

Chandler area festival grounds Host Stone River Music Festival

By Damon Blalack

Think your chance for a post-summer outdoor weekend getaway is over? If you're a grassroots music-lover and/or camping enthusiast and want to make the most of your Sept. 24-26 weekend, a music festival is coming to Chandler, OK for those three days. Billed as the first annual Stone River Music Festival, the event has been organized by musician Dustin Pittsley and Tulsa club owner (The Eclipse) Jeff Martinson, as a way to highlight great Oklahoma grassroots bands, as well as give the region an opportunity to create a community that will grow over time. Located on 40 heavily-wooded acres around the newly-constructed Seven Springs Amphitheater, there will be many activities to engage in around the hiking trails and creeks, in between listening to the full music lineup. And to keep you going there will be food, arts and crafts, and beer vendors on location, so you shouldn't have much to pack.

Bands on the docket include Randy Crouch and the Flying Horse Opera, the Tom Skinner Science Project, Freakshow, the Paul Benjamin Band, Steve Pryor, Jesse Aycock, Pilgrim, Little Chairs, Klondike5, Whirligig, Fiawna Forte, Little Joe McClerran, the Dustin Pittsley Band, and the Folk Salad Acoustic Showcase: Scott Aycock, Jeff Martinson, Sage Flower, Wink Burcham, Charlie Munn, and Desi and Cody.

The event is located on private land prepared and donated for the event by Lincoln County residents Jim and Vickie Pittsley, at 860637 S. 3430 Rd., three miles north of Chandler. Vickie said she and her husband were approached by their son Dustin and his business partner Martinson, after they bought the land two years ago. Since then it has been a family effort to clear trails and space, as well as construct the amphitheatre for not only this event, but for many more potential events to come; the ongoing land preparation can be seen in a fun video montage embedded on the official site.

The hope is that the event will draw a crowd of at least 500 attendees,

The Dustin Pittsley Band - Doug Wehmeyer (left), Dustin Pittsley (center) and Don Wood.



but of course the family is prepared and hopeful for more. Besides this inaugural event, the family would like to host two or three other musical events each year, as well as make the space available for wedding, birthday, and other rentals. The success of this year's festival will help spur the onset of such other great opportunities at the locale for music and camping lovers statewide; with good will, it could turn into this state's Wakarusa or Mulberry Mountain Harvest Festival (Arkansas).

As one online user commented about the event, "With a lineup like this and a location (like that), it's gonna be a memory maker." Tickets to the event will be \$15 per day, or \$25 for the whole weekend and can be purchased at www.ticketstorm.com, Diamond Tag Agency in Chandler, Eclipse in Tulsa, Starship Records in Tulsa and Party Galaxy in Oklahoma City. With the cooler temperatures that are sure to be in effect by the end of the month, now is the perfect time to get out and get in some quality primitive camping time,

as well as have the chance to see a great lineup of local grassroots musical talent. The official hours are 3 p.m. to midnight on Sept. 24, 8 a.m. - midnight on Sept. 25, and 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Sept. 26. Primitive camping is free, and cool-

ers are allowed, however the festival organizers make it clear that pets are not allowed to the event (excepting service animals). For more information go to www.stonerivermusicfestival.com, or call (405) 258-0388.

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