

# HardisonInk.com

---

## Mark Johnson set for Grand Ole Opry performances



**Photo Provided by Mark Johnson**

**Published Feb. 22, 2017 at 3:57 p.m. on the Home Page of *HardisonInk.com***

**NASHVILLE** -- Mark Johnson, a planner with the Levy County Unit of the Florida Department of Health and the former director of the Levy County Emergency Management Department, continues making appearances in his other role as the inventor of Clawgrass Banjo playing.

Johnson has been invited by Grand Ole Opry Star Mike Snider to come perform with him and his great band up in Nashville, Tenn. at the Grand Ole Opry. This appearance is set for this weekend (Feb. 24 and 25), on the Friday and Saturday segments of the show.

This will be Mike Snider and Mark Johnson.

In 2012, Johnson earned the Steve Martin Prize for Excellence in Banjo and Bluegrass and also hit the stage of the "Late Show with David Letterman." From there, Johnson and Emory

Lester's music careers have taken off with national and international bookings.

According to Bluegrass Now Magazine, "Mark Johnson and Emory Lester are wonderful innovators as individual artists; as a duo their combined creativity is tremendous!"

The award-winning acoustic duo of Mark Johnson on banjo and Emory Lester on mandolin and guitar are scheduled to appear in concert at the Ocala Civic Theatre on Saturday, on April 27 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

This acclaimed duo has received great reviews from the bluegrass and acoustic music community. Both musicians have been called the best in the world at their respective instruments.

Johnson has been nominated for awards alongside bluegrass greats like Ricky Skaggs. Johnson's unique fusion of bluegrass, traditional folk and acoustic styles is called "clawgrass," expanding on an old Appalachian style of playing (known as clawhammer, or drop-thumb) to incorporate it into all genres of music.

Lester is also known for his musical creativity and skill, his clear sound and clean technique, and his strong, lyrical style that ranges from one end of the acoustic spectrum to the other.

Together this particular duo seamlessly combines the modern with the traditional, creating a fresh new sound. Inspired by a wide variety of influences, their music transcends genre. Their style defies easy categorization and will shatter any preconceived notions about what traditional acoustic music sounds like.

Tickets for the shows in Ocala go on sale April 1.