

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

June 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, June 8, 2024

At the Seyburn Pavillion!

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z5WA77Th3LsGqzW87>)

2:00 pm: Meet and Greet

2:30 pm: Elections

The slate of officers for 2024 - 2025:

President – Paul Jacques

Co-Vice Presidents – Jeff Despard and Suzanne Rauch

Secretary – Tom Bowes

Treasurer – Dave Belferman

Members at Large – Mike Acosta, Kathy Thornton, Kathy Rawlings, Eaine Gladfelter

President Emeritus – Jack Ferguson

Co-Membership Chairpersons – Dan DeGasparis and Jack Erickson

Historian – Glen Morningstar

Webmaster/Social Media Editors – Dan DeGasparis

KT Editor – Andy MundyMather

3:00 pm: Break: Our volunteers providing snacks for our April meeting are ?

3:30 pm: Song Swap. Theme: Revolution.

5:30 pm: Our vocal jam will resume at our outdoor gathering June 1 gathering. Don't forget to bring your Rise Up and Rise Again song books if you're interested raising your voices together in song.

Kathy Thornton will be leading the Native American Flute Circle in June while Sharon is away. Bring your flutes and join Kathy and Vicky and any others.

The President's Post

Here we are in the midst of a most summery May. As yard work abounds, the board will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, May 22nd at 7:00 PM. Most of our discussion will address ongoing charter revisions and this year's Tin Whistle arrangements. June's Gathering is outside under the Seyburn Pavillion, in Auburn Hills, Mi. Elections will be held and the theme is "Revolution."

See you soon, Jack

Ridin' Drag

by Jack F

My old pal Milan called a few weeks ago. He wanted to treat Maggie and I to an evening with Kenny Wayne Shepherd at the Music Hall in Detroit, so off we went. Paint Creek folks might not see Kenny Wayne and his band as traditional or folk at all. He does reflect a driven, rock-electric blues attitude, but it wasn't always that way. Before Kenny had stellar accompanists on keyboard, trumpet, bass, sax, drums, and rhythm guitar; before he began collaborating with the band's principal vocalist, Noah Hunt, it was just Kenny, Sperry and Hutchinson. Sperry and Hutchinson provided Kenny's first guitars. The story goes, that down in Shreveport, La, three-year-old Kenny was bored.

Grandma stuck one of Sperry and Hutchinson's finest musical offerings in his hands and let nature take its course. A four-year-old can be tough on an instrument; by the time the boy reached five, grandma's green stamps were dedicated to keeping Kenny in new, functioning, advanced plastic, nylon string guitars. Those S&H Green Stamp guitars worked so well that when Kenny turned thirteen, people in the know figured he should be making records and going to the Grammys. Which he does, along with touring the world, raising kids of his own, and studying song craft. Kennys band played a long-time last Friday night. But they did not play a song about Sperry and Hutchinson. Still, most blues rockers don't look to green stamps as a source for lyrical content.

That level of creativity demands folk musicians. Someday I expect to hear a Paint Creeker covering the Kingston Trio's, "Lickin' them Green Stamps, Lickin' them Blue" from their 1964 song Them Poems.

Notes from the Board

The board has been considering revisions to the PCFS charter to better reflect our current technology, proposed new board positions, and such. The proposed changes will be shared with the membership at the June gathering. This is the first step toward formal approval. After gathering feedback at the June gathering, we plan to have a formal vote at the September gathering to adopt the changes.

Future Gatherings

July 6 – July song swap theme: Revival Seyburn Pavillion, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z5WA77Th3LsGqzW87>)

August – No Gathering.

September 7 – Seyburn Pavillion, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z5WA77Th3LsGqzW87>)

Membership Highlights

At the May 4 gathering, we had two more individuals and one more family join. It's gratifying to see that so many visitors are finding that the Paint Creek membership fee is really a good deal. The Paint Creek Folklore Society pays to rent the facility (and insurance), pays our presenters, pays for snacks, and provides a friendly atmosphere in which we can meet to learn, share, and visit. Considering all this, a \$10 guest fee is more than reasonable, but a membership is an even better deal--especially if you attend more than once or twice.

Summer outdoor gatherings are really special, this year, at the Seyburn Pavillion in the Auburn Hills Civic Center complex. Who will you bring to share the summer fun at our June 8 gathering (when the Vocal Jam returns) and July 6 picnic?

See you June 8th!

Dan D and Jack E, Membership co-chairs

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:

June 12, Muskegon, 2:00 p.m.

Lois Sprengnether Keel as World War I "Hello Girl", Oleda Joure Christides presents the story of the Bi-lingual telephone operators and their 60-year battle to finally be recognized as veterans. At the USS Silversides Museum, 1346 Bluff St, Muskegon, MI 49441. For more information contact Teresa Folkmier, [\(231\) 755-1230](tel:2317551230).

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

Music on the Lawn...a Free Community Concert Series

Bring a chair and enjoy the concert!

- Thursday, June 20 Woodward Avenue Jazz Orchestra
- Thursday, July 18 Brazil and Beyond
- Thursday, August 15 Matt Watroba

6:30-8:00 pm FREE!

Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church

749 W 14 Mile Rd, Clawson

248-435-8025

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

<https://www.octds.org>

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham

<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 at the Costic Center

On the 2nd Monday of every month, there is an open mike at Costic Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills (not far from Middlebelt Rd.). It lasts from 11:00 until about 2:00 p.m. There are some really great musicians that are there each time and it's lots of fun.

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

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

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>

Michigan Storytelling

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

Ten Pound Fiddle

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

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 (PCFS) 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>

One Last Note:

Our humble KT editor, Andy MundyMather, has been busy! He's recently acquired a vintage Martin and started the Facebook group **Really Old Martin Guitars**. Visit for more photos: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/428098923187026>. I wanted to share his story.

Shirley Worth

This is Johann, my c1855 Martin. Johann belonged to an elderly man in Texas, and when he died, his family cleaned out his house. Neighbors walking by noticed the old poplar coffin case on the curb with the trash and decided to take it to the local guitar store. Dave, the store owner, bought it from them and knew it was pre-1867 Martin, but his store specialized in vintage electric guitars. It was in rough shape, and he didn't need a project, so he listed it on eBay with a \$500 starting bid.

Now, I'd bid on others, but there was always someone who could afford more. I talked it over with Jo Ann, and she said, "You never ask for anything. Go for it!" So, I put in my all-out maximum bid, about half what I thought it would sell for. As the week went by, the price went up, but I was still the top bidder. I won with \$13 to spare.

While I waited for it to arrive in Michigan, I started doing research. I decided to name the guitar after Johann Georg Martin, CF Martin's father, a cabinetmaker who taught his son woodworking,

and Johann Georg Stauffer, the famed Vienna luthier who apprenticed a 15-year-old Martin and taught him to build fine guitars.

I found an amazing resource in Robert Corwin's site vintagemartin.com. The info there confirmed Dave's guess of the model. Back then there were no serial numbers, and sizes and styles weren't yet standardized. Johann matches what would later be a 2 1/2 17. A 2 1/2 sized guitar was the second smallest size, bigger than a 3 but smaller than a 2. A 17 was Brazilian rosewood and Eastern US spruce and sold for (yes) \$17. (That would be about \$630 in today's money). The site also showed that the case hardware was typically Martin.

I was so impressed with his labor of love that I wrote to thank him for such an incredible treasure of a site. He wrote back and said he had bid on the same guitar! He was more interested in the coffin case. He explained that Martin only used patterned felt lining around 1855. This was really useful, as these pre-serial number guitars can be hard to date.

I had thought to have the Martin factory in Nazareth PA do the restoration, but they only do repairs. Fortunately, I live in Lansing, home of Elderly Instruments. They've fixed my guitars for fifty years, and I trust them to do it right. I stopped by last week, where Johann is undergoing three weeks of rehydration before repairs can begin. It's hanging on the back wall in a plastic bag with a yellow sponge, between an Ovation and a picture of Elvis. A highly sophisticated rehydration method indeed.

It amazes me that this treasure was trash-picked and saved from the landfill. I feel incredibly lucky to have become part of its history, and to be able to restore it, let it sing once more, to enjoy it, and pass it on to future generations to enjoy.

