

STONE SOUP.....IT'S COOL, BUT IT AIN'T CHILI !

At first glance, Stone Soup might look like a bluegrass band; there's banjo, upright bass, fiddle, and acoustic guitar. But behind them all is a drummer with a kick and snare played with brushes. And when the guitar player pulls out a Ukulele, and the blazing banjo player reaches for his Stratocaster, the band delivers original Americana music, along with a diverse repertoire of blues and traditional country.

This is not your run of the mill bluegrass. Each set includes a variety of songs and genres, from original songs to covers of John Hartford or Hoagy Carmichael. All presented with a flavor that is uniquely Stone Soup.

The guys are laid back. When you see them perform, you will feel like you're sitting down with old friends. Stone Soup is a group of musicians that love playing, and that feeling is contagious and is what makes new Stone Soup fans at every gig.

Kentucky native, John Van Meter (guitar/uke/vocals) put the band together in the fall of 2014. After several decades of working with songwriters and artists in Nashville, John decided to make a little of his own music, just for fun. He called his old friend and long-time Nashville music scene, man-about-town, Norm Stannard.

Norm also has Kentucky roots and has played all over the region. An engaging and original singer, Norm is also a multi-instrumentalist and veteran songwriter. He even ran his own club for a while, the infamous Norm's River Road House, which was a mecca for singers and songwriters near Nashville.

Norm asked one of his best pals, Sid Nailor, to join in on the fiddle. Sid and Norm measure the time they have been playing together in decades, not years, and they have a seamless connection between them that only shared time can provide.

Van Meter met JR Willis when JR was busking on the streets of downtown Nashville. They quickly became friends. Willis is a native of Philadelphia, Mississippi, where he developed an early love for music. He has command of multiple banjo styles, from Scruggs-style to primitive frailing, and his solos on guitar are highlights of any Stone Soup set.

To spice up the lineup, Van Meter called his former Music Row colleague, Greg Dorschel, who added some percussion to the mix. A native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, Dorschel brings wide musical sensibilities and years of practical experience along with a few anecdotes about what's been happening "Up North".

Drawing their name from the timeless children's fable about sharing and community, Stone Soup began to take shape, and they've been cooking ever since. They have a regular gig at the legendary Bobby's Idle Hour on Nashville's Music Row and have been appearing at clubs, street fairs and special events around Nashville and Kentucky.

Stone Soup is a group of 5 veteran musicians based in Nashville, TN, but it is much more. It is a musical collective. Everyone, even the audience, makes a contribution. Together it is always a unique recipe. In the words of the Stone Soup theme song, it's cool, but it ain't chili !

Stone Soup will be appearing at The Friends of Stoner Creek gathering, add date, time, admission and details. Stonesoupnashville on facebook.

