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Popular Midsummer Bluegrass Music Festival Returns

MANITOWISH WATERS – Set among the towering pine trees and lake-dotted landscape in Manitowish Waters comes some of the sweetest bluegrass music you will ever hear. The 29th annual **Midsummer Bluegrass Music Festival** on Thursday-Sunday, July 26-29 will feature music by artists and bands from all over the nation.

Hosted by the Cozy Cove Tavern & Restaurant, this year's outdoor event (Wisconsin's longest running bluegrass festival) features five headline artists/bands: Dale Ann Bradley, the Dale Ann Bradley Band, hailing from South Carolina, Nashville-based Johnny Campbell & the Bluegrass Drifters, the Roe Family Singers (Minnesota), and Indiana's Branded Bluegrass Band.

While there will be innovative tunes from a number of genres including folk, blues, Texas Swing, rock, roots, Americana, acoustic jazz, Cajun and Celtic, this Bluegrass cast represents the most approachable and accessible of all the genres of music. For example, at the scheduled Bluegrass Institute of the Northwoods Sponsored Question & Answer sessions, patrons may ask Dale Ann Bradley, 5 time International Bluegrass Music Association's Bluegrass Association's (IBMA) Female Vocalist of the Year, questions ranging from tips about vocals to how Women in Bluegrass have historically made their mark on the Bluegrass genre. Each year over the past 3 decades the Midsummer Stage has been graced by stellar women vocalists. Elite among the performers at the Manitowish Waters Bluegrass Show who have also been crowned IBMA Female Vocalists of the Year include: Alison Krause (1992) Laurie Lewis (1993) and Claire Lynch (1995).

Pinecastle Records, a record label that Dale Ann Bradley is affiliated with, declares: "Ms. Bradley has one of the purest voices in music, authentic and filled with emotion. Whether she's singing about "Southern Memories" or lost love in "I'll Just Go Away," the listener feels every word she sings. Her vocals soar on the a cappella "Stand By Me" and weave the story of the mysterious "Champagne Lady." The listener is instantly drawn into the beauty of her voice and the stories it tells." As Donald Teplyske critiques: "Over the years, her music has become more sophisticated, but at its core it remains pure and true." Dale Ann Bradley's recent Grammy and 9 Female Vocalist of the Year nominations are only superseded by being crowned IBMA Female Vocalist of the Year 5 Times.

Also, look for a silver touring bus to facade Highway 51 adjacent to the Cozy Cove grounds with their passengers Johnny Campbell and The Bluegrass Drifters routed all the way from Nashville. The caliber of Johnny's fiddle playing has not found its superb match since the first 12 years of the festival when Johnny's brother, the late Jimmy Campbell, performed at the Midsummer Bluegrass festival with Bill Monroe, Father of Bluegrass, & The Bluegrass Boys (1991), Jim and Jesse (1996) Dave Evans & River Bend (2001) and various configuration of bands with Sidekicks who frequented the Station Inn jam sessions in Nashville. Johnny Campbell will be open to reflect on his life on the Nashville music scene and shared memories of his brother at a Meet & Greet opportunity scheduled for Friday at 4:30 PM inside the 1930s vintage Cozy Cove.

The line-up for Thursday, Friday and Saturday includes Johnny Campbell & The Bluegrass Drifters (Nashville), Branded Bluegrass (Indiana), Roe Family Singers (Minnesota) and the intriguing HurleyWoodz (Hurley/Ironwood) and more.

Sunday's Gospel line-up allows for farewell performances by the Roe Family Singers, (10 AM) followed by the Dale Ann Bradley Band as the artists premiere songs of their recently released Gospel Recordings.

Daily and weekend, family special and all access pass (includes camping on-site) are among your ticket options. RV or trailer camping is also available; all campsites are rustic. Cozy Cove is located on 5786 U.S. Highway 51. Bring a blanket or lawn chair for the musical performances.

Make it a full week of fun by staying at one of the local lodging facilities. A serene natural Northwoods beauty frames the township of Manitowish Waters. Just across the street is a paved hike/bike path leading to the downtown and elsewhere. So, bring your bike and walking shoes for an excursion in between sets.

For more information, contact bluegrass festival founder and Cozy Cove owner Jerry Florian at 715-543-2166, info@midsummerbluegrass.com. Visit www.MidsummerBluegrass.com to see the full schedule and detailed ticket information.