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For Immediate Release

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION CONTACT
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North Carolina state mandolin, banjo, and guitar champions to be crowned
Friday & Saturday August 20-21, 2021, at the Brewer's Kettle in Kernersville NC

DALLAS TEXAS -- (Release date June 4 2021)

The Bluegrass Heritage Foundation is excited to announce the **North Carolina State Championship contests for mandolin, banjo, and flat-picking guitar** to be held at the Brewer's Kettle, 308 E. Mountain Street, Kernersville, North Carolina on August 20-21, 2021. The Championships will be free to watch, with no ticket required. Each contest will be limited to the first 10 North Carolina residents who register through the **NCStateChampionships.com** website. Registration will open on July 1.

The winner of each instrument contest will receive a \$500 cash prize, the 2021 North Carolina State Champion Title, a commemorative plaque, a paid entry to attend the 2021 Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas, and the right to compete in the 2021 National Championship at Winfield. The second and third place finishers will also receive cash prizes, and the top five finishers in each contest will receive a commemorative plaque.

The presenting sponsors for the event are the **Brewer's Kettle** of Kernersville and **Mabe Steel, Inc.** The Brewer's Kettle is a purveyor of fine beer, wine, and cigars with five locations in North Carolina. Kettle founder Andy Kennedy said that they are "honored to host the North Carolina State Championships as a way of sharing our love for bluegrass music and bringing great music to Kernersville!" **Mabe Steel, Inc.** is a prominent structural steel and crane rental enterprise based in Kernersville. Additional sponsorship opportunities for the Championships are available, and prospective sponsors are encouraged to contact the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation.

The contests will be administered in a manner consistent with the National Championship contests held each year at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas. Judges will be isolated in a separate judging room and will not see the contestants. To ensure fairness and impartiality, players will be referred to only by their contestant number and will not be allowed to speak on the contest stage. Judges will listen to each contestant over a speaker that reproduces the sound of the contestant only, with no mix from any accompanist who may be present. Contestant scores and the identity of the judges will remain confidential.

Bluegrass Heritage Foundation president Alan Tompkins commented that "we are thrilled to present our first event in North Carolina, a state rich in musical heritage and youthful talent. The inspiration for this event came to our Foundation Championship Director Lucas White after the passing of legendary guitarist Tony Rice last December. Lucas was a close friend of Tony and his family, and he knew how much Tony loved his North Carolina home. The Championships are meant to honor Tony's life and musical accomplishments by encouraging talented players to hone their skills and make more incredible bluegrass music happen in North Carolina."

Based in Dallas, Texas, the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation exists to preserve and promote the heritage of bluegrass music in America. The Foundation seeks to educate the public about bluegrass music through educational programs and workshops, performances, and similar programs. The Foundation's most important program is its free bluegrass instrument lending program for young people – *Play It Forward!*® The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with an all-volunteer staff that loves to make bluegrass happen®! For more information about the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation or the North Carolina State Championships, visit www.BluegrassHeritage.org.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENT INFORMATION

WHAT: North Carolina State Championship contests for mandolin, guitar, and banjo

WHEN: Friday-Saturday August 20-21, 2021
The contests will be held 6-930p on Friday and 2-9:30p on Saturday.

WHERE: The Brewer's Kettle
308 E. Mountain Street
Kernersville NC 27284
(336) 992-3333

Discounted hotel accommodations are available at the **Hampton Inn Kernersville** and the booking link is available on the Championship website.

CONTESTS: Free to attend.
Contest registration fee is \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door (if space available).

SPONSORS: The Brewer's Kettle and Mabe Steel, Inc., both of Kernersville NC.
Additional sponsorship opportunities for the Championships are available.

LINKS: Visit www.BluegrassHeritage.org
Visit www.NCStateChampionships.com

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