

March 1, 2017 - FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

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 2017, 25th annual festival takes place May 12th, 13th, and 14th 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.

Saturday afternoon also features a special event with **Liz Rog**, (www.facebook.com/lizrog/) community song leader from the Decorah, Iowa area. Liz uses group singing as a tool for building community and for restoring our sense of belonging and connection in the world. Her song circles offer a safe, fun, and supported space where all voices are welcome.

The Kickapoo Exchange Natural Food Store will be hosting a chili dinner in the new Watercrest Cafe (www.facebook.com/watercrestcafe/) behind the store between 5 and 7. This dinner is always popular, with live music and great food. And new this year, the Watercrest Cafe will be serving a Sunday brunch on Mother's Day.

The Saturday evening concert begins at 7:00 pm in the old Gays Mills Community building and will highlight three musical performances. **The Bootlicker Stringband** (www.bootlickerstringband.net) is a Minneapolis-based old-time band. They play tunes and sing songs from many regions of the country for concerts and square dances. The five members of the band come from diverse musical backgrounds. Their collective expertise comes through with music that is of high quality, fun and entertaining. The band members are Rina Rossi on bass, Aaron Tacke on banjo, AJ Srubas on fiddle and mandolin, Lee Guthrie on fiddle and uke

and Arne Peltó on guitar. And they all sing. This high energy band will surely get your toe tapping.

The Radio Wranglers (www.radiowranglers.net) hail from Wisconsin and are heavily influenced by the sounds of the 1930's, 40's and 50's, with influences ranging from Country and Western, Western Swing and Honky Tonk. Drawing influences from such artists as Bob Wills, Ernest Tubb and Hank Williams, the Radio Wranglers also write original music with a taste of the past. From waltzes to boogies, hot swing to high and lonesome blues, the band presents a unique blend of true American music. Fronted by the twin fiddle team of Blaine and Ruthie McQuinn on fiddle and vocals, The Radio Wranglers are Danny Tyksinski on lead guitar, and Ed Novak on rhythm guitar, and Peyton Lencho on doghouse bass.

The Parrishes (www.facebook.com/catherineandtedparrish/) are a musical duo Ted and Catherine Parrish based in Viroqua, Wisconsin, their home since 2007. The couple originally met in Chicago where they were both teaching at the Old Town School of Folk Music. Their two musical worlds converged since relocating to Viroqua. They began to perform together an eclectic mix of songs from standards to obscure gems from the past. The Parrishes also write original music that blends their musical styles and experiences. Their music showcases skills developed over many years of dedication to their art.

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 and Organic Valley are proud sponsors.

###