

**Bluegrass Banjo Workshop**  
**with Alan Munde & Bill Evans**  
**Wednesday, January 28, 2015**  
**7:00pm to 10:00pm**

Legendary banjo players and teachers Alan Munde and Bill Evans will each teach two 60-minute small group sessions and then come together for a final session with all students. This is a hands-on, "bring your banjo and let's pick" event with topics designed for beginning, intermediate and advanced banjo players. Tab examples will be presented in all sessions.

**Session I: 7:00pm to 8:00pm**

***Beginners/Low Intermediates: The Phonetics of Bluegrass Banjo with Alan Munde***

A large part of bluegrass banjo is made up of roll patterns. Even though there are only a few readily learnable roll patterns needed that are at the heart of the style, understanding how each roll is used and the common sounds that each is capable of producing is an important step in learning the language of bluegrass banjo. In this class we will examine these roll patterns with several examples (musical gestures or "licks") of how they are commonly used with the goal of being able to place the various sounds together to create a bluegrass-style banjo solo. Depending on the skill level, a participant may or may not leave being able to play all that is presented, but one will leave with a good sense of what to practice.

***Intermediate/Advanced: Up The Neck Banjo Back Up with Bill Evans***

Some of the most exciting elements of bluegrass banjo are the fancy, up-the-neck techniques and licks pioneered by Earl Scruggs, J. D. Crowe and Sonny Osborne that banjo players use to support the lead singer and provide a contrasting point of interest in the band sound. We'll cover practical and easy to learn techniques that you can put to immediate use in your jam session as well as devote time to some of Earl's more complicated backup maneuvers. Topics to be discussed include movable chord shapes and vamping, up-the-neck backup patterns using the F and D chord shapes, the "In The Mood" roll, the "Six White Horses" and "Salty Dog Blues" backup licks, mixing licks, slow song and fiddle tune backup and much more. We'll also discuss the aesthetics of great backup.

## **Session II: 8:15pm to 9:15pm**

### ***Beginners/Low Intermediates: Jam Survival Skills for New Players with Bill Evans***

If you're looking to gain more confidence playing with others, this is for you! Topics include the role of the banjo in a jam, finding and developing a good "jam attitude," using roll and vamping patterns to accompany others, using your ear to hear chord changes and learning to follow the guitar. We'll also discuss using fill-in licks, negotiating kick-offs and endings, and using the capo to play in all keys. We'll even figure out what to do when you get lost! Get ready for this year's festival season!

### ***Intermediate/Advanced: Creating Solos to Songs with Alan Munde***

There is a strong tradition in bluegrass banjo of developing solos that express the melody of the song. These are often not exact renderings of the melody, but are the bones of the melody surrounded by rhythmical and harmonic notes supplied by the rolls. Beginning with the bare bones melody of "Jesse James" in the key of G as an example, we will explore the many ways of varying the roll and note choices (musical synonyms) to create many variations for the banjo solo. We will also analysis classic solos of Earl Scruggs using the "Mundtone Method of Musical Analysis" that will further help to unlock the mysteries of bluegrass banjo style.

## **Session III: 9:30pm to 10:00pm**

### ***Grand Finale with Alan and Bill.***

With Alan, Bill and all students: general Q & A, comparing styles and approaches, playing your requests.