

## *Florida Harpers & Friends Newsletter ~ April 2008*

**NOTE:** It seems this letter has been in process since January 19<sup>th</sup> but has yet to be published. So, it is being posted to the group and uploaded into the Files area. Please add your news to the list to let everyone know what you are doing. Please share your gigs, experiences, and questions.

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### **FHF Workshop January 19, 2008**

A review by Marg Chauvin

As always, the annual workshop was a time for gathering our family of harpers and catching up on events from the past year. Yes, we gathered by the river... well actually on Marco Island, surrounded by water, at the Conference Center at San Marco Catholic Church. Between noon and 1PM we shared our experiences from the past year and met the renowned Sylvia Woods, then the workshops started. Sylvia spent the next four hours discussing chords, attack, arrangements, and the 'most requested topic', left hand patterns. By 5 PM everyone had a new appreciation for base lines and a plan of action. That she could accommodate the rank beginner to the professional in one class and hold everyone's interest was amazing to me (a veteran classroom teacher).

Now, I have attended many harp concerts and I do have my favorites but Sylvia is a pro on stage. Her show is light, entertaining, and yet serious. She shares herself in addition to the music and the stories behind the music. The mark of a good folk musician is their ability to make the music history as interesting as the music and that is Sylvia. Of course, you must be a good musician and Sylvia has a clean light, floating quality to her harping; every note was clean and crisp, the arpeggios were tasteful, and the rhythms bouncy (or subtle on the serious tunes).

Of course she brought her books and CDs and most everyone stocked up; expect to here her tunes and arrangements around the state for a few months.

Many thanks to Kim Adamson for arranging the event, without her dedication, contacts, and love of harping we would have missed this wonderful opportunity. Kim arranged a lovely formal five star dinner catered by church members. And, I would be remiss without thanking the San Marco Parish and their staff for opening this beautiful facility to us.

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### **President's Corner**

Where has the time gone? Another gig another benefit and before you know it ... April arrives. My article started in January just after the workshop...

Like me did you find 2007 a challenging year and knew 2008 would be different? My sentiments were shared by many, including our treasurer Kim Adamson. And so far 2008 is proving to be a dynamite year with a rewarding and successful workshop under our strings FHF is ready to move forward in new directions.

All that is good and still valid but time gets by and when Kim called to inquire about the newsletter I said... "It's still on my computer." Well like you, we have busy lives. But any organization is only as good as the leadership and the support of the members. One thing that has not changed is the goals for 2008: more local events, rebuild the board and officers, align the club to better meet your needs.

So, please send me your suggestions and ideas, email [wild\\_harp@hotmail.com](mailto:wild_harp@hotmail.com) or call me 561-308-0118.

I'm looking forward to your ideas and hearing what FHF needs to become. ~ Marg

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### **Harp Camps & Opportunities to Expand Your Horizons**

There are MANY opportunities to attend a harp camp this year. The only problem is deciding which one... So, pick one, pack your bags & harp, and GO! You will have fun at any of these events.

May 16-18, 2008

The Harp Gathering  
Sauder Village, Ohio

An early offering to get you started for the summer.

June 8-13, 2008

Houston Baptist University Summer Harp Festival  
Youth: 6th-12th Grades  
Therese Honey, Instructor

June 12-15

MHTP Convergence 2008  
Reed College, Portland, Oregon  
[www.mhtp.org](http://www.mhtp.org)

Look for a healing experience: personally, professionally, and for your clients.

June 28- July 3

Ohio Scottish Arts School, Oberlin, Ohio  
Ann Heymann, Corrina Hewat, Kelly Stewart Brz, Sharon Knowles, and Sue Richards  
This week rocks! All ages, four levels of classes from beginner to mind-blowing, and wire. Great week for teens to attend, they are well cared for and will find plenty of buddies.  
[www.ohioscottishartsschool.org](http://www.ohioscottishartsschool.org).

July 10-13

Somerset on the Potomac, Alexandria, VA  
[www.harpcomerset.com](http://www.harpcomerset.com)  
Check the workshops and harp tastings!

July 13-19, 2008

Celtic Week with Billy Jackson and Graine Hambly.  
Swannanoa, NC  
[www.swangathering.com](http://www.swangathering.com)

July 13-27

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival, Alaska  
Music & Arts fest  
Jenny Lindner teaches classical, pedal harp, and kids. Sue Richards teaches Celtic and session classes.  
[www.fsaf.org](http://www.fsaf.org).

August 10-24 (take one or two weeks)

Summerkeys, Lubec, Maine  
Here each student receives a 45- minute lesson EVERY day, an ensemble class (must read music), and two hours scheduled practice time.  
Teacher: Sue Richards

Stay in B&B's around town. Evenings are mostly do-it-yourself. Lubec is the farthest east point in the US, and is a VERY quaint fishing village.

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

October 10-12, 2008

Southeast Harp Weekend

Asheville, NC

Always popular and exciting, this weekend is filling rapidly. Don't delay or you will miss a wonderful opportunity.

### **More Florida Harp Groups/Circles**

There are at least two active harp circles in the state

- Jacksonville, Kathy Pearce, [kpearce@sjcids.net](mailto:kpearce@sjcids.net)
- Port St. Lucie, Tammy, [www.floridaharps.com](http://www.floridaharps.com)

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### **Journey to the Magnolia Stage at the Will McLean Festival**

by Marg Chauvin, April 13, 2008

You know how a memory never fades? For me, the 1996 Will McLean festival is as fresh as yesterday with vivid pictures of folks singing Florida songs, great talent, and the family atmosphere. At the time my contribution was playing the lever harp and my thought was "To be one of the folk singers sharing your original songs..." But that seemed far away. I was neither a song writer or a singer.

This year returning to the site of the 1996 and 1997 festivals brought back many memories Margaret Longhill agreeing to a (lever) harp circle, the wonderful welcome at the gate, jamming on the hay bales by the river, the song contests, and the Saturday night performance. These festivals brought me new friends, perspectives, and goals. Little did I realize that one day I would share the stage with Bill Messer, write Florida songs, and with Bill would have the privilege of opening the Will McLean festival in 2006 and 2008.

This year, it was an honor to play main stage on Sunday morning. Yes, a little harp music to start the morning but my music has changed. Folks may have expected that beautiful harp music on Sunday morning but the audience heard Florida songs & tunes with harp, banjo, and guitar.

Was this journey planned? Not exactly, it evolved around opening doors. And taking advantage of open doors often reveals interesting results. But the real purpose of this article is to thank Margaret Longhill and the many folks who believe in you and never stop. Everyone of us has a list longer than our gig list who propelled us on our path. Remember to thank them because these are the folks the who open doors for us.

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### **OK, it is your turn to share.**

Become involved in FHF, share your talents and interests – Post to the list! Otherwise, you have to listen to Kim and Marg.