



# the dirt

Driftless Community Radio Newsletter  
Spring 2024



Art by Pete Hodapp

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## SPRING DRIVE WEDNESDAY MAY 8

There's so much great programming on WDRT, and listener support makes it all possible. We'll be holding our One Day Pledge Drive on Wednesday, May 8th from 6am-6pm with the goal of raising \$15,000 to support the station... OUR BIGGEST GOAL EVER, and Socially Responsible Retirement Strategies will be providing a \$1,000 match to help us get there.

It'll be a day of good vibes and great radio. Laura Erickson of "For the Birds" will be live for the hour with Maggie Jones and Dave Krier, and Ed Holahan will host "The Quiz Show". We'll also have a few live musical performances!

Every donation receives a cool new WDRT sticker. Visit [wdrt.org/donate](http://wdrt.org/donate) for more info.

## ALL VINYL, ALL WEEKEND: VINYLTHON IS COMING APRIL 20 & 21

On Saturday, April 20th, WDRT will be participating in Vinylthon, an international broadcasting event where stations celebrate their love and appreciation for vinyl records.

This year, WDRT has taken the challenge to broadcast **nothing but records, LIVE for 24 hours straight!**

Why are we doing this? Because it's going to be a blast! We've got an amazing collection of records at the station, and some really motivated DJ's eager to share gems from their own personal library.

As an added bonus,

radio stations that broadcast vinyl for at least 24 hours will also receive the coveted Golden Slipmat Award, to recognize their deep passion for vinyl.

Vinylthon also coincides with **Record Store Day**, and part of the festivities will include a live remote broadcast at **Bad Axe Music** in downtown Viroqua (420 Court St.) with DJ Sam of Reggae Ponyard from 3-5pm. Stop by for a chance to win a WDRT baseball cap.

Make sure to check out the schedule and tune in!

### ON-AIR SCHEDULE FOR VINYLTHON

TIME	SHOW
8-12PM	MR. KOPPA'S NEIGHBORHOOD
12-1PM	DJ GEM OF HERSONG
1-2PM	MUNDO MUSICAL CON EDUARDO
2-3PM	SATURDAYS WITH SYD
3-5PM	REGGAE PONYARD AT BAD AXE MUSIC*
5-6PM	DJ ROOT OF THE GOOD EAR
6-8PM	OUT THERE!
8-10PM	DUSTY GROOVES WITH DJ A & GUESTS
10-12AM	DRIFTLESS DOOM WITH NICKBOMB
12-2AM	TITMOUSE OF BOOTY TUNES
2-4AM	DJ KIRSTEN OF GLOBAL BEAT
4-6AM	BILL SPEAR
6-8AM	VINYLTHON CREW THROWDOWN

\*Live remote broadcast for Record Store Day  
420 Court St, Viroqua WI



## ON-AIR SCHEDULE FOR MAY 8

- 6-8AM DRIFTLESS MORNING WITH JIM HALLBERG**
- 8-9AM FOR THE BIRDS LIVE WITH LAURA ERICKSON**
- 9-10AM THE QUIZ SHOW**
- 10-11AM HERSONG WITH REVEREND DOLLY MAMA**
- 11-12AM THE TRAIN WITH PAUL FAIRCHILD**
- 12-1PM DEMOCRACY NOW**
- 1-2PM ECLECTIC WONDERLAND WITH DJ TEA AND MR. ANNOUNCER MAN**
- 2-3PM LIVE MUSIC HOUR**
- 3-4PM JUICE AND SNACK**
- 4-5PM DRIFTLESS WEEKEND**
- 5-6PM MR. KOPPA'S NEIGHBORHOOD**

### BECOME A SUSTAINER TODAY

Sustaining Members have automatic monthly donations coming directly from their bank account. PLUS all Sustainers get an exclusive WDRT lapel pin!

61%

of our funding comes from members

38%

of that member funding comes from Sustainers

Sustainers provide a stream of reliable, predictable income that is critical to the long-term financial viability of WDRT.



[WDRT.ORG/DONATE](http://WDRT.ORG/DONATE)

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

14 years ago, WDRT emerged from the ground up. Thanks to incredible volunteer energy and community support, we are proud to be the only listener-sponsored, independent radio station in the Driftless.

This independence matters. There is almost a limitless amount of music that's been recorded in the world, yet most of it doesn't get heard.

Up and down the radio dial, most stations are owned by highly-consolidated media organizations that direct much of the public media we consume every day.

At WDRT, local DJs shape the tone of their shows independently, providing sounds that are more like unique gems than overlaid sameness. We also broadcast news and information that is unavailable on other media outlets.

Local artists, musicians and community events as well as local businesses look to us as a vital platform for promotion and connection.

Our hope is that when you tune in to WDRT, you hear members of your community talking, creating, and spinning music, and also hear a little bit of yourself in a kinship of contact and inspiration.



## “WHO’S IN THE KITCHEN” WITH PHILOTHEA BEZIN



Philothea is the host of *Who’s in the Kitchen*, which airs Saturdays at noon. It was our first and now longest-running talk program, debuting on September 18, 2020, with her first guest Cabin Dave, talking about Canning.

### Why did you want to start a radio show?

I was really recruited by our program director and founder, Jim Halberg. He knew me as a teacher at Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School [founded by Philothea]... And we got this idea of having a round table, our little kitchen table, which we now have in our studio and that I could do an interview show. And I thought, well, what am I going to do? Make sound effects? How do you do this on the radio? I’m picturing Julia Child, something like that.

I’m not the world’s greatest cook...but I love people.

And I found, I really love interviewing. I love having a pure hour

of just listening to somebody and what they’re interested in and what their passion is.

And when we started, we had a 30 minute show, with a little 10-minute segment, which was with Kvarnström’s Bakery, and

Joyce Kvarnström’s was my special guest, and I went to her bakery every single week with my little recorder that I had been given. Between taking things out of the oven, we made a show for 10 minutes about Norwegian and Swedish baking.

And then after a while, we realized, an hour is wonderful, and you really can go in-depth. So now I have an hour-long show, and many shows racked up now for replaying in the archives.

### Of all of your shows, do you have a favorite moment, or guest?

Well, one of the shows that really got the attention of my first listeners... I was driving along the highway down to Boscobel and I saw a giant pumpkin and I went down a little back road and found the person who’d grown the pumpkin! I asked them to be on my show, to talk about how to grow giant pumpkins. I had a lot of children who were listening at

the time, some of them my former students, and people still remember the giant pumpkin show.

And Luke Zahm and Lars Bergen, those two guys, I mean together, they are smart, they’re funny, they love food, and the two of them together are very exciting.

### Where are you from?

I was born in Alabama, lived in South Carolina, then moved over to Virginia where I was raised.

Then I went to Switzerland and got my degree in teaching French. I began teaching in Cleveland, then Connecticut and got into teeny tiny farming, which means chickens and a couple of goats.

We were bit by the bug of wanting to have our own land and do things ourselves and learn about the old ways. And in those days there weren’t any folk schools. We came to Wisconsin when we decided “let’s run away and buy land together with some of our friends”. Our friend wanted to go back to school at UW. We kind of ended up in the Driftless area.

When we went through Coon Valley and then saw a sign to Romance, we said, “we’ve gotta move here!” It is a beautiful area, and the water is pristine...

(Full interview at [wdr.org](http://wdr.org))

**Listen to the interview podcast:**

[www.wdr.org/whos-in-the-kitchen](http://www.wdr.org/whos-in-the-kitchen)

*Who’s In The Kitchen*

Saturdays at Noon



## WDRT VOLUNTEER ANNIVERSARY GALLERY

The backbone of WDRT is our wonderful volunteers, which has now grown to 115 individuals!

These fine folks keep our radio station alive and functioning, doing everything from cleaning the floors to programming the music you hear. To honor and capture their spirit, **Hanna Agar Photography** graciously offered to photograph our on-air hosts and DJs. This gallery includes on-air anniversaries to celebrate, plus a few where a photo was not available:

A.D. Holm, *Radio After Death*: 2/1/2020

Tittmouse, *Booty Tunes for the Dairy Air* - 2/25/2017

DJ C, *Take it Back Tuesdays* - 3/2/2021

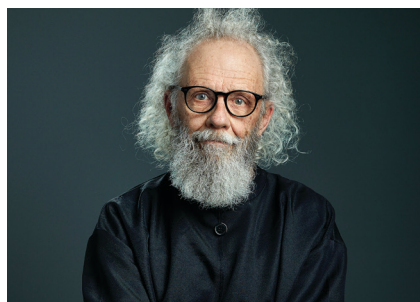
Joe O'Connor, *Joe's Garage* - 6/5/2017



Pauly, G-Man and Rosanne: 1/1/2020  
**Driftless Weekend**  
Saturdays at 10am



Mr. Koppa: 2/10/2012  
**Mr. Koppa's Neighborhood**  
Saturdays at 8am



Deacon Carl: 3/1/2018  
**Sunday Gospel**  
Sundays at 8am



Laura aka DJ Nuna: 1/1/2020  
**Hersong**  
First Wednesdays at 10am



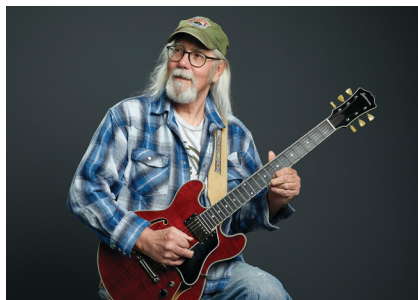
Logan aka DJ Third Eye: 4/1/2023  
**Our Time**  
Rotating Fridays at 4pm



Nickbomb: 4/13/2013  
**Driftless Doom**  
Saturdays at 10pm



Matt Schoch: 4/14/2022  
**Shock Therapy**  
Thursdays at 9pm



Twisted Jimmy: 4/16/2014  
**Twisted Jams**  
Sundays at 3pm



Steve Brandt: 5/1/2023  
**Conversations**  
Rotating Thursdays at 9am



Murder Kween: 6/6/2021  
**Attack Sustain Decay Release**  
Saturdays at 12am



## SAVE THE DATE! JULY 27 BLOCK PARTY

Join us in the WDRT Studios & Backyard for our first ever BLOCK PARTY, Saturday July 27 from 3-9pm! It'll be a day of good-old-fashioned fun, celebrating this community we love - and it's free. Here's what we have planned so far:

Live DJs and local bands - all broadcast on-air - featuring our own amazing volunteers

Open House: record a promo, take a station tour

Games and activities: Bag toss, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, hula hoops and maybe even limbo...

WDRT commemorative swag

Good vibes, all-ages and family-friendly

Food and beer available

## IT'S TRIVIA TIME WITH "THE QUIZ SHOW", A NEW INTERACTIVE PROGRAM

WDRT recently premiered our very own quiz show, aptly titled *The Quiz Show*. It's an hour-long live program where a group of panelists are quizzed on everything from music and movies, to history and holidays.

Ed Holahan hosts the show, and is very excited to be involved. "It's the most fun I've ever had on the radio. I've never worked this hard on a show before, but it's so rewarding. The people involved are amazing, and it's such a good time."

**Want to get in on the fun?** We're looking for a WDRT superfan to play

a fun game called 'Name That DJ' on our next episode. We'll play a clip of a WDRT DJ's voice, and you tell us who it is. Email [thequizshow@wdrt.org](mailto:thequizshow@wdrt.org) to learn more.

The next episode of *The Quiz Show* will be during our Spring Pledge Drive on Wednesday, May 8th at 9AM. You can also catch previous episodes anytime at [wdrt.org/the-quiz-show](http://wdrt.org/the-quiz-show).

Thanks for listening!

--

Terry O'Connor  
Programming and  
Operations Coordinator  
at WDRT

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MEET STEVE, WDRT SUSTAINER



Steve Willis, proud WDRT Sustainer and Viroqua City Council Member, Ward 9

### How long have you been listening to WDRT?

I have been a listener since 2017. Before my family moved to Viroqua, I discovered WDRT while driving through town and immediately

tuned in. I have been a sustaining member since we moved into town and am so happy to have local radio that is so unique.

### Favorite WDRT shows?

My favorite shows on WDRT are Driftless Morning, Juice and Snack, Mr. Koppa's Neighborhood, Shock Therapy, Reggae Ponyard, Twisted Jams just to name a few. I really just turn on the radio to 91.9 and I have a soundtrack for my day.

### Favorite WDRT moments?

My favorite WDRT moments are when our community is highlighted. Mr. Koppa had a live remote from our county fair that was so fun to listen to. I enjoyed the Radio Free Space a couple of weeks ago that featured a new neighbor

of mine [musician Edward David Anderson of Backyard Tire Fire]. I love the local content.

### Why do you support WDRT?

Community radio has always been important to me because I like to listen to local programming. WDRT is a service to our community with the news and information that it provides as well as the wide variety of music programming that it offers. I like to listen to my neighbors on the radio and their selection of music. I'm always impressed how well it all sounds, plus WDRT has really awesome swag like my hat that I received from my sustaining membership.



## BECOME A SUSTAINER TODAY!

Sustaining Members have automatic monthly donations coming directly from their bank account. As a Sustainer, you get peace of mind knowing you're making a difference at your community radio station. You'll also receive one free gift each year PLUS now, Sustainers get one of these sweet, new WDRT lapel pins. Join the club at [wdrt.org/donate](http://wdrt.org/donate) and choose "Sustaining Membership".

## A Huge Thank You to Our Business Sponsors

The following businesses lend regular financial support to WDRT through Annual Underwriting. Stop in and let them know that you appreciate their support of our local community radio station!

**1-2 years**

- Driftless Integrative Psychiatry
- United Country - Oakwood Realty
- Soulful Saunas
- Hall Realty Co

**3-5 years**

- Edible Madison
- Ethos Green Power Cooperative
- Ewetopia Fiber Shop & Mill
- Vosseteig Funeral Home

**6-9 years**

- Adams Eye Clinic
- Westby Cooperative Creamery

**10+ years**

- Bank of Cashton
- Organic Valley
- Quality of Life Chiropractic
- Socially Responsible Retirement Strategies
- Vernon Communications Cooperative
- Viroqua Food Co-op
- Wonderstate Coffee
- Lind's Home Center

For information about WDRT sponsorship, email [underwriting@wdrt.org](mailto:underwriting@wdrt.org) or call Ann at 608-638-9378, ext. 4





Driftless Community Radio

311 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
VIROQUA, WI 54665

608-638-9378

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

**wdrt**  
**SPRING**  
**PLEDGE**  
**DRIVE**  
**WEDNESDAY MAY 8**

i get by with a little help from my friends...

⌚ SATURDAY JULY 27 ⌚  
**wdrt**  
**BLOCK**  
**PARTY**

July 27, 2024    3pm-9pm    311 S Main St.

**LIVE DJS AND BANDS, GAMES, FOOD AND MORE!**