

Ducks on the Millpond

Musical score for "Ducks on the Millpond" in D major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff (measures 1-3) is marked with a boxed 'A' and chords D, A7, and G. The second staff (measures 4-7) is marked with a boxed 'B' and chords D, A7, and D. The third staff (measures 8-10) shows two endings: the first ending (measures 8-9) is marked with '1.' and A7, and the second ending (measures 10-11) is marked with '2.', A7, and D.

"Ducks on the Millpond", also known as "Deaf Woman's Courtship" is an old-time American breakdown from the Galax/Round Peak area of southwest Virginia (Grayson County) and Mt. Airy, N.C. in D Major. It is usually played in ADae tuning on the fiddle. The parts are played AB (Silberberg), AABB (Brody, Krassen, Phillips/Lundy, Spandaro), AA'BB' (Phillips/Sutphin, Hollow Rock String Band).

Most modern versions are derived from the playing of Grayson County, Virginia, fiddler Emmett Lundy (1864-1953). Lundy, who learned his repertoire in the 19th century, cited his most influential source as a local fiddler named Greenbury (Green) Leonard, who was an elderly man when Lundy learned tunes from him in the 1880's and 1890's. Alan Lomax collected the tune from Galax, Va., musician Fields Ward in 1937 and thought the tune related to "Old Dan Tucker." Later, in 1941, Lomax recorded Lundy playing "Ducks on the Millpond" for the Library of Congress. Lyrics are occasionally sung to the tune.

The reel is not related to the similarly titled "Ducks on the Pond" although there is sometimes confusion between the two.

It was played in Round Peak style by Kyle Creed.

The banjo tablature is by John Letscher whose influences were Kyle Creed and John Burke.

It was printed in Brody's **Fiddler's Fakebook** (1983), Burke's **John Burke's Book of Old Time Fiddle Tunes for Banjo** (1968), **Fiddler Magazine**, Summer 2008, vol. 15, No. 2, Krassen's **Appalachian Fiddle** (1983), Phillips' **Traditional American Fiddle Tunes**, vol. 1 (1994), Lamancusa's **The Gettysburg Collection of Old-Time Fiddle Tunes** (2021), Silberberg's **Tunes I Learned at Tractor Tavern** (2002) and Spadaro's **10 Cents a Dance** (1980).

It was recorded by Bill and Libby Hicks on **South of Nowhere**, Tommy Jarrell on **Come and Go with Me** and Fuzzy Mountain String Band on **Summer Oaks and Porch** (1973) (They learned it from Tommy Jarrell, Mt. Airy, N.C.).