



## Blue Water Folk Notes

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Events & BWFS performers	2&3
BWFS 2017 Calendar	2
Blue Water Folk Society Info.	2
Thumbfest 2017 Committee	3
Thumbfest Pictures	3
Bylaw/Join Us/Volunteer	3
Contacts/Board /Membership	4
Coffeehouse Pictures	4

### BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic a Success!

The BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic is continuing to draw many musicians and audience.

October drew 16 acts, November had 17 acts and December had 14 acts which meant we had time for a hootenanny at the end of the night in December for the first time in a long time.

Performers during the three months were Ed Dombrowski, Wells, Witz and More, Edward Torres, Steven Jones, Emmy B, Blaire deWilde Kohler, Kenny Lang, Jedediah Willis, Banjoey, Marie Davis, Circle of Friends, Brandon Yoresmith, Bobby Budd, Phil Larson, Dale George, Pete Hartung, Dean Barnett and Tom Schlichting, Diane Rizzo, Blood Harmony, Hannah MacDonald, Emma Guzman, Ourselves, Jim Poling, John Putt, Vicky Slezziak, Huron Ladies, Mary Foley and Gordon MacDonald, John Johnston, Tim May, Mike and Sue Baysch, and Mary Foley.

Refreshments were donated by Marie McCarthy, Judy Willis, B.J. Swarts, Sharon Walby, Pat Anderson, Ginny McNabb, Larry Rader, Diane Rizzo, Susan Broadwell, and Marie Davis. Helping with sound were Tom Schlichting, Phil Larson and Dale George. Randy Orchard, Teresa Orchard, Al Lewandowski, John Broadwell, Ron and Pat Anderson, B.J. Swarts, Frank Swarts, Ginny McNabb and many others helped with set-up and clean-up. Manning the front table were Leigh and Dennis Marciniak and Shirley and Dean Barnett. Emcees were Al Lewandowski, Carol Roberts and Marty Malek. Dawn Malek ran the kitchen with help from Marty Malek, Halusia Witkowski, Marie Mccarthy, Susan Broadwell, Shirley Lippert, Dennis Marciniak and Carol Roberts. Marty Malek is the new Coffeehouse Director. To volunteer to help at the Coffeehouse Open Mic contact Marty at: [coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org)

### New Performer Guidelines for BWFS Coffeehouse Open Mic

*Due to the growing popularity of the Blue Water Folk Society Open Mic Coffeehouse, it has become exceedingly difficult to accommodate all who wish to perform. What a wonderful problem to have! But this "wonderful problem" has forced us to develop some new guidelines for performers.*

#### Effective January 2017, the following guidelines will be in effect:

1. Sign up begins at 6:15
2. A single performer or at least one group member must be present in order to sign up.
3. The first 14 acts are guaranteed a performance slot
4. Acts scheduled for later slots will be able to perform if they can begin before 10:00 p.m. If an act is unable to perform due to time constraints, they will be issued a voucher to perform first on the list for a future Coffeehouse.
5. Single acts are limited to 2 songs or 10 minutes, whichever comes first. Time allocation includes performer setup, jokes, stories, announcements, etc.
6. A performer who makes two appearances with either a group or duo, and wishes to also deliver a solo performance, will be scheduled after the guaranteed performances.
7. Group acts are limited to 3 songs or 15 minutes, whichever comes first. Time allocation includes performer setup, jokes, stories, announcements, etc.
8. If any performer or group exceeds their time limit, they will be gently reminded by the emcee or Coffeehouse Director that their time is up.
9. All performers are encouraged to stay for all performances and to participate in a final hootenanny song if time permits.

*It remains the mission of the BWFS Coffeehouse to provide a performance space for all comers.*

*We do ask everyone to embrace the spirit of these guidelines and to show grace and consideration for all performers. If it is apparent we have an overflow, consider ways to shorten and expedite your own performance so that everyone might have an equal opportunity to shine.*

**Come help us make music!**

### Dates to Save

**BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday October through March**

From 7-10 pm on

**Saturday, January 14**

**Saturday, February 11**

**Saturday, March 11**

Trinity Episcopal Church  
5646 Main St., Lexington, Mi.

### BWFS Fundraiser:

**Saturday, April 8 TBD**

Trinity Episcopal Church  
5646 Main St., Lexington, Mi

### Palmer Jam:

**Saturday, January 7th 7-10 pm**

and every 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. BWFS members Phil Larson and Dale George have arranged for a jam to be held at Westminster Presbyterian, 2501 Stone St., Port Huron, Mi. contact: [dtgeorge1@aol.com](mailto:dtgeorge1@aol.com)

### Sanilac Consortium for the Arts

**Acoustic Song Circle** at Bark Shanty, Port Sanilac on **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.** Contact Tom at 810-622-9716 for information

### Free Guitar Lessons beginning

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** at Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main Street, Lexington, Mi. Eight week classes will be held on Tuesdays, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. This class is for ages 6 to adult. Students must provide their own 6-string guitar. For more information contact instructor, Gordon MacDonald at (810)327-6937 or [gjmacdonald@comcast.net](mailto:gjmacdonald@comcast.net)

### Free Admission for BWFS

members to the **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 3pm** Fabulous Heftones concert at the Sanilac County museum mansion on M-25 in Port Sanilac. Contact Tom at: 810-622-9716



## BWFS member performance dates to consider:



More details can be found at:  
<http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/bwfs-event-calendar.html>

- Wednesday, January 11, 18, 25**  
5:00pm William Henry Russell at Juan Miquel's Clinton Twp.
- Friday, January 13**  
9:00pm William Henry Russell at Dessert Oasis, Rochester
- Saturday, January 14**  
7:00pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky  
**7:00pm BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic at Trinity Episcopal Church**  
7:30pm Emma Guzman 20 Front St, Lake Orion
- Thursday, January 19**  
7:30pm Emma Guzman, Raven Cafe, Port Huron
- Saturday, January 21**  
7:30pm William Henry Russell, Raven Cafe, Port Huron
- Friday, January 27**  
8:00pm Ruby Hill at Live from the Living Room, Lake Orion
- Saturday, January 28**  
7:30pm Still Running Raven Cafe Port Huron  
7:00pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky
- Wednesday, February 1, 8, 15, 22**  
5:00pm William Henry Russell at Juan Miquel's Clinton Twp.
- Friday, February 3**  
6:30pm Sanilac Consortium for the Arts Acoustic Song Circle at Bark Shanty
- Saturday, February 4**  
7:00pm Palmer Jam Westminster Presbyterian Port Huron
- Monday, February 6**  
7:30pm Albert Young and the Straight Eight, Howe's Bayou, Ferndale
- Saturday, February 11**  
7:00pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky  
**7:00pm BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic at Trinity Episcopal Church**
- Sunday, February 12**  
10:30am Ruby Hill at Unity of Blue Water Port Huron
- Saturday, February 18**  
7:30pm William Henry Russell, Raven Cafe, Port Huron

**Support our BWFS Musicians!**  
 Submit your performances to:  
[newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org)

## BWFS 2017 Calendar

Leigh Marciniak, Secretary of the Blue Water Folk Society has released the 2017 calendar. Since the times of the meetings could change the times have not been published. For the times of the events and meetings you can contact Leigh at: [secretary@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:secretary@bluewaterfolk.org)  
 Board meetings are open to the membership. Coffeehouse Open Mics start at 7:00 pm.

Date	Event	Location
January 14	Board Meeting	Exquisite Corpse
January 14	Coffeehouse Open Mic	Trinity Episcopal Church
February 10	Board Meeting	Raven Café
February 11	Coffeehouse Open Mic	Trinity Episcopal Church
March 11	Coffeehouse Open Mic	Trinity Episcopal Church
April 8	Board Meeting	Trinity Episcopal Church
April 8	Thumbfest Fundraiser	Trinity Episcopal Church
May 13	Board Meeting	Board Member Residence
May 21	Wines of the Thumb Taste Fest	Port Huron Seaway Terminal
June 17	BWFS Annual Meeting	Trinity Episcopal Church
June 17	Board Meeting	Trinity Episcopal Church
July 22	Singin' the Sixties	Sanilac County Museum
September 2	Thumbfest	Village of Lexington
October 14	Coffeehouse Open Mic	Trinity Episcopal Church
November 11	Coffeehouse Open Mic	Trinity Episcopal Church
December 9	Coffeehouse Open Mic	Trinity Episcopal Church

### Some Blue Water Folk Society Information

The Blue Water Folk Society, is an ALL volunteer, 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 2001, is dedicated to promoting and sponsoring traditional and acoustic music events in the Thumb area of Michigan.

We have sponsored a 1960's style [Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic](#) the 2nd Saturday of every month from October thru March in at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington since January 2001.

Our newest venture is *Guitars for Kids* which has grown from 3 guitars in 2015 to 6 guitars and 1 ukulele in 2016. This year we hope to give away 6 guitars and 3 ukulele.

We are a co-sponsor for *Singin' in the 60s* in Port Sanilac and will participate in the *Wines of the Thumb* this year.

We organize and fund an acoustic music festival held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend "[Thumbfest](#)".

The first Thumbfest was in 2002 at Camp Ozanam and it moved to downtown Lexington, Mi. in 2005. Thumbfest now

takes place on the shores of Lake Huron in downtown Lexington and changes each year. At the present time, it is a FREE event that could only happen because of our dedicated volunteers, donations from the community, numerous fundraisers and the talents of many generous musicians. We do it for the love of the music. Volunteers are always needed.

Donations are always welcome. Checks can be made out to Blue Water Folk Society and mailed to BWFS; P.O. Box 83; Lexington, Mi. 48450 or you can donate online at:

<http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/donate-and-buy-now.html>

Membership is open to everyone. Membership dues of only \$10 per year, is another way of showing support for the Blue Water Folk Society.

We publish a newsletter five times a year. You can find more information about us and an event calendar at our website [www.bluewaterfolk.org](http://www.bluewaterfolk.org) or on Facebook.

**Become a part of Guitars for Kids in 2017! Watch for announcements!**



*The 2016 winners of the Guitars for Kids Giveaway receiving their instruments.*



**MORE BWFS member performance dates:**

Note: Performances listed are those that the BWFS member performers submitted to: [barnettsjmd@gmail.com](mailto:barnettsjmd@gmail.com)

**Saturday, February 25**

7:00pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky

**Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22**

5:00pm William Henry Russell at Juan Miquel's Clinton Twp.

**Thursday, March 2**

7:30pm Julianne Ankley at the Raven Café, Port Huron

**Friday, March 3**

6:30pm Sanilac Consortium for the Arts Acoustic Song Circle at Bark Shanty, Port Sanilac

8:00pm Campfire Compadres at the Live from the Living Room in Lake Orion

**Saturday, March 4**

7:00pm Palmer Jam Westminster Presbyterian Port Huron

**Monday, March 6**

7:30pm Albert Young and the Straight Eight, Howe's Bayou, Ferndale

**Saturday, March 11**

7:00pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky

**7:00pm BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic at Trinity Episcopal Church**

**Sunday, March 12**

10:30am Ruby Hill at Unity of Blue Water Port Huron

**Saturday, March 18**

7:30pm William Henry Russell, Raven Cafe, Port Huron

**Saturday, March 25**

7:00pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky

**Saturday, April 1**

7:00pm Palmer Jam Westminster Presbyterian Port Huron

**Monday, April 3**

7:30pm Albert Young and the Straight Eight, Howe's Bayou, Ferndale

**Wednesday, April 5, 12, 19, 26**

5:00pm William Henry Russell at Juan Miquel's Clinton Twp.

**Friday, April 7**

6:30pm Sanilac Consortium for the Arts Acoustic Song Circle at Bark Shanty, Port Sanilac

**Saturday, April 8**

7:00pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky

**TBD: BWFS Fundraiser**

**Saturday, April 15**

7:30pm William Henry Russell, Raven Café, Port Huron

<http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/bwfs-event-calendar.html>

## Thumbfest 2017 Committee

Dawn Malek, the Director of Thumbfest 2017 announces her 2017 Thumbfest Committee.

Festival Director: Dawn Malek

[thumbfestdirector@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestdirector@bluewaterfolk.org)

Artistic Director: Mike Mercatante

[thumbfestbooking@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestbooking@bluewaterfolk.org)

Site Director: Marty Malek

[thumbfestsite@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestsite@bluewaterfolk.org)

Volunteer Director: Barbara Ernsberger

[thumbfestvolunteer@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestvolunteer@bluewaterfolk.org)

Sales Director: Leigh Marciniak

[thumbfestsales@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestsales@bluewaterfolk.org)

Children's Area Director: Halusia Witkowski

[thumbfestchildren@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestchildren@bluewaterfolk.org)

Vendor Director: John Putt

[thumbfestvending@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestvending@bluewaterfolk.org)

Publicity Director: Kevin Batchelder

[thumbfestpublicity@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:thumbfestpublicity@bluewaterfolk.org)

The committee will be meeting at the end of the month to begin planning for this year's event. Mark your calendar now for Saturday, September 2. Thumbfest will be here before you know it!

Watch for more information in the months to come on Facebook and on our website.

### Photos from Thumbfest 2016 are now available for purchase at:

<http://www.amandolnphoto.com/Music/Thumbfest-2016/>

Here are some of the pictures from Amanda Marcotte's website. Amanda has been taking pictures of Thumbfest for many years which we really appreciate.

If you have any pictures that you wish to share please send them to:

[newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org)

### BWFS Revised Bylaws Pass

With a vote of 69 yes and 2 no, the revised BWFS Bylaws passed. The BWFS Bylaws were completely rewritten by Barb Ernsberger, Leigh Marciniak and Marty Malek. Survey Monkey was used as the method of voting. The old bylaws were done by Tom Schlichting and are posted on the website under Contacts. The new bylaws will be posted on the website when they are ready for publication.

### Thinking about Volunteering?

Volunteers are needed for the Coffeehouse Open Mic for January, February and March. For descriptions of jobs and to sign up, you can use Signup Genius <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094a55aa2ca5fe3-coffeehouse> or contact Marty Malek, Coffeehouse Director, at [coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org)



Mustards Retreat workshop



Andy Mather harmonica workshop



One of jam sites at Thumbfest 2016



Early morning audience at Circle of Friends.

## Come Join Us!!

### Are You a BWFS Member?

We need your yearly support by joining the Blue Water Folk Society.

Individual membership is just \$10 and runs through June 30, 2017. You can renew or join the BWFS at our next Open Mic Coffeehouse, or send a check to:

Blue Water Folk Society Attn:Membership  
P.O. Box 83, Lexington, MI 48450.

Please include your phone number, email and mailing addresses.

Please make all checks payable to:

**Blue Water Folk Society**

OR you can now join online at:

<http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/donate-and-buy-now.html>





Blue Water Folk Society  
P.O. Box 83  
Lexington, Michigan 48450

*Promoting Traditional and Acoustic  
Music in the Thumb of Michigan*

**BWFS Event Calendar:**

[www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/  
bwfs-event-calendar.html](http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/bwfs-event-calendar.html)

Website:

[www.bluewaterfolksociety.org](http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org)  
[www.thumbfest.org](http://www.thumbfest.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/thumbfest](http://www.facebook.com/thumbfest)

**Join us for only  
\$10/year Membership**

For more information:

[http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/  
membership-info.html](http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/membership-info.html)  
[membership@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:membership@bluewaterfolk.org)

**Coffeehouse Director**

Contact: Marty Malek  
[coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org)

**Newsletter editor:**

Shirley Barnett

**We welcome your suggestions,  
pictures and submissions.**

BWFS members can submit their  
performance dates for  
publication in the newsletter,  
email updates and the event  
calendar on

[www.bluewaterfolksociety.org](http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org)  
by sending the information to:  
[newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org)

**Did you know that**

the Blue Water Folk Society is a  
501c3 non-profit established to  
present and promote acoustic  
traditional music in the  
thumb of Michigan?

**Special Thanks to Trinity  
Episcopal Church, the Village of  
Lexington, the Lexington DDA  
and Lexington Business Assoc. for  
their support of the BWFS**

**BWFS Current Board Members**

*Working to bring you folk, traditional music!  
Help us to do that ...join us!*

Barbara Ernsberger	President	<a href="mailto:president@bluewaterfolk.org">president@bluewaterfolk.org</a>	term expires 2017 election
Leigh Marciniak	Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@bluewaterfolk.org">secretary@bluewaterfolk.org</a>	term expires 2019 election
Tom Schlichting	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@bluewaterfolk.org">treasurer@bluewaterfolk.org</a>	term expires 2018 election
Marty Malek	Trustee	<a href="mailto:marty@bluewaterfolk.org">marty@bluewaterfolk.org</a>	term expires 2018 election
Shirley Barnett	Trustee	<a href="mailto:shirley@bluewaterfolk.org">shirley@bluewaterfolk.org</a>	term expires 2018 election
Al Lewandowski	Trustee	<a href="mailto:al@bluewaterfolk.org">al@bluewaterfolk.org</a>	term expires 2019 election
John Broadwell	Trustee	<a href="mailto:john@bluewaterfolk.org">john@bluewaterfolk.org</a>	term expires 2017 election

Main email: [board@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:board@bluewaterfolk.org)



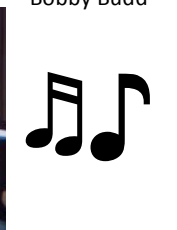
Emma Guzman      Marty Malek      Tim May      Blood Harmony



Dale George      Bobby Budd      Pete Hartung      Jedediah Willis



Mike & Sue Balysch



Ourselves



John Johnston



Brandon Yoresmith



Circle of Friends



Wells & Witz



Mary Foley

**Photos by Bruce Thibault**