

# THORNAPPLE VALLEY DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWS



From the President . . .

January 25, 2013

Happy New Year!

The ice storm that occurred on our Club Meeting day arrived with a vengeance. It is still having its effects in Barry County as I write this Newsletter 5 days after the storm. Last night they reported 14,000 still out of power in Barry County. For the first time, the whole town of Hastings was shut down on Sunday and Monday. All the businesses with no power, including Walmart, and McDonalds. It was quite unsettling. The storm started coming down with sheets of freezing rain on Saturday the 21st of December. Freezing rain started shortly after 3 pm. Although I was reluctant to cancel the meeting, many would have driven home in it. There is no way to predict the forecast and whether it is correct or not, but I do think this time it was the right thing to do. If you ever have a doubt on the weather when there is a winter storm advisory, please call me. I sent out an email, and I called many that are not on email. My phone number is on the second page of the newsletter.

Given that we seem to be in the throes of a bad winter, I do not think it advisable to have a potluck in January. Let's wait for the weather to settle down. We will just do our normal meeting with snack in January.

Instead of a workshop, let's do a practice slow jam with the tunes we have been learning for January.

The playdate at Charlton Park went well. There were not as many in the park as usual, but the weather was not great that day. However, we played and had fun and had a lot of kids ring the jingle bells.

The playdate at St. Cecelia was cancelled due to weather that day. The schools were closed and the roads were bad.

Thelma Fassett, Ron Hesterly, and I played and did a learning class on hammered dulcimer for the Kellogg Community College in Hastings. We had a good class, and they were very interested in learning about the dulcimer.

In March, 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>

For those that were fortunate enough to leave for Florida, Texas, and Arizona, good move on your part!!! December has been A busy month of weather here in Michigan.

**The Original Dulcimer Players quarterly meeting is coming up January 4th**, at the Maple Leaf Grange, Nashville, MI.. Potluck and noon, and a membership meeting at 1:00 pm. Then a jam until 5 or whenever. You are all invited to attend! Find out about news on the upcoming festival, and get your questions answered. Hope you can attend.

Let's all hope we get a January thaw soon!  
Keep playing your dulcimer! Spring will come.. Paula

**TVDS DATES TO REMEMBER**  
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**Next Meetings:**  
**Saturday**  
**January 25**  
**4th Saturday**

**12: 00–12:45**  
**Review tunes**  
**We have learned**

**Regular jam:**  
**1–4 pm**

**Bring snack to share!**

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**Coffee, and tea are furnished, along with a lot of smiles and laughs**  
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**Website:**  
**[www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org](http://www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org)**



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**NewsLetter**  
(Deadline 25th/month)  
Paula Brawdy

**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:**

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**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 \$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**

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Dulcimers Around the World:

### **The Cimbalom World Association—**

Mark Alan Wade recently posted on his facebook page about his trip to attend the CWA in Taipei, Taiwan. I found it fascinating to learn about. Go to this website to see dulcimers from all over the world. Countries were represented there from all over the world., and each country brought their cimbalom (hammered dulcimer) and their representative music from their country. Mark Alan Wade brought bluegrass which is very American in it's roots. He has a trio made up of a mandolin (and violin), a guitar, and his hammered dulcimer.

Here is the website to the CWA:

<http://www.cimbalom.org/>

You will see the slide show on the front page of this site as it scrolls through the countries with their dulcimers. Mark said they were thrilled with the bluegrass music his trio performed. You can hear them perform on Mark's facebook page. Just go to facebook.com and put in Mark Alan Wade in the search box there. You don't have to belong to facebook to do this. And scroll down his pages till you come to him playing there. There are videos. Mark shares a lot of video's on his facebook page and you can hear some outstanding music there.

In Asia, there are large orchestra's of hammered dulcimers. They are very well known, much more than in America.

### **History of hammered dulcimer:**

From the Bible:

"...everyman that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship...."

Daniel III:10

Dulcimers were reasonably common domestic and concert instruments in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries. No doubt they were first brought to the colonies from England where they were used in the street music of the time. Portability and simplicity made the dulcimer much more practical than the piano for many settlers. These attributes probably led to its association with the lumber camps of Maine and Michigan. It is still referred to as a "lumberjack's piano" in the North. As names for the dulcimer go, however, the American appellation "whamadiddle" must be ranked as most colorful, with a close second in the German term "hackbrett," literally "chopping board!"

It is interesting that in this era of folk instrument revivals the Appalachian dulcimer, which never had a very widespread distribution in the past, is getting considerable attention from urban performers, while the once well-known hammer dulcimer has faded into relative obscurity. Occasionally, old dulcimers can be found in the Appalachians, Maine, New York, and in various parts of the Midwest.

Several dulcimer factories were thriving in western New York during the 1850s and 1860s. They employed salesmen who played and sold their instruments as far away as Missouri and into the southern states. Michigan has continued to nourish a persistent tradition of dulcimer hammering, and a club of players has been organized there. One Michigander, Chet Parker, has been recorded, and his fine playing of old dance and popular tunes is well worth hearing ([Folkways Records FA 02381](#)).

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