



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Dottie Osmun

dottieosmun@gmail.com

252-617-0540

Red Clay Ramblers to play 2017 Ol' Front Porch Music Fest; Dom Flemons to open October celebration

ORIENTAL, NC – April 21, 2017 – This year's fourth annual Ol' Front Porch Music Festival will feature the Tony Award-winning **Red Clay Ramblers**. The nationally known North Carolina string band will play on the Main Stage on Saturday, Oct. 7. Admission is free.

The Red Clay Ramblers' repertoire is rooted in old-time mountain music, bluegrass, country rock, jazz and gospel. They have appeared on national television and radio, including "A Prairie Home Companion," the NBC "Tonight Show," and CBS "This Morning," and have toured North America, Europe and the Middle East. In 1999, their musical show *Fool Moon* enjoyed a five-week run at the Kennedy Center and later received a Special Tony Award at the Gershwin Theater in New York.

The Ol' Front Porch Music Festival also has signed The American Songster **Dom Flemons**, a founding member of the Grammy winning Carolina Chocolate Drops. Flemons will appear at the Old Theater on Friday evening, Oct. 6, to kick off this year's festival. Tickets will be sold for this show.

Flemons, a native of Arizona who now lives in North Carolina, sings and plays guitar, banjo, bones, harmonica, fife and jug. The Carolina Chocolate Drops, with whom Flemons performed until 2013, "extended the tradition of African-American string bands of the 1920s and '30s," according to National Public Radio. The band won a Grammy for Best Traditional Folk Album in 2010. Flemons' first solo album, *Prospect Hill*, reflects his interest in old-time music, blues, early jazz and R&B.

"We are thrilled to be able to bring these fabulous performers to Oriental and the Ol' Front Porch Music Festival," said Dottie Osmun, president of the Festival board of directors.

The Ol' Front Porch Music Festival celebrates the musical heritage of North Carolina every year with a full day of roots music using the front porches of homes and businesses in Oriental as

Ol' Front Porch Music Festival, Inc. | P.O. Box 775, Oriental, NC 28571 | olfrontporchmusicfestival.org

stages. The music ranges from bluegrass, folk and Americana, to gospel and blues. All porch performances are free. The festival also features a Village Market showcasing dozens of local and regional artisans and crafters, a Food Court, and the Oriental Rotary Club's Classic Car Show.

In other Festival news, cyclists participating in Cycle North Carolina's 3-day Coastal Spring Ride in late April will get a taste of Oriental's fall music fest. On April 29, the group Moores Creek Bluegrass will perform for the cyclists in a concert presented by Ol' Front Porch Music Festival, Inc.

The Merritt-based bluegrass ensemble, a regular entrant in Oriental's annual Ol' Front Porch Music Festival, will perform on the Festival Main Stage opposite Lou Mac Park at South Avenue and Freemason Street from 5-7 pm on Saturday, April 29. Dinner will be served for registered participants in the CycleNC event.

Ol' Front Porch Music Festival, Inc., a nonprofit organization, receives support from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

For more information about Oriental's annual Ol' Front Porch Music Festival, please visit www.olfrontporchmusicfestival.org

END