



## Blue Water Folk Notes



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Events & BWFS performers	2
Thumbfest update	2
Coffeehouse Report	3
Member Activities	3
New Performance	3
Opportunities	
Volunteers & membership	4
Contact Information	4
Pictures from Coffeehouse	4

## George Stewart Memorial Fundraiser April 14

Saturday, April 14, 7pm, the Blue Water Folk Society will host the George Stewart Memorial Fundraiser to benefit Thumbfest 2012 at Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main Street, Lexington, Michigan. George Stewart helped found Thumbfest, and its music was a passion for him. On April 14, we'd like to honor George as we continue to support his vision. This concert is free admission, and we'll take donations, which go toward Thumbfest 2012 (held Saturday, September 1, throughout the town of Lexington, Michigan, from 10am – 10pm). The George Stewart Memorial Fundraiser concert will feature Mustard's Retreat, a traditional acoustic duo which has long supported

Thumbfest. Also featured: the fantastic Celtic band, Ourselves; Mike Mullen, longtime musical partner with George; and Circle of Friends – Circle of Friends was George's most recent group, and this incarnation of the band continues to play the beautiful, fun songs he loved. Join us for an evening of wonderful music, including more special guests, and songs handpicked by George as some of his favorites. Bring a canned good to support Trinity Episcopal's Project Blessing, as well as a donation to support Thumbfest 2012, to help keep acoustic music alive and well and free to everyone in the Blue Water area!

### Save this date:

**Samfest Thumbfest Benefit** (Pre-firework)  
**Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Music at the Harbor in Port Sanilac, Time TBD**

Contact: Tom Schlichting

**Do you want to host a Thumbfest Fundraiser?**

Contact the board at [board@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:board@bluewaterfolk.org)

### Benefits of Blue Water Folk Society membership

- Performances are listed
- Musical activities listed
- Discount on BWFS Events and merchandise
- Newsletter mailed if desired
- Ability to run for the board of the BWFS
- Able to vote at June Annual meeting



## Time to Renew Blue Water Folk Society Membership

It is **time to renew** your membership dues, which **expire June 30, 2012**, for the current year if you haven't renewed in the past few months. Our dues are still only **\$10 a year per member**. All dues go to support the activities of the **Blue Water Folk Society**, including the popular **Coffeehouse Open Mics** and the **Thumbfest Acoustic Music Festival**. The **Blue Water Folk Society** is a 501 c 3 (ALL volunteer) non-profit and is open to ALL ! **YOU** can **join us or renew** your dues by **mailing your dues** and information including your **contact information including your address, phone number, email** to:

**Shirley Barnett; 1809 Caughill ; Columbus, Mi. 48063** [Please make all checks out to: Blue Water Folk Society](mailto:shirley@bluewaterfolk.org)

This is also a good time to add a little bit to your dues and make a donation but please note on the check if the money is also for a donation to Thumbfest. Contact: [shirley@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:shirley@bluewaterfolk.org)

**BWFS member performance dates to consider:**

**Dean Barnett**

- > **Sunday, Apr. 22nd CANCELLED**  
Raven Café in Port Huron free
- > **Sunday, April 15 11am-12 pm**  
Vantage Point (BWMN Jam)  
Port Huron, Mi.
- > **Saturday, April 21 1- 2 pm**  
Blessing of the Fleet  
Vantage Point Port Huron, Mi.
- > **Friday June 22, July 27, August 10**  
during Farmers Market 1-5 p.m.  
Port Sanilac, Mi.  
[bionomic2@yahoo.com](mailto:bionomic2@yahoo.com)

**Ourselves**

- > **Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> Samfest**  
At the Museum in Port Sanilac
- > **Saturday July 28 6-8 pm**  
Drake Park Marine City, Mi.  
[tomschlichting@hotmail.com](mailto:tomschlichting@hotmail.com)

**Ruby Hill**

- > **Saturday June 16 7:30-10:30pm**  
Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.  
[jrwms@advnet.net](mailto:jrwms@advnet.net)

**Ron McPhail with Jimmy Deheno**

- > **Saturday May 26 7:30-10:30pm**  
Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.  
[rcmcpmail@comcast.net](mailto:rcmcpmail@comcast.net)

**Lost Cuzzins**

- > **Saturday May 12 7-10 pm**  
Prince of Glory Coffeehouse  
1357 W. 14 Mile Madison Hgts
- > **Friday May 18 7:30-10:30 pm**  
Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.
- > **Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> Samfest**  
At the Museum in Port Sanilac  
[bionomic2@yahoo.com](mailto:bionomic2@yahoo.com)

**Circle of Friends**

- > **Saturday April 14 7:00 pm**  
G. Stewart Thumbfest Benefit  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Lexington, Mi.
- > **Saturday May 19 7-9:30 pm**  
Baseline Folk Society  
774 N. Sheldon Rd.  
Plymouth, Mi.  
[bionomic2@yahoo.com](mailto:bionomic2@yahoo.com)

**Dan Shepherd**

- > **Saturday May 5 8:00 pm**  
Wildwood Friendly Tavern  
Macomb, Mi.
- > **Saturday June 2 7:30-10:30 pm**  
Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.  
[danshepherdmusic@comcast.net](mailto:danshepherdmusic@comcast.net)

**MORE.....**

## Thumbfest Update:

Great News!! We are most grateful to have received a grant to help us in meeting our financial needs for *Thumbfest*. We have received a *MCACA State Minigrant* from the *Huron EDC* of \$1500. We are still waiting to hear officially about our request for a *Community Foundation Grant* from the *Blue Water Arts Committee*. *Thumbfest* is funded by your donations, grants, sponsors, ads and fundraisers so that we can continue to offer a quality FREE, family friendly acoustic music event that is open to all! The April 14<sup>th</sup> fundraiser will be our first benefit this year so we hope for a great response.

*Mike Mercatante*, Artistic Director for *Thumbfest 2012* and the April benefit concert busy booking some of the performers for *Thumbfest 2012*. Some of the favorites from past years will be returning with some new acts. Mike is continuing with his practice of "honoring the traditions of the past with new directions for the future". You can contact Mike at [mmercatant@aol.com](mailto:mmercatant@aol.com) for any information on your performance submissions.

*The entire Board is serving as the project director*, and they still looking for volunteers and team leaders for a variety of positions for before, during and after the *Thumbfest*. A Site Director who

oversees site work, set-up & tear-down, selling ads, finding sponsors, including stage sponsors, vendor chair and event day volunteers are some of the positions still open. *There is always room for YOU.*

You can sign up to volunteer for *Thumbfest*, make donations for *Thumbfest*, renew your membership or join the *Blue Water Folk Society* at the *George Stewart Memorial Thumbfest Benefit* on Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

*Thumbfest 2012* is our 11<sup>th</sup> *Thumbfest 2012* is being held on *Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 am to 10 pm*, with multiple venues including stages, jam sites, workshops, crafts and a children's area. If you have never attended one, you are in for a musical treat. Each year seems to be getting better with more musical variety for you to enjoy.

This year there will a effort to include more youth in the *Thumbfest* so if you know of someone who wants to be involved in the Youth events or if YOU want to volunteer, sponsor, donate or have some ideas, please contact: [board@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:board@bluewaterfolk.org)

The *Blue Water Folk Society* is running the second annual **Thumbfest T-shirt Logo Contest!** The contest was open to everyone, and submissions were accepted until **March 10, 2012**. The winner will be chosen by April 7, 2012. Last year's winner was Josh Walerych, a student from Port Huron Northern.

**Denny Dwyer**

- > **Saturdays 8:30-11:30 pm**  
Zebra Bar Port Huron, Mi.
- > **Friday April 6 7:30-10:30 pm**  
Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.  
[d.dwyer@comcast.net](mailto:d.dwyer@comcast.net)

**William Henry Russell**

- > **Saturday April 21 & Friday May 25 7:30-10:30 pm**  
Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.
- > **Thursdays at 6:30 - ?**  
Poncho's in New Baltimore  
[russell.william@att.net](mailto:russell.william@att.net)

**The Barones**

- > **Sunday April 29 1-2 pm**  
Vantage Point Port Huron  
[fgbaron@comcast.net](mailto:fgbaron@comcast.net)

**Ricky Novak & Banjo Jim**

- > **Sunday April 29 1-2 pm**  
Vantage Point Port Huron  
[fubar\\_howell@hotmail.com](mailto:fubar_howell@hotmail.com)

**Still Running**

- > **Saturday April 21 7-10 pm**  
LaCroix's Riverside Pub St. Clair, Mi
- > **Saturday May 12 1-2 pm**  
Grace Episcopal Pt. Huron, Mi.
- > **Saturday June 2 8:30-11 pm**  
Crazy Wisdom Tea Room Ann Arbor, M
- > **Friday June 15 1-5 pm**  
Farmers Market in Port Sanilac, Mi.
- > **Sunday June 24 time TBA**  
St. Clair Art Festival, St. Clair, Mi.  
[still\\_running@comcast.net](mailto:still_running@comcast.net)

*Thumbfest*  
2012  
Saturday  
September  
1<sup>st</sup>  
10am-10pm  
FREE!



## Coffee House Open Mic Notes and Pictures (February & March)

Another *Blue Water Folk Society* Traditional Acoustic Coffeehouse season is finished until October 2012. Our February Coffeehouse was led by John Broadwell and the March Coffeehouse had Banjoey as the emcee. We had only 60 people and 9 performers in February (bad weather) but had about 130 people and 16 acts in March for a rousing finish to the season.

Performers in February included Ourselves (Walt, Tom and Lynn Surbrook) who surprised us with some songs from the 50's & 60's, including the Everly Brother's Dream and Bye Bye Love. Charlie Winters did "Harvest Moon" dedicated to David Rutkofske, Banjoey got the crowd singing with his group of old-time Valentine songs, The Dalettes (Ted Smith, Roger Blume and Dale George) did Stand By Me and When You Say Nothing at All. Still Running (Jenna Reed and Mike Mercatante) were celebrating 7 years together as a group. Their Anti-Valentine songs included Harvest Moon and Under My Thumb with Jenna doing the Mick Jagger role, Dean Barnett started the second half with a spoken memorial to David Rutkofske and then performed one song, "First Thing" by Andy Mather who is also a BWFS member. Iris Spencer did a couple of numbers by Taylor Swift and Blake Shelton. John Broadwell took a turn with Lovesick Blues. Butterhair (Charlie Winters, Ted Smith and Roger Blume) closed out the night with Tamborine Man, Waterloo and a great version of Since I Fell For You sung by Ted Smith. We even had time for our usual hootenanny this night. Dean Barnett led Blowing In the Wind with all the musicians on stage and the audience singing along.

The very full March coffeehouse brought some new performers: John & the Piper (John O'Gara & Jayme Arft) with some Irish tunes; Madison Taylor with some newer music; & Terry Bennett with some Christian Music. Dean Barnett teamed with Tom McGovern on Steel Drum & Harmonica for a Dennis Kingsbury song; Bobby Budd gave us a fine story & song; Butterhair had songs from the 50's that had us singing; Al Young with Jim Williams gave us a Little Feet song; Charlie Winters did Pipeline; Ruby Hill (Ron McPhail, Jim Williams, Micky LePla) did Down to the River and others; Roger Blume did a solo You Don't Bring Me Flowers doing both parts, bringing down the house; Tom Schlichting did some Irish tunes; Semi-Circle (Mary Foley, Dean Barnett) performed the Dutchman; Phil Larson went back to Folk roots for his songs; Mike Mercatante did a Neil Young tune, Iris Spencer did some Taylor Swift tunes and Val & Chuck Rushing closed out the night. Banjoey played a couple of tunes as the emcee. The 50/50 raffle was a success, thank to Ruth Habalewsky with Tania Hayes winning \$48.50 in February & Sharon Young winning \$83 in March. Dawn and Marty Malek ran the kitchen again with help from Mary Filbeck, with refreshments donated by Shirley Barnett, Jeannine Kirchoff, Ruth Habalewsky and Judy Butler & Theresa Geck. George Young, Dean Barnett, Al Lewandowski and Tom Schlichting helped with the stage set-ups with George Young doing the Sound. Set up, teardown & clean-up were handled by Dean Barnett, Ginny McNabb, Jenna Reed, Tom Schlichting, Mike Mercatante and others which help make a successful coffeehouse. Thanks to all who help.

### BWFS Member Activities & Opportunities to Perform

>> **Tom Schlichting** is organizing the 1<sup>st</sup> SAMFEST music festival which will be held in Port Sanilac on July 7<sup>th</sup> ALL Day and needs musicians to contact him if you are interested in being involved. [tomschlichting@hotmail.com](mailto:tomschlichting@hotmail.com)

>> **Maggie & Jack Ferguson** are holding an **Open Mic** on Friday, April 20th 8:00 to 10:30 pm as part of the Live from the Living Series at 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac, Mi. \$5 per person. Sign-up at 7:30 pm **Fall booking** for Living Room has begun.... Also you can hear Maggie on the Old Front Porch radio show at [www.wxou.org](http://www.wxou.org) from 5-7:30pm on Tuesdays. Contact: [marmik21@yahoo.com](mailto:marmik21@yahoo.com)

>> **Ted Smith** is involved with the Blue Water Musicians Network **Old Tyme Jams** on March 30 & April 27 at Studio 1219 in Port Huron. They start at 7 pm and are open to all players. Contact: Ted Smith [ted@theimprinthouse.com](mailto:ted@theimprinthouse.com)

>> **Iris Spencer** was selected for the 4-H Regional Award for the Performing Arts for the Southeastern Michigan Region. It is a very big honor for me to be able to represent our Region at the State Competition which is June 20-21 at Michigan State University. *I feel my involvement in the Blue Water Folk Society Coffeehouse was a big plus in assisting my growth as a performer and made my receiving this award possible. I am very grateful for everyone's kindness and encouragement.*

>> **Shirley Barnett & Tom McGovern** will perform at the Richmond Community Choir's Spring Concert on Friday May 4 at 7 pm & Sunday May 6 at 2 pm Contact: [barnettsjmd@gmail.com](mailto:barnettsjmd@gmail.com)



Blue Water Folk Society  
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*Promoting Traditional and Acoustic Music in the Thumb of Michigan*

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**\*\*Membership \$10/year**

Contact: Shirley Barnett

[barnettsjmd@gmail.com](mailto:barnettsjmd@gmail.com)

586-727-5197

**Thumbfest contact & to volunteer...**

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

**Performer submission:**

[mmercatant@aol.com](mailto:mmercatant@aol.com)

**On the web & Facebook:**

[www.bluewaterfolk.org](http://www.bluewaterfolk.org)

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

## Your Current Board Members

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

- Carl Kammer .....President [carl@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:carl@bluewaterfolk.org) term expires 2014 election
- Tom Schlichting....Treasurer [tom@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:tom@bluewaterfolk.org) term expires 2013 election
- Jenna Reed ....Secretary [2jnsgrover@comcast.net](mailto:2jnsgrover@comcast.net) term expires 2014 election
- Mike Mercatante...Trustee [mmercatant@aol.com](mailto:mmercatant@aol.com) term expires 2012 election
- Ruth Habalewsky....Trustee [rhablewsky@comcast.net](mailto:rhablewsky@comcast.net) term expires 2013 election

Pictures from Tom McGovern  
More Pictures will be in the June issue of the Blue Water Folk Notes

Tom McGovern Dean Barnett Mary Foley



Butterhair Blume Winters Smith



Roger Blume



Madison Taylor & Bobby Budd



Iris Spencer



Ruby Hill Williams, LePla & McPhail



Tom Schlichting



Terry Bennett



Mike Mercatante



Hootenanny at the March Coffeehouse



**NOTE: Next issue...deadline for submissions...May 27**