

NEWS RELEASE

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Balsam Range Brings Three IBMA Awards Home to Haywood County

Haywood County's own Balsam Range sweeps the 25th Annual International Bluegrass Music Awards in Raleigh, NC.

Waynesville, NC – Haywood County's native boys of bluegrass, **Balsam Range**, have a lot of celebrating to do. They have shown yet again they are one of the most talented groups on the bluegrass scene today as they are bringing home three **International Bluegrass Music Association Awards** to Western North Carolina. The 25th Annual IBMA awards, which took place the evening of Thursday, October 2nd in Raleigh, honored the band with wins for **Entertainer of the Year**, **Vocal Group of the Year** and **Male Vocalist of the Year to Buddy Melton**.

There was also another honor bestowed upon band member Tim Surrett. He was presented with the **Mentor Award** as part of the new **IBMA Momentum Awards** ceremony on Wednesday, October 1st. In 2013, Balsam Range won the IBMA Album of the Year award for their recording of "Papertown". They recently released their most recent album, "Five" which has proven to be another successful recording for the group.

In 2007, five talented friends, musicians, and songwriters founded Balsam Range. The group's members, Tim Surrett, Buddy Melton, Darren Nicholson, Marc Pruett and Caleb Smith, fondly named themselves after the magnificent Balsam Mountain Range in their home county of Haywood. Their distinct sound and blend of unique talent quickly grew a following among locals and visitors alike. The fan following proudly refers to itself as "Balsam Nation."

With several more distinguished awards under their belt, Balsam Range is gearing up for another exciting year out on the road with a full line up of performances and appearances through 2015. They just wrapped up a special sold out show earlier this week in the actual "Papertown" itself, Canton, NC. The Blue Ridge Music Trails Traditions Concert was held in one of the bands favorite venues, the Colonial Theater. The Colonial also received an IBMA Momentum Award nomination for Event Venue of the Year. They sell out this venue continuously each year to a packed crowd of "Balsam Nation" fans for their Winter Concert Series. To view a full schedule and learn more about the band, visit www.balsamrange.com.

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Along with its picturesque beauty, Haywood County and its five towns of Maggie Valley, Waynesville, Lake Junaluska, Canton and Clyde offer year round activities and events centered around food, heritage, music, art and the outdoors. No matter what experience you choose, we guarantee you will always experience Authentic Appalachian, Pure & Simple! For more information visit www.visitncsmokies.com or contact the Haywood County Tourism Development Authority at 800-334-9036.