

# Suwannee Banjo Camp Schedule; March 12-15, 2026

## Suwannee Banjo Camp Thursday Schedule

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

## 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 &amp; Locations</i>	Old-Time: Advanced, or Fingerstyle	Old-Time: Upper Intermediate	Old-Time: Lower Intermediate	Old-Time: Novice	Fiddle Track	Guitar Track	Mandolin Track	Bluegrass: Novice	Bluegrass: Lower Intermediate	Bluegrass: Upper Intermediate	Bluegrass: Advanced
8:00-9:00a	<b>Friday Breakfast: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Fri. 9:15-10:30a	2-Finger Banjo Crash Course: Introducing Index- & Thumb-Lead Up-Picking  Joseph Decosimo	Round Peak Banjo Style: Its History, Famous Players, & Their Playing Techniques  Paul Brown	How to Put Your Clawhammer Stroke on Autopilot  Hilarie Burhans	Getting Started with Clawhammer: How to Hold & Use the Right Hand, Sing a Simple Song, & Play Along.  Terri McMurray	An Old-Time Fiddlers' Alphabet: Accents, Backbeat, Chords, Drones, & Expression  Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Becoming a Solid Rhythm Guitar Player: Dynamics, Alternating Bass, Bass Runs, & Syncopation  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  Trevin Nelson	Kickoffs & Endings: Standard & Stylish Phrases in the Keys of G, C, & D  Alan Munde	Playing in C without a Capo: <i>Ashland Breakdown &amp; Nashville Skyline Rag</i>  Greg Cahill

Friday Schedule Continues, Next Page

<i>Friday Levels &amp; Locations</i>	Old-Time: Advanced, or Fingerstyle	Old-Time: Upper Intermediate	Old-Time: Lower Intermediate	Old-Time: Novice	Fiddle Track	Guitar Track	Mandolin Track	Bluegrass: Novice	Bluegrass: Lower Intermediate	Bluegrass: Upper Intermediate	Bluegrass: Advanced
Fri. 10:45a-12:00n	An Advanced Index-Lead 2-finger Style, Based on the Playing of Omer Forster  Joseph Decosimo	Learn a Basic Version of <i>John's Lover's Gone</i> , Then Explore Ways to Decorate It  Adam Hurt	Fundamentals of Drop- & Double-Thumbing (Using the Thumb on the Long Strings)  Ken Perlman	First Chords & Getting Right with the Right Hand: Build on the Basic Strum; Learn to Pick out a Simple Tune  Terri McMurray	Fiddle. Some Beautiful Old Tunes from West Virginia Fiddler Burl Hammons  Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Creating Solos from Scratch, Based on the Approaches of Maybell Carter & Norman Blake  Tim May	Mandolin. Exploring "Slants" & "Reaches" (Two-String Chord Shapes)  Carl Jones	Reviewing Fretting-Hand Mechanics: Chord Shifts, Hammer-ons, Pull-offs, & Slides  Scott Anderson	Right-Hand Freedom: A Comprehensive Method to Achieve Complete Control of Your Picking Attack  Trevin Nelson	Common Bluegrass Backup Licks: Building a Simple but Effective Backup Vocabulary  Eli Gilbert	Dark Modal Licks for Tunes Like <i>Wild Bill Jones, Shady Grove &amp; Clinch Mtn. Backstep</i>  Gina Furtado
Fr. 11:00a-	<b>Check-In Begins for "Weekend Only" Students: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Fri. 12:15p	<b>Fri. Lunch: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Fri. 1:30-2:45p	Fred Cockerham's Round Peak Clawhammer Style  Adam Hurt	Using Bass-Runs, & How to Create a Bass-Run Style Accompaniments in Clawhammer  Ken Perlman	Intro to Singing with the Banjo: Basic Skills & Approaches  Paul Brown	Anatomy of a Bum-ditty: <i>Circle Be Unbroken</i> with Lots of Practice  Hilarie Burhans	Fiddle. Be a Bow Boss: Complex Rhythms, Rocks & Pulses  Erynn Marshall	Guitar. How to Create Solos on the Spot Using Chord Tones, Key Centers, & Scale Tones  Tim May	Mandolin. Blues is Just Around The Corner: Finding Those Bluesy Notes & Phrases  Carl Jones	Finding Comfortable Positions for Both Hands & How to Place Fingerpicks  Greg Cahill	Learn by Ear at Any Level: From Basic Concepts of Tune Structure to Transcribing Note-for-Note  Eli Gilbert	Demystifying Tough Keys: Avoid that Feeling of Dread When They Call for Tunes in D, F, or E  Gina Furtado	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)  Brown, Decosimo, C. Jones, & McMurray  Host: Brown			Old-Time Demo. Waltzes & Other Tunes in 3/4-Time  Burhans, Hurt, Marshall, & Perlman  Host: Perlman			Bluegrass Demo. The Art of Backup: Concepts & Techniques  Anderson, Gilbert, May, & Nelson  Host: Anderson			Bluegrass Demo. Composing for Bluegrass Banjo  Cahill, Furtado, & Munde  Host: Cahill	
4:30-5:45p	<b>Free Period, Jam on Your Own</b>										
6:00-7:00p	<b>Friday Dinner: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
7:15-8:40p	<b>Faculty Concert Part 1: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Fri. 9:15 - 10:30p <i>Jamming</i>	Old-Time Regular Jam:  Marshall & Hurt	Old-Time Intermediate Jam:  Decosimo & Brown	Old-Time Slow Jam:  Burhans	All-Styles Vocals Jam:  Nelson	Bluegrass Slow Jam:  Anderson & Furtado	Bluegrass Intermediate Jam:  C. Jones & Munde	Bluegrass Regular Jam:  Cahill, Gilbert, & May				
Fri 10:30p-	<b>Continue Jamming On Your Own!: Any Classroom in Conference Center</b>										

<i>Saturday Levels &amp; Locations</i>	Old-Time: Advanced, or Fingerstyle	Old-Time: Upper Intermediate	Old-Time: Lower Intermediate	Old-Time: Novice	Fiddle Track	Guitar Track	Mandolin Track	Bluegrass: Novice	Bluegrass: Lower Intermediate	Bluegrass: Upper Intermediate	Bluegrass: Advanced
Sat. 8-9a	<b>Saturday Breakfast: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Sat. 9:15-10:30a	Using Scale-Formula Exercises to Find the Strongest Ways to Get Melody Notes Adam Hurt	Exploring fDGCD Tuning, a Delightful Medium for Tunes in the Keys of F & G Jos. Decosimo	Perfecting the Three Essential Left-Hand Techniques: Hammer-ons, Pull-offs, & Slides Hil. Burhans	More Right Hand Work & First Fiddle Tunes: Break Up the Basic Strum with Melody Notes T. McMurray	Fiddle. Cross Tuning for the Curious: GDAD Tunes Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Major, Minor, & Modal Scale Patterns, & How to Use Them Tim May	Learn <i>Monroe's Farewell to Long Hollow</i> by Father of Bluegrass, Bill Monroe Carl Jones	A Few Simple Tunes Scott Anderson	Scruggs Banjo Made Simple: How to Play Just About Any Melody Scruggs Style, & without Tab Trevin Nelson	Backup Ideas for the Key of D, for the Low, Mid-Range, & Upper Fretboard Alan Munde	Some Really Useful Melodic & Single -String Licks for Improvising Greg Cahill
Sat. 10:45a-12:00 noon	The Chord-Melody Approach – Series of Full Chords with Melody Notes at the Top – in Clawhammer Ken Perlman	Tommy Jarrell's Round Peak Clawhammer Style Paul Brown	Staying Afloat in Jams: Some Core Right- & Left-Hand Strategies to Use on Unfamiliar Tunes Jos. Decosimo	More Left Hand Techniques: Polish Up Your Tunes & Add Embellishments Terri McMurray	Fiddle. Improving the Chestnuts: Level Up Your Classic Fiddle Tunes Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Common Chords & Progressions for Jazz & Swing Alan Munde	Mandolin. Easy Ways to Join at Jams or Play a Break: Chords, Rhythm-Patterns, Note Sequences, Etc. Carl Jones	Secret Tricks to Improve Your Tone: Hands, Picks, Attack! Scott Anderson	Vamping Basics: Get These Down & You'll Be Able to Join In Jams Enough to Get By & Have Fun Gina Furtado	Béla Fleck for the Fearful: Some Easy-to-Learn Béla Techniques Trevin Nelson	Country & Western Swing Licks – from Guitar & Pedal Steel Players – for Bluegrass Banjo Eli Gilbert
Sat. 12:15p	<b>Saturday Lunch: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
1:15-1:45p	<b>Camp Photo: Location TBA</b>										
Sat 2:00-3:15p	Learn Sam McGee's Iconic Up-Picking Version of <i>Snow Drop</i> Joseph Decosimo	Explore Old Cumberland Gap Tuning (f#BEAD) & Other Related Tunings Paul Brown	Fretting-Hand Strategies for Using Drop- & Double-Thumbing to Play Melody Ken Perlman	Learn <i>Goin' Down the River</i> , a Fun Tune in A Hilarie Burhans	Fiddle. Midwest Fiddle Tunes Adam Hurt	Guitar. Clarence White's Unique Use of Chord Voicings, Syncopation, & Crosspicking Tim May	Mandolin. Exploring Improvisation via Arpeggios, Scales, & 3rds Michael Godwin	Chords & Roll Patterns for Everyone Gina Furtado	The Circle of Fifths; the Nashville Numbers System, Chord Positions Greg Cahill	Composing for Banjo: Song Structure, Turn Bits of Melody into New Tunes Eli Gilbert	Approaches to <i>Cripple Creek</i> : How Earl Scruggs, JD Crowe, & Bill Keith Did It Alan Munde
3:30-4:45p	Switch Seamlessly between Clawhammer & Fingerstyle within the Same Tune Paul Brown	Tunes in Waltz Time (3/4 Time) for Clawhammer Hilarie Burhans	Play <i>Virginia Reel</i> as a Banjo Orchestra Adam Hurt	Sing Along with the Banjo for Beginners: Tunes You Can Play Right Away T. McMurray	Fiddle. Traditional Tunes from Kentucky fiddler, Emma Lee Dickerson Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Alternating-Bass Country Blues Guitar: Get Started or Learn More Trevin Nelson	Mandolin. Fretting Hand Techniques: Hammer-ons Slides, Pull-offs, & More Mich. Godwin	<i>Boiling Cabbage Down</i> with Three Basic Rolls Scott Anderson	Fretboard Mapping: Visualizing via Chord Shapes, Inlay Markers, Etc. Eli Gilbert	Achieving Attack & Drive: Take Your Playing from Hobby-Level to Pro Gina Furtado	How to Transpose Your Solo to a Different Key on the Fly at Jam Sessions Greg Cahill
4:45-5:45p	<b>Saturday Free Period, Jam on Your Own</b> <b>Or: Attend Class on Banjo Set-Up &amp; Repair by Wayne Rogers, President of Gold Tone Banjos</b>										

6:00-7:00p	<b>Saturday Dinner:</b>										
7:15-8:45p	<b>Faculty Concert Part 2: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Sat. 9:15-10:30p <i>Jamming</i>	Old-Time Regular Jam:  Burhans & Marshall	Old-Time Intermediate Jam:  Brown & Hurt	Old-Time Slow Jam:  Decosimo	All Styles Vocals Jam:  C. Jones	Bluegrass Slow Jam:  Cahill	Bluegrass Intermediate Jam:  Gilbert, May, & Nelson	Bluegrass Regular Jam:  Anderson, Furtado, & Munde				
10:30p-	<b>Continue Jamming On Your Own!:</b>										
<b>Sunday Schedule</b>											
<i>Sunday Levels &amp; Locations</i>	Old-Time: Advanced, or Fingerstyle	Old-Time: Upper Intermediate	Old-Time: Lower Intermediate	Old-Time: Novice	Fiddle Track	Guitar Track	Mandolin Track	Bluegrass: Novice	Bluegrass: Lower Intermediate	Bluegrass: Upper Intermediate	Bluegrass: Advanced
Sun 8-9a	<b>Sunday Breakfast: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Sun. 9:00a	<b>Last Call for Artists' Store</b>										
Sun. 9:15-10:30a	Authentic Sounding Scottish Pipe Marches – Moderate-Tempo Tunes in 4/4 Time – Clawhammer Style  Ken Perlman	Increase Your C Tune Repertoire: <i>Texas Gales (AKA Texas Gals) &amp; Wes Muir's Tune</i>  Hilarie Burhans	Space & Time on the Banjo: When Not to Play Notes & When to Let Them Ring  Terri McMurray	Common Chord Shapes & Chord Progressions  Adam Hurt	Fiddle. Learn a Rare Tennessee Fiddle Tune  Joseph Decosimo	Guitar. Learning by Ear: Shortcuts to Finding a Melody Quickly & Retaining It in Memory  Tim May	Mandolin. Learn <i>Beautiful Stars</i> , a 1930s Country Song by the Dixon Bros. of South Carolina  Carl Jones	Make Sure You're on the Right Track: An Overview of Right- & Left-Hand Techniques for 3-Finger Style Banjo  Eli Gilbert	An Intro to Bluegrass Banjo Improvisation for All Levels  Trevin Nelson	Learn the Classic Key of D Fiddle Tune, <i>St. Anne's Reel</i>  Gina Furtado	Playing Swing Tunes on Bluegrass Banjo in G: Learn <i>Lady Be Good</i>  Greg Cahill
Sun. 10:45a-12:00 noon	Learn "The Flip" – an Up-Picking Technique that Mimics Clawhammer Rhythms – & John Sharp's <i>Shortening Bread</i>  Jos. Decosimo	Learn "Pretty Betty Martin" Direct from Adam's Fiddling, & Be Guided to Create Your Own Stand Alone Arrangement  Adam Hurt	The Soul of the Banjo: We'll Explore Melody, Drone, Backup & Rhythm; & Learn What the Banjo Does Best!  Paul Brown	How to Learn Tunes by Ear: Starting with Chords & Finding the Melody Notes Within Them  Terri McMurray	Fiddle. Taters & Tags: Learn Classic Kick-Offs & Stylish, Signature Ending Tags, & Make Up Your Own  Erynn Marshall	Guitar. Mark O'Connor's Unique Approach to String-Crossings, Chromatic Scales, & Harmonies  Tim May	Mandolin. Explore Chord Progressions & Voicings: Get Different Sounds by Varying Chord Shapes & String-Sequences  Carl Jones	Learn <i>Bury Me Beneath the Willow</i> with Lead & Backup Chords  Scott Anderson	How to Practice Banjo with a Metronome  Eli Gilbert	Play Authentic Sounding Old-Time Fiddle Tunes on Bluegrass Banjo: <i>Lost Girl &amp; Susanna Gal</i>  Trevin Nelson	Learn the Gospel Tune, <i>Are You Washed in the Blood</i> , in Five Keys – C, G, F, D, & Bb – in Both Roll Style & as Chord-Melody  Alan Munde
12:15p	<b>Sunday Lunch: Varn Dining Hall</b>										
Sun 1:30p	<b>Camp Ends</b>										