



Keeping Tabs On


 North Harris County Dulcimer Society

June 2010

NHCDS Board for new year beginning June 2010

President	Mary Ann Walker	(281) 856-8753	e-mail: 1geobrgal@sbcglobal.net
Music Director	Marianne Drabek	713-664-0771	e-mail: mdrabek@sbcglobal.net
Play Coordinator	William Damewood	(281)579-9114	e-mail: bdamewood@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Peggy Johnson	(713)466-8277	e-mail: peggy5020@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Mary Nelis	(281)304-1130	e-mail: mnelis123@aol.com
Web Site	Carolyn Mounce	(281)-550-8687	e-mail: Carolyn@noracom.com

Happy Summer!

Well, we've made it to summer and this year we already have the heat but we are also getting rain. So as a reminder to all of our new members with new instruments - if you would not leave your children or pets in the car, don't leave your instrument in your car. The heat can destroy your instrument by warping the wood and melting the glue that holds everything together. Our new officers begin their duties this month. We have a great slate of officers and I'm looking forward to working with everyone. **As a reminder to the new officers, we will have a board meeting at 2:00.**

I've heard that the movie recording has been going on. I'm looking forward to hear the results! We will continue BYOD. It gives us more jam time and time to get to know each other better. The Bayou City festival is next month. They have a Facebook page if you want to follow the developments there. I don't know if Marianne Drabek still needs raffle items so check with her concerning what she still needs. Also, if you have any "small" items that could be door prizes we are still looking for those types of donations.

It may be summer time be we are still very busy!

Mary Ann

From the Music Director

MUSIC NOTE FROM MARIANNE

Dear club members, thank you for honoring me by giving me the responsibility for the club music. I look forward to the coming year. My plan is to have the teachers listed in the newsletter. In fact, I hope I know several months in advance who will be teaching the various classes. I have emailed a number of our regular teachers to see when they would be available. If you did not get an email, that does not mean you cannot be

a teacher. I feel very sure there are some good beginner teachers in the class Mary Ann Walker has been teaching. Remember, you just have to be ahead of your students.

Folks, we got a good line up of teachers so far. I've tried to gear the lessons to things I think will help players advance and enjoy the music. Craig Harrell will teach autoharp. He's a busy man and just think, you won't even have to go to a festival to get a lesson from him.

Gordon White will teach intermediate and will work on different techniques that are part of the playing live the hammer ons, pull offs, harmonics. Glenn Morrell will teach repertoire. He is going to focus on the jam tunes that other people play and we as a club don't. You can expect to hear tunes like "Step Around Johnny" at Bayou City. Get prepared for that festival now. - July 22 – 24.

Hammer dulcimer is still open for a teacher. See all you at the club meeting. Marianne

The North Harris County Dulcimer Society sponsors an Internet radio show that is all dulcimer all the time. I'm not sure that a lot of y'all knew that. It is a very nice station that can be brought up, minimized, and enjoyed. The web address for that is. www.live365.com/stations/dulcimerradio

Don't forget that we are eating in at the meetings at 6:00 so that we can get to know other members a little better. This is not a pot luck dinner. It is just brown bag and you take care of yourself only. Something easy with easy cleanup. Where we are located makes it harder to go out to eat and get back in a timely fashion. If we eat in there will be more time for jamming.

Play Director's Notes and Upcoming Plays

Guess it's official; you got a new play director. I want to thank Jordie for her two years of dedicated service. She did a fine job of managing our plays during that time. Now we are entering into the summer slump, but there are lots of prospects, some already booked and others just around the corner. Be sure and check out what we have scheduled and sign up if you haven't yet. Also, I want to see more intermediate players going on the plays. (You know who you are!) There's no better way to get experience than just jumping in and doing the best you can.

So let's all grab our instruments and spread the joy of old-timey music. Sign up at the meetings or contact me via email at bdamewoodpub@sbcglobal.net or cell phone 832-541-1357.

William

Cypress Historical Society - "Old Fashioned Picnic" - at Cypress Top Park Saturday, July 10, 10:00 - 3:00

They say that we were such a big hit last year that they want us back again this year. We can have demos and/or specific play sets during the day's events. Enjoy other activities and the free food. The play leader is Mary Nelis.

Martyn Farm Harvest Celebration at Armand Bayou Nature Center Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 13 and 14 10:00 - 4:00

This is the 30th year for this fall event. We always have a great time playing on the porch of the old house. Gaye and Mike Goebel are the play leaders.

Christmas tree decorating party at Cypress Top Historic Park Thursday, December 9

It's never too early to plan those Christmas events. Mark this one on your calendar. There are always lots of goodies for the players! The play leader is Mary Nelis.

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### **Playback**

SATURDAY AT THE LOST WAY RECORDING STUDIO

“Lost Way” is not the name of the studio . I just thought I'd add a little honesty to the title since even those who found Tamina road (the correct part of it) on the first try, still missed the driveway into the studio. But, not too long after the 10:00 start hour, all the dulcimers, banjos, guitars, autoharps,harmonica, fiddle, fife and bass were present and accounted for.

All of us were eager to help provide the music for a documentary on San Houston's life. We had practiced some tunes prior to going into the studio and hoped we'd have a selection the producers of the documentary would like. We weren't prepared for them wanting snippets, meaning play the tune just once and stop. Or even more difficult, take a tune you have engrained into your head and fingers as AABB and play it AB. We got introduced to a new term - “Clean start.” Now you all know that if we are all into the song and playing well half way through the first A part, that's par. Lead ins do work well to get everyone together right at the beginning. But, “clean start” does not use lead ins; “clean star “ means everyone including the bass to be in on the first beat. Steve Heiser must have thought he was back in the class room as he drilled the us in following a count in and all beginning together on the opening beat.

Everyone was very patient and if the producers wondered what they had gotten themselves into, they didn't show it. And I, for one, heard some outstanding performances by club members that were new to me. Teresa Moore has a nice finger picking guitar style that was just the balance for William Damewood's dulcimer solo of Amazing Grace. William's chord work was lovely. Mary Nellis put down her Blue Lion and picked up the dulcimer her husband built for her 30 years ago to play a very distinctive and traditional sounding Shady Grove.

The documentary should be completed this fall and It will be interesting to see how our three hours of snippets, retakes, and practice are used movie . Whatever we contribute to this project, folks need to give the thanks and credit to Steve Heiser. It was his directing that kept us focused and enabled us to do weird things like “good clean starts.” Marianne Drabek

## Treasurers report

### MAY, 2010

|                   |                     |            |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance |                     | \$5,798.41 |
| Income:           |                     |            |
|                   | Dues                | 35.00      |
|                   | CDs & Tape          | 97.00      |
|                   | Deposit             | 132.00     |
| Expenses:         |                     |            |
|                   | Door Prizes         | 0.00       |
|                   | Newsletter          | 13.47      |
|                   | XMAS party deposit  | 101.50     |
|                   |                     | 1,000.0    |
|                   | Bayou City Festival | 0          |
|                   | Expenses            | (1,114.97) |
| Ending Balance    |                     | 4,815.44   |
|                   |                     | =====      |

### Last Months Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by our president, Mary Ann Walker, with 29 members present. Last months minutes were approved as written. As Jaekob was at his Senior prom so Marianne thanked the teachers for him. Jordie gave the play report. We got a nice thank you from the play at San Jacinto. She also talked about the Sam

Houston movie. It is 3 hours long. She has a historical song list of the period music and Steve Heiser is in charge of the practice for the music. Jordie will continue to be the contact for the movie. Steve has called a practice of the music for tomorrow from 5-8. Charles gave the treasurers report. Bing Futch is the headliner for the Bayou City Festival. It is going to be a great festival this year so plan on attending. Bread and Jam will perform at Bayou City festival also at the Thursday night gospel concert. Ken presented the slate of officers for the nominating committee. Music director-Marianne Drabek, Play director-William Damewood, Treasurer-Peggy Johnson, and Secretary-Mary Nelis. There were not other nominations from the floor. A motion was made for the slate to be accepted by acclamation -seconded. Elections are over. There will be a board meeting at the next meeting at 2:00. Cheryl Dowdy's grandmother passed away. Doyle Horton is doing well. Door prizes were done and meeting adjourned.

William and I went to Glenrose but were unable to stay for the dulcimer contests. All I could gather from people who were there was that Matthew Hathaway won 1st place in the mountain dulcimer and Glen Pope won 1st place in the hammered dulcimer. If anyone has the rest of the results you can e-mail Mary Nelis and she will include it in the next newsletter.

**Membership changes:**

**Jack May**  
jsmay1@verizon.net

**Jerry and Jerrie Barron**  
3207 Windmoor Dr.  
Katy, Tx. 77449  
281-578-7448  
jerry\_barron@yahoo.com

**Anything that you think needs to go in the newsletter needs to be sent to me by the Wednesday before the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday jam of each month. You can e-mail it to me at [bdamewood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdamewood@sbcglobal.net). If you have anything that you think the club would be interested in knowing just let me know.**

**\*\*Here are the details about the Copperfield area jam:**

Tuesday - Copperfield Church Room C-2

8350 Hwy 6 North (just south of West Rd., behind U-Haul)

For the winter we are meeting 6:30-8:30.

Mary Ann Walker

Traditional Sounds

[www.traditionalsounds.com](http://www.traditionalsounds.com)

**\*\*Bread and Jam meets the 2nd Sunday evening 6:30-8 pm at St. Timothy's United Methodist Church, 8787 North Houston Rosslyn road in the fellowship hall. The Bread part - bring canned or staple food items for the food pantry. The Jam part - play and sing gospel music. All instruments welcome. Beginners welcome. Singers/listeners also welcome. Contact Peggy Johnson at 713-466-8277 or [peggy5020@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peggy5020@sbcglobal.net) for information.**

**\*\*Strings and Things, a folk ensemble, has started the fall season. All acoustic instruments are welcome, and mountain dulcimers are needed. While we play some old time tunes, much of our repertoire is different from the club's repertoire. S&T meets at 7:00 pm on Tuesday nights at the Spring Branch Community Center, 1721 Pech Rd. Call me at 713-728-1797 or email a reply to this announcement for more information. Marianne**

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## SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT

June 12 at 7:30 PM

### The Malvinas



It is a great pleasure, and something of a coup, to bring this multi-talented, multi-instrumental trio to play for us at Second Saturday. First of all, their music is to die for. Their rich vocal harmonies and tasteful instrumentals are finely crafted. They have created a sound that is all their own, and something very beautiful. Second, getting them all together in one place to play requires luck, good timing, and international travel arrangements. Beth Cahill is a singer-songwriter living in Quebec who plays mandolin and tenor guitar. Her songs reflect a thoughtful and wide-ranging intellect whose interests range from Bach to Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Owing no doubt to Beth's influence and following, the [Malvina's](#) website is written in both English and French!

Gina Forsyth plays violin and guitar, and has played fiddle in several Cajun bands for a number of years. She is a resident of New Orleans. Gina released a solo CD, *You Are Here*, in 2001, and

some of her other pursuits have included acting, drumming and serving as a DJ on folk music radio. Lisa Markley is an award winning singer-songwriter who performs in a variety of styles. She is a graduate of North Texas University, majoring in music, and a resident of Dallas. Lisa released her first CD, *Goddess of Groove*, in 2000.

Opening for the Malvinas will be **Across the Water** – soon to become an international band in their own right. (For those of you who thought Steve's relocation to Calgary was job-related, the story can now be told: The guys in the group admire the Malvinas so much that they wanted to be just like them.)

The June concert promises to be a memorable musical evening. Put it on your calendar, and be sure to come out and join us. See also the link: [Malvinas On MySpace](#)

- **Houston Railroad Museum** They have scheduled 'jam sessions' on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month at this Museum. It is located just outside the 610 Loop at McCarty Dr. Here is the website:

[www.houstonRRmuseum.org](http://www.houstonRRmuseum.org).

**NHCDS WEBSITE** - Be sure to check the club website regularly for new information and other interesting pictures/articles. To submit pictures and/or information for the web site, email to: Carolyn Mounce at [Carolyn@noracom.com](mailto:Carolyn@noracom.com) or Rita Drake at [reetd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:reetd2000@yahoo.com).

Site location: <http://www.houstondulcimer.com>. To get into the "Members Only" area of the website the user name is 'oldtimey' and the password is 'cabbage'.

**Newsletter:** Please send me articles and information that you think other club members would like to know. Email: [bdamewood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bdamewood@sbcglobal.net) or send to Brenda Damewood at 21427 Park Mount, Katy, TX 77450 (please mail by the first of the month following a meeting) or you may call me at 281-579-9114.

**ANNUAL CLUB MEMBERSHIP-** Dues are \$20.00 for a family membership, \$15.00 for single membership, and \$12.50 for an associate membership for someone who doesn't attend meetings or vote but does receive the newsletter. Also, donations are gladly accepted.

#### NHCDS MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE-

NHCDS meets the third Saturday of each month at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 8101 Senate, Houston.

-2:00 - 4:00 OPEN JAM

-2:00 - 3:00 BEGINNER HAMMER DULCIMER

-2:00 - 3:00 AUTOHARP, ALL LEVELS

-3:00 - 4:00 STRING SIDE UP (First time player mountain dulcimer class. One time only)

-3:00 - 4:00 BEGINNER MOUNTAIN DULCIMER (learn more skills)

-3:00 - 4:00 INTERMEDIATE MOUNTAIN DULCIMER (learn the most popular jam tunes, faster tunes and skills like fingerpicking, flatpicking, hammer-ons, pull-offs, and harmonics)

-3:00 - 4:00 REPERTOIRE CLASS (learn new tunes to add to the club list!)

4:00 - 4:30 BUSINESS MEETING

-4:30 - 6:00 JAMMING TIME!!!

-6:00 - 7:00 DINNER BREAK

-7:00 - ??? JAMMING TIME!!!

#### **Directions to the new meeting location at 8101 Senate Street:**

From Hwy 290 going west, exit on Senate (first exit past Beltway 8). Turn right. Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

From Hwy 290 going east, exit on Senate. Turn left. Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

From Beltway 8 going north, exit at West Little York to the feeder road. Continue going north, passing under Hwy 290. (The roadway becomes Senate.) Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

From Beltway 8 going south, exit at West Rd./Philippine to the feeder road. Continue on the feeder through 3 lights (West, Philippine, Gulf Bank). Turn right at Hwy 290 (4th light). Turn right again at the next light (Senate). Go through residential area, through three four-way stops to end of Senate. Church is on your left.

