/9
6. Directions & Motel List - Page 10
7. Campsite Map - Page 11
8. Campground Rules - Pages 12/13

MOUNTAIN LAUREL AUTOHARP GATHERING GENERAL INFORMATION - 2020

REGISTRATION PROCESS/FEES/CAMPING

Included in this packet you will find everything you need to register for the Gathering.

A full-time ticket includes all workshops and concerts from Wed, June 24 through Sun, June 28. A Non-Participant ticket includes everything except the workshops. Tenting and RV Camping have an additional fee and you will need to fill out the Camping Registration section of the form. Children 16 and Under are admitted free. All fees are listed on our Fees page.

IMPORTANT: It will help us tremendously to know in advance if you have any physical or medical limitations which affect where you are placed in the campground. Please be concise but relevant with this information and understand that we will do our best to maintain your medical confidentiality. If you are tenting or don't wish any hookups, MLAG personnel will assist you in finding a site which best fits your needs. Tent sites are not assigned in advance. We'll do our best but remember, this is a music festival.

Due to limitations of space, tenters may not reserve a full hook-up site. If you are tenting and have a medical need for electricity, we will do our best to accommodate you. Please call the Camping Director (Tom Fladmark (844-994-9939, Ext. 2/fladmark@hughes.net) with your request. Hook-up facilities include water and electric but no sewer. There is a dump station at the campground free to use. Our space in the campground is limited. RV campsites will be assigned in the order they are received. If all the campsites with hook-ups are filled, then subsequent RVs will have to be assigned to the overflow area which does not include water or electric hook-ups. Included in this packet is a site map with numbers and information relating to the services on each site. If attendance in previous years is any indication, all sites will be shared. Experience has taught us that we can't guarantee any of the sites so you won't be informed in advance of your site number.

Each campsite has a 30 amp and a 20 amp breaker with a maximum of 50 amps available at each site. Many modern camper rigs use a 30 amp service. Experience has shown us that if campers can use an adapter and utilize the 20-amp service or can share or split time with their neighbors on the 30-amp box, this really helps to make the best use of the limited service in the campground. This is not a situation that is optimal, of course, but we have no control over it and we all must "make-do" as best we can.

MLAG has arranged for the use of the campground from check-in at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 22 through check out at 3 p.m. on Monday, June 29. If you need to arrive and set up before the Gathering officially begins (Wednesday, June 24) or stay on your site after the Gathering officially ends (after the concert on Sunday, June 28), please ensure that you fill in the arrival/departure dates section on our camping registration form to reflect the full time you'll be on site. Camping charges are on a per night basis.

If you need to arrive prior to check-in, which is 3 p.m. on Monday, or stay past the 3 p.m. check-out on the following Monday, you need to contact our camping director. Also, keep in mind that, although we do have the campground starting on Monday, June 22, the Gathering does not officially begin until Wednesday, June 24. Even if you don't sign up for a Pre-Gathering Workshop, you can expect plenty of jamming if you do decide to arrive early.

CANCELLATION POLICY

1. A \$35.00 administrative fee will be withheld from the total amount due for cancellations prior to May 25. After that date, the full registration cost is non-refundable. Meals not cancelled prior to June 10 when the numbers are submitted to the caterer will not be refunded, and any PayPal fees that are not refunded by PayPal also will be withheld.
2. Emergency refunds will be considered on a case-by-case basis after May 25.

PRE-GATHERING WORKSHOPS

There will be three 9-hour sessions of Pre-Gathering Workshops (for Beginners with Les Gustafson-Zook, Intermediate with Ivan Stiles, and Advanced with Karen Mueller) on Tuesday, June 23, and Wednesday, June 24. The fee for these workshops is in addition to the normal Gathering registration fee. Workshop topics, pricing information, and registration procedures are included as Attachment 8 (Page 13) and are also available at www.mlag.org.

MARY LOU ORTHEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Mary Lou Orthey Memorial Scholarship Fund promotes the development and growth of the autoharp by providing financial assistance to people who would otherwise not be able to afford to come to the Gathering. Awards are focused on, but not limited to, first time attendees. To apply for a scholarship, complete an application form which is available on the MLAG website or by e-mailing a request to **Cathy Britell (cathy@larkpoint.com)**, our scholarship coordinator. The completed form must be postmarked by April 1, 2020.

VOLUNTEERS

Our thanks to all of you who help out on-site each year; you really make the Gathering work! We encourage everyone to volunteer at least one hour during the course of the Gathering. There will be a sign-up sheet at Registration.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Be sure to leave this emergency contact information with your family: other than personal cell phones (service may be limited), there is no phone available at the Gathering site to receive calls. There is an emergency phone outside the Rec Hall that is available to make local outgoing emergency calls, i.e. 911, etc. During business hours (9 a.m. to 4 p.m., M-F), your family may call Park Headquarters at 717-567-9255 and a ranger will be dispatched to the campground. If the emergency is after hours, they should contact the PA State Police at 717-567-3110. There is a barracks about four miles from the campground. They should use these numbers during the Gathering only in the event of an actual emergency. You are encouraged to call your family to let them know you arrived at the site; they should not need to call to check on you! The State's office phone is not available for our use. **You will also notice that there is space on the registration form for you to provide names and numbers for us to call in the event of an emergency at the festival... this information is vital and required.**

ON-SITE FOOD

Meal plan tickets need to be ordered in advance. You may purchase our new Complete Meal Plan, which includes all lunches and dinners from Tuesday through Sunday (12 meals). Alternatively, you may purchase a Full Meal Plan, which includes Wednesday dinner through Sunday lunch (8 meals). Neither of these meal plans includes breakfast, but there are breakfast snack items available for purchase. Finally, you may purchase meals individually. The deadline for ordering meals is June 10 and meals canceled after June 10 are non-refundable. There is a possibility that a few individual meals will be available for purchase on-site, but including your meal order with your registration will ensure their availability. **IMPORTANT: Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available by special request. Order and pay for your meals with your normal registration but then you must e-mail Laurie at Townsidegcafe@aol.com or call her at 570-473-2233 (leave a message) to make your special meal arrangements. MLAG is not responsible for special meal arrangements.**

FESTIVAL MEMORABILIA

Designed by Ivan Stiles, we think the MLAG T-Shirts — men's and women's sizes available — are always special and this year's will be no exception. To order your shirt(s), please complete the appropriate section of the registration form. We only make a few extras so, to guarantee that you get one, be sure to order by May 25. Your shirts will be waiting for you at the festival. We are also soliciting "pithy" sayings for use on a future shirt. If your entry is selected, you get a free shirt.

BAZAAR AUTOHARP

The Bazaar Autoharp is a free forum for Gathering attendees to buy and sell their autoharp-related materials only. Space is limited and there are some necessary restrictions in place to protect our vendors. Rules for the bazaar are printed prominently in the Gathering program and also on the Gathering web site. Please note that you may have a maximum of three autoharps to sell.

VENDING

The vending area in the air-conditioned main hall will feature the largest assemblage of the foremost autoharp luthiers, service, and accessory providers to be found anywhere. One may be assured of one-on-one consultation with the best custom harp builders around, ready to take your order for a tailor-made instrument. Additionally, Oscar Schmidt dealers are available with new and rebuilt factory harps. Expertise is on hand to perform conversions or repairs, or guide you in your own work. Almost all accessories and harp supplies are either available or can be ordered and a selection of autoharp-related books and recorded music will be for sale.

SILENT AUCTION

This event, coordinated by Kathy Wieland & Cathy Beyer, helps raise needed funds for the Gathering and allows us to keep our reasonable registration fees in place. Don't forget to bring your creative items to add to the auction this year. Remember, donated services are also welcome. Thanks to all who contribute, either as donors or bidders.

VIDEO/AUDIO TAPING POLICY

Still photography without flash is permitted but video or audio taping of MLAG concerts, including the Workshop Leaders' Concert, is not allowed. We also request no iPhone or iPad photos during concerts since they are very disruptive to the people sitting behind you. Workshop attendees may tape workshops with the explicit permission of the workshop leader. We do plan to live stream most of the concerts.

SEE YOU IN JUNE

While we realize there is a lot of information included here, we hope it makes the process clear. Please share this information with others who may be interested. Additional copies of the registration forms are available at our web site (<https://www.mlag.org>) or you may copy the forms to share with others. We strongly encourage you to use the on-line registration process, which is very efficient and convenient and ensures that the registration information is as accurate as possible.

MLAG 2020 - Featured Performers



Ron Wall – Ron Wall has been a strong supporter of the autoharp community for many years, as a player, a producer, and an innovator of the instrument. The development of his personal style of bare-fingered open noting has amazed listeners for decades, and together with his singing and songwriting skills, make him a delight to hear. He last performed at MLAG in 2015, and this will be his fifth appearance as a featured performer. Ron has taken the autoharp into the world at large with his many well-known commercial recording projects featuring acoustical instruments, such as the “Old-Time Gathering” and “Smoky Mountain” recording series he produced. In 2002 his ambition, drive, and support brought into being the legendary “Autoharp Legacy” 3-CD set featuring over 50 autoharp players from around the world in solo and duet formats. Ron’s design of his Mountain Harp in the early 2000s is one of the few modern re-workings of autoharp construction. Tailored to sound best when played bare-fingered, and using guitar string gauges, it is sought after by players who value its unique timbre.



Karen Mueller is one of the top autoharp players today, and her performances amaze, engage and uplift audiences wherever she plays. Based in Minnesota, she tours nationally and in England, has released six critically-lauded solo recordings, and published three instructional books. Karen’s repertoire ranges from traditional old-time and Celtic to contemporary music, all woven together with expert musicianship. She has won the International Autoharp Championship (1986), and been inducted into the Autoharp Hall of Fame (2006). Besides her groundbreaking work with the autoharp, she also performs, teaches and records on the dulcimer, mandolin, guitar, bouzouki, and ukulele. A committed educator, Karen is in constant demand as a private instructor, workshop leader, and school residency artist. Since 2000, Karen has also performed with Katie McMahon, the original lead singer of Riverdance, and serves as bandleader for shows and tours. A native of Winfield, Kansas, she first attended the Walnut Valley Festival there while in high school in the late 1970s and was inspired to learn to play the autoharp by the performers she saw there.



Les Gustafson-Zook, from Goshen, Indiana, is a popular autoharp instructor, performer and multi-instrumentalist at festivals and music schools across the U.S. since 1990. He’s an engaging entertainer, having performed in elementary schools for over 20 years introducing traditional instruments and music to multi-generation audiences with a presentation of “Songs of the Pioneers.” More recently, Les has been performing with a variety of homemade novelty instruments, bringing smiles and intrigue to all ages. Les is the 2001 and 2018 International Autoharp Champion at Winfield, Kansas, as well as the 1989 National Autoharp Champion. In 2014 he was inducted into the Autoharp Hall of Fame. He has taught at Augusta Heritage Center, John C. Campbell Folk School, Kentucky Music Week, Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering, Walnut Valley Festival, Sore Fingers Summer School, and many other festivals across the U.S. He is known for his patient, clear and encouraging teaching style, his fast, clean picking of fiddle tunes, his energetic performance, and for his creative arrangements of hymns, waltzes and Christmas carols.

Ivan Stiles is known in autoharp circles across the country as an autoharp-instructor, author, and co-founder and co-editor of *Autoharp Quarterly*® magazine from 1988 until 1997. A member of the Autoharp Hall of Fame since 2000, Ivan Stiles brings a unique blend of traditional to contemporary music in the folk tradition to his audiences. Intricate fiddle-speed tunes, old-time favorites, traditional ballads, and original songs are skillfully interpreted on the autoharp, mountain dulcimer, bowed psaltery, and musical saw. At the competition level, Ivan won the 2006 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Championship, the 1991 International Autoharp Championship, the 1987 World Autoharp Championship, and the 1985 Great Lakes Regional Championship. In 2018, Ivan joined with Chuck Kupferschmidt to form the musical duo, *Acoustic Coots*. Chuck adds the guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle to the mix. Ivan has five recordings: *Rounding Pickering Bend*, *Pickin’ On The Porch*, *Promises Kept*, and *Lordy Me!* featuring the autoharp, and *Pennsylvania Sawyer* featuring the musical saw. He also has authored a book, *Jigs and Reels For The Autoharp*. Stiles is also included on *Autoharp Legacy* and *Music From Autoharp Quarterly*® Vol. 1, 2, and 3.



June Maugery grew up in Massachusetts, the oldest of seven children in a family that enjoyed and supported musical endeavors. After discovering the autoharp in the late 1970s, she was enchanted by its sound, terming it “harmony heaven,” and the rest is history. June’s most influential mentor was the late Marty Schuman, who encouraged her to expand her style to what we enjoy hearing from her today – a wide range of genres, from graceful songs to driving fiddle tunes. She enjoys jamming, especially at night, usually providing a harmony line, either on autoharp or vocals. A familiar face at MLAG, the Swannanoa Gathering in North Carolina, and many other musical festivals, she enjoys getting together with other musical partners in duos or band situations. June lives in France with her husband Bernard, but spends much time each year in the U.S. visiting relatives and playing music. She was the 1997 Mountain Laurel Autoharp Champion and has released two recordings, her own “Shining Bright Like Gold” and “Old Time Journey” in collaboration with Mike Fenton. This is June’s fourth time on the MLAG stage as a featured performer.

Cindy Harris and the GrayScale ContraBand - **Cindy Harris** has been making and teaching music with voice, autoharp, fiddle and a variety of other instruments for as long as she can remember. She is particularly interested in traditional music of many varieties, and her repertoire includes everything from Irish tunes and Israeli dance music to dark Appalachian fiddle tunes from the mountains of West Virginia. But her playful side can’t resist amusing modern songs about real life, which somehow co-exist with folk songs from long ago. A concert set from Cindy is always a collection of eclectic surprises bound together by a common theme that suits the occasion. Cindy placed second in the International Autoharp Championship every year from 2013 through 2016 and won that contest in 2017, earning her a spot in the 2018 Champions Concert, where she performed in a trio with guitarist Bill Balassi and concertina player Jody Kruskal. She played in the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Championship every year between 2008 and 2019, missing the final only once, placing in the top three seven times, and claiming the championship in 2019. Cindy will be joined at MLAG by GrayScale ContraBand, a non-traditional Pittsburgh-based band with old-time roots that regularly plays for contradances and includes fiddle, harmonica, bass, and autoharp.



Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering 2020 Registration Form

Date: _____

Please list all members of your party and print clearly (especially your E-Mail)!

Last Name	First Name	Name or Nickname for Name Tag
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Country: _____ Postal Code or ZIP: _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Emergency Contact Info for MLAG to use if it is needed while you are on site

Name _____ Phone _____

Registration Fees

Full Gathering Pass includes all workshops and concerts between 6/24 and 6/28. Single Day tickets include workshops and concert(s) for that day only. Full Non-Participant Pass includes all concerts and activities except workshops. These fees do not include camping. All Non-Participants must be accompanied by a full ticket registrant.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Tickets</u>	<u>Price Per Ticket</u>	<u>Totals</u>
“Early Bird” Full Adult (Prior to February 15)	_____	\$170.00	_____
“Early Bird” Full Non-Participant (no workshops)	_____	\$105.00	_____
Full Adult After February 15	_____	\$195.00	_____
Full Adult Non-Participant (no workshops)	_____	\$135.00	_____
Adult - Wednesday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$40.00/\$25.00	_____
Adult Thursday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$60.00/\$40.00	_____
Adult Friday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$60.00/\$40.00	_____
Adult Saturday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$60.00/\$40.00	_____
Adult Sunday Only (Full/Non-participant)	_____	\$35.00/\$20.00	_____
Children 16 and Under	_____	\$0.00	_____
Total Gathering Registration Fees			_____

T-Shirt Orders (deadline May 25th)

<u>Size</u>	<u>Man/Woman</u>	<u>Number of Shirts (M/W)</u>	<u>Subtotal Per Size</u>	<u>Total</u>
3XL	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
2XL	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
XL	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
L	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
Med	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
Small	____/____	____/____ x\$18.00	_____	
Total T-Shirt Fees				_____

Meals (deadline June 10th)

<u>Description</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Price Per Person</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Complete Meal Plan (Tues. lunch thru Sun. dinner)	_____	\$173.00	_____
Full Meal Plan (Wed. dinner thru Sun. lunch)	_____	\$115.00	_____
Lunches			
Tuesday	_____	\$13.00	_____
Wednesday	_____	\$13.00	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 13.00	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 13.00	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 13.00	_____
Sunday	_____	\$ 13.00	_____
Dinners			
Tuesday	_____	\$ 16.00	_____
Wednesday	_____	\$ 16.00	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 16.00	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 16.00	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 16.00	_____
Total Meal Fees			_____

* **IMPORTANT:** Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available by special request. Order and pay for your meals with your normal registration but then you must e-mail Laurie at Townsidegcafe@aol.com or call her at 570-473-2233 to make your special meal arrangements. MLAG is not responsible for special meal arrangements.

***IMPERATIVE:** Please read the information on camping in the General Information section before completing this form.*

On-Site Camping Fees

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ (must be completed!)

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Nights</u>	<u>Price Per Night</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Basic Tenting (no connections)	_____	\$12.00	_____
Tenting w/ Medical Electric	_____	\$15.00	_____
Water/Electric Hookup	_____	\$22.00	_____

Remember, this is a State Park, not a level RV Campground. We do put 2 units on each site. Each electric site has a 20 and a 30-amp outlet. You may need to work out a sharing option with your site neighbor if both units need or want a 30-amp connection. On-site pumpouts will be available, information and instructions will be available at check-in.

Please indicate camping details (must be completed if camping)

Tent Van Pop-up Truck Camper Detached Trailer Motor Home

Length of Unit: _____ Slide Outs: Driver Side Passenger side Both Sides Campsite Preference: _____

Total Camping Fees _____

Total Registration, T-Shirt, Meals and Camping Fees _____

Other Information

Special Physical Needs: _____

Volunteering: the Gathering is completely run by volunteers, we need and appreciate your help!

Please mail form and check (made out to MLAG) to: Michael Poole, 1050 Whippoorwill Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering Assumption of Risk Agreement and Release

As most of you know, Mountain Laurel is run by a volunteer Board of Directors who provide their services and efforts for the benefit of us all. For obvious reasons, these volunteers cannot be held personally liable for damages to property or injuries to participants during the Gathering. For this reason, we require all participants to indicate their understanding and agreement with this principle by completing the following form. Please sign it and mail it with all completed MLAG registration forms and your check or money order (made payable to MLAG) to: **MLAG, c/o Michael Poole, 1050 Whippoorwill Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT AND RELEASE

In consideration of the undersigned Attendee(s) being allowed to participate in the Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering ("MLAG"), Attendee(s) releases MLAG, Inc., its directors, agents, and employees, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, DCNR, ("Releasees") from any liability for all claims, including claims for the negligence and gross negligence of Releasees, whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, which may result or arise out of Attendee(s) attending and traveling to and from the MLAG. Attendee(s) give up all rights to sue or make a claim against releasees. I/we recognize this is a rustic camping experience, with risks of damage to property or injury to person that may occur while traveling to and from, and participating in activities at the MLAG. I/we will indemnify Releasees from claims of others against Releasees regarding any damage or injury that I/we either cause or receive. With regard to _____ who is/are under 18 years of age ("Child"), the undersigned adult Attendees certify that they are the parents of Child, sign this Agreement and Release on behalf of Child, and assume all responsibility for the supervision of and all risk of damage or injury that may occur to or be caused by Child while attending, participating in, and while traveling to and from MLAG, and I/we will indemnify Releasees from any claims made by or on behalf of Child or others arising out of such damage or injury, including claims for contribution and indemnification.

The undersigned, intending to be legally bound, has/have read this release and has/have executed it with full understanding of its meaning.

Date: _____

Attendee _____

Attendee _____

MLAG Pre-Gathering Workshops Registration Form

I'd like to register for:

- Beginner - Les Gustafson-Zook
- Intermediate - Ivan Stiles
- Advanced- Karen Mueller

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

ZIP Code: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

I'm enclosing a check in the amount of \$130.00 made out to MLAG.

Important Meal Note:

Tuesday lunch and dinner and Wednesday lunch will be available to all campers, including Pre-Gathering attendees. If you have registered for the Gathering proper and elected to purchase the Complete Meal Plan, you are all set. If you are only attending a Pre-Gathering class and want either of the lunch options and/or the dinner option, then check the appropriate box or boxes and enclose the extra money per meal (\$13.00 per lunch/\$16.00 per dinner – spouses are also welcome) in your check made out to MLAG. **IMPORTANT: Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available by special request. Order and pay for your meals with your normal registration but then you must e-mail Laurie at Townsidecafe@aol.com or call her at 570-473-2233 (leave a message) to make your special meal arrangements. MLAG is not responsible for special meal arrangements.**

Tuesday Lunch Tuesday Dinner Wednesday Lunch

I'm sending this check and this registration form to:

**MLAG, c/o Michael Poole
1050 Whippoorwill Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27517**

Questions? E-Mail Michael at registrar@mlag.org
or call the MLAG Hot Line at 844-994-9939

MLAG 2020 Pre-Gathering Workshops

MLAG is pleased to present three Pre-Gathering workshops. Though the Gathering proper does not begin until Wednesday, these Pre-MLAG workshops will provide some wonderful options for early arrivals. Les Gustafson-Zook (Beginner), Ivan Stiles (Intermediate) and Karen Mueller (Advanced) will each present nine hours of small group instruction on Tuesday and Wednesday. The workshops will cost \$130 per person. We will be limiting the maximum number of students in each workshop to 20 so, if you're considering taking one of these workshops, you should register as soon as you can.

The workshops will be conducted in three 3-hour sessions beginning at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23 with locations to be determined at a later date. You will be notified prior to arrival.

These workshops provide a great opportunity for some hands-on training with three of the best autoharp players and teachers in the world. For at least the next few years there will be a Patsy Tressler Memorial Award. A random drawing from the names of all Pre-Gathering participants (who are registered for the full Gathering) will be made on Wednesday night and one lucky individual will be given a check to cover the cost of the class.

Pre-MLAG Workshops • Tuesday 9-12 & 1-4 • Wednesday 8:30-11:30

Beginning (Les Gustafson-Zook) - Open up your world of music making through the autoharp with a well respected, patient, friendly and inspiring instructor with 30 years of teaching experience! This class is a great opportunity to get a solid start on playing autoharp, offering a thorough introduction to the joys and challenges of playing this friendly and approachable instrument. We'll cover basic tuning and maintenance, fingerpick options, holding the instrument, using a strap, beginning strums and rhythms, finger positions on the buttons, introduction to chords and keys and more! As a beginner, you can jump start your MLAG experience by getting grounded, increasing your confidence, learning some tunes and making new friends with this class!

Intermediate (Ivan Stiles) - Spend nine intensive hours covering a wide variety of subjects. Advanced strokes will cover hammering on, back slurs, drag notes, rolling arpeggios, triplet frills, and more. Arranging tunes addresses alternate chords for well known songs. Developing your style will explore various strum patterns, beginnings and endings, turn arounds, melody breaks, timing changes, and more. We'll have a session devoted to jigs and reels and how best to play them. We'll cover modulating from one key to another with the famous "I Walk the Line." Some time will be devoted to playing by ear, as well. Emphasis will be placed on precise melody picking.

Advanced (Karen Mueller): Calling all pickers who want to refine their skills and have fun in the process! In this workshop we'll delve into a variety of genres on both diatonic and chromatic harps, from traditional to contemporary styles such as Celtic, old-time, folk, Scandinavian, and vintage pop. Topics will include creating dynamic arrangements, smoother and more accurate melody picking, rhythmic variations, interesting backup playing, and more.

Directions to Little Buffalo State Park



The actual address is 500 Black Hill Road, Newport, PA 17074; however, we know that some GPS systems will attempt to bring you down an old, and now non-existent road. The only current access is via Little Buffalo Road. The following written directions may be more accurate than following your GPS.

From Harrisburg: Take Route 322 West, then take the Newport/New Bloomfield Exit, and at the stop sign go left. This puts you on Route 34 South; follow this over the bridge into Newport. At the next stop sign, make a left onto 4th Street (there is a Little Buffalo State Park - 3 Miles sign), still on Route 34. Continue one mile passing Smith's Auto Parts on your right, and turn right on to Little Buffalo Road (there is another sign for the State Park). Go about 3 miles, passing the main entrance to the State Park (which is on your left across the lake) and turn right at Black Hill Road (look for the MLAG sign) into the campground.

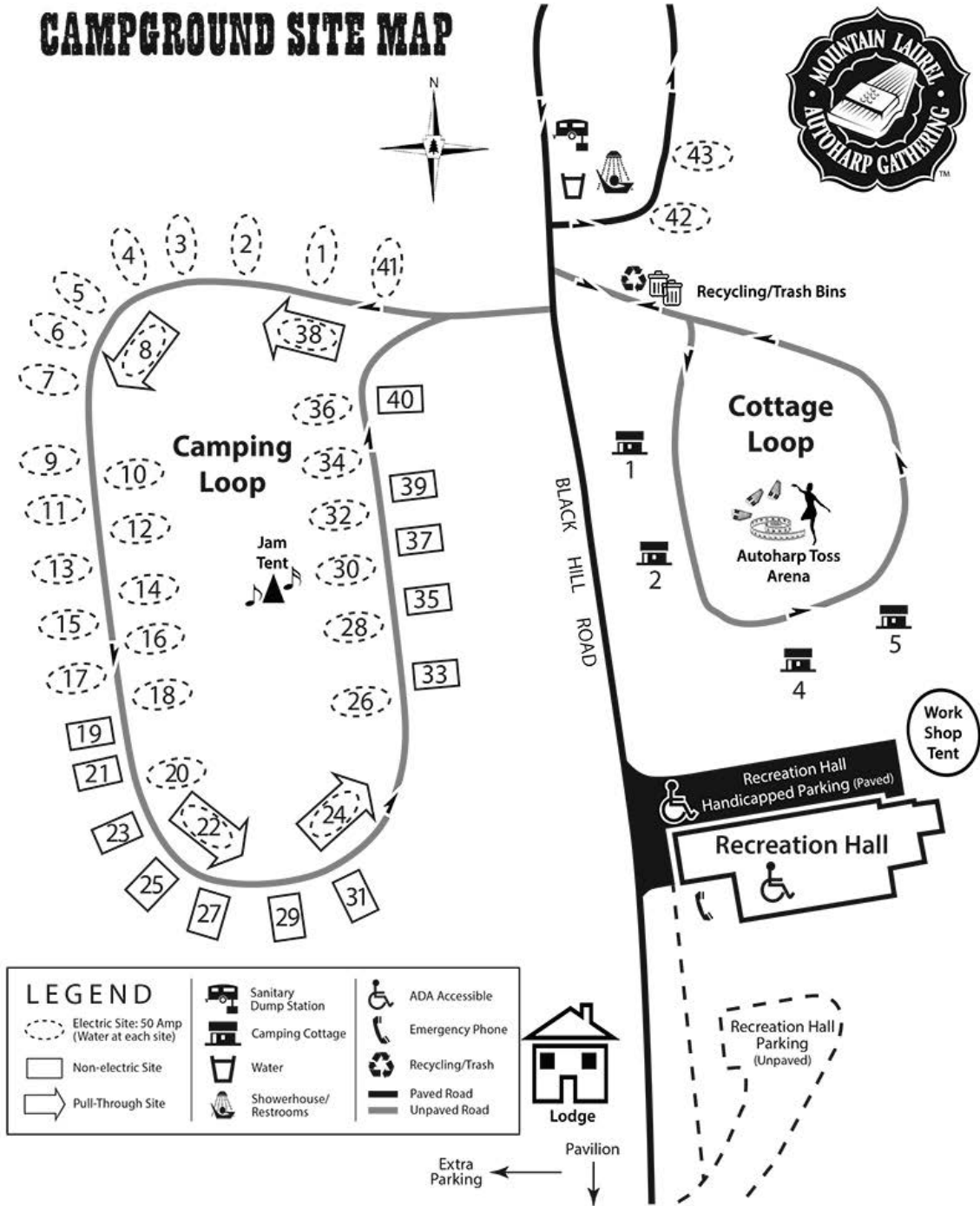
From Carlisle: Take Route 34 North, follow through New Bloomfield and go approximately 4 miles. There will be a car wash on your right. Make the next left on to Little Buffalo Road (there is a sign for the State Park). Go about 3 miles, passing the main entrance to the State Park (which is on your left across the lake) and turn right at Black Hill Road (look for the MLAG sign) into the campground.

Mountain Laurel Autoharp Gathering - Nearby Motels and RV Suppliers

- Best Western Harrisburg North: 150 Nationwide Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717-545-9089) 35 min.
- Knights Inn: 4268 Wm Penn Hwy, RR4 Box 142, Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717-436-2127) 30 min.
- Hampton Inn and Suites: Harrisburg North, 30 Capital Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717-540-0900) 35 min.
- Springhill Suites: 25 Capital Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717-540-5100) 35 min.
- Econo Lodge: US 322/22 & SR35, Mifflintown, PA 17059 (717-436-5981) 30 min.
- Red Carpet Inn/Park: Route 4 Box 4913, Duncannon, PA 17020 (717-834-3320) 20 min.
- Bridgeview Bed & Breakfast: 810 South Main St, Marysville, PA 17053 (717)957-2438) 20 min.
- Days Inn: 3919 N Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717-233-3100) 35 min.
- Quality Inn: 501 N Enola Road, Enola, PA 17025 (717-732-0785) 40 min.
- Residence Inn, Harrisburg North. 2250 Kohn Road, Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717-671-0300) 32 minutes
- Cruise America (Capitol Rentals & Sales): <http://www.cruiseamerica.com>, Carlisle, PA, Brian Yingling (717-386-5370) (will set up on site)
- Go PSU RV Rentals: <http://www.gopsurv.com>, Mark Lauer (800-519-8467) (will set up on site/have popups)
- RV Value Mart (Martin's), <http://www.martinrv.com>, Heather or John (717-738-2622) (will set up on site/have popups)

Note for RV Renters: to ensure lowest rates and availability, book now! Mention you are with MLAG for a possible discount (sorry we can't guarantee that).

CAMPGROUND SITE MAP



Camp Site Map

Note: the park has a new bath house which is now located at the top of the hill near where we used to put the workshop tent. So it is a little further from the camping loop.

On the bright side, the workshop tent is now located behind the Rec Hall and it's generally agreed that is a good thing!



SUMMARY OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS

WELCOME—ENJOY YOUR VISIT. Please be considerate of those who will use the facilities in this state park after you. To help ensure your safety and pleasure, please observe state park rules and regulations.

- I. This is a summary of the official Pennsylvania Rules and Regulations pertaining to State Parks. The official text is found in its entirety at 17 Pa. Code Chapter 11. This summary is therefore not complete and does not reproduce or represent the full official Code text. We have included here a number of provisions that are of more general or immediate importance to state park visitors. The complete rules and regulations are posted at the park office and an official copy of the Pa. Code Pamphlet is available for inspection at any state park office.
- II. All day-use areas are open to the public between sunrise and sunset throughout the year, unless otherwise posted.
- III. In the event of hazardous conditions endangering life or property, a state park or facility may be closed to public use at the discretion of the Park Manager.
- IV. The laws, rules, and regulations of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission apply to fishing, hunting, and boating except where modification of such laws, rules and regulations is determined necessary by the Department for the use and protection of resources under its jurisdiction.

V. GENERAL

- A. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted except with written permission of the Department.
- B. Trash, garbage, and all other litter shall be placed in containers provided for this purpose and are limited to litter accumulated during use of the state park.
- C. Edible fruits, nuts, berries, and fungi may only be gathered in reasonable amounts for personal or family consumption. Exceptions include native wild plants listed as threatened, endangered, rare or vulnerable. Gathering dead and down wood is permitted for use in a fireplace or grill in the state park.
- D. Open fires are permitted only in fireplaces, grills, stoves or other facilities designated by the Department for campfires. Disposal of hot charcoal from grills is permitted only in facilities designated by the Department. Leaving a fire unattended is prohibited.
- E. Soliciting for any purpose or posting of signs is not permitted. The distribution, sale, servicing, or rental of any supplies, equipment, material, or commodity is restricted to authorized concessions.
- F. Operators of licensed motor vehicles shall obey posted official traffic-control devices and use only roads and parking areas open to public traffic unless otherwise designated by the park manager. The operation of other motorized vehicles is not permitted on state park roads, lanes, trails, and areas unless otherwise designated. Excessive speed or noise and reckless, careless, or negligent operation are prohibited. Commercial traffic is allowed on state park roads only when authorized by the Department.
- G. Horseback riding is permitted on the right (side) berm of roads open to public vehicles and designated trails and areas. This activity is not permitted on camping or cabin area roads or picnic, swimming, or cooking areas.
- H. Use or discharge of an airgun, slingshot, or explosive is prohibited. Target shooting with such devices is prohibited, except in areas designated by the Department for this purpose and in accordance with posted requirements and restrictions.
- I. Firearms and archery equipment may be uncased and ready for use by licensed hunters only in authorized hunting areas and during seasons state parks are open to hunting or under special conditions which may be established by the Department.
- J. Wildlife shall not be hunted, pursued, molested, or intentionally disturbed except that hunting and trapping are permitted within authorized hunting areas during the established Pennsylvania Game Commission seasons. Groundhog hunting is prohibited. The training of dogs is permitted from the day following Labor Day through March 31 in authorized hunting areas.
- K. Outdoor recreational activity in state parks is restricted to locations where physical improvement or posting designates the appropriate purpose and use. Swimming is only permitted in designated swimming areas.
- L. Pets are permitted in state parks if they are on a leash not exceeding the posted maximum length or in a cage or crate. Pets must be attended and under physical control at all times. Pets are not permitted in swimming areas. Pets are prohibited in overnight areas unless that area is designated for pets by the Department.
- M. The use of an electric generator causing unreasonable or excessive noise and the use of a chainsaw are prohibited without a permit from the Department.
- N. Unorganized or organized instruction, exhibition, competition, demonstration, or special events require written application and approval from the Department.

VI. SWIMMING AREAS

- A. Swimming is permitted between the hours of 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (unless otherwise posted) from Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day. Certain areas may be available for open swimming during posted hours. Swimming at other than posted hours or outside of designated swimming areas is prohibited.
- B. Use of underwater breathing apparatus or a snorkel is prohibited. With permission of the Department, this equipment may be used by an emergency or rescue unit conducting a rescue operation or training or by a diver certified by an organization approved by the Department.
- C. Beach and pool areas are provided for swimming and sunbathing. For the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors, other activities may be prohibited.
- D. Possessing or using a glass or breakable container or utensil in a designated swimming area is prohibited.
- E. Only appropriate swimming attire is permitted in state park swimming pools. The following are prohibited: Cut-off pants and attire which may damage the filtration system or pool surface or may otherwise cause damage or endanger the facility or visitors, clothing that is not leak-proof on an infant or on a child who is not toilet-trained, and clothing that displays lifeguard lettering or insignia.
- F. All children under 10 years of age must be accompanied and supervised competently and effectively in state park swimming areas by a responsible person at least 14 years of age. One responsible person shall supervise no more than five children.

STATE PARK WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS

1. The launching or mooring of watercraft on Department waters requires that the appropriate valid DCNR watercraft permit be properly displayed. However, a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission number and current certificate of watercraft registration permits daily launching only. Launching of trailered watercraft is permitted at designated launching areas only.
 2. Storage of watercraft during the winter season may be permitted at approved locations for a fee. Contact the park office for information on facilities offered at specific parks.
 3. (A) In state parks having a horsepower limitation of 20 or less, larger internal combustion engines may be mounted on the boat but not used.
(B) In state parks designated as electric motors only, internal combustion engines may be mounted on the boat but not used.
 4. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and U.S. Coast Guard regulations apply to boating on state park waters.
 5. The following types of watercraft are PROHIBITED on state park waters including frozen water:
 - (A) Watercraft propelled by air propellers.
 - (B) Seaplanes. Seaplanes may be taxied at a slow minimum-height-swell speed in the waters of Presque Isle State Park for the purpose of access to and egress from the park.
 - (C) Non-seaworthy watercraft.
 - (D) Inflatable devices, except those that are seven feet in length and have more than one separate buoyancy chamber.
 - (E) Equipment which is not constructed for the primary purpose of transportation on the water.
 6. (A) The use of inner tubes, body boards, surfboards, air mattresses and other similar non-watercraft devices is permitted in creeks, streams and rivers. Children 12 years of age and under shall wear United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices while engaged in this activity.
(B) The use of body boards and surfboards at Presque Isle State Park is permitted only at locations where posting states that this activity is permitted. Personal flotation devices are not required.
 7. Swimming or diving from watercraft is not permitted.
 8. Operation of watercraft is not permitted within 100 feet of swimming areas or within areas marked by buoys.
 9. Requests for watercraft races, regattas, tournaments, and exhibitions held on state park waters require 30 days prior approval of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and must be submitted on Form PFBC 500 "Application for Permit-Special Activities."
 10. The following are PROHIBITED:
 - a. Operation of a watercraft which endangers a person, watercraft, property, or unnecessarily interferes with the use of the water by other persons.
 - b. Operation of a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
 - c. Overnight sleeping aboard watercraft except where authorized by the Department.
- VII. A COMPLETE SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS IS POSTED AT THE STATE PARK OFFICE AND AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE PA CODE PAMPHLET IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION
- Violation of state park rules and regulations could result in cancellation of a camping permit, removal from the state park, as well as criminal prosecution.