

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society
September 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)

NOTE DATE CHANGE - SECOND SATURDAY!

Saturday, September 9, 2023

Live Gathering at River Woods Park, Auburn Hills

goo.gl/maps/1mLy3M6sohQDJ64o7

4-5 pm: Meet & Greet

5-6:30 pm: Song Swap

6:30 pm-dusk: Jams & Workshops

Instrumental Jam led by Jeff D

Vocal Jam

Others to be announced at the Gathering

Song Swap Theme - *School Days*

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The President's Post

Dear Members and Friends,

In a few minutes I'll pull on my shoes and head for the mailbox. There should be an envelope waiting there with a contract from University Presbyterian Church for review and signing. This is part of a president's duties. Am I a contract expert? No. But when you're at the September gathering take a look at the accomplished and capable folks that are within our membership.

You don't need to be a contract expert to be a Paint Creek president, but you should know how to ask, and then, allow the people around you to help. About help...

It appears that providing amplification is the future for further gatherings. Several of us have provided equipment and effort, but My thought is to establish a dedicated, consistent, "sound committee / team." If you have ideas or interest, let me know.

Finally, speaking of contracts, the TinWhistle committee, Jeff Despard, Larry Miller and Maggie Ferguson, with coaching from Mike Acosta, negotiated a contract with John McCutcheon and he will be our headliner this year. We will only have one headliner and will return to our traditional two sampler opener. Fifty years, it's worthy of a celebration. Expect to see sign-up sheets. Come prepared to sign. Engage and make this celebration the best it can be.

Thanks!

Your President, Jack F

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Future Gatherings:

October 7: Dr. Joe Grimm will be presenting *Songs of The Great Lakes*. Dr. Grimm is a Professor of Journalism at Michigan State University, inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame after a 30-year career at The Detroit Free Press. He is the editor of *Songquest: The Journals of Great Lakes Folklorist Ivan H. Walton*. Walton was a pioneering folklorist who collected the songs and stories of aging sailors living along the shores of the Great Lakes in the 1930s. 2 pm, Meet & Greet; 2:30 pm, Presentation; 4 pm, Song Swap; 5:30 pm, Circles & Jams.

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Save The Date for Tin Whistle: Saturday, November 11

Headliner John McCutcheon, and Paint Creek Sampler artists Joann & Andy MundyMather. and Marty and Laura Kohn promise to provide a great show! Flyers will be emailed soon, and paper flyers will be available at the September Gathering.

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Snack Time!

The interlude between the presentation and Song Swap is such a happy opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones as we chat about our musical and other interests — and made more pleasant by wonderful snacks provided by members. Kathy T and Sharon H have again kindly volunteered to coordinate snacks

for the coming season, and will kick things off by providing treats for the September gathering. They'll also have a sign-up sheet so you can participate by volunteering to be chef-of-the-month at your convenience! There's a budget to help reimburse you for expenses of whatever you prepare.

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2023-24 Song Swap Themes

September - School Days

October - Call to Fall

November - Attitude of Gratitude

December - Holidays

January - Your Favorite Songwriter

February - Share Your Romantic Side

March - Songs From The Frontier

April - The American Civil War

May - Songs About Trees

June - Revolution

July - Revival

###

Memberships Expire This Month – Renew Yours Today!

2022-2023 was a great season. We averaged 25-30 folks at the gatherings and 2-5 guests per event – some of who ultimately became members. A large influx of folks took advantage of the lower membership prices at the end of the season to join up.

Thanks to the Board of Directors and chairpersons for all their efforts to get the locations reserved, the sound perfected, the kitchen staffed and all the other behind the scenes efforts to get the gatherings to run smoothly.

Communication: The Membership Co-chairs are looking to improve communications by using the Paint Creek Folklore Society – PCFS Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086482332379> - and the PaintCreekFolklore.org website. In your spare time, please check out each and provide any and all feedback (good or bad). Only through you can we improve the group.

Visitors: We've changed the visitor policy so that the first visit is free. Succeeding visits during the season will be \$10 per visit. At the end of the season, the clock resets. So the first visit of the new season will be free, etc. We encourage you to invite your friends and family members to the gatherings as this is how we'll grow.

Dues: For the 3 or 4 members who have pre-paid their 2023-2024 dues – THANK YOU! Attached to this month's KT is the 2023-2024 Membership Form. We're asking **all** members to complete these forms this year. It helps to keep our records up-to-date and ensure our communications to you arrive uninterrupted. You can send the completed form and a check made payable to PAINT CREEK FOLKLORE SOCIETY only (the bank will no longer accept any abbreviations) to Dan DeGasperis, whose address is on the form. The dues have remained the same as last year: \$50 for a single membership and \$90 for a family membership. It would be greatly appreciated if we could get to full paid membership by the November gathering at the latest. Then we won't have to send Rocco to visit you to collect.

See you soon!

Dan D & Jack E, Membership Co-chairs

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Thumbfest

Why is our September gathering on the second Saturday this September? Because — ***Thumbfest!***

This Blue Water Folk Society event transforms downtown Lexington, MI to a magical festival site for the day, 10am to 10pm on Saturday, September 2. And some of our favorite performers will be there: Matt Watroba & Robert Jones, Jim Bizer/Jan Krist, Dan Hazlet, Leonardo, and many others. There will be an open mic, tents for jamming and for workshops, and special tents from noon to 5pm offer kids' activities, too.

It's a lot of entertainment packed into a manageable 9 blocks, with a shuttle bus that stops at every block to make it very easy to get around. Hope to see you there!

<https://www.bluewaterfolk.org/thumbfest.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/events/2742672692530328>

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Happy Wheatland!

2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the Wheatland Music Festival in Remus, Michigan and the celebration couldn't be more thrilling. September 8-10 are the dates. The performers' line-up includes Tuba Skinny (one of my favorite Dixieland style New Orleans young bands...you gotta visit tubaskinny.com) the Onlies (a fantastic rockin' Old Time stringband...members all in their 20's) and many superb solo performers including Paint Creek favorite Jim Bizer. All the details of the festival including the weekend schedule, performers list, preparation & arrival, festival map and a video of the first 40 years of Wheatland festivals can be found at their topnotch website: <https://www.wheatlandmusic.org/music-festival/>

The Wheatland folks have lured me out of dance calling retirement (in a good way) to call the Saturday night festival dance from 6:30-8 pm at the spacious (and covered) Marty Wernette Dance Stage. I'll be leading fun squares and contras with the fantastic Onlies playing the tunes. Come on over and join the delicious fun. After you catch your breath, slip over to the Main Stage to see Sam Bush perform at 10 pm. After Sam Bush, zip over to the Centennial Stage to see Tuba Skinny perform at 11:10 pm. Oh the revelry!

Judi and I attended our first Wheatland Festival in September 1977. We camped in our van literally a stone's throw from the (only) stage and rubbed elbows with many of our favorite folk heroes. When we hit the hay on Saturday night, about 1 am, a very long contradance line was forming just outside our Chevy van. A pick-up band and caller had appeared and after a quick teach, the band struck up the music. They played a rousing rendition of "Little Rabbit Where's Your Mammy" for a good twenty minutes straight while a cloud of dust enveloped the dancers and band. We witnessed it all from the van windows. What a glorious memory. I would go on to formally call contra and square dances at the festival every few years, both in the old pavilion and in the new Wernette pavilion. The festival organizers and hosts at Wheatland are fabulous to work with.

Rumor has it that all weekend festival tickets have been sold out but Sunday tickets are still available. *[So you won't have to miss the Paint Creek Gathering! –ed.]* Please check the Wheatland Music Festival link above for the latest info.

Glen Morningstar, PCFS Historian

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Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

In a recent Riding Drag we mentioned smiling clematis, gorging bats and the wonder of arpeggios.

One of the clematis we grow is called Sweet Autumn. The rains don't dampen Autumns' spirit. She shares space with Diamantina, The President, and Nelly Moser.

This summer, Sweet Autumn is the under-stated, undisputed star. Her efforts to complete the arch between the perennial beds succeeds expectations. Five years in the growing, the dainty white blooms now scent the space that connects this year's fresh zinnia patch toward the west with ornamental grasses to the east. Even the Honeysuckle celebrate.

The arch is a living invitation to climb our knoll and inspect the Georgia Candy Roaster squash, sunflowers and yes Mr. Clark, homegrown tomatoes. Like our plantings provide an invitation, I invite you to a sweet fall season of story and song.

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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

September 17, 5-8 pm - O'Connor's Public House, Rochester

Dr. Peter Stephenson

Every Tuesday, 7- 9 pm - Open Mic, Lula's Café, Utica

Every Monday, 8-10 PM - Open Mic, Dessert Oasis, Rochester
September 6, 14, 20, 28, 7-9:30 PM - Dessert Oasis, Rochester
Every Friday - Live Music Fridays - Bean & Benny's, Oxford

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Jams, Concerts, Events, and more...

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

Michigan Storytelling

MI Story newsletter posted monthly: storytelling events around Michigan 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

Attention Dancers!

Have you dreamed of folk dancing in exotic places? Gerry Flynn Events organizes events like “Winter Folk Dancing In The Sun” – English folk dancing in Costa Del Sol in February, 2024 – and other venues. Feed your fantasies at gerryflynnevents.com

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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. 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, as is our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086482332379>

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