

Hello banjo friends,

What fun it was to put tonight's tunes--two of my all-time favorites--under the microscope with you all! I come to understand these "old-friend" tunes more deeply and better appreciate their details each time that I explore them with a different group of banjo players. Trust me when I say that I learn at least as much from these sessions as you are (hopefully) learning. :)

At the start of next week's class, we will construct a simple but effective transition for medleying John Riley the Shepherd and Brushy Fork of John's Creek before learning a new tune, so please come with your banjos already tuned to gEADE--and hopefully with tonight's "homework" somewhat under your fingers!

In the meantime, I hope that you will enjoy some nice renditions of these tunes from a cross-section of traditional musicians:

John Riley the Shepherd:

-fiddler Art Stamper, from his "Goodbye Girls, I'm Going to Boston" album from 2000: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/john-riley-shepherd>

-fiddler April Verch presents it medleyed with another favorite tune of mine, All Young (this one from West Virginia fiddler Melvin Wine), from her 2013 album "Bright Like Gold": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cUV4heGrasw>

Brushy Fork of John's Creek:

-fiddler Art Stamper, again from his powerful "Goodbye Girls, I'm Going to Boston" album: <https://www.slippery-hill.com/content/brushy-fork-johns-creek-3>

-Paul Brown plays beautiful fingerstyle banjo here (despite the cover photo) using our class' tuning, with some interesting crookedness but an otherwise-familiar melody; this track comes from Paul's 2018 Old-Time Tiki Parlour release: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hHDzjHd2Dik>

-fiddler Erynn Marshall with Chris Coole on banjo, in an eerie low-tuned setting from their 2007 "Meet Me in the Music" album: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kHVbAK1P3g>

Please utilize the tabs and audio recordings as you see fit to supplement the archived Zoom video, and please never hesitate to contact me with any questions or thoughts to share.

Cheers,
Adam