



Photo by Rachel Anthony

The Steep Canyon Rangers were one of many artists who performed at the 2014 Mountain Song Festival at the Brevard Music Center. The annual event is a fundraiser for the Boys and Girls Club of Transylvania County.

## Beer, bluegrass, Brevard

By Jonathan Furnell  
Staff Writer

Crowds of people flocked to this year's Mountain Song Music Festival. Local food, beer, art and music made the festival a rousing success.

Mountain Song was started by John Felty and has been a Brevard tradition for the past 9 years. Hosted by the Steep Canyon Rangers, this event at the Brevard Music Center draws bluegrass artists such as The Kruger Brothers, Sam Bush, Seldom Scene, and many others. It is known for its sustainable and eco-friendly mantra, with compost and recycling around every corner.

Many local shops and eateries were set up vendor booths for the 2014 festival. Mud Dabber's Pottery, Local Color and Purple Bus Jewelry were just a few of the local shops there. Festival-goers also enjoyed Kiwi Gelato, Quotations Caf , HobNob, and Rollin' Smoke Bar-B-Que to satisfy their appetite.

With the good food, there was great beer. Oskar Blues Brewery provided beer for this year's festival. Aaron Baker, an employee of the brewery,

said, "We have been sponsoring Mountain Song for the past 5 years and we always love being a part of it. John Felty, the founder of the festival, is great friends with Dale Katechis, the owner of the brewery." One of the reasons that Oskar Blues opened in Brevard is because of this friendship with Felty.

Another aspect of this festival is its sustainable atmosphere. Many volunteers helped make this year's festival as eco-friendly as possible. Marlee Joyce, a volunteer from BC said, "As an environmental science major, I am super supportive of this festival being so eco-friendly."

Let's not forget about the music. This year's lineup included the Steep Canyon Rangers, The Kruger Brothers, Della Mae, The Seldom Scene, and many other bluegrass acts. The Steep Canyon Rangers opened the festival on Friday night with an energetic welcome.

Later that night, The Kruger Brothers ended the festivities for the day with an incredible performance. The three piece act also brought in the fiddle player from the Steep Canyon Rangers

for a set.

At the end of their performance they received a standing ovation with thunderous applause.

Saturday, festival-goers arrived at noon and were treated to more bluegrass action. Chatham County Line started off followed by Shannon Whitworth. The Seldom Scene, one of the most prevalent bluegrass bands of the 20th century, rocked the auditorium with some of their most memorable songs.

To finish off the night, the Steep Canyon Rangers returned for a final send-off set. It was electric. The crowd was treated to a special appearance of Sam Bush, one of the fathers of bluegrass. Bush and the Rangers filled the auditorium with rollicking tunes making the crowd cheer.

Mountain Song 2014 was an awesome experience filled with music and good times. Look out for 2015's festival. Next year will be the 10 year anniversary of the festival and it will be a weekend you will not want to miss. For bluegrass, beer, and fun, Mountain Song Music Festival in Brevard is the place to be.