

Biography of Jay Armsworthy

Jay Armsworthy, event coordinator/promoter for the annual Bluegrass for Hospice has been performing, promoting, and airing Bluegrass music for nearly 40 years. He was raised in a little town in Southern Maryland called California. He started playing guitar by the age of 10 and by 13 he had his own band performing in areas throughout St. Mary's County, Maryland.

By the age of 18, he put together his first Bluegrass show which was a benefit for a friend and featured over 6 bands. Since that time, Jay has put on concerts and fundraisers for various organizations. He currently hosts a 4 – 5 concert series for the Sons of the American Legion in Hughesville, Maryland which he has done for the past 12 years. His most notable event has been a fundraiser the Medstar, Hospice of St. Mary's where proceeds go toward the Hospice House. The event is titled Bluegrass for Hospice and was in existence for 10 years raising over \$250,000.00. In 2016, he was asked to manage a Bluegrass fundraiser for the Hollywood, Maryland Volunteer Rescue Squad. Jay was asked in 2017 if he could take full control over an annual Southern Maryland event, the L'il Margaret's Bluegrass and Old Time Music Festival which he took to its final landmark year of 30 years.

Jay plays guitar and sings with his band, Jay Armsworthy & Eastern Tradition throughout the East Coast. He has also been a part of other regional bands in Maryland including Ernie Bradley & Grassy Ridge as well as traveled and performed throughout the summer of 1995 with Bluegrass Artist David Davis & the Warrior River Boys from Alabama and in later years with the Paul Adkins Band. Jay also plays mandolin as well as singing lead & tenor vocals. He is known for his "driving" rhythm guitar playing, "cuttin'-up" entertainment on stage, and his hot licks and smooth voice are appreciated by all. Jay has received many complements on his first solo recording project entitled, "Just Lookin' For Fun" which was recorded in 1995. To date he has 5 recordings with his latest release on the Patuxent Music record label titled, "My Best Friend". This was a follow up of his most popular, all gospel project titled "I Couldn't Make It Without Him" on Blue Circle Records which featured a stellar lineup of professional musicians.

Jay started his radio career on January 17, 1993 on AM WPTX radio in Lexington Park, Maryland playing Bluegrass music for a 1 hour show he called "The Bluegrass Hour". Nestled off the coast of the Chesapeake Bay, he changed the name of his show to "Bluegrass on the Bay" when an additional hour was added as well as another radio station. It was then heard on its sister station FM WMDM. He has also been heard on FM WBEY in Pocomoke City, Maryland, World Wide Bluegrass.com, and The Bluegrass Mix.com.

Bluegrass on the Bay is currently heard on 5 radio stations: AM-1510 WWSM in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, The Bluegrass Jamboree.com, The SBB Radio Network and 91.7 FM in Tennessee, WAMU's Bluegrass Country.org & 88.5 HD Channel 2, Valerie Smith's Bell Buckle Radio.com, Bluegrass Planet Radio.com, and most recently 90.3 FM WKWC in Owensboro, KY. He produces the program from his home in California, Maryland.

Whether it's performing, promoting, or DJ'ing, Jay Armsworthy has a passion for Bluegrass music and it shows in his endeavors.