

Header: **Tradition accomplished**
slug **2nd Annual Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival a sweet success**

Madison, Wis. - Aside from a house key gone missing and the season's first mosquito presence, the second annual Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival went off without a hitch.

And that's a buzz in the ear that Madisonians don't seem to mind.

According to organizers the festival drew more than 1300 people over two days, almost doubling last year's attendance. Noted performers included old-time stalwarts Foghorn Stringband on Friday and Appalachian country sweethearts the Lonesome Sisters on Saturday. Both groups head off to play the Newport Folk Festival starting Aug 5.

"We prepared for any weather, but landed one of the summer's best weekends," reported Mark Schlutt of the Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective, the not-for-profit group that produces the festival.

More than 500 folks welcomed the cool summer evening as backdrop to Friday night's fiddle-friendly line-up. "With expanded kids activities and performers this year, children's attendance on Saturday nearly tripled," said Schlutt.

Musical workshops and impromptu jam circles connected dozens of festival-goers toting instruments. "The Art of Squeeze workshop was awesome -- Dave from the Happy Notes playing accordion along with Cris Plata! People were totally engaged," reported Jeff Burkhardt who organized the workshop schedule that also included banjo, guitar, harmony, and fiddle topics.

The festival drew out-of-town traffic as well. A man from Montana commented on the ideal location, while parking lot volunteers noted license plates from Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, and Minnesota. Over 50 musicians took part in the festival run by more than 80 volunteers.

While a per-ticket donation raised more than \$1,000 for Dane County Park system, it was more than money that impressed park officials. Park Manager Brad Bates said, "The park staff appreciated the efforts by organizers and volunteers in keeping a clean, well-run event." Added Dick Black of the Dane County Parks Commission, "I wish all our events went as smooth this."

Rangers for the Dane County Parks and officers from the Madison Police Department both reported no incidents or injuries all weekend.

Organizers assure the festival's success doesn't mean it will grow out of reach. "We also succeeded in making Sugar Maple an approachable festival. Throughout the event people talked to, and played music with, each other and the performing artists. We hope to sustain this hands-on culture as we expand the festival," said Murdock.

"We had a really great time - everyone was so kind to us and we loved the beautiful setup and the sound system," said Sarah Hawker of the Lonesome Sisters, who performed to standing ovations Saturday night. She and string-mate Debra Clifford were also seen and heard around the late night jam circles at Friday's campground.

FLTMC has announced the Third Annual Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival will return to Lake Farm County Park July 28-30, 2006. For more information about the festival, and on-going events sponsored by the Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective, visit www.fourlakesmusic.org.

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Our Mission Statement: Four Lakes Traditional Music Collective is a non-profit organization supporting the art of traditional music and dance throughout the greater Madison community. We provide educational and performance opportunities that bring together people of all ages to celebrate diverse musical traditions.



FLTMC thanks each of these individuals & organizations for their generous support in making the 2005 Festival a success:

All the fine musicians, 89.9FM WORT, 92.1FM The Mic, Al Wilson, Ala Carte Southwestern, Athenian Gardens, Atwood Community Center, Badger Insurance, Bill Malone, Bobbi Fey, Brian O'Donnell, Catherine Coberly, Cathy & High Noon Saloon, Chris Powers, Cork n' Bottle String Band, Cue-Nique Billiards, Dane County Parks, Dave Munda, Dawn Mason, Devil In A Woodpile, Doug Hodge, Eva Shiffrin, Evan Murdock, Fiona Stoner, Foghorn Stringband, Gina Kaminski, Great Big Pictures, Greg Dierks, Guantanamera, Harmony Bar, Henry Doane & The Orpheum Theater, Higher Ground with Jonathon Overby, Isthmus, Jamerica, Jeff Burkhardt, Jeff VanderVenter, John Fabke, Lake Farm County Park, Lindy Wilson, Lonesome Rogues, Madison Police Department, Mark Schlutt, New Orleans Take-Out, Patrick Logterman, Paula Lorenz, Paul Kenitz, Port to Print, Quarter Tap String Band, Richard March, Rick's Cafe, Ruth Oxenberg and Rob Schumer of Bluegrass Productions, Sandra Blight, Schoep's Ice Cream, Southern WI Bluegrass Music Association, Spruce Tree Music, SRO Artists Inc., Steve Kaminski, Tara Breslin, The Exclusive Co., The Mammals, The Wilders, Tyranena, Uncle Earl, Ward Brodt Music Mall, Watts Landscape Service, Willy Street Co-op, ... and each and every hard-working festival volunteer!!

FLTMC especially thanks its 2005 "Friends of the Festival" : Amanda VanderVenter, Chris Schlutt, Jef & Jody Pertzborn, Lost River Woodworks, MaryJane Smith, Steve A. Kieckhafer, Wave Productions, Wisconsin Craft Market

FLTMC Board of Directors: Evan Murdock - President, Jef Pertzborn - Vice President, Mark Schlutt - Treasurer, Amanda VanderVenter - Secretary

FLTMC Board Members: Chris Schlutt, Eva Shiffrin, Greg Dierks, Jeff Burkhardt, Patrick Logterman

