

CEDAR HILL 25 Years

On June 23rd, **Cedar Hill** will mark its 25th anniversary with an extra special celebration at Eddie's Attic in Decatur, GA. The event will be somewhat akin to an anniversary/coming-out/reunion/homecoming party all rolled into one. Performances will feature band members, **Jim "Duck" Adkins, Bob and Fred MacIsaac, Brad Laird**; Cedar Hill's newest member fiddler **Pete Lussier**; previous band members **Merideth Northcutt, Chip Dunbar, Jeff Johnson, and Jerry Zee**; plus a host of other special guest musicians who have had the fortunate misfortune of being associated with Cedar Hill in some form or fashion during the past 25 years. (E.g., bail bondsman, parole officer, fret polisher, etc.)



L-R Brad Laird, Jim "Duck" Adkins, Fred MacIsaac, and Bob MacIsaac

To commemorate their milestone, Cedar Hill is releasing a limited edition CD (limited to anyone who will purchase one :-)) containing 25 selected cuts or slivers from *live* Cedar Hill performances over the past quarter century. There is but one exception to that last statement. *I-285 Blues*, an original song written by Jim and Jerry, was recorded "in the can" (recording studio); but nonetheless, participating Cedar Hill members were at least half-alive on that mournful day when "Bubba Andretti in his 57 Chevy", and "Mr. Twilight Zone on his mobile phone", were born "on"—err I mean—"in the can."



L-R Jim Adkins, Dewey Northcutt, Fred MacIsaac, Merideth Northcutt, Bob MacIsaac, and Chip Dunbar

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: Cedar Hill lawyers are requiring Cedar Hill to issue the following statement to anyone planning to attend the June 23rd Cedar Hill extravaganza:

WARNING: This event will contain a mega-dose of Duck-Wave disguised in the form of an advertisement entitled “Duck Whitman’s All My Love.” If the Duck-Wave doesn’t get to you, watch out still for “Wild Bob’s” Ronko Pocket Soprano. Disguised as an ordinary guitar capo, the Ronko Pocket Soprano can, when placed in a front pocket, change the baritone in your life!

Interesting notes and facts about Cedar Hill members and band:

- **Jim “Duck” Adkins** started quacking as a baby duck at 5 years old; was SEBA’s second president (1987-88); works as a Human Resource Professional for Delta Air Lines
- **Fred MacIsaac** is a bluegrass DJ for WRFG (89.3 FM) appearing on “Spam & Grits” and “My Own House”; works as a parts manager for a local car dealership; and is partner/owner along with his brother, Bob, of “**Two Bros. Racing**” affiliated with the SCCA

- **Bob MacIsaac** is a luthier; owns his own instrument repair shop (**Bob’s Guitar Service** formerly called Atlanta Guitarcraft); is sometimes referred to as “Brutus” because he is Cedar Hill’s resident bouncer; and is President of the Atlanta Chapter of the SCCA

	<u>Current Members</u>	<u>Years in Cedar Hill</u>	<u>Instrument(s):</u>
*	Jim “Duck” Adkins	1976 - present	Banjo
*	“Wild Bob” MacIsaac	1976-1978, 1980 - present	Guitar
*	“Ready Freddy” MacIsaac	1976-1991, 1996 - present	Bass Fiddle
*	“Ranger Brad” Laird	1983 - present	Mandolin
*	“Okefenokee Pete” Lussier	2001 - present	Fiddle
	<u>Previous Members</u>		
*	Jerry Zee “Heavy Equipment Man”	1991-1996	Electric Bass
*	Jeff “Crunchy Cookies” Johnson	1981-1987	Fiddle / Mandolin
*	Chip “Golden Throat” Dunbar	1979-1983	Mandolin
	Jimmy “Blacksheep” Rutherford	1979	Guitar
*	Merideth “Merp” Northcutt	1976-1979	Fiddle
	Dewey Northcutt (Deceased)	1976-1979	Mandolin

- **Brad Laird** is a graphic artist by trade; a flint knapper; a home brewer; printer for the first several years of the SEBA Breakdown; and threw one *muy mucho bueno* Cinco de Mayo pickin’ party last month
- **Pete Lussier** is a transplanted Yankee (born in Connecticut); an automotive technician (mechanic) by trade; business partner in Petes’ Import Garage; played his first gig with Cedar Hill on April 14th of this year at the Atlanta Steeplechase; has played in numerous eclectic bands including Lost Angels, Zen Dixie, and Redneck Greece Deluxe
- **Jerry Zee**, named “Heavy Equipment Man”, not because of his manhood, but due to his slave status and rookie role during set up at CH gigs; has written several songs for children and released them on a CD entitled “Boogie Woogie Bullfrog”; currently works at Magic Audio in Atlanta, and performs in and around Atlanta with various groups
- **Jeff Johnson PHD**; is currently the Head Choral Director at the University of Kentucky in Lexington; growing up was a member of the Atlanta Boys Choir; left Cedar Hill in 1987 to tour Europe with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony as a member of the Atlanta Symphony Chorus; Cedar Hill claims full responsibility for training him so well!
- **Chip Dunbar**, the original Apeman, is an entrepreneur and owner of Gorilla Computing & Sound (see his website at <http://www.spacebeat.com/gorilla/>), is known as “Golden Throat” for obvious reasons when he sings; lives in Sebastopol, California with wife Sara; left Cedar Hill in 1983 to pursue musical interests and mandolin lessons from renowned mandolin player Mike Marshall
- **Jimmy Rutherford**, sometimes called the “Blacksheep” of Cedar Hill because he is mysterious, seldom seen, but more so because of his black, Clark Gable style, pencil-mustache, and the black cowboy hat he always use to wear; currently plays guitar and sings with wife, Donna, in band called **New 5¢**
- **Merideth Northcutt**, nickname “Merp” which is short for “Merpie-poo” (don’t ask, it’s a family thang!); can sing harmony, including tenor to a dog, any time and anywhere; works as a Human Resource professional for Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta (formerly Eggleston / Scottish Rite)

- **Dewey Northcutt (deceased)** was a horseman/jockey by trade in his early years; looked a lot like (the late) John Denver--because of the way he wore his hair and due to the wire rim glasses he wore before he got contacts--although he didn't much like the comparison; sang like one of his heroes, Frank Wakefield; loved his wife, Merideth, son, Drew, all his friends, and bluegrass with a passion; was the common thread in Cedar Hill, introducing all of the founding members of Cedar Hill (Jim, Bob, Fred, Merideth) to one another; *Cedar Hill is dedicating their 25th anniversary celebration in memory of Dewey.*
- **Cedar Hill** took its name from the first bluegrass song ever written by renowned mandolin player, and Father of *Dawg* Music, David Grisman. As the story goes, Grisman wanted to name his song in honor of the Father of Bluegrass, Bill Monroe, so, he took out the state map of Kentucky (Monroe's home state), looked at the coordinates "F-5" (style of Gibson mandolin played by Monroe) and chose the name of closest town or community he saw which just happened to be "Cedar Hill"
- During the past 25 years, **Cedar Hill** has been featured as an opening act in Atlanta for several music legends including Doc Watson, Earl Scruggs and the Dillards' Leon Russell, Ozark Mountain Daredevils (ok, legends in their own mind), Hot Rize, The Country Gentlemen, and Phish (believe it or not!)
- **Cedar Hill** was voted Favorite Entertainer and Best Bluegrass band for five consecutive years (1981-1985) at the McIntosh Amphitheater in Peachtree City, GA.