



Hey folks,

On January 11, 2011 the Board of Directors met to work on planning for this year's BCTMA projects. At the Board Planning Retreat in December, the Board decided that it wanted to become more actively involved in the BCTMA's plans (GREAT!) this year, so this was the first meeting to get that under way. Jim Bladel is the Board's newest member joining Duane Harris, Bob Carr, Judy Cartwright, Linda Boyer, Christina Cuthrell, Rob Cuthrell, Sidney Moore, Chris Furlough, Don Skinner, Devon Mish, and Justin Casey. Joey Toler, the Executive Director of the Beaufort County Arts Council is an ex-officio (advisory) member of the Board.

The BCTMA currently has 55 members for 2011. If you have not joined for this year, please make plans to do so.

For 2011, the BCTMA plans to focus more on community based activities. That seems to be what our members enjoy most. We hope to do more jams and performances in areas outside of Washington while still maintaining a strong and active presence in town.

Our next big project is the 3rd annual Beaufort County Music Festival scheduled for April 15-16, 2011. This festival is presented as a project of the BC Arts Council and BCTMA is a co-sponsor. The BCTMA, in addition to financial support for the over-all festival, will be sponsoring a venue focused on showcasing our local talent and our interest in traditional music. Please mark your calendars now and plan to participate in this event! The BCTMA plans to produce a printed information program prior to the festival that tells about what we do and showcases our people and sponsors.

The BCTMA is seeking sponsors for 2011 and is formulating a sponsorship plan- so be thinking about becoming a sponsor or identifying businesses or individuals that you think may be interested in supporting the BCTMA's activities this year. We'll have more information available regarding that soon. Plans for sponsoring performances this year include having about 15 -20 showcase performances at the UAC and working with the Turnage Theater to present 3 -4 performances there. There will be two more concerts at the Turnage leading up to and promoting the Music Festival. These are Woods Tea Company on Feb. 18 and Molasses Creek on March 18. Please plan to support and attend these concerts.

Beginning with the opening of this year's Saturday Market in April, the BCTMA is planning to hold TWO Saturday Morning Jams. Our Jams have become so popular that we are planning to have an inside jam at the UAC and another jam outside on the corner of Main and Gladden. The outside jam will focus on traditional acoustic music while the inside jam will feature a wider variety of styles. We hope that this will provide an opportunity for more participation by more folks each Saturday.

The BCTMA is planning to get some new merchandise by festival time to sell to help raise funds for BCTMA this year. We are also considering producing a new CD that will feature samples of songs written and performed by our folks. We'll have more information on that later.

We are looking forward to an exciting year for BCTMA and we hope that you will help make it our best year yet! Thank you to all of you that volunteer your time and energy to BCTMA to keep us going and keep us all having fun!

Current Events: On Saturday mornings let's all remember that Janeybell's will be providing coffee and fresh baked goods at the UAC. Let's all show our thanks by helping to support her efforts to support the BCTMA and those that come to support us on Saturday morning.

Also, Thank You for supporting the April Verch Performance and Fiddle Workshop last weekend. The BCAC and the Turnage Theater really went out on a limb to present that concert and make the workshop happen. Although the BCTMA had committed to support that effort by providing \$250 to sponsor the workshop and contribute the proceeds (\$165) from the workshop fees to the event, Scotty and Joey have decided that BCTMA should keep those funds to use for our projects and activities. So how about sending Scotty and Joey a big THANK YOU via email or in person (next time you see them) for supporting the BCTMA and being a big part of helping promote what we are doing!

Until later, Thank you for being a part of BCTMA and Play Nice,

Rob