

Albino Skunk Bluegrass Festival got its start as backyard bash

Bluegrass event now features 20 bands over 2 days

By Amy Clarke
Staff writer

It started out as a simple backyard party. It's now celebrating its 15th year as the <http://www.albinoskunk.com> target="_blank">Albino Skunk Bluegrass Festival.

"It started out as a private party," said festival organizer Glynn Zeigler. "I was just going to have a little barbecue and get some friends over and play some bluegrass music on the CD player.

"And I said, 'Well, shoot, I know some bands, so we'll just have a few bands pick.'"

Things grew from there, with Zeigler, a longtime festival-goer and music fan, adding more bands and more people as the years went on.

What was a makeshift stage made of a few pieces of plywood has been turned into a permanent stage in the midst of a natural amphitheater. Zeigler has cultivated and groomed what once was an open field into camping areas, a playground and more and even added a road onto his Greer property to accommodate visitors.

The name, he said, came from that first year when he and his wife spotted some white skunks on their property. Not truly albinos – they have a black stripe – the skunks just came to be a fun symbol for the bash.

"We want people to come out and sit under the trees and enjoy the music and bring their kids and bring their grandparents, and they can bring their cooler too," he said. "We call it good ol' time fun."

This weekend's Albino Skunk Bluegrass Festival will feature 20 bluegrass and Americana performers over two days, including Massachusetts-based trio Red Molly and The Steep Canyon Rangers.

"Part of our mission is to bring in bands that people aren't familiar with, that don't play around here much," Zeigler said. "We try to catch bands on the upswing, too, that we think are going to be great."

Some features of the weekend include a homemade barbecue dinner Saturday, a kiddie circus, the "boneless chicken dance stage" for those who are so moved and more.

Bring some lawn chairs, a blanket and a flashlight, Zeigler said, and come on out.

One- or two-day tickets to the festival are available from \$17 to \$64. There's an extra charge for the barbecue dinner and overnight camping passes. For more information on the festival, including directions and tickets, visit www.albinoskunk.com.

Additional Facts

YOU CAN GO

- What: 15th annual Albino Skunk Bluegrass Festival
 - When: Friday and Saturday
 - Where: 4063 Jordan Road, Greer
 - Cost: \$17-\$64
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