



Blue Water Folk Notes

T-shirt info on
last page

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Thumbfest Wrap-up Meeting	2
Anne's Jam a Tasty Treat	2
Events & BWFS performers	2
Thumbfest Wrap-up meeting	2
Thumbfest Survey	2
Thumbfest 2010 a Success	3
August 14 & 20 Benefits	4
Contact Information	4
Support Musician, Adv.	4
Future dates to hold	4
Thumbfest Pictures	5&6

Notes from the Editor..Shirley Barnett

Thumbfest has evolved from the first one at Camp Ozanam in 2002 with a \$10 admission & 300 attendees to 1000 paid attendees in 2004 the last year at Camp Ozanam.

The decision to move it to Lexington in 2005 made it a **free** festival & resulted in a larger festival in both venues and attendance. There have been advantages to having it in town as it has attracted many people to see the beauty of the area and introduce new people to the kind of music we call folk.

One major disadvantage is finding a way to fund the Thumbfest. Finding some major benefactors like other organizations do would help us to continue & keep Thumbfest free.

On page 2 of this newsletter, we have a brief survey asking for your input. Please take the time to answer the survey and send us your comments to help guide us while we are discussing future Thumbfest and activities.

We are very grateful to all our donors with special recognition to *Sandra Oldford*, to *Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs* through the *Huron County Economic Dev. Corp.* & *Sanilac Consortium for the Arts* for our Grants, *Lexington Arts Council* and *Port Sanilac Music at the Harbor* for sponsoring a benefit , to all the

musicians that gave of their time and talents to perform at the concerts including *Tom Kirkpatrick, John Broadwell, Mary Foley, Circle of Friends, Lost Cuzzins, Dean Barnett, John Potrykus, Still Running, Ourselves, Al Lewandowski, Tom McGovern & Mike Tremblay*, to the *Village of Lexington* for allowing us to use Lexington, to our *Stage Sponsors* and *venue providers* including *First Michigan Bank, Virginia McNabb, Smackwater Block, Paint Creek Folklore Society, Irish Rose, Lakeside A&W, Sanilac Consortium of Art, Cadillac House, Marty & Ruth Habalewsky, Oldfords Marina, iCrave Café, & the Lions Hall*, to *Sanilac Transportation* for providing drivers at the last minute, to *Lexington DPW*, to *Peggy Stencel* of the *LBA*, our and *team leaders* including *Mike Mercatante, Jenna Reed, Tom Schlichting, Shirley & Dean Barnett, Carl Kammer, Dawn & Marty Malek, Ginny McNaab, Mary Foley, Mimi Johnson, Mary Bruce, Kathy & Terry Kelchner, Dave Reid, Gene Butler, Frank & BJ Swarts, Connie Rutkofske* and especially to **all** our volunteers that I've tried to list on the 3rd page. One of the dangers in thanking people is that we will forget someone so let me know if I have and I will correct it in our next issue which should be out in December. Thanks, Shirley

Hot News to Use Upcoming Dates Thumbfest Wrap-Up & Input Meeting

Saturday, October 16
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm at Great
Lakes Maritime Center 51
Water St., Pt. Huron 48060 :
bring ideas, suggestions &
issues

Coffeehouse Dates:

See Article at left for more information

- Sat. October 9th
- **Sat. November 20th**
(note: We had to move this date to the 3rd Saturday due to a Lexington Arts Council Wine Tasting at Trinity Episcopal Church)
- Sat. December 11th
- Sat. January 8th
- Sat. Febuary 12th
- Sat. March 12th
- Sat. April 9th (save this date for a possible fundraiser)

BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic Season Begins Sat., Oct. 9th

Come join us at the first **BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic** of the season on **Saturday, Oct. 9th**, at the **Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St. (M-25) in Lexington, Michigan 48450.**

The music will start at **7:00 pm** and continue no later than **10:00 pm.**

We begin signing up performers at **6:30 p.m.** and will sign up performers until all the slots are filled.

Individual performers will have 10 minutes to perform while bands will have 15 minutes to perform.

Because the time is short, set-up time is limited, so be prepared to perform with little set-up.

Dawn & Marty Malek are the new **Coffee House Directors** for this season and can be reached at **586-995-1974** or dawnmalek@comcast.net

Dawn and Marty send the following message to you:

We appreciate any help you can give us in this respect.

We are looking for one set of extra hands to help in the kitchen each month. We need help making coffee, putting out refreshments, cleaning up, etc.


Please contact us personally to volunteer to help.

We are also always looking for donations of snacks and sweets for the refreshment table. Feel free to bring anything you'd like!

We also need someone to run the sound board and to act as MC each month. Again, please contact us personally if you are willing to perform either of these duties.

We will also have sign-up sheets for all these volunteer opportunities at our first Coffee House on October 9.

Thank you in advance for your generous offers of help. You will be greatly appreciated.

And if we haven't met yet, please do come and introduce yourself. We'll be the ones running around like crazy in the kitchen! :) 

More Event Dates

Other Open Mics & Folk groups

- **The Connection Open Mic** at 114 N. Main St. Capac, Mi. 7:00 pm – 9ish?
For info: 810-531-4238
- **Paint Creek Folklore Society**
1st Saturday of Month
Contact: *Jack Ferguson* at thunderisle@yahoo.com
- **Blue Water Musicians Network**
Has an Open Old Time Jam and an Open Mic...contact Dave Rutkofske at: woodsedge@advnet.net
- **www.openmikes.org/calendar/**
A listing of many different open mics in Michigan

BWFS member performance dates to consider:

Still Running...

- > **Friday Oct. 29 8-11 pm**
Raven Café, Port Huron
[Find us on Facebook](#)

Ourselves....

- > **Friday Oct. 1 8:15 pm**
Live From the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw
Pontiac, Mi 48020
tomshchlichting@hotmail.com

Lost Cuzzins....

- > **Friday Oct. 29 8:15 pm**
Live From the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw
Pontiac, Mi.
Special Halloween Show
www.myspace.com/lostcuzzins

Maggie Ferguson

- > **October 22nd**
Live From the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw
Pontiac, Mi.
- > **Saturday Nov. 13, 7:30**
Tin Whistle Concert
Paint Creek Folklore Society
University Presbyterian Church
Rochester, Mi.
marmik21@yahoo.com

Thumbfest 2010 Wrap Up Meeting on Oct. 16 at 3:30 pm

We will have a **Thumbfest 2010 Wrap Up** meeting on **Saturday, Oct. 16 at 3:30 to 5:30** at the **Great Lakes Maritime Center** at 51 Water St. , Port Huron, Mi. 48060

At this meeting we will receive a report on the finances from Thumbfest 2010 and present any input we received about Thumbfest 2010.

In addition, we look like to solicit any input or suggestions you either received or would like to contribute yourself about Thumbfest.

Your input, suggestions and ideas are invaluable to us to help in the planning of any future Thumbfest Music Festivals.

Some of the items you may want to consider while reviewing Thumbfest are location, date, times, music presented, workshops, jam sites, transportation, and any other ideas or suggestions you want us have.

Here are some questions to spur your input. Of course, anything else you want to tell us is welcome!!! Please send your comments to: board@bluewaterfolk.org or barnettsjmd@gmail.com or bring them with you to the meeting. Contact: barnettsjmd@gmail.com

1. Tell us what music, workshops, circles or jams you attended and what you thought about them.
2. Was there too much, not enough or just right amount of variety and/or number of venues (stages, jams, workshops, circles)?
3. Are there performers you want to see again or have any performers you want to suggest?
4. Have you been to other festivals? How do we compare?
5. Would you attend the Thumbfest if we moved it back to a camp and charged a modest admission?
6. Was food an issue for you or were you able to get what you want from the local restaurants?
7. Was transportation an issue for you? What do you suggest?
8. What about the date...would you attend on another date?
9. Was this your first time at Thumbfest? Will you recommend it to others?
10. What did we do right? What do we need to do to improve Thumbfest?

Anne's Jam a Tasty Thumbfest Treat **Tom Schlichting**

I hosted the Irish and Hank Williams jam, saw the end of the bluegrass jam, and the beginning of the blues/harmonica jam. Musician participation was terrific, with at least 12-15 folks with instruments participating at each jam. Multiple performers hit the jams between their other shows and regular attendees pitched in. A couple folks seemed to just stay there all day waiting for the next jam to start up. I told one guy we would have to run two jam sites next year just to make his life a little less simple. Interest from passersbys

peaked for the bluegrass and Irish jams, when folks just packed into the tent around the players to get an earful. In this photo by *Margaret Whitmer of the Sanilac County News*, you can see some *Smokin' Fez Monkeys* and *Last Chance Rodeoers* playing some serious *Hank Williams* with BWFS members *Dan Shepherd, John Broadwell, Ted Smith, Tom Schlichting, and Val Rushing*, plus about a half-dozen players like *Lynn Surbrook* that didn't fit in the frame. *Get in the picture and plan to be a Thumbfest jam host or participant in 2011.*



Yeah!...Thumbfest 2010 a Success Despite Weather

Some quotes from attendees: It is like a musical smorgasbord...I love it! I'll be back next year. I'm telling everyone I know how much fun this was. So much to do and see. What a beautiful area!

Despite chilly weather, very high winds and predictions for a 40 % chance of rain, the devotees of Thumbfest turned out to keep the attendance at the Thumbfest in the thousands.

The high winds made the set-up on Friday & Saturday trying for the group of volunteers who worked through out the day Friday and Saturday. Some of the tents had to be fixed after the beating from the winds and even the t-shirts that were for sale on Saturday had to be anchored down with bricks to keep them from flying away.

Volunteers that worked during the *set-up on Friday and tear down on Sunday* were *Tom Schlichting, Dave Reid, Dean and Shirley Barnett, Lynn Surbrook, Walt Schlichting, Sean Hartley, George Stewart, Dawn and Marty Malek, Al Lewandowski, Justin and John Kukuk, Gene Butler, Ginny McNabb, Tom Geck, Terry and Kathy Kelchner.*

Saturday dawned chilly, cloudy and windy, but after a few hours of set-up, the music began and the crowds began to arrive. If you have never attended you have missed some very good times and music. The variety of music was exceptional this year, under the direction of the artistic director, Mike Mercatante. Mike brought in some new acts that were very well received and mixed them with favorites from the last years. Even with the eleven different venues which included stages, jam sites, circles, workshops and a dance hall, we still could not have everyone that wanted to play at Thumbfest.

Funding is always an issue as the Blue Water Folk Society is a 501(c) 3 non-profit all volunteer organization, which depends on grants, donations, volunteers, benefits and sales of items such as the t-shirts to

fund the Thumbfest Music Festival.

This year we did it again with a working budget of less than \$15,000 with the additional funds raised to allow for a budget of over \$18000.

Although the budget is not finalized yet, as we have a few outstanding bills and receipts, we can say we have, at least, broken even and should have some funds to share with the Thumbfest Profit Share performers. Perhaps 40% of the performers that played at Thumbfest agreed to play for a share of any profit we have after paying all our bills.

None of the volunteers, which include all the board members, receive any money or pay.

During the day, we fielded some questions at the information table about how much the Thumbfest cost and found that people were surprised that everything we used we (the BWFS) paid for out of our efforts.

What do we pay for? We pay for the tents, portable toilets, sound for some of the bigger stages, many of the performers, the shuttle transportation, advertising, programs, printing, ice, water, and other miscellaneous items.

What you see at Thumbfest is the result of many hours of work during the entire year by volunteers at various events and on Thumbfest plus support from benefit concerts, ads, grants, stage sponsors and donations.

We thank the *Musicians, Golden Crown Party Rental, Scotty's Potty, Pioneer Sign and Design & The Imprint House* for their understanding of our budget constraints.

Mary Foley did a wonderful job on our T-shirt design this year.

Besides the *team leaders* listed on page one, **most of whom worked all 3 days**, the other volunteers that worked on *Saturday at Thumbfest* included: *Gina Grobar, Sara Marigold, Mike Raymo, Shelby Van Dyke, Katie Dooley, Philip Dooley, Tamera Dooley, Bill Edwards,*

Leon Schulte, Judy Schulte, Nick Reid, Kathy Renn, Keith Menzies, Sean Hartley, Annette and Tony Mercatante, Nick Reed, Don & Mary Jean Reid, Jeannine Kirchoff, Ed & Judy Hubbel, Catherine Merritt, Nick Wronski, Bill & Adele Russell, Emily & Elizabeth Merritt, Brooke & Juliet Geck, Kent Krueger, Jim Williams, Ron McPhail, Ricky Novak, Jim Foersch, Jack Ferguson, Kelly Bruce, Theresa Geck, Amanda Marcotte and Phil Larson. I hope we haven't forgotten too many others.

We dedicated our Jam Site to the memory of *Anne Schlichting* and our Song Circle to the memory of *Terry Breese* who we lost this year. Both were strong supporters of Thumbfest and we will miss them.

Jenna Reed and Mike Mercatante started a Facebook link to Thumbfest on which Jenna will be adding some pictures. (see other links below) In this newsletter and the next, we will include some of the pictures from Thumbfest. If you have any you want to share, please send them to barnettsjmd@gmail.com

We had many returning favorites this year and some new acts including the Red Sea Pedestrians, Nicky Boy Street Band, the Smokin' Fez Monkeys, Le Compagnie, Kofi Ameyaw and many more. For a complete list see page 4. The comments on all the acts were very upbeat and positive.

Although we did not have as many advertisers this year, their support contributed a lot to our ability to present Thumbfest. You can become a part of the success of Thumbfest and the Blue Water Folk Society by joining us as a member for \$10 a year or becoming a volunteer by signing up by sending your name to board@bluewaterfolk.org

Links to pictures of Thumbfest:

Amanda Marcotte pictures:
<http://amandolin.smugmug.com/Music/Thumbfest-2010>

Other:
www.flickr.com/photos/28039459@N08/with/4966623290

Folk Music is the music of the people, by the people and for the people!



Your Current Board Members

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

You can reach **all** the board members by sending an email to board@bluewaterfolk.org

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| • Carl KammerPresident | carl@bluewaterfolk.org | term expires 2011 election |
| • Tom Schlichting....Treasurer | tom@bluewaterfolk.org | term expires 2013 election |
| • Shirley BarnettSecretary | barnettsjmd@gmail.com | term expires 2011 election |
| • Mike Mercatante...Trustee | mmercatant@aol.com | term expires 2012 election |
| • Ruth Habalewsky....Trustee | rhabalewsky@comcast.net | term expires 2013 election |

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: 586-727-5197

E-mail

board@bluewaterfolk.org

Editor:

barnettsjmd@gmail.com

On the web:

www.bluewaterfolk.org
www.thumbfest.org

webmaster: Mike Tremblay

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

Send your information to barnettsjmd@gmail.com

We have a few t-shirts

left for sale....all performers and sound person names are on the back ...send an email to barnettsjmd@gmail.com to see if we have a size you can use. \$10 for performers, sound men or volunteers. \$15 for others.

August 14th & 20th Benefits

Susan Gill and the **Port Sanilac Music at the Harbor Series** presented a *Thumbfest Benefit Concert* under the direction of Tom Schlichting on Saturday, August 14th. The weather took a toll, as the concert had to be moved indoors under the threat of rain. Dean Barnett, Jim Williams, Ron McPhail, Mary Foley, John Broadwell, Jon Potrykus, Terri Stangl, Still Running, Bobby Budd and Bob Marshall performed at the show. With the generous donation of \$500 from the Port Sanilac Music at the Harbor and the donations from the crowd, we made over \$625 to benefit Thumbfest. The Lion's club even took the time to move their refreshments to the Bark Shanty Hall where the concert took place. Thank you to all that participated.

On August 20th the **Lexington Arts Council** hosted a benefit concert for Thumbfest 2010 as the last concert of their popular *Music at the Harbor* concerts. The concert featured the Circle of Friends (George Stewart, Mary Foley, Dean Barnett & Gordon MacDonald). The group was very well received with a big crowd that stayed through to the end of the concert on a beautiful night at the harbor. The 50/50 raffle that night benefited Thumbfest 2010 and brought \$498 to our budget plus the donations to bring the total to \$525. Benefit concerts are one of the ways that we raise money for Thumbfest with the musicians giving generously of their time and talent. Donations are always accepted at Blue Water Folk Society P.O. Box 83, Lexington, Mi. 48450

Future Dates to hold:

Sunday, Jan. 9th at 3 pm at the **Pt. Sanilac Museum Church**...60's show with BWFS performers....more info next issue

Sunday, March 13 at 3pm at the **Pt. Sanilac Museum Church**...Ourselves

Support our Musicians & Advertisers

Musicians & Sound at Thumbfest 2010:

Matt Watroba, Kate Geddes, Jim Bizer, Jan Krist, Nicky Boy Street Band, Floyd King & The Bushwackers, Maggie's Farm, Brian Wood & the Troubadads, Finvarra's Wren, Red Sea Pedestrians, Mustard's Retreat, Yellow Room Gang, Still Running, Black River Bluegrass Boys, Jen Sygit, Sam Corbin, Annie & Rod Capps, Jason Dennie, Mike Sneed, Lost Cuzzins, Ourselves, Dan Shepherd, William Henry Russell, Dean Barnett, Maggie Ferguson, Mary Foley Circle of Friends, Le Compagnie, Genot Picor, Kofi Ameyaw, Alan Cayn, Floyd & the Buckrooster King Last Chance Rodeo, Smokin' Fez Monkeys, Gather 'round, Eastbound, Partly Brothers, Duality, Cornpone, John Broadwell, Howard Tapley, Beat Boys, John Finan, Ben Hassenger, Ron, Jim, Val & Chuck, David Tamulevich, Michael Hough, Ian Gorman, Larry Everhart, Cori Somers, George Stewart, Pat Harrison, Lost Cause, Andy Mather, Bryan Turner, Tom McGovern, Banjo Jim & Rick Novak, Stringendo Fiddle Club, Riverstrings, Phil & Marsha Larson, Enter Stage Right, Heritage String Band, Banjoey, Balloonatic, Imagine the Magician, Bob Springfield, Juxtaposers, Quench, Dave Reid, Gary Krueger, Jim VandeWouten, Tom Wilson, Pulse Media, Franck Nowack, Keith Menzies, Sean Hartley, John Foersch, Campfire Compadres, Tom Mansell, Jack Ferguson, Bobby Budd

Advertisers:

First Michigan Bank, The Imprint House, Pro Audio Center, Dave Reid Custom Homes, The Cadillac House, Six Gun Territory, Noble, Lexington Mun. Mobile Home Park, K2K9, Huron Shores, Irish Rose, Hair Expressions, Dawn Malek, iCrave Café, Blue Water Sports Bar, Blue Water General Store

Crafters:

Tom Thompson, ReCreations, Jim VanderWoude, Kenny Kiefer, Rev. Thomas Yezak, Jeannie Hatten, Bo Mattas, Sara Ylen, Egyptian Imports, Woodsedge Herb Farm, Off Beat Percussion & Mary Dunsmore

Next issue: More pictures of Thumbfest and the Coffeehouse

Thanks to Amanda Marcotte for the use of her photos of the Thumbfest 2010 ! Photos can be purchased or used by permission from Amanda ...see: <http://amandolin.smugmug.com/Music/Thumbfest-2010>



Ourselves at Smackwater Block Stage



Duality at the Irish Rose Stage



Finvarra's Wren at the Virginia McNabb Stage



Kofi Ameyaw at Smackwater Block Stage



Ourselves at Virginia McNabb Stage



Jan Krist, Al Finkbiener, Maggie Ferguson and part of Jim Bizer at the First Michigan Bank Stage



Gather Round at the Paint Creek Folklore Society Stage



Jim Bizer taking time to talk to attendees at main stage



Dean, Jim, Ron

and



Mary Foley



Campfire Compadres just practicing a bit



LeCompagnie out of the wind



On my way



Kid's make-up session



Rain did not stop them



Banjo Jim tunes up



Petal Steel seen new way



Setting up Red Sea Pedestrians at First Michigan Bank Stage