

MUSIC MAKER RAG

The Official Newsletter of the Music Maker Relief Foundation

Vol. 9, No. 2

SPRING 2003



W. MAE BUCKNER

WILLA MAE BUCKNER (Circa 1949)

Duffy Archives

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Dear Friends,

B.B. King once encouraged us, "When people find out of the Foundation's work, they will be happy to help." This seems to be true and we wish to thank all of you that helped us grow the Music Maker Relief Foundation in these uncertain times.

Congress has declared 2003 as the Year of the Blues. We agree.



Willa Mae Buckner

©Mk Austin

For our part, we feel special recognition is due to the "Sisters of the South," by honoring one such woman who was an inspiration to the founding of MMRF. We asked a small group of supporters to pool their resources in honor of our dear departed friend Willa Mae Buckner.

These generous folks responded by creating the Willa Mae Buckner Challenge Gift. The Challenge is to you, our supporters. They pledge to match your gifts to MMRF this year dollar for dollar. To inspire new supporters of the mission they will match initial gifts \$2 to \$1. They pledge to do this to the tune of \$150,000.

Early donations to this Challenge came from Al Schomber and Mike and Marty Koether who donated their winnings of the "Calcutta" bets of the first Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament. Many thanks to Bill Lucado, Taj Mahal and to all the fishermen who made this a truly amazing fun(d)-raising journey.

On another note, we have steadily been issuing CDs and we want everyone to know about our spring Record Club release. We are especially proud of the new "Cootie Stark: Raw Sugar." Taj Mahal and I have been working together with Cootie for a number of years on this project. Taj performs on bass, piano, harmonica, banjo and harp and co-writes a couple tunes with his South Carolina elder. The result of Cootie's interpretations of age-old classics and his own mystifying originals make this one of the most powerful albums to come from us in a long time. You'll hear a master in full revelry, at the top of his game, mature and delivering the goods that clearly place him as a true King of the Piedmont Blues.

There is so much going on! Please stay in touch! Check out our website! Contact us to organize a concert in your town! But, first and foremost, as our good friend Jerry "Boogie" McCain reminds us "Don't forget to love the blues!"

With warm regards,

Timothy & Denise Duffy



Cootie Stark

©Mk Austin



Bill Lucado

Champagne is nice, liquor is quicker, you can drink all you want down in Costa Rica," ruffed Taj Mahal in that infamously low, thick growl of his, as we sat side by side at the bar of the Zancudo Beach Club. It was

his last night in Costa Rica, along with the rest of the relaxed, regular guys, (some a little sunburned, some a little drunk) he'd brought along for the ride.

Regular guys, that is, except that several of the fishermen gathered in Zancudo last week were no ordinary fishermen, but top musicians, including founding member of the Allman Brothers Band guitarist Dickey Betts and current addition Derek Trucks, Dead guitarist Jimmy Herring, and blues musicians Sammy Blue and Daniel "Mudcat" Dufek.

The small community of Zancudo, near the Southern zone town of Golfito, played host to the mixture of die-hard fisherman and top musicians (some of them also die-hard fisherman) in the first Taj Mahal Fishing Blues Tournament Feb. 17-22, with proceeds benefiting the Music Maker Relief Foundation, which helps struggling traditional musicians with money for basic necessities, touring and promotion.

The lucky group of 20 fishermen spent \$5,000 for six days and five nights including three days of deep-sea fishing, with food and lodging included. Half of the proceeds went to Music Maker, which netted approximately \$50,000, including \$3,000 in funds returned to the foundation from fishing bets.



Marty Komher

On Friday afternoon most of the musicians attended a party at Music Maker board member Bill Lucado's beach home. After the barbecue, over slices of fresh watermelon and pineapple, Betts casually asked Mudcat if he would "practice" with him, and they along with Tim Duffy spent the next few hours trying

out different blues tunes as the guests looked on, smiling contentedly.

"People drive tons of miles to see these guys, and we're just sitting here with them," said Don De Lavergne, from Long Island, New York, who said he will definitely be attending again next year.

The festivities ended with pizza and an intimate concert at the Zancudo Beach Club, where the musicians met a slightly larger public of about 100 mostly locals.

Mudcat started the show, with his can't-sit-down tunes, such as "Rattlesnake." Sammy Blue added his own Costa Rican touch to his rendition of "Sweet Home Zancudo" with Taj Mahal accompanying on guitar. Mahal also played solo, including tournament favorite "Fishing Blues" and "Hula Blues."

Tournament Fills Zancudo with Music Makers

By Amanda Schoenburg
Reprinted with permission from
March 7, 2003 Top News

Betts, Herring and Derek Trucks performed "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed" and "Georgia on a Fast Train" and thrilled the expectant crowd with "Ramblin' Man." As the night progressed, the musicians joined each other in different permutations, with Betts joining Blue again, Taj hitting the crown again and Mudcat closing down the small restaurant at 1:30 a.m.

Betts compared Zancudo to the beauty of Jamaica 50 years ago, and Taj Mahal said he planned to come back before the next tournament for at least two weeks of "hanging out and fishing."

But how exactly did the illustrious group of artists end up in try Zancudo? "Duke of Decadence" Lucado, blues-loving philanthropist from Macon, Georgia, had a great deal to do with it.



Jimmy Herring

Derek Trucks

Betts, Herring and Trucks all said they ended up at the event through their friendship with Lucado, who has donated a great deal of time and money to the Music Maker's over the years. Blue called Lucado a mix of Ernest Hemingway and the Great Gatsby, with an incredible passion for the blues.

Three days of fishing netted serious prizes for the Music Maker Relief Foundation, as well as for several winning fishermen. The group caught 74 sailfish total, and netted another \$3,000 from the one-day and three-day

Artist Notes

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins just waxed the "The Baghdad Blues." This is Track 2 of the "Sisters of the South" (see page 5 for lyrics.)

Etta Baker turned 90 this past March. She recently composed a guitar piece called "Up the River Blues." She and Tim have begun work on her new CD.



Etta Baker

OT Duffy

Lightnin' Wells is steadily performing, buy his CD if you haven't already. It is terrific!!

We welcome the Bareback Rider of Rapid City, SD and Lee Gates of Milwaukee, WI as new recipient artists.

Robert "Wolfman" Belfour is playing better than ever.

On Wednesday, March 16, Ernie Williams was highlighted on WHHT's first episode of their Successful Aging series, entitled "It's an Age Thing". He also appears in the opening and closing credits for the entire 13 week series.

Sof's remix of a Guitar Gabriel guitar line on track 1 of "Blaine Blue" appeared on the American Express Tiger Woods commercial a couple times during the Oscars!

The great R&B singer Skeeter Brandon is living in Durham and wants to get out and do some big shows.

Previous Bryant has been out doing shows and is scheduled to perform in France this summer. She recently received the American Federation of Independent Music's award for best blues artist.

Mudcat is busy entertaining the world. We wish him the best on his trip to France this April and May.

Eddie Tigner has been acknowledged by the Georgia Council for the Arts as

a master artist and was presented a grant to teach an apprentice for one year.

Dr. Needmore from Ilbedam, AL, is using his remedies to help Whittlin' Britches.

Capt. Luke remains the pillar of his community in East Winston. His recent performances end with ladies and men standing in line to kneel and kiss his hand. He was recently honored by the NC Folklore Society with the Brown-Hudson Folklore Award.

George Herbert Moore of Burgin, NC died on April 1st.

April 6th was Beverly "Guitar" Watkins 64th birthday!

Thanks to Barry Dolins, the Chicago Blues Festival is honoring the 50th anniversary of the Delmark Record Company this year. We thank him for booking Drink Small at this prestigious event.

Beverly "Guitar" Watkins and Essie Mae Brooks recently auditioned for a major part in the Coen Brothers upcoming film, "Ladykillers".

We thank Cool John for his commitment to the mission. In recent weeks he has missed several episodes of Jerry Springer to do interviews with the press.



Cool John and Dave McGraw

OT Duffy

The infamous Pat Sky is expressing interest in rekindling his recording career.

Bishop Dready Manning of Roanoke Rapids, NC has been honored a NC Folklife Award. The Bishop has been performing for church audiences in Halifax and Northampton counties for 39 years. Over that period, he founded his own church, performed for countless prayer meetings and revivals, released a series of locally-produced 45-rpm discs, LP albums, and commercial cassettes and built a large audience for his long-running Sunday morning radio show over Weldon's WSPY-AM.

We are saddened by the deaths of Lydia Wentworth, William C. Hinger IV, Albert Smith, Robert Marker and Ochar Turner this March.



Ochar Turner & Shardy

OT Duffy

Music Maker News

We have reissued "Guitar Gabriel, Toot Blues." This wares and all classic was only released on cassette and drew international attention. This CD comes with the original cassette artwork plus Gabe's first postcard and his Chief Wahoo-Medicine Oil label, limited collectors edition.

Amy Nolan our Programs Coordinator is doing a terrific job!

Tuesday March 4th, The New York Times ran an article on the blues. They had a big color photo of Cool John Ferguson on the cover of the arts section and a great photo of Robert "Wolfman" Belfour. Stephen Kinzer wrote: "The strongest affirmation that blues is alive and thriving, however, may not be coming from Mississippi but from the Music Maker Relief Foundation of Hillsborough, NC. In the last few years it has produced several dozen recordings of largely unknown artists whose mastery of blues and other idioms has surprised some who believed these traditions were dying out. From the big-throated north Mississippi blues of Robert Belfour to the litig Piedmont guitar of 89-year-old Etta Baker, these artists prove the vibrancy of blues tradition."

Emily Huffman is our new booking intern. Find out how we can bring a Music Maker Blues Revue to your town. Mmrbooking@yahoo.com

Willa Mae Challenge Gift

MUSIC MAKER Relief Foundation



Willa Mae Challenge

Dear Fida,

My wife Denise came up with the title "Sisters of the South" for an album she was right driving through Georgia in our van. We had been on an incredible adventure across the Southern United States, recording seven blues/blues and gospel artists in five days. These women, with their many talents, had left us with a deep sense of the beauty and respect of the human spirit. All of them had endured the lives of adversity inherent to their race, time, gender, geography, and social status. And all of them had emerged, beaten but unbroken, with the radiant strength of the soul survivor.

Our friend Willa Mae Buckner truly embodied this spirit. As Taj Mahal once commented, "There was never a period in the history of the world that could keep Willa down." Her incredible nature drew legions of admirers. By paying tribute to Willa we wish to recognize all the women artists of the Music Maker Relief Foundation including Ella Baker, Coretta Scott King, Bessie Mae Brooks, Coretta Scott King, Beverly "Guitar" Walker and Alpha Mae Winston. We asked a small group of steadfast friends to help us honor these women and were thrilled when they responded with pledges totaling \$150,000 as a Challenge Gift to inspire Fida to contribute to our mission.

This gift will match all gifts from continuing supporters. To help us grow this gift will match first time contributions 2 to 1. Enjoy the special gift of spirit with our new CD release, "Sisters of the South." The compilation CD of women artists is only available to people who participate in this Challenge Gift!

There were love and joy in the Willa Mae Buckner Challenge! Learn more about our mission at www.musicmaker.org

Yours,

Tom & Denise
Tom & Denise

Gigs

Cool John Ferguson will be at the All Peoples Grill on April 19, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31 and Every Saturday in June.



Cool John at the All Peoples Grill
©Duffy

May 3rd: Pre-Roots Party. Charlie's Pub on Ninth St. in Durham, NC, 9 pm.

May 4th: Roots on Ninth, a free festival held on Durham's Ninth Street, 3 stages for a full day of music and fun. Join Abe Reid Band, Slewfoot and the Angels, The Goins, George Higgs, Drink Small, John Dee Holeman, Carl Rutherford, Benton Flippen Band, Macavine Hayes, Cool John, and The Branchettes. Be sure not to miss this great music festival! 1pm-6pm

May 17th: Neal Pattman with Mudcat at the Blind Willie McTell Festival 12:00.

May 18th Jerry "Boogie" McCain, Montgomery, AL at the Kiwanis Park in Old Alabama Town from 7-9. Tel. 334 242-3401 for info. On air series sponsored by AL Center for Trad. Culture.

June 1st, Drink Small will be playing the Chicago Blues Festival at 2pm

June 14th The Freedom Creek Blues Festival. Don't miss this incredible event! Aliceville, AL. Contact: 205 373 2521.

June 20th Cool John Ferguson, Slewfoot and the Angels, Little Freddie King, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Tim Duffy & Ardie Dean will be playing **Tipitino's** in New Orleans.

June 21st Cool John Ferguson, Slewfoot and the Angels, Little Freddie King, Beverly "Guitar" Watkins, Tim Duffy & Ardie Dean in Mobile Alabama, **Atheneum**, June 21st.

July 20th Cootie Stark, Eddie Tigner, and Beverly "Guitar" Watkins will be performing in the **NY State Budweiser Blues Festival** in Syracuse, NY.

July 17th Mudcat will be performing at The Cave, Chapel Hill, at 9:30 pm. www.thecavesavern.com

George Higgs will be performing at The Cave on **July 19.**

August 2, 2003 John Dee Holeman and George Higgs will be performing in the **Pocono Blues Festival** at the Boulder Ski Area

New Releases

Dave McGrew, Fruit Tramp Ballads of the Great Northwest is a beautiful album of real life songs by a genuine folk-hero. Dave is joined by Taj Mahal, Cool John Ferguson and Abe Reid.

Sisters of the South Celebrate the women of the Blues! There is a little bit of everything here: gospel songs both wrenching and uplifting, lyrical guitar mastery, a playful risqué number, and low-down driving blues.

Cootie Stark, Raw Sugar Follow up to Sugar Man, Stark proves once again why he is the reigning King of the Piedmont Blues.

Guitar Gabriel, Toot Blues Reissue of the classic album, that brought Gabe national attention. Get your limited edition with the original cassette tape artwork and Guitar Gabriel artifacts.

Add these CD's to your collection. All out the order form or go to www.musicmaker.org.



Fishing Tournament (Con't.)



Dickey Betts, & Leland's House

OT Duffy

"Calcutta" betts, which winners Al Schomber and Mike and Marty Koether donated back to the foundation.

Top honors for the most sailfish at the informal award ceremony went to Mike Koether, from Marco Island, Florida, Chank Middleton, Alisan

Brothers Band longtime assistant, and Al Schomber, who tied with seven each. Taj Mahal won the biggest marlin award, while the best sportmanship prize went to Middleton and Mel Whitecliff, the received an award for the biggest fish.

After the official three days were over, Taj Mahal, Trucks and Herring proved their love for the sport when they went for one last try, and each caught a roosterfish, ranging from 45 to 65 pounds each. Derek Trucks said as a Florida native he had fished before, but "never like this."

The 2nd Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament will fly to Zancudo, Costa Rica on Feb. 16, Fish the 17, 18, 19, Beach Party & Concert 20th, Day Off 21st, Return home 22nd. Please call or email (info@musicmaker.org) us for information on how to participate. ♪

Music Maker News (Con't.)

Music Maker intern Isaac Deter-Wolf has been a great help to our organization. Please contact ary@musicmaker.org to inquire about internship opportunities.

We must report that the Legendary Blues Cruise is truly an amazing event. We were proud to take part in workshops, just on shows and enjoy the company of some of the nicest folks you could ever meet. Check out www.bluesin.tv to learn of their cruise next February.

Ardie Dean & Greg Rowell have done an incredible job hosting the MMRF Visiting Artist program in Vinemont, Alabama.

Mathieu Chabert has again donated beautiful guitars and equipment to our Instrument Acquisition program. Thanks!

Dickey Betts, Jimmy Herring, Derek Trucks, Susan Tedeschi, Carry Williams and Tom Rankin have all joined our advisory board.

Baghdad Blues

Baghdad, has been hit!
You know, these nations need to quit
But I, tell you this
It doesn't mean a bit
Terrorist attack is how you know
It makes me want to cry
Baghdad blues, it makes me want to put on my blues walkin' shoes

Another American Marine, has been confirmed killed
You all know, that gives me chills
It is up to each country, to end this war

Guns blazing into Baghdad sky
I just, wonder why
Got the Baghdad blues
It makes me want to put on my blue walkin' shoes

© Beverly "Guitar" Watkins 2003, Featured on Sisters of the South ♪

www.musicmaker.org

Support

Donation fully tax deductible, will be matched by the Willa Mae Buckner Challenge GR.

Sisters of the South Celebrate the Women of the Blues New Release \$25

"Baby let me play with your yo-yo. I'll let you play with mine."
-Willa Mae Buckner

Givin' it Back Record Club
1 yr. Membership You receive a brand new Music Maker release CD every 3 months for a year
(4 CDs) \$100

Taj Mahal Fishin' Blues Tournament
Feb 16-22, 2004
Total \$5,250 (\$2,500 tax deductible)

Book & CD Music Makers Portraits and Songs from the Roots of America and CD featuring Music Maker Artists \$35

Book and 2CDs an additional CD featuring 21 additional artists \$50

Music Maker New Releases

all CDs are \$19 each

- Guitar Gabriel, Toot Blues
- Dave McGrew, Fruit Tramp Ballads of the Great Northwest
- Coochie Stark, Raw Sugar



T Shirts \$25

MMRF Mandala M L XL XXL
please circle a size

Cool John Ferguson Child, M L XL XXL
please circle a size

Total

for a complete CD listing go to musicmaker.org
or call to request a catalog by mail

Donation form cont. on back



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Domestic Orders include S&H. International add \$10 USD

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 Ship to above address**Ship to:**

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Company _____

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Music Maker Relief Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

**Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc.** is a

nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the true pioneers and forgotten heroes of Southern musical traditions gain recognition and meet their day-to-day needs. Today many such musicians are living in extreme poverty and need food, shelter, medical care, and other assistance. Music Maker's aid and service programs improve the quality of recipients' lives. Our work affirms to these artists that we value the gifts of music and inspiration they have delivered to the world. Our mission is to give back to the roots of American music.

Our criterion for recipients is that they be rooted in a Southern musical tradition, be 35 years or older and have an annual income less than \$18,000.

Music Maker Relief Foundation, Inc. is a tax exempt, public charity under IRS code 501(c)(3).

Music Maker Programs

- **Life Maintenance** - Grants for necessities such as food, medical needs, housing, etc.
- **Instrument Acquisition** - Provides quality instruments and maintenance funds to recipient musicians.
- **Tour Support** - Provides funding and services to musicians wishing to tour and record.
- **Emergency Relief** - Substantial one-time grants to recipients in crisis (medical, fire, theft, etc.)
- **Visiting Artist Program** - Brings artists to our headquarters for professional development and assessment of needs.

Board of Directors

Timothy Duffy - President

Denise Duffy

Taj Mahal

Bill Lucado

Daniel "Mudcat" Dudeck

Lightnin' Wells

Bill Puckett

John Price

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