

Flatrock Bluegrass Jamboree comes to Armstrong Creek

Get ready for three days of great bluegrass and camping in Armstrong Creek. The Flatrock Bluegrass Jamboree is happening Thursday to Saturday, June 22, 23 and 24 at Stonewall Music Park, 7395 Engleking Rd. and promises an excellent lineup of acts from across the United States.

This is the 23rd year of the festival, but the first time it's being held in Armstrong Creek. It origi-

nally started in 1997 as a birthday bash for co-founder Randy Wilson.

"I was turning 40 and decided to have a party," said Wilson. "The first year it was held in Brownsville, Wis. and there was a really good turnout."

A few years later, his buddy and festival co-founder Steve Kuehl said maybe we can have a birthday party for me?

That was in 2001 and since then the celebration

has been held in Pulaski, Big Flats, Birnamwood, Antigo, Deerbrook, Crivitz and most recently Farmer Jean's

campground in Marion which was recently sold to new owners who want to go in a different direction.

Dawn Danielczak and John Zattera are the owners of the Stonewall Music Park and bought the 80-acre property with the intention of building a campground.

"Hopefully this will be our forever home. Dawn has been at our festival for a few years, and when she heard our previous venue was no longer available, she suggested her property," said Wilson.

The exciting lineup for the festival kicks off with Grammy Award winning artist Ralph Stanley II & The Clinch

Mountain Boys headlining Friday night 8:30 to 11 p.m. Ralph II has had two Grammy nominations on previous albums he recorded with Rebel Records. In 2002 he earned his first Grammy along with his father Dr. Ralph Stanley for their collaboration with Jim Lauderdale on 'Lost in the Lonesome Pines.' Ralph II has proven to be

an accomplished songwriter and has 6 solo albums under his belt, along with the highly acclaimed duet album with his father titled 'Side by Side.'

The weekend continues, featuring the Alum Ridge Boys and Ashlee, newcomers to the Flatrock Jamboree. Drawing inspiration from many great string bands along

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Organizers Randy Wilson and Steve Kuehl during the second Flatrock held in June 2002.

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