

## American Banjo Camp Preliminary Schedule Now Available

from:  
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Folks

American Banjo Camp is delighted to announce that our preliminary schedule is now available for viewing on our website, <http://www.AmericanBanjoCamp.com>. We think of this as banjoists' paradise, but we urge you to check it out and see for yourself.

**Time and Place:** The dates are Sept. 10-12, 2010 and the place once again is Fort Flagler State Park, in Nordland, Washington. American Banjo Camp offers a weekend of intense instruction with some of the best old-time and bluegrass banjo players around, plus demonstrations, concerts, and plenty of jamming opportunities.

We also offer an optional Extra Day (see below) beginning on Thursday evening Sept. 9.

**Staff:** We're very proud to announce our staff of well-traveled all-stars.

**Note: Capsule Bios for all our instructors and accompanists** appear in this email below the signature line. For still more biographical information on the instructors, go to our website, <http://www.AmericanBanjoCamp.com>

### Bluegrass Instructors:

**Janet Davis** (California) - Great player, superb teacher; author of best-selling banjo instruction books.

**Bill Keith** (New York) - Creator of melodic style

**James McKinney** (Georgia) - Powerful single-string, swing, and jazz player

**Alan Munde** (Texas) - Legendary picker and innovator; former member of Jimmy Martin & the Sunny Mountain Boys and Country Gazette

**Pete Wernick** (Colorado) - Dr. Banjo returns; he was the hot-picking force in several trend-setting bands including Hot Rize and Country Cooking

### Old-time Instructors:

**Mac Benford** (New York State) - Genial clawhammer innovator and great all-around teacher! Formerly banjoist for famed Highwoods String Band.

**Adam Hurt** (North Carolina) - brilliant young clawhammer phenom returns for his second year at ABC

**Bruce Molsky** (Washington, DC) - legendary fiddler, banjoist, & performer appears at ABC for the first time

**Ken Perlman** (Indiana) - Pioneer of melodic clawhammer

**Molly Tenenbaum** (Seattle's own) - Subtle innovator; great teacher; her current bands are Dram County and The Queen City Bulldogs

**Novice Program:** Mike Stahlman from Portland heads up the bluegrass-novice program; Laura Smith of Bellingham heads up the old-time novice program.

**Accompanists:** Greg & Jere Canote (old-time fiddle and guitar), Paul Elliott (bluegrass fiddle), and Peter Langston (bluegrass guitar, mandolin, and dobro). All our accompanists are from the Seattle area.

**ABC Fiddle Program.**

We have established a full-time fiddle program at ABC for this year's camp (in other words there will be one fiddle option during each and every class session). Details are now incorporated in the preliminary schedule.

**The ABC Extra Day.**

Our Extra Day gives students a chance to get to know each other and the staff, and to ease their way into the regular Camp with a bunch of low pressure activities in a relaxed atmosphere. This year, one of the activities planned for Thursday evening is a student open mic, with staff accompanists available to offer support. Other options we're considering for Thursday include faculty led jams, Q & A sessions, and even a square dance. For Friday morning, we're planning round-robin demonstrations, "clinics" on banjo technique and set-up, and more Q & A sessions. There will be a small extra tuition charge for students who wish to take part in the Extra Day, which also covers the cost of lodging and meals (dinner on Thursday through lunch on Friday).

You can access instructor bios, logistical information, and the ABC registration form on our website, <http://www.AmericanBanjoCamp.com>. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to email us at [info@americanbanjocamp.com](mailto:info@americanbanjocamp.com).

Ken Perlman and Peter Langston  
Directors

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INSTRUCTOR CAPSULE BIOS

Following are capsule bios (in alphabetical order) for all our instructors and accompanists. For still more information on these artists, go to our website <http://www.americanbanjocamp.com>

**Mac Benford** came to prominence during the 70s as a member of the legendary Highwoods String Band. Later on, while performing and recording with the Backwoods Band and the Woodshed Allstars, Mac expanded on the traditional role of the clawhammer banjo as a lead and backup instrument. His recently released Kentucky Favorites showcases his ability to capture the melodic subtlety of complex fiddle tunes without sacrificing the ring and drive of the best traditional playing.

**Greg Canote and Jere Canote.** The Canote Brothers from Seattle, WA, are as renowned for their affable attitudes and humor as they are for their music. Greg on fiddle, and Jere on guitar, and both on banjo ukes, perform zany concerts, play for dances, lead songs, and promote a good time!

**Janet Davis** is equally adept on both Dobro® and 5-string banjo. Her books are popular worldwide. She has written numerous best selling books for the 5-string banjo as well as dobro. Janet also teaches and plays ALL bluegrass instruments and several others. She has been a columnist with Banjo Newsletter for 29 years.

**Paul Elliott** has been playing fiddle professionally for over 25 years and is at home in a range of styles from old timey to be-bop. Paul has toured and performed with a variety of artists including Michelle Shocked, Buell Neidlinger, The Good Old Persons, and John Reischman.

**Adam Hurt** draws on diverse musical influences from the North Carolina piedmont, the mountains of central West Virginia, the Ohio River Valley, and beyond to create his own elegantly innovative clawhammer banjo playing. Still in his 20s, Adam has already placed in or won most of the major old-time banjo competitions including Clifftop, Mount Airy, and Galax, and won the state banjo championships of Virginia, West Virginia, and Ohio, as well as the state fiddle championships of Virginia and Maryland.

**Bill Keith.** A renowned explorer of the frontiers of banjo picking and of the instrument's harmonic potentialities, Bill Keith largely invented the three-finger picking style known as "melodic" banjo. He first came to international attention in the early 60s when he played and recorded with Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys. He co-authored the original Earl Scruggs banjo instruction book and record, and has also written several other banjo instruction books, including the first ones ever published in French and Italian.

**Peter Langston,** a strong and imaginative player, plays anything with strings on it (even the banjo!), and is equally adept at backup and hot improvisation. He has played in bands on both the East Coast (Metropolitan Opry, Wretched Refuse) and the West Coast (Puddle City, Entropy Service, Portland Zoo), and has performed with such notables as Doc Watson, Reverend Gary Davis, Tony Trischka, Peter Rowan, Alison Brown, Johnny Gimble, and Mike Seeger.

**James McKinney** is both a Scruggs and Reno style expert, one of the foremost jazz players of the bluegrass banjo world, and one of the most technically precise banjoists around. He has performed and/or recorded with Vassar Clements, Porter Wagoner, Barbara Mandrell, John Hartford, and Johnny Cash.

**Bruce Molsky** comes at southern roots and blues on fiddle, banjo, guitar and song with great depth of spirit. A two-time Grammy Nominee, Bruce is well-known for his collaborations with musicians from here and abroad, and his wide-angled approach to traditional folk music has influenced a generation of players. Bruce is a member of Andy Irvine & Dónal Lunny's acclaimed Mozaik, and he tours frequently with Aly Bain & Ale Möller, as well as Fiddlers 4 with Darol Anger & Michael Doucet.

**Alan Munde** needs no introduction to long-time Bluegrass fans. From his early creative work with Sam Bush in Poor Richard's Almanac to his traditional bluegrass apprenticeship with Jimmy Martin and the Sunny Mountain Boys to his 21-year stint anchoring the landmark Country Gazette, Alan has blazed a trail as one of the most innovative and influential banjo players of all time.

**Ken Perlman.** Perhaps the best-known exponent of the "melodic" clawhammer style, Ken is known where-ever banjos are played as a master of clawhammer technique and an expert teacher of clawhammer mechanics. He has been a Banjo Newsletter columnist for 20 years; he has written several books on clawhammer instruction including the well known works *Melodic Clawhammer Banjo* and *Clawhammer Style Banjo*.

**Laura Smith** started playing old time banjo in 1973 and has been playing and singing ever since. She has taught classes at the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop for nearly 20 summers. Laura has been a public school teacher for many years and uses music daily in her classroom.

**Mike Stahlman** is a Portland, Ore. banjo player whose playing style was heavily influenced by Earl Scruggs and Alan Munde. Mike has taught bluegrass banjo at Portland Community College in Portland since 1997, and currently plays bajo and tours with the Oregon-based Lee Highway.

**Molly Tenenbaum** is known for her subtle and traditional style of banjo playing. Her teaching philosophy is to get people having fun with the banjo as quickly as possible, and to help them recognize the patterns and techniques of the music so that they can continue to learn on their own and play with others. She is a member of two string bands, Dram County and The Queen City Bulldogs.

**Pete Wernick**, "Dr. Banjo," is renowned worldwide for his contributions to bluegrass music: the hot-picking force in several trend-setting bands including Hot Rize and Country Cooking, respected author and teacher, and 15-year President of the International Bluegrass Music Association. In a recording career starting in 1971, Pete has recorded dozens of original instrumentals and songs, including two bluegrass chart-topping hits, and is known for his soulful tradition-based style.