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2015 American Folk Festival Volunteer of the Year Awards Presented
Five awards presented for volunteer service to the American Folk Festival

BANGOR, MAINE – The 2015 American Folk Festival Gerry Turner Excellence in Volunteerism Awards have been presented, honoring American Folk Festival volunteers in a variety of categories. The awards were presented during a ceremony at the end of October at the Sea Dog Brewing Company in Bangor.

"Volunteers make this event amazing every year," said American Folk Festival Executive Director, Heather McCarthy. "We cherish the skills and talents of every single one of our volunteers, and these awards recognize those volunteers who have gone above and beyond. Gerry Turner is the inspiration for these awards, and he set an amazing example by devoting so much of his time volunteering for causes and events that were special to him."

The awards are named after Gerry Turner, who had been an enthusiastic and dedicated friend to the American Folk Festival up until his death in 2011. The Chairman's Choice Award has been renamed this year to be the *John Rohman Award*, recognizing a volunteer who serves the American Folk Festival with dedication, leadership and passion.

The awards and winners are as follows:

Festival Volunteer, Adult: Sylvia Smith, Volunteer Registration Tent

Festival Volunteer, Junior: Lauren Turcotte-Seavey, Bucket Brigade and Children's Village

Volunteer Leader: Nancy Tracy & Michelle Mulherin, Transportation Desk at Host Hotel

Volunteer Crew: Amicus, Bucket Brigade

"Spirit of the Festival": Carrie Brown, Festival Set-Up and Strike Crew

John Rohman Award: Vern Leeman, Development

The American Folk Festival team is planning for the Spring, 2016 edition of Color Bangor - the 5K color fun run/walk that benefits the Festival. Those interesting in running can sign up on the Festival's website now for the special kid-rate of just \$25 per person. The special kid rate is available for all ages through the end of November.

Next year's American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront is scheduled for August 26-28. The American Folk Festival celebrates the roots, the richness and the variety of American culture through music, dance, traditional crafts, storytelling and food.

For more information about volunteering for or donating to the American Folk Festival on the Bangor Waterfront, or to register for Color Bangor 2016, visit www.americanfolkfestival.com or call 207-262-7763.

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