

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society
May 2023

Distributed via email to members and friends of PCFS.
A PDF file is attached to the message for those who wish to print it out.
Shirley Worth – Editor (pcfs.kt@gmail.com)

Next Meeting
Saturday, May 6, 2023

NOTE SCHEDULE:

2:00 pm: Meet 'n' Greet

2:30 pm: Presentation

Train Songs

3:30 pm: Break

4:00 pm: Song Swap

Theme: *Green, Green, It's Green They Say*

5:30 pm: Circles and Jams

Autoharp Circle led by Pete H

Beginners Finger Style Guitar led by Kevin T

Native American Flute Circle led by Sharon H

Instrumental Jam led by Glen & Judi M

Vocal Jam led by Jack E

Fellowship Hall of University Presbyterian Church

<https://goo.gl/maps/sbcBeiD1xFoKagdq8>

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The President's Post

Dear Members and Friends,

If you are contemplating a position on the Paint Creek Board, I have a story for you. A true story.

Once upon a time I was asked to be on a board. Not at Paint Creek. I was told it would be easy and as I was invested in the organization, I agreed. A few years later, someone asked me about the experience and I said, it's easy.

This person was skeptical and asked me to elaborate. I don't recommend you ask a yarn spinner to elaborate, but here's the short version of what I shared.

Look at the word easy:

E = Effort.....Anything you do requires effort.

A = Attitude...Your attitude is paramount to success.

S = Synergy...Your effort and attitude will be blended and complemented by others.

Y = You.....You'll need to be your authentic self.

Paint Creeker, if you can take advice from Woody Guthrie, you can be an effective help to our group. Woody used to say,

Take it easy, but take it.

Take it and you'll be choosing good company to serve with. Did you know that we had a board meeting last Tuesday? I did, but I was sick as the proverbial dog. No, it wasn't covid, I tested twice. This was just a good old-fashioned mitten state spring cold, powered by fresh new pollen, amped up to eleven. All the classic symptoms and plenty of them. What did I do?

I let a great bunch of bright, kind, and caring people; our board, know the situation. They met on Zoom, without my droopy eyes and runny nose, and all went well. This morning I reserved park space for the July Fourth Picnic and the September Gathering per the decisions they made.

If you're at the May Gathering, take the time to thank them for taking it easy, but taking it!

Thanks!

Your President, Jack F

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Our May Presentation: Train Songs

Trains have been a subject in traditional music and folklore since the first train song was copyrighted in 1828 to commemorate the groundbreaking of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroads. They have appeared in all major music genres, including folk, blues, country, rock, jazz, world, classical and avant-garde. At least 800 songs have been documented, many of them commercially recorded. The true number of such songs is

impossible to know due to the difficulties in documenting the songs and defining the genre. Join long-time Paint Creeker Phil Doolittle in exploring this historical musical theme..

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Snacks in May...

Thanks to Marilyn H and Tom D for organizing snacks for May. Please note, as Jack mentions in this President's Post above, that the allowance for snacks has been raised to \$100. Please contact Sharon H or Kathy T if you'd like to add to the fun.

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2022-23 Song Swap Themes

May—Green, Green, It's Green They Say

June—Wedding Bells

July—For Patriots' Dreams

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Next Gatherings:

Saturday, June 3 at Fellowship Hall of University Presbyterian Church. Hall opens at 2pm and presentation begins at 2:30. Song swap at 4 pm and Circles and Jams at 5:30.

Sunday, July 9 Picnic at Riverside Park at Squirrel & Auburn Roads (Downtown Auburn Hills – goo.gl/maps/2k4sqJfDTfHSLrRu5) has been reserved for the day. Watch for details in the next KT!

Membership

Welcome to all of our new members.

Wow! April's Gathering was fantastic from a membership point of view. Not only did we have several new and repeat visitors, we also had no less than eleven new members join PCFS – some on their first visit! That's wonderful!

As always, if you are not yet a member but would like to be, please bring your cash or check to a gathering and fill out a membership form there. Since we are more than half way through the season, memberships through August are now only \$25 for a single membership, and \$45 for a family membership.

Jeff D and Dan D, Membership Co-chairs

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New location for McCourt's Music

McCourt's Music has long supported our Tin Whistle with ads in our program, so you'll want to know where to go to support them in return!

For some years now, Berkley Music and McCourt's Music have been located next door to each other on 12 Mile Road in Berkley. Detroit Violin, owned by McCourt's, was located across the street, but later moved into the same storefront as McCourt's. As of the beginning of 2023, McCourt's Music and Detroit Violin have moved to 665 E. Elmwood in Troy, which is about 1/2 mile north of 14 Mile Road, just west of Rochester Road. <https://www.mccourtsmusic.com/>

They have a larger retail area, and have much more room upstairs for several lesson rooms. Tom Murray (who was a Paint Creek presenter a few years ago), has a large workshop for violin, guitar, and stringed instrument construction and repair. And their space is continually being developed. As before, they have lots of ukuleles, guitars, violins, accessories, instruction books, and they offer lessons. Check them out some time!

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Musicians Wanted

Christ Lutheran Church in Waterford is seeking candidates for two part-time paid positions, Music Director and Music Accompanist. The detailed job descriptions are on the church website: <https://christwaterford.org/careers/>

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All Alone

Dr. Peter Stephenson, April 15, 2023

My beloved wife Debbie of over 49 years died last night. It was not unexpected... she was diagnosed with progressive supranuclear palsy some years back. It is a rare disease - 3 of 100,000 populations so the pharmaceutical companies could not care less - not enough money to do the necessary research.

Several months back I wrote a song about this situation but did not relate it to us. It turned out to be prophetic. The song is "All Alone" and I did something I've never done before: I have released - unofficially - my draft version of the song. You can find it at <https://drpeterstephenson.bandcamp.com/track/all-alone> and if you want to donate - you don't have to - directions to the PSP donor site are there. This is my original version and it likely will change when I publish the song officially.

###

Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

How often do you need to pass by, before you take note? Maggie and I stood at the public launch at Lake Sixteen, facing south and west, the outbound direction of the trail, and she remarked at the sweet soft glow of green to be seen in the distance.

The lake is less than a hundred acres. Egrets like it there. Sunrise paddlers speak of witnessing osprey in pursuit of bluegill, large mouth bass and even rainbow trout. Waterfowl will report any lack of decorum, so when you visit, be kind. Try not to be busy of mind. Do your best to go in spring.

Don't talk. Listen and look to that verdant current of color flowing above the banks in the tree line. Gaze. These next few weeks the soft moss of the trail will invite your presence. You'll be offered a gift, a gift of gentle song playing across reeds and pausing to rest amongst aged willow growth. Finally, I took note.

You see, I learned basic fishing skills on that lake. From my uncles in a tattered john boat or leaky canoe, I received instruction. Lord knows how many worms I impaled trying to bait a hook rigged to one of K-Mart's most affordable Zebco reels.

Watch your bobber, Jackie!

Now I watch the willows. On the walk out, there's one that might be four feet around. It's between bank and path. Standing thirty some feet above the shore to reach over the lake's surface, it is a gnarly specimen. I bet that while I developed the feel of a crappie taking a hook, that tree's roots began their role in the care and feeding of a young tree. One that providence seeded direct in the northwest winds route from across open water.

But the elder giant, though twisted, is not alone. And being grandest in girth won't earn you a prize for height. As you move among them, sharing their experience, you'll find many a tall willow that has not bowed the knee to winter's hard blows. For they are a flexible plant. Forgiving, forbearing they accept the issues of life with such grace that scripture speaks of trees, planted by waters, that shall not be moved.

You would think that a fella familiar with Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*, who walks the lake trail, and paddles those banks would be more aware of the source that provides that annual glow. Willows are patient. They knew I needed 71 years.

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Events and Links

*If you know of events or links that may interest PCFS members – or if **you** are appearing somewhere, send information to pcfs.kt@gmail.com*

Member Showcase

Tara

May 9 & 16, 6-8 pm - the Irish Tavern, Madison Hts

May 11, 5:30-9:30 pm - Ancient Order of Hibernians Burger Night, \$\$

May 7, 5-8 pm - O'Connor's Public House, Rochester

May 21, 1:30 pm - St. Patrick's Sr. Center Spring Festival, Detroit. 4:00 pm-JamRocks (many local Celtic groups performing) \$\$

Peter Stephenson

Fridays, 7-11 pm - Peter hosts Open Mic Nights at Bean And Benny, Oxford, [facebook.com/people/Bean-and-Benny/100089076537894/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Bean-and-Benny/100089076537894/)

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Jams, Concerts, Events, and more...

America at the Crossroads: The GUITAR and a changing nation

Now through May 28: Touring exhibition from National GUITAR Museum displays forty guitars connected with American history and culture, supplemented with video, photos, and illustrations. Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids [fordlibrarymuseum.gov](https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov)

MAMA's CoffeeHouse 30th Anniversary

May 13, 8 pm: Cobill: Jan Krist, Floyd King & the Bushwackers, Joel Mabus, and Finvarra's Wren, all together for one special evening! Last concert of the season; back in September. Doors open at 7:15, pre-show open mic at 7:45. No advance sales; cash or check at door only. \$22/\$20 student/senior. <https://bucmi.org/music-choir/mamas-coffeehouse/>

OCTDS Dance Schedule

May 27, 7:30-10:30 pm: Contra and Square Dance, Calls by Ed Vincent, music by Dawn's Early Light. Lesson for beginners at 7:00 pm. Masking and vaccination recommended but not required. Suggested donation \$10. More information: www.octds.org

Detroit Ukulele Club

See <https://www.meetup.com/detroit-ukulele-club/> for information, links to music, and RSVPs. They also have a Facebook page. All are welcome to join the Detroit Ukulele Club Meetup group and participate. Questions? Contact Jack Erickson jackofallstrings@gmail.com

Open Mic Night, Starkweather Arts Center, Romeo

Fourth Friday of each month. 7PM, \$4, \$3 Starkweather members. Open to all, come to perform, come to enjoy! 219 N. Main, Romeo, MI 48065 starkweatherarts.com

Open Mic Night, Shelby Township Community Center

Second Saturday of each month. 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30), Instrumental music, singing, or listening. \$3 at door, drinks and snacks provided. 14975 21 Mile Rd, Shelby Township. Contact Nan at nan.drinkard@gmail.com

Open Mic at Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters

Every Monday, 8-1-pm at The Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters, 115 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. docr.coffee

The Baseline Folk Society

Third Saturday of each month between September and May, 7-9:30 pm, Plymouth. Open mike plus featured presentation. \$5 suggested. <https://www.plymoutharts.com/baseline-folk-society.html>

Michigan Storytelling

MI Story newsletter posted monthly, listing storytelling events around Michigan and virtual storytelling events around the world. michiganstorytelling.org

Ten Pound Fiddle

Find the schedule at tenpoundfiddle.org

ACTMAAD Calendar

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance opportunities: aactmad.org/calendar

The Ark

The Ark is now open for in-person events, requiring proof of full vaccination and masking. See the full schedule at theark.org

CDSS: Online Events Calendar

This is a fantastic place to learn about traditional dance, music, song, and storytelling activities happening every week throughout North America...and beyond. To find virtual events, click "Event Category and check "Online Event". cdss.org/events

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Facebook Links

Lois Sprengnether Keel: "Keeping the Public in Public Domain", facebook.com/lois.sez

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: facebook.com/watch/HuberBreeseMusic/

Jay Ungar and Molly Mason: The Quiet Room is a live online music series that has been running each Wednesday at 8pm EDT since March of 2020. facebook.com/jayandmolly/live

Meredith Axelrod & Craig Ventresco: Jazz, blues and ragtime. Live every night at 8 pm Pacific time, 11 pm EDT, and videos are posted on their Facebook page. facebook.com/meredithaxelrod

Michigan Folk music love: Photos, videos, anything of MI folk music interest. bit.ly/3r65V7G

Country Dance and Song Society: facebook.com/cdss.org

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle

The Ark: facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor

AACTMAD: facebook.com/AACTMAD

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society (OCTDS): facebook.com/OCTDS

Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA

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Fine Print:

Keepin' Tabs (KT) is the monthly newsletter for, by, and about the Paint Creek Folklore Society. Paint Creek Folklore Society is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, an affiliate of The Country Dance and Song Society of America (CDSS), and a supporter of folklore, folksong and folkdance societies, groups and individuals whose interest is in the preservation of and education in traditional music and dance. Circulation: about 200 people on PCFS mailing list, which is not published or shared except for members. Commercial use of mailing list is not permitted.

To submit articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact Shirley Worth, Editor (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

Our website at paintcreekfolkloresociety.org is live, but we're still working on it. We're sorry to say our Facebook pages are not currently functioning.

To unsubscribe from this mailing list, reply to pcfs.kt@gmail.com with the word unsubscribe in the subject line.

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