THORNAPPLE VALLEY DULCIMER SOCIETY NEWS



April 2010

From the President . . .

Happy Spring!

We had a fun jam in March. The jamming just gets better and better every month. In addition, I have to say the "vittles" that everyone is bringing are also getting better every month. We played lots of tunes. We are always open to new tunes. That's where we get the inspiration to learn new songs.

The beginning class learned scales and chords in March. The April class will really drive home chords and arpeggio's. Everyone is welcome.

At the April "tune of the month" class, we are going to review and slowly play the tunes we have been learning. So this is a review of tunes we have taught this past year. More later in the newsletter on the tunes we are reviewing.

The Putnam Library, in Nashville, MI has asked us to play on Tuesday at 6:30 pm on June 29th.

The Gas & Steam Engine show held in Charlton Park, Hastings, MI. has asked us to play for their event. This would be fun because you can see all the steam engines. This event is July 10th, Saturday late afternoon. We need to discuss this date

as it is the weekend before Evart. If we have enough who will commit to this we will confirm it. Let's discuss both events at the club meeting.

Do you have a newsletter article about dulcimers that you would like to post? We would love to have your articles to make our newsletter interesting.

We have a new member, Gordon Hecker, who gave us an Interesting history on Joe Andrews and Gordon's family. You will find it in this Newsletter.

Keep those hammers warmed up!

See you at the April jam!

Paula Brawdy

TVDS DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Meeting: April 24 TVDS Regular Meeting & Jam

Beginners Class 11 am—11:45 pm

Tune of the month class 12–12:45 pm Review of tunes

> 1 pm—4pm Regular Jam

Bring snacks to share We like our Vittles

> TVDS Regular Meetings

May 15 (3rd Sat)

Website: www.thornapplevalley dulcimer.org

Birthday & Anniversary Wishes



 TVDS—Paula Brawdy 1403 Iroquois Trail Hastings, Michigan 49058

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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 \$12 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:

Songbird Whippoorwill Hammered Dulcimer—16/15, mahogany soundboard, excellent condition, lightweight, with nice case, and hammers. Made in 2005, It has a great sound and will be at the April meeting if you want to try it out. \$650 for dulcimer, case, hammers and stand included. The whole package! Call Paula

Brawdy at 616 240 0445

Workshop Corner

At the April meeting, we will offer an 11:00 am beginner class. This is for people who are just beginning or can play a few tunes. Deane Bellah will lead the class and will teach movable chords, scales, and appeggios. She will have handouts showing the movable chord patterns and how to find notes in the different places on your dulcimer. She will work on learning the codes (marks on bridges) and how we use them to gain speed. She will teach hammering patterns and how we use them in tunes. Easy tunes will be taught in a very slow tempo. If there is enough interest we would like this to be an ongoing monthly class. We hope the new class will help those in the beginning of their journey with the dulcimer, and help them gain knowledge, confidence, and a repertoire of tunes that will allow you to join into jamming as soon as possible.

In April we are going to concentrate on Arpeggio's !! They are really cool and make your songs sound so good! We had a great turn out for the March beginner class and everyone was making progress!!

We look forward to seeing you there. There will be an extra dulcimer there tuned up for you and ready to play if you want to participate and don't have a dulcimer.



www.thornapplevalleydulcimer.org

Workshop Corner Continues:

Tune of the Month Class will have a review this month! We are going back over the tunes we have taught over the year. Bring your music with you!! We are going to review the following tunes. You can print them all off of the website if you can't find your sheet music with the exception of the two that are copyrighted, and they all should be in the music box. I now have two printer cartridges! So we should be able to copy music!

Tune Of The Month

March 2009 Bryson Hall Waltz Copyrighted
April 2009 Blueberry Splash
May 2009 Riding On A Load Of Hay
Riding On A Load Of Hay

September 2009 The Gale The Gale

October 2009 Snake River Reel Snake River Reel
November 2009 Holly Berry Holly Berry

December 2009 Blackberry Blossom Blackberry Blossom January 2010 Woodchoppers Reel Woodchoppers Reel

February 2010 Hey Polka <u>Hey Polka</u>
March 2010 Tyler's Trot Copyrighted

Playdates:

Plainwell Music Society—Confirmed

Location: Plainwell Band Shell

Downtown Plainwell/ N end of N Anderson St. at the River Wednesday at 7:30 pm (plan to arrive at 7 pm) on July 28th.

Turkeyville Restaurant - two play dates confirmed. Take I 94 to Marshall, MI

Go North on I-69. There is a sign about 5 miles up that says Turkeyville Road. And take that West about 2 miles and you will see the restaurant. It's big!

Here are the Turkeyville dates and times:

June 5th, Saturday—Garden Show at Turkeyville

1—3 pm

Aug 14th, Saturday– Flea Market and Civil War Reenactment at Turkeyville 1—3 pm

Tentative dates we have been asked to play:

Gas & Steam Engine Show at Charlton Park, Hastings—July 10th late afternoon, Putnam Library, Nashville, MI on June 29th at 6:30 pm

Festivals not to miss:

Unfest—Whispering Woods Campground in Hastings—June 18th—19th

More info at: http://www.pgoelz.com/unfest1.html

Evart—ODPC Funfest—July 15-18th more info at www.dulcimers.com

Michigan Fiddlers at Hillsdale—Aug 13—15th

Midland Dulcimer Festival—Aug 26—28th more info at

http://www.folkmusicsociety.org/festival

Uncle Carls Campout—and you are invited! More info at www.unclecarls.org Silver Strings Campout—and you are invited! More info at www.silverstrings.org

Joe Andrews is a Nashville icon. He tells me he started playing violin at the age of 8, some 77 years ago, After hearing Joe Mix on the violin. After that, it was no more plano for him!

Joe's mother taught piano for many years. One of her many students was my mother, Lucille DeWitt Hecker. Mrs. Andrews had the only full sized grand piano in the territory. My mother, with her perfect pitch, was allowed to take lessons on the grand. During World War II, while my Dad and Joe were serving together in the Army at Camp Maxie, Texas, I would tag along for Lucille's music lessons. Mrs. Andrews had a chest of toys for my Amusement during lessons.

My mother was also Joe's second or third grade teacher at the Quailtrap country school, just around the corner from the Andrews farm.

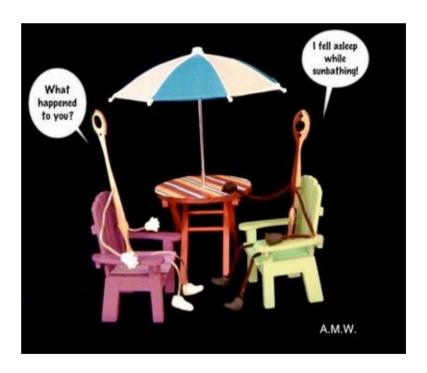
Joe along with Doris and Lloyd Peck played as a trio for some 12 years and produced an album. I've been lucky enough to hear that cassette album. With Lloyd on the mandolin, and Doris on guitar, and Joe on violin, their music is the real McCoy of old timey back porch mountain music. It's the kind of music I first heard on the field Recordings of Alan Lomax for the Library of Congress.

I feel truly blessed to be able to associate with the caliber of folks the likes of Joe, Lloyd, and Doris, and I thank Thelma Fassett for inviting me to join the club.

Gordon Hecker

Editors note: What a nice article from our new member. Gordon has ordered a Songbird dulcimer and is waiting for it now! We hope to have him in our classes when it arrives! I want to add that Joe Andrews inspired me to learn the violin. I was a new dulcimer player with no music background, and once I heard Joe, I put away my dulcimer for almost 10 years! Now thankfully I am playing both dulcimer and violin.

Paula Brawdy



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