



Blue Water Folk Notes

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Hot Dates to Save

Saturday, March 12 7-10pm

Blue Water Folk Society
Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic

Trinity Episcopal Church.
More info on page 1 & 3

Saturday, April 9 7-10pm

Blue Water Folk Society &
Thumbfest Fundraiser at
Trinity Episcopal Church.

More info on page 2

Saturday, June 18 TBD

Blue Water Folk Society
General Meeting/Election

More info on page 1

Saturday, September 3

11am to 10pm

Thumbfest 2016
Downtown Lexington

More info on page 2 & 3

Opportunities to Perform

Palmer Park Recreation Center Jam on Garfield in Port Huron at 7pm on the 1st Saturday of the month until May, 2016
810-987-9278

Sanilac County Consortium of Arts Acoustic Song Circle in Port Sanilac, Mi. at Bark Shanty Center 6:30-9:30pm on the first Friday of the month
810-622-9716

Lake Bonisteel Music Association Activities
jbaronjbaron@yahoo.com

Looking for musicians to perform for a NEW Music Event in Port Sanilac on Saturday, July 23 from 12-6:00 pm featuring 60s music sponsored by Sanilac County Consortium of Arts & Sanilac County Historical Village and Museum.

More info call Tom 810-622-9716 or tomschlichting@hotmail.com

Keep the music flowing!

A Note from the President

Happy spring!

Time is passing quickly; soon the BWFS annual meeting will be here.

Have you ever wanted to give back and to be more involved in BWFS? **This is your opportunity to contribute your ideas, time, and energy to the organization.**

An election for two available board positions will be held due to term expiration; there are a total of seven members on the board.

To be eligible to run for the board you must be a member in good standing 6 month prior to the General Meeting.

The annual meeting is being planned for **Saturday, June 18** while the actual location and time of the meeting is being verified.

When all the meeting details are available they will be posted to our website www.bluewaterfolk.org, on our Facebook page and in our newsletter.

All are welcome to attend the meeting but only current members are allowed to vote.

The election of the two trustee positions will happen at the general meeting after which the new board will elect the officers from the new and current board members.

Current members of the Blue Water Folk Society will receive notice of the General Meeting and Election via email or by U.S. Post Office mail if they do not have email.

For more information about the board openings, please contact any of the current board members. You can also send an email to board@bluewaterfolk.org

The BWFS board looks forward to your participation!

Ruth Habalewsky, BWFS President

Your comments, suggestions & pictures of Thumbfest 2015 & the Coffeehouses can be sent to: newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org

Don't forget to LIKE our Facebook page!
www.facebook.com/thumbfest

New BWFS Coffeehouse Rules!!

ATTENTION BLUE WATER FOLK SOCIETY COFFEEHOUSE OPEN MIC PERFORMERS:

There are new rules for performers due to the large number of performers that have been showing up for our popular Coffeehouse Open Mic. We want to make sure that all of you get a chance to perform. Here are our new rules:

- Sign up begins at 6:15pm (but no earlier).
- All performers who arrive by 6:30pm are guaranteed a slot to play: 10 minutes for individuals 15 minutes for groups.
- Please be aware that your 10 or 15 minutes includes any special set-ups you may need or any discussion you plan to share, so please plan your set wisely!
- Performers arriving after 6:30pm will be fit into the schedule with a song or two, as time allows. Please help us spread the word.

We are also always in need of volunteers to help set up/tear down chairs and tables, and volunteers to work the kitchen and help with refreshments. If you can help contact Dawn at coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org

Donate Now

to support

Blue Water Folk Society projects!

including

BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic

Thumbfest Music Festival

Guitar for Kids

Yes, I want to help the Blue Water Folk Society fund their projects by making a donation!

- BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic
- Thumbfest Music Festival
- Guitar for Kids
- BWFS General Budget

*** If the yearly budget is met for the the indicated project, your funds will be placed in the BWFS General Budget for future use.

Mail your check payable to the Blue Water Folk Society and this form to:

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

For questions about your donations or specific instructions please contact: treasurer@bluewaterfolk.org

BWFS member performance

dates to consider:

More details can be found at:
<http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/bwfs-event-calendar.html>

Friday, March 4

6:30pm

Sanilac Consortium for the Arts Acoustic Song Circle at Bark Shanty Port Sanilac

8:00pm
 Circle of Friends at Live From the Living Room Unity of Lake Orion

Saturday, March 5

7:00pm

Palmer Jam at Palmer Park Recreation Center, Port Huron

Sunday, March 6

11:00am

Julianne Ankley on Ann Delisi's Essential Music WDET 101.9 FM

4:00pm

Tritone Paradox at the River's Edge Brewing Company, Milford

Friday, March 11

8:00pm

Lost Cuzzins at Live From the Living Room, Unity of Lake Orion

9:00pm

William Henry Russell, Dessert Oasis, Rochester

Saturday, March 12

7:00pm

Thumb Dance Club, Sandusky Maple Valley School

7:00pm

BWFS Coffeehouse Acoustic Open Mic, Trinity Episcopal Church, Lexington

8:00pm

Julianne Ankley & the Rogues, Trinity House Theater, Livonia

Friday, March 18

8:00pm

Tritone Paradox at Brewery Becker, Brighton

Saturday, March 19

7:30pm

William Henry Russell at the Raven Cafe, Port Huron

Sunday, March 20

12:00pm

Keith Menzies Sunday Sessions at the Raven Cafe, Port Huron

3:00pm

Ourselves St. Patrick's Day Concert & Dinner at Sanilac Historic Museum Church

Thursday, March 24

7:30pm

Brother-In-Arms at the Rave Café, Port Huron

Support our BWFS Musicians!

Submit your performances for the list and calendar to:
barnettsjmd@gmail.com

Thumbfest 2016 Sponsor and Advertising Opportunity

Past Thumbfest Stage Sponsors have received a pre-mailing to reserve one of the eleven stages and workshops available at Thumbfest 2016. They have also been given an opportunity to confirm their business or organization is advertised in the 2016 Thumbfest program and on our Thumbfest Website. If stage and advertising commitments aren't received by March 31, then these opportunities will be open to all businesses and organizations.

WANTED: Thumbfest 2016 Food, Crafts and Product Vendors

Approximately 5,000 people attend Thumbfest each year, and many will be interested in your goods and services! Vendor hours: 11am - 8pm. You must provide your own table(s), chair(s) and canopy. We will only accept a very limited number of vendors. For more information and to request an application, contact Barb at thumbfestvendor@bluewaterfolk.org.

Want to perform at Thumbfest?

Note to Performers: Be sure to be in touch with Mike, Thumbfest Artistic Director, at Thumbfestbooking@bluewaterfolk.org to be considered for this year's line-up.

No one is guaranteed a performance slot for Thumbfest. Even if you played last year, or every year, it is still your responsibility to be in touch and submit your name for consideration.

Become a part of Guitar for Kids in 2016!

YOU can become involved by becoming one of the musician judges of the applications, spending some time interviewing the applicants at Thumbfest, giving a quick lesson after the presentation of the guitars, passing out flyers to schools or music stores or simply by donating some cash to the project.

This year we will be giving away five guitars to five deserving applicants that are between the age of 8 to 17 years old. More details and information on the Guitar for Kids program will be coming out soon. You can contact Shirley at guitarforkids@bluewaterfolk.org or 586-727-5197 for more information.

Meet your Thumbfest Program Directors for 2016:

Dawn Malek - Thumbfest Director thumbfestdirector@bluewaterfolk.org
 Mike Mercatante - Artistic Director thumbfestbooking@bluewaterfolk.org
 Jenna Reed - Publicity Director with Bea Castillo thumbfestpublicity@bluewaterfolk.org
 Leigh Marciniak - Sales Director thumbfestsales@bluewaterfolk.org
 Mike McCarthy & Carol Roberts - Fund Development Directors
 Barbara Ernsberger - Volunteer Director thumbfestvolunteer@bluewaterfolk.org
 Barbara Ernsberger & Dawn Malek - Vendor Directors thumbfestvendor@bluewaterfolk.org
 Marty Malek - Site Director with Ginny McNabb thumbfestsite@bluewaterfolk.org
 Halusia Witkowski - Children's Area Director thumbfestchildren@bluewaterfolk.org
 Shirley Barnett - Guitars for Kids Director guitarforkids@bluewaterfolk.org

Feel free to contact Leigh Marciniak the Thumbfest Sales Director at thumbfestsales@bluewaterfolk.org, if your business or organization is interested in one of the stage sponsorships, program advertising or to be listed on the donor page.

Business and organizational support is so very important to assure that the 2016 Thumbfest is a special success as we celebrate our 15th Anniversary.

April 9th Fundraiser

With Matching Funds (up to \$500) from Woman's Life Insurance Society, Chapter 820, the Archangels to Benefit the Children's Area at Thumbfest 2016 featuring Dan Hazlett, Mary Foley & Whistle Stop Revue \$10 suggested donation.



BLUE WATER FOLK SOCIETY CONCERT FUNDRAISER

at Trinity Episcopal Church
 5646 Main St.
 Lexington
 7pm - 10pm

Suggested Donation: \$10 - per person
 Refreshments
 50/50 Raffle

Performances by:
 The Whistle Stop Revue
 Dan Hazlett
 Mary Foley

WWW.THUMBFEST.ORG

Watch our website for the latest news on Thumbfest 2016 and the Blue Water Folk Society events:
www.bluewaterfolk.org

Have you checked out our event calendar on our website?

MORE BWFS member performance dates:

Note: Performances listed are those that the BWFS member performers submitted to: newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org

Friday, March 25

8:00pm

Julianne Ankley, Harsens Island Brewery, Marysville

Saturday, March 26

7:00pm

Thumb Dance Club, Sandusky Maple Valley School

7:30pm

Still Running at the Raven Cafe, Port Huron

Friday, April 1

6:30pm

Sanilac Consortium for the Arts Acoustic Song Circle at Bark Shanty, Port Sanilac

Saturday, April 2

7:00pm

Palmer Jam at Palmer Park Recreation Center, Port Huron

Thursday, April 7

7:30pm

Julianne Ankley at the Raven Cafe in Port Huron

Friday, April 8

Ankley & Chenard, Bottlz, Novi

Saturday, April 9

6:30pm

Ankley & Chenard, Lone Oak Vineyards, Grass Lake

7:00pm

Women's Life /Thumbfet Fundraiser, Trinity Episcopal Church, Lexington

7:00pm

Thumb Dance Club, Sandusky Maple Valley School

Tuesday, April 12

7:30pm

Julianne Ankley & the Rogues on Detroit Performs, Howell Opera House

Sunday, April 17

12:00pm

Keith Menzies Sunday Sessions at the Raven Cafe, Port Huron

Friday, April 22

7:00pm

Butterhair at the Golden Rodent, Port Huron

9:00pm

Ankley & Chenard at Odawa Casino, Petosky

Saturday, April 23

7:00pm

Thumb Dance Club

9:00pm

Julianne Ankley, 40 Acres Tavern, Boyne Falls

Saturday, April 30

7:30pm

Still Running, Raven Cafe, Port Huron



Coffeehouse Open Mic News

Our last BWFS Coffeehouse Open Mic of the season is Saturday March 12, 7-10pm at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington. (see rules on 1st page)

Our January and February BWFS Coffeehouse Open Mics were a big success with large crowds with up to 18 performers during a night.

In January, Dawn Malek, Coffeehouse Director, presented a \$500 check from the Blue Water Folk Society to Reverend Kay Houck of Trinity Episcopal Church. Trinity has been our host for the past 15 years. We could not continue without their support!

After a history presentation by Tom Schlichting we had a very special addition to the January 15th Anniversary Coffeehouse which was the surprise appearance of the *Thumbfolks*, one of the first groups formed at the Open Mic.

One of the best features of our Coffeehouse Open Mic venue is that our audience is a listening and appreciative audience. The large variety of music and instruments were a bonus with an autoharp, keyboard, trumpet, saxophone, flute, violins and, of course, the guitar performing folk, gospel, country, classical, light rock and originals.

Our performers in January & February BWFS Coffeehouse Open Mics were the Black River Bluegrass Boys; Dean Barnett & Tom Schlichting Duo; Wells & Witz; John Putt & Victoria Selzik; Blood Harmony; Lonesome Whistle; Pete Hartung; Dave Faley & Alexis; Blaire deWilde Kohler and Kevin; Dean Barnett; Jedidiah Willis/Hannah Shaw; Ed Dombrowski; Bobby Budd; Claire Spencer; Dale George; Mike & Sue Balysh; Ruby Hill; Emma Island; Broadband; Tom Schlichting; Still Running; Erin Willis Band; Sue Wilson & Ivy Rose; Dale George; Irish Spencer; & George Verras.

Emcees were Shirley Barnett in January and Al Lewandowski in February.

Many thanks to the donors to our fine refreshment table and those who worked in the kitchen: Marlene ?, Leigh & Dennis Marciniak, Halusia Witkowski, Penny & Alan Phillips, Judy Butler, Lily Rader, Sharon Walby, Lynn Huff, Kimm & Mark Schultz, B.J. Swarts, Ruth Habalewsky, Bea Castillo, DeWilde/Kohler Family, Shirley Barnett, Barb Ernsberger, Deb Cyma, & Dawn and Marty Malek.

Working set-up and sound were Dale George, Tom Schlichting, Dean Barnett, Mike Mercatante. Unfortunately I do not have the names of all the people who helped with the set-up & tear-down of the room, tables and chairs which is so important to the operation of the Coffeehouse Open Mic.

If you are interested in helping at a BWFS Coffeehouse Open Mic you can contact Dawn at

coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org

More information about the Coffeehouse Open Mic is at

www.bluewaterfolk.org



Reverend Kay Houck receiving the \$ 500 check from the Board

Want to become a Blue Water Folk Society Member?

As of the writing of this article, we have 137 Blue Water Folk Society (BWFS) members. Each of these individuals have supported the Blue Water Folk Society by paying \$10 for their annual membership,

In April, we'll begin our 2016-2017 BWFS Membership Drive, asking current members to renew for another year. We'll also be asking members to encourage their friends and family to join us as members in promoting and sponsoring traditional and acoustic music events in Michigan's Thumb area. Our goal for this year is 200 BWFS members.

So please watch your email next month and renew or join us right away. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Membership Director, Leigh Marciniak, at membership@bluewaterfolk.org

Just as a reminder, here are some additional benefits of BWFS membership:

- Receive discounts on BWFS merchandise and events
- Publish performance dates in BWFS Newsletter
- Eligible to run for BWFS Board position with six months of current membership
- Vote at General Meeting and Election held in June

Come Join Us!!



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

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

BWFS Event Calendar:

[www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/
bwfs-event-calendar.html](http://www.bluewaterfolksociety.org/bwfs-event-calendar.html)

Website:

www.bluewaterfolk.org
www.thumbfest.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/thumbfest

Join us for only

\$10/year Membership

Send your dues & info to:

Leigh Marciniak

7489 Beechwood Rd.

Lexington, MI. 48450

membership@bluewaterfolk.org

248-766-6898

Coffeehouse Director

Contact: Dawn Malek

coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org

586-995-1974

Newsletter editor:

Shirley Barnett

*We welcome your suggestions,
pictures and submissions.*

Send your information to

newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org

Did you know??

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

BWFS members can submit
their performance dates for
publication in the newsletter,
email updates and the event
calendar on

www.bluewaterfolksociety.org

by sending the information to:
newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org

Special thanks to

*Trinity Episcopal Church for
their support of our
15 years of Open Mics !*

BWFS Current Board Members

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

Ruth HabalewskyPresident

president@bluewaterfolk.org

term expires 2016 election

Jerry HuffTreasurer

treasurer@bluewaterfolk.org

term expires 2016 election

Barbara Ernsberger...Secretary

secretary@bluewaterfolk.org

term expires 2017 election

Marty Malek ..Trustee

marty@bluewaterfolk.org

term expires 2018 election

Dale GeorgeTrustee

dale@bluewaterfolk.org

term expires 2017 election

Shirley BarnettTrustee

shirley@bluewaterfolk.org

term expires 2018 election

Tom SchlichtingTrustee

tom@bluewaterfolk.org

term expires 2018 election

Entire Board email: board@bluewaterfolk.org Main Contact Phone Number: 810-300-2388



John Putt & Victoria Selzik



Thumbfolks (Tom Schlichting, Mike Tremblay & Dean Barnett)



Wells & Witz & More



Dave & Alexis Faley



Jedidiah Willis



Black River Bluegrass Boys



Claire Spencer



Ed Dombrowski



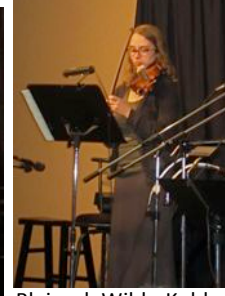
Mike & Sue Balysh



Ruby Hill



Broadband



Blaire deWilde-Kohler



Still Running



Bobby Budd

Come enjoy the Music at the Coffeehouse Open Mic and Thumbfest 2016 !