



A TASTE OF AMERICANA IN SHAWANO



Coming to Franklin Park for the 43rd Shawano Folk Music Festival scheduled for Aug. 14 are, clockwise from top left, Mike Watroba, Tom Pease and Stuart Stotts, The Sapsuckers, and the Georgia Rae Family Band. SEE STORY ON PAGE 2.

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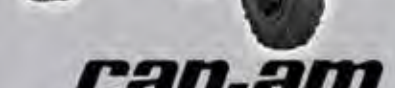
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Shawano Folk Music Festival aims to come back singing in 2021

Five hours of music planned Saturday at Franklin Park

By NEW MEDIA STAFF

After four decades of growth, the Shawano Folk Music Festival was handed a setback in 2020, like everyone else, in the form of a pandemic that put almost everyone's plans on hold.

With COVID-19 and its variants still on people's minds this year, the venerable festival is coming back with the same level of enthusiasm in a smaller package.

The 2021 festival will be one day only, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 14, and moving from Mielke County Park to Franklin Park in downtown Shawano, and all outdoors — no indoor evening concerts.

The lineup of performers for the five hours of continuous music includes:

- Matt Watroba, who describes himself as a community singer, song leader and educator. Producer and host of the Folks Like Us program, as well as the nationally syndicated Sing Out Radio Magazine and the streaming service Folk Alley, Watroba has come in contact with many aspects of folk music and culture. In 2019 he was inducted into the Folk DJ Hall of Fame at the Folk Alliance International conference in Montreal. For information, visit www.mattwatroba.net.

- In Tom Pease and Stuart Stotts,



The crowd takes in a performance at the Mielke Arts Center during a past Shawano Folk Music Festival. The event was canceled during the 2020 pandemic and plans a comeback at Franklin Park on Saturday.

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organizers pledge “a double dose of laughter, movement, stories, music and fun” for families. Pease is well-known in Wisconsin for his energetic and somewhat wacky performances for children and families. Stotts is an author, storyteller, educator and songwriter who's sung with kids and families in schools, libraries and community settings around the world since 1984. More about Pease at tompease.com; more about Stotts at stuartstotts.com.

- The Georgia Rae Family Band is fronted by two sisters from Richmond, Illinois, near the Wisconsin border: Georgia Rae is a seven-time

state fiddle champion, and Kelly Jo is lead singer/ukelele player. They're joined by their “punk rockin’ momma” on guitar, Joe Burie on bass and Mykaal Baas on mandolin. Georgia and Kelly have grown into quite a songwriting team since they began playing together at ages 12 and 15. For information, visit georgiaraefamilyband.com.

- The Sapsuckers perform original country/Americana ranging from hillbilly roots to Nashville pop. Nikki Grossman (guitar, fiddle, lead vocals) and Joe Hart (guitar, mandolin, vocals) got their start together as an old-time fiddle band, performing for

square and contra dances. In 2018, they were nominated for Best Country Band in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry Assn. This is their first visit to Shawano. For information, visit www.sapsuckersmusic.com.

In 1979, the Old Time Music and Crafts Festival began as a small event with a few musicians. The stage was the back of a wagon, and the volunteers who made it happen said, “Let's do it again next year.” More than 40 years later, the festival still aims to bring an eclectic mix of musicians to town, including some of the finest in the country.

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A ballet line performs during the Shawano Ski Sharks' team performance during the Division 2 Show Ski National Championships on Aug. 7 in Shawano.

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SKI SHARKS RULE AT NATIONALS

The Shawano Ski Sharks took second out of nine teams during the Division 2 Show Ski National Championships that Shawano hosted. The Sharks had several individuals shine as well.



The Shawano Ski Sharks put on a strong performance during the second day of the Division 2 Show Ski National Championships on Aug. 7 in Shawano.

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Fans look on as the Shawano Ski Sharks perform as a team during the Division 2 Show Ski National Championships on Aug. 7 in Shawano.

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*Congratulations
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Weekend!!! Way to Go!!!*



Shawano Ski Sharks' Brad Keuschel, bottom, holds up Kylie Wallace during the strap doubles open competition on Aug. 6 in Shawano. Individual competition kicked off the Division 2 Show Ski National Championships.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

FRIDAY, AUG. 13

SHAWANO: Bluegrass Bash in the Woods, 8:30 p.m., Classic's Restaurant and Lounge, W6026 Lake Drive. Music by Liver Killers. Grill'n meats provided by Smoke'n Joe and proceeds to benefit Safe Haven. \$5 cover.

SATURDAY, AUG. 14

GILLET: Oconto County Youth Fair Horse Show, 9:30 a.m., Zippel Park.

SHAWANO: Annual Folk Music Festival, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Free, bring lawn chair or blanket, live music, quilt raffle.

BREED: Music by The Rejects, 3-7 p.m., Arrowhead Saloon, 13486 County Road AA.

SUNDAY, AUG. 15

SHAWANO: Zurko Promotions flea market, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shawano County Fairgrounds, 990 E. Green Bay St.

GILLET: Oconto County Youth Fair domestic animal shows, 8 a.m. to noon, Zippel Park. Caged bird and small pets 8:30 a.m., junior cat show followed by open class 9:30 a.m., dog show 11:30 a.m.

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto Falls Flea Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Memorial Field.

SHAWANO: Music in the Park featuring Blue Notes, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Memorial Park, 909 S. Lincoln St. Bring a

lawn chair.

TUESDAY, AUG. 17

OCONTO FALLS: Oconto County Farmers Market, 4-8 p.m., Highland Plaza, 323 E. Highland Drive.

WITTENBERG: Walls of Wittenberg Second Tuesday Concert Series, 6-8 p.m., WOWSpace, 114 Vinal St. Music by The Drovers. Free admission and ice cream, bring lawn chairs, in case of bad weather, concerts held in WOWSpace, donations welcome.

SHAWANO: Interactive Outdoor Movie, 8:30-10 p.m., Arlington Park, 300 N. Humphrey Circle. "Welcome to the Jungle." Bring your own chairs and snacks.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 18

SHAWANO: Shawano Ski Sharks season finale, 6 p.m., Smalley Park, 211 Riverside Drive. Pre-show 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUG. 19

GILLET: Oconto County Youth Fair, Zippel Park. Exhibition area open 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Opening ceremony 6 p.m. Ag Olympics 7 p.m. Music by Positive Energy/Karaoke Contest 7-11 p.m.

SHAWANO: Thursdays at Franklin featuring Conscious Pilot, 6-8:30 p.m., Franklin Park, 235 S. Washington St. Food and beverage vendors.

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