Sawdust Symphony Press Release, Logo and Photo Information (revised 1/2006)

IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE! . . .
Sawdust Symphony is an "American new grass" string band, blending traditional bluegrass style with high energy contemporary musical forms. If you desire the dulcet sounds of a traditional string band but are looking for something different than exclusively traditional bluegrass tunes gives us a listen!
. . .IT'S NOT ALL THE SAME TO US!

Sawdust Symphony is an "American New Grass" string band, blending traditional bluegrass style with high energy contemporary musical forms. All of the band members are from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin area. The group combines the members varying playing experience in bluegrass, oldtime, rhythm and blues, jazz, rock-a-billy, to bring out it's own style. The solid vocal harmonies of Al, Greg and Mike accompanied by decades of playing experiences on mandolin, guitar, banjo and bass make for great listening and entertainment. The focus of the band is to continue to develop its sound and styles of "American New Grass", blend in more Irish/Celtic styles, and bring to the stage and CD more original tunes written by Al, Greg and Mike.

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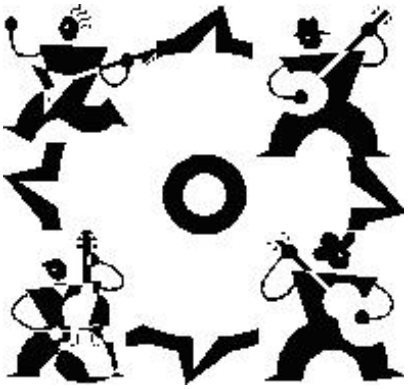
LOGO'S

SAWDUST SYMPHONY



GROUP PHOTO

Greg Brundage is proof in the saying the acorn doesn't roll far from the tree. Greg graduated in 1996 with a degree in Music Education from the Illinois State University. He is a classically trained cellist and started with the cello in his younger days in 1980. In 1991 he started to play acoustic guitar. He played guitar with TOMMY WU AND THE FUNKY BACKWOODS BOYS 1992-94. Greg again came to stage when he was a co-founder of the Sawdust Symphony. Greg gets the credit for our namesake. Greg is fantastic guitarist and offers much in his styles and musical knowledge.

Al Brundage comes to the group with a rich musical background playing acoustic guitar, electric guitar, and mandolin. He started playing music in 1962 on guitar and started mandolin and electric guitar in 1972. From 1980-86 Al played mandolin and acoustic guitar with the CAHOOTS in Milwaukee. In 1986-91 he was a founder of the rhythm and blues horn band JUKE JOINT ALL STARS and was lead vocal, electric and rhythm guitar. In 1992-98 he was playing with RODEO DRIVE, a top 40 country band playing his style electric guitar, acoustic guitar, and mandolin. Al took a well deserved sabbatical to focus on his mandolin work and resurfaced again in spring of 2000 when Kurt Lange (original symphony bass player) Mike Mueller and Greg Brundage invited him to play with the Sawdust Symphony. Al is a true musician through and through in both in his vocals, original songs, and his skill on the mandolin and vocals.

Mike Mueller started playing banjo in 1972 at UW Stevens Point. He played with OTIS AND THE ALLIGATORS (formerly WHETSTONE BRIDGE) until 1979. During his Stevens Point days and during the 80's and 90's he played in variety of venues with many fine guitarists in the Milwaukee area. In 1980-86 he played banjo with Al Brundage and the CAHOOTS in Milwaukee. His continued study of the banjo includes work with Peter Wernick, J.D. Crowe, and Bill Evans too name a few. Mike has developed a strong rhythm and smoothness in his attack and has managed to develop well his knowledge of the entire fretboard real estate. He was a co-founder of the Sawgrass Symphony. Mike also gives banjo lessons in his home in Mequon.

Jeff Kramer, started playing acoustic bass with the Sawdust Symphony in 2005. Jeff plays a variety of instruments including clawhammer banjo, oldtime fiddle, accordion and of course the acoustic bass. Jeff started playing banjo in 1967 along with experimenting on fiddle and concertina. 1976-1981 he played banjo and fiddle with a country/bluegrass group COUNTRY GRASS. In 1992 Jeff began to focus on the roots of music and focus his playing on clawhammer banjo and oldtime fiddle tunes. Recently, Jeff is working again on his accordion playing learning Cajun style accordion. Primarily the rhythm slap bass man for the Symphony, some oldtime banjo, fiddle and Cajun accordion are in the future.

JUST FOR FUN!

Sawdust Symphony File Photo, 1895.

Sawdust Symphony File Photo, 1935