

Keepin' Tabs

The Newsletter of the Paint Creek Folklore Society

April 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, April 5, 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: 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 and find out about this very unusual and interesting instrument. Song Swap Theme: Michigan History.

3:30 to 4:00: Snackin' and Yackin' hosted by Lynn C and Julie S.

4:00 to 5:30: Song Swap Theme: Michigan History.

5:30: Circles and Jams: Instrumental Jam led by TBD; Vocal Jam led by Jack E; Native American Flutes led by Sharon H; and Part 3 of "Thinking Creatively about Chords" led by Kevin T.

Guitar Flatpicking

A sampler of this new Circle, which focuses on the bluegrass style, was presented by Larry Miller at our March Gathering. It will resume in the Fall when we return indoors following our outdoor summer meetings. Please let Larry know if you have interest or any questions about topics that will be presented.

Vocal Jam

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 Suzanne R. 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.

President’s Post



It’s a warm, almost balmy Spring day in late March. The daffodils, tulips and snowdrops are peeking out from the partially thawed ground, although there will certainly be more snow. St. Patrick’s Day parades, along with a good excuse to sing and play Irish drinking songs, have passed. In Detroit the Nain Rouge (“Red Dwarf”), who arrived with Antoine de La Mothe Cadillac and who is considered responsible for every major and minor misfortune for over the past 300 years, is still to be driven from the City. With luck, it may be gone by the time you are reading this KT. At least until next year.

Your Board has been busy planning for the upcoming year. Theresa E has volunteered to chair the Tin Whistle Coffeehouse, scheduled for November 9, 2025. Many thanks to Jeff D, who has headed up this effort for many years, and is taking a very well-deserved break. Theresa E and Jack F are booking some exciting talent for the 52nd TWC. Contact Theresa for one of the many volunteer opportunities available, including Committee chairs. Remember this concert and major fundraiser can’t happen without your help!

Speaking of volunteer opportunities, it’s not too soon to think about the June elections and your chance to participate further as a Board member. There will be at least two open positions available.

The nominating committee (Theresa and Jeff) will be contacting members, but feel free to reach out to them or any Board member if you can contribute your skills and talents. The Board has decided to again meet outdoors in the Seyburn Pavilion for the June, July, and September gatherings. Details to follow in future KTs.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our April gathering and celebrating with songs about Michigan history. For those who wish to participate in the vocal and instrumental jams, you can purchase a songbook during the Meet and Greet. New fakebooks are back in stock!

Paul J, President

Future Gatherings, Presentations, and Song Swap Themes

Mark your calendar!

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 into his presentation. Song Swap Theme: Redemption. Song Swap Theme: Redemption.

May 10: Starry Night for a Ramble contradance is rescheduled for Saturday, May 10, beginning at 7PM. Join Glen Morningstar and our Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra. This dance is a joint fundraiser with PCFS. See the article below!

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

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

Jeff D, Vice President

Starry Night for a Ramble

Special, Special, Read All About It!

Celebrate Valentine's Day (again) in May!! In case you missed celebrating Valentine's Day in February this year, you can still do it up right by joining in the fun at the rescheduled "Starry Night for a Ramble" Benefit Contra and Square Dance on Saturday May 10, 2025.

All the details are the same as the previously planned dance for February 15th: 7:30-10:30 pm at First United Methodist Church Troy (6363 Livernois Road 48098). The Paint Creek Country Dance Orchestra is ready and rarin' to go with some fantastic tunes for all the dancing. Tom Allen and Glen Morningstar will be calling their finest. Delicious snacks at intermission. All dances are walked through. No partners required, but bring one with you to help celebrate if you can. Bring your old music, song and dance stuff for the SILENT AUCTION to raise bucks for our hosts, Oakland County Traditional Dance Society and Paint Creek Folklore Society. Yay!! New to dancing? Join the warm-up session for new dancers from 7-7:30 pm. A flyer is attached to print and stick onto your refrigerator or hang on your bulletin board at home or work. If you have any questions, please contact Glen M. at 248.330.0832 or zip him a note at gmorning@aol.com. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Nominating Committee Notes

New elections will be held at the June gathering, so it's time to fill out the slate of nominations for the 2025-26 Board of Directors.

Many current Board members have served for 6 to 10 years or more, in multiple positions, and have been happy to do so. However, we need some other Paint Creekers to do their part as well to keep us going and allow the "old timers" to enjoy a more relaxed participation. To be direct, NO, BOARD, NO CLUB!

Elected positions are President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Members at Large. Appointed positions include Membership Chair, Keepin' Tabs Editor, Social Media Chair (Website and Facebook) support, and Kitchen Coordinator(s).

Nominations for any position are welcome. However, we specifically need folks to run for President and Vice President.

The President presides over the monthly gatherings and board meetings and represents the PCFS.

The Vice President arranges for presenters to come speak at our gatherings and fills in for the president as needed.

Neither position is very difficult to do, it just takes a little time. You can count on the current and outgoing board members for support – as always! Job descriptions and other resources are available to help understand the roles - any board member can provide more details. Know that the entire board has always worked as a supportive team!

Everybody has talents, hidden or otherwise! Don't be shy, let's use 'em! Please consider nominating yourself or someone else for a position on the Board. Contact Jeff D or Theresa E if you have nominations or questions.

Ridin' Drag

Today is cool and cloudy. Leaves, late to release from the neighbor's oaks to the west, cross our front yard. A seven mile an hour draft drives them east, where robins exhibit resentment, plain for all to see.

Robins arrive with a demanding imperial air. They do not take their state bird status lightly. When a plastic bag labelled Meijers joins the leaves, the Royal Red Breasts and entourage shoot a withering stare toward my desk window. They expect more from me. Maybe the state birds have a point.

My preferred leaf rake is in the shed and the shed is on the rise. That's good news. Because, although I am willing to concede the robins position, I want a second opinion. So, I pull on my chore coat and walk south.

A crew of chickadees, clinging to clematis, see me step out the door.

What do you figure the old guys up to? a female asks. If he's not going to the feeder, who cares? Oh, get over it will ya! How many squirrels do you expect a fella can feed? My money says the old guy's bound for the shed like usual.

I salute their black caps while two crows call to a bluejay about my appearance. The jay, normally a contentious critter, chatters back to them in an unusual, comforting tone. It takes me by surprise when the realization hits me; I'm the center of attention. But, why?

Opening the back gate of the garden, a glorious choir of redwings along the ridge sing,

Hey Jack, this place looks great! Everything in order, garlic coming on, poppies planted, even the swings are up. Thanks for making the flight worthwhile. But it is a little early to open the shed, isn't it?

You think so? I ask. Didn't you hear the...

THE STATE BIRDS? It's always the state birds! What are they complaining about now? Worms not cooperating? No matter, if you ask the rest of us, even the raptors, there is a reason we land here. Pay no attention to the royal wannabes.

I look around. First one sparrow concurs, then another. So, after proper deliberation, we craft a missive stating our position. Without a hint of intimidation, a Cooper's hawk delivers the message.

I, the old guy, in cooperation, counsel and with the unanimous approval of my avian companions, did rake, mow, and mulch these grounds a few short months ago, before the snows fell. I was not negligent. Neither am I currently in charge of the wind nor have I ever overseen the leaves that fall west of me. If you find the conditions lacking, you have wings to fly. You may also stay. We are happy for your company, just remove your crowns.

The Backyard Compact Principal Signatories:

Oatford the feral cat, bluejay, chickadee, opossum, old guy, sparrow, Cooper's hawk, crow. Common wren voted by proxy.

Jack F.

Membership Highlights

Please welcome our newest members and those who renewed their memberships: Ben D, Danielle D, Erin D, Brad D, Noel R, and John P.

We're now up to 76 members, young and old(er) and from near and far. We feature quite a versatile group of musicians, singers, and music and folklore lovers.

The option of clip-on badges is now available. If you hate the pin version which tends to poke holes in your clothes, ask for the new version when you pick up your badge at check-in.

If you have friends or family who are on the fence about joining, they can do so now at half-price! This special pricing (\$25 for a single and \$45 for a family) will allow the member(s) to enjoy all the benefits of PCFS until the end of the season in August.

Have you thought about making your membership mean more than it is? Like volunteering? Volunteering provides an opportunity to bond with others who help set up tables, bring dishes to the picnic, help the Board of Directors make policy, etc. There are so many activities in the background which help to make PCFS what it is. It doesn't require a lot of commitment, and it can be enlightening and educational, not to mention, fun. If interested, let us know. We can help.

Jack E and Dan D, Membership Chairpersons

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 the 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 and 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>

- April 19 will feature Badass Women Band!

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

Rochester Hills Public Library Concert

Diane Westin and friends, March 30th (Sunday), 2pm to 3:30pm (Easy Listening music with splashes of folk). More info and registration link for the event: [RHPL registration link](#).

Ten Pound Fiddle

tenpoundfiddle.org

- Fri, Mar 28 - Sparky and Rhonda Rucker
- Fri, Apr 4 - Tim Eriksen
- Fri, Apr 11 - Susan Werner opens the TPF 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend
- Sat, Apr 12 - 50th Anniversary Celebration All Day Party and Evening Concert
- Thu, Apr 17 - Elden Kelly and Andy Wilson CD Release
- Fri, Apr 25 - Cheryl Wheeler and Kenny White
- Fri, May 2 - The Paxton/Spangler Band
- Thur, May 08 - John Depew
- Tues, May 13, From England, Martin and Eliza Carthy

Links

AACTMAD: 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

- April KT pdf
- Starry Night for a Ramble Flier
- 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.

