

May 2018, Issue

SongFarmers “Cultivator”

Your newsletter for SongFarmers Chapter Leaders



Howdy ALL of our SongFarmers Chapter Leaders, We are here to help you! Never hesitate to contact us, especially myself (jpbrake5@gmail.com) or Penny Lane Diersing (atripwithpennylane@gmail.com) if we can be of any help.



How Large a Gathering/Jam Group Do We Need? A good jam is not defined or judged on how many people participate. It could be as small as one person on their front porch, or a library reading hall with 30 musicians. It could be a group of 3 or 4 in a park, or 147 in a parking lot spread across several other groups. It could be a town square with multiple jams going simultaneously or it could be a community concert. It could be an Open Mic, or it could be a workshop. Its whatever your chapter wants it to be. There are no expectations. Make the chapter's own.

How Does Our Chapter Find Members? You can start by asking your friends at work, church or club to come play some songs. Start a Facebook Group (make it an open group) then ask everyone who joins the group to share. You may want to also consider a stand-alone web page. There are numerous free editing and hosting programs available. Place flyers on local community bulletin boards and in bookstores and music stores. Pretty soon you may find yourself with a very well-attended periodic Gathering. Weekly, Bi-weekly, Monthly – Its all up to the Chapter.

What Kind of Songs/Tunes Should We Play? Song selection is up to the Chapter. It seems that as many SongFarmer Chapters we have, we have that many different types of music played. Some are folk, some are gospel, some are bluegrass, some encourage Open Mic Performance, some are country and most are a combination of one or more genres. There is NO PRESCRIBED type of music. The SongFarmer Creative Board is however in the process of putting together a book of songs and tunes that can help a new chapter get their feet wet and fingers sore. Stay Tuned!

Remember to JOIN SongFarmers Club of America Facebook Group so chapter leaders can share ideas ... <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1374133242659019/> **ENCOURAGE your local folks to become WFPA SongFarmers members**, their small membership fee helps keep the root music program FREE to schools and the Gathering FREE to SongFarmers.

That's it for May 2018. Spring has sprung in much of the Country. It's a good time to claim the porch! Invite your neighbors. Make a Joyful Noise!

Perry Brake

SongFarmers of Tellico Plains, Tennessee

You think tuning a banjo is impossible? Try playing a FRETLESS banjo!



The Nat'l "Gathering of SongFarmers" Oct 12, 13, 2018 Berea KY
All the information you need: SongFarmers.org