

C H R I S V A L L I L L O

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Bluegrass At Hickory Ridge

The Hickory Ridge Concert Series welcomes the Burr Oak String Band to their stage this Saturday, July the 15th at 7:00 pm at the Dickson Mounds Museum Outside of Lewistown, IL. The Burr Oak String Band offers up a crowd-pleasing mix of lively instrumentals and heart-felt harmonies in a variety of instruments and styles – old-time, raggy blues, bluegrass, folk

In different combinations the members of Burr Oak played together in several old-time or bluegrass bands including *The Stemwinders* who appeared at Hickory Ridge several years ago. In the spring of 2015, these old time music veterans combined forces and began playing as the Burr Oak String Band. They play a mix of old-time dance, traditional country, and original songs, on guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, and bass.

Ann Bova has been performing since age 14. In the 1990s she played bass and sang with guitar virtuoso Slavek Hanzlik. More recently, she was a member of Handsome Molly, a top Canadian bluegrass band. Mark Mathewson's songs have been recorded by leading bluegrass artists. A winner of the prestigious Chris Austin Songwriting Contest at Merlefest, he plays guitar and mandolin and sings. Erich Schroeder has been playing clawhammer banjo since 1976. Steve Staley, known to thousands of Illinois schoolchildren as the "house fiddler" at Lincoln's New Salem, has been a fixture of the Springfield-area folk music scene for nearly three decades.

The Hickory Ridge Concert Series is hosted by singer-songwriter Chris Vallillo. Concerts are held the 3rd Saturday of every month and begin at 7:00 p.m. with the doors opening at 6:00 p.m. Coffee, drinks, and a variety of desserts are available during intermission. There is an admission charge of \$8.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children under 12. The Dickson Mounds Branch of the Illinois State Museum is located between Lewistown and Havana off routes 78 and 97. For more information call 309/547-3721 or TDD 217/782-9175 or go to www.hickoryridgeconcerts.com.