



**Bones Fest XIX is dedicated to the memories of**

**Walt Watkins and Jerry Mescher**

**Both made significant contributions to the Rhythm  
Bones Society and our annual Bones Fests.**

**Program**

# Welcome to Shepherdstown and Bones Fest XIX!

I have often heard Bones Fest described as going to a family reunion with a family you hadn't realized you had. It is my sincere pleasure to welcome my bones family to my neck of the woods! Shepherdstown has plenty to offer. It's a charming college town with plenty of great restaurants and cute shops in its easily walk-able downtown. We have some great facilities at our disposal and there will be plenty of opportunities to learn, to share, to perform and to bond with the members of our bones family.

As we celebrate the coming together of our community we will also be remembering the members of our bones family who are no longer with us. Our community has suffered great loss this year with the passing of Walt Watkins and Jerry Mescher. They will be in our thoughts throughout the weekend and this Bones Fest is dedicated to their memory.

Last year I was asked to present at both the Antietam Early Banjo Gathering and Bonesfest XVIII. During the process of putting together my presentations I was able to flesh out an idea that had long been on my mind. It seems to me that if it hadn't been for the actions of a small group of players in the 1900's to preserve the instrument that I'm not sure I would know about the bones today. I call these folks "Bones Ambassadors". Walt and Jerry were Bones Ambassadors.

I'm sure that like many of you reading this, the rhythm bones have brought a great deal of joy into my life. My service on the board of the Rhythm Bones Society is one of the ways that I strive to be a Bones Ambassador. Bones Fest is always a great opportunity to perform and to improve on one's bones playing. As we head into the weekend let's all be mindful that the connections that we make and the impact we have on one another's lives are at least as important as the music we play. I welcome you all and I look forward to another fantastic festival!

All the best from your West Virginia Bones Ambassador,

Skeffington Flynn

If you need help during the Fest, call me at 443-257-4104.

# Bones Fest XIX Program

## Thursday

7pm - Music and Jamming with the Shedhoppers in the Tuscany Room at the Clarion.

## Friday

9am - Registration opens at the Shepherd Student Center's Storer Ballroom. Vendors can set up.

10am - Breakout session in the Blue & Grey Room, Jamming in the Storer ballroom.

12 noon - Lunch in on your own in Shepherdstown.

2pm - Informal meet up in the Shepherd Student Center's Storer ballroom.

3pm - Break out session in the Blue & Grey Room, Jamming in the Storer Ballroom.

4pm - Jerry Mescher and Walt Watkins Remembrance Session

5pm - Dinner on your own in Shepherdstown.

7pm - Casual performances and rehearsal for Saturday concert in the Storer Ballroom.

10pm - Last call - Jamming in the Morgan Room at the Clarion.

## Saturday

10am - Registration and Jamming in the Shepherd Student Center's Storer Ballroom.

11am - Breakout session in the Blue & Grey, Jamming in the Storer Ballroom.

12 noon - Lunch on your own in Shepherdstown.

12 noon - Board Meeting with box lunches.

2pm - General Membership Meeting.

2:30pm - Break out session in the Blue & Grey Room, jamming in the Storer Ballroom.

5pm - Dinner on your own in Shepherdstown.

7pm - Public Performance in the Shepherdstown Opera House.

10pm - Last call - Jamming in the Morgan Room at the Clarion.

## Sunday

7am - 11am - Farewell Breakfast buffet at the Clarion.

11am - 3pm - Information sessions and beginner workshops in the Morgan Room at the Clarion.

## Directions

### **The Clarion Inn**

233 Lowe Drive, Shepherdstown, WV 25443

### **Shepherd University Student Center:**

210 North King Street, Shepherdstown, WV 25443

From the Clarion (1.1 miles): Turn left out of the Clarion parking lot onto 480N Kearneysville Pike, Turn right onto W. High Street, Turn left onto N. King Street, The Student Center will be on your left with the large columns. Please park (if driving) in the lots rather than on the street

To get to the **Storer Ballroom** use the lower level entrance between the columns and take the elevator to the top floor

### **Shepherdstown Opera House**

131 West German Street, Shepherdstown, WV, 25443

From the Clarion (.8miles): Turn left out of the Clarion parking lot onto 480N Kearneysville Pike, Turn right onto W. High Street, Turn left onto W. German Street.

From the Shepherd University Student Center (.3 miles): Head South on N. King Street Toward W. High St, Turn Right onto W. German St

## **Remembering Walt Watkins**

Colonel Walter Watkins was one of a handful of people who kept rhythm bones alive. As an ambassador he played at Six Flags over Texas, the Texas Heritage Festival, Silver Dollar City, MO, the Texas State Fair and more. In 2001, he came in second after Russ Meyer at the Twenty-Sixth Old Time Country Music World Bones and Spoons Contest. As a member of RBS he introduced us to the ‘Pass-Off’ where a circle would be formed and one person would start playing as everyone else listened. During a musical break, the play would be “passed off” to the next person.

Walt was always ready to get a jam session started and I think he secretly hoped it would never stop. His favorite music was Dixieland,



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