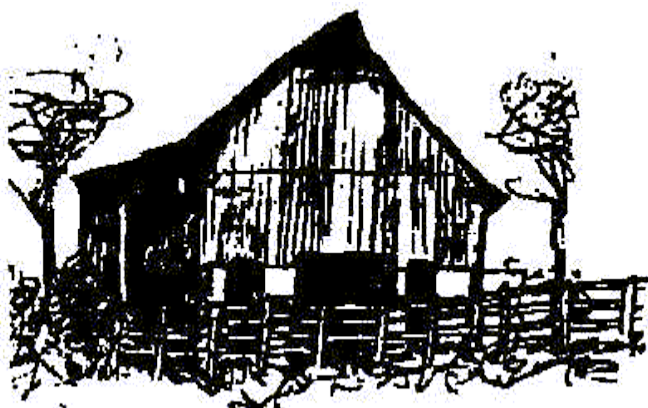




# Missouri Folklore Society Newsletter

P.O. Box 1757, Columbia MO 65202  
<https://missourifolkloresociety.org/>

**Volume 50, Nos. 1-2**

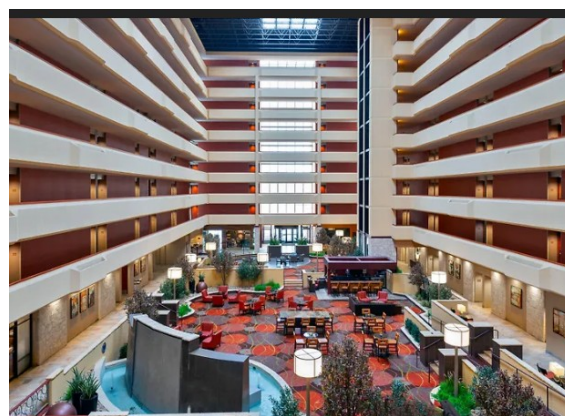
**Spring 2026**

The Missouri Folklore Society, now more than a half-century into its second life, is entering an exciting new phase, with a fresh generation of leadership, a revamped website, enhanced online presence, up-to-date communications, and a renewed commitment to its mission to document, explore and celebrate the folkways of all the folk groups of Missouri — and beyond.

If you're a longtime member, check out the website, where you can now register directly for the annual conference, submit a proposal for a single paper, presentation, a panel discussion, or volunteer for the jams and other activities.

Please invite friends to join us at our November 5-7 meeting at the University Plaza in Springfield; we especially hope to welcome educators and students (for whom we offer free registration and membership, as well as competitive prizes like the Dolf and Becky Schroeder award).

And ... very soon we hope, at long last, to be caught up with our publication schedule for the *Missouri Folklore Society Journal*. Volumes 47-48, proceedings, are now in preparation.



# **Minutes from the Spring 2026 board meeting; a full (edited) transcript (about 60 pages) is available to members on request**

**Meeting time / date:** April 18, 2026 11 am

**Full transcript:** [Appendix A](#)

**AGENDA:**

**Call to order**

**Approval of November minutes ([Appendix B](#))**

**Treasurer's Report**

Checking: 8400

CD: 21,333 - Matures in August

Schrader Fund CD: 16,300 - Matures in June

Just paid \$107 for 6 months

We signed up for Paypal to take digital payments. We plan to buy a terminal to use at the conference to take payments.

**Publications Report**

MFS Journal - Adam announced editions 43-45 “nominally 2021-2023” is up online. (link: [https://missourifolkloresociety.org/?page\\_id=20\(opens%20in%20a%20new%20tab#:~:text=Video%20Games%20\(monograph\)-,Volume%2043%20%E2%80%93%2045,-\(2021%2D2023\)%20special\)](https://missourifolkloresociety.org/?page_id=20(opens%20in%20a%20new%20tab#:~:text=Video%20Games%20(monograph)-,Volume%2043%20%E2%80%93%2045,-(2021%2D2023)%20special)))

He added that #46 / 2024 should be up soon. He plans to dedicate it to to Jim Vandergriff and Brett Rogers. He will then get started on #47 and be caught up and open to submission. Email Adam with submissions / proposals. [advers@truman.edu](mailto:advers@truman.edu)

A question was posed about getting the latest copies of the MFS Journal added to the Hathi trust. The last apparently is #26 /2004. Erika said she'd been in touch with a Moira Marsh at Indiana University about it, but that trail went cold.

videos that can be related to mo folklore society, the conference or journal that we can use for social media, email it to [mofolklore@gmail.com](mailto:mofolklore@gmail.com)

## **Plans for 2026**

Chris and Jahni reported that the original venue planned for Springfield in 2026, Elfindale, fell through. They presented 5 options they'd gotten quotes from. Missouri State University, Drury, University Plaza Hotel, the Unitarian Universalist church and the "Doling on Atlantic" event space. The group considered price, accessibility, accommodations, catering etc. And opted to move forward with University Plaza. Chris and Jahni will follow up.

The group discussed various lists and options for keynote speakers and potential grants to bring speakers. This included the Missouri Humanities Council speakers list. Rachel Kozad, Nathan McAllister (musician, basketmaker), Autumn Cuddy (state historical society), George Caleb Deagon, Susan Croat Kelly were mentioned. A presentation of Robert Smith. Ozarks Studies Association folks: Lauren Adams Willette, Virginia Siegal

A google form has been created to accept proposals for the conference (go ahead and submit and share it!) <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSchuCCZwHsD0Z6S4j8mhU-2BkaqRf-wktTI-G87fB1Ijqrqww/viewform?usp=header>

We will share a google form for attending the conference and volunteering later.

## **Announcements / Items from the floor**

Social Media - Adam does most all of it but pulling back. Jahni and Chris have posted a few things on facebook. Jahni and Chris asked for images and videos for the instagram or youtube. If you have any images or videos that can be related to mo folklore society, the conference or journal that we can use for social media, email it to [mofolklore@gmail.com](mailto:mofolklore@gmail.com)

Lyn announced she wrote the introduction to a recently published book. (link / info????)

Sandi Baker presented a draft of an image to be used for MFS merch and or online. ([Appendix C](#))

UEI Number - Erika Brought up that grants she had looked at required a UEI number from the federal government. NOTE: UEI number acquired: ZPYLCTT37FA6

## **Adjournment**

# Inside the McClurg Jam, the Heart of the Deep Ozarks Sound

Music has put McClurg and its rollicking Monday-night jams on the map. Not just any music—Ozarks roots music, a style mostly obscure to all but those who live here, or those curious enough to seek it out.

<https://acousticguitar.com/inside-the-mcclurg-jam-the-heart-of-the-deep-ozarks-sound/>



The Monday Evening Jam in McClurg — photo by Kaitlyn McConnell of Ozarks Alive!

Check out both on Facebook!

# SHOE TREE LISTENING ROOM AT ARROW CREATIVE REUSE! 616 W. Tampa St.



**The Shoe Tree Listening Room at Arrow  
Creative Reuse**

3.6K followers • 241 following

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Upcoming Events at Shoetree:

Sept. 5 -Alan Munde

Sept 11 -Front Porch Bluegrass

Sept 13 -Summoning Circle, Celtic and Throat Singing

9/20-Joe's Truck Stop Bluegrass/Folk

Oct 22- Kelly Hunt and Dirk Powell

Nov. 1- Eric Leick

Nov. 7 Missouri Folklore Society Concert, Artist to be announced.

Tickets for each event will be posted a few weeks before each performance on the [arrowcreativereuse.org](http://arrowcreativereuse.org)

Show times vary and are posted on the individual show ticket link.

The Shoe Tree Listening Room at Arrow Creative Reuse is the performance art division of Arrow Art Supply, a 501c3 nonprofit

 The Shoe Tree Listening Room at Arrow Creative Reuse  
August 15 at 11:25 PM · 🌐

ALAN MUNDE and MASON RIDGE at THE SHOE TREE LISTENING ROOM AT ARROW CREATIVE REUSE! 616 W. Tampa St. is extremely close to selling out. If you want tickets, better get them NOW!



Sat, Sep 5 at 7:00PM CDT  
ALAN MUNDE and MASON RIDGE at THE SHOE TREE LISTENING ROOM AT ARROW CREATIVE REUSE! 616 W....  
616 West Tampa Street, Springfield, Missouri, Springfield, MO  
80 people interested



*Ed note: The Newsletter didn't publish in time to provide advance publicity, but watch this space for news of next year's event!*

## Missouri Liars Contest

Every year for the past 11 years, MO-TELL has staged a Liars Contest. Anthony Clark started us on this journey and we thank him for it. We have taken the contest to Kansas City, Columbia, St. Louis and Hannibal. This year, our 12th, the contest will be held in Joplin, MO. It is exciting to be able to share this wonderful event with new audiences around the state.

Anyone can enter the contest. There is a spoken contest, which is in person, and a written contest, which of course, does not need to be in person. Contestants are not confined to residency in Missouri.

Who of you has an original lie that convinces us it is the truth? Are you a good liar? Are you the next champion liar in Missouri? We share stories and lunch and join together in listening to our liars trying to outdo each other. If you are not in the contest, this is all free. Those entering the contest have participant entry fees.

The winners receive cash prizes and medals signifying they are true liars. The audience has a great time. Lies are lies. They can be serious or funny or scary even.

We hope you will come join the fun. There is something for everyone. There will be a concert for the little ones and an open mic for adults. There will also be a silent auction.

We want you there and that's no lie.

Joyce Slater, MO-TELL President

**MFS member Margot McMillen and her daughter Heather Roberson have completed a series of 12 podcasts** funded by Missouri Humanities and available for free at [hiddenmissouri.com](http://hiddenmissouri.com). The podcasts feature discussions with experts about sites and events in our state that are usually left out of the history books. In the opening podcast, for example, an interview with MFS member Chris Otto describes the mistaken identity of a Native American buried at Trail of Tears State Park. For decades, the grave was marked as that of "Princess Otaiki" and a mythology grew up around the name which was even adopted by women's sports teams in the area. Today, we know that the Cherokee did not have royalty and the grave is now correctly identified as that of Nancy Bushyhead, daughter of an important Cherokee man. Another interview in the podcast is with Cherokee nation member Will Chavez describing the efforts to teach young members about their heritage with an annual grueling 600-mile bike ride along the Trail of Tears.

Margot adds: "Reprints of a booklet by former MFS members Rebecca and Adolph Schroeder and Don Lance will be available at the next MFS meeting."

# THE TRAIL OF TEARS

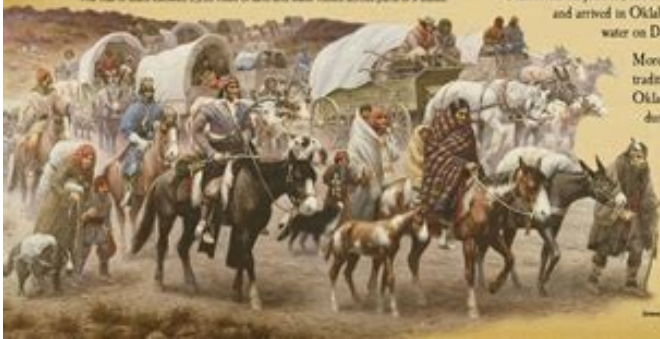


The Trail of Tears followed 2,200 miles of land and water routes across parts of 5 states.

In an address to Congress in 1829, President Andrew Jackson pledged to move Native American Indians west of the Mississippi River. Congress passed the Indian Removal Act on May 28, 1830, and the government began the forced relocation of about 60,000 Indians from the southeastern U.S. to what is now Oklahoma. This included the Cherokee, Chickasaw, Creek, Choctaw, and Seminole tribes considered civilized by settlers because they had adopted many Anglo-European customs and had generally good relations with their neighbors. These tribes were forcibly removed from their homes in the Southeast to Indian Territory (Oklahoma). This removal became known as the Trail of Tears.

In 1838 federal troops began forcibly evicting the Cherokee in 17 detachments (13 land, 4 water). The first detachment (by water) departed in early June 1838 and arrived in Oklahoma on June 19, 1838. The first land detachment departed on August 23, 1838, and arrived in Oklahoma on January 4, 1839. The final detachment left by water on December 5, 1838, and arrived on March 18, 1839.

More than 15,000 Cherokees made the trek west from their traditional eastern homeland to Indian Territory (present-day Oklahoma) over the "Trail of Tears." More than 1,000 died during the journey westward, and there may have been as many as 4,000 who died as a direct result of their forced migration from disease or food shortages.









Sevier County History - Trail Road      Ozark Greenways      Marker courtesy of the National Park Service, William C. Coker, National Historical Marker

## Meet Your Hosts



Heather Roberson

Heather grew up in Fulton and Columbia, Missouri, but has lived in California, New York, and Virginia among other locations, and has written extensively on southeastern Europe. All of this travel and study of other places, Heather maintains, just makes the culture and history of her home state all the more interesting. She grew up following Margot ("Mom") while she researched and wrote about Missouri, and feels fortunate to have been able to write books and now this project with her.



Margot McMillen

Margot McMillen is a longtime educator and Missouri writer, writing books on Fulton State Hospital, women's history and on place names, among other topics. When Heather was in fourth grade studying Missouri history, Margot found the curriculum lacking and started the publication "Our Missouri," an educational magazine that explored topics such as agriculture, forests, music, and food, and was widely read across Missouri schools.

## Hidden In Plain Sight—A Missouri Podcast ([hiddenmissouri.com](http://hiddenmissouri.com))

Produced by Margot McMillen and Heather Roberson  
as part of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United St  
with funding from Missouri Humanities Trust Fund  
(Released March 2026)

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**Historic Daniel Boone Home | St. Charles County: Behind the Frontier Story.** At Historic Daniel Boone Home in Defiance, learn how families survived and thrived while the men were away from home exploring. Today's historians are now uncovering contributions from Native Americans and the enslaved laborers left out of the TV version of the frontier story.

**Old Courthouse | St. Louis: Women Demand the Right to Vote.** Visit The Old Courthouse to explore Missouri's suffrage movement through the court case of Francis and Virginia Minor in 1875, and the historic "Golden Lane" demonstration in 1916 — both key turning points on the way to voting rights for women.

**Callaway County Courthouse | Fulton: How to Honor an Ancestor.** We visit the Courthouse in Callaway County, Missouri, to learn about Celia Newsom, an enslaved teenager convicted for the murder of her enslaver and — in 2024 — granted a historic pardon, thanks to efforts of her many descendants and her champions across the nation.

**St. Peter's Catholic Church | Ralls County: Martha Tolton's Fight for Faith and Freedom.** Travel to Brush Creek in Ralls County for the story of an enslaved woman who liberated herself and her three young children as the Civil War raged. Her son, Augustus Tolton, would become the first known African American Catholic priest, today being considered for sainthood.

**Missouri School for the Deaf | Callaway County: A Deaf Journalist in the Civil War.** Visit the Missouri School for the Deaf in Fulton to learn about the life of poet and journalist Laura Redden Searing. Educated at MSD after losing her hearing as a child, Searing wrote under the pen name Howard Glyn-don and became a Civil War correspondent whose poem "Belle Missouri" became a marching song for the Union Army.

**Carthage Courthouse | Jasper County: She Was Elected County Clerk Before Women Could Vote.** Travel to the Jasper County Courthouse in Carthage, Missouri, to explore the remarkable story of Annie White Baxter, who was elected Jasper County Clerk in 1890 — decades before women had the right to vote.

**Nodaway Historical Society | Maryville: Marching for Women's Suffrage.** In the collection of the Nodaway County Historical Society, musical instruments, band uniforms, newspapers and post cards tell the story of Alma Nash, who founded an all-women's marching band that gained national attention.

**The Truman Home | Independence: A Missouri-Style Presidency.** Travel to the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site in Independence, Missouri, to explore the life of First Lady Bess Wallace Truman, President Harry S. Truman, and the hometown roots that shaped their approach to public life.

**Guadalupe Center | Kansas City: A Century of Community and Service.** Travel to the Guadalupe Center in Kansas City, Missouri, to explore the story of Dorothy Gallagher and the local Latino community's creation of what is today the longest continuously operating social services organization serving the Latino community in the United States.

**Shannondale Community | Shannon County: How Brotherhood Economics Regenerates an Ozark Forest.** In Missouri's beautiful Ozarks the Shannondale community was founded to fight poverty and now is restoring forest land once stripped by twentieth-century log barons.

**Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site | Monroe County: Preserving a Legacy.** Travel to the Mark Twain Birthplace State Historic Site in Florida, Missouri, to see the cabin where Samuel Clemens—later known as Mark Twain—was born, and to hear of his daughter Clara, who protected his legacy and helped raise money with Missouri concerts to preserve his birthplace and first home.



## Wildstone Media

P.O. Box 270238 · St. Louis, MO · 63127

[www.wildstonemedia.com](http://www.wildstonemedia.com)

**For Immediate Release:**

**Contact: Dan Randant**

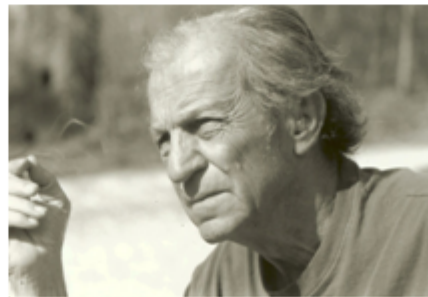
**314-629-5421 / [dan@wildstonemedia.com](mailto:dan@wildstonemedia.com)**

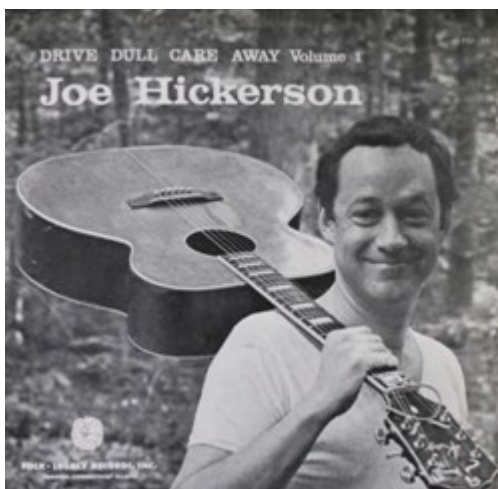
**Wildstone Media releases Posthumous Mitch Jayne Novel**

*The Morning Glory War* tells the story of the citizens of the bucolic hamlet of Morning Glory, Missouri who have lived life their own way for close to 100 years. It was the “town that never asked for anything.” When government “progress” threatened to destroy this peaceful and harmonious village, the dedicated and resourceful townsfolk decided to take matters into their own hands and declare “The Morning Glory War”.

Mitch Jayne, (July 5, 1928 - August 9, 2010), lived a wonderfully varied life that most can only dream of. He was a tail gunner in a WWII bomber, teacher at a one-room school, a hunting guide, radio personality, bass player and songwriter for the acclaimed bluegrass group The Dillards, a TV performer as a Darling Boy on the Andy Griffith Show, a newspaper and magazine columnist, and an award winning author of four previous books. “The Morning Glory War” was the novel Mitch was working on at the end. From his notes and conversations we can now enjoy another look at Mitch’s beloved Ozarks and the resourceful people (like Mitch) who inhabit this lovely part of the world.

(292 pages / Perfect Bound / Retail price: \$20.00 ISBN: 978-1-882467-53-2)





The Big Muddy Folk Festival has had a fruitful connection with the Library of Congress. The **Creek Rocks** who are part of this year's festival, have been researching songs and tunes collected in their native Ozarks that are in the Library's archives in Washington D.C. to arrange and perform in their repertoire. They were named the Library's first Artist in Resonance to help them. The specific collection was done in the 1930s by Sydney Robinson Crowell, who worked with John Lomax and Charles Seeger for the New Deal's Resettle-

ment Administration. Lomax became curator of the Archive of Folk Song, which is now part of the American Folklife Center. This collecting and research greatly shaped the folk song revival in the United States by disseminating the music. For one, it helped introduce folk music to the Seeger family and emphasized to them its importance to American life.



Decades later, at the second Big Muddy Folk Festival in 1993, we welcomed Joe Hickerson, then director of the Archive of Folk Song, to perform and offer some of the festival's first workshops. Founders Cathy Barton and Dave Para were fans of Joe's and the recordings he did for Folk-



## Country Music Legend Violet Hensley, Also Known as the 'Whittlin' Fiddler,' Dies at 109

"Violet touched hearts of Silver Dollar City guests and citizens through the sounds of her fiddle, the warmth of her smile and her stories," a rep for the venue tells PEOPLE

By [Desiree Anello](#) | Published on August 8, 2026 05:47PM EDT

3 COMMENTS



<https://people.com/violet-hensley-dead-country-music-legend-whittlin-fiddler-12037075>



**Billy Dean Craighead**, respected and award-winning Missouri country fiddler, passed away on November 28, 2025, in Jefferson City, Missouri, at the age of 94. A lifelong musician, Billy continued playing fiddle until just a month before his passing, sharing his passion for music with generations across mid-Missouri.

Born in Callaway County in March 1931 during a fierce snowstorm, Billy was the second of three children of Guy T. Craighead and Eunice (Kemp) Craighead. He spent formative years at the Pitcher Store on Route NN that his paternal grandparents, James Lewis and Belle (Herring) Craighead operated. A graduate of Fulton High School's class of 1949, he played on the varsity football team and soon discovered his calling in music after claiming an abandoned fiddle under his brother George's bed.

Billy met piano playing Alice Lawrence at a country dance when they were teens. They married young and raised two children, Paula and Kevin, supported by a close-knit family. Together, Billy and Alice performed in weekend dance bands throughout Callaway and surrounding counties for more than 60 years, delighting dancers with country swing, two-step, and

waltzes. In addition to fiddle, Billy taught himself saxophone and favored tunes like "Sentimental Journey" and "Kansas City Here I Come."

In his memory, donations may be made to the Bethel Youth Fiddle Camp, 127 Main Street, Bethel, MO 63434 Attn. John Williams or to the State Historical Society of Missouri, Center for Missouri Studies, 605 Elm St, Columbia, MO 65201 Attn. Laura R. Jolley. The Center archives Craighead Family papers, music compositions and extensive recordings. Private funds support the Center's preservation of works and recordings by Missouri musicians.

Missouri fiddling has endured some sorrowful losses this year, and chief among them, longtime friend of MFS, Gordon McCann, who graced us with his presence and participation at the last meeting in Springfield. His passing was covered in the traditional press, but we hope you'll go to the link below and read the full moving tribute by Kaitlyn McConnell at

<https://www.ozarksalive.com/stories/gordon-mccann-a-life-for-the-ozarks>

# Gordon McCann: A Life for the Ozarks

PEOPLE TO MEET JUL 18, 2026

Gordon is gone.

One of the most enduring collectors of Ozarks folk culture, Gordon McCann spent decades of his life building relationships, recording (with a literal recorder) stories and songs from across the region, playing music, and serving as a point-of-contact for folks from "off" who wanted to learn more about the Ozarks. His immense collection of recordings – about 3,000 hours of tape – books and ephemera is now part of [Missouri State University Libraries](#), where it will be preserved.

Just a few minutes before midnight on July 17, Gordon left this earth at age 94. There is much to say about his life and work, and I hope many of those stories will circulate in the coming days. At this moment, I want to share a few thoughts I have after getting to know Gordon over the past few years.

I didn't know Gordon before he had a stroke that changed much of his life. He was unable to drive by the time I met him about a decade ago, an understandable frustration for someone who had constantly been on the go to music parties and regional events.



# 2026 Big Muddy Folk Festival Memories

**Dave Para and Ellie Grace: Masters of Ceremonies**



**2026 Big Muddy - 1 Watson and Hinkebein: Let Us Travel**

The Para Channel

114 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 2 Creek Rock: Old Man & Pig**

The Para Channel

38 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 3 Catfish Keith: Brown Skinned Girl**

The Para Channel

36 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 4 Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light : Thank God You Had A Daughter**

The Para Channel

27 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 4 Rachel Sumner & Traveling Light : Yodelay**

The Para Channel

22 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 5 Friday Finale**

The Para Channel

20 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 6 Ellie Grace & Dave Para: On the Side of Love**

The Para Channel

66 views • 4 months ago





**Big Muddy - 6 Ellie Grace & Dave Para: A Handful of Songs**

The Para Channel

25 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 7 Timothy Hill: Permanent Guest**

The Para Channel

15 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 7 Timothy Hill: Sacred Ground**

The Para Channel

12 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 8 Tim May & Steve Smith: Something Different**

The Para Channel

100 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 8 Tim May & Steve Smith: These Blues**

The Para Channel

110 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 9 Hot Club of Cowtown: Amari Szi Amari**

The Para Channel

51 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 9 Hot Club of Cowtown: Caveman**

The Para Channel

37 views • 4 months ago



**2026 Big Muddy - 10 Saturday Finale**

The Para Channel

34 views • 4 months ago



# MFS 2026 Call for Participation

What have you been working on? What have you been up to? Learned anything new recently? What traditions and histories are you keeping alive by doing your thing? Come share!

Give a presentation on your work, research or inquiry! Perform or demonstrate music, folk art, or a living aspect of history. Organize and moderate a topical panel on a subject, a shared past, or a certain perspective.

## Join us for our 2026 Conference in Springfield, Mo. November 5-7

If you have multiple proposals, please submit this form for each type of presentation you would like us to consider!

Don't know how what you're considering might fit in? Choose "Other" from the menu below, fill out the form and we'll be in touch.

Information at: [missourifolkloresociety.org](https://missourifolkloresociety.org)

Questions: [mofolklore@gmail.com](mailto:mofolklore@gmail.com)

### Individual Presentation

15 minutes + 5 minutes for Q&A

Present on your folklore research, successes, challenges, experiences, projects, or recent inquiries and trips down proverbial rabbit holes.

### Full Session

One hour total (including time for Q&A)

A moderator organizes a full session of presentations centered on a common topic or theme.

### Demonstration or Performance

30 minutes to one hour total (including Q&A)

Perform or demonstrate a folk art or living aspect of history. Past conferences have featured music, dancing, crafting, cooking, and more.

### Panel

One hour total (including time for Q&A)

A moderator presents a panel of participants in conversation, sharing their knowledge or experience on a topic.