

Correspondence: NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946 (260) 918-4790 NL@nibga.com

Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two with one mailing Published: 2nd Sunday, mailed 3rd Sunday monthly

Next jam: Noon - 6 PM 2/19/12 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46809

PRESIDENTS CORNER:

The last board meeting was focused on how to reduce expenses yet still provide a great experience for you the members and other attendees. The unemployment rate in Noble county hovers around 10% and the board believes this is the major factor in our declining daily attendance. Campers are down some but not nearly the same percentage as daily attendees. Our fall Thursday show had one of the large audiences in recent times so the interest is there but the money to buy a ticket is not.

Based on the size of the festival we are paring back on port-a-jons, two less, fewer golf carts, two less, and dropping one band from Sunday. We considered but did not change the size of the tents in the stage area. These and other actions will reduce our expenses by about \$1,000 yet should not impact the festival experience. After the Memorial festival, we will review the results and adjust as needed.

Another organization having a budget problem is the US Postal Service. In December they announced significant cut backs including the slow down of first class mail. Your newsletter is mailed first class so you get current festival and concert information.

WORKSHOPS 2012:



Happy New Year! I hope you had a great holiday and had the opportunity to play a lot of music with friends. Now that that new year has started, I need to mentally gear up for the next festival which is coming up soon.

We have heard a lot of good comments about last year's spring Discover Bluegrass Day, and folks have been wanting to know when we'll be doing it again. Our current thoughts are that the fall festival will be the best time to hold the multi-workshop event again, partly because of getting instructors and partly because of the

With the Post Office potentially slowing down snail mail, we strongly encourage you to sign up to get your newsletter via email. The photos are in color, all flyers are included and you receive this information before the third Sunday of the month. Getting your newsletter via email reduces the clubs expense for not only printing but stamps and saves about \$.76 per month or \$8.36 a year. If you add in the value of a \$2 weekend ticket discount, your membership is a great value.

Send us an email at nl@nibga.com and sign up for email newsletters! Include each members name, address, phone number and email address.

Linda and I are on an 18-day vacation to Dallas, south Texas, Florida and Alabama. We are attending a nephew's wedding on Dec. 31 and then visiting friends along the way. One friend is Gordon Peterson, living in south Texas, who got us into the bluegrass music scene many years ago. Pete was a fixture at Ottawa and he made the NIBGA festival movie which highlights the Tri-State experience.

We are assembling the newsletter in motels along the road. I brought all the programs we need on the laptop so we think all is well.

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll be back on Jan. 15 to attend the winter meeting. Support your bands this winter by attending their events!

Jim Winger - President

weather being more cooperative in the fall for outside workshop locations.

Watch future newsletters for more information on this program, and make plans to attend some great workshops! If you have suggestions for workshops that you would like to see, please let me know.

We were surprised at how many people attended some of the more unique workshops - dulcimer, harmony singing, song writing, and dancing. These were very well received and a lot of requests to do them again.

What type of special event(s) should we plan for the spring festival? It would be fun to have something new and unique. We've had a lot of requests for a band scramble, so that's a thought for the spring. Or maybe a "battle of the bands" for Friday before the regular shows start? Let me hear your thoughts!

Chris Cooperrider

Special Events/Taxi Coordinator

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED:

My name is Jonathan Demers, and I'm a recipient of the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association Scholarship for 2011. This scholarship has helped to make it possible for me to study at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Berklee is one of the few music colleges that embraces the Bluegrass genre via its American Roots Music Program, paving the way for the younger generation to carry on the tradition.

The amazing talent and success of Berklee's alumni attests to the real-world application of the school's curriculum, at the same time highlighting the effectiveness of the accomplished faculty members that teach there. This school is also known for its ethnic and multi-cultural diversity; people come from literally all over the world to learn here, which is refreshing and allows unique opportunities to make friends, network, and jam with people from all walks of life.

In this, my first semester, I took an exhaustive range of courses that ranged from music studies to liberal arts. In Ear Training, we learned how to conduct in different time signatures, sing in solfege ("do, re, mi" etc.), perform sight-reading, navigate diatonic scales, and use dictation techniques to transcribe music. For one of our last projects, we had to find a piece of music that had not yet been transcribed and transcribe it ourselves, adding ours to the great pool of works already in existence.

In Music Application & Theory, we learned the relationship between notes, how harmony works, what notes make up each type of chord, and how to play every diatonic major and minor scale on the piano. In private instruction, I was given one-on-one attention on my principal instrument (mandolin), adding new pieces of music to my repertoire and receiving training on such things as arpeggios, major and melodic/harmonic minor scales, the many flavors of seventh chords, and strumming and picking techniques. And in my ensemble class, we studied and performed pieces from several jazz composers/performers, including Horace Silver, Marvin Gaye, Freddie Hubbard, and Stevie Wonder—and I discovered that the experience I've gained playing Bluegrass music has blessed me with improvisational skills that apply to any genre.

In my research of the dozen or so majors that are available here, I have chosen to pursue Music Therapy as a program of study. As much as I love performing Bluegrass and being a part of the festival scene, I also want to branch out with my musical ability and take it into different areas. Music is universal and can effect healing on a very deep emotional level, which is why music therapy is so successful.

Music therapists are capable and professional musicians who use their talents to enrich the lives of those who need comfort the most. Many work in association with nursing homes and geriatric units, providing group entertainment and individualized attention to the elderly. Others work with hospitals, cancer treatment centers, and pediatric units, working with terminal patients and children undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. And still others work with various organizations to provide counseling and therapy for autistic children and their families.

Receiving the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association Scholarship has made it possible for me to work toward my degree in this field, and I want to thank the Association for helping make it happen.

NEXT WINTER JAM:

The next NIBGA jam and meeting will be Feb. 19, 2012. Meetings are from noon until 6p at the Southwest Conservation Club in Fort Wayne, IN. Come early, enjoy breakfast for a very reasonable cost.

2012 BANJO CAMP ANNOUNCED:

Midwest Banjo Camp 2012 is now up and running and accepting registrations on the web site, www.midwestbanjocamp.com. As usual we've got a fantastic staff lined up and all the makings for an exciting, rewarding program.

At MBC, you can study old-time or bluegrass banjo with some of today's best players and teachers in both styles. Our program features hands-on classes, demonstrations and two faculty concerts, and still leaves lots of time for jamming with your fellow banjo enthusiasts.

Here are the particulars:

Dates: June 8-10, 2012

Place: Olivet College, Olivet, Michigan

Times: Check-in opens 11a on Friday; June 8; Camp ends 2:30p on Sunday, June 10

The "Pre-Camp": Our low pressure Pre-Camp Program takes place this year on the evening of Thursday June 7 and the morning of Friday June 8. It consists of staff-led jams, Q & A sessions, and demonstrations. Check-in for the pre-camp begins at 3:30PM on Thursday June 7.

Here are our instructors for 2012:

- Old-time Banjo: Cathy Barton Para, Mac Benford, Howie Bursen, Bob Carlin, Chris Coole, Cathy Fink, Joe Newberry, Ken Perlman and Tom Sauber.
- Coole and Newberry will share the job of teaching our old-time novices; both will also teach some more advanced-level classes.
- Bluegrass Banjo: Janet Beazley, Greg Cahill, Ryan Cavanaugh, Bill Evans, Matt

Flinner, Gerald Jones, Bill Keith (tentative), Alan Munde, Alan O'Bryant, and Mike Sumner is our primary instructor for bluegrass novices.

- Fiddle Track: This year our primary fiddle instructor is Bobby Taylor. Fiddle Classes will also be taught by Tom Sauber and others TBA.
- Guitar Track: Our principle instructor in the guitar track is Russ Barenberg. A couple of guitar classes will be taught by other instructors.

Contact us at info@midwestbanjocamp.com. As usual, you can find more information, instructor bios, registration forms etc., on the website, midwestbanjocamp.com

Cheers

Ken Perlman and Stan Werbin
Directors, Midwest Banjo Camp

CAN YOU SING?

"Hard Driving Traditional Bluegrass Band" auditioning for Lead singer/rhythm guitar player. Feel free to pass along.



Out of the Blue, is currently auditioning for a lead singer/rhythm guitar player.

Roger Cole has decided to leave the band due to family obligations. We would like to thank Roger for all he has done for our band, he was a founding member of Out of the Blue and has been with the band for over ten years. What a dear friend and we wish him and his family all the best!

Interested, please contact us by email at bluegrasspicker1958@yahoo.com or call 517-812-6590 and leave a message.

Jeff Lawless

ON THE GO:

Handling Your Finances While on the Road

The Internet is available almost everywhere now making it relatively easy to do your banking and handle your bills and finances while on the road. Small portable computers called netbooks are affordable and light making it feasible to have the Internet readily available.

Many coffee shops and fast food restaurants have free WiFi so you can get on-line for free although we don't recommend using public

networks to do your banking. WalMart sells a device called a MiFi that is secure and allows WiFi access via cell phone towers. It does not require a contract and generally provides enough service for \$20 that you can check email and do banking on the road. More details at <http://tinyurl.com/3glzt7w>

First, of course, is to auto deposit your income (Social Security, pensions, other) into your checking and or savings account before you hit the road. This way you don't have to worry about income checks catching up with you. Sign up for auto pay with your utilities (electric, water/sewer, phone, cable/satellite, etc.) They will send a monthly bill showing the charges, amount owed and when it will be deducted from your checking or savings account so you can still monitor the expenses. You may also wish to put some utilities on vacation status.

You can go on line to your bank and establish a user name and password and monitor your transactions and bank accounts. This also allows you to transfer money easily from one account to another on line as needed. You can now pay bills through "On Line Bill Pay." You just specify the recipient (such as a credit card, insurance payment, etc.) by providing the name, address, and account number of as many credit cards or other bills as needed. When you receive a bill just go on line and fill in the amount to be paid and the date to be paid. (I usually do this within a day or two of receiving the bill and specify delivery a day or two before the due date. The bank guarantees delivery by that date.) Each bank has a little different procedure so you may want to visit a branch and discuss your plans.

Other tasks to put on your list of things to do before leaving home:

- Stop newspaper / magazine delivery
- Turn in "Mail Forwarding Notice" to the Post Office. They will hold your mail up to 30 days. For \$1, they will forward your mail.
- If staying in one area each season, establish a small account at a local bank to facilitate easy check cashing and cash withdrawal. This can eliminate ATM fees.
- Your Indiana driver's license can be renewed on line up to 6 months ahead of time as well as your vehicle licenses. Not from Indiana? Check out your state license regulations.
- If you have a land line and keep it active, forward your home phone to your cell phone.

Next month we will cover more on this topic. Stay tuned.

Linda Winger - treasurer

OVER JORDON:

Pauline Collingsworth, 79, of Auburn died Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012, at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, IN. She was a big bluegrass fan and regularly attended the NIBGA festivals. She was still working and dancing before her recent stroke.

Pauline is TJ Collins (Barb) sister.

2011 BILLBOARD TOP 10:

Billboard's top bluegrass albums for 2011:

1. *Paper Airplane*, Alison Krauss and Union Station
2. *Rare Bird Alert*, Steve Martin And The Steep Canyon Rangers
3. *Up On The Ridge*, Dierks Bently
4. *The Goat Rodeo Sessions*, Yo-Yo Ma/Stuart Duncan/Edgar Meyer/Chris Thile
5. *Follow Me Down*, Sarah Jarosz
6. *The Grascals and Friends: Country Classics With a Bluegrass Spin*, The Grascals
7. *Palomino*, Trampled By Turtles
8. *Bright Morning Stars*, The Wailin' Jennys
9. *Genuine Negro Jig*, Carolina Chocolate Drops
10. *Best of Bluegrass*, Steve Ivey

This list is from sales reported to SoundScan. Is your favorite artist here?

We don't see our top IBMA award winning artists for 2011 here. No Dailey and Vincent. No Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out. Where are Rhonda Vincent, Dale Ann Bradley, The Gibson Brothers, and the other award winners? They aren't here.

It appears bluegrass music is gaining popularity but perhaps not in the way hard core fans would like. This changing scene makes it difficult to find the right combination of performers for our stage.

INTERNET FEATURES:

NIBGA chat room: tinyurl.com/yh3ew5t

NIBGA Facebook:

<http://tinyurl.com/3ce7v8w>

NIBGA Blog: nibga.blogspot.com

NIBGA web page: BluegrassUSA.net has links to the above and includes all the events in the newsletter plus additions between newsletters.

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN INDIANA

01/21 Jim Hurst, 8p \$12, Front Porch Music, 505 E. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383 8 PM 219-464-4700

01/29 Colfax, IN 46035 jam at the Library, 207 S. Clark St., 2-5p 765-324-2915 x100

02/02 Suzy Bogguss, \$25 7p LVD's Concert Series at The Goshen Theater, 216 S. Main St, Goshen, IN 46526 574-400-lvds

02/25 Goldmine Pickers, Midnight Cattle Callers \$15 7p LVD's Concert Series at The Goshen Theater, 216 S. Main St, Goshen, IN 46526 574-400-lvds

02/25 Diamond Hill Station, Hedgehog Music Showcase, 101 West Main St., Arcadia IN 46030 317-984-3560 8p

03/04 Monroe Crossing, the South Bend Chamber Singers, and the Chamber Children's Choir; A Bluegrass Mass and More, 7:30p O'Laughlin Auditorium, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN Tickets: 574-284-4626 \$ vary <http://tinyurl.com/7z9ysar>

03/06 1:15p Monroe Crossing, Bluegrass in the Schools, Stanley Clark School, 3123 Miami St, South Bend, IN 46614 574-299-4170

03/07 Monroe Crossing, Bluegrass Mass, South Bend Chamber Singers, Trinity English Lutheran Church, 405 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802 574-284-4632

03/17 Kennedy's Kitchen \$15 7p LVD's Concert Series at The Goshen Theater, 216 S. Main St, Goshen, IN 46526 574-400-lvds

03/30 The Steel Wheels \$15 7p LVD's Concert Series at The Goshen Theater, 216 S. Main St, Goshen, IN 46526 574-400-lvds

03/30 Ricky Skaggs; The Palladium, 355 City Center Drive, Carmel, IN

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN MICHIGAN

01/20 Company of Strangers \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

01/20 RFD Boys, 8p, \$11, The Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2108 734-761-1800

01/22 Lonesome County & Goldmine Pickers, 7:30p \$15, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800

01/21 Midnight Cattle Callers, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

01/27 Fun Night, On-stage Entertainment & Open Jam, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

01/27 Rock Island Plow Company \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

02/03 RC Express \$7 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

02/10 Powell Conley \$7 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

02/10 Newfound Road, 8p, \$15, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800

02/10 TBA, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

02/17 Fun Night, On-stage Entertainment & Open Jam w Luke Lenhart Family & Friends, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

02/17 John McCutcheon 8p, \$18, Unitarian Universalist Church, 855 Grove St., East Lansing, MI 48823

02/17 RFD Boys, 8p, \$11, The Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2108 734-761-1800

02/17 Bridge County \$7 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

02/24 Out of the Blue \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

02/24 Fun Night, On-stage Entertainment & Open Jam w Luke Lenhart Family & Friends, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

02/25 Blue Water Ramblers, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

03/01 Steep Canyon Rangers, 8p, \$15, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800

03/02 TBA Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

03/03 Chatham County Line, 8p, \$15, The Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2108 734-761-1800

03/09 TBA Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

03/10 Schlitz Creek, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

03/16 Summertown Road \$12 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

03/17 Saline Fiddlers \$10 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132

03/23 Rock Island Plow Co. \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132

03/30 Wendy Smith & Blue Velvet \$8 Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132

03/31 New Outlook, Zellie's Band, Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, **MI** 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN OHIO

Thursdays (most) Bluegrass Café, \$5, 7-9p, FOTMC, 20322 US 33 Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220

Center, 6240 Lucas Pike, Plain City, **OH** 5p 937-707-5574

01/21 Beyond Calvary, Blanton Family, Whitaker Brothers; ABH Bluegrass Hideaway 850 Fitchville River Rd, New London, **OH** door 5 Music 6p 440-225-5863

01/21 Southern Tradition, Lonesome Meadow, Lincoln Way Rec Center, 2817 SR 602, North Robinson, **OH** 44856 419-562-4363

02/04 New Grass Station, Almost Famous; Central Ohio Bluegrass Associations monthly meeting at Westerville Genoa Middle School 5948 S. Old 3-C Highway, Westerville, **OH**. Bands 6p

03/10, 04/14, 06/09, 07/14, 10/13, 11/10, 12/08 Appalachian Grass, TBA, FOTMC, 20322 US 33 Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220, 3-9p \$10

03/17 Southern Tradition, TBA, Lincoln Way Rec Center, 2817 SR 602, North Robinson, **OH** 44856 419-562-4363

03/24 The Little Roy and Lizzy Show; The Logan-Hocking Activity Center 1593 E. Front St., Logan, **OH** 43138 740-385-4322

03/25-26 Southern Ohio Indoor Music Festival, Wilmington, **OH** 45177

BLUEGRASS EVENTS IN ILLINOIS

01/12-13 Little Roy & Lizzy, Rhonda Vincent, Bluegrass Brothers, Dean Osborne, David Parnley, Bluegrass Mountaineers, Remington Ryde, Ernie Evans, more; Bluegrass in Super Class, Holiday Inn French Quarters, 10630 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg, **OH**

01/14 Ernie Evans & The Florida State Bluegrass Band; Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 State Route 66, Oakwood, **OH** 7p 419-594-2816

01/14 Dailey & Vincent; Renaissance Theater 138 Park Ave. W., Mansfield, **OH** door 7 Music 8p 419-522-2726

01/14-15 Dry Branch Fire Squad, Rick & Hillary Wagner; Canal Street Tavern, 308 First St., Dayton, **OH** Sat. 9p doors 8p Sun. show 8p, doors 7p

01/21 Black Diamond Bluegrass Band, New Outlook; Maranatha Community Fellowship

02/11 New Outlook, Tommy Hall & The Sunlighters; ABH Bluegrass Hideaway 850 Fitchville River Road, New London, **OH** Doors open at 5. Music at 6p 440-225-5863

02/18 Black Diamond, Open Highway; Maranatha Community Fellowship Center, 6240 Lucas Pike, Plain City, **OH** 5p 937-707-5574

02/18 Southern Tradition, New Outlook, Lincoln Way Rec Center, 2817 SR 602, North Robinson, **OH** 44856 419-562-4363

02/25 Gibson Brothers, Newfound Road; 7:30p Miami Hamilton, **OH** University, 513-529-3200 \$15-22

02/25 Lonesome Meadow, Black Diamond, Safire Sun at Colonial City Moose Lodge, 417 W. High St., Mount Vernon, **OH** 5p 740-392-0480 or 740-937-5272

03/01-04 Shorty's Strickly BGF, Stoney Creek Inn, 101 Mariners Way, East Peoria, **IL** 309-671-0175 or 641-799-0165 hotel 309-694-1300 "Bluegrass rate" shortysbluegrass@comcast.net

03/23 Great Northern Jam Camp, 9a-5p, Hyatt Regency, Woodfield Schaumburg, 1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg, **IL** 60173 for players of all levels on guitar, banjo, mandolin, fiddle, bass, and dobro who want to learn how to jam at a higher level. Learn jamming etiquette, fundamentals, backup, chord changes, soloing ideas, improvising. To register, send a check for \$75 to: Keith Yoder, 310 3rd Ave. SW, Farley, IA 52046 Please include your phone number, email address, and your instrument. 563-543-8933 yograss@yousq.net

03/23-25 Great Northern BGF; Hyatt Regency Hotel, 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, **IL** Reservations call 888-421-1442 ask for Festival rate 217-243-3159

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

Address Service Requested



Next winter jam
Feb. 19, 2012