

Suwannee Banjo Camp Schedule; March 13-16, 2025

Suwannee Banjo Camp Thursday Schedule

Thurs. 3:00p	Check-In Begins (Sign Up for Open Mic & Band Scramble!): Varn Dining Hall							
Thurs. 4:30p	Sign Ups Close for Band Scramble & Open Mic: Varn Dining Hall							
Thurs. 5:15-5:45p	Faculty Meeting: Dearing							
Thurs. 5:45-6:30p	Thursday Dinner: Varn Dining Hall							
6:45-7:15p	Student Orientation (Scramble Bands Announced): Varn Dining Hall							
Thurs. 7:20-7:55p	Band Scramble Rehearsals: Locations TBA							
Thurs. 8:00-9:15p	Student Open Mic & Band Scramble: Varn Dining Hall							
Thurs. 9:30-10:30p	Old-time Regular Jam - Jams - Decosimo & Marshall <i>Dearing</i>	Old-time Intermediate Jam Burhans & Hurt <i>Ravine</i>	Old-time Slow Jam (with Jam Pointers) Bradley <i>Saffran</i>	Vocals Jam Miles <i>Scott</i>	Bluegrass Slow Jam (with Jam Pointers) Anderson & Henry <i>Young</i>	Bluegrass Intermediate Jam Cahill, G. Jones, & May <i>Varn</i>	Bluegrass Regular Jam Munde, Gilbert, & C. Jones <i>Office Lobby</i>	
10:30p-	Continue Jamming On Your Own!: Any Classroom in Conference Center							

Suwannee Banjo Camp Friday-Sunday Schedule

*** See head of each column for class levels & locations. Jam levels & locations, and demo locations are in the table cells***

<i>Friday Levels & Locations</i>	Old-Time: Advanced, or Fingerstyle <i>Rm. 601-G</i>	Old-Time: Upper Intermediate <i>Ravine</i>	Old-Time: Lower Intermediate <i>Saffran</i>	Old-Time: Novice <i>Juhan Chapel</i>	Fiddle Track <i>Juhan Hall</i>	Guitar Track <i>Pavilion Lobby</i>	Mandolin Track <i>Pavilion Infirmary</i>	Bluegrass: Novice <i>Scott</i>	Bluegrass: Lower Intermediate <i>Varn</i>	Bluegrass: Upper Intermediate <i>Young</i>	Bluegrass: Advanced <i>Dearing</i>
8:00-9:00a	Friday Breakfast: Varn Dining Hall										
Fri. 9:15-10:30a	Tommy Jarrell's Round Peak Clawhammer Style Adam Hurt	Learn Two Tunes from Fiddler Ward Jarvis: <i>Three Thin Dimes & Two Wide Nickels</i> Hilarie Burhans	Reviewing Basic Clawhammer Techniques Joseph Decosimo	Right Hand Rhythm: Learn The Basic Clawhammer Attack & Get Comfortable Striking the Strings. Paula Bradley	Fiddle. Get That Real Old-Time Sound: Ornaments, Wild Notes, the Backbeat & More Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Acoustic Guitar Rhythm for Bluegrass: Bass Runs, Alternating Bass, & Dynamics Tim May	Mandolin. Fiddle-Tune Backup Using Drones & Slides; Octaves & Unisons Carl Jones	Make Sure Your 3-Finger Attack Is on the Right Track Scott Anderson	Reviewing Basic Bluegrass Techniques Casey Henry	Kickoffs & Endings: Standard & Stylish Phrases in the Keys of G, C, & D Alan Munde	Learn the Natural, Harmonic, & Melodic Minor Scales, & Play <i>Crossing the Cumberland & Lonesome Fiddle Blues</i> , Greg Cahill
Friday Schedule Continues, Next Page											

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Fri. 10:45a-12:00n	Clawhammer Blues Improvisation Michael Miles	Translating Unfamiliar Fiddle Tunes to Clawhammer on the Fly Adam Hurt	Fundamentals of Drop- & Double-Thumbing (Using the Thumb on the Long Strings) Ken Perlman	Get Familiar with Open G Tuning (gDGBD): the Notes on Each String & Common Chords Paula Bradley	Fiddle. Round-Peak Bowing: Bow Rocks & Triplets in the Style of NC Fiddler, Tommy Jarrell Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Creating Solos from Scratch, Based on the Approaches of Maybell Carter & Norman Blake Tim May	Mandolin. Mando Shape-Shifting: Exploring “Slants” & “Reaches” (Two-String Chord Shapes) Carl Jones	Reviewing Fretting-Hand Mechanics: Chord Shifts, Hammer-ons, Pull-offs, & Slides Scott Anderson	Vamping in Different Keys - Even the Scary Ones – with I, IV, & V Chords, & More Casey Henry	Fine Points of the Scruggs-Style “Language”: The Details that Create His Signature Sound Eli Gilbert	Using Alternative Tunings in Bluegrass Banjo: The Secrets Clawhammer Players Have Been Hiding Gerald Jones
Fr. 11:00a-	Check-In Begins for “Weekend Only” Students: Varn Dining Hall										
Fri. 12:15p	Fri. Lunch: Varn Dining Hall										
Fri. 1:30-2:45p	2-Finger Banjo Crash Course: Introducing Index- & Thumb-Lead Up-Picking Joseph Decosimo	Playing Syncopated Rhythms & Melodies in Clawhammer: Concepts & Strategies Ken Perlman	John Prine Songs for Clawhammer: <i>Souvenirs & Paradise</i> Michael Miles	How to Add Color to Your Playing: Hammer-Ons, Pull Offs, & Slides Hilarie Burhans	Fiddle. Join the Jam!: Building Speed, Etiquette, Playing Tunes You Don’t Know, & More Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Bluegrass Blues: Major, Minor, & Mixolydian Blues in the Styles of Tony Rice & Doc Watson Tim May	Mandolin. Norman Blake’s Classic Tune, <i>Davenport March</i> Carl Jones	How to Find the Melody Using Chord-Shapes & Scales (Redneck Ear Training) Gerald Jones	Basic Fretboard Mapping: Visualizing the Fretboard via Chord Shapes, Inlay Markers, Etc. Eli Gilbert	Playing Backup: Up-the-Neck & Down-the-Neck Techniques Greg Cahill	The Melodic Style: Playing Fiddle Tunes & How to View the Fingerboard in Order to Perform Them Alan Munde
Fri 3:00-4:15p	Old-Time Demo. Singing with the Banjo (& Other Instruments) Bradley, Decosimo, C. Jones, & Miles Host: Miles <i>Dearing</i>		Old-Time Demo. “Modal” Tunes Burhans, Hurt, Marshall, & Perlman Host: Perlman <i>Saffran</i>			Bluegrass Demo. Tips on Creating Breaks Anderson, Cahill, Henry, & May Host: Cahill <i>Varn</i>			Bluegrass Demo. Tunes You’re Not Supposed to Play on Banjo Gilbert, G. Jones, & Munde Host: Munde <i>Young</i>		
4:30-5:45p	Free Period, Jam on Your Own										
6:00-7:00p	Friday Dinner: Varn Dining Hall										
7:15-8:40p	Faculty Concert Part 1: Varn Dining Hall										
Fri. 9:15 - 10:30p <i>Jamming</i>	Old-Time Regular Jam: Marshall & Hurt <i>Dearing</i>	Old-Time Intermediate Jam: Decosimo & Burhans <i>Ravine</i>	Old-Time Slow Jam: Bradley <i>Saffran</i>	All-Styles Vocals Jam: Miles & Henry <i>Scott</i>	Bluegrass Slow Jam: Anderson <i>Young</i>	Bluegrass Intermediate Jam: C. Jones, G. Jones, & Munde <i>Varn</i>	Bluegrass Regular Jam: Cahill, Gilbert, & May <i>Office Lobby</i>				
Fri 10:30p-	Continue Jamming On Your Own!: Any Classroom in Conference Center										

<i>Saturday Levels & Locations</i>	Old-Time: Advanced, or Fingerstyle <i>Rm. 601-G</i>	Old-Time: Upper Intermediate <i>Ravine</i>	Old-Time: Lower Intermediate <i>Saffran</i>	Old-Time: Novice <i>Juhan Chapel</i>	Fiddle Track <i>Juhan Hall</i>	Guitar Track <i>Pavilion Lobby</i>	Mandolin Track <i>Pavilion Infirmary</i>	Bluegrass: Novice <i>Scott</i>	Bluegrass: Lower Intermediate <i>Varn</i>	Bluegrass: Upper Intermediate <i>Young</i>	Bluegrass: Advanced <i>Dearing</i>
Sat. 8-9a	Saturday Breakfast: Varn Dining Hall										
Sat. 9:15-10:30a	Western North Carolina Fiddle Tunes for Clawhammer Adam Hurt	Decluttering Clawhammer: Developing Clarity & Solid Timing Joseph Decosimo	Ear Training for Old-Time Banjo Players Hilarie Burhans	Get Familiar with Double C Tuning: the Notes on Each String & Common Chords Paula Bradley	Fiddle. Let's Get the Groove! Make Your Tunes Come Alive via Accents & the Back-Beat Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Crosspicking in the Styles of George Shuffler & Others Tim May	Mandolin. Sad Songs & the Tremolo: Learn a Song by Bluegrass Great Jimmy Martin Carl Jones	A Few Simple Tunes Scott Anderson	Developing an Effective Practice Routine Eli Gilbert	Slowing Down Earl: Tips & Tricks to Figure Out Exactly What Scruggs Is Doing Casey Henry	Transposing on the Fly at Jams: Playing Songs You Learned in G in Different Keys Greg Cahill
Sat. 10:45a-12:00 noon	Play the Famous Jazz Song, <i>Take Five</i> in Clawhammer Style Michael Miles	Tom Ashley's <i>The Cuckoo & Beyond</i> : From the Galax Lick to the Full Clawhammer Roll Ken Perlman	Play <i>Old Molly Hare</i> as a Banjo Orchestra Adam Hurt	All Hands on Deck: Put Both Hands Together & Play <i>Boil the Cabbage Down & Sugar Hill</i> Paula Bradley	Fiddle. West Virginia Jam Tunes from Edden Hammons & Melvin Wine in Cross-A Tuning/AEAE Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Learning Fiddle Tunes by Ear: Shortcuts for Latching onto Unfamiliar Tunes Tim May	Mandolin. Develop Rag Readiness: Learn Rag Progressions in a Few Keys & Learn a Tune Carl Jones	Secret Tricks to Improve Your Tone: Hands, Picks, Attack! Scott Anderson	Get Started with Rolling Backup: A Skill Every Banjo Picker Wants to Learn Casey Henry	Playing in ¾ Time (Waltz-Time): Lead & Backup for <i>All the Good Times Are Passed & Gone</i> Alan Munde	Don Reno & Fiddle-Tune Style Single-String Banjo Gerald Jones
Sat. 12:15p	Saturday Lunch: Varn Dining Hall										
1:15-1:45p	Camp Photo: Location TBA										
Sat 2:00-3:15p	Learn <i>Lost Gander</i> – the Haunting Chime-Filled Tune from Virgil Anderson – in 2-Finger Style Jos. Decosimo	The Fine Points of Song Accompaniment: Dynamics, Intros, & Endings Michael Miles	Pull-Offs & Alternate-String Pull-Offs, as Used in Both “Traditional” & Melodic Clawhammer Ken Perlman	<i>Polly Put the Kettle On</i> : A Simple 3-Part Tune in Double C / Double D Tuning Hilarie Burhans	Fiddle. Southwest Virginia Fiddle Tunes Adam Hurt	Guitar. The Doc Watson Vocabulary: Bringing the Old-Time Influence Back into Bluegrass Tim May	Mandolin. Enhance Your Jamming Leads via Harmonized Scales (3rds & 6ths) Gerald Jones	<i>Boiling Cabbage Down</i> with Three Basic Rolls Scott Anderson	Learning Songs & Tunes by Ear: Concepts & Strategies Greg Cahill	Build a Backup Vocabulary w/ Common Phrases from Earl Scruggs, J.D. Crowe, & Others Eli Gilbert	The Banjo Style of Allen Shelton: <i>Blue Bonnet Lane & Standing on a Mountain</i> Alan Munde
3:30-4:45p	Old-Time 3-Finger Banjo: Basic Patterns & Movable Chord Shapes Jos. Decosimo	Streamline Your Arrangements to Play Up to Speed at Jams Hilarie Burhans	Singing with the Banjo: Concepts & Techniques Paula Bradley	A Wide World of Chords: Different Ways to Play Basic Chords on the Fretboard Mich'l Miles	Fiddle. Crook-ed Mississippi Tunes in C from Hoyt Ming & His Pep Steppers Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Common Chords & Progressions for Jazz & Swing Alan Munde	Mandolin. What Makes a Good Break?: What to Do When They Say, “Take It!” Carl Jones	Finding Comfortable Positions for Both Hands & How to Place Fingerpicks Greg Cahill	How to Practice Banjo with a Metronome Eli Gilbert	The Key to Successful Improv: Make Your Breaks Sound Like the Melody Casey Henry	The Beatles & Others: Classic Rock Tunes for Bluegrass Banjo Gerald Jones

Sat. 4:45-5:45p	Free Period, Jam on Your Own Or: Get Tips on Banjo Set-Up & Repair from Wayne Rogers, President of Gold Tone Instruments (Varn Dining Hall, Rear)										
6:00-700p	Saturday Dinner: Varn Dining Hall										
7:15-8:45p	Faculty Concert Part 2: Varn Dining Hall										
Sat. 9:15-10:30p <i>Jamming</i>	Old-Time Regular Jam: Burhans & Marshall <i>Dearing</i>	Old-Time Intermediate Jam: Bradley, Decosimo, & Hurt <i>Ravine</i>	Old-Time Slow Jam: Miles <i>Saffran</i>	All Styles Vocals Jam: C. Jones <i>Scott</i>	Bluegrass Slow Jam: Cahill <i>Young</i>	Bluegrass Intermediate Jam: Gilbert, Henry, & May <i>Varn</i>	Bluegrass Regular Jam: Anderson, G. Jones, & Munde <i>Office Lobby</i>				
10:30p-	Continue Jamming On Your Own!: Any Classroom in Conference Center										
Sunday Schedule											
<i>Sunday Levels & Locations</i>	Old-Time: Advanced, or Fingerstyle <i>Rm. 601-G</i>	Old-Time: Upper Intermediate <i>Ravine</i>	Old-Time: Lower Intermediate <i>Saffran</i>	Old-Time: Novice <i>Juhan Chapel</i>	Fiddle Track <i>Juhan Hall</i>	Guitar Track <i>Pavilion Lobby</i>	Mandolin Track <i>Pavilion Infirmary</i>	Bluegrass: Novice <i>Scott</i>	Bluegrass: Lower Intermediate <i>Varn</i>	Bluegrass: Upper Intermediate <i>Young</i>	Bluegrass: Advanced <i>Dearing</i>
Sun 8-9a	Sunday Breakfast: Varn Dining Hall										
Sun. 9:00a	Last Call for Artists' Store										
Sun. 9:15-10:30a	Playing Authentic Sounding Jigs (Tunes in 6/8 Time), Clawhammer Style Ken Perlman	Composition & Songwriting for Banjo: Concepts & Strategies Miles	Learn <i>Brushy Fork of John's Creek</i> , a Great Modal Tune Hilarie Burhans	Focusing on the Fretting Hand: Mapping Note-Locations, Efficient Fingering, Etc. Adam Hurt	Fiddle. Some Rare Fiddle Gems from the Cumberland Plateau Joseph Decosimo	Guitar. Old-Time Backup Style Paula Bradley	Mandolin. How to Avoid All the Bad Notes: The Power of Pentatonic Scale Positions Gerald Jones	Bluegrass Appreciation: How to Listen to Banjo Players & Know What They Are Doing Eli Gilbert	A New Life for Some Old Rolls: Learn Earl Scruggs' <i>Reuben</i> in Open D Tuning Scott Anderson	Playing Backup Behind Vocals: Concepts & Strategies Greg Cahill	Bluegrass Banjo Workout: Increase Your Finger Facility & Fretboard Awareness Alan Munde
Sun. 10:45a-12:00 noon	J.S. Bach, Clawhammer Style: Learn <i>Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring</i> Michael Miles	Clyde Davenport's Banjo Approaches Joseph Decosimo	How to Put Your Clawhammer Stroke on Autopilot Hilarie Burhans	Explore <i>G-Modal</i> Tuning (gDGCD) & Learn Two Simple Tunes Paula Bradley	Fiddle. How to Stay Inspired, Creative, & Musically Motivated When You Return Home Erynn Marshall	Guitar. The Techniques & Harmonic Approaches of Tony Rice: How he Transformed Bluegrass Guitar Tim May	Mandolin. Finger-Finagling & Arranging; Techniques & Principles You Can Use to Enhance Any Song Carl Jones	<i>I'll Fly Away</i> with Lead & Backup Chords Scott Anderson	The High Break to <i>Blue Ridge Cabin Home</i> : How to Move Up the Neck with Ease in This Scruggs Standard Casey Henry	Bluesy Banjo Chords & Licks Gerald Jones	Irish/Celtic Favorites: <i>Garryowen, Mason's Apron, & More</i> Greg Cahill
12:15p	Sunday Lunch: Varn Dining Hall										
Sun 1:30p	Camp Ends										