



## Blue Water Folk Notes



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### Save these dates:

#### Thumbfest Meeting Sunday April 6

1:30 pm

Habalewsky home at  
2848 Monticello Port Huron  
Info: 810-982-8371

#### Thumbfest Benefit Saturday April 12

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
5646 Main St.(M-25)  
Lexington, Mi. 48450

Info: dawnmalek@comcast.net

#### BWFS co-host Open Mic Saturday, April 26, May 23 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of month

7:00 to 10:00 pm  
Stella & the Hot Kielbasas  
Lexington Brewing Company  
and Wine House  
Lexington, Mi. 48450  
[www.lexingtonbrewery.com](http://www.lexingtonbrewery.com)

#### Solstice Thumbfest Fundraiser at the Winery

Saturday, June 21

7:00 to 10:00 pm

Details to be announced  
Lexington Brewing Company  
and Wine House  
Lexington, Mi. 48450  
[www.lexingtonbrewery.com](http://www.lexingtonbrewery.com)

If YOU are interested in  
hosting a  
Thumbfest Fundraiser  
Contact:

[rhabalewsky@comcast.net](mailto:rhabalewsky@comcast.net) or  
[mmercatant@aol.com](mailto:mmercatant@aol.com)

## Thumbfest Benefit Concert on April 12

### Looking for a fun music night and want to help support Thumbfest 2014?

Come join us at the **Thumbfest Benefit Concert on Saturday, April 12 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 5645 Main St., Lexington, Mi.**

Admission is by donation.

The suggested donation is \$10.

For that \$10 we have a fine group of musicians, designed to give you a "taste of Thumbfest".

They include the *Three Sisters*, Eden, Evangeline & Hosanna Willis with their father, Jedediah doing folk, gospel and originals; *William Henry Russell* with his beautiful guitar work on classical, hymns, originals and Chet Atkins; *Ruby Hill*, Mickey LePla, Ron McPhail and Jim Williams with wonderful harmonies on old and new favorites; and *Whistle Stop Review*, Rick Doviak, Blake Short and Joey Haugh with traditional and contemporary bluegrass with high-energy instrumentation.

*What can you do at the Thumbfest Benefit Concert?* Besides enjoying the great music you can give a donation to Thumbfest (Blue Water Folk Society is a 501c3 all volunteer non-profit so the donation may be deductible for you); sign-up to volunteer for Thumbfest, join the Blue Water Folk Society for \$10/yr, purchase a vintage t-shirt, and enjoy the company of other music lovers around the cookie dish.

Dawn & Marty Malek are the organizers of the Benefit Concert and can be reached at 586.995.1974 for questions regarding the Concert. Dawn would welcome any cookies you may want to donate. There will be no room for other refreshments.

It is suggested you plan on arriving early to get a seat as we anticipate a full house.

### Thumbfest 2014 Fundraiser



**Whistlestop Review** - Rick Doviak, Blake Short and Joe Haugh blend traditional and contemporary bluegrass and Americana, engaging audiences throughout the midwest with their fresh, high-energy instrumentation and tight harmonies.

**William Henry Russell** - Bill has a Masters degree in classical music from Florida State, is the 2009 Garbrie Rogers Finger Picking Guitar Champion, and combines gorgeous classics and hymns with some great Chet Atkins style.

**Ruby Hill** - Ron McPhail, Mickey LePla and Jim Williams combine great folk flavors with precise harmonies and exquisite arrangements of old and new favorites, leading one fan to comment, "It's like the sun comes out from the clouds when you sing!"

**Three Sisters** - Eden, Evangeline, and Hosanna Willis, along with their father, Jedediah, combine guitar, mandolin, harmonica and fiddle with harmonies you only get with family, for a little gospel, a little folk, and a little of that high lonesome sound.

**Saturday, April 12 7pm**  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
5646 Main St. Lexington, MI 48450  
admission by donation

## You Can Help Make Thumbfest a Greater Music Festival

Thumbfest is just a few months away. Have you ever wondered how you can be part of this fun, community music event? Some of the ways to participate are:

- Support/attend Thumbfest benefit concerts.
- Volunteer to work on a Thumbfest committee; the next meeting is Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Volunteer to work at Thumbfest; there are many jobs ranging from set-up to emcee.
- Provide financial support through donations and stage/program sponsorship; it costs money to pay for music acts, sound, tents, program, etc.
- Join the Blue Water Folk Society for \$10
- Attend Thumbfest
- Invite friends and family to Thumbfest.

*The Blue Water Folk Society invites you to be part of Thumbfest 2014 on Saturday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Your contribution on any level will guarantee a successful Thumbfest 2014.*

By Ruth Habalewsky

For more information, please contact Ruth Habalewsky at 810-982-8371 or [rhabalewsky@comcast.net](mailto:rhabalewsky@comcast.net).

The Blue Water Folk Society Board appreciates your support!

### Thumbfest Planning Meeting

*Here is YOUR change to be part of the planning and running of Thumbfest 2014. Consider attending the Meeting being held on Sunday, April 6 at 1:30 pm at the Habalewsky home at 2848 Monticello, Port Huron, Mi. You can sign up to volunteer, see what jobs are still available, hear what is being planned, and make suggestions. If you can't attend but want to help, give Ruth a call at 810-982-8371. See you there??*

**BWFS member performance dates to consider:****Dean Barnett**

> **Sunday April 13, May 18, June 22 1pm** Great Lakes Maritime Center Port Huron, Mi.

> **Tuesday, May 13 2:00 pm** Sanctuary at Mercy Village Ft. Gratiot,

> **Thursday, May 22 6:00 pm** Marysville Public Library, Marysville, Mi

> **Sunday, April 6 10:30 am** Blue Water Unity, Port Huron, Mi. [bionomic2@yahoo.com](mailto:bionomic2@yahoo.com)

**Rocky Top**

> **Sunday, April 13 & May 18 2-3pm**

Great Lakes Maritime Center Port Huron, Mi.

[dtgeorge1@aol.com](mailto:dtgeorge1@aol.com)

**Ruby Hill**

> **Saturday, April 12 7-10 pm**

Thumbfest Benefit Concert Trinity Episcopal Church, Lexington, Mi [jimwilliams@1150@gmail.com](mailto:jimwilliams@1150@gmail.com)

**William Henry Russell**

> **Sat. April 19, May 17 & June 21 7:30-10-30 pm**

Raven Café, Port Huron, Mi.

> **Every Wednesday 5 to 8 pm** Juan Miquel's Clinton Twp., Mi.

> **Every Thursday 6 to 9 pm**

Joe Bologna Trattoria Sterling Hgts.

> **Tuesday Apr. 15**

Dessert Oasis Coffee Roaster Rochester, Mi.

[www.williamhenryrussell.com](http://www.williamhenryrussell.com)

**Hackwells**

> **Friday, May 30 7:30-10:30pm**

Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.

> **Saturday, April 26**

Eastgate Pub, Roseville, Mi.

> **Friday June 13 & Sat. June 14**

Chamberlains Ole Forest Inn. Curtis, Mi.

> **Friday, June 27 8:00 pm \$15**

Trinity House Theatre, Livonia, Mi. [johndobat@comcast.net](mailto:johndobat@comcast.net)

**Judy Insley and Almost Perfect**

> **Friday, April 4 8:00 pm \$5**

Live from the Living Room, Pontiac, Mi

> **Saturday, May 17 7:00 \$5**

Baseline Folk Society, Plymouth, Mi.

> **Fri. June 13 to Sun. June 15 TBD**

NorEast'r Music Festival, Mio, Mi. [insleyjc@comcast.net](mailto:insleyjc@comcast.net)

**Lost Cuzzins**

> **Sunday, May 4 10:30-11:30 am**

Unity of Bluewater, Port Huron, Mi.

> **Fri. June 13 to Sun. June 15 TBD**

NorEast'r Music Festival, Mio, Mi > [bionomic2@yahoo.com](mailto:bionomic2@yahoo.com)

**River Strings**

> **Tuesday, May 13 6:00-7:30 pm**

Algonac High School, Algonac, Mi. [albaker@glis.net](mailto:albaker@glis.net)

**Thumbfest 2014 Update** by Mike Mercatante

It's four days into Spring as I write this and it 25 degrees outside and snowing. I was shivering as I left a gig last night. Opening Day for the Detroit Tigers is in 7 days! I have my long johns and thinsulate gloves all ready for the game. Bleh. So, rather than dwell on this seemingly never-ending winter, I'd like to turn your thoughts to much warmer things like Thumbfest 2014!

Yes, the all-volunteer members of the Blue Water Folk Society have already been hard at work for months to bring you the thirteenth annual Thumbfest acoustic music festival. This year's festival takes place once again in the beautiful lakeside village of Lexington from 10 a.m. -10 p.m. on Saturday August 30. If you haven't experienced Thumbfest before, you are in for a real treat. If you have, you understand that this festival has the most wonderful vibe about it. For me, that feeling comes from working with volunteers who are in this for the music. We all want to put on the best and most diverse acoustic musical party for the thousands that attend every year. Every year is different and this year is no exception.

Here is a sample of the many acts that will be playing at Thumbfest 2014.

New comers to Thumbfest include the high energy bluegrass based sounds of the **Whistle Stop Revue**. **Nessa**, a self-described funky Celtic world chamber fusion group from the Ann Arbor area. **David Youngman**, a fingerstyle guitarist with amazing tapping technique and is the winner of the 2013 Fretboard Festival Performance Contest and the runner up at the 2013 Canadian Guitar Festival.

**Tritone Paradox**, specialists in acoustic improvisations.

Favorites from past festivals that are

returning include: **Nicky Boy Street Band, Applesed Collective, Blue Water Ramblers, Finvarra's Wren, Mustard's Retreat, Kitty Donohoe, Rod & Annie Capps, Floyd King and the Bushwackers, Le Compagnie, LL Blues, Sel de Terre, Jim Bizer and Jan Krist, Brian Wood and the Troubadads, Carl Henry, Still Running, Lost Cuzzins. William Henry Russell, Circle of Friends, Maggie Ferguson, Mary Foley, Campfire Compadres, Rockafellas, Ruby Hill., Ourselves, Waynewood Boys, Banjo Jim and Ricky, Bobby Budd, Emilie and Andrew, John Nader and Dave Reid, Troublesome Creek and Butterhair.** But wait, that's not all. The festival is still taking shape. Stay tuned for new acts as they are booked by visiting the Blue Water Folk Society website (<http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/>) or on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Thumbfest>) for the latest updates.

As this year's Festival Director, I'd like to make a personal appeal for your help. It takes a village to put on a great party and we'd like you to join us for an hour or two or three and participate. It's painless. Really. You will derive the deep pleasure and satisfaction out of helping put on the premier acoustic event in the Thumb area. And we are pretty cool to hang out with. Just sayin'. All you have to do is go to the Blue Water Folk Society website cited above and click on the "Contacts" tab and select "Volunteer Positions" and let Volunteer Coordinator Ruth Habalewsky know that you are interested. Thank you in advance.

I wish you all a warm Spring filled with the best life has to offer. Mark down Saturday August 30 on your calendars and I'll see you in Lexington. Peace. Mike.

Check out our new website & Facebook for more information on the **Blue Water Folk Society and Thumbfest** [www.bluewaterfolksociety.org](http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org) and [www.facebook.com/thumbfest](https://www.facebook.com/thumbfest)

**Want to Support Thumbfest ? buy an ad or become a sponsor.... Limited # of Program & Web Ads from \$100.... Order yours now! Sponsorships from \$250... Contact: [barnettsjmd@gmail.com](mailto:barnettsjmd@gmail.com)**

**MORE BWFS member  
performance dates:**

**Mustard's Retreat**

> **Sunday, April 13 4:00**  
Flint Public Library Flint, Mi.  
[www.mustardsretreat.com](http://www.mustardsretreat.com)

**Still Running**

> **Sat. April 5 & May 10 7-10 pm**  
Lexington Brewing Co. & Wine House  
Lexington, Michigan

> **Sat. Apr 26, May 31, June 28  
7:30-10:30 pm**  
Raven Café Port Huron, Mi.  
[mmercatant@aol.com](mailto:mmercatant@aol.com)

**Denny Dwyer**

> **Fri. May 16 & Thur. May 29, June 12,  
19 & 26 9pm- 1am**

Steis Village Inn, Lexington, Mi.  
> **Sat. May 24 & June 28 4-7pm &  
Friday May 30 & June 13 7-10pm**  
Lexington Brewing Co. & Wine House  
Lexington, Mi.  
[d.dwyer@comcast.net](mailto:d.dwyer@comcast.net)

**Campfire Compadres**

> **Wed. June 18 2:00 pm**  
American House, Redford, Mi.  
[bionomic2@yahoo.com](mailto:bionomic2@yahoo.com)

**Brother-in-Arms**

> **Saturday April 19 & May 24**  
LaCroix Pub, St. Clair, Mi.

> **Saturday June 7 TBD**  
Tourist in Your Town, Pt. Huron, Mi.

> **Saturday April 12, May 10 & June 14  
7:30 – 10:30 pm**  
Raven Café, Port Huron, Mi.

> **Sun Apr 13, May 18, Jun 22 12-3pm**  
Great Lakes Maritime Center  
Port Huron, Mi.

> **Saturday, April 26**  
Wigs 4 Kids Benefit Marysville, Mi.  
[clanmenzsofwales@aol.com](mailto:clanmenzsofwales@aol.com)

**Sue Wilson**

> **Sunday, April 13 & June 22**  
Great Lakes Maritime Center  
Port Huron, Mi. 48060

**Barones & Guests**

> **April 11 & 25 & May 9 & 23 7:00 pm**  
Zebra Bar; Port Huron, Mi.  
[jbaronjbaron@yahoo.com](mailto:jbaronjbaron@yahoo.com)

**Jimmy DeHeno**

> **Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Gardenia Bluegrass & Roots Festival  
Royal Oak Farmers Market

> **Thursday, Apr. 24, May 29 & June 26  
7:30 – 10:30 pm**  
Raven Café, Port Huron, Mi.

> **Saturday, April 5 & 12 6-9 pm  
Fri. May 23, Sun. Jun. 15, 22 TBD**  
Bobby Mac's, Fair Haven, Mi.

> **Saturday June 28 TBD**  
St. Clair Art Fair St. Clair, Mi.  
[jimmy@jimmydeheno.com](mailto:jimmy@jimmydeheno.com)

Support our BWFS musicians by  
attending their performances !

**Final Two Coffeehouses a Huge Success!**

The last two Coffeehouse Open Mics at Trinity Episcopal Church were huge successes! Shirley Barnett emceed in February with 19 acts performing ( a record) and Bruce Filbeck emceed in March with 15 performers. Both Coffeehouse Open Mics had 130 to 150 persons in the audience.

Dean Barnett, John Broadwell, & Dale George have been handling set-up of the sound while Mike Mercatante, Jenna Reed, Tom Schlichting ran the sound board. Dawn & Marty Malek run the all important kitchen and Ruth Habalewsky handles the 50/50 Raffle.

The 50/50 Fundraiser Raffle with tickets at \$1 each or 6 for \$5 to support Thumbfest had Mary Spencer winning \$98 in February and Ginny McNabb winning \$120. Ginny donated \$60 of her prize back to Thumbfest.

Although we have no cover charge, we continue to collect canned goods for Project Blessing at the Church. We will also happily accept and need your financial and/or goodie donations for our refreshment table at the Coffeehouse. Remember: your contributions directly affect the quantity and quality of the refreshments we serve!

It is amazing the variety and quality of performers we seem to attract to our Open Mic. We have bluegrass, classical, folk, celtic, originals, and current music. It may be that the quality of our very attentive audience brings the performers to us.

....Performers during February included Mike Salowitz & John Broadwell; David Bailey; Iris Spencer; The Three Sisters; Dean Barnett; Mary Foley; Larry Maykowski; Still

Running; Pete Hartung; Whistle Stop Review; Booke & Juliet Geck with Rachel Steerzer; Ruby Hill; Dale George; Tom Schlichting; Bobby Budd; Andie & Mike McCarthy; Ed Dombrowski; John Johnston; Brandon Moitke making for a very full night with some great music.

Performers for March included Dale George; The Three Sisters plus Ephrom; John Broadwell; Ed Dombrowski; Val Rushing; Pete Hartung; Brandon Moitke; Lost Cuzzins; Circle of Friends; Bobby Budd; Brooke Geck & Pim; Butterhair; Rhonda Johnson; Phil Larson and Still Running with a hootenanny at the end. Both months had new performers that just wowed us, especially the young performers. What a treat!

Many people contributed to donating our variety of refreshments including Jeannine Kirchoff, Ruth Habalewsky, Ed & Sue Dombrowski, David Bailey, Ginny McNabb, Mary Spencer, Theresa Geck, Marge Badowski, Kathy Mackin, Sandy Stei, Mary Morgan, Tom & Vicki Raymond, Randy & Theresa Orchard, Paul Stimpson with Sue Dombrowski, Mary Filbeck & Toni George helping in the kitchen.

Ginny McNabb, MaryJean & Don Reid, Mel & Jeannine Kirchoff, the Dombrowskis, the Georges and Shirley Barnett help with clean-up. The more the merrier during clean-up! THANK YOU although I do not have all your names.

What a great season we have had. Come join us to listen and help keep the music coming in October, 2014. Please contact Dawn at [dawnmalek@comcast.net](mailto:dawnmalek@comcast.net) to volunteer for next season. Info will be on the web at [www.bluewaterfolksociety.org](http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org)

**Other Open Mic/Jam Opportunities**

- ❖ **Palmer Park Acoustic Jam:** Saturday, May 3...7 – 10pm at Palmer Park Recreation Center, 2829 Armour St., Port Huron, Mi. Contact: Toni George at 810-984-9760. All are welcome to play or listen.
- ❖ **Open Mic at Southern Thumb Music:** Open Mic on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month from 1 to 3 pm at Southern Thumb Music on Main St. in Richmond, Mi. Contact: [patti@southernthumbmusic.com](mailto:patti@southernthumbmusic.com)
- ❖ **Open Mic at Quay Street Park:** June 7 from 7 to 10 pm. Bring lawn chairs. & blankets by the fire pit, Port Huron contact Toni George at 810-984-9760
- ❖ **Jammin' with Ruby Hill:** Friday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month from 7 – 8 pm at Unity of Bluewater, 431 17<sup>th</sup> St., Port Huron, Mi. Contact: [jimwilliams1150@gmail.com](mailto:jimwilliams1150@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Veterans Appreciation Jam:** Friday, April 11 7pm at Marysville American Legion hosted by Brother-in-Arms. [clanmenzsofwales@aol.com](mailto:clanmenzsofwales@aol.com)
- ❖ **NOTICE..... THUMB FEST JAMS AND Open Mics:** If you are interested in helping with a Thumbfest Jam or Open Mic, please send your Artist submission to Mike Mercatante at [mmercatant@aol.com](mailto:mmercatant@aol.com). Mike is currently booking.



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

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

**Phone:**

President: 248-689-2840  
Secretary: 810-982-3382

**Website:**

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

**Facebook:**

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

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

Send your dues & info to:

Shirley Barnett  
1809 Caughill  
Columbus, Mi. 48063

[barnettsjmd@gmail.com](mailto:barnettsjmd@gmail.com)  
586-727-5197

**Coffeehouse Director**

Contact: Dawn Malek  
[dawnmalek@comcast.net](mailto:dawnmalek@comcast.net)  
586-995-1974

**Newsletter editor:**

Shirley Barnett

*We welcome your suggestions,  
pictures and submissions .*

**Send your information to**  
[barnettsjmd@gmail.com](mailto:barnettsjmd@gmail.com)

**Did you know??**

The **Blue Water Folk Society**  
is a 501c3 volunteer nonprofit

**Donations can be made at any  
time by mailing a check to:**

Blue Water Folk Society  
P.O. Box 83  
Lexington, Mi. 48063

*Make all checks payable to  
Blue Water Folk Society*

**Thumbfest Performer**

**Submissions:**

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

## Your Current Board Members

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

Carl Kammer .....President [kammera@outlook.com](mailto:kammera@outlook.com)  
Jerry Huff ....Treasurer [jlhuff221@yahoo.com](mailto:jlhuff221@yahoo.com)  
Jenna Reed .... Secretary [jenna.reed.39@icloud.com](mailto:jenna.reed.39@icloud.com)  
Mike Mercatante...Trustee [mmercatant@aol.com](mailto:mmercatant@aol.com)  
Ruth Habalewsky....Trustee [rhabalewsky@comcast.net](mailto:rhabalewsky@comcast.net)

term expires 2014 election  
term expires 2016 election  
term expires 2014 election  
term expires 2015 election  
term expires 2016 election

**WANTED: Food, Crafts and Product Vendors for Thumbfest,** being held this year on Saturday, August 30. Approximately 5,000 people attend Thumbfest each year, and many will be interested in your goods and services! Vendor hours: 10am - 8pm. Vendor fee is \$60. You must provide your own table(s). We will only accept a very limited number of vendors. First come-first served, so don't hesitate to return the attached application and payment ASAP. For more information contact Dawn Malek at [dawnmalek@comcast.net](mailto:dawnmalek@comcast.net) or 586.995.1974.



Circle of Friends Gordon MacDonald,  
Mary Foley & Dean Barnett



The Three Sisters with Ephram, Eden,  
Evangeline, Hosanna Willis & Jedediah



Tom Schlichting & Maggie Ewalt



Rachel Steerzer, Juliet & Brooke Geck



Hootenanny in Feb.2014 : Dean Barnett, Jim Williams, Mike Mercatante, Larry Maykowski, Jenna Reed, Dale George, Bobby Budd, Mary Foley, Ande McCarthy, Ed Dombrowski, Mike McCarthy, Ron McPhail, Briandon Moitke, John Johnston

**See you next season in October 2014**