

Poppy Mountain Bluegrass Festival is smokin' this year

As time goes on, it's aging like a good whisky and picking up steam like a locomotive against the sixth annual Poppy Mountain Bluegrass Festival is rolling around again Tuesday, Sept. 15, the festival runs through Saturday night, Sept. 19.

"Featuring bluegrass music from bands like Ricky Skaggs, Iliad Tyme Out and J.D. Crowe, it's no wonder creator Marty Stevens is excited about the event, where the amount of fans continues to grow every year.

"It all depends on the fans. If bluegrass fans like your festival, they'll keep coming back," he said, Wednesday at his home at the site of "Poppy Mountain" on U.S. 60 East, near the Carter County line in Rowan County.

With fans coming from as far away as Australia, Canada, Oregon and California, Stevens is not complaining.

He started the festival in 1992, a year after he bought the 1,000-acre farm where the festival is held every year. The 43-year-old Stevens had then been raising a dream.

"I've always liked bluegrass music, so when I bought this place, I thought it would be a good spot to have a bluegrass festival. I started looking for bands and going to other bluegrass festivals to market Poppy Mountain," he said.

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best vocal group and best song of the year.

Ricky Skaggs, a nationally-known country bluegrass star will end the festival on Saturday night. He was accompanied by Valerie and Jim Smith of Smith Made Home in Morehead, but don't forget local bands like "Touch of Grass" led by Sandy Knapp of Morehead, Ralph Stanley, Lawrence Liver Bird and the Grass Brothers.

Bluegrass music is down to

earth more than anything I know. Once people hear it, they love it," Stevens said. "I think when you listen to it, you get to thinking about your roots, your family. It harkens down to the gospel, really. It's not gospel music, but it's spiritually uplifting music."

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606-498-1960
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Brand New 1999 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4



Air conditioning, deluxe cloth 402040 seat, 5.2 liter 318 engine, AM/FM stereo cassette, chrome bumper, overdrive transmission, power steering, power brakes, 16 inch wheels and tires. Was \$21,585. Price after Farm Bureau rebate.

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