



Blue Water Folk Notes

Thumbfest information begins on page 2



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Note from the President...Carl Kammer

It has been another very successful year for the Blue Water Folk Society. Success is always a very hard thing to quantify and measure. One good way to measure success is in looking at how well the purpose of the organization has been carried out. The purpose of the Blue Water Folk Society is promoting and sponsoring traditional and acoustic music events in the Blue Water area of Michigan. For us, this includes not only performances by known and accomplished groups and artists, but also encouragement of those that are just getting started in acoustic music and those who need to hone their performance skills.

Given all that, how did we do last year?

- Our winter coffeehouse series enjoyed an excellent season with many months being close to standing room only at the church and many new performers participating. This is our primary setting for encouraging new performers and letting all levels of artist hone their stage presence in front of a large and supportive audience
- We sponsored a number of fundraising concerts this year which also were very successful and certainly would fall under the category of sponsoring music events
- Speaking of sponsoring music events, Thumbfest 2010 (despite the less than ideal weather) was a huge success with many new and very diverse performers (everything from New Orleans marching bands to African drumming and classical guitar to down and dirty blues) with excellent reviews from the thousands of people who attended.

How is a small organization able to accomplish so much? Our members and our volunteers!

- Membership has grown from 43 at this time last year to 75 currently
- Our newsletter is better than ever and is being sent to more people gaining excellent publicity for BWFS

So as I said at the beginning, it has been a very successful year for the *Blue Water Folk Society* and we have every expectation that this year will be even better.

On a side note, I have news that is both sad and happy. The sad part is that one of our founding members, *Shirley Barnett* has decided to retire from the board after many faithful years of service. We are all sad to see her go, me especially. She has been an inspiration to me from the time I first joined the group. The happy part is that she has agreed to remain active in many aspects of the group so she won't be going anywhere anytime soon.

Thanks to all of you for the privilege of being your president these past two years. I have enjoyed it immensely! *Carl Kammer*

General Meeting Election Results

At the recent *Blue Water Folk Society General Meeting and Election* on June 21st, and the Board meeting that followed, the following people were elected to the Board of Trustees.

- *Carl Kammer*.....President
- *Jenna Reed*.....Secretary
- *Tom Schlichting*.....Treasurer
- *Ruth Habalewsky*...Trustee
- *Mike Mercatante*....Trustee

Shirley Barnett will remain as the Membership chair and Newsletter editor. *George Stewart* will remain as the Lexington Arts Council liaison. The by-law amendments passed which modify the membership year to July 1st to June 30th of each year. Membership will remain at \$10 per year per person.

Hot News to Use

Save these dates:

Thumbfest Fundraisers

Saturday, August 6th

7:30-9:30 pm..Circle of Friends in Lexington Harbor

Saturday, August 13th

Music at the Harbor in Port Sanilac, 7:00 to 10 pm

featuring the sounds of the 60's with Still Running, Circle of Friends, Lost Cuzzins, Dynasty & Milarchs

And the BIG EVENT!!!

Thumbfest 2011

Saturday, Sept. 3rd

10 am to 10 pm

Lexington, Mi.

See page 2 & 3 for information

Bring your chair, voice & instrument!

Free & family friendly

Friday, Sept. 2nd 7 pm

Mustard's Retreat: 5667 Old Orchard Bluff, Lexington, Mi.

Contact: lexstewart@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, Sept. 3rd 9 am

Folk Mass : Trinity Episcopal Church, 9 a.m. AND

Sunday, Sept. 4th 10 am

Folk Mass : Trinity Episcopal Church, Lexington, Mi.

Contact: gjmacdonald@comcast.net

More Event Dates

BWFS member performance dates to consider:

Tom Schlichting....

- > **Saturday, August 13 7-10 pm**
Thumbfest Benefit at the Harbor
Port Sanilac, Mi.
tomschlichting@hotmail.com

Denny Dwyer

- > **Fridays 6:30 – 9:00 pm**
Alexander's in Marysville, Mi.
- > **Saturday, August 13 7 – 10 pm**
Port Huron American Legion
d.dwyer@comcast.net

Dean Barnett

- > **Sunday, August 28 6:00 – 9:00 pm**
Raven Café in Port Huron free
bionomic2@yahoo.com

Lost Cuzzins

- > **Friday, August 5 7:30 – 9:30 pm**
Mike Sneed and the Lost Cuzzins at
Lake Orion Unity Church,
3070 Baldwin Rd., Orion Twp. Mi.
- > **Saturday, August 13 7:00 – 10:00 pm**
Thumbfest Benefit at the Harbor
Port Sanilac, Mi.
- > **Saturday, August 27 7:00 – 9:00 pm**
Music at the Harbor
Port Sanilac, Mi.
- > **Sunday, September 18 1:00 & 3:00pm**
Harvest Days
Seven Ponds Nature Center
Dryden, Mi.
jrwsms@advnet.net

Circle of Friends

- > **Saturday August 6 7:30 – 9:30 pm**
Music in the Park Lexington, Mi.
- > **Saturday August 13 7:00 – 10:00 pm**
Thumbfest Benefit at the Harbor
Port Sanilac, Mi.

Still Running

- > **Saturday, August 13 7:00 – 10:00 pm**
Thumbfest Benefit at the Harbor
Port Sanilac, Mi.
- > **Saturday, August 20 AND**
- > **Saturday, Sept. 17 7:30– 10:30 pm**
Raven Café Port Huron
- > **Sat. Sept. 17 & Sun. Sept. 18th 2:00pm**
Hands on Art Festival at McMorran
Port Huron, Mi.
2jnsgrover@comcast.net

There are many Blue Water Folk Society members who are performing at Thumbfest on Saturday, Sept. 3rd between 10am & 10pm

See the performance update
The full schedule will be found at : www.thumbfest.org

Thumbfest Performance Update: Mike Mercatante, Artistic Director

Hey kids! Let's put on a show! Ahhhhh.... The Thumbfest chant is heard again.

What a flurry of activity these past several months have been in pulling together Thumbfest 2011!. Rest assured that many of us have been busy working for the past several months to put together what looks like the most exciting festival yet. It's the only place to be on **Saturday, September 3.**

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Thumbfest and we will be honoring the past as well as revealing glimpses of an exciting future. This year, you'll see old festival favorites mixing with new blood for a smorgasbord sure to please your musical taste buds.

We've expanded the offerings even more this year. Here is a sample:

We are presenting for the first time the excitement of world percussion and dance troupe *Tree Of Life Drum and Dance Society*. Let the *Thumbfest* good times roll with Cajun band *Creole du Nord* and New Orleans second-line style brass band *Nicky Boy Street Band*. The *Red Sea Pedestrians* come back with their high energy gypsy-inflected music that brought down the house last year. Jug band the *Smokin' Fez Monkeys* are coming from Ohio. There's Irish music from *Finvarra's Wren*. French/Indian music by *Le Compagnie*. Macedonian influenced music from *Eastward Bound*. Multiple Detroit Metro Times Music Awards winners *Billy Brandt & Sarana VerLin*. *The Revma Greek Dancers*. and much more.

We are bringing back troubadours like *Claudia Schmidt, Mustard's Retreat, Kitty Donohoe* and *Jim Bizer* and *Jan Krist*. Festival favorite groups like *Floyd King & the Bushwackers, Brian Wood* and the *Troubadads, Lost Cuzzins, Ourselves* and *Still Running* along with scores of other favorites and new performers will be on hand. Folk, blues, jazz, world and everything in between!

New this year will be the *Irish Rose Street*

Party. Check out this familiar site with a change in attitude. There will be dancing, magic, story-telling, balloon animals and exotic percussion. Most of which you can participate in.

There will be jam sites and workshops. Play with all the cool cats or learn something new. Why not both? If you don't play, just listen. Your ears are always welcome.

There will be eleven sites of great performances and instruction scattered throughout the lovely town of Lexington, Michigan. **All free and family-friendly.** Music and dance everywhere for twelve hours. How cool is that?

This is going to be a great festival and it's because of a lot of people. We all have a love for music and the desire to share it with others. I'm really proud and happy to have been a part of Thumbfest for the last several years as a performer, volunteer, board member, and the current Artistic Director.

Okay. That's about it. Back to work. All that's missing from this scene is *you*. See you September 3rd.

You can contact Mike at mmercatant@aol.com

Bring a **chair**, your voice & Instrument and Join us at **Thumbfest 2011 ! Shuttle service will be available.**

Time to Order your t-shirt
Winning Design by Josh Walerych



Black Short Sleeve
\$15 s-xl
\$17 xxl
General Price & at **Thumbfest**
Preorder to guarantee your size !

Preorder by sending email to Jenna Reed at 2jnsgrover@comcast.net
Preorder by August 3rd Special Deals
Performers, Bands, Volunteers \$8 s-xl \$10xxl
Join us for dues of \$10 per year & get your Shirt at a reduced price!
Blue Water Folk Society Member Preorder Price
\$12 s-xl \$14 xxl



Thumbfest Benefits Coming Up & Added Thumbfest Events

The last two of the four [Blue Water Folk Society](#) Thumbfest Benefit concerts are coming up in August.

The **first** one will be **Saturday, August 6th at 7:30 pm** as part of *Music in the Park* series sponsored by the *Lexington Arts Council*. The concert will feature *Circle of Friends*, a popular Peter, Paul and Mary tribute group, with *Dean Barnett* as Peter, *Mary Foley* as Mary, *George Stewart* as Paul and *Gordon MacDonald* taking the role of Dick Kniss. The raffle proceeds that night will go to the Blue Water Folk Society. *Dawn and Marty Malek*, of the Blue Water Folk Society will be present to accept donations in support of Thumbfest and provide information. Bring your chair and enjoy the night of music on the harbor.

The **second** one will be **Saturday, August 13th from 7:00 – 10:00 pm** as part of *Music at the Harbor* series in Port Sanilac. *Tom Schlichting* has been coordinating this concert which will have the theme *Sounds of the 60's*. Contributing their music to the night will be, *Two or Three of Port Sanilac* who will open with the 1962 classic *Rhythm of the Falling Rain* and a *Beach Boys* medley, *Circle of Friends* will do 30 minutes of Peter Paul & Mary, including Bob Dylan, and any other item they want to add in, *Dean Barnett and Tom Schlichting* will contribute Simon & Garfunkel numbers, *Still Running* brings a "groovy medley of psychedelic, protest and love songs", *Dynasty* will perform 30 minutes of sixties R&B, the *Lost Cuzzins* will do 30 minutes of sixties classics, and *Frodis Room* will do a spot of Jimi Hendrix to close out the night.

In addition, the night will feature a **raffle of a tenor banjo, kite flying before the concert** which Susan Gill is organizing and a **corn roast**.

Tom Schlichting along with others from the BWFS will be present to collect donations and provide information. **\$10 Thumbfest donation buttons** will also be available. Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Join us and stay late to hear all the great music. Don't forget your chair & blanket.

We may also have some *Thumbfest* t-shirts available, but that is not a certainty at this time. What is certain, is that *Tom Schlichting* will be taking names for persons wanting to be a volunteer and perhaps even having a specific duty ready to assign for the Thumbfest itself.

There are set-up and tear-down duties still available, sales table, Thumbfest poster distribution and other event day duties. Contact tomschlichting@hotmail.com or *Ruth Habalewsky* at rhabalewsky@comcast.net

Circle of Friends

George Stewart, Mary Foley, Dean Barnett, Gordon MacDonald



Still Running

Jenna Reed, Mike Mercatante



Lost Cuzzins

Dean Barnett, Kent Krueger, Jim Williams, Ron McPhail



Other Events around Thumbfest

American Folk Mass & Pre-Thumbfest Concert

A wonderful new addition to the *Thumbfest* weekend is an **American Folk Song Mass** by **Rev. Ian Douglas Mitchell** will be performed at *Trinity Episcopal Church* at 5646 Main St Lexington, MI at **9:00 am Saturday, September 3** and **10:00 am Sunday Service on Sunday, September 4th**.

Trinity Episcopal Church is the location of our Traditional Coffeehouse series. *Father Rick Schark*, the pastor at Trinity is a fine musician himself. The church and their members have been strong supporters of the BWFS activities. <http://www.trinitylexington.com/index.htm>
Contact: Gordon at gjmacdonald@comcast.net

George Stewart will be hosting a **pre-Thumbfest** concert by a favorite *Thumbfest* group **Mustards Retreat** in his yard on the shore of Lake Huron at 5667 Old Orchard Bluff in Lexington on **Friday, September 2nd at 7:00 pm**. Donations will be accepted in support of Mustard's Retreat. George does have a rain location at Trinity Episcopal (but it won't rain) and does suggest you park and walk to his house which is only a couple of blocks away. Contact George for more information at lexstewart@sbcglobal.net

Volunteers Still Needed

Volunteers are still needed for the Thumbfest...both for event day duties and pre and post Thumbfest jobs. Included in the needed volunteers are poster distribution, set-up on Friday, tear down on Sunday, bucket and sales table work, event runners and more. Come be a bigger part of a fun day by volunteering, for even just a couple of hours. Please contact: Tom Schlichting tomschlichting@hotmail.com or Ruth Habalewsky rhabalewsky@comcast.net

There will be opportunities at the Aug. 6th concert in Lexington and the Aug. 13th concert in Port Sanilac. You can also contact any member of the board or send an email to board@bluewaterfolk.org. We can't do it without you.



Donation Buttons available for a \$10 donation Available at the benefit concerts, Thumbfest

Contact: Tom at tomschlichting@hotmail.com

Join the Blue Water Folk Society !!

Everyone is welcome to join the Blue Water Folk Society just by sending the \$10 yearly dues along with your name, phone number, address and/or email address to:

**Shirley Barnett
1809 Caughill**

Columbus, Mi. 48063

Please make check payable to: Blue Water Folk Society and indicate "for dues".

We need your support!!



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

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On the web & Facebook:

www.bluewaterfolk.org

www.thumbfest.org

We welcome your suggestions, pictures and submissions by Jan. 25, April 25, July 25, October 25 for our event calendar and for publication!

Send your information to shirley@bluewaterfolk.org

Music at the Harbor:

Port Sanilac 7 to 10 PM

*Sat August 8: *Civil War Days Grand Ball* featuring Golden Griffon Stringent

*Sat August 13: **Blue Water Folk Society Benefit**

*Sat August 20 (Antique Boat Show): *Mustard's Retreat*

*Sat August 27: *Lost Cuzzins*

*Sat September 3: *Detroit Rhythm & Blues Society*

Contact: Susan Gill at smdebus@comcast.net

Music in the Park at

Lexington Harbor...7:30 pm

>Friday Aug 5 Paisley Fogg – Folk Rock harmony

***SATURDAY Aug 6 **A Circle of Friends – Traditional Folk (Thumbfest Benefit)**

>Friday Aug 12 Steel Wheels – High energy band from the Tri City Area

>Friday Aug 19 Dave Bennett – Clarinetist playing 50's favorites

www.lexarts.com

Your Current Board Members

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

- Carl KammerPresident carl@bluewaterfolk.org term expires 2014 election
- Tom Schlichting....Treasurer tom@bluewaterfolk.org term expires 2013 election
- Jenna Reed.....Secretary 2jnsgrover@comcast.net term expires 2014 election
- Mike Mercatante...Trustee mmercatant@aol.com term expires 2012 election
- Ruth Habalewsky....Trustee rhablewsky@comcast.net term expires 2013 election

July 9th Thumbfest Benefit

Tom Schlichting reports that the July 9th Thumbfest Benefit organized by George Young at the Water Tower Bar and Grill was a success raising \$212 for Thumbfest. The crowd kept the restaurant hoping. Our thanks to the musicians who donated their time and talent. They included Bobby Budd, performing songs and stories in the style of Utah Phillips, Ourselves with Irish drinking songs, Dan Shepherd with country classics and Americana, Sweet Johnny B performing vintage 1920s and 30s music and Denny Dwyer with Neil Diamond and some Beatle tunes among others. Every little bit we earn helps us deliver a quality Thumbfest.

BWFS Member Activities

> Tom McGovern & Shirley Barnett will be performing the National Anthem at the August 15th Tigers games with the Richmond Community Choir. Let's hope we bring them luck.

> George Stewart will be hosting a pre-Thumbfest concert on Friday, Sept. 2nd with Mustard's Retreat in his yard...see story on Page 3.

> Maggie Ferguson is busy with her radio show The Old Front Porch Radio Show on Tuesdays between 5:00 and 7:30 pm.

You can find us on the web by going to:

www.wxou.org

Other Open Mics

Blue Water Folk Society Coffeehouse Open Mics are done for the summer but here are some other open mics hosted by members of

>**Cadillac House Open Mic....** Time and date vary

>**Great Lakes Maritime Center Old Time Jam Sundays** 11 am to 3 pm all summer until Sept. 11

Contact: ted@theimprinthouse.com

> openmikes.org

If you looking for an open mic any where in the country, you can search this site by zip code or state. A good resource for you as you travel this summer.

Don't forget...you can join in at the jams and workshops at the Thumbfest: Sept. 3rd !

******* NOTE: Next issue...deadline for submissions...October 25**



Blue Water Folk Coffeehouse Open Mics News

Dawn and Marty Malek have agreed to be our Coffeehouse Directors again this year. They did a fine job last year.

You can contact *Dawn and Marty* at dawnmalek@comcast.net if you want to help in some way, with set-up, tear-down, kitchen help, refreshments or serving as an emcee.

Although final plans have not been set by the board yet, preliminary plans are under way. It is expected that the Coffeehouse Open Mics will begin again in October. The series was very successful with attendance ranging from 60 to 100 of a very attentive audience. The quality of the musicians has been high.

Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington has been very supportive of our activities by providing us with a venue for our Open Mics. Check out the American Folk Song Mass reported on page 3.

It is anticipated our first BWFS Coffeehouse Open Mic will be Saturday, October 8th at 7 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal. Any changes will be posted on Facebook and emailed. See you in October!