



Blue Water Folk Notes



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Remembering George Stewart



George Stewart performing with the Circle of Friends at Lexington Harbor on Aug. 6, 2011

from George. I remember the first time we came to the Coffeehouse, before the BWFS formed, George was the person that welcomed us and helped us find a seat. That welcoming stance and his great smile was a sight to behold. The Coffeehouse Open Mic has become one of the best around, drawing musicians from all over and audiences numbering 60 to 100 each month.

George continued to perform right through his battle with leukemia with his last public performance being October 15th, 2011 with the Circle of Friends (George Stewart, Dean Barnett, Mary Foley, Gordon MacDonald) at the Baseline Folk Society in Plymouth, Mi. which was started by George's old singing partner, Mike Mullen. Mike tells us that he started it with encouragement from George. The *Baseline Folk Society in Plymouth* is planning a memorial concert for George on Saturday, May 19th. More details will be sent later.

George's love for Folk Music and his church were reflected with his wishes for donations in his memory be directed to the Blue Water Folk Society and Trinity Episcopal Church Miracle Fund.

George leaves his wife Cindy, his son James and his wife Kristin; his daughter Mary Steffanich and her husband Stuart and his daughter Sarah Papagelis and her husband Peter plus grandchildren Ian, Alexander, Jacob, Shay, and Cole and his brother Robert and his wife Kathy.

The Blue Water Folk Society lost a Founding member when George Stewart passed away, after a long battle with Cancer, on November 23, 2011.

George was a very big part of the Blue Water Folk Society and the Village of Lexington, having served as a Village Council member for many years. Not only did George help found the Blue Water Folk Society, but he was part of the founding of the East River Folk Society when he lived in Grosse Ile and the Music in the Park summer concert series in Lexington. George also served as a member of the Lexington Arts Council.

In 2002, George brought the idea of the Thumbfest before the board of the BWFS. We were a very small group then, and the idea of an all day music festival seeming daunting, but with George's expert leadership, we did it!

George always thought big and helped to lead us to bigger ideas and plans. One of George's plans was to bring Tom Paxton to the area. We did that with a wonderful, intimate concert in Port Huron.

Much of the sound system that we use for the Coffeehouse Open Mic series came

Hot News to Use

Dates to save:

Coffeehouse Open Mic:

- Sat. Feb. 11th
- Sat. March 10th

Sign up at 6:30pm Open

Mic begins at 7:00 pm

(See Article on page 2 for more information)

Save this date:

Saturday, April 14th

Thumbfest Fundraiser & George Stewart Memorial Concert

being planned now....watch for future details.

Watch for information about a Dave Rutkofske Benefit

Have an idea for a Thumbfest Fundraiser or want to volunteer?

Contact the Board at: board@bluewaterfolk.org

BWFS member performance dates to consider:**Open Mic Coffeehouse Notes****Ourselves....**

- > **Sunday March 11 3:00 pm**
Sanilac County Museum Church
Port Sanilac, Mi. \$10 tickets adults
- > **Saturday March 17 6-9 pm**
Blue Water Sports Bar
Port Sanilac, Mi.
tomshchlichting@hotmail.com

Lost Cuzzins....

- > **Saturday Feb. 18 7:30-10:30pm**
Raven Café
932 Military St.
Port Huron, Mi. 48060
- > **Saturday March 24 7- 9:30pm**
Opening for Mustard's Retreat
Upper Level Acoustic Café
1227 10th Ave.
Port Huron, Mi. fee
- > **Saturday March 30 8-10:30pm**
Live from the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw (by Blue Note)
Pontiac, Mi.
www.myspace.com/lostcuzzins
bionomic2@yahoo.com

Dean Barnett

- > **Sunday April 15 11am-12pm**
Great Lakes Maritime Center
Vantage Point
Port Huron, Mi.
- > **Sunday April 22 6-9 pm**
Raven Café
932 Military St.
Port Huron, Mi.
www.barnettsjmd@gmail.com

Denny Dwyer

- > **Every Friday 6:30-9 pm**
Alexander's (Gratiot)
Marysville, Mi.
- > **Saturdays 8:30-11:30 pm**
Zebra Bar (Quay St.)
Port Huron, Mi.
d.dwyer@comcast.net

Rick Novak (@Banjo Jim)

- > **Sun.Feb. 26/April 29 12 – 1 pm**
Great Lakes Maritime Center
Port Huron, Mi.
- > **Friday, March 23 8:00 pm**
Live from the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw (next to Blue Note)
Pontiac, Mi.
fubar_howell@hotmail.com

The Blue Water Folk Society Traditional Open Mic Coffeehouses at the *Trinity Episcopal Church*, 5646 Main St., Lexington, Mi. 48450 are in full swing with audiences ranging from 60 to 100 or more at the January 2012. Open Mic Coffeehouse. Dawn & Marty Malek, the Coffeehouse Directors report that the emcees were *Denny Dwyer* in October, *Shirley Barnett* in November, *Dean Barnett* in December and *Bruce Filbeck* in January. Emcees will be *John Broadwell* in February and *Banjoey* in March. Sound has been ably handled by *Mike Mercatante*, *Tom Schlichting* and by *George Young*. Set-up has been handled by *Tom Schlichting*, *George Young*, *Dean Barnett*, *Marty Malek*, *Susan Srodawa*, *Shirley Barnett* & *Al Lewandowski*.

We have been seeing many new performers this season. In October we had 8 performers, with 10 in November, and 15 in both December and January. Time has become a premium.

Musicians may begin signing up at 6:30 p.m. until all the slots are filled for the Open Mic which begins at 7:00 p.m. The Emcee for the night will choose the order of the performers. Performers are reminded that solo acts are limited to 10 minutes (which includes those that have someone to accompany them). This usually means 2 songs. A band or group of performers are limited to 15 minutes. Time is limited so be ready to perform with little set up time. The Open Mic will end by 10 p.m.

Performers during these months have included *Banjoey*,; *Tom Schlichting* & *Walt Schlichting*; *Denny Dwyer*; *Jessica Lesausky*; *John Broadwell* (*Sweet Johnny B*); *Val Rushing*; *Iris* & *Claire Spencer*; *Ourselves* (*Tom Schlichting*, *Walt Schlichting* & *Lyn Surbrook*); *Still Running* (*Mike Mercatante* & *Jenna Reed*), *Kaylee Kean*, *VCC* (*Valerie* & *Chuck Rushing* & *Carol Roberts*); *Jim Zimmer*; *Larry Calhoun* and *Mike James* visiting from out of state; *Dean Barnett*; *Butterhair*

(*Ted Smith*, *Charlie Winter* & *Roger Blume*), *Ande* & *Mike McCarthy*); *John Dobat*; *Dale George*; *Micky LaPla* *Susan Srodawa* with *Tom Schlichting*; *Micky*, *Ron*(*McPhail*), and *Jim* (*Williams*) *Lost Cuzzins*(*Dean Barnett*, *Kent Krueger*, *Ron McPhail* & *Jim Williams*), *Steven Lichota*; *Tanner Simmons*; *Drew Morgan*; *Iris Spencer*; *Remeniscers* (*John Swinson*, *Bonnie Bade*, *Earl* & *Gloria Lowen*); *Some Other Name* (*John Broadwell* and 3 members out of Windsor); and *Mike Mercatante*.

There was a wide range of music, from *Yes Sir*, *You're My Baby*, to the silly *Mrs. Fogarty's Cake*, great harmonies and fun performances from our many bands; some Gospel; beautiful solo work and originals from our solo performers and newer music from our new youth performers.

We are all still remembering a founder, *George Stewart*. *Dean Barnett* opened the December show with an acapella version of "Ours is a Simple Faith" by *David Tamulevich* which was an important song to *George*. *Ourselves* did a version of *Mary Ellen Carter* by *Stan Rogers*, another important song for *George*.

Ruth Habalewsky has been handling the 50/50 raffle for Thumbfest. Winners have been *Ginny McNabb* (\$66); *Judy Butler* (\$36) and *Bea Castillo* (\$68). *Bea Castillo* donated \$34 of her winnings to Thumbfest. Thanks, *Bea*.

Dawn and Marty Malek have been running the kitchen, with help from *Mary Filbeck*, and *Marie McCarthy* and refreshments donated from *Ruth Habalewsky*, *Ginny McNabb*, *Jeannine Kirchoff*, *Lynn Roe*, *Carol Roberts*, *Susan Srodawa*, *Judy Butler*, *Dawn Malek*, *Shirley Barnett*, *Mary Spencer* and *Marie McCarthy*.

Reminder: We happily accept your donations of goodies for our refreshment table as well as your monetary donations to help cover refreshment costs
Contact: dawnmalek@comcast.net if you can lend a hand or bring something!

More BWFS performance dates to consider:

Still Running

> **Friday Feb. 17 & March 23**
7:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Raven Café
932 Military St.
Port Huron, Mi.

> **Saturday, Feb. 25 8:30 pm**

Dragonmead Brewery
14600 E. 11 Mile Rd.
Warren, Mi.

still_running@comcast.net

William Henry Russell

> **Sunday March 18 1-2 pm**

Great Lakes Maritime Center
Vantage Point
Port Huron, Mi

> **Sat. Feb 25 & Friday March 30**

7:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Raven Café
932 Military St.
Port Huron, Mi.

russell.william@att.net

Dale George

> **Sunday March 18 12-1 pm**

Great Lakes Maritime Center
Vantage Point
Port Huron, Mi

dtgeorge.1@aol.com

Ted Smith (with Butterhair)

> **Sunday March 18 2-3 pm**

Great Lakes Maritime Center
Vantage Point
Port Huron, Mi

ted@imprinthouse.com

Jack Ferguson (Cowboy Compadres)

> **Friday Feb. 17th 8pm**

opening for Judy Insley
Live from the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw
Pontiac, Mi.

thunderisle@yahoo.com

Maggie Ferguson

(Floyd King & the Bushwackers)

> **Sat. Feb. 11 7-10 pm**

Prince of Glory Winter Coffeehouse
1357 W. 14 Mile Rd
Madison Heights, Mi.

marmik21@yahoo.com

Dan Shepherd

> **Saturday March 3 7:30-10:30pm**

Raven Café
Port Huron, Mi.

Send your performance dates to:
shirley@bluewaterfolk.org

>>>>Sad News<<<<

Dave Rutkofske, a former production director for Thumbfest, a BWFS member and the founder of the Blue Water Musicians Network, passed away unexpectedly on Sun., Feb. 5th. **Visitation for David Rutkofske will be at Smith North Chapel Wed, Feb. 8 from 2 - 4 & 6 – 8 pm & Service on Thurs. 11 am, a gathering will follow at Grant Twp Hall. It is unknown at this time what will happen with the many activities that Dave had planned. We will keep you updated. Dave leaves a big "hole" in the music world and our hearts. Our prayers are with Connie and her family....the following info was part of Members activities...I'm not sure if any of this will continue...but it does give you an idea of how much Dave did.**

Dave was planning an Old Time Jam on Sunday, Feb. 12 at the Great Lakes Maritime Center from 11 to 3 p.m. Other Old Time Jams will be held in the classroom of Studio 1219 in Port Huron on Fridays on Feb. 24; March 30 and April 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. BWMN also hosts an On The Road concert series at Great Lakes Maritime Center on some Sundays from 11 to 3 featuring both BWMN and BWFS members. Dates are 2/26; 3/18; 4/15 and 4/29.

DAVE AT MARITIME CENTER



Thumbfest Meeting

Interested in helping with Thumbfest? Want to be part of the planning? Have some ideas for Thumbfest 2012? The next board meeting/Thumbfest Planning meeting will be **Saturday, February 18 at 11 a.m. at Ruth Habalewsky's home.** All are welcome to attend. Please send an email to board@bluewaterfolk.org for directions and to let us know you are attending. **Come join us!**

Contact for Performance submissions:
mmercatant@aol.com

TASTE OF THUMB



LOST CUZZINS... PHOTO BY ANDREW JOWETT

The Blue Water Folk Society once again provided the music for the Taste of the Thumb in Lexington on Sunday, January 29 at St. Dennis Parish Hall. Musicians who donated their time were the Ourselves (Tom Schlichting, Walt Schlichting, Lyn Surbrook); John Dobat; and the Lost Cuzzins (Dean Barnett, Kent Krueger, Jim Williams and Ron McPhail). Shirley Barnett organized the music for the event. Brooks Solterman, chairperson of the Taste of the Thumb said "What a great day it was at Taste of the Thumb, especially with the entertainment provided by the Blue Water Folk Society musicians. **Over \$3000 was raised for the county Baby Pantry and for that, the SCCAPC (Sanilac County Child Abuse Prevention Council) is most grateful.**" BWFS is always happy to help.

BWFS Members Activities

******Call for Musicians******

Tom Schlichting is organizing an all-day music event to be known as *Samfest* on July 7th in Port Sanilac to be held at the Sanilac County Historic Village & Museum. Details are still being worked out, but it is an American music event. Tom plans to have stages, workshops, jams and needs musicians to tell him what part of the great American Songbook they would like to feature in a show, what they would like to jam or workshops they would want, etc. Tom is looking to solicit input from people who will be available and who want to participate. This is an event for musicians to play music and enjoy. Contact: tomschlichting@hotmail.com

Maggie Ferguson continues to host the *Live from the Living Room* concert venue at 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac on Friday's beginning at 8:00. For the schedule and more information contact: marmik21@yahoo.com

Your Current Board Members

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



Blue Water Folk Society
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www.thumbfest.org

www.facebook.com/Thumbfest

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

Send your information to shirley@bluewaterfolk.org

Membership Info:

Membership is open to all for a \$10 yearly due per person.

YOU can join us by mailing your dues and information (Name, address, phone number, email) to:

Shirley Barnett
1809 Caughill
Columbus, Mi. 48063
shirley@bluewaterfolk.org
(remember to renew your dues by May 15, 2011)

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

- Carl KammerPresident carl@bluewaterfolk.org term expires 2014 election
- Tom Schlichting....Treasurer tom@bluewaterfolk.org term expires 2013 election
- Jenna ReedSecretary 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

Thumbfest Update: Jenna Reed

Even though we're a little more than half a year away, we're knee-deep in plans for Thumbfest 2012! Right now we're starting to make decisions that will shape the festival -- will it be bigger? More stages? Or more intimate? Bigger name bands? More local talent? And can we find a Coney dog vendor?!

One thing we've talked about at board meetings has been our dearth of key volunteer positions. We have a broad base of volunteers, and we rely on everyone to step up each year to do what needs to be done. And each year, you do! But there are two huge jobs we need to fill. We need an official director, and a logistics director for Thumbfest. It's not as scary as it sounds. (And, full disclosure: the week before Thumbfest, it will be eight times as scary as it sounds.)

First of all, we need someone who will keep track of all the festival details the board chooses. Someone who -- day of Thumbfest (Saturday, September 1st) -- will be the "go-to" person. Troubleshoot. Answer questions (the ones we've prepped for months). Accept accolades with graciousness. This position is primarily advance work and coordination -- someone who is willing to keep track of what the artistic director, publicity crew, marketing and planning groups are doing. Remind us what we already promised to do. Someone who can make sure there's a schedule to follow, and make sure that schedule is met. George Stewart filled this role for many years, and we'd love to find someone willing to be "the guy/gal" who's willing to plan the day of Thumbfest.

And we need a logistics director. This person we need **above all else**. We need someone with roots in the Lexington area. Someone who knows the scene. Someone who, when someone runs up on Thumbfest morning because we don't have power to stages, will say, "oh, sure. I'll call.... well, I'll call somebody." Someone who then calls somebody. Someone who knows somebody with a truck. Somebody who gets stuff done. This is the person who makes sure ahead of time that we have places to put the stages, that we've lined up sound gear, and that the electricity works and people go where they're supposed to go on the day of Thumbfest. This is the person who troubleshoots on the ground the day of Thumbfest. Gene Butler did this amazingly in years past.

Both positions come with **full** support of the board and the cadre of volunteers we have. If you think you might have time and energy to devote to either of these positions, please email back, or shout up at one of the Trinity coffeehouses (second Saturday of winter months). Even if you have questions, or think you might be able to do either of these jobs, please let us know. People who have done these jobs in the past will prep and coach you.

Contact: board@bluewaterfolk.org if you want to help. *Editors Note: Tom Schlichting, Mike Tremblay and Shirley Barnett have also filled these roles in the past, along with the Board. Being from Lexington does help in knowing who to contact but is not always necessary. This is YOUR chance to become a bigger part of Thumbfest !!*

Coffeehouse pictures from Nov., Dec.2011, & Jan



Denny Dwyer Emcee



Still Running
Mike Mercatante & Jenna Reed



Susan Srodawa & Tom
Schlicting



John Dobat



Bruce Filbeck Emcee



Banjoey



Dean Barnett Emcee



Ande & Mike McCarthy



Dale George



**Steven Lichota



**Tanner Simmons



Jim Williams, Micki LaPla &
Ron McPhail

*Remember, the quality &
quantity of refreshments is
directly related to your
donations!*



Jim Zimmer



**Drew Morgan



VCC (Val & Chuck Rushing & Carol Roberts)

** Steven,
Tanner &
Drew's names
& pictures may
be mixed
up...Senior
moment for
the editor.



Val & Chuck Rushing



Ourselves (Walt & Tom Schlichting & Lyn Surbrook)



Lost Cuzzins (Kent Krueger, Jim Williams, Dean Barnett and Ron McPhail)



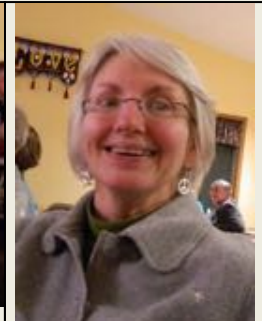
Iris and Claire Spencer



Kaylee Kean



George Young at the sound board



Ruth Habalewsky selling 50/50 tickets



Bea Castillo winner in Jan.



Remeniscers (John Swinson, Bonnie Bade, Earl & Gloria Lowen)



Dawn Malek taking a break from the kitchen with our attentive, listening audience.



Butterhair (Roger Blume, Charlie Winters & Ted Smith)



Jessica Lesausky



Walt and Tom Schlichting



Hootenanny at the December Coffeeshouse Open Mic



John Broadwell



Just because they are beautiful (Tess & Catherine)grandkids.