

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

April 2024

Distributed via email to members and friends of PCFS. To unsubscribe from this mailing list, reply with the word **unsubscribe**.

A PDF file is attached for those who still like a hard copy.

Come to the next Gathering!

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Fellowship Hall, University Presbyterian Church

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/EKzGbBSqrkePUfUa9>

2:00 pm: Meet and Greet

2:30 pm: Presentation:

Les Raber's Fiddle Style, the music of a Michigan Treasure. At this presentation you'll hear of the foundation and evolution of the fiddle style of Les Raber, a United States National and Michigan State Folk Arts Treasure, so we understand how to preserve our own music for the benefit of those to follow. A panel of six musicians, Brad Battey, Paul Goelz, Jim McKinney, Glen Judi Morningstar, and Les's daughter Judy Raber will present this through a series of interviews with people who knew Les, videos of his music performances and a demonstration of his style on fiddle, accompanied by dulcimer and piano. Enjoy one view of traditional music in Michigan from the 1880's through the 20 th century. Glen Morningstar Jr.

3:30 pm: Break: Our volunteers providing snacks for our April meeting are Maggie Ferguson and Susan Swanson.

4:00 pm: Song Swap. Theme: The American Civil War

5:30 pm until dusk: Circles and Jams: Instrumental, vocal, and others to be announced at the Gathering.

The President's Post

One of my presidential acts, in the spring, is to visit the good folks at the City of Auburn Hills and arrange for our outdoor gatherings. I am happy to report that we will be meeting under the new Seyburn Pavilion at 3350 E. Seyburn Drive on the Civic Center campus in Auburn Hills. The facility is across Squirrel Rd. from the main entrance of Oakland University. You will find close parking, ample room to play, and the restrooms are nearby. Trails are nearby if you wish to walk. Mark your calendars to be there in June, July, and September.

Don't forget, this month's theme is Civil War Songs.

See you soon, Jack

Future Gatherings

May 4 – May song swap theme: Songs About Trees

June 1 – June song swap theme: Revolution (Outdoors)

July 6 – July song swap theme: Revival (Outdoors)

August – No Gathering.

September 7 – September (Outdoors)

Board Meetings Are a Big Deal

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 pm. It will be on Zoom. If any member beyond the board would like to join in, please let Jack F. know so he can add you to the Zoom invitation.

Membership Highlights

We are currently at 77 members: 37 Single memberships and 20 Family memberships. We continue to add more younger members, which is important to the growth and continuation of the group. Know anyone who you think might be a good fit for PCFS?

When you attend a gathering, please stop by and sign in and get your badge. It may be the only way we know you attended.

Let's all plan to bring a music-minded friend or relative to a Gathering this year. They just might be pleasantly surprised by what we offer as a group. Make sure you tell them we are a fun group! Their first visit will be free. We have snacks and plenty of conversation, music, and camaraderie.

See you soon!

Dan D & Jack E, Membership Co-chairs

Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

In the last Ridin' Drag the subject of draining fuel from the snowblower came up. I recommended delay. Step outside and you can see why. Granted, it will melt, but how soon? How many freezes before the slush leaves us? Can we agree to defer action until the April Gathering?

About April, we are approaching the 163rd anniversary of the first shots fired on Ft. Sumpter. Which coincides with our April theme, Civil War Songs, and another salvo of sorts. Thursday, Maggie, Larry, and I were practicing when the first shot was fired. Not from a cannon you

understand. Neither did a Minie ball rifle through our back window, or did we experience a cavalry charge. No, one of our phones rang. Call it a robo-shot, the first of thousands.

Collectively we sighed. We know what we are in for between April and November, hence, I feel the responsibility to help, if I can, with some gentle advice. Like the caution about putting away the snowblower too soon, this is a repeat. Secure an open back, five string banjo. Soon. If you already have one, embrace it, like the patriotic duty it is. Because nothing will guide your capacity for national thought through troublesome times like a soft melody played in the frailing, old-time, clawhammer style. Find an affordable instrument and begin to learn the claw-hammer stroke. Since the next 200 plus days will be designed to put you on edge; apply that stroke daily, liberally, and slowly. If you will, the banjo can pull you back. Once you make friends with the stroke, you might try a tune.

This summer, why not commit to easing off on the candidate's rhetoric and accentuating the truly American instrument that brought so many through the national crisis begun in 1861. Pete Seeger did! Ask your prospective candidates about their plan to put banjo back in public schools. You won't be sticking your head in the sand concerning national policy. You'll be evaluating those speeches from the lofty, enviable position of calm, virtuous thought that only a simple banjo can provide. If you invest those 200 plus days with your banjo, when the last vote is counted, you'll know those candidates better.

By the way, don't be surprised if you find yourself supporting the Cotton-Eyed Joe/ Wild Bill Jones Slate for city council!

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

Visit Us Online

Want to know more? Well, here's the link: paintcreekfolkloresociety.org.

Member Showcase:

Tara

4/6/24 - Scottish and Irish Ceilidh/Ceili, St. Andrew's Society Kilgour Center, Troy, 5:30-10pm \$\$

4/7/24 - O'Connor's Public House, Rochester, 5-8pm

4/21/24 - St. Patrick's Parish Spring Festival/Fundraiser, Detroit, 1:30pm (the festival runs all afternoon, we play in the big hall at 1:30), \$\$

Gus' Snug, Clawson, 5-8pm

4/28/24 - O'Connor's Public House, Rochester, 5-8pm

Dr. Peter Stephenson

Every Monday, 8-10 pm - Open Mic, Dessert Oasis, Rochester

Every Friday, 7-10 pm Live Music Fridays - Bean & Benny, Oxford

Jams, Concerts, Events, and More

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

<https://www.octds.org>

Next Line Dance is April 20

Next Contra Dance is April 27

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

Saturday, April 20, 7:30 pm

Jim Bizer CD Release Concert

Admission: \$17 (\$15 student/senior), Cash or check at door only.

<https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse>

Endless Strummers Ukulele Club

The Endless Strummers Ukulele Club meets Monday evenings 7:00-8:30 at Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church, 749 W. 14 Mile Road, Clawson, for a little instruction and a lot of strumming. Beginners are welcome. For more info, contact Jack Erickson. jackofallstrings@gmail.com

Open Mic Night, Starkweather Arts Center, Romeo

Fourth Friday of each month. 7 pm, \$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, 8-10 pm at The Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters, 115 S. Main Street, Royal Oak. docr.coffee

BaseLine Folk Society

Third Saturdays, 7 pm at Plymouth Community Arts, 774 Sheldon Rd., Plymouth. Open mic and a featured performer. \$7 donation requested at door. Facebook: <https://bit.ly/BaseLineFolk>

Open Mic Night, Plymouth Coffee Bean Co

First Monday of each month, 6:00 pm signup, 6:30 pm start. 884 Penniman Ave., Plymouth plymouthcoffeebean.com

Michigan Storytelling

MI Story newsletter posted monthly: storytelling events around Michigan michiganstorytelling.org

Ten Pound Fiddle

tenpoundfiddle.org

4/5/24: [Hot Club of Cowtown](#)

4/12/24: [The Springtails CD Release Concert](#)

4/19/24: [Zoe Mulford](#)

4/24/24: [Tall Poppy String Band and Northern Resonance at The Robin Theatre](#)

4/26/24: [Twin Bill: Katie Stanley and Kate Peterson](#)

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

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

The 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 this mailing list is not permitted.

To submit articles, gigs, or other information for publication, please contact your most humble editor, Andy Mather (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

Our website: paintcreekfolkloresociety.org

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