



2015 Gazebo Concert (photo by Bill Cassells)



## HTMA Monthly Meeting & Jam

Sunday – OCTOBER 16th

No September meeting, due to  
September 25<sup>th</sup> Burritt Gazebo show

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### Coffeehouse

*The coffeehouse is still on vacation*

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### HTMA President's Notes

September 2016

Dear Friends,  
I think that the worst of summer's heat is behind us now, which is a relief. I am ready for some cooler weather. Ginny is mainly looking forward to the fall college football season.

August was a terrific month for HTMA in at least one respect. We had three new members join at the August membership meeting:

- Randy and Ginger Hawkersmith
- Barney Harding
- Alan Pope

Barney has already made it to one of our retirement home gigs, where he was a big hit.

Coming up for September, we have our annual Burritt Gazebo music festival September 25<sup>th</sup>. We will play from 1:30 to 4:30. I don't quite have the program finalized as yet, but I'm sure that there will be lots of great music. Please tell your friends about the gig, and plan to come yourself. Burritt invites guests to come in that day, waiving their normal admission fee, so it's a cheap date. Do bring a picnic blanket and/or lawn chairs. There are some shade trees in front of the Gazebo, but if you don't get there early enough to get a spot under the trees, you may want a sun hat or sunscreen.

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1 Bob Keeffe at the October 2013 HTMA Coffeehouse  
(Photo courtesy Jerry LeCroy)

## President's Notes (continued)

I am looking for volunteers to help with the production side of the Gazebo show, setting up the PA and microphones, etc, and then helping with the load-out at the show's end. Please let me know if you might be available to help with either set-up before the show or with the clean-up after. We also can use some help during the show, getting makes and chairs in place for each performer.

Because of the Burritt show on September 25<sup>th</sup>, we are going to scrub our normal meeting at the Huntsville Library on the 18<sup>th</sup>. That may be just as well. The only room available on the 18 was the smaller meeting room A, and we learned at the last meeting that we really have too many people showing up to easily fit in that tight a space.

A little further down the road at the October meeting we will have an election for 2017 officers. If you have any interest at all in taking a leadership position in the association, this is your chance. All of the existing HTMA officers, myself included, have been serving a good bit longer than reasonable term limits would allow. We would all welcome a new complement of officers, and will happily guide you into the transition.

I hope to see a big crowd of HTMA friends at Burritt on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Keep your fingers crossed for good weather for that afternoon.

*Jerry LeCroy*

## HTMA Executive Board

### President -

**JERRY LECROY**

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### Vice President & Public Service Chairman

**JIM ENGLAND**

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### Secretary/Treasurer

**PAT LONG**

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### Publicity Chairman

**BOB HICKS**

256-683-9807 hsvfolk@gmail.com

### Performance Chairman

**Position Open Please Volunteer!**

### Operations Chairman

**GEORGE WILLIAMS**

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### Webmaster/

**Jeri Ann Payne**

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### Newsletter Editor

**Jerry LeCroy**

*The leadership of HTMA invites YOU to be an active part of our great organization, whether you play an instrument, or want to share in any other way, we welcome you and thank you for your support!*

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

### Scrubbed due to Labor Day conflicts

#### --ELMCROFT ASSISTED LIVING -

Starting 3:00 PM - 8020 Benaroya Ln., Huntsville AL

### SATURDAY September 10th

#### HARBORCHASE RETIREMENT HOME

Starting 10:30 AM - 4801 Whitesport Cr., Huntsville AL

### TBD

#### COMMUNITY OF CHRIST CHURCH

Starting 5:30 PM - 7510 Whitesburg Drive., Huntsville AL

### SATURDAY September 20th

#### REGENCY RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Starting 3:15 PM 2004 Max Luther Drive, Huntsville, AL

### SUNDAY September 25th

#### Burritt Museum Gazebo Music Festival

starting at 1:30. Takes place of our regular meeting.

Visit our website [www.huntsvillefolk.org](http://www.huntsvillefolk.org)



## Playing Out, a few observations

by Jerry LeCroy

HTMA has had many members who never were musicians. One notable member of this group was past HTMA President Joe Berry, who loved music, but to listen, not to play. Not playing music was no impediment for Joe. As president, he provided terrific leadership for the association. Another group of members didn't play when they joined the association, but picked up new musical skills as members. Many members have benefitted from the friends they met at meetings to develop musical proficiency. Several members have offered music lessons to others, notably Shelley Heard, Sylvia Williams, and Dan Charles.

Some musicians are content with playing alone at home, or maybe only in the context of at a low-pressure HTMA meeting/jam session. Some people are simply too uncomfortable when playing in front of strangers to want any part of that activity. On the other hand, many musicians find that playing out, in front of an audience, is the best possible reward for the effort they have put into developing musical skills and learning songs. And how to present them. I guess I'm in that last group.

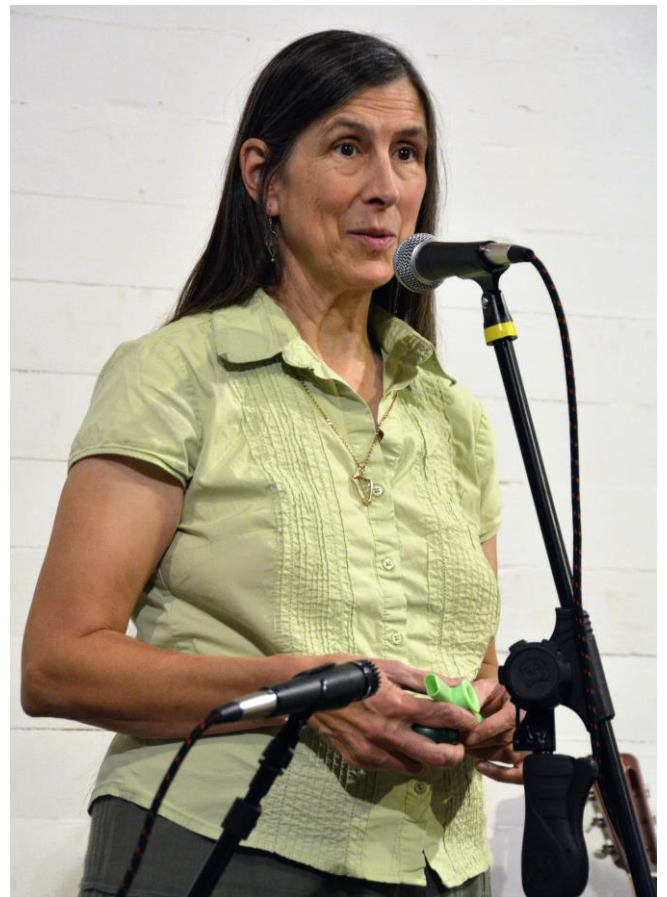
I think all of us suffer to a greater or lesser extent from stage fright – especially people like me who are inclined to be introverted. Getting in front of people to play music can be emotionally challenging, especially at first. Maybe kids who start music lessons at an early age have a leg up in this department – most music teachers schedule one or two recitals for their students each year. While a piano recital has some tension, the student is usually playing only one well-practiced piece, and there are plenty of other students in the program, so there is an abundance of peer group support.

Even some well-known performers have described terrible struggles with stage fright that stayed with them even when as they became experienced and well-respected stars. Examples that come to mind are Grace Slick, Van Morrison, and Sandy Denny. If you pull up a YouTube of Van Morrison in concert, you might notice that he appears to almost never look in the direction of the audience. It's as if Van is pretending the audience really isn't there. Maybe this is less of a problem for guys like Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder, who couldn't see the audience anyway?

My experience is that it can be rewarding and motivating to get out of the house and play for an audience. Getting

positive feedback from applause and kind words from the audience is quite rewarding for me. Knowing I have a performance coming up motivates me to learn some new songs, or polish up old ones. All in all, playing out is a plus for me. Playing out might not be in your comfort zone today, but it's something that does get easier with repetition. One of the easiest ways I can think of to get performance experience is to come out on some of the retirement home gigs that Jim England schedules for us each month. The retirement home audiences are relatively small, and are always appreciative. If you are thinking you might like to get out of the house to play some music, let Jim know so he can put you on his email list for those gigs.

*Jerry LeCroy*



*2 Loretta Simonet at the October 2013 HTMA Coffeehouse  
(Photo courtesy Jerry LeCroy)*





## HTMA - CLASSIFIEDS



Do you have an item for sale? Are you looking for an instrument? Are you wanting to acquire, trade or sell musical gear, recordings, books, get something repaired.... Do you need music lessons? Are you wanting to join or find a new group or band member? This section of our newsletter is for members to place ads for services or instruments or anything related to music. It will be updated *for each newsletter*. If you have an item or advertisement you would like to be published, please send an EMAIL (preferably before the fifteenth of the month) to [jelecroy@knology.net](mailto:jelecroy@knology.net) (Jerry) to have your listing included in the upcoming newsletter. In your email, fully describe what your offering or looking for, and how you want users to contact YOU, via email, phone or both, etc. Once your listing or item is no longer active, please also email [webmaster@huntsvillefolk.org](mailto:webmaster@huntsvillefolk.org) for removal of your listing.

*Please note that HTMA makes this service available to aid our users in finding, trading or selling music items and services only - and we are not responsible for the completion or non-compliance of any transactions between members.*

### Music Instruction

### Musical Instruments



*3 Curtis Teague at the October 2013 HTMA Coffeehouse  
(Photo courtesy Jerry LeCroy)*

Bands, Meets, Jams

*Looking for a band member, hosting a jam session, wanting to be part of a group? Place a listing here..*

- **Friday 9/2, 7:00-9:00, *Stillwater Bluegrass* plays the Lumberyard [corner of Meridian and Cleveland\**
- **Friday 9/9, 8:00-midnight, *Milltowne* plays Southside Cantina [11220 Memorial Pkwy SW]**
- **Saturday 9/17, 8:00-11:00 AM, *Stillwater Bluegrass* at Madison Farmers Market on Hughes Road**
- **Sunday 9/18, 2:00 – TBD, Milltown (and others) will play at Burritt Museum for the Monte Sano Art Festival**
- **Sunday 9/25, 1:30-4:30, HTMA members will present their annual Gazebo Music Festival at Burritt Museum.**
- **More room for posting gigs here. Send your information for this section to Jerry at [jelecroy@knology.net](mailto:jelecroy@knology.net)**