THORNAPPLE VALLEY DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWS



From the President . . .

February 2011

Noteworthy information:

Today is Wednesday, February 2. We had a blizzard overnight in Michigan and still more to come today. It's always more fun to have a big snow event if you are going to have one. No work, no school, no anything today! So I am writing the newsletter!

The January Meeting was well attended In spite of the weather. Dulcimer players came from afar, Aloe and Warren from Sparta, Judy and Dale from Jackson, the Maki's from Lyons, all arrived safely. We had a good jam. Everyone pulled up close to each other and we could hear each other really well. After the jam, several of us went to Mooville for Ice cream. Mooville is right on M66 about 1 mile north of the Grange. It's huge, you can't miss it. The Best ice cream, milk and other products are from the farm right on the property.

In February, we will have the same tune of the month, East Tennessee Blues, and the same Beginners class. Deane Bellah was ill and so we postponed the classes until February.

Elections are in April—We have a nominating Committee now thanks to Margaret Vanderveen and Judy Cole. They will talk to you to see if you are interested in any position. You can run for any of the positions and we welcome candidates!

Attended a benefit for Jim Mills who has had serious health issues. Jim was there and was honored as a very giving promoter of music. He has had many jams at his barn and welcomed everyone. It was a great night with good bands in his honor.

Bill Robinson wrote a new tune, named Ann E, after his wife. It is on search box: Ann E Bill Robinson dulcimer and it will come up. He actually teaches it on line and I learned it right from youtube. He plays it very slow and then a little faster. It's a great tune. I wrote and asked for the sheet music and Bill is going to have it written on sheet music, and we will teach that one when we receive it. It is not difficult to learn. If you want to hear a song, almost any song, go to www.youtube.com and type in the name of the song. You will be surprised at how much is on there.

We have one gig for summer,
Plainwell Music Org has asked us to play
in the bandshell on the river again.
Date to follow but towards the end of
July. This one is worth the drive, big
audience and fun..

In terms of winter weather, we will have the club meeting as long as we can get in the parking lot! If you have any questions call me, but I won't cancel unless it is a day like today!!!

Keep warm and we will see you soon, Paula

TVDS DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Meeting: February 26, 2011 TVDS Regular Meeting & Jam 1 = 4 pm

Beginners Class 11 am—11:45 pm Review songs and teach

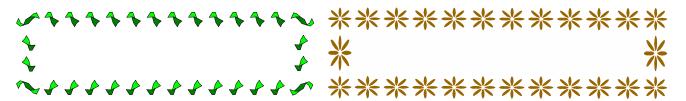
Tune of the month class 12–12:45 pm East Tennessee Blues

Bring snacks to share We like our Vittles

Website:
www.thornapplevalley
dulcimer.org

Dues:
Due in January

\$18 a year



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NOTE:

Don't miss an issue of the TVDS News. You will if your mailing label date is more than **one** month prior to the date of this issue. Check it out.

Dues are \$18 per year per family.



Items for sale:

Email Paula, or call with items for sale and they will be placed in the newsletter for you. **Every month is a garage sale!** Bring your musical items to the jam. Clean out those closets and find hammers, musical books, and other goodies related to music or just homespun types of things....they are okay too.

ITEMS for SALE:

Cloud Nine Dulcimer, 17/17/8, birdseye maple, case, hammers, gorgeous sound, 1 yr old, new would be \$1800, a great price at \$1000, call Paula at 616 240 0445

Jim Key Dulcimer for sale/ full size, chromatic, 17/17/2, spruce floating soundboard, nice case, and hammers \$650 = 616 240 0445

David Lindsey Dulcimer, 15/14, beautiful sound, case, hammers, \$550,

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Sweatshirts & T Shirts— We have nice hooded sweatshirts, non hooded sweatshirts, and T shirts for sale with the club logo on it. Prices are reasonable. Check them out at the club meeting.

Need a Hammered Duicimer Instructor? We have three folks who would love to teach you to play or improve your playing::

Thelma Fassett, Nashville, MI 517 852 1869 Deane Bellah, Lowell, MI 616 897 0845 Aloe Guiles, Sparta MI 616 887 9436

Dulcimer School online: www.dulcimerschool.com

Dan Landrum has a dulcimer school on line for \$15 a month. They have teachers for hammered dulcimer and mountain dulcimer. The lessons are available 24 hours a day, so if you like to play in the middle of the night, you can fire up your computer and learn techniques and songs. I put my earphones on the computer so the lesson/song is right in my ear and then I play the dulcimer. I learned a pretty complicated song, Planxty Brown, aka Maggie Brown. You can play it over and over with the computer and you can see Dan teaching it right on The dulcimer. I like the concept really well. You can print out the sheet music from the site. You can check it out and have a lesson for free without joining. So if you play hammered or mountain dulcimer and have high speed internet you can check it out. He is teaching you how to play, techniques you can apply to any song, and he also teaches these through songs. What kind of a lesson can you get for \$15 a month. There is a lot on the site and more is added all the time. Check it out!

Good site for Sheet Music Free:

http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk/traditional-music/

This website has a lot of different kinds of music, sheet music, sheet music with chords only, and tons of other information. You have to get used to the site to find your way around as it is huge, but it is worth it. You will find a search box and you can type in the name of the song you are searching for.

Buckeye Festival: March 9th—13th in Ashley Ohio. 4 1/2 hours from Hastings, MI

If you are new to dulcimers, or just want to improve your playing, this is an excellent festival. You spend two full days with your instructor of choice, and there are special workshops on Saturday. There are jams every night, and concerts. Excellent teachers this year as always. You stay right there. It is a camp for disabled kids and is not used in the winter. Dorms for girls, and dorms for the boys. We have a lot of fun. They feed you, teach you, entertain you and it is as much fun as Evart to me. They have classes for mountain dulcimer, fiddle, autoharp, etc. Cost for all that, food, lodging and teaching is \$280 for entire event from Weds to Sunday. Check it out. I am going again this year, and you can call me if you have questions. I recommend it! I can send you a flier if you don't have computer access.

http://www.buckeyedulcimerfestival.com/

Michigan Fiddlers: February 19th, Commission on Aging, 320 West Woodlawn, Hastings, MI. Plenty of jamming rooms and main stage too. Lots of fun. Starts at 2 pm, dinner at 5 pm on site, and square dance at 6 pm—9 pm.

Original Fiddlers: April 16th, Commission on Aging, 320 West Woodlawn, Hastings, MI Starts at 1:30 pm, dinner at 5 pm, and square dance following. We are hosting the Original Fiddlers and trying to get them closer in distance, so hope you can come and support them. Lots of good fiddlers, and jamming rooms for all.

Recipe! Thelma Fassett brought a delicious dessert to the club! Here is the recipe:

Swedish Raspberry Almond Bars

3/4 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup confectioners sugar
1 1/2 cups flour
3/4 cup seedless raspberry jam
3 egg whites
6 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup flaked coconut
1 cup silvered almonds, divided in half cups
Additional confectioner's sugar for sprinkling on top

In large bowl, cream butter and confectioner's sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually add flour and mix well. Press onto bottom of greased 13x9" pan. Bake at 350 for 18-20 minutes or until lightly browned.

Spread jam over baked crust. In large bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar 1 Tablespoon at a time on high until soft peaks form. Fold in coconut and 1/2 cup almond slices. Spread over jam layer. Sprinkle with Remaining almond slices.

Bake at 350 for 18-22 minutes or until golden brown. If desired sprinkle with Confectioners sugar.

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