

Passing It On: Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program

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Sacred and Ceremonial Arts: Master Indian dancer Asha Premachandra of St. Louis, Mo., demonstrates for her apprentice.

Since 1984, the Missouri Folk Arts Program, with annual funding from the Missouri Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, has fostered 343 apprenticeships between master traditional artists and their apprentices. The Missouri Folk Arts Program staff is proud to shepherd forward with seven new apprenticeships in 2010 and a slate of celebrations.

We kick off with a series of slide shows on our newly updated website: <http://maa.missouri.edu/mfap>. The 173 master artists who have participated in Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program are featured in slide shows grouped by art forms: Domestic Arts; Music, Dance and Oral Traditions; Occupational Arts; Old-time Music and Dance; Outdoor Lore; and Sacred and Ceremonial Arts. A very small sampling is included here.

Artists also will be showcased at the Festival of Nations in St. Louis' Tower Grove Park this August 29–30 and at the Old-time Music and Ozark Heritage Festival in West Plains, Mo. the weekend of June 18–20, 2010.

With traditions as diverse as old-time fiddling and Sudanese dance, low-rider upholstery and home hog butchering, the Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program will continue to foster and encourage folk artists to pass on their traditions, new and old, in communities across Missouri.



Music, Dance and Oral Tradition: Master Croatian musician Josef Stulac displays traditional instruments in his St. Louis, Mo., home.

Eighteen TAAP master artists were selected for the program five or more times.

Martin Bergin, Saddle-Maker and Cowboy Poet, Overland, Mo.
Johnny Bruce, Old-Time Fiddler, Bosworth, Mo.
Cliff Bryan, Old-Time Short Bow Fiddler, West Plains, Mo.
Gladys Coggsell, African American Storyteller, Frankford, Mo.
Edna Mae Davis, Ozark-Style Square Dancer and Caller, Ava, Mo.
Patrick Gannon, Irish Musician and Singer, St. Louis, Mo.
John Glenn, Blacksmith, St. Joseph, Mo.
William Graves, Ozark Dulcimer Maker, Lebanon, Mo.
Bob Holt, Old-Time Fiddler, Ava, Mo.
Vesta Johnson, Old-Time Fiddler, Kirkwood, Mo.
Richard Martin, Jazz Tap Dancer, St. Louis, Mo.
Pete McMahan, Old-Time Fiddler, Harrisburg, Mo.
Robert Patrick, Blacksmith, Bethel, Mo.
Joseph Patrickus, Bootmaker, Camdenton, Mo.
James Price, Wood Joiner, Naylor, Mo.
Darold Rinedollar, Blacksmith, Augusta, Mo.
Christa Robbins, German Bobbin Lacemaker, Dixon, Mo.
Arthur Treppler, Slovenian Button Box Accordionist, St. Louis, Mo.



Old-Time Music: Columbia, Mo., master fiddler Taylor McBaine warms up for a fiddle contest.

Five TAAP master artists received National Heritage Awards.

- Bob Holt, Old-Time Fiddler, Ava, Mo. (1999)
- Claude "The Fiddler" Williams, Jazz Violinist, Kansas City, Mo. (1998)
- Mone and Vanxay Saenphimmachak, Lao Loom Weaver and Builder, St. Louis, Mo. (1993)
- Henry Townsend, Blues Musician and Songwriter, St. Louis, Mo. (1985)

Four TAAP master artists received a Missouri Arts Award.

- Gladys Coggsell, Frankford, Mo. (2005)
- Richard Martin, St. Louis, Mo. (1993)
- Ahmad Alaadeen, Kansas City, Mo. (1992)
- Henry Townsend, St. Louis, Mo. (1987)



Outdoor Lore: Master gardener Mary Fritz (l) discusses plants in her German four-square garden in Berger, Mo.



Domestic Arts: Master artist Mildred Whitehorn, of Kennett, Mo., demonstrates an African-American hair-braiding technique.

Photos were culled from the archives at Western Historical Manuscript Collection.