



GREENE COUNTY DAILIES

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Mullins wins Bluegrass DJ of the Year award

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XENIA — Joe Mullins, the voice of Xenia's WBZI, was honored for his contribution to the world of bluegrass on Sunday, Feb. 6, when he received the Bluegrass DJ of the Year award.

The award was announced by the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music America during a ceremony in Nashville, Tenn. A busy musician as well as a broadcaster, Mullins could not attend the event because of a previously scheduled performance with his group, Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers. For the DJ, the award prompted gratitude to the legion of bluegrass fans who regularly listen to his show.

"I was very grateful and very thankful," said Mullins. "I graciously accepted the award on the part of the hundreds and hundreds of audience members who are like family."

Mullins was still in high school when he began his journey in broadcasting. The young DJ hosted a show that quickly evolved into a career as an on air personality. During the last 29 years, Mullins has joined the ranks of an elite few who provide bluegrass programming on full service commercial radio stations.

"I enjoy offering the listeners music they would not hear otherwise with a professional presentation," explained Mullins. "I get to share the stories of radio advertiser. Most niche music is not heard on commercial radio. I've been blessed to have sponsors and to be able to speak on behalf of southwest Ohio businesses."

Mullins' company, Town and Country Broadcasting, Inc., purchased WBZI in 1995 and began providing Xenia residents with a unique blend of country oldies, bluegrass and the news. Today, Mullins invades most of southwestern Ohio's airwaves with four radio stations, collectively known as Classic Country Radio. Even as he stands at the threshold of three decades behind the mic, Mullins has not grown tired of broadcasting.

"After 29 years of doing this, I continue enjoying the art of broadcasting," said Mullins.

When he's not broadcasting, Mullins is picking his banjo with Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers. The band is currently on the road, pleasing audiences with a generous helping of bluegrass. It's a gig, says Mullins, that he enjoys just as much as broadcasting.

"It used to be that performing took a backseat to broadcasting," said Mullins. "But I am just as busy these days as performer. The band is on the road 60 days this year. We're booked solid. It's quite a juggling act."