

# Keepin' Tabs

## The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

### May 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, May 4, 2024**

#### Fellowship Hall, University Presbyterian Church

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

2:00 pm: Meet and Greet

2:30 pm: Presentation:

Michigan Women - Stephanie Arwady, from the Troy Historical Village. Michigan women have rocked the boat and cradle for centuries. Learn about fur trader Magdelaine LaFromboise, suffragist Ann Howard Shaw, artist Gwen Frostic and more.

3:30 pm: Break: Our volunteers providing snacks for our April meeting are Paul and Ursula Jacques, and Susan Swanson.

4:00 pm: Song Swap. Theme: Songs About Trees.

5:30 pm: Circles and Jams: Instrumental Jam, Native American Flute Circle, and Performance Tips Discussion Group.

### The President's Post

On April 10th the board met via Zoom, and we had a guest!

Mr. Phil La Doucer, the graphic artist developing our QR code project joined us for a lively, profitable discussion about the proposed business cards. He's been engaged with Suzanne Rauch and Dan DeGasperi and the work is impressive.

The board addressed revisions to Paint Creek's Charter. These remain on-going, both in person and on line.

Theresa Erickson slipped us a sneak peak of the soon to be revealed, election slate.

Finally, I informed the group that; although I am not one to miss a gathering, Maggie and I will be away in May and June.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for May 22. Which is Wednesday at 7:00 PM.

This month's theme is Trees.

See you soon, Jack

## **Ridin' Drag**

by Jack F

A slashing spring rain engulfs the house and a steady surge of droplets rap incessantly upon the windows. I sit at my desk and observe a chickadee clinging fast to a short hedge of burning bush. The shrub is drenched, its tender young leaves bejeweled with moisture. To either side of the hedge stand two arborvitaes bearing the brunt of the storm. Together they stand like sentries, cooperating to provide shelter to both the little bird and the burning bush. It is the same promise we gave to our two cats. The oldest was found incarcerated in the Oakland County Animal shelter. I wish I had known him as a youngster because Beebo is a true gentleman who doesn't do anything wrong and is the handsomest cat in the world. But with a milky eye, his prospects for adoption were poor. Perhaps that is why he was at the shelter, or why we chose to shelter him.

The younger cat, a female with a tortoise shell coat, was discovered out of doors and out of options. When first sighted, she kept the company of ferals, but later, after great effort and expense, proved not to be so. She had been abandoned. Put out on the street. One day you are the family favorite, then you are not in the family at all.

The first kindness an abandoned cat may find is from ferals; free-rangers lacking human socialization, but tribal enough to accept a stranger into their fold. So, the newcomer follows, poaching and polishing manners from the example of more experienced feral felines. Manners, that at some back porches could earn a free meal - or -land you in a Trap-Neuter-Return program with your ear tipped.

After taking her in and naming her Grizzly Bear, we came to realize that her bravado was just the common nature of tortie cats. More fearful than fierce, Grizzly began to understand that her frightening misadventure was over and that snoozing in a cozy bed on a November night was so much nicer.

Friends, fate, life, and the weather can turn on you. Sometimes a place to shelter keeps body and soul from giving up.

## **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

June 1 – **Elections!** Song swap theme: Revolution (New! Seyburn Pavillion, <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Z5WA77Th3LsGqzW87>)

- 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.

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

August – No Gathering.

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

## Proposed Slate for PCFS Board 2024-2025

President--Paul Jacques

Co-Vice Presidents—Jeff Despard & Suzanne Rauch

Secretary—Tom Bowes

Treasurer—Dave Belferman

Members at Large—Mike Acosta, Kathy Thornton, Kathy Rawlings, Elaine Gladfelter

President Emeritus—Jack Ferguson

Co-Membership Chairpersons—Dan Degasperis & Jack Erickson

Historian—Glen Morningstar

Webmaster/Social Media Editor—Dan Degasperis & Michele Favoretto

KT Editor—Andy MundyMather

## Membership Highlights

At our April gathering, we had 39 members and 24 guests, surging our attendance to 63 people, several of whom were friends of the presenters, and we were entertained by 17 song swap performers.

I want to thank our snack hosts Susan and Maggie for preparing enough snacks for such a large crowd. After February 29, our membership dues were reduced by half, so for \$25 each, two members joined in March, and one more joined in April, bringing our total membership to 78 members.

Remember to stop by the Membership table to pick up your name tag, sign in as a member or guest, and sign up for the song swap, which everyone is welcome to participate in. Bring your folklore loving friends, so that they can enjoy the presentation, learning, visiting, jamming, and snacks, as they meet and hang out with positive, young-at-heart folks.

Dan D and Jack E, Membership co-chairs

## **On the Cover of the...CDSS News!**

The cover of the 2024 Spring edition of CDSS News, the newsletter of the Country Dance and Song Society, displays an artifact that has its roots in the Paint Creek Folklore Society, an Affiliate Group of the CDSS. In the lower right-hand corner of the cover is a stylish 33-1/3 LP record album cover titled "MICHIGAN WINTER" by The Olde Michigan Ruffwater Stringband.

This album cover is part of a collage of albums for the promotion of an article in the newsletter titled "A Hand for the Band!" by David Millstone. New members in Paint Creek may not be familiar with the Ruffwater crew, so here are a few tidbits to acquaint you with them. Ruffwater was formed in September 1978 out of small group, and solo musicians and singers in Paint Creek.

The original group was thirteen strong, featuring four hammer dulcimers, three fiddles, two guitars, one banjo, one mandolin/accordion, one recorder/spoons/baritone and one bass. They formed as the contradancing craze and the demand for contra dance music was growing in Michigan, the Detroit Country Dance Society having been formed in 1977. Ruffwater was the house band for DCDS monthly contra and square dances beginning in May 1979 at St. Timothy Methodist Church in Detroit.

The band launched the Early American Contradancing series in Lovett Hall in Dearborn in October of 1981, the series running for 23-1/2 years. Ruffwater was the first of the Michigan bands to record contra dance music, with MICHIGAN WINTER being released in the Spring of 1981. MICHIGAN WINTER was recorded in Lawnridge Hall of the University Presbyterian Church complex in Rochester Hills, where monthly Paint Creek meetings were held until the 2018 Covid pandemic.

Since its inception, the band has grown to sixteen members and has released two more recordings, MICHIGAN SPRING and MICHIGAN SUMMER. Ruffwater also recorded dance instruction records for the Lloyd Shaw Foundation out of Colorado. Ruffwater has always been proud of their connection to Paint Creek, and through the fifty years in the history of Paint Creek, has provided six presidents, three vice-presidents, and two historians. Ruffwater members organized the Tin Whistle coffeehouse and launched the Keepin' Tabs Newsletter, the first four editors being from Ruffwater. Ruffwater has performed in three of the society's Tin Whistle Coffeehouses and has led numerous workshops at the monthly meetings. Six members of Ruffwater were heavily involved in the Michigan-Kentucky-Denmark Folk Music, Song and Dance exchanges organized by Paint Creek in 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1989, as leaders, home hosts and performers in Michigan and Denmark.

In more recent years, Ruffwater provided music and led dancing for 18th and 19th century reenactment groups and youth group cotillions around the State. In our 46th year, Ruffwater still performs for auspicious occasions and a few of our members still regularly provide dance music in Michigan. Ruffwater tips our hats to Paint Creek Folklore Society as Paint Creek celebrates their 50th year in 2024.

Glen Morningstar, PCFS Historian and Ruffwater Stringband

## **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](mailto:pcfs.kt@gmail.com)

## **Visit Us Online**

Want to know more? Well, here's the link: [paintcreekfolkloresociety.org](http://paintcreekfolkloresociety.org).

## **Member Showcase:**

### **Tara**

### **Dr. Peter Stephenson**

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

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

### **Lois Sprengnether Keel**

May 4, 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 WWI veterans. At the Algonac-Clay Historical Society Spring Tea and Luncheon. For more information contact Mary Adkins, (810) 794-9214

## **Jams, Concerts, Events, and More**

Here is a fun performance opportunity: Saturday, May 11 at the Troy Historical Village, 17/Livernois, there is a unique event featuring Civil War-era dancing, a soldiers' aid-style fair, and more!. <https://www.troyhistoricvillage.org/programs/civil-war-saturday-fair/> Asking for a 1–2-hour commitment (between 1 and 6pm) from musicians to perform Civil War-era songs. (Fiddle tunes, Stephen Foster, etc.) It is an unpaid event, but tip jars are welcome! Please contact Suzanne Rauch, [smr4837@gmail.com](mailto:smr4837@gmail.com) if interested, and for time assignments.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://plymouthcoffeebean.com)

### **Michigan Storytelling**

MI Story newsletter posted monthly: storytelling events around Michigan [michiganstorytelling.org](http://michiganstorytelling.org)

### **Ten Pound Fiddle**

[tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org)

Katie Stanley and Kate Peterson, Friday, April 26, 7:30PM

University United Methodist Church, 1129 S Harrison Road, East Lansing, MI

\$20 Public; \$18 Fiddle Members; \$5 Students.

Tall Poppy String Band and Northern Resonance, Wednesday, April 24, 8PM\*

The Robin Theatre, 1105 Washington Ave Lansing, MI

\$25 General Admission, available from the Robin Theatre. Doors open at 7:30

## **Costic Center Open Mike**

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 a.m. until about 2:00 p.m.

There are some really great musicians that are there each time and it's lots of fun.

## **ACTMAAD Calendar**

The Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance opportunities: [aactmad.org/calendar](http://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](http://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](http://cdss.org/events)

## **Facebook Links**

Lois Sprengnether Keel: "Keeping the Public in Public Domain", [facebook.com/lois.sez](https://facebook.com/lois.sez)

Huber Breese Music Online Concerts: [facebook.com/watch/HuberBreeseMusic/](https://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](https://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](https://facebook.com/meredithaxelrod)

Michigan Folk music love: Photos, videos, anything of MI folk music interest. [bit.ly/3r65V7G](https://bit.ly/3r65V7G)

Country Dance and Song Society: [facebook.com/cdss.org](https://facebook.com/cdss.org)

Ten Pound Fiddle Concerts and Dances: [facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle](https://facebook.com/TenPoundFiddle)

The Ark: [facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor](https://facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor)

AACTMAD: [facebook.com/AACTMAD](https://facebook.com/AACTMAD)

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

Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: [facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA](https://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](mailto:pcfs.kt@gmail.com)). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline possible on request.

Our website: [paintcreekfolkloresociety.org](http://paintcreekfolkloresociety.org)

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

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