



# Blue Water Folk Notes

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Dates Set for Coffeehouses	2
Coffee House Help Needed	2
Thumbfest Help Needed	2
Cd's for Gifts?	2
Thumbfest News	3
From the Board	4
Carl Kammer Profile	4
Mike Mercatante Profile	4
Contact Information	4

### Hot News to Use

#### *Member featured in Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine*

**Jimmy DeHeno**, a member of the Blue Water Folk Society, and a performer at the 2009 Thumbfest, will have one of his songs featured in **issue # 70 of the Fingerstyle Guitar magazine**, which should be out in December.

Eric Hanson will have extra copies of the magazine for sale at his store, Hanson Pro in Port Huron.

Jimmy, who performs at the Bistro 1882 in Port Huron every Friday at 6:00 p.m. as well as teaches at Southern Thumb in Richmond, Hanson Pro Music in Port Huron and is with the School of Strings, is well respected in the area for his wonderful guitar and banjo work.

Way to go, Jimmy!

## A Little About the Blue Water Folk Society

The Blue Water Folk Society, based in Lexington, Michigan, is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that promotes traditional and acoustic music in the Thumb of Michigan. Two major projects of the Blue Water Folk Society are the traditional music open mic that is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from October to March, in Lexington, Michigan and the Thumbfest, which is a music festival that has been held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend in Lexington, Michigan. You can read more about these activities at our *main* web page

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

This is the very first issue of our newsletter which we hope to improve as we go on with it. Eventually we will publish a

calendar of music activities that involve or interest the members of the Blue Water Folk Society.

There is a calendar of activities listed on at: [www.bluewaterfolk.org](http://www.bluewaterfolk.org) under the calendar of events.

We will also include some "hot" or current news and announcements to help keep you updated with our activities. We hope to have these uploaded to the website in the future.

We welcome your contribution so if you have something you would like to contribute to the page, **please send the information to Shirley Barnett at [shirley@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:shirley@bluewaterfolk.org)**

## December 12, 2009 Open Mic

The December Open Mic is scheduled for Saturday, December 12, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington, Michigan 48450.

As at all the open mics, we begin signing up the

performers to the available spots at 6:30 p.m. Single performers are limited to 10 minutes and bands are allowed 15 minutes.

Musicians often remark that the audience is so attentive.

Refreshments will be available. Donations are accepted to offset the cost of the refreshments and to support the BWFS. We also collect canned goods for Project Blessing.

Come join us for an enjoyable evening.

## Dates set for Coffeehouse Open Mic series

### Hot News to Use

#### How about Cd's for gifts?

**The Lost Cuzzins** joined the list of Thumbfest performers and members of the Blue Water Folk Society that have a CD available when they had their successful CD release party on November 15, 2009.

BWFS members who have a Cd available are Mike Tremblay (Tremblay-Evans), William Henry Russell, Tom Schlichting (Ourselves), Dean Barnett (Lost Cuzzins) and Mike Mercatante and Jenna Reed (Still Running).

Please contact us with information about other BWFS members with a CD available.

If you enjoyed the music at the Thumbfest 2009, why not give a CD of one of the many musicians that performed for a gift. To help support Thumbfest this year, the performers played either for reduced rates, no fee at all, or for a small share of the Thumbfest profits.

You can find links to reach your favorite musician by going to [www.thumbfest.org](http://www.thumbfest.org) and then picking performers from the Thumbfest 2009 menu.

You can also contact [shirley@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:shirley@bluewaterfolk.org) and we will get back with you with contact information.

**You can spread the good music from Thumbfest and support the musicians that gave so much to the success of Thumbfest 2009, by buying a CD from them.**

All the dates have been set for the Open Mic Coffeehouse series, held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Lexington, Mi. 48450...from 7 pm to 10 pm. Don't forget to arrive by 6:30 p.m. when we begin signing up the acts for the night if you want to perform that night. There is a 10 minute limit for solo acts and 15 minute limit for bands. We hope to see you join us as either a performer or an audience. Free admission but we suggest you bring

canned goods for the Project Blessing food pantry. Donations are also accepted for refreshments and the Blue Water Folk Society. The dates for the rest of the year are:

- **Saturday, December 12, 2009**
- **Saturday, January 9, 2010**
- **Saturday, February 13, 2010**
- **Saturday, March 13, 2010**

## Coffeehouse Help needed

We still do not have another overall Open Mic Coffeehouse director. Carl Kammer has been helping fill that role for now, but a volunteer is always welcome.

In November, Tom Schlichting did the sound, Gene Butler did the stage and sound set-up, Dean

Barnett was the emcee and Shirley Barnett, with help from Don and Mary Jean Reid ran the kitchen. Jeanette Kirchoff, Theresa Geck brought some baked goods. There was also a cheese ball brought, but I do not know who brought that...**do you?**

Mike Mercatante will be the emcee for the month of December and Shirley Barnett will again run the kitchen with help from Dawn and Marty Malek.

If you want to volunteer for any Coffeehouse duty, please contact Carl Kammer or Shirley Barnett.

## Help Needed for Thumbfest

We are beginning the planning process for **Thumbfest 2010**.

If **you are interested** in taking a leadership role or active volunteer role for Thumbfest, please send an **email to [board@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:board@bluewaterfolk.org)** or contact any individual board member.

At the present time, the entire board will function as the preliminary planning team until we have filled our planning team.

At a planning and wrap-up meeting on October 25, 2009, with 12 members present, there was wide support to present another Thumbfest and some volunteers for some of the necessary roles for Thumbfest, but no overall coordinator or director stepped forward. We do, however, have some roles already filled.

Please let us know, as soon as possible, if you want a role in planning the Thumbfest 2010. Decisions about the form of a future Thumbfest will take place by January.

## Thumbfest News

This is great! Is everyone in this town so happy all the time? What a wonderful place, we will have to come back! Wow, all the music is great and even the musicians are happy! This is the best music festival!

With comments like these we could have called the Thumbfest 2009 a success but now the final figures are in and we can officially call Thumbfest 2009 a financial success, which we measure by having enough "profit" to pay all the performers and our bills for the Thumbfest.

Tom Schlichting, treasurer reported that we had enough profit on the cutoff date to pay each TPS (*Thumbfest Profit Share*) individual performer \$12.78. Sanilac Consortium for the Arts board has voted to "gift" each profit-sharing musician up to the \$25 level. This \$25 figure represents BWFS dividing **all the net profit** among the performers plus a special recognition of their service from the Sanilac Consortium for the Arts.

Some of the many expenses we have for Thumbfest are the tents, portable toilets, the shuttle bus, paid performers and other items. We raise the money for the Thumbfest by sponsors, ads, benefit concerts, grants and donations. Our budget this year was \$14,600, which was greatly reduced from last year's budget.

We would like to thank our stage sponsors and venue space donors: Weekend's; Smackwater Courtyard; Lakeside A & W; iCrave Cafe; Southern Thumb Music; Virginia McNabb, realtor for Town & Country; Sugar Shack Band; Upper Level Acoustic Cafe; Mary & Ruth Habalewsky; Bill Oldford, Crazy Joe's, St. Dennis Catholic Church, the Lion's Club and Dave Reid Custom Homes for without them we would not have had venues for all the music we had.

All of our workshop presenters did a wonderful job and we have heard nothing but praise about all of them. Many of the presenters went above and beyond what they needed to do.

For a complete list of all the performers and workshop performers, see the [www.thumbfest.org](http://www.thumbfest.org) website.

A number of people stepped up to take leadership roles and deserve a lot of thanks as without them the Thumbfest would not have been as well organized as it was. Gene Butler (site), Ginny McNabb (parking and food), Mimi Johnson (CD table and volunteers), Tom Schlichting (scheduling help and finances), Mike Mercatante (stage mgt.), Mike Tremblay (web page and a stage), Dan Hazlett (stage), Dave Reid (sound and jam site and set-up), Jenna Reid (t-shirts), Gary Krueger (help with production), Ruth Habalewsky (grant), George Stewart (grant), Carl Kammer (finances), Faith Hartley and Bill Fragel (event day issues and kid's stage), Phil Larson (stage), Connie Rutkofske (crafts), Mary Jean and Don Reid, Marty Habalewsky, Al Nahajewski, Donna Nahajewski (publicity) and myself, Shirley Barnett (coordinator).

Many other people helped to make Thumbfest a success, including the drivers from the Sanilac Transportation Co., who served with a smile (*we heard good things about them*), and a whole list of volunteers. One of the bad things about listing volunteers is that you always miss some, but what I have decided to do if you will forgive me for this is list the ones I know about right now and when I get the other volunteer names, I'll list them in the next edition. So thanks to: Marty & Ruth Habalewsky, Bill and Adele Russell, Tony and Annette Mercatante, Stewart Reed and son, Mel and Jeannine Kirchoff, Catherine Merritt, Josh King, Emily Merritt, Al Vandergraff, Sean Hartley, Al Lewandowski, Peggy Krueger, Chris Noetzel, Brauwyn Williams, Dean Barnett, the Lost Cuzzins, Ricky Novak, Banjo Jim Foersch, John Foersch, Tom Wilson, Sue Wilson, Maggie Ferguson, Jack Ferguson, Terry Nolan, Theresa Geck, Tess Geck, Brooke Geck, Juliet Geck, Judy Butler, the Ed and Judy Hubbell, Mary and Carl Castle, Dawn and Marty Malek, Jimmy Deheno, Susan Gill, Tim Brown, Gary Koestner, Al Nahajewski, and Donna Nahajewski. I'm

sure there are more, but, unfortunately, I do not have their names yet, but I will get them to you as soon as possible.

A special thanks to all our donors for that is what helped us to reach our financial goal this year. If you want to express your support for future Thumbfests, you can send a check to: Blue Water Folk Society, P.O. Box 83, Lexington, Michigan 48450. If you mark "Thumbfest" on the check memo line, we will only use it for Thumbfest.

So, again, thank you to all of you. Now, if you are interested in getting involved, either in a leadership role, or a volunteer role, contact us at [board@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:board@bluewaterfolk.org) as we are beginning the process for Thumbfest 2010. Thank you from Shirley Barnett the Coordinator of Thumbfest 2009.

**The following pictures were taken by Michael Carpenter.**

**More pictures in the next edition.**

**Michael Hough at his Percussion Circle**



**Dean Barnett & Lost Cuzzins leading the 1<sup>st</sup> song of the Hootenanny**



**Check out this link for an interesting Thumbfest blog:**  
<http://colorjoy.com/weblog/archives/5099>

## From the BWFS Board

*Come join us...only  
\$10 a year makes  
you a member!*

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*Promoting Traditional and  
Acoustic Music in the Thumb of  
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### On the web:

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

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

Mike Tremblay:  
webmaster

***We welcome your  
suggestions and  
submissions for our  
event calendar and for  
publication!***

Send your information to  
[shirley@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:shirley@bluewaterfolk.org)

In this spot, we will have information from and about the various board members. We begin this month with profiles on our two newest board members, Carl Kammer and Mike Mercatante.

You can reach all the board members by sending an email to [board@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:board@bluewaterfolk.org)

Your current members of the Blue Water Folk Society are:

- Carl Kammer .....President [carl@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:carl@bluewaterfolk.org)
- Tom Schlichting....Treasurer [tom@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:tom@bluewaterfolk.org)
- Shirley Barnett ....Secretary [shirley@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:shirley@bluewaterfolk.org)
- Mike Mercatante...Trustee [mikem@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:mikem@bluewaterfolk.org)
- Mike Tremblay.....Trustee [mike@bluewaterfolk.org](mailto:mike@bluewaterfolk.org).

### Carl Kammer: President

Carl Kammer currently serves as the president of the Blue Water Folk Society. He is married with two sons and a daughter-in-law.

By day he works as a management consultant with a specialization in project management for small and medium-sized businesses. But when he's not re-engineering processes or determining IT best practices, Carl indulges in his other passions: photography, cooking and music of all kinds.

His interest in music started in grade school in Detroit, when he began playing the

trombone. He kept tooting his own horn all the way into high school, where he played in the symphonic and concert bands of Cass Tech. In fact, many prominent musicians were going to Cass at about that same time, including Diana Ross and Paul Riser of Motown fame and jazz greats Paul Chambers, Donald Byrd, and Lanny Austin. They continue to serve as musical inspiration for Carl to this day.

After Cass Tech, Carl moved on to Wayne State University just as the Folk Era was starting to influence TV (Hootenany). Once again, Carl was surrounded by many future influential performers who hadn't yet

become famous, like Joni Mitchell, who would appear at WSU student mixers with her then husband Chuck.

Carl's own musical endeavors are now mostly centered at his church, where he's finally resurrected his ol' trombone. He also sings in the choir and taken to playing congas and hand percussion with the band "Transformed".

All of these experiences have resulted in a love of folk music that still burns strongly today, especially for the many fine Michigan musicians that have appeared at Thumbfest.

### Mike Mercatante: Trustee

I'm Mike Mercatante. I believe I am the newest board member of the Blue Water Folk Society.

I was born and raised in Detroit (the city, not a suburb) and lived there until I moved to Wales Township in 1992 where I live with my wife, son, and assorted animals. I currently work as the branch manager of the Marysville

Public Library. I have degrees in Music Composition and Psychology from Wayne State University.

Music is a lifelong passion of mine. I have been involved with the music scene for many years. I am a guitarist and player of stringed instruments and I love to write and arrange music. I've played in bands throughout the Detroit area for

years and am now part of an eclectic, creative acoustic music duo called Still Running. I also helped manage Alvin's, one of Detroit's premier nightclubs. I have been involved with the BWFS and Thumbfest for four years.

I hope to continue to write, record, play for years to come.