

Friday Evening Fun

Singer/ Songwriter Van Wagner

Hard Coal!

Van Wagner, song-writer and underground coal miner, will perform a program celebrating the past and present of the Pennsylvania Coal industry.

Wagner is a native of the anthracite region, but also has experiences with the softcoal regions. His songs have been performed all over the world and have been featured in several film productions. Enjoy this unique home-coming, as Wagner takes you on a musical journey through Pennsylvania.

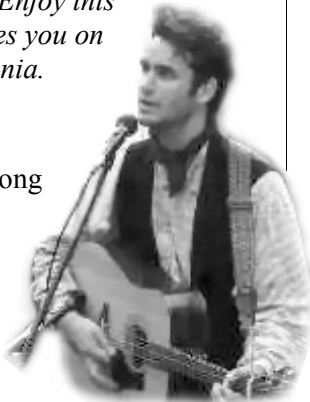
Van Wagner comes from a different place. He's spent his life among the Appalachian Mountains and listened to their music. He's worked on farms, held a rattling chainsaw as a logger and worked the buggy as a coal miner. He's a songwriter who sings about a life he knows. His hardscrabble musicianship perfectly compliments songs of undiscovered history, love and bowling rivalries.

Wagner's music pulls its influence from bluegrass, folk and his own unique vision. It is a reflection of a life spent in the hills of rural Pennsylvania, but its themes have the power to reach the places he's performed--from across the United States, to the hard shores of Europe. He has played in venues ranging from the bluegrass bars of Northern Pennsylvania to the Grand Canyon Amphitheater. He's shared the stage with Ralph Stanley, Kitty Wells and Brad Paisley.

Wagner is currently touring with his fifth album "North of 80." Here, he explores subjects ranging from the Vietnam War, to outlaw miners and the lives of rural America. "North of 80" features "Raining Bad Luck," a haunting song that expertly mixes elements of folk, blues and jazz in a way reminiscent of early Neil Young.

"In a way this album is a snapshot of rural Pennsylvania, but it doesn't really fit into any kind of mold," Wagner says. "It's really the best representation of where I want to be musically."

Check Van out on the Web at www.vanwagnermusic.com.



Free Conference T-shirt

But you have to work to get it!



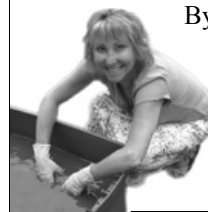
Iron-Oxide T Shirt Tie-Dye

At last year's conference, our t-shirt tie-dye activity was such a big hit, we're doing it again!

Everyone attending the Friday night mixer will be able to create their own, one-of-a-kind tie-dyed t-shirt. What's special is the orange pigment used to create the pattern. It's the same stuff that gives too many Pennsylvania streams that unwelcome orange color... but this time it's put to good use.

One of the new possibilities for some passive treatment facilities is to actually collect the orange sediment for commercial use. Resource recovery is the name applied to this endeavor. And the iron oxide that's so effective at staining our streams turns out to be a very good paint pigment.

A new startup company, Iron Oxide Recovery, Inc., headed by passive treatment guru Bob Hedin has kindly supplied the iron oxide. Angela Belli and Beth Langham of Saint Vincent College are providing the expertise to help you create your own masterpiece. And the Conference Planning Committee is supplying the FREE t-shirts once again.



By the way, it's a good idea to wear something less than your Sunday best while creating your t-shirt on this Friday Night of Fun. The process is definitely a lot of fun, but can be messy.

