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Fest to be dedicated to blues supporter, musicians

By Michael A. Brothers
News-Leader Staff

Organizers of the Greater Ozarks Blues Festival said Tuesday the event would be dedicated to the memory of Charles Pearl, Bill Brown and Don Shipps.



Brown

The announcement was made at a press conference formally introducing the festival lineup.

Headliners for the eighth annual event, to be held downtown Sept. 10 and 11, include Delbert McClinton, Walter Trout, Bobby Rush and Deanna Bogart.



Shipps

"We're both sad and proud to dedicate the Greater Ozarks Blues Festival to the memory of Charles Pearl," said Cip Traub, executive director of the Downtown Dining and Entertainment Commission.

Pearl, longtime president of the Blues Society of the Ozarks, died in June at age 63. The BSO is renaming its Ozarks Blues Achievement Award (which Pearl was honored with last year) after him.



Traub

Shipps and Brown were added to the dedication after they were killed in a house fire last week. Shipps was the leader of the Titanic Blues Band, and Brown was the group's lead guitarist. The band was scheduled to play the Saturday night blues pub crawl.

Surviving members B.J. Rossi and Dave Painter will ask friends of the two musicians to fill in and carry on with the performance, said Monte Lorts of the BSO.

Details on who will fill in haven't been worked out yet, he said.

The event is a major fund-raiser for the DDEC, the Springfield Symphony and the Springfield Little Theater.

It is vital to the success of both fine arts groups, says Carlana Fitch, the symphony's executive director.

"It's so critical because it gives us exposure to people who might not otherwise realize we have a symphony or a little theater," Fitch said.

For a list of acts, see the Upcoming Concerts listing below or go to www.greaterozarksbluesfest.com.