

What the BCTMA is all about:

The Beaufort County Traditional Music Association (BCTMA) is an unincorporated non-profit association consisting of individual members who receive no compensation.

The purpose of the BCTMA is to promote and support traditional music throughout Beaufort County.

Goals of BCTMA include:

- a .being a resource to the public for traditional musicians in the area,
- b .providing educational opportunities for people interested in learning about traditional music,
- c. providing participatory activities to nurture the traditional music community,
- d. promoting performance opportunities for traditional musicians in the area, and
- e. presenting musical events and performances for the enjoyment of the public.

What I have just read can be found at the very beginning of the BCTMA Organizational Document, that was adopted in 2010 and can be found on the BCTMA website by clicking on “Archives”. I encourage each of you to make an opportunity to visit the site and visit the archives. Here you will find the story of the the BCTMA- from its beginning in May of 2008 to what it has become as of the end of 2014.

Growth & Sustainability

Since 2008, the BCTMA has definitely grown – for 2014, we had over 160 members. Many of these members are also BCTMA Sponsors. Memberships and Sponsorships and a variety of Contributions brought in sufficient income to cover the BCTMA's cost of general operations this year – costs such as:

Rent here at the Inner Banks Artisans Center where we have our twice a week jams, monthly Open Mic Variety Shows, and Performances by local and regional performers, and

The design and maintenance of our outstanding and informative websites, including videos of our events and performances, and

The cost of supplies, postage, printing, event advertising, licenses and dues, sound equipment purchases and repairs, and awards.

For 2014 the cost of BCTMA's operations was about \$7000. Contributions, Memberships and Sponsorships covered that cost.

When the BCTMA began, there was only an idea, a dream of what it might become in the future. The challenge in the beginning was whether a local traditional music association would generate sufficient interest in the community to be worth having and whether or not it would eventually be able to sustain itself. Our Members, Our Sponsors and Our Contributors provide proof that there is sufficient interest in our community to support and sustain the BCTMA financially so that we can meet our goals and continue to contribute to our community going forward.

I believe that this organization can take great pride in what it has provided to those in our community who desire to learn about and participate in performing traditional music. The weekly jams provide a friendly gathering for musicians with a variety of musical tastes and skills levels to be involved in making music. What Fun!! After all, that is what it's all about!

Although not everyone is interested in playing and singing themselves, we have many members and

contributors and other folks in our community that enjoy hearing traditional style music performed by real live people. Performance opportunities at the UAC provide local and regional performers and bands a friendly place to play for folks that appreciate them. These performances also (usually) generate income that helps support the sustainability of the projects sponsored by the BCTMA.

Community Service

The BCTMA sponsored two major performance projects during 2014 – The BOCO Music Festival and The Pamlico Opry series. Both of these events were held at the Turnage Theater and co-sponsored by our parent organization, the BCAC.

This year's BOCO Festival featured opportunities for BCTMA musicians to do what they love to do – jam and perform. It also provided an opportunity for the community to see and hear what we do and hopefully get some good free entertainment complements of the BCTMA. Along with the many volunteers who contributed their time and talents to the festival, the BCTMA contributed about \$2000 toward the overall cost of presenting this event. Considering the major involvement of the BCTMA in the BOCO Festival and the changes in the focus and demands on BCAC's resources, the BCTMA and BCAC are in agreement that next year's BOCO festival should be an activity primarily presented by the BCTMA.

The Pamlico Opry series was a major event for us this summer. Six great shows and an encore featured our local BCTMA performers as the opening acts and some of our favorite regional acts as headliners. Although we did not come out in the black (it cost us about \$200 per show) everybody that performed got paid, lots of folks came out and enjoyed the shows, and we helped the Arts Council generate about \$4000 to help keep the Turnage Theater going during the summer. Again, this would not have been possible without our members volunteering their time and effort to make the Pamlico Opry successful and Fun.

In 2014 our members and supporters sold merchandise and raffle tickets for a guitar and a quilt, and our most popular and profitable fundraising activity, the always present and now famous 50/50 raffle.

Just for the record we made over \$400 on the guitar raffle, over \$300 on the quilt raffle and \$1483 on the 50/50 raffles in 2014.

The BCTMA also co-sponsored and supported the Spring Tar Landing Jam that raised \$1200 that was contributed to benefit victims of the tornado that came through the County in the spring. The Fall Tar Landing Jam benefitted one of the earliest supporters and leaders of the BCTMA, Don Skinner, as he battled cancer. We are so pleased that so many prayers have been answered and he is now cancer free.

I personally want to thank all of you that attended and supported the TLJ this year and thank you especially to those of you who volunteered and performed and made these events so successful.

2015 – Let's keep Playing Nice and Having Fun

It has been a good year for the BCTMA and I hope that we have many more good years. It's all up to you. You are the folks that make this organization so great and so fun!

As we enter 2015, I hope each member of the BCTMA will set as their goal to keep this organization going and growing by continuing to participate in the BCTMA's many good projects and activities.

Let's resolve in 2015 to think and act creatively so that the BCTMA will continue its vibrant character

and build on achieving more and more of its goals.

I have been so very blessed to see (and hear) the BCTMA grow in song and in deeds during the past six and a half years and I have been rewarded more than I can possibly express by meeting so many good people that have become friends through my affiliation with the BCTMA. I was honored to lead this organization from its founding until 2012 when Linda agreed to take the leadership reins – and boy hasn't she done a lot of work and a great job!

I've had such a good time serving in the leadership of the BCTMA for a long time. It has been so very rewarding for me. For 2015, I've asked to take a break and give others of our talented leaders an opportunity to step up and continue to move the BCTMA forward with fresh ideas and greater opportunities. I plan to continue to serve on the BCTMA Board of Directors but will not be a member of the BCTMA Steering Committee next year. But I do want you to know that I plan to keep hanging around, and playing too loud, and annoying all of you as much as possible.

I encourage you all to work together and make 2015 the best and most funnest year yet for the BCTMA.

Thank you.