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Contact: Jane Keeley, 608-632-2720 www.gaysmillsfolkfest.org

The Gays Mills Folk Festival of Music and Dance

GAYS MILLS, WI- Spring is here and the Gays Mills Folk Festival of Music and Dance is just around the corner. The festival happens every Mother's Day weekend and the 2016, 24th annual festival takes place May 6th, 7th, and 8th in beautiful Gays Mills, Wisconsin.

The Festival kicks off Friday evening at 7:00 pm with a square, contra and old time dance in the old Gays Mills community building at 212 Main Street. All dances are taught, no partners are needed and all ages and beginners are welcome. The music is live with banjos, fiddles, and other old-timey instruments, and fun is sure to be had!

Saturday activities for the whole family start at noon at Lion's Park by the Kickapoo River in the village. Afternoon activities include May crown making, an open stage (bring your talent), workshops conducted by evening performers, a Maypole dance, and the ever-popular fiddle bee. This year there will be a special concert by **Anima**, two talented young singer/songwriters from the Driftless area, at the shelter at 1:00 pm.

The Saturday evening concert begins at 7:00 pm in the old Gays Mills Community building and will highlight three musical performances. **Charlie Parr** is an American Country Blues musician from Duluth, Minnesota. His musical influences include Dave Van Ronk, Mississippi John Hurt and Charlie Patton. His resonator infused folk songs are played on a National resonator guitar, a fretless banjo and a 12-string guitar, often in the Piedmont blues style (www.charlieparr.com).

Red Tail Ring is the musical brainchild of two old-time-minded Michiganders – Michael Beauchamp and Laurel Premo. Whether rendering a traditional tune or one of their many original compositions, the duo infuses each song with musical imagination, haunting harmonies and instrumental artistry on fiddle, banjo, mandolin, jawharp, and plain-old foot stomping (www.redtailring.com).

The Dumpy Jug Bumpers are a string band that brings back the reckless sounds of country blues, ragtime, and jug band music from the era of shellac 78's. Playing a menagerie of acoustic string and mouth instruments, they transform any stage or street corner into a barrelhouse romp, as their licks get you shakin' and stompin'. They were the champions of Duluth's 16th Annual Battle of The Jug Bands in 2012 (www.dumpyjugbumpers.com).

As is the tradition, the Folk Fest winds down with a good old fashioned Gospel Sing on Sunday at 11:00 am at Robb Park. Also, be sure to check out all the concurrent Gays Mills Spring Festival events, antique tractor pull, Sunday pancake breakfast, and much more (www.gaysmillswi.com).

Ticket prices for the Gays Mills Folk Festival are \$7 for the Friday night dance (\$2 children), \$17 for the Saturday night concert (\$5 children). All park activities are free will donation. More information may be obtained by calling 608-632-2720 or visiting the festival website at www.gaysmillsfolkfest.org.

The Gays Mills Folk Festival is a project of the Kickapoo Cultural Exchange. WORT 89.9 fm is a proud sponsor.

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