



Blue Water Folk Notes

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Gathering of Friends Concert Fundraiser *Al Lewandowski*

On October 15th the Blue Water Folk Society sponsored the first Gathering of Friends concert at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington – the home of the BWFS Coffee House. The Gathering brought together musicians from the Atlantic coast, and Western Michigan who had never played in this area together with several local musicians to play collaboratively as a group. The unusual format also provided plenty of opportunity for audience participation.



Figure 1: The Friends, from left to right; Robert Warner, Kalamazoo; Andru Bemis, Bingam, New York; Pamala Chappel, South Haven; Joe Foster, South Haven; Bobby Budd - no known address

The two hour show consisted of the musicians taking turns performing solo songs and group songs involving the other players and the audience. Each of the two sets was preceded by an opening set by a local musicians. The novel idea of combining the talents of local musicians with performers who have not previously played in the area was a great success, both artistically and financially attracting a new full house, including many new faces. Plans are already underway to repeat the Gathering next year, featuring both new faces and old favorites. Stay tuned to the BWFS website (<http://BlueWaterFolk.org>) for updates and details.

Dates to Save
BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse
Open Mic at Trinity Episcopal Church, Lexington, on
Saturday Nov 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb 10 & March 10 For more info:
<http://www.bluewaterfolk.org/coffeehouse.html>

Westminster Jam:
Saturday, 7-10 pm on Every 1st Saturday of the month
 Westminster Presbyterian, 2501 Stone St., Port Huron, Mi. dtgeorge1@aol.com

Sanilac Consortium for the Arts Acoustic Song Circle at Bark Shanty, Port Sanilac on every 1st Friday of the month.
 Contact Tom at 810-622-9716

Thumbfest 2018
Saturday, September 1
All over Lexington, Mi.
thumbfestdirector@bluewaterfolk.org

Thumbfest may be over for the year but there is still a lot of music happening featuring Blue Water Folk Society Members. Get out there and support them!


Are YOU interested in writing the newsletter? I'm looking for someone to take over the duties of Newsletter editor. Contact me at barnettsjmd@gmail.com



Mary Foley, a popular local musician who regularly performs at the BWFS Coffeehouse, entertained at the beginning of the second set.



Em and Andrew, a local duet who regularly perform at Thumbfest opened the first set.

**BWFS member performance
dates to consider:** **Fri Nov 10, 2017****Thumb Fiber Festival, Camp
Cavell**, 3335 Lakeshore Rd,
Lexington, MI**11:15am - 12:30pm** Ourselves
at the Dining Hall Stage**12:45pm - 1:45pm** Phil and
Marsha Larson at Dining Hall
Stage**2:00pm - 4:30pm** Black River
Bluegrass Boys at the Lodge Stage**2:15pm - 3:15pm** Bookends at
Dining Hall Stage**3:45pm - 4:45pm** Dean Barnett
at the Dining Hall Stage**Sat Nov 11, 2017****Thumb Fiber Festival, Camp
Cavell** 11:00am-12:00pm Pine
River Legacy Band at the Lodge
Stage**12:30-1:30pm** Lonesome
Whistle at the Lodge Stage**11:15am - 12:15pm** Chris Rudy
& Friends at the Dining Hall Stage**12:45pm - 1:45pm** Jim Williams
& Ron McPhail at the Dining Hall
Stage**2:00pm - 3:00pm** Ruby Hill at
the Lodge Stage**3:30pm - 4:30pm** Lost Cuzzins
at the Lodge Stage**7:00pm - 10:00pm** BWFS**Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic**
- Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646
Main St, Lexington, MI**Sat. Nov. 11 & Nov 25, 2017****7:00pm - 10:30pm** Thumb Dance
Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky -
Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley
St., Sandusky, Mi.**Fri Dec 1, 2017****6:30pm - 9:30pm** Sanilac
Consortium for the Arts Acoustic
Song Circle at Bark Shanty - Bark
Shanty Community Center, 135
Church St., Port Sanilac, Mi.**8:00pm - 10:00pm** Dan Hazlett
Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea
Room, 114 South Main Street, Ann
Arbor, MI**Sat Dec 2, 2017****7:00pm - 10:00pm** Westminster
Jam - Westminster Presbyterian,
2501 Stone St., Port Huron, Mi.**Note: Performances listed are those
that the BWFS member performers
submitted to:**newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org**Support our BWFS Musicians!**Submit your performances to:
newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org**Guitars for Kids Winner 2017** Shirley Barnett

The Blue Water Folk Society is pleased to announce that they gave away a total of twenty instruments which included fourteen guitars and six ukuleles at Thumbfest 2107 on September 2, 2017 to youth from 10 years to 17 years old. This was made possible by grants from the Community Foundation of St. Clair County, Sanilac County Community Foundation and the DTE Foundation plus the generosity of donors of cash and instruments. Chef Shell's Restaurant and Catering was the tent sponsor in 2017.

The following youth received a guitar: Kira Romzek, 13, Fort Gratiot; Nathan Allen, 17, Clyde Twp.; Dani Abbott, 11, Lexington; Jenson Stiers, 12, Fenton; Megan Hannigan, 15, Chesterfield; Kassy Smith, 12, Port Huron, Madison Newton, 15, Macomb; Nathan Kirby, 10, Port Huron; Eilonwy Stephens, 12, Fort Gratiot; Erin DeMeulenaere, 10, Ray; Breanna Dingman, 15, Armada; Taylor Holloway, 17, Port Huron; Even Singletary, 12, Okemos; Katie Kahler, 11, Shelby Twp.

The recipients of a ukulele were Juliet Geck, 15, Casco; Leah Conner, 13, Greenwood; Sarah Hannigan, 14, Chesterfield; Riccardo Salzmann, 15, Berkley; Zachary Allen, 14, Clyde Twp.; Anne Adele Cole, 11, Applegate.



Only seventeen of the winners are pictured above as three left before the final picture was taken by Brooke Geck. All applicants were also given either a harmonica or a chicken egg shaker. The harmonicas were donated to Guitars for Kids by Elderly Music.

Youth filled out applications that were judged by a variety of musicians of varying backgrounds. Musicians that helped to interview, judge the applications and tune guitars were: Mike Salowitz, Ricky Novak, Banjo Jim Foersch, Bobby Pennock, Dean Barnett, William Henry Russell, Gordon MacDonald, Jason Dennie, Rochelle Clark, Luti Erbeznik, Hugh Fader, B.J. Swarts, Brooke Geck, Catherine Merritt, Dale George, Al Lewandowski and Judy Insley.

In addition to the Grants and the support of the Blue Water Folk Society the guitars and ukulele were supplied with the financial support or donations of instruments from Ricky & Mary Novak, Banjo Jim Foersch, Blue Water Ramblers performance, Randy & Teresa Orchard, Dean & Shirley Barnett, Alan & Penny Phillips, Marie Davis, Bill and Adele Russell, Lifecare Chiropractic Clinic, Mel & Jeanne Kirchoff, Andy & Caylynn Mather, Don Carrick, Judy Insley, Elderly Music, K.O. Music, Gordon MacDonald and Buck Buchanan.

We give special thanks to volunteers Al Lewandowski, B.J. Swarts, Frank Swarts, Brooke Geck, Catherine Merritt, Theresa Geck, Elizabeth Merritt, Randy Orchard and Teresa Orchard who were such a big help to the running of the Guitars for Kids. Shirley Barnett, Dean Barnett and Al Lewandowski served on the Guitars for Kids Committee.

The Guitars for Kids program was started at Thumbfest in 2014 when Craig Carrick of the NorEast'r Music and Art Festival donated a guitar to the Blue Water Folk Society to begin our own program.

You can become involved with the 2018 Guitars for Kids program by contacting Shirley Barnett who is the 2018 BWFS Guitars for Kids program at:

g4k@bluewaterfolk.org<http://www.bluewaterfolk.org/www.bluewaterfolk.org/guitars-for-kids.html>

MORE BWFS member performance dates:

Tue Dec 5, 2017

6:00pm – 7:00pm First Tuesday Concerts at Atkin Library, - Atkin Library 111 N. Howard Ave, Crosswell, Mi

Thu Dec 7, 2017

7:30pm – 10:30pm Julianne Ankley at the Raven Cafe, 932 Military Street, Port Huron, MI

Fri Dec 8, 2017

7:00pm – 10:00pm Dan Hazlett at Jackson Coffee Co., 201 S Mechanic St, Jackson, MI

Sat Dec 9, 2017

7:00pm – 10:00pm BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic - Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St, Lexington, MI

7:00pm – 10:30pm Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Maple Valley School, Sandusky, Mi.

Sun. Dec 31, 2017

7:30pm – 12:30am Thumb Dance Club New Year's Eve Party, Sandusky - Maple Valley Elementary School, 138 Maple Valley Street, Sandusky, MI

Tue Jan 2, 2018

6:00pm – 7:00pm Ruby Hill at First Tuesday Concerts at Atkin Library 111 N. Howard Ave, Crosswell, Mi

Fri Jan 5, 2018

6:30pm – 9:30pm Sanilac Consortium for the Arts Acoustic Song Circle at Bark Shanty Community Center, 135 Church St., Port Sanilac, Mi.

Sat Jan 6, 2018

7:00pm – 10:00pm Westminster Presbyterian Jam - Westminster Presbyterian, 2501 Stone St., Port Huron, Mi.

7:00pm – 10:30pm

Thumb Dance Club, Maple Valley School, Sandusky - Maple Valley School, 138 Maple Valley St., Sandusky,

Fri Jan 12, 2018

8:30pm – 11:00pm William Henry Russell Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters, 336 S Main St, Rochester, MI 48307

Sat Jan 13, 2018

7:00pm – 10:00pm BWFS Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic - Trinity Episcopal Church, 5646 Main St, Lexington, MI

More details and events can be found at:

<http://www.bluewaterfolk.org/calendar.html>

Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic is Happening!

The Coffeehouse Open Mic season is underway for 2017-2018. The Open Mics are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Trinity Episcopal Church at 5646 Main St, Lexington, Mi. The first one in October was a rousing success with 14 performers. Al Lewandowski served as the emcee for the night and did a fine job. Plan on attending for the night and if you take pictures, please send them to newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org so we can publish them here and on Facebook. The show begins at 7pm but performers need to be there by 6:15pm and signed up by 6:30pm.

More information about the Coffeehouse Open Mic can be found at: <http://www.bluewaterfolk.org/coffeehouse.html>

See you at the Coffeehouse Open Mic!



Rickv Novak tuning a guitar



Dean Barnett tuning a guitar



Al Lewandowski tuning a Ukulele



Dale George helping tune a guitar



Some of G4K Donors and the Presenters at G4K 2017

Thanks for the support of our Grantors: DTE, Community Foundation of St. Clair County, Sanilac County Community Foundation and Sanilac Consortium for the Arts! We could not do it without you!



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

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

BWFS Event Calendar:
<http://www.bluewaterfolk.org/calendar.html>

Website:
webmaster@bluewaterfolk.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/thumbfest

**Join us for only \$10/year
Membership**

For more information:
<http://www.bluewaterfolk.org/member.html>

Coffeehouse Director
coffeehouse@bluewaterfolk.org

newsletter@bluewaterfolk.org
*We welcome your suggestions, pictures
and submissions.*

Did you know that
the Blue Water Folk Society is a
501c3 non-profit established to
present and promote acoustic
traditional music in the
Thumb of Michigan?

*You can donate by sending a check
made out to Blue Water Folk Society
at our mailing address above or
checking out our website in the near
future.*

**Special Thanks to Trinity Episcopal
Church, the Sanilac Consortium of
Arts, Sanilac County Community
Foundation, Community Foundation
of St. Clair Foundation & DTE
Foundation for their support of the
BWFS projects.**



BWFS Current Board Members

Tom Schlichting	President	president@bluewaterfolk.org	term expires 2018 election
Leigh Marciniak	Secretary	secretary@bluewaterfolk.org	term expires 2019 election
Ginny McNabb	Trustee		term expires 2018 election
Marty Malek	Trustee		term expires 2018 election
Barb Ernsberger	Trustee		term expires 2020 election
Al Lewandowski	Trustee		term expires 2019 election
John Broadwell	Trustee		term expires 2020 election

Main email: info@bluewaterfolk.org

Membership Update

We have over 120 Blue Water Folk Society (BWFS) members. These members have shown their support of acoustic and traditional music in Michigan's Thumb by joining or renewing their BWFS Membership. Sadly, over 50 members have not renewed from last year. "It isn't the \$10 person dues needed; as much as a statement of commitment to a great local cause," says Leigh Marciniak, Membership Director. She continues by saying that we can point to our supportive membership for grants, sharing communication and volunteer support to continue the local music tradition. A membership further stands behind an organization supporting and encouraging youth musical involvement. Help us keep the music playing! Join or renew your membership.

An easy way to donate to the Blue Water Folk Society is to check out which of your favorite places make donations to the charity of your choice when you shop.

Amazon has a program called smile.amazon.com and we are registered under Blue Water Folk Society. You can use this feature by:

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from our list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time.

To change your charitable organization:

1. Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser.
2. From your desktop, go to **Your Account** from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to **Change your Charity**. Or, from your mobile browser,
3. select **Change your Charity** from the options at the bottom of the page.
4. Select a new charitable organization to support. For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>.

New BWFS Appointments

Please help welcome Ginny McNabb, who recently accepted the open position on the BWFS Board of Directors. Ginny will complete the open position expiring June 2018.

Other appointments have been made for the remainder of the 2017-2018 term are:

- Shirley Barnett-Guitar for Kids
Director barnettsjmd@gmail.com
- John Broadwell-Membership
Director johnWBroadwell82@gmail.com
- Al Lewandowski-Activities Director
alew@alew.info
- Marty Malek-Coffeehouse
Director mdmalek@comcast.net
- Leigh Marciniak-Publicity Director
bwfs@gmail.com

Please consider contacting one of these individuals and letting them know you'd like to assist them in one of your areas of interest. *"No one can do everything, but everyone can do something."*

T-Shirts at Coffeehouse

The next Coffeehouse is Saturday, November 11 at 7 pm (Open Mic musicians at 6:30 pm), Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington, Michigan. We are going to be having a special that day on 2017 Thumbfest t-shirts, selling them for **just \$10 each**. We still have small, medium, large and extra-large t-shirts available and anticipate selling them out. If you would like us to hold a size for you to buy and pick up, send an email to info@bluewaterfolk.org and we'll hold it for you.

**Support our BWFS Member Musicians!
Attend a LIVE performance or visit an
Open Mic or Jam and perhaps buy one
of their CDs.**