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Next jam: Noon - 6 PM 10/16/11 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46809

### PRESIDENTS CORNER:

This has been a tough year so far for festivals. The spring West Michigan event had poor attendance even though the show was held inside. NIBGA's Kendallville Memorial weekend had the largest loss every, over \$7,000.

Burke Cole has said that Leslie this year is his last there. The Charlotte festival for the first time in recent memory had plenty of empty camping spots and the stage area had room for chairs under the shelter. A guess was the gate was down 40-50%!

One of the dangers of an outdoor festival is the unpredictability of the weather. Your event can be sunny and fine but folks 30 miles away have rain and decide to stay home. Let's hope that we don't lose festivals because of one or two bad years. NIBGA has kept enough funding in reserve to weather these problems. An event has to keep funding in reserve to cover uncontrollable problems.

On a positive note, we attended a campout with friends in western Indiana at a private campground. The weather was hot but after the sun went down it was great picking weather. We had a wonderful time although we did spend more money than at any festival we have attended recently. The campout again

brought home the value received when you camp at a bluegrass festival.

Dave Vogie is at work assembling the Saturday morning workshop schedule. The full day workshops at the Memorial festival will likely be held just once a year. The Labor Day festival will resume the standard workshop format of 30 minute sessions on Saturday morning. Dave is also working on having the slow jam on Friday. More information will be available next month.

Adverse weather impacted Memorial festival attendance but the advertising NIBGA conducted may have still helped. The plan is to again heavily promote the festival with radio ads and the bluegrass wrap that is published by the News-Sun.

Just a reminder for campers; 15 amp service will not support A/C and other high amperage devices such as coffee pots, electric skillets, etc. Before you park your rig, make sure you are going to be satisfied with the power available. We strongly recommend that you do not piggy back off of another unit nor split a 15 amp plug.

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll be campin' and pickin' at Marshall!

Jim Winger - President

### DISCOVER BLUEGRASS DAY:

"It could have lasted all day!" "Awesome!" "Yes, yes, yes — I learned a lot!" "Outstanding" "Best workshops I've ever attended" These are just a few of the comments heard from the Spring 2011 Discover Bluegrass Day workshops held on Friday of the Memorial Day Festival.

With all the people moving around, it was a bit hard to get an accurate count, but my best estimate is that at least 115 "unique" people attended workshops, many attending multiple workshops. Yes, banjo and dulcimer players are "unique", but I'm using that term to mean that I only counted each person one time, even if they attended more than one workshop. Workshops were held for beginning guitar, banjo, bass, beginning jam, dancing, dobro, dulcimer, fiddle, harmonica, harmony singing, mandolin, and song writing. There was also a special "masters" class by Bull Harmon in intermediate/advanced guitar.

Surveys were passed out and about 80% were returned. There were some interesting results from these surveys. For instance, at least 20 people came for the day just because of the

workshops, and another 10 came just for the workshops, but spent the entire weekend. More interesting is that the people that came for the weekend mostly live within a half-hour's drive of Kendallville (I'll bet they drove back and forth), but the people that came for just the day mostly live more than 2 hours away.

The biggest attendance was for the dancing workshop, with at least 38 people attending. There were about 13 people in the live band, additionally. Marilyn and Jack Mullins were in charge of recruiting old-time musicians to play for the dance and they all seemed to be having as much fun as the dancers themselves. I noted that our board VP, Joe Steiner, attended part of this class, so I expect to see him on the dance floor at the next festival!

The bluegrass jam class was as big as ever, with at least 20 participants. I noticed that many of the people that "came just because of the workshops" attended this class. Maggie Bilby conducted this popular session.

Other very popular sessions were the song-writing and harmony singing classes (17 people each), dulcimer and mandolin classes (16 people each), beginning guitar (12), and

harmonica (10) classes. There were a lot of requests on the surveys to have all of these classes again in the future.

Overall, I think the workshops went very well. We attracted at least 30 people that wouldn't have been here otherwise (not including travel partners) and, if nothing else, gave a value-added service to our regular, faithful attendees.

### STOLEN INSTRUMENTS:

Here is a detailed list of what was stolen from my home in West Lafayette, IN the night of June 27. Please contact Janet Glossic, (765) 532-6086, if you see any of the instruments in pawn shops or for sale on Craig's list.

- 1913 A-style Gibson mandolin, spruce top, "The Gibson" on tail piece, nothing on head stock, pick guard intact
- three fiddles:
  - one is homemade, over-sized, and has the date 1945 inside
  - all of them were missing bridges and had the strings hanging loose
- mountain dulcimer, solid cherry, heart sound holes, pegs instead of mechanical tuners, large crack in bottom
- acoustic guitar case, royal blue interior
- mouth bow

### PARADE OF CORDS:

Friday and Saturday, Sept. 2 and 3, is the first Indiana Aviation Automation Fair at the Kendallville Airport. To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cord automobile, a parade of restored Cords will travel from Auburn to the airport, passing the fairgrounds on Friday.

They are scheduled to arrive at about noon. This is similar parade to last year's Duesenbergs. The Cords will also be racing on the runway.

Also - A World War II vintage B-17 bomber, one of only three flying that carry passengers, will arrive at the airport that day. The plane will be available for free tours, and then have two flights for paying passengers in late afternoon. All seats have been sold.

There should be some flyovers near the fairgrounds. On Saturday there will be an auction of aircraft, aircraft parts and aircraft memorabilia, only the second one of its type ever in the state. Area industries connected to the aircraft industry will have displays.

These activities may interest some of the Bluegrass festival-goers.

Dennis Nartker - News-Sun

## LETTERS & E-MAILS:

Jim;

Check out the concert that the Purple Cowboys did for the Front Porch's (in Valparaiso, IN) 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. You can find it on YouTube.com by typing in 'purple cowboys reunion.' Please use headphones or you need a good speaker system because it seems to have been taken by someone's phone and posted (we don't know who).



Purple Cowboys – guitar, vocals, Kurt Anderson (center); vocals, banjo Waz Lisek; fiddle, vocals Dane Schuyler; bass, vocals, Tom Rice; guitar, Bob Zivic – have individually and collectively played in region groups such as Flintlock, Hobart Mountain Boys and Bluegrass Heritage over the course of the last three decades—plus, bluegrass and otherwise.

There are 4 different videos. Just wanted to share this with you and if you like make a note of it in the NIBGA newsletter for people to check out. We have been playing again and did this as a fundraiser for the Porter County Animal Shelter and raised over \$1,000.

We also did a tribute to Junichi Saki our banjo player in the 90's during the performance

Thanks, hope to see you soon.

Kurt Anderson & the Purple Cowboys

*(The Cowboys from the Valparaiso area played on our stage several times from 1992 until 1998 before retiring. It is good to see them back together. Most of the band has been attending our festivals and can be found on the east side of the track. J.W.)*

####

Hello NIBGA, letting you know that Diamond Hill Station has reformed and are booking festivals for 2012. We are starting our fall and winter tour this September. Our new website is up and running (a few pages are still under construction) and shows where we are being booked. Please browse our site.

Thank you, - Michael White

www.diamondhillstationband.com

## CAMPING AND BLUEGRASS:

Campers are an important part of a bluegrass festival both financially and for the ambiance they add. Campers generally arrive prior to the start of the event providing camping income in addition to event ticket income.

Campers are often the hosts of “camp fire jams.” At Kendallville there are around 400-500 camping units on the grounds by Saturday of the festival.

With the price of gas some might be thinking that a camping unit is no longer the best choice for a vacation. Here are points prepared by Recreation Vehicle Industry Association, (RVIA) a manufactures association.

- RV travel is a great value. The PKF Consulting Vacation Cost comparison study showed that a family of four can save 26-to-71 percent on vacation costs depending on the type of trip and type of RV used. More than 80 percent of RV owners say their RV vacations cost less than other forms of vacation.
- While fuel prices remain well below their pre-recession high, prices are about 90 cents per gallon higher than they were a year ago. (source: Gas Buddy for Fort Wayne, IN) When fuel prices rise, RVers adjust by traveling to destinations closer to home or driving fewer miles, according to surveys of RV owners conducted by RVIA and CVENT, a leading provider of online surveys and research technology.
- More than 80% of RVers say their RV vacations cost less than other forms of vacation, even when fuel prices rise.
- To save on fuel, RVers typically spend more time enjoying the campground experience and less time on the road. More than 16,000 campgrounds nationwide give RVers the flexibility to save fuel and cut costs by staying closer to home. Whether they travel five miles or 500, they can still enjoy a great outdoor experience.
- Fuel prices would need to more than triple from their current level to make RVing more expensive for a family of four than other forms of travel, according to PKF Consulting. PKF's spring 2008 vacation cost comparison study shows that RV trips remain the most affordable way for a family to travel because of the significant savings on air, hotel and restaurant costs, which continue to rise.
- Fluctuating fuel prices affect the cost of all modes of travel and transportation. Airfares and hotel rates rise rapidly when fuel costs increase.
- Many RV owners surveyed take additional measures to reduce fuel consumption through simple steps like driving 55 instead of 65 miles per hour, packing lighter to reduce weight in the RV, and turning off home utilities to save energy when traveling. RVers travel at a leisurely pace with no tight schedules for flights, hotels or restaurants.

## DIGITAL MUSIC FROM PINECASTLE:

New Pinecastle owner Lonnie Lassiter is doing much more than just resurrecting the label after health issues forced founder Tom Riggs to retire in February 2010. They are in the process of creating digital re-issues from the deep catalog of titles from both the Pinecastle and WEBCO brands it controls.

12 long out-of-print recordings are now available for digital download purchase, including albums from Larry Stephenson, The Reno Brothers and The Rarely Herd. Dozens more are in the pipeline for the same treatment in coming weeks, including both deep catalog and more recent releases.

The following are available now from popular download resellers like iTunes and Amazon:

- Larry Stephenson  
*Close My Eyes to Heaven*  
*Everytime I Sing a Love Song*  
*Wash My Blues Away*  
*Born to Sing*  
*Can't Stop Myself*  
*Far Away in Tennessee*
- The Rarely Herd  
*Coming of Age*  
*Part of Growing Up*
- The Reno Brothers  
*Acoustic Celebration*  
*Drawing from the Well*  
*Kentucky Gold*  
*Swing West*

All the tracks from these 12 projects are available to radio programmers through Airplay Direct, as are the many albums scheduled for download release in coming weeks.

## LABOR DAY BANDS:

Next month there will be details on each of the bands scheduled for the Labor Day festival. Here is a list of bands and when they play. Showcase bands will play Thursday evening.

- All4Hym (VA) (Su)
- Buck & Company (WV) (F/Sa)
- Gravel Creek (MI) (T)
- Mississippi Sawyers (MO) (S/S)
- Monroe Crossing (MN) (Su)
- Not Too Bad Bluegrass (IN) (T/F)
- Kati Pen & NewTown (KY) (S/S)
- Rock Island Plow (OH) (T/F)
- Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen (VA) (F/Sa)
- Art Stevenson & High Water (WI) (S/S)
- Stockdale Family (OH) (F)
- Westbound Rangers (TN) (S/S)
- Wolfe Brothers (VA) (S/S)
- Showcase Bands (Th)

## OVER JORDAN:

Kenny Baker, 85, died July 8 following a stroke. He is noted for his “long bow” fiddle work. He is the fiddler that Bill Monroe used when recording his Uncle Pen Vandiver.

## WHAT TO BRING TO THE FESTIVAL:

If you have a tent or trailer, you've probably camped before, so there is no reason to tell you what you should bring. But be prepared for any kind of weather: wet, dry, sunny, cloudy, hot, or cold. The festival goes on, rain or shine. Here are some things that you don't want to forget:

- Low Back Chairs - for festival & campground. If you only have high backs, please set in the rear of the audience so you don't block others view of the stage.
- Blankets - for ground comfort and/or warmth It can get very cold late at night.
- Baggage carrier, wagon, or backpack - To carry essentials from campground.
- Sunscreen - for you and the little ones.
- Wet wipes - Antiseptic & hand wash.
- Toilet paper - you never know.
- Hats - there are large tents at the stage area but they are usually full so you may have to sit in the sun.
- Insect repellent - nothing is more irritating than those gnats.
- Beverage cups - all beverages should be in them.
- Fanny pack - Keep your valuables on you, not beside you.
- Rain gear - the festival is rain or shine. Be courteous with tarps and umbrellas. Please don't block the view of those behind you.
- Water - There are water faucets in most of the fair buildings and it is city water.
- Instruments - believe it or not, some folks buy tickets and never go to the stage. They just sit and pick in the campgrounds, and have a blast! It has been rumored that some just keep playing all night!!!
- Flashlights - to find your way back late at night.
- First aid kit - your little ones and big ones can get scrapes.
- Earplugs - if you want to go to sleep early or sleep in quiet.
- Games & activity books - for times when there are no scheduled kid's activities
- There are golf cart taxis that will take you from the stage area to your camp site and visa versa.

## INTERNET FEATURES:

**NIBGA chat room:** [tinyurl.com/yh3ew5t](http://tinyurl.com/yh3ew5t)

**NIBGA Blog:** [nibga.blogspot.com](http://nibga.blogspot.com)

**NIBGA web page:** [BluegrassUSA.net](http://BluegrassUSA.net) has links to the above and includes all the events in the newsletter plus additions between newsletters.

## BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN INDIANA

**07/23** Grass Creek, Dixie Bee Liners, CLC band, Live 4:1, Woodburn IN Music & BBQ Fest, Dan Keller - 260-402-5894 also Indiana Dulcimer festival that weekend.

**08/26-28** Karl Shiflett, Goldwing, Nothin' Fancy, Branded Bluegrass, Kenny Stinson, Appalachian Grass, Bahler-Graber, Winding Creek BGF, 2556 S350W, Kokomo, IN 46902 765-438-1050; call for directions!

**08/25-27** Dailey and Vincent; Blue Gate Theater, 195 N Van Buren St., Shipshewana, IN 46565 888-447-4725 7p various prices see website

**09/01-04** Frank Solivan, Kati Penn & New Town, Buck & Co., Art Stevenson, Monroe Crossing, Wolfe Brothers, Mississippi Sawyers, Rock Island Plow, Westbound Rangers, Not Too Bad Bluegrass, Stockdale Family, All4Hym, Gravel Creek; Tri-State Bluegrass Festival, 4H Fairgrounds, Kendallville, IN 46755 260-918-4790 Also the Kendallville Aviation fair will be on that weekend.

**09/03-04** Birch Creek, New Terrain, Louie Popejoy, Common Ground, Denman Family, Bobby J & The J Boys, Whitenuckles, New Old Timers, Diamond Hill Station, Hickory Hollow, Misty Stevens; Bluegrass for Billy Festival, Graves Field Saline City, IN Dave Amerman 812-239-2662

**09/02-03** Isaacs; Blue Gate Theater, 195 N Van Buren St., Shipshewana, IN 46565 888-447-4725 7p various prices see website

**09/03** Appalachian Grass, Timberline Valley RV Resort, 3230 E CR 75 N, Anderson, IN 46017 765-378-5909

**09/11** Ricky Prater & the Midnite Travelers, Fan Appreciation Day, Backstage parking lot, downtown Wolf Lake, IN 1p free

## BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN MICHIGAN

**07/21-23** Audie Blaylock & Redline, Harbortown, Echo Valley, Schlitz Creek, Ovation, The Prater Brothers, West Bound Rangers, Deadwood, Picking Up Speed, The Ladies In Black & Gold Strings; Marshall BGF, Calhoun County Fairgrounds, 720 Fair St., Marshall, MI 49068-1684 wknd adv: \$25 gate \$30 269-781-5909

**08/05** RFD Boys, Zellie's Opry House, P. O. Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 [zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com](mailto:zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com) 616-260-3032 \$5

**08/11-13** Grascals, Larry Stephenson, Next Best Thing, Rhonda Vincent, Junior Sisk, Dan Paisley, Newfound Road, Wildwood Valley, Nothin' Fancy, IIIrd Tyme Out, Goldwing, Lonesome River, Joe Mullins, Barry Scott, Bill Yates, Bluegrass Brothers, Harbortown, Cats & the Fiddler, S&S Express, Lost & Found; Milan, KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd., Milan, MI adv. \$65 gate \$75, camping \$12/day info/tickets 248-435-2828, camp 734-439-1076

**08/12-13** North Central Regional Fiddlers Convention, Hillsdale MI Fairgrounds, camping available. Fiddlers Hall of Fame Sat. @ 1p music @ 5p 517-628-2108

**08/20** 7:15pm: TBA, 8:15pm: TBA WMBMA Membership Mtg & Hotbands Fundraiser, Zellie's Opry House, P. O. Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 [zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com](mailto:zelliesopryhouse@gmail.com) 616-260-3032 \$5

**09/16-18** WMBMA Fallfest, Lowell, MI fairgrounds

**09/17** Michigan Fiddlers Assoc. Salvation Army, 1235 E. Fulton, Grand Rapids, MI 49530 2-5p Fiddlers, 5-6p Open mike, 6-8 Round & Square dance 517-628-2108

## BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN OHIO

**07/20-23** James King, Don Rigsby, Dale Ann Bradley, Larry Stephenson, Gibson Brothers, Bill Yates, IIIrd Tyme Out, Shawn Camp & Mike Bub, Balsam Range, Nothin' Fancy, Michael Cleveland, Lou Reid, Marty Raybon, The Grascals, Johnson Mountain Boys, Rarely Herd, New Found Road, Danny Paisley, David Parmley, Junior Sisk, J.D. Crowe, Doyle Lawson w the Centerville Alternative Strings, Lonesome River, Old Friends - J.D. Crowe, Doyle Lawson, Paul Williams, Darin & Brooke Aldridge, Lost & Found, Joe Mullins, Ronnie Bowman, Larry Cordle, Mighty Haggard, Blue Highway, The MACC Opry - "Murder on Music Row" w Carl Jackson, Bradley Walker, Jerry Salley, Larry Cordle, Randy Kohrs, Brooke Aldridge, Val Story, Garnett Bowman & many MACC mbrs, Steel Drivers; 26 MACC Bluegrass Classic, Hoover Y-Park, Columbus, OH

**07/21** Appalachian Grass, Music at the Market, Commodore Park, 140 E Indiana, Perrysburg, OH 419-873-2787 7-8:30p free

**07/22** Rock Island Plow Co., Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 7-9p 614-486-4722

**07/23** Open Highway, Frosty Morning \$10, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, OH 43025 5p

**07/23** Opry with Appalachian Grass; \$10 7-10:30p, Famous Old Time Music Co., 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 419-568-1220 \$10

**07/28** Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Co., 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

**07/30** Rock Island Plow Co., Ohio State Fair, Columbus, OH

**07/30** Appalachian Grass, Uniopolis Jambo-ree, 140 Waynesfield Pike, Uniopolis, OH 45888 6-9:30p free

**08/04** Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

**08/05-06** Gold Wing, Appalachian Grass, Mike Lilly, Dixie Ryder's, Rock Island Plow Co., New Mt. Harmony, Roundeyes BGF, 8805 Painters Creek, Arcanum, **OH** 45304

**08/06** New Outlook, Ricky Prater, Idletymes, New County Grass, Ottawa County Bluegrass, New Old Timers; \$15 Hidden Valley BGF, 4137 County Road 25, Archbold, **OH** 43502 419-445-1101

**08/06** Appalachian Grass, Mt. Healthy Gazebo Park, 7700 Perry St. Mt. Healthy, **OH** 45231 details: 513-931-8840 7-9p

**08/19-20** Southern Tradition, Whitaker Brothers, Open Highway, Kentucky Border, Out Of Mind BB; Country Stage Music Park, 40A Twp. Road 1031, Nova, **OH** 44859 Kurt Hickman @ 440-213-8358

**08/20** Caney Creek, Out Of Mind \$10, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 43025 5p

**08/20** Opry with Appalachian Grass; \$10 7-10:30p, Famous Old Time Music Co., 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220 \$10

**08/25** Appalachian Grass. Allen County Fair, 2750 Harding Hwy, Lima, **OH**

**09/16-17** Stevens Family, New Outlook, Harbortown, Caney Creek, Blanton Family Country Stage Music Park, 40A Twp. Rd. 1031, Nova, **OH** 44859 440-213-8358

09/17 North & South, Richard & Instant Grass \$10, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, OH 43025 5p

### BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN ILLINOIS

**07/30** Northern Illinois Bluegrass Assoc., Bluegrass music festival, Plowman's Park, Big Rock, **IL**

**08/11** Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Co., 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

**08/12** Rhythm on the River: Doyle Lawson; Bicentennial Park Performing Arts Pavilion, 233 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, **OH** 43215 614-645-3800 8p free

**08/13** Almost Famous, Slate Ridge \$10, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 43025 5p

**08/13** Appalachian Grass 8p, others all day, Appalachian Heritage Festival, Harbor Point, Miami Whitewater Forest, 9001 Mt. Hope Rd., Harrison, **OH** 45030 513-521-7275

**08/18** Bluegrass Café' \$5 7-9p Famous Old Time Music Company, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220 \$5

**09/07-10** Appalachian Grass, Bobby Hutch, New County Grass, Evan Lanier, Tish & Company, Roy Cobb, Open Rail, the Blanton Family, Home Grown Grass, Berachah Valley, Whitaker Brothers. BGF in the Cornfields, Famous Old Time Music Co., 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 \$10 4p 419-568-1220

**09/10** C & M Bluegrass, Slate Ridge \$10, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 43025 5p

**09/15-17** Copus Hill, Allegheny Drifters, Buck and Company, Northwest Territory, Nora Jane Struthers, David Davis, Idletymes, Karl Shiflett, Lonesome River, Steep Canyon Rangers, Sierra Hull; Mohican Wilderness, 22462 Wally Road, Glenmont, OH 44628 \$55 at gate + camping

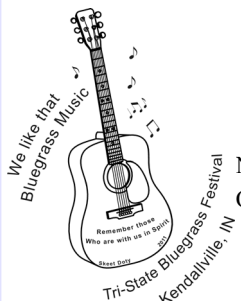
**08/20-21** Link Family, Bankesters, Tommy Brown & County Line Grass, Panches Family, Dyer Switch, Pickin' Chicks, New Outlook, Rigney Family; Rockome Gardens, Arcola, **IL** 217-268-4106

**08/25-28** Harrison, **IL** Two Rivers Bluegrass Festival. Four day jam band festival with open stage, camping and lots of open jam sessions hosted by The Fox & Coon Club. Vivian Gaines at vmgain @ yahoo.com

**09/09** Alison Krauss & Union Station; The Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State Street, Chicago, **IL** 60601 312-462-6300

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

## Address Service Requested



Next winter jam  
Oct. 16, 2011