



Blue Water Folk Notes



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Events & BWFS performers	2
Thumbfest Benefit/Raffle	2
A Note from Mike Mercatante	2
Lets Hear it for the Volunteers	3
Special Thanks to Grantors	3
Photos of Volunteers	3
Contact & Membership Info	4
BWFS Performers at work	4
BWFS Member Activities	4
Info on Program & t-shirts	4
Photos of Thumbfest	5&6



Coffeehouse Open Mics begin again

The *Traditional Acoustic Coffeehouse Open Mic* series, presented by the *Blue Water Folk Society* will hold its first Coffeehouse on Saturday, October 8th from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Trinity Episcopal Church at 5646 Main St., Lexington, Michigan.

Performers should arrive by 6:30 p.m. to begin signing up for one of available slots. After all the slots are filled, no more names can be taken.

Single performers are allowed 10 minutes for their performance, which includes their set-up time.

Groups are allowed 15 minutes for their performance, which includes their set-up time. Performers are encouraged to keep their set-up and performance to the allotted time so that everyone who is signed up can perform.

We are very grateful to the wonderful community of the *Trinity Episcopal Church* which has allowed us to use

their wonderful facility for 11 years.

As *Carl Kammer*, the President of the *BWFS* says, the *Coffeehouse Open Mic* is our primary setting for encouraging new performers and letting all levels of artist hone their stage presence in front of a large and supportive audience.

Our audiences have ranged in the 60 to 100 persons in the past and have provided excellent exposure for all musicians. The *Coffeehouse Open Mics* have served as the springboard for many groups who have developed through collaborations.

Admission is free although non-perishable food is accepted for Project Blessing and donations are accepted for the refreshments or the *BWFS*.

Coffeehouse director, *Dawn Malek* can be contacted at dawnmalek@comcast.net for more info. Dawn is always looking for volunteers to bring refreshments, work in the kitchen, serve as emcee, set-up and run sound, and clean-up after the coffeehouse. The emcee in November will be *Shirley Barnett* and in December it will be *Dean Barnett*.

Hot News to Use

Save these dates:

Coffeehouse

Acoustic Open Mic

Saturday, October 8th

7:00-10:00 pm



Trinity Episcopal Church (see article on this page)

Contact: Dawn Malek at dawnmalek@comcast.net

Future dates:

- Sat. November 12th
- Sat. December 10th
- Sat. January 14th
- Sat. February 11th
- Sat. March 10th

All Coffeehouse Open mics held at Trinity Episcopal Church

Thumbfest

Wrap-up Meeting

Saturday, October 29

6:00 p.m.



Ruth Habalewsky's home
2848 Monticello
810-982-8371

Contact: Ruth Habalewsky at rhablewsky@comcast.net

Thumbfest Review & Wrap-up Meeting Planned

Here is **YOUR** opportunity to **hear** and **contribute** to the **review** of *Thumbfest 2011*.

Bring your suggestions, comments or just your curiosity to the meeting which will be held at *BWFS* board member, *Ruth Habalewsky's* home on

Saturday, October 29th at 6 p.m.,
2848 Monticello Dr., Port Huron, Mi.

Contact Ruth at 810-982-8371 or rhablewsky@comcast.net for more information.

All are welcome to attend!

Here are some questions for you to consider before you attend the meeting. Feel free to add your comments.

- What was your overall impression of Thumbfest 2011?
- Were the 11 venues too much, too little or just right?
- Did you get to see all the performers that you wanted to see?
- Did you have trouble getting food?
- What about transportation and getting around? Parking issues?
- Was this your 1st time? Will you return again & recommend Thumbfest to others?
- Would you attend if you had to pay a small fee for admission? Would you attend on a different date or at a different location?
- What can you suggest to improve or change Thumbfest?
- Did you want to volunteer to help?

More Event Dates

BWFS member performance dates to consider:

William Henry Russell

> **Saturday, November 12 7:30-10:30pm**
Raven Café www.ravencafehp.com
in Port Huron free
russell.william@att.net

Butterhair

> **Sunday, November 6 3:00-5:00 pm**
Mosaic Concert Series
Sanilac County Historical Society Church
On M-25 in Port Sanilac, Mi. 48469
Museumnews@gmail.com
tomschlichting@hotmail.com

Campfire Compadres

> **Friday, October 28 8:15- 10:30 pm**
Halloween Spooktacular at
Live From the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw
Pontiac, Michigan
thunderisle@yahoo.com

Floyd King & the Bushwackers

> **Friday, October 28 8:15- 10:30 pm**
Halloween Spooktacular at
Live From the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw
Pontiac, Michigan
thunderisle@yahoo.com

Dean Barnett

> **Sunday, January 22 6:00 – 9:00 pm**
Raven Café www.ravencafehp.com
in Port Huron free
bionomic2@yahoo.com

Lost Cuzzins

> **Saturday, October 22 7:30 – 9:30 pm**
Opening for Lou & Peter Barryman at
MaMas Coffeehouse \$15
38651 N. Woodward Ave.
Birmingham, Mi. 48009
www.mamascoffeehouse.org
jrwms@advnet.net

Circle of Friends

> **Saturday October 15 7:00–9:30 pm**
Baseline Folk Society Open Mic/show
774 N. Sheldon Road
Plymouth, Mi. 48070
lexstewart@sbcglobal.net

Still Running

> **Thursday, October 13 7:00–9:00 pm**
Studio 1219
1219 Military St. Port Huron, Mi. 48060

> **Saturday, October 22 AND**

> **Saturday, November 26 AND**

> **Friday, December 30 7:30-10:30 pm**
Raven Café www.ravencafehp.com
Port Huron , Mi. 48060

Dan Shepherd

> **Friday, October 7th 8:15-10:30 pm**
Live From the Living Room
7 N. Saginaw
Pontiac, Michigan
danshepherdmusic@comcast.net

Thumbfest Benefit/Raffle Thanks

Our thanks to all those that sponsored a Thumbfest benefit, donated their performance or donated an item for raffle to help us raise a total of \$2635 for the Thumbfest 2011.



B.J. and Frank Swarts, volunteers at the info table at *Thumbfest* and the donors of the Tenor Banjo that raised \$115 when it was raffled off at the *Port Sanilac Music at the Harbor Thumbfest Benefit*. The August 13th Thumbfest benefit, which was organized by *Tom Schlichting* raised \$715 plus the \$115 for the banjo for a total of \$830. Featured performers were *Two or Three of Port Sanilac*, *Circle of Friends*, *Still Running*, *the Lost Cuzzins*, *Dynasty* and *Frodis Room*. *Susan Gill* strongly supported the concert.

In addition to the August 13th benefit, we also had several other benefits. The August 6th *Music in the Park Thumbfest Benefit*, sponsored by *Lexington Arts Council* raised \$315. The featured performer was the *Circle of Friends* which includes *George Stewart*, the donor of the sound board which raised \$75 in an online auction.



Circle of Friends at Lexington Thumbfest Benefit

An earlier April 9th *Thumbfest Benefit at the Trinity Episcopal Church* organized by *Dean Barnett* and featuring *Floyd King & the Bushwackers*, *LL Blues*, *Bobby Budd*, *Banjoey* raised \$1430.40.

The July 9th *Thumbfest Benefit* organized by *George Young* at the *Water Tower Bar and Grill* featuring *Bobby Budd*, *Ourselves*, *Dan Shepherd*, *Sweet Johnny B* and *Denny Dwyer* raised \$212.

Thumbs up to all of you!!

A Note from Mike Mercatante

It's a few weeks post-Thumbfest and everyone from the Blue Water Folk Society are finally getting used to their lives returning to normal. But what a party, eh?

This year's Thumbfest, our 10th anniversary, was bigger and better than ever. We had nine performer stages, two workshop areas and a jam site going for most of the day. Musicians were everywhere. You couldn't swing a stick without taking down a few. In addition, we had a magician, the Lord of the Gourd with his intricate gourd carvings, and African dancing. Thumbfest2011 took you around the world and back. We brought back many favorites from prior festivals and introduced some exciting new talent. All for free in the beautiful village of Lexington.

Thumbfest is funded mostly from the generosity of the audience by their contributions from "passing the hat" (or buckets, in our case). If we raise enough for another festival, we put on another show. If we don't, oh well, it's been fun. I'm proud to say that, despite a nasty hit from Mother Nature around 5 pm, that the audience from this year's Thumbfest gave the highest amount of bucket donations ever. Way to go!

No festival happens on its own. Thumbfest is not a magical event that just appears every first Saturday of Labor Day weekend. It has been months in the planning and what's really amazing about Thumbfest is that it is run entirely by volunteers. Each year dedicated folks come back, along with some new faces, and pitch in the day of the show by manning booths, carrying donation buckets, setting up and tearing down stages, and doing all the little things that need to be done for a festival of this size. No small task. And there are other volunteers, like myself, who have been working months to book acts, apply for the ever hard-to-come-by-grants, organize volunteers, work out logistics, and encourage each other that this isn't madness and yes, we really do like doing this.

It was fun to return as Artistic Director of Thumbfest 2011. I've met many interesting musicians through the booking process and even got to play with some. I'd like to thank all the performers for sharing their talents which make Thumbfest the special event that it is. I'd like to thank all the members of the Blue Water Folk Society for their dedication in putting this event on year after year.

Thanks also, to the city of Lexington that allows us to overrun the village for a weekend. Finally, thanks to all of you who attended Thumbfest 2011 and gave us performers the gift of your presence, generosity, and ears. You are the reason we do this.

To submit to perform at the next Thumbfest send an email to perform@bluewaterfolk.org



Let's Hear it for the Volunteers! worked 6+ hrs

*And it's one, two, three, hey!
Help them put the chairs away.
If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be here.
Let's hear it for the volunteers !!
(lyrics from the Mustard's Retreat song,
Let's Hear it for the Volunteers.)*

You have heard it before, but we can't say enough about the most important ingredient in the making of a successful Thumbfest...the all important volunteers !!

Volunteers from all age groups worked a wide variety of hours and jobs, from just a couple of hours to all day.

Mike Mercatante, Artistic Director sent the following names. Volunteer soundmen who either donated their sound system and/or their work on the soundboard were; Lost Cuzzins (Dean Barnett, Jim Williams, Ron McPhail, Kent Krueger), Mike Mercatante, Dennis Kingsbury, Denny Dwyer, Chuck Rushing and Jack Ferguson. A special thank you to Phil Larson, who stepped in on the morning of the event to fill a spot when a stage suddenly needed a sound system and sound man.

A thank you to the performers who refused any pay and donated their performances. They were Riverstrings & Friends, Banjoey, Three Hearted River, Pat Harrison, Pair of Docs, Dean Barnett and Sweet Johnny B (John Broadwell).

Serving as volunteer emcees at Thumbfest were Dave Bennis, Kevin Kiepert, Carol Roberts, Dawn Malek, Carl Kammer and Shirley Barnett.

Annette Mercatante, CD & T-shirt Table Chair, said that Mark Smith, Tony Mercatante, Nick Reed, Mel and Jeannine Kirchoff, John and Sue Broadwell, Mary Bruce (who worked 8 hours) and Don and Maryjean Reid who worked all day. The CD table can be both stressful and fun, so kudos to the crew for making the day a success. This year we actually had lights at the table !

Shirley Barnett, who ended up doing the Information & T-shirt table again, had B.J. and Frank Swarts, who worked most of the day, Ginny McNabb and a large group of her family to help during the day. They included daughters Anne Howard, Elizabeth Merritt, and Theresa Geck who worked most of the day running and bringing water & ice. Also working were the Granddaughters, Brittany Howard, Catherine Merritt who has worked for 9 years, Emily Merritt, Brooke Geck & Juliet Geck. Emily, Brooke & Juliet did multiple tasks.

Tom Schlichting, the Director of Thumbfest, reported he had Al Lewandowski Lynn Surbrook, Marty(Trucker)Malek, Dean Barnett, and himself work as stage hauling and tent setup guys and

Photos by Amanda Marcotte available at

http://amandolin.smuamuq.com/Music/Thumbfest2011/19070308_RRvzj

Ruth&Marty Habalewsky
Bucket chairs



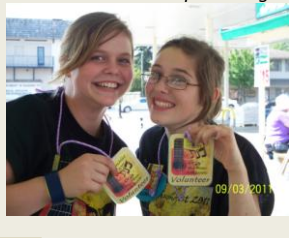
Dennis Kingsbury
volunteer soundman



Bucket volunteer
waiting for a break



Emily Merritt & Brooke Geck
worked 6+ hrs & kept smiling!



Thumbfest Breakfast Club...Marty Malek, Dennis Kingsbury, Jack Ferguson, Pat Harrison, Tom Schlichting, Dawn Malek, Ginny McNabb, Shirley Barnett, Dean Barnett, Al Lewandowski (Pat Harrison photo)



Our youngest volunteer
Helping fold shirts
Juliet Geck for Grandma



Jerry Schommer, Shirley Barnett & Ginny McNabb worked on signage and chairs. A new, very pleasant addition to the Sunday morning clean-up was a breakfast that Dennis Kingsbury, Jack Ferguson and Pat Harrison prepared and supplied. Way to go guys! Tom also wants to thank Pat Cutler, Ginny McNabb, Terry Nolan and George Stewart who provided him with extra help and insight regarding Lexington, sponsors, etc.

Dennis Kingsbury & Jack Ferguson cooking breakfast



Ruth Habalewsky, bucket chair, along with her husband Marty Habalewsky and Carl Kammer spent the day working & counting the bucket donations which reached \$3910. This was a record amount, with larger donations in the bucket even though the crowd was smaller with the predicated storms. Buckets require a lot of volunteers but the donations we receive are very important to paying all the bills and ensuring the performers that play for a profit share are paid. The volunteers included Susan Amato, Vic Amato, Stephanie Boedis, Michelle Boedis, Nick Stewart, Jill Stewart, Gloria Lowen, Earl Lowen, Nora McCanna, Tony Mercatante, Ginny McNabb, Alice Pohl, Al Vandergraff, Chris, Iris Spencer, Claire Spencer, Ron Anderson, Pat Anderson, Pat Cutler, Joe Marcotte, Mary Ann, Stan Domonski Ingrid Horodko, Ed Hubbel, Judy Hubbel Marge Kiepert, Suzanne Srodawa, Debbie Barbara Ernsberger, Dean Ernsberger, Julia Sobel, Andy McCarthy, Mike McCarthy, Renee Rousseau, Jim Wilson, Brooke Geck, and Emily Geck.

Susan Gill at Benefit



Also involved in some of the early work were Jenna Reed for publicity, Shirley Barnett for the Grants and Program, Dean Barnett, Tom Schlichting, George Young, Susan Gill, George Stewart, Port Sanilac Music at the Harbor, Lexington Arts Council for the benefits.

Special Thanks

To our grantors the Community Foundation of the Blue Water Arts Committee and a MCACA State Minigrant from the Huron EDC, & the Sanilac Consortium for the Arts. Thanks also to the LAC. Thanks to the Program Sponsors, Mel & Jeannine Kirchoff, Dean & Shirley Barnett, Talmer Bank & Premier Properties and the Stage Sponsors; Virginia McNabb, DTE, Irish Rose Gift & Woolen Shoppe, Lakeside A&W, Old Towne Hall Winery, Cadillac House Restaurant, Marty & Ruth Habalewsky & Captain Keith Smith.

Thumbs Up to all involved !!!



Your Current Board Members

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

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

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
 Editor: 586-727-5197
email board@bluewaterfolk.org
Editor: barnettsjmd@gmail.com

On the web & Facebook:
www.bluewaterfolk.org
www.thumbfest.org

We welcome your suggestions, pictures and submissions by Jan. 25, April 25, July 25, October 25 for our event calendar and for publication!
 Send your information to barnettsjmd@gmail.com

Join the Blue Water Folk Society !!

Everyone is welcome to join the Blue Water Folk Society just by sending the \$10 yearly dues along with your name, phone number, address and/or email address to:

*Shirley Barnett
 1809 Caughill
 Columbus, Mi. 48063
 Please make check payable to:*

Blue Water Folk Society and indicate "for dues". We need your support to keep the music flowing in the Thumb of Michigan !!

There is room for YOU!

Blue Water Folk Society member hard at work

Even though it seems like performing is not hard work, just fun, there is a lot of work involved especially when you are doing it for an event like the Thumbfest Music Festival which is held outdoors. Besides all the hours of rehearsal and time spent setting up and performing, at the Thumbfest benefit in Port Sanilac on August 13th, we started out warm, but predications of storms moving in began to come true when the lightning began all around us, but did not hit Pt. Sanilac. However, by the time the Lost Cuzzins played to close the show, it was really cold with cold fingers to play those guitars. At the Thumbfest a violent storm moved through with lots of rain leading to issues with finding protection for the instruments, electronic equipment & people.

Still Running at the Port Sanilac Thumbfest Benefit



Lost Cuzzins at the Port Sanilac Thumbfest Benefit



Ron McPhail & the Hackwells dealing with the storm at Thumbfest at the Courtyard.



BWFS Member Activities

> Tom McGovern & Shirley Barnett will be performing with the Richmond Community Choir on December 9th at 7 pm and December 11th at 2 and 5 pm Christmas Concert. barnettsjmd@gmail.com

> Jenna Reed will be performing at St. John' United Church of Christ, 10 am service at 710 Pine St., Port Huron 2jnsgrover@comcast.net > > Maggie Ferguson is busy with her radio show *The Old Front Porch Radio Show* 88.3 FM Tuesdays between 5:00 and 7:30 pm. www.wxou.org and with Live from the Living Room in Pontiac which Jack and her host. marmik21@yahoo.com

> Tom Schlichting is organizing the **Mosaic Concert Series** at Sanilac County Historical Society church building in Port Sanilac behind the Barn Theater. For information on the **Monthly Mosaic and Classical Concerts**, and **Home Dinners** contact the Museum, 810/622-9946 or email museumnews@gmail.com Coming up is *Butterhair* on Sunday November 6th, Carl Henry plays Johnny Cash favorites, *Ourselves* opens with a set of Hank Williams classics on Sunday, October 16th and *Community Christmas* show-classical and popular seasonal music by several area performers on December 18th. All concerts are from 3 to 5 p.m. with admission at: Adults \$10, Students \$5 under 13 free.

Next submission deadline: January 25th

Why do we do it ??
 For the love of the Music !



Info on the program & t-shirt

The winning t-shirt design was by Josh Walerych a student at Port Huron High School.

The program was done by Shirley Barnett in Word & Excel and sent to the printer Precision Printing on Lapeer in Port Huron which made the printing process a breeze for this volunteer.

There are some of each left ...contact Tom Schlichting tomschlichting@hotmail.com if you want one and to make arrangements for pick-up.

Thumbfest Pictures (by Amanda Marcotte)

Mustard's Retreat at workshop



Information/shirt table



Loaded Down



Black River Bluegrass Boys



William Henry Russell



Tom Schlichting



Where do we go next?



Break time



Mike Sneed & Jim Williams



A popular Jam



Floyd & Buckrooster King



Enjoying the show



Ricky, Banjo Jim, Gary Trigger



A before the storm rest !



Accordion Music



Nicky Boy Antics



Hootenanny time Jack Ferguson, Jim Williams, Banjo Jim & Maggie Ferguson, and others



Kofi Ameyaw



Jim Bizer



Lost Cuzzins



Sweet music & a washboard?



Bucket passing time



Lynn Surbrook



Walking music



Rain video



I'm not sure this will work, but it is a video taken during Dean Barnett's performance while it was storming. It's very short ...with my family huddled under the umbrellas & singing. Shirley

http://amandolin.smuqmuq.com/Music/Thumbfest2011/19070308_RRvzLj
for more pictures of Thumbfest taken by Amanda Marcotte