

THORNAPPLE VALLEY DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWS



From the President . . .

February 2013

Greetings from Winter Wonderland!

We have had an old fashioned winter with lots of snow, and lots of cold this year. Winter started the first part of December, and it has been Continuous. The snow is tall alongside the roads, and there has been no thaw. This coming week is supposed to get above freezing finally! I have gotten stuck in my driveway twice. My new hybrid car is lower to the ground and it bottomed out in the snow!

We did manage to have a good showing of People for the January meeting. I am guessing we had around 25 or so. The weather was not great, but those that could make it came.

The February meeting is coming right up, sorry this is so late in reaching you. We will hope we get good weather on Saturday this time!

Kathy Cook will teach us "Lovers Waltz". This is a tune that was written by Jay Ungar, who lives in upper New York. It is a beautiful tune and one which was requested. Let Kathy or I know if you have a tune that you really want the club to learn. The workshop starts at noon sharp, so come early and set up and have a cup of coffee with us before the workshop.

Do you have some musical instruments or noisemakers in your house that you never use? Bring them to the meeting and lay them out on the tables. We love to shop, especially in the winter! You might even work out a horse trade!

On March 1, we are having another jam at the Maple Leaf Grange Hall. I am sponsoring an ODPC jam. It is not a meeting, just a fun jam. Everyone is invited.

The ODPC decided to sponsor jams around the state to keep jamming going throughout the year. They pay for the facility rent. There is enough money to sponsor a couple of them a month. We had to cancel the one last month due to snow. So the reschedule is March 1, Saturday at the Maple Leaf Grange. We will start jamming at 10 am. POTLUCK at NOON. We jam until 5 pm. So here is your chance to get all the tunes practiced up. We will go around and pick a tune, and you call the speed, and/or start your tune. If you can't start it, someone should be able to start it. Very casual and fun.

March, 5-9th, the Buckeye Festival at Ashley, Ohio is scheduled. DeeDee Tibbits is one of the instructors. It's a fun festival. You stay there, they feed you, and you have 3 days with an instructor, and then a weekend of fun follows with more instruction and performances. It's reasonably priced. <http://www.buckeyedulcimerfestival.com>

Folkcraft musical instruments has a nice hammered dulcimer weekend festival in Ft. Wayne, Indiana on April 3,4, 5,6th. I have attended their jams and they are excellent hosts! I am attending this year. Ken Kolodner will be there, Dan Landrum and Ruth Smith. All excellent Teachers. I am taking several classes with Ken, and 2 with Ruth Smith. There is a 2 day bootcamp, then the weekend festival. They have a great hotel deal worked out at \$70 that includes breakfast. It is 2 hrs, 15 minutes from Hastings so not a bad drive at all. I'm ready for a good festival! www.dulcimergathering.com

Hope to see you this weekend at the Maple Leaf Grange for the next TVDS jam and workshop! Paula Brawdy

TVDS DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Meetings:
Saturday
February 22
4th Saturday

Workshop:
12: 00–12:45
Lover's Waltz

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



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**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**

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!!

**Buckeye Dulcimer Festival— Ashley, Ohio, March 5-9th, Contact Shari Wolf 937.295.5253
www.BuckeyeDulcimerFestival.com**

Indiana Dulcimer Festival, Woodburn, IN (Ft Wayne Area) April 3-6th, www.indianadulcimerfestival.com

Dulci-more Festival—Lisbon, Ohio—May 23-25, -contact—234.564.3852 or bill@dulcimore.org www.DulciMore.org

Kentucky Music Week, Bardstown, KY - June 22-27 KentuckyMusicWeek.com

ODPC Funfest—Ewart Michigan July 17-20 - 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

“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) “**

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