

Jambands.Com Tour

Featuring Ominous Seapods + Conehead Buddha + Blind Man's Sun + Schleigho + Foxtrot Zulu + The Biscuits + Moon Boot Lover + Jiggle the Handle + Juggling Suns + Ulu + Sector 9 + Living Daylights + Miracle Orchestra + Lake Trout + Uncle Sammy Wetlands Preserve; Friday, June 4 and Saturday, June 5

Ask the average person to name a jam band, and the Ominous Seapods, Conehead Buddha or the Disco Biscuits probably won't top the list. But a band doesn't have to be a national name to be part of a scene. And you know what's going on in the underground, right? You know that there are hundreds of improv-based bands out there, happily placing themselves under the jam-band umbrella? So does Dean Budnick, author of Jam Bands: North America's Hottest Live Groups and editor of the monthly Web magazine Jambands.com. Posting features, interviews, reviews, tour dates and band links, the site is a one-stop source for jam fans. Budnick knows hippies' habits: When they're not on tour, they're on the computer.

Bringing the Nethead scene back to live venues, Budnick has organized a Jambands.com Tour, and two nights of the seven-date event are hitting New York's favorite hippie haven, the Wetlands Preserve. Each night will feature an entirely different lineup: Mainstage acts include the Seapods, Buddha, Blind Man's Sun, Schleigho and Foxtrot Zulu on Friday, and the Biscuits, Moon Boot Lover, Jiggle the Handle and Juggling Suns on Saturday. The basement lounge simultaneously features Ulu, Sector 9 and Living Daylights on Friday, and Miracle Orchestra, Lake Trout and Uncle Sammy on Saturday. It's only \$12 a night—less than two bucks a band!

Of course, the turnoff for this kind of show may be the "it'll all sound the same" sentiment. The combination of acts, though, promises more than just endless hours of needless noodling. Each band has a distinct enough sound—Buddha, for example, busts out ska more than anything, and the Biscuits bring the dance floor alive with techno jams—that the shows should stay interesting all night. Perhaps online and onstage will be the most inventive pairing since chocolate and peanut butter.

Robin A. Rothman Time Out New York June 3-10, 1999