



### **3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GRAND TARGHEE BLUEGRASS CAMP**

The 3rd Annual Grand Targhee Bluegrass Camp will be held August 5-8, preceding the Targhee Bluegrass Festival. Located at the Grand Targhee Resort in Alta, WY, the setting is ideal for getting away from the daily grind and spending some quality time in the mountains picking and singing.

Headlining the all-star line up of instructors is Darrell Scott, who will be teaching songwriting. The staff also includes Tony Trischka (bluegrass banjo), Rob Ickes (dobro), Jeremy Garrett (fiddle), Tim Stafford & John Lowell (guitar), Brian Wicklund (mandolin) and Eric Thorin (bass). Using bluegrass music as the common language, the camp will focus on teaching individual instrumental skills and on group playing and jamming. Each day is comprised of morning and afternoon classes, elective workshops, jam sessions (both structured and unstructured) and evening performances.

While music camps and bluegrass workshops are cropping up all across the country, two things that make the Targhee camp unique are its size and the location. Class sizes are intentionally kept small so the instruction is really hands on and interactive. And the overall camp community has an intimate feel; the students and staff really get to know each other. Says former student, Bob Bolte of Salt Lake City, "it was wonderful to have the personal experience with the instructors – through meals, jamming, off hours and workshops. They were all so personable."

Situated at 8000 feet, students are literally living and learning in the Tetons. Mountain music in the mountains – all with a comfortable bed and wholesome meals. And when fingers get too sore for picking, there are trails for hiking, mountain biking, chairlift rides, a swimming pool and spa, not to mention the world famous Trap Bar.

One of the highlights of the Grand Targhee Bluegrass Camp is the "mountain jam", when the entire camp – students and staff – rides the chairlift to the top of Fred's Mountain for a session of tunes.

“The mountain top jam was awesome! You can’t do that anywhere else but Targhee” remarked fiddle instructor, Brian Wicklund, “*High on a Mountain Top* never sounded so good.”

Another special feature of the camp is the Thursday night concert series – Music on Main – where hundreds of locals gather for an evening of free music in nearby Driggs, ID. Each year the teaching staff, a.k.a., The Targhee Bluegrass Allstars, take the stage for an impromptu showcase of all the hot licks they’ve been teaching all week.

Grand Targhee Bluegrass Camp is the brainchild of festival promoter, Tom Garnsey of Vootie Productions and Teton Valley’s resident mandolinist, Ben Winship. “Tom was trying to think of ways to up the ante for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Targhee Bluegrass Festival and we decided that the location and timing were perfect,” says Winship. “Targhee was already home to the highly successful Greater Yellowstone Music Camp and the idea of education in the mountains dovetails nicely with the resort’s mission. So it was a matter of designing a curriculum, which I’ve had experience with from teaching at a lot of these workshops across the country, and then promoting it.”

“Securing the teaching staff isn’t too tough,” adds Tom Garnsey. “For most of these guys, Targhee is one of their favorite festivals in terms of the laid back vibe and location. So I don’t have to twist too many arms to get them to show up early and teach.”

While most students opt for the full package of meals and lodging, others camp in their RV’s and some students commute from nearby Teton Valley and Jackson Hole. This year’s student body will also include an international contingent with participants from Spain and the UK.

Given that the camp is still in its early years, only one level of instruction is offered per instrument. In the future more classes will be offered, but for now classes are geared towards the intermediate and advanced players. Questions about perspective student’s ability level can be directed to [bluegrasscamp@benwinship.com](mailto:bluegrasscamp@benwinship.com).

Says camp director Ben Winship, “I think this camp is one of the best kept secrets in acoustic music - our classes are small, the staff is amazing, we have a killer setting, and great food. What more do you need?”

For additional information visit:

<http://www.grandtarghee.com/summer/music-festivals/music-camp.php>

or write to: [bluegrasscamp@benwinship.com](mailto:bluegrasscamp@benwinship.com)