

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

March 2025

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

A pdf file of this KT is attached, for those who still like a hard copy.

Next Gathering: Saturday, March 1, 2025

Fellowship Hall, University Presbyterian Church, 1385 S. Adams Rd., Rochester Hills, MI 48309.

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

Schedule

2:00 to 2:30: Meet and Greet.

2:30 to 3:30: Presentation: Join Larry Everhart March 1st for a brief history and explanation of playing the Diatonic Harmonica, (Blues harp, Tin Sandwich, or Mississippi Saxophone) If you have them, bring a C and G harmonica, and play along with *Oh Suzanna*.

3:30 to 4:00: Snackin' and Yackin' hosted by Tom D and Marilyn H.

4:00 to 5:30: Song Swap Theme: Folktales About Animals.

5:30: Circles and Jams. Instrumental Jam led by Jeff D; Vocal Jam led by Jack E; Native American Flutes led by Sharon H; Guitar Flatpicking with Larry M; and "Thinking Creatively about Chords" led by Kevin T.

New Circle – Guitar Flatpicking

A new circle starts this month focusing on the basics of Bluegrass guitar flatpicking. Larry M will lead this circle to include common rhythms and strumming techniques, picking patterns, licks, runs and other fun stuff. We will be using some familiar traditional songs to practice the techniques.

Vocal Jam

Jack E will lead the Vocal Jam in singing songs of tenacity and persistence from previous movements and generations from the *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* songbooks. Let's join and sing *Lift Up Your Voice and Sing* (famously sung at the Super Bowl) and more such songs!

We use the *Rise Up Singing* and *Rise Again* songbooks. Each book contains about 1,200 songs with lyrics and chords. Bring yours from home or purchase with cash, check or card at the membership desk. The books get packed up soon after the gathering, so best to purchase early. Don't miss out on this limited number of copies for the low price of \$30 each!

Theresa and Jack E.

Instrumental Jam

The instrumental jam is led by Jeff, as Suzanne is away this month. Just a few “notes” about the instrumental jam: We gather in a circle with our instruments and take turns choosing each song to play together. Many of the songs come from the pink *Ruffwater Fake Book*, available at the check-in table for purchase. Please feel free to request that we play a song slowly a few times first. Looking forward to seeing you there!”

Thinking Creatively with Chords

This circle is designed to provide an easy-to-understand approach to building and creatively using a visual chord reference library. The content is presented in clear examples that can be used by all levels of musicians (beginners to performing professionals). Activities will include playing, discussion of topics, and questions and answers. Some handouts will be provided.

Please Note: Although it would be helpful, you do not need to know how to read music or understand advanced theory. This is a “hands on” learning through playing course.

Main areas of review

- I. Major and Minor chords as families.
- II. Chords as shapes and moving shapes.
- III. Simple chord substitutions to add color to arrangements (small changes, big results).
- IV. Ways to make your own arrangements and original music with chords.

Topics will include (in no specific order):

- Ornamentation (simple chord variations, arpeggios, and strumming ideas).
- Chord fingering options that make playing easier.
- Economy of motion that makes it easier to play through chord changes in a song.
- Easy walk-ups and walk-downs to chords.
- Bar chords and power chords.
- Chording options when accompanying vocalists (soloists or groups).
- Simple chord substitutions and voicing options.
- Looking at instrumental song chording and chord melodies.
- Understanding and using dynamics when playing chords.
- Using chords to enhance songs you already know and play.
- Ideas now how to develop original music.

Future Gatherings, Presentations, and Song Swap Themes

Mark your calendar!

April 5: Grant Flick talks about and demonstrates the Nyckelharpa, a traditional Swedish instrument akin to the violin and, you could say, sort of a related to the hurdy gurdy. Come find out about this very unusual and interesting instrument. Song Swap Theme: Michigan History.

May 3: Dan Hazlett will share some hints with us on writing funny songs. He has written quite a few funny songs and offered instructions about the process. And there's a good chance that some straightforward songwriting instruction will seep its way into his presentation. Song Swap Theme: Redemption.

A Starry Night for a Ramble! Due to predicted severe weather, the OCTDS Board has postponed the Starry Night for a Ramble contradance scheduled for Saturday, February 15. Their Board is looking at potential dates in May and will reschedule in coordination with Glen Morningstar and the Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra. This dance is a joint fundraiser with PCFS. Stay tuned for further details.

June 7: (Outdoors) Song Swap Theme: Coming of Age/Life Changes.

July 5: Picnic (Outdoors), no Song Swap.

Jeff D, Vice President

President's Post



As winter loosens its grip and the first signs of spring emerge, folk music reminds us of the rhythms of nature and renewal. March has always been a time of transitions, longer days and new beginnings. This is also a time of celebration in folk traditions worldwide and especially in Detroit. St. Patrick's Day brings forth ballads and reels in the many local Irish pubs. In Detroit the legend of the Nain Rouge, a scarlet demonic imp, dates to Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac and the founding of Fort Pontchartrain. This has led to a 300-year annual tradition on the Sunday after the Vernal Equinox (March 24) where Detroiters gather to drive the Nain Rouge from the city!

We are looking forward to seeing you at our March 1st gathering and celebrating Spring traditions. Please bring your harmonicas and join Larry Everhart for his presentation. For those who wish to participate in the vocal and instrumental jams, you can purchase a songbook or Fakebook during the Meet & Greet.

Paul Jacques, President

Ridin' Drag

True happiness is to enjoy the present.

Seneca

To me that translates to embrace the emergency. On this February sabbath morn, while scarlet runner beans soak on the kitchen counter, I want to share some individuals I know who consistently demonstrate this attitude, Mike, Duke, Iris, and Otis.

Looking out our kitchen window I see Mike and Duke. Swept up in a swirl of fresh white, walks a friendly fella with a black lab beside. Travel my neighborhood much and you are sure to see them. They are headed up a hill that tests everyone, but Duke the lab doesn't mind. His nose is to the west and the scent draws him on. Mike, a man of few words is pleased to give Duke all the leash he needs. Coffee in hand, I consider their progress, grateful to see them again.

Farther off, up near Leonard, my friend Iris Lee Underwood lives. For nigh onto twenty years, she walked the hilly ground of Yule Love It Lavender Farm, tending stands of lilac-purple flowers, bearing the aroma native to Mediterranean mint, while listening to her choir of BWOCKING hens and buzzing honeybees. Times have changed though, the hens retired. Now after a constitutional along Yule Rd, she returns to two cats, Cuddles and Mittens, and her keyboard where she types her *Honest Living* column for the *Tri-City Times*. I recommend her work. Should you need a good read this winter, support a local author and consider Iris' *The Mantle* or *Matewan Garden Club*. She has a new one on the way, and you can visit her at Leon & Lulu's in Clawson on March 2nd from 11 to 5, where Iris will be selling books. She will be pleased to discuss all things Appalachia, poetics, and art.

Another writer I enjoy is Otis. Otis writes in the snow with his paws. He's a black male cat of the feral variety. Though I find Otis to be kind and faithful, he's a guy that prefers his space. Otis is most responsible at completing his daily rounds, and he's a skilled hunter of voles. Otis is so faithful we consider him the community's Mayor Pro Tempore.

Why not mayor? I asked him about that. One afternoon Otis passed near the garden as we concluded autumn chores. He explained that he felt more useful in the number two spot. Unencumbered by speeches and such, he is at liberty to address serious critter concerns in a paws-on manner. Makes sense to me.

Here we Paint Creekers are, in a snow emergency. My recommendation is to trust Seneca on this one. Enjoy the present moment. Emergency or not, while Mike and Duke are over the hill, Iris is revising another chapter. Me, my coffee's cooled, but the sight of a catspaw print warms the heart.

Jack F.

Membership Highlights

We had four new people decide that the Paint Creek Folklore Society is where they'd like to be. Please make a point to meet new members James F, Skylar F, Michael R, and Nina R, and remind them of how welcome and appreciated they are.

We're now up to 70 members, young and old(er), from near and far, quite a versatile group of musicians, singers, and music and folklore lovers. We will soon have the option of clip-on badges, rather than the current pin-on style, so that everyone can get to know our newer members.

Remember to stop by the Welcome Desk to sign in, pick up your name badge, maybe sign up for the song swap, or purchase a songbook, fakebook, or a CD of previous Paint Creek music.

See you all March 1st!

Membership Co-chairs Dan D and Jack E

PCFS Board Members

- Paul J, President
- Jeff D, Vice President
- Tom B, Secretary
- Dave B, Treasurer
- Mike A, Kathy T, Kathy R, Elaine G, Members at Large
- Jack F, President Emeritus
- Dan D, Jack E, Membership Co-chairs
- Glen M, Historian
- Dan D, Webmaster, Social Media Editor
- Andy M, Keepin' Tabs Editor

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

Jams, Concerts, Events, and More

ACTMAAD Calendar

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

The Ark

See the full schedule at theark.org.

BaseLine Folk Society

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

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.

Dr. Peter Stephenson

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

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

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

Leon & Lulu's in Clawson

Irisa Lee Underwood will be selling books March 2nd, 11 to 5.

Mama's Coffeehouse

Mama's Coffeehouse, Birmingham
<https://www.facebook.com/MAMAsCoffeehouse>

Michigan Storytelling

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

Oakland County Traditional Dance Society

Calendar at: <https://www.octds.org>

Open Mic at the Costick Center

On the 2nd Monday of every month, there is an open mike at Costick 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 at Dessert Oasis Coffee Roasters

Every Wednesday, 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

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 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

Ten Pound Fiddle

tenpoundfiddle.org

Sun, Mar 2 - [From Ireland – The Jeremiahs – Sunday Afternoon Show](#)

Fri, Mar 7 - [Badass Women Band](#) + **Ten Pound Fiddle Annual Membership Meeting**

Annual Ten Pound Fiddle Membership Meeting, 7-7:15 pm. All are welcome.

Attendees will hear reports from board members, have questions answered by board members, and get a preview of 2025-2026 concerts. **Fiddle Members** can make suggestions for future concerts, nominate board members and vote on any voting issues

Fri, Mar 14 - [Henhouse Prowlers](#)

Mon, Mar 17 - [St. Patrick's Day Irish Song Sing Along](#)

Canceled Wed, Mar 19 - Sara Pajunen wsg Frances Olson

Fri, Mar 21 - [From Ireland, JigJam](#)

Fri, Mar 28 - [Sparky and Rhonda Rucker](#)

Links

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

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

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

Detroit Irish Music Association-CCE: [facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA](https://www.facebook.com/groups/DetroitIMA)

Elderly Instruments <https://www.elderly.com/>

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

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

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://www.facebook.com/meredithaxelrod)

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

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

Original Dulcimer Players Club: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064673560484>

Paint Creek Folklore Society (PCFS):

- PCFS website: www.paintcreekfolkloresociety.org
- PCFS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086482332379>

[Really Old Martin Guitars](#) Andy M's group about pre-1900 Martin guitars.

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

Attachments

- February KT pdf
- 2024-25 Membership Form

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, events, links or other information for publication, please contact your most humble editor, Andy MundyMather (pcfs.kt@gmail.com). Deadline for the next issue is the 15th – extended deadline granted on request.