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Next jam: Noon - 6 PM Nov. 16

SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46809

## PRESIDENTS CORNER:

We attended the West Michigan festival and had a great time. This group is working hard to provide two festivals a year. They have good talent and are affordable. The evening jamming was good but we spent, as usual, most of our time jamming with friends.

We decided to pull the trailer to Nashville, IN for a little R & R before going to IBMA at Nashville, TN. There was not much bluegrass but we did get some pickin' in before driving on down south.

As always, IBMA was a full week with little sleep. Seminars started at 9:30a and the evening NIBGA show case room ran from 11p to 2a. There were six bands each night previewing their stuff. The room attendance was sparse but we got to see talent that otherwise would have been missed.

Joe & Chris managed the room. Their objective was not to fill the room by scheduling national acts since we knew what they had. Chris found groups that have not been to Tri-State. It is from this pool of 18 or so bands that fresh talent for you was found.

This is not the only source of talent. We get many calls and promo packages each week wanting to play at the Kendallville events. Joe Steiner heads the band committee and inquiries are forwarded to him. He brings his choices to the board for final approval.

We talked with a number of promoters, agents and bands. We asked how were your summer events? What does 2009 look like? National and regional bands are feeling the effect of the slowing economy. Most are holding to 2008 prices even though expenses are up.

Linda, our treasurer, will be reporting to the board the results of the Labor Day festival. Next month, we'll include a summary of how we did.

Winter jam and board meetings start this month. Why not plan to attend either as a listener or a picker. Meetings are held the third Sunday from noon until six except December through April.

If the good Lord's willin' & the creek don't rise, we'll see you at a winter concert. Will you be there?

Jim Winger — President

## THIS AND THAT:

### IBMA AWARDS SHOW:

On October 2, bluegrass honored:

- **Entertainer Of The Year** Dailey & Vincent
- **Vocal Group Of The Year** Dailey & Vincent
- **Instrumental Group Of The Year** Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper
- **Male Vocalist Of The Year** Jamie Dailey
- **Female Vocalist Of The Year** Dale Ann Bradley
- **Song Of The Year** "Through The Window Of A Train," Blue Highway (Artists), Tim Stafford & Steve Gulley (Songwriters)

For a complete listing see [IBMA.org](http://IBMA.org)

### IBMA REPORT:

Our fourth year of operating an after hours artist showcase suite at the IBMA World of Bluegrass was a tremendous success. We'd like to make note, before we discuss the actual showcase suite, that each year when NIBGA members attend these events, we learn more about potential opportunities and are able to use our time more efficiently.

It is hard to quantify the name recognition and other benefits that NIBGA receives from the visibility gained at the event, but there can be no denying they are significant. Each year, NIBGA members are searched out by other attendees at the event for advice on running a festival, pointers on analyzing event results and metrics, opinions on various artists, and suggestions on musical instruments, setup, and accessories. We have achieved a high level of visibility at the event, which comes not only from a former IBMA board member and two Leadership Bluegrass graduates in NIBGA, but also from NIBGA members assisting with the IBMA educational seminars.

NIBGA members are also on IBMA educational committees, attended the DJ Taping Session and Gig Fair events, and had representation in most of the seminars. And, of course, all this is in addition to the after hours showcase suite and the visibility it brings the club not only from the physical operation, but also from related correspondence and publicity before, during, and after the event.

Our after hours suite provided a showcase opportunity for seventeen acts. For at least four of these acts, the NIBGA showcase was an exclusive for the 2008 World of

Bluegrass. As usual, we were not without challenges from last minute cancellations, but even in spite of that we fielded a quality lineup which will no doubt enhance NIBGA's image among convention attendees. We were especially fortunate, and thankful, to have a high quality sound system which was donated for all three nights that the suite was in operation by the Henhouse Prowlers.

We were also one of few, if not the only, after hours suite, with stage lighting, and several groups commented that this was very conducive to providing a good performance atmosphere. In fact, one group commented by e-mail after the event that the NIBGA suite had "hands down the best set up we played all night!" We had lots of favorable comments from attendees and bands and we had a good share of the overall after hours crowd for most of the showcases.

NIBGA also published an after hours showcase guide (complete with highly visible NIBGA logo, of course) for distribution at the World of Bluegrass. Many attendees were seen carrying the guide, and many even thought it was an IBMA publication. In fact, in one instance, an attendee asked a couple NIBGA members if they had seen the guide and where an additional copy could be located. Of course, the NIBGA members replied, "We not only know where you can get one, we published it!" and they directed the attendee to the door of the NIBGA showcase room.

The room operated from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. the following morning on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of the convention. This translated to a 3-4 a.m. bedtime, which presented a challenge for rising the next morning when NIBGA members were assisting with early morning educational seminars!

This being said, we all know that we cannot simply rely on past successes, but we need to be consistently ready to take advantage of opportunities in the present and future. We need to be aware of the changing nature of the music industry, and the population in general, and ensure that our club and event meet the needs of our membership and attendees.

One challenge that we encounter each year in operating the suite is that our ultimate purpose is not to draw a large crowd, but rather to locate and showcase high caliber acts which do not yet enjoy a high enough profile among the mainstream attendance to be considered "stars". The desired result is to provide a service to the acts involved, as well as to locate talent for the Tri-State festival.

During the hours we operate the suite, we compete with similar venues with a slightly different objective, which is to highlight those performers who have already achieved "star" status. These venues have an ultimate

goal of drawing a large crowd to showcase original compositions, record label rosters, talent agency rosters, etc. These venues also tend to have a larger budget to invest in their World of Bluegrass presence and operate in more centrally located and visible areas.

It is safe to say that we will have no difficulty locating talent for the 2009 Tri-State festivals, and a large percentage of that talent will likely be groups which showcased at the after hours suite or groups which we met at the Gig Fair. In fact, the challenge will be narrowing down the field of high caliber possibilities.

We look forward to continued attendance at the World of Bluegrass, and are already investigating possibilities for a greater presence and higher profile at next year's event.

On a personal note, we'd like to thank Al Ellis for all his assistance in managing the suite and taking care of all those things we couldn't do ourselves (or forgot to do!).

Also, we'd like to thank our suite-mates, Jim and Linda, for their indulgence in dealing with showcase suite paraphernalia stored in the room, and especially a 4 a.m. late night (morning!?!?) rib dinner and jam session with the Henhouse Prowlers and Spring Creek in the living room.

Chris Cooperrider and Joe Steiner

### **NIBGA BOARD 2008-09:**

The current board has agreed to serve again for the 2008-09 season. They are:

- Jim & Linda Winger - Pres. / Treas. 260-432-4485 5034 Wapiti Ct., Ft. Wayne, IN 46804
- Sandy Carnes (Charles) - V.P. 574-858-9308 7652 W. Person Rd., Warsaw, IN 46582
- T.J. & Barb Collins - Director / Secretary 260-868-5662 6731 ST RD 8, Butler, IN 46721
- Joe Wyandt (Rachel) - Director 419-622-3313 12791 State RT 114, Haviland, OH 45851
- Paul Saurborn (Sue) - Director 219-766-3204 368 E 1125 S, Kouts, IN 46347
- Pam Keiper (Dave) - Director 574-586-3558 7946 N. Tippecanoe Dr., Walkerton, IN 46574

### **MEMORIAL 2009:**

Jim:

We have been talking about doing something different for the Spring Bluegrass Thursday Supper and would like your input.

Do you think the Bluegrass people would be receptive to an All-You-Can-Eat Fish and Tenderloin Supper?

If we decide to go ahead with this venture, we need to get Dan's Fry Service out of Huntington, IN contracted pretty quick because he already has several dates in May, 2009 booked.

Thanks for the input! Janeie Meyer  
(We want to hear from you!  
dinner@nibga.com or write us. J.W.)

### **NEW INTERNET STATION:**

This site is good for both dialup and high speed listening: [www.bluegrassmix.com/](http://www.bluegrassmix.com/)

### **WEST MI BGF WAS WET:**

We arrived the Sunday before the festival started in a drizzling rain. Surveying the layout, we knew we only had one chance of parking our 9,500 pound trailer before getting stuck. After saying a few silent prayers, we gunned the big diesel Ford truck and took off across the grass.

We got stuck but we were pretty level and with no rain forecasted for the rest of the week, there was no fear that we wouldn't be able to pull out the following Sunday.

The sun broke out on Monday and the other campers started to arrive. The final tally was a record turnout for the festival. West Michigan has created a nice event that is held just before and just after Tri-State. You should put it on your list.

Later in the week, the rain from the left over hurricane swelled the local river but the camp ground was never in danger of flooding. Here are a couple of pickers who were caught paddling out of the water.

As you can see, bluegrass'ers are prepared, bringing a boat just in case ...

We hope the price doesn't go up next year



since they have water front sites.

### **CALL FOR JAMS:**

Next month we'll print a jam/club listing for the 2008/09 winter season. Send us your information by Nov. 8. Include location with street, city and zip code, contact name and phone number, jam schedule such as third Sunday Nov. through April.

Information will be included on the web as well as this newsletter.

### **BAND NEWS:**

#### **Michael Cleveland**

Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper won its second consecutive Instrumental Group of the Year award and Michael Cleveland took home his sixth Fiddle Player of the Year award at the IBMA Awards Show in Nashville, TN.

Flamekeeper won the Instrumental Group award last year, and Mike has won the Fiddle Player award six of the past eight years.

With six trophies he is second only to Stuart Duncan, who has won the award eight times. The award winners, chosen by the professional members of the IBMA, were announced at an entertainment-filled show at the historic Ryman Auditorium in downtown Nashville.

The band's new CD is *Leavin' Town*.

#### **Kickin' Grass Band**

The Kickin Grass Band celebrates the release of their third CD on Saturday, October 11 at the Cat's Cradle in Carrboro, NC. The show will feature songs from the new CD, including a guest appearance by former banjo player Ben Walters, and will be the debut Triangle performance with new banjo player Hank Smith.

The band's most recent release, simply titled *The Kickin Grass Band*, has been hailed as their most innovative work to date. It was released on October 7.

#### **Cedar Hill News**

Cedar Hill's Frank Ray was inducted into America's Old-Time Country Music Hall of Fame in Lemars, IA on August 30, 2008, and their *Poverty Row* CD was named Traditional Bluegrass CD of the Year by Rural Roots Music Commission.

#### **New Female Duet**

Liberty Pike band leader Valerie Smith along with bandmate and singer/songwriter Becky Buller, released their first duet album *Here's a Little Song* on Bell Buckle Records, Sept. 9.

The album's harmony style vocals stem from Smith & Buller's love of the highly popular brother harmonies of the past. Female duets are far and few between and this album only enhances an exciting partnership that Smith & Buller have developed over their time performing together with Liberty Pike.

#### **Dan Paisley**

Dan Paisley has released *The Room Over Mine* on Rounder Records.

"This is so good I don't know how to deal with it! Bluegrass music has been waiting for a record like this for a long, long time." – Alison Krauss

#### **Henhouse Prowlers**

Their new album *Trouble* should be ready for release soon. It's currently in the finishing stages of recording and mixing and finalizing the artwork. Some of the new cuts have been sent to radio stations and are already being played regularly and have been well received by fans. This album will contain a lot of original material. Greg Cahill and Don Stiernberg provided production assistance.

The Prowlers provided sound for the NIBGA showcase room at IBMA. A big thanks to them for making our room sound so good.

### **FOLLOW UP BEGINNER'S JAM:**

Welcome to the wonderful world of bluegrass!

It was really great to meet all of you at our Kendallville Beginner's Workshop/Slow Jam. School is under way, it is raining like crazy, so I am catching up on long overdue tasks - such as writing to all of you who gave your e-mail addresses this time or in past workshops.

Please know that we have all been where you are now; we are still learning and developing our skills. If you have ANY questions, comments, whatever, feel free to contact us via e-mail or by phone 517-547-7211. We would love to have the chance to enhance your learning experience. Share with us what you discovered at the festival after leaving the workshop. Did you check out some jams? Did you get involved in any jams? What was your impressions?

We will not bombard you with general emails or anything else, if you need assistance or just want to bounce things off of us, please do. If you just need someone to keep motivating you via emails, we can do that, too :)

Enjoy your adventures!

Maggie & Gary Bilby

### **OVER JORDAN:**

Hazel A. Fugate - 12/14/1939 - 8/28/2008



Hazel and husband Glen attended many festivals and usually parked on the north side of the maintenance building. They were there at the Memorial festival after missing a few years due to Hazel's health.

They were married 54 years and resided in Toledo, OH.

*(With thanks to Wayne Vincent. J.W.)*

#####

Hello my name is Jason Mead, Vickie Simmons son and Cecil Simmons step son. I am writing you this letter on behalf of my mother Vickie Simmons she wanted me to



write you a letter of thanks so with out further ado in her own words ...

Thank you to everyone who sent cards, prayers and thoughts to Cecil Simmons. He really missed not making it to the Kendallville Festival. He was a devoted

bluegrass fan. Cecil passed away on Sept. 29; we will miss him dearly.

Yours in Bluegrass, his wife, Vickie

Correspondence can be mailed to Vickie Simmons, 15800 Behling Road, Albion, MI 49224. I would love to hear from you y'all thanks again Vickie Simmons.

*(They usually parked across the track at the festivals. J.W.)*

### **LETTERS & E-MAIL'S:**

Dear Jim & Linda,

It was wonderful to read the positive comments regarding the Labor Day Festival, in your recent newsletter. Again, we appreciate your hard work and dedication to bring this fantastic event to our city.

I look forward to seeing you in the Spring!

W. Suzanne Handshoe - Mayor

City of Kendallville

#####

Hey Jim, Linda, all of the NIBGA board members & Joe Steiner;

I speak for the entire **Bluegrass Stagecoach** band in saying Thank You for having us at the Labor Day festival. We had a great time and some of the best jamming we have participated in for a long time.

The only complaint we have is being woke up by a banjo workshop about daylight, (we were up kinda late) 1 a.m. California time.

Again Thank You.

Dan Nelson - Bluegrass Stagecoach Band

#####

Hey Chris,

Just wanted to drop you guys a note to tell you thank you. We had a great time playing for you at the NIBGA showcase. Hands down the best set up we played all night! I hope you guys enjoyed it as much as we did.

And also thank you for the ticket to fan fest! That was perfect. Our mandolin player is a freshman in college so money is pretty tight for him. He wasn't going to go into fan fest because he didn't have the money so he used the ticket and was able to go to the mandolin workshop as well as watch the bands. He was very grateful.

Let me know when you guys are ready to book your festivals. We absolutely want to be involved and would appreciate the opportunity to come play for you again!

Thank you, you guys were terrific!

Angie Young - Jett's Creek (Ohio)

#####

Joe Steiner

It was great meeting you at IBMA, and thanks for allowing us to perform at your after-hours suite showcase. Palmer Divide is

very interested in playing at either or both of the NIBGA sponsored festivals on Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends.

Dick Carlson

Palmer Divide - Colorado Springs, CO

#####

Old Fashioned Bluegrass Jam with old fashioned values and common courtesy at the Old Depot in Piercetown, IN at St. Rt. 13 and Market St. next to the park.

First and third Wed. of the month beginning Oct.8; 6-9p; beverages & snacks available; acoustic instruments only - NO AMPLIFICATION. Tim May 574-453-1767 or Betty Dobbs 574-253-3604

#####

Jim

Dave and I would like to thank all of the folks who sent us cards, flowers and all of the prayers and support we received after the death of our Granddaughter. It has helped us through a rough time.

We are still learning to cope, and knowing we have such a great support team really helps. To everyone again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Dave and Pam Keiper

*(They received the sad news of the unexpected death at the festival. J. W.)*

### **CONCERTS & CLUBS:**

#### **IN THE CLUBS:**

**Harvest Time Restaurant**, 3418 E Everton Rd, Connersville, IN 47331 765-825-0092 Dinner 5p Bands \$6 donation

- 10/25 Dennis Barrett Bluegrass

**Gospel Barn**, 3550 S. SR 1, Bluffton, IN 46714 260-827-0362; pre-concert music 7p, artists 7:30p \$5, kids free. 10/27 last show this season

**LVD's**, The Old Bag Factory, 1100 Chicago Ave., Goshen, IN 574-825-7785 7p, \$15

- 11/07 The Corn Fed Girls
- 11/09 John Reischman & the Jaybirds

Opera House, 7<sup>th</sup> & Brook St., PO Box 37, Mitchell, IN 47446 812-849-2337 8p kids \$3

- 11/15 Dailey & Vincent ???

**Miami University Artist Series**, 1601 University Blvd., Hamilton OH 45011 Parrish Auditorium, \$3/order 513-785-3264 season pass, seniors, student, children tickets

- 10/25 Tony Rice Unit \$20 8p
- 11/15 Scott, Cowan, Flynn \$22 7:30p
- 01/31/09 Southern Routes \$20 7:30p
- 02/28/09 Illrd Tyme Out \$20 7:30p
- 03/28/09 Vance Gilbert \$18 7:30p

**Bluegrass Opry Barn**, 9461 SR 66, Oakwood, OH 45873-9357 1 mile N of Oakwood, OH in Paulding county 419-594-2435 or 419-594-2816 7p about \$10

- 11/08 Tommy Webb
- 12/06 Melvin Goins & Windy Mountain
- 12/12 Rick Prater & the Midnight Travelers
- 01/09 David Davis
- 02/20 Summertown Rd. (formerly Bo Isaac Band)

**The Ark** 316 S Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2108 734-761-1451 8p

- **10/30** The Lovell Sisters \$15
- **10/31** RFD Boys \$11
- **11/19** Cadillac Sky \$15
- **12/12** RFD Boys \$11

**Wayne County Raccoon Hunters Club**, 37816 Wick Rd., Romulus, **MI** 48174 Virgie McClearen 313-386-7241 7p \$6; dinner \$5

- **10/24** Bobby Hutch (country & bluegrass)
- **10/31** Strings and Things (Country)

Kentuckians of **MI**, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 \$6 buffet @ 7 PM, 734-484-1480 or 734-269-6602

- **10/24** Bill Bynum \$6
- **10/31** Bluegrass Echo Band \$8
- **11/07** Rock Bottom Mining Company \$6
- **11/14** Lonesome County Band \$6
- **11/21** Bobby Hutch \$6
- **12/05** Bo Isaac & Wheelwrights \$10
- **12/12** Hardline Drive \$6

**10/25** Dan Tyminski Band, Paul W. Ogle Cultural & Community Center, 4201 Grant Line Rd., New Albany, **IN** 47150 812-941-2526 8p \$27.50

**11/07-09** Grascals, R. Vincent, Nothin' Fancy, Bobby Osborne, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Dailey & Vincent, J. Reischman, Kenny & Amanda, Harman, Bankester Family; Crowne Plaza, Springfield, **IL** 217-529-7777 reservations; \$50 reserved seating \$45 general adm. Bluegrass Festival, PO Box 456, Jacksonville, **IL** 62651 SASE required

**11/07** Peter Rowan, Tony Rice 8p Kent Stage, 175 E. Main St., Kent, **OH** 44240 330-677-5005 \$25

**11/07** Dailey & Vincent, Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Campus, 739 S. Washington, Royal Oak, **MI** 48067 248-246-2400 7:30p \$20

**11/08** Lare Williams & New Direction, 7:30p

**11/15** Under Construction, Kent Theatre, Cedar Springs, **MI** 517-337-1517 or Timlittl @ msu.edu

**11/16** Dailey & Vincent, Union Christian Church, Terre Haute, **IN** 6p

**11/20** Punch Brothers featuring Chris Thile 7:30p Loeb Playhouse, Purdue University, W. Lafayette, **IN** 47907-2016 765-494-9712

**11/21-23** MBOTMA harvest jamboree, Marriott Minneapolis **MN** West, 800-635-3037

**11/22** Ricky Skaggs, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, 10700 S R 118 South, Van Wert, **OH** 419-238-6722 or www.npacvw.org \$25-40 7:30p

**11/22** Cadillac Sky; Lare Williams, Van Singel Fine Arts Center, Byron Center **MI** HS 49315 7p 616-878-9611

- **12/19** R.J. Thomas; Eddie Adkins; Karaoke Christmas potluck \$6 bring a dish to pass
- **12/26** Eddie Adkins \$6

**Huron Valley Eagles**, 13636 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, **MI** 8 - 12p 313-782-9215

- **10/25** Southern Explosion \$8
- **11/01** Marion Blue \$7
- **11/15** Deep Water Bluegrass \$7
- **11/22** Nitro Hill Band with Bo Kazy \$8
- **11/29** Spanky Moore Band \$10

**American Legion**, 1030 Central St., Evanston, **IL** 847-573-0443 8 PM \$20 Donation Adults, \$15 Seniors, Kids 16 & under

- **10/31** Lovell Sisters
- **11/14** Carrie Hassler
- **11/29** The Chapmans

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS :

**10/22** High Lonesome (movie) 6:30p free, Junior League (band) \$5 8:30p, Cinema Center, 437 E. Berry, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46802 260-426-3456

**10/24** Dan Tyminski, Music Mill, 3720 E. 82nd St, Indianapolis, **IN** 8p 317-841-1850 \$26-28

Apena **MI** HS Auditorium 616-690-0544

**11/08** Appalachia Grass, tentatively Lonesome Meadow; FOTMC, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 4p \$10

**11/08** Del McCoury Band; John Reischman, 7p sold out 10p \$26-30 Old Town School, 4544 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago, **IL** 60625 773-728-6000

**11/08** Ricky Skaggs, Civic Hall Perf. Arts Ctr, 380 Hub Etchinson Pkwy, Richmond, **IN** 47374 8p

**11/09** Dailey & Vincent Concert Solsberry Christian Church, Solsberry **IN** 47459 812-825-5222 6:30p (west of Bloomington, IN)

**11/14-15** Doyle Lawson, Dailey & Vincent, Cheryholmes, the Primitive Quartet, the Grascals, Lonesome River Band, Danny Paisley, Leroy Troy and Joe Mullins; Southern Ohio Indoor BGF, Roberts Centre, Wilmington, **OH** 937-372-5804 or online at www.somusicfest.com.

**11/15** Dailey & Vincent, Mitchell **IN** Opera House, 8p

**11/26** Greensky Bluegrass, Livery, 190 5th St., Benton Harbor, **MI** 49022 9p \$??

**11/29** Del McCoury Band, Little Nashville Opry, 704 SR 46 W, Nashville, **IN** 47448 812-988-2235

**12/06** Flintlock, Central Benefit for Angels, 1<sup>st</sup> Street Park District, Crete, **IL** 7p

**12/12** Goldmine Pickers, Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N. Main St., South Bend, **IN** 46601 574-232-2853 9-12p

**12/13** Appalachia Grass, Summertowne Road w/John Rigsby, Jack Hicks, Randy Thomas, and Bo Isaac, FOTMC, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 4p \$10

**12/13** Riders in the Sky, Little Nashville Opry, 704 SR 46 W, Nashville, **IN** 47448 812-988-2235 \$23

**01/17/2009** Dan Tyminski Band, Masonic Center, 525 W. Riverview Ave., Dayton, **OH** 45401 937-475-2485

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association  
5034 Wapiti Court  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946

## Address Service Requested

Take Your Pick!



Next jam & club meeting: Nov. 16  
SW Conservation Club  
Fort Wayne, IN