

# THORNAPPLE VALLEY DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWS



From the President . . .

April 2014

Spring in Michigan!! Flowers blooming and birds chirping. Now we remember why we live here!

Last month we worked on a new tune "Hewlett" It is a beautiful tune, and not a hard one to play. Kim Huston, Lynn Brownridge and I performed it At the Dulcimer gathering at Folkcraft Instruments, Ft. Wayne, In. We had all just learned it! Nothing like performing in front of really good musicians to make you nervous. The Folkcraft festival was really fun. Dan Landrum, Ruth Smith, Richard Ash, and Ken Kolodner were the instructors.

Folkcraft is having festivals at their factory. They have one for mountain dulcimers, ukulele's, Hammered dulcimers, etc. Ft. Wayne is an easy drive down I 69. 2 1/2 hours from Hastings, Richard Ash, the owner, is an excellent host. They are small and relaxed classes.

We will not have a new tune in April. We are going to practice the last several we have learned, Hewlett, Lover's Waltz, Beaver Island, Beaumont Rag, Colemans March, Where the White Lilies Grow, and any others you request.

The Vermontville Syrup festival is also on Saturday the 26th, and you can stop there for a breakfast of pancakes and real maple syrup before coming to the jam. Then after our jam, many of us go to Mooville for ice cream! We eat pretty well!

We had an ODPC sponsored jam at Bob's Barn and had a nice group of hammered dulcimers, and fiddles. We jammed from 10 am to 5 pm! A fun day, and a fine potluck! We had approximately 20 players.

At the April Meeting, we will discuss the Memorial day, May 24th potluck picnic . There are 5 Saturdays in May, and would like to see if you can make the 24th. So check your calendars!

May will be our final official newsletter for the summer. Any playdates will be communicated by email, or phone calls if we get some after that newsletter is published.

See you next Saturday the 26th of April!

Paula Brawdy

**TVDS DATES TO REMEMBER**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Next Meetings:**  
Saturday  
April 26  
4th Saturday

**New Tune Practice**  
12: 00–12:45

**Regular Jam:**  
1–4 pm

**Bring snack to share!**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Coffee, and tea are furnished, along with a lot of smiles and laughs**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Website:**  
[www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org](http://www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org)



**President**  
Paula Brawdy  
1403 Iroquois Trl  
Hastings, MI 49058  
pbrawdy@jasnetworks.net  
Cell 616 240 0445

**Vice President**  
Aloe Guiles  
9575 Peach Ridge  
Sparta, MI 49345  
616 887 9436

**Secretary**  
Penny Pierce  
518 Michigan Ave  
Bellevue, MI  
269 763 3342  
ppierce2005@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer**  
Chuck Mead  
1248 8 Mile Rd  
Union City, MI 49094  
517 741 7896  
meadc117@yahoo.com

**Sunshine Lady**  
Marcia Mellen  
mmellen@jasnetworks.net  
616 948 9025

**Webmaster**  
Karen Turner  
734.455.4085

**THORNAPPLE VALLEY  
DULCIMER SOCIETY**

**Meets monthly at:**

**Maple Leaf Grange,  
Address: 7490 S M66,  
Nashville, MI 49073**

**www.thornapplevalley  
dulcimer.org**

**Dues \$15 per year,  
send to Treasurer,  
address above.**

**NOTE:**  
Don't miss an issue of the TVDS  
News. Dues are \$15 per year per  
family and are due January 1.

**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:**

**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 and at our cost. Check them out at the club meeting.

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

**Thelma Fassett, Nashville, MI 517 852 1869**

**Aloe Guiles, Sparta MI 616 887 9436**

**Instruments for Sale:**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Looking for a nice Used Hammered Dulcimer? Call Paula Brawdy at 616 240 0445.** I have the following right now:

**Lost Valley hammered dulcimer with case 13/13, Birdseye Maple** Excellent condition, spruce soundboard, and oak sides—\$1500 new, a bargain at \$500 ;  
**Bob Tack Lightweight**—\$650 with case—tuned as normal fifth tuned -  
**Lost Valley 16/16, and 16/15** hammered dulcimers, both in excellent condition with cases . Hand carvings in sound hole and rail, and microphone jack - \$800 each.

**Cloud Nine—Michael Allen** hammered dulcimer for sale. \$650 with case  
**Also have several mountain dulcimers for sale, McSpadden's , Warren May, and —\$300- \$325**  
**Call Paula Brawdy on instruments above for more information 616 240 0445**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Have something to sell? You can list here if you are a member !**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**2014 Festival schedule—This is a short list! There are so many!!**

**Indiana Dulcimer Festival, Woodburn, IN (Ft Wayne Area) April 3-6th, [www.indianadulcimerfestival.com](http://www.indianadulcimerfestival.com)**

**Dulci-more Festival—Lisbon, Ohio—May 23-25, -contact—234.564.3852 or [bill@dulcimore.org](mailto:bill@dulcimore.org) [www.DulciMore.org](http://www.DulciMore.org)**

**Kentucky Music Week, Bardstown, KY - June 22-27 [KentuckyMusicWeek.com](http://KentuckyMusicWeek.com)**

**ODPC Board Meeting, - hosted by [unclecarls.org](http://unclecarls.org), May 3, at noon— potluck , bring your own place settings..**

**ODPC Funfest—Ewart Michigan July 17-20 - [www.dulcimers.com](http://www.dulcimers.com)**

**Midland Folk Music Festival—Midland MI - August 21—24th <http://www.folkmusicsociety.org/p/folk-festival.html>**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dulcimer Players News:**

I saw an article in Dulcimer Player News winter edition that I just received. The article was written by John Keane, who teaches music, and has a degree in music. I liked his practice tips which I would like to share with you. By the way, if you don't subscribe to Dulcimer Player News, you are missing a great dulcimer magazine. They need more readers to sustain this magazine, and I would hate to see it disappear. It comes with a beautiful CD every month with all dulcimer music!!! And the magazine has articles from all the professional players. It is a gorgeous magazine [www.dpnews.com](http://www.dpnews.com)

**“If any of this sounds all too familiar to your situation, please try the following:**

- 1. Set aside 15–20 minutes (or more) of a practice session to confront a skill or passage that has been difficult for you to master.**
- 2. Be content to improve that skill/passage gradually (instant gratification is rare and often unrealistic to expect). Some things can take weeks or months to become comfortable.**
- 3. Remember that the “bad” sounds are the sounds of improvement!**
- 4. Share (don't hide) your difficulty with another player. They might know a little trick that might help you. Dulcimer players are among the most supportive musicians I have ever known.**
- 5. Continue to play and love your “comfort” music in your practices after you tackle the less comfortable areas. Running the tunes that you already know keeps them under your fingers and makes you feel great too) “**

**Paula Brawdy  
Thornapple Valley Dulcimer Society  
1403 Iroquois Trail  
Hastings, Michigan 49058-9757**