



Correspondence: NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946 (260) 432-4485 NL@nibga.com  
Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two with one mailing Published: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, mailed 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday monthly  
Next jam: Noon - 6 PM Oct 18 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46809

**PRESIDENTS CORNER:**

Warm and wonderful describes the Memorial weekend weather. It could not have been better. The festival was one of the biggest ever although the weekend before was cold and rainy. That poor weather kept folks from coming real early but come they did. The fairgrounds was packed on festival weekend listening to some of the best bands ever. The final financials are not completed but the preliminary shows that the festival was in the top three best ever; of course, so were the expenses.

A very big thanks goes to the volunteers who helped. Without your efforts, this event would not happen. A special thanks goes to Mary Jane Disbrow and Jan Meade who worked tirelessly at the gate for many, many shifts. They wrote a letter, you'll see elsewhere, encouraging members to volunteer more at the festival. We all need to remember that folks that used to help, may not be able to because of health or age. Every year, new faces need to volunteer to keep up the festival.

Congratulations goes to the Noble County Fair Corp. (NCCFC) They did a great job in getting everything ready for us even though they had some major problems to solve. Seems, as an example, the toilets under the grandstand didn't get winterized properly last fall and most of the porcelain and many of the copper pipes froze and broke. Extra effort on the Sunday before got everything ready just as we needed the facilities.

NIBGA wins WAWK  
business of the day May 21.  
Subway sandwiches for workers.



We attended the NCCFC board meeting which was held the week before our festival. It gave us a chance to introduce ourselves to their board and to briefly discuss our club. Their board is very large, around 50 members. NIBGA has a single interface to NCCFC, Don Moore. He is fantastic to work with. If we had something that needed addressed, he made it happen. As an example, he brought his equipment to the fairgrounds so we could distribute garbage cans. In the past we used golf carts to move the cans but with Don's trailer, we were able to quickly get the job done.

The T-shirt design was a big hit not only with attendees but with the shirt printer. The design was Mark Fore's staff favorite! Congratulations to the designer, Linda Winger. There will be a few sizes reordered for Labor Day so if you want yours, you had better get to the membership table early!

If the good Lord's willin' & the creek don't rise, we'll be camping and pickin' at Charlotte, MI.

Jim Winger — President

**THIS AND THAT:**

**TREASURER SPEAKS:**

If you haven't renewed, this is your last newsletter. There will be a red line on your mailing label indicating you haven't renewed. If you feel we made an error give me a call, 260-432-4485.

Linda Winger

**THANKS:**

**Taxi Service:**

Starting one-half hour before the music started, and running until the last attendee was safely at their destination after the shows, two taxis cruised the fairgrounds watching for the elderly, the handicapped, and the just plain tired attendees. The taxis were kept busy this year by several volunteer drivers. I'm not sure who enjoyed it more the riders or the drivers! Many of the drivers worked several two-hour shifts, but a special thanks goes to Elaine Vogie (9 shifts) and Jay Winger (7 shifts)!. Also to Jan Meade who worked 4 shifts in addition to the many that she put in at the gate. See the "volunteer" list in this issue for the entire list of drivers. My heartfelt thanks goes to ALL of them!!

Chris Cooperrider - chair

**Volunteers:**

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Dick Bacon   | Earl Healy      |
| Tonia Bacon  | Sherrie Humecky |
| Tyler Bherns | Jan Meade       |
| Gary Bilby   | Marilyn Mullins |
| Maggie Bilby | Elaine Vogie    |
| Bob Gilson   | Jay Winger      |
|              | Jean Yount      |

#####

**Kids Korner:**

The children's activities were well attended at the 2009 Memorial Day Festival. I estimate we had nearly 50 kids - up from our normal 25 to 30! The cup "Speed Stacking" was a new activity and most if not all the kids got some time to try it out, and compete against others. Based on their enthusiastic response, we will bring this back in the Fall. The kids also used fabric markers to color the new NIBGA design on plain white NIBGA shirts. Maybe you saw their handiwork around the grounds - they did a great job! Thank you to all the parents who volunteered to stay and help. Thanks also to those who helped me with the clean up. I appreciate all of your support.

Julie Goldsmith - Kid's Korner Chairperson

**Volunteers:**

- |                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Jade Bacon                        | Alexis Goldsmith |
| Jenna Bacon                       | Megan Goldsmith  |
| Chris Cooperrider                 | Marilyn Mullins  |
| Audrey Dennison                   | Jay Winger       |
| Several parents, sorry - no names |                  |

#####

The membership table wouldn't have happened if these folks hadn't helped.

Barb Collins

**Volunteers:**

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Brenda Aldrich |                |
| Carol Bacon    | Troy Bacon     |
| Jade Bacon     | Nikki Ellis    |
| Jenna Bacon    | Pam Keiper     |
| Richard Bacon  | Jerea LaChance |
| Tonia Bacon    | Sue Saurborn   |

#####

**Gate workers:**

Was it or was it not beautiful weather for show time and to top it off the bands were great, wonderful people, plenty to eat and great jams. I liked the on grounds flea market's [bought a radio for .50 cents that works just fine] Hey !! What's not to like?

I'd like to thank the following people for volunteering their time at the gate. I noticed there were about 25% less volunteers this time so a very special thanks to those who worked double shifts. A small reminder that volunteering helps us to keep prices down and I think we all like that idea so please give it some thought.

Again a special thanks to the following:

Juanita Anderson	Jan Meade
Joe Bartnik	Jim Miller
Jack Caudill	Miles Miller
George Clawson	Emmet Moore
Bobby Davis	Jack Mullins
Louie Disbrow	Sandi Paul
Mary Jane Disbrow	Jim Robinette
Nathan Gerken	Mary Beth Robinette
Stephan Gillespie	Art Scholten
Megan Goldsmith	Jane Taylor
Julie Goldsmith	Wayne Vincent
Mary Griffith	Chris Vogie
Greg Griffith	Carl Wilt
Earl Healy	Suze Wilt
Jerry McLane	JoAnn Woollett
Sioux McLane	Marvin Woollett

A big special thanks to Mary Jane Disbrow for the many, many volunteer hours at the gate. So on behalf of Gate Captains: Pam Keiper, Paul Saurborn; Associate Gate Captains: Dave Smith, Patty Page, Al Ellis, Leslie Ellis, Marianne Vogie; WE THANK ONE AND ALL!

Paul Saurborn

### BAND NEWS:

Although not a stage band, Dave Vogie and crew were professionally recorded singing his *Kendallville Train* song. A DVD was mastered. It will be shown at the Kendallville High School All-Class Reunion on Sept. 12 at the Kendallville Event Center. It usually attracts 400 to 500 people.

Dave and crew performed this song on stage last year.

### DOCTOR EARL:

Dear Dr. Earl,

A friend of mine told me that they used to play clawhammer banjo in bluegrass. I told him that made it old-time, not bluegrass, but he said that when Bill Monroe first started the Bluegrass Boys he had a clawhammer banjo player. I think he's been hitting the jug a bit too long. We've got a bet going so I hope you can help me with this one. If I win, he has to carry my bass to all the jams for the next month. If he wins, well, it has something to do with an accordion, and I'm not going there!

So what is it? Clawhammer or Bluegrass Banjo in Bill's band??

Signed - Not Playing Accordion

Dear Not,

I hope you've brushed up on your accordion-playing skills. I hate to tell you this, but when Bill first started the Bluegrass Boys he did indeed have a clawhammer banjo player, namely Dave "Stringbean" Akeman. At the time, Earl Scruggs and the bluegrass style banjo were still unknown, although Earl (and also Don Reno) had begun experimenting with the three finger "roll" pattern. I probably should also break

Dear Fellow Assc. Members;

Having just returned from the May festival we feel we need to speak up. It was a great Festival, weather was perfect, music great and campfire picking as good as ever. So what's the problem? **LACK of VOLUNTEERS** that's what.

We know you don't go to the festival to work, well none of us do. But please consider giving up two hours of your time, that is all they ask. More than once when our shift (gate) was up there was no one signed up to relieve us. Not wanting to leave the Gate Captain to do it all we stayed.

Folks it isn't hard work and if everyone would work just one shift it would help so much. The gate captains are all helpful and are there to answer any questions you or a customer have. To those who have worked in the past and feel they have done their part, that's fine and we know the Assc. appreciates what you have done. To those who have never helped, please give it a try. You may find it is great fun, we know we did.

Last but certainly not least. If NIBGA has to start paying for help at the gate we are reasonably sure that we will no longer have a **VERY REASONABLE** weekend that we now enjoy.

We know we will be signing up in Sept. but we really don't want to work as many hours as we did in May. Looking forward to meeting and working with more of you in Sept.

Sincerely

Mary Jane Disbrow

Jan Meade

the news to you that the early Bluegrass Boys even had an accordion player! That's right, Wilene (nicknamed "Sally Ann" by Bill Monroe) Forrester, wife of fiddler Howdy Forrester, played accordion and sang tenor with the Bluegrass Boys, overlapping briefly with Earl and Lester.

Now, the question is, were the Bluegrass Boys, before Earl and Lester arrived, playing bluegrass music? Of course, it would be a long time after Earl and Lester joined with Bill and then subsequently left before anyone really started using the term "bluegrass" to describe the music we all love. But, it is the doctor's opinion that even before Earl and Lester joined up, Bill had already started defining the "bluegrass" sound. If you listen to those early recordings, you will hear a certain drive in the music (provided by the string bass and driving mandolin and guitar rhythm) which had not

NIBGA presents Mayor Handshoe food donations, May 23. (even more was dropped off on Sunday)



been present in the string band music preceding the Bluegrass Boys.

Also, the early Bluegrass Boys featured instrumental "breaks" which were uncommon at the time. Not to mention the strong, crisp vocals. No doubt, when Earl and Lester arrived, the electricity \*really\* started to flow and forged the unmistakable bluegrass sound we know today, but it was already "bluegrass" before that. You see, there are a lot of elements that combine to make up the bluegrass style, and those elements aren't always required in exact doses. As much as I hate to say it, especially in print where it might survive for posterity, the banjo alone does not make music "bluegrass". And, (if you repeat this, I'll deny it), but bluegrass can even exist without the banjo ... although with some difficulty and only in small doses. (Egads, I can't believe I said you can have bluegrass without a BANJO!)

Gee, I wonder if we should go back to our roots and start bringing in accordion players for our festivals?

Nah.

### LETTERS & E-MAIL:

Hi, Jim & Linda,

Poul & I had a wonderful time at Kendallville. You ordered absolutely perfect weather and good neighbors. Our new favorite band is Palmer Divide.

We really enjoyed the workshops that those guys did, too. Greg and Dick gave us new things to think about on guitar and bass, which is what we all need from time to time. Now if only I could have faster fingers...

Thank you for another wonderful weekend. See ya Labor Day Weekend!

Linda & Poul Sandersen

####

Jim,

Just wanted to take a second and say thank you for everything this past weekend. We have been to a lot of festivals over the past 9 years as a band, and we've never been

treated any better than Kendallville. Everyone on the staff was great. We met a lot of wonderful people.

We would sure like to come back for either festival if the opportunity arises.

Thanks again,  
Larry Booth and James Creek Road

####

We enjoyed the weekend very much and would like to thank NIBGA for having New Southern Drive at their festival. We look forward to working with you again as we continue our musical journey. We also hope the fans enjoyed our show and you can keep tabs on us through our web site and myspace page.

Danny Bryant - New Southern Drive

####

June 2, 2009

Dear Jim & Linda

Thank you for another fantastic Bluegrass Festival!

I appreciate the fine manner in which your family and board volunteers run the weekend. Also, I cannot thank you enough for the wonderful generosity of food by the attendees.

Sincerely

Suzanne Handshoe - Mayor Kendallville

####

Terri (Grannis) made a quick trip to the Tri-State Bluegrass Festival over Memorial Day weekend. In addition to catching up with friends and picking a boatload of bluegrass music, she also caught up with the boys from CoalTown who were performing at the festival. Great musicianship and tight vocals abound with this group of Kentucky boys. Y'all are goin' to like these guys! In addition, Terri connected with a couple of other bands who will be "playin' the Opry" Zellie's Opry House!

####

The SW Conservation Club concert (June 6) went great! The weather was perfect! The band sounded really good. They had a good turn out of people and good food.

The man in charge had heard the Bacon girls play at the Jams and asked them if they would consider doing two 30 minute shows while Echo Valley was on break. They drew up a list of songs for 2 - 30 minute shows and pleased the crowd. They passed a straw hat and took up a collection for the girls.

Barb Collins

####

5/11/09

Still the biggest bargain in Bluegrass. (NIBGA memberships) So happy to be included in the best Association. Thanks too for the superb job you officers do.

Larry & Patrina O'Brien - Chesterfield, MI

**INTERNET FEATURES:**

**NIBGA chat room:**

<http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/nibga/>

**NIBGA Blog:** [nibga.blogspot.com](http://nibga.blogspot.com) This site will have news posted during the festival.

**CONCERTS & CLUBS:**

**IN THE CLUBS:**

**Flatland Bluegrass Barn**, 7342 S Stone Rd, W. College Corner, IN 47003 2-5p 765-732-3440 "donation bucket"

- **06/28** Wes Miller Band
- **07/05** Cornfields & Crossroads
- **07/12** New Outlook
- **07/19** Evan Lanier & Bluegrass Express
- **07/26** Carl Bentley & Eagle Creek
- **08/02** HeavenlyGrass & Barnstormin'Bluegrass
- **08/09** Goldwing Express 12p ? limit 200 \$7

**Harvest Time Restaurant**, 3418 E Everton Rd, Connersville, IN 47331 765-825-0092 dinner 5p bands 7-9p \$6 donation

- **06/27** James White Deere Creek
- **07/04** Wildwood Valley Boys
- **07/11** All American Bluegrass
- **07/18** Dennis Barrett w Marvin, Rosey & Judy
- **07/25** Aaron Law Sugar Creek

**Glass City Opry**, 601 E. Conant St., Maumee OH 43537-3363 doors 6p show 7-9p 419-250-1096

- **08/21** Michael Cleveland \$15
- **09/14** Fulton County, Fossil Creek \$10
- **10/12** David Davis \$15
- **11/16** New Found Road \$15

**Zellie's Opry House**, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 [zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com](mailto:zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com) 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

- **07/18** CoalTown
- **08/15** Freewheelin'

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

- **07/30** Hardline Drive \$12.50
- **08/13** The Austin Lounge Lizards \$20

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

- **07/04** Bridge County
- **07/18** Bobby Hutch & Grand Old Country

**FESTIVALS & EVENTS :**

**06/25-27** Harbortown, K. Scroggins, Bo Isaac, V. Combs, Gold Wing, Dailey & Vincent, D. Parmley, D. Rigsby, III<sup>rd</sup> Tyme Out, Lonesome River, Lewis Family, New Found Rd, Steep Canyon Rangers, Bill Yates, M. Raybon, J.D. Crow, Grascals, D. Evans; Charlotte MI BGF, 517-372-7890

**06/24-27** ROMP '09, Owensboro, KY 888-692-2656

**06/26-28** M. Cleveland, Freight Hoppers, Prairie Acre, Darol Anger, Woodstove Flapjacks; Fiddlers Gaithering, Battle Ground, IN 765-742-1419

**06/26** Cherryholmes, Lexington Music Theatre Co., 7318 Huron Ave., Lexington, MI 48450 8:30p \$27, \$32, \$39

**06/27** Black Canyon Concert, The Box Factory, St. Joseph, MI 8p 616-457-5228

**06/27** Cherryholmes, Interlochen Center for the Arts, 4000 M-137, Interlochen, MI 49643 8p

**06/28** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass, Lakeshore Park, Celina, OH 6:30-8pm 419-568-1220

**07/02** Reel Tyme String Band, Fig Tree Gallery & Coffee House, Helmsberg, IN 47448 812-988-1375 7-9p

**07/04** Grassahol, Clintonville Farmer's Market 3519 N. High St, Columbus, OH 9:30-1:30a

**07/08** Under Construction, Meridian Historical Village Summer Concert Series, Okemos, MI 7:30-9p 517-349-1154

**07/09-11** Hart Frothers, Buck & Co., Dixie Ryders, Northwest Territory, Black Diamond, Stockdale Family, Muddy Krick, more, COBA BGF, Hartford Fairgrounds, 14028 Fairgrounds Rd., Hartford Village, OH 43011 740-965-2878 wknd \$35 camp \$12/day

**NIBGA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

[www.BluegrassUSA.net](http://www.BluegrassUSA.net)

2009-2010 dues are due April 30, 2009. Fill out form and mail with check to:

NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Ft. Wayne, IN 46804-4946. (260) 432-4485 e-mail: [NL7@nibga.com](mailto:NL7@nibga.com)

NL7/09

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

YES: e-mail mine: \_\_\_\_\_ NO snail mail it: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 SINGLE: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 FAMILY / Inc. CHILDREN thru age 15 \_\_\_\_\_

**07/10** RFD Boys \$11, The Ark 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104-2108 734-761-1451 doors open 7:30p, show 8p

**07/10-11** M. Stewart, Lewis Family, D. Lawson, Easter Family, Easter Brothers, Set Apart, Shipshewana **IN**, (zip 46565) 260-768-7589 or 888-447-4725 tickets available from \$35 to \$349.

**07/16** Hickory Wind, Fig Tree Gallery & Coffee House, Helmsberg, **IN** 47448 812-988-1375 7-9p

**07/17** Flintlock 6:30p Talltree Arboretum and Gardens, Valparaiso, **IN** 219-743-8142

**07/17-18** Harbourtown, The Allegheny Drifters, The Prater Brothers, Ottawa County, Lonesome Meadow; Country Stage Music Park, TWP road 1030, Nova, OH 44814 440-213-8358 \$25 wknd

**07/30** Hardline Drive \$12.50, The Ark 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104-2108 734-761-1451 doors open 7:30p, show 8p

**07/31-08/01** Pic Crew, Vernon McIntyre, Evan Lanier, BG Express, Rock Island Plow, Black Diamond, Dixie Ryders, Roundeyes Park Festival, Arcanum, **OH** 45304 937-548-7219

**08/01** Diamond Hill Station, Birdy's Bar & Grill, 2131 E. 71<sup>st</sup> St., Indianapolis, **IN** 46220 317-254-8971

**08/01** Black Canyon, Bluegrass On The Lakeshore, Muskegon County Fair Grounds, Muskegon, **MI** 616-457-5228

**08/01** Under Construction Bluegrass Band, more, Bluegrass on the Lakeshore Festival, Muskegon

**08/13** Under Construction Bluegrass Band, Eaton Rapids **MI** Gazebo on the Island Summer Concert, 7-9p 517-663-5310

**08/13-15** Dailey & Vincent, Grascals, L. Stephenson, P. Williams, R. Vincent, III<sup>rd</sup> Tyme Out, M. Raybon, JD Crow, Nothin Fancy, Bo Isaac, New Found Road, Goldwing, L. Jordan., Bill Yates tribute to Country Gent, Lewis Family, David Parmley, Dave Evans, The Cats & The Fiddler, Dan Paisley, Vince Combs; KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd, Milan, **MI** 734-439-1076

**08/14-16** Junior Sisk, Wells Family, Rick Prater, Level Crossing, Bill White, Acoustical Strings, Prairie Siding; Conestoga Trail Bluegrass & Gospel Festival, 325 Highway No.2 – RR 1, Princeton, **Ont** NOJ 1V0 519-458-4515

6p Fri, Noon on Sat

**07/18** Gilbert and Co., 1612 Sherman St., Fort Wayne, **IN** 46808 260-424-8812 7-9pm

**07/21** Grassahol, Music On the Lawn Grandview Library, 1685 W. First Ave., Grandview, **OH** 7:30-8:30p

**07/22-25** Blue Highway, B. Walker, C. Jackson, J. Salley, Larry Cordle, Church Sisters, Dailey & Vincent, Dale Ann Bradley, D. Paisley, D. Parmley, D. Rigsby, D. Lawson, D. Connell, Gibson Brothers, Grascals, J.D. Crowe, J. King, J. Mullins, J. Williams, Jr. Sisk, Kenny & Amanda, Larry Cordle, L. Stephenson, Lonesome River, Lost & Found, MACC Children's Band, Marty Raybon, M. Cleveland, Mountain Heart, New Found Rd, Pine Mountain RR, R. Kohrs, R. Vincent, R. Bowman, R. Moore, Steeldrivers, Steep Canyon Rangers, T. Rice, Wildfire: Musicians Against Childhood Cancer, Hoover Y Park, 1570 Rohr Rd, Lockbourne, **OH** 43137 web site for prices & schedule

**07/25** Flintlock, 5p Hanna Hub, 2 W Moore St., Hanna, **IN** 46340 219-797-5675 or 219-743-8142

**07/26** Under Construction Bluegrass Band, Cross Roads Village, 6140 Bray Rd., Flint, **MI** 10-5p 810-736-7100

**MI** County Fairgrounds, Noon-10p 231-730-3616 616-846-5163

**08/06-09** Many stars, MBOTA festival, Richmond, **MN**

**08/08** Flintlock, 6p Lake County Fair Heritage Stage, Crown Point, **IN** 219-743-8142

**08/08** Grassahol, Farm Days Show, Morrow County Fairgrounds, Mount Giliad, **OH** 8-10p

**08/08** RFD Boys \$11, The Ark 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104-2108 734-761-1451 doors open 7:30p, show 8p

**08/09** Flintlock, 6p Lake County Fair Grandstand, Crown Point, **IN** 219-743-8142

**08/11** Cats & the Fiddle 7:30-9p Free; Oakland Community College, Royal Oak Campus, 739 S. Washington Royal Oak, **MI** 48067 248-246-2400

**08/13** Black Canyon, Bluegrass at the Fair, Kent County Fairgrounds, Lowell, **MI** 7:30p 616-457-5228

**08/14-16** Diamond Hill Station, Misty Mountain, Echo Valley, Twenty Three, Lonesome Meadow, Chapel Hill; Osceola BGF, City Park, Osceola, **IN** 574-674-9426

**08/14** Grassahol, bluegrass happy hour at Byrne's Pub, 1248 West 3rd Ave., Columbus, **OH** 7-9p

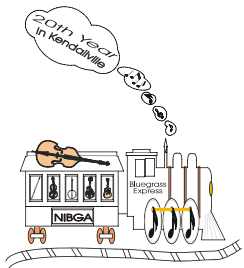
**08/15** Freight Hoppers, Arvel Bird, Goldmine Pickers, Ty Causey, PT Gazell, Huckleberry Blue, Two Man Gentlemen band, Rhythm and Roots festival, Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne, **IN** 260-456-4172 \$20 advance, @ Gate - \$25, Ages 10 & under Free with adult, Ages 11 - 15 - \$10 only w/adult; benefits Vincent Village, providing shelter, affordable housing and supportive services to homeless families with children.

**08/15** Flintlock, 6p Lake County Fair Heritage Stage, Crown Point, **IN** 219-743-8142

**08/16** Goldmine Pickers \$12.50, The Ark 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104-2108 734-761-1451 doors open 7:30p, show 8p

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

## Address Correction Requested



Don't miss Tri-State  
Sept. 3-6, 2009