

THORNAPPLE VALLEY DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWS



From the President . . .

March 2014

Greetings from Winter Wonderland!

I am hoping by this next meeting, our weather will have dramatically changed!!! For the better! Honestly, have you ever seen higher piles of snow along the roads!

Last month we had a good workshop on Lover's Waltz. Brush it up as we will play it at the meeting. It's a lovely song and one that I hope you will Enjoy for many years to come.

During the march meeting, Kathy Cook will teach "Hewlett" written by Turlough O'Carolan. Turlough was a blind harpist in the 1600's. I love all his songs. They were named for the people in the home where he was performing. In those days, if you were born blind, you often became a harpist. Turlough actually raised a family on his earnings as a harpist. He traveled all over and was paid for performing in homes. I think you will enjoy this song, and it seems fitting for our club!

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

The ODPC decided to sponsor jams around the state to keep jamming going throughout the year. Another benefit of paying your \$5 dues for the ODPC once a year.

They pay for the facility rent. There is enough money to sponsor a couple of them a month. We had one at the Grange Hall on March 1. We had good attendance and a good jam, and the weather was driveable! In fact, we had a skating rink in the parking lot. None of us brought our skates, but we sure could have used them.

We carried on and played many, many tunes, had a good potluck and a lot of fun.

The next ODPC sponsored jam will be at Bob's Barn in Lake Odessa on the 5th Saturday, March 29th, 1417 Johnson St. Lake Odessa, MI, 10 am–5 pm. Easy to find, drive through downtown Lake Odessa, and north of downtown, turn west (left) on Emerson, and right on Johnson st.

Potluck at noon, please bring your own plates and stuff. And something good to eat!

Coffee will be furnished. 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 help. Very casual and fun. Hope you will take advantage of a good practice day on your dulcimer!

That's all for now! See you Saturday!

Paula Brawdy

**TVDS DATES TO
REMEMBER**

**Next Meetings:
Saturday
March 22
4th Saturday**

**Workshop:
12: 00–12:45
"Hewlett"**

**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!!

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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