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Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: Noon-6 PM Feb. 21, 2016 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

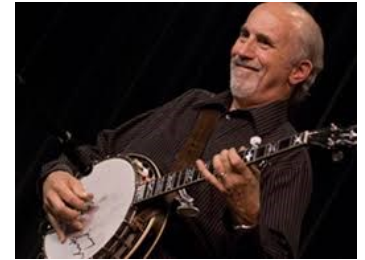
BUZZ on the Bands

As I look through the bands that will be appearing at the 2016 Tri-State festivals, I think this may be the best year yet!

Returning for the Memorial Day festival, after too many years absent, will be longtime favorites **Greg Cahill and Special Consensus**.

Anchored by Greg's stellar banjo playing, "Special C" has been around now for forty years. Their 2014 release,

Country Boy: A Bluegrass Tribute to John Denver, garnered



2 IBMA awards, for Instrumental Recorded Performance of the Year and Recorded Event of the Year, while 2012's Scratch Gravel Road, was nominated for a Grammy award!

One cannot come up with enough superlatives for this fine group, since they are top notch at every position with several fine lead vocalists and tight harmonies.

Greg is widely recognized as one of the world's most innovative banjoists, and keeping up with his current band members keeps his skills sharp.

Longtime member Rick Faris is dynamite on guitar, playing an instrument he crafted in his own luthiery shop, and Dan Eubanks is as solid a bass player as you can get, balancing his Special C road time with an impressive schedule of Nashville session work. Newest member Nick Dumas fits right in with his fiery mandolin work.

Continued on next page →

President's Corner



The holidays are gone and the long winter is upon us. We were very busy over the last few weeks,

not only with family but with the club.

We received a grant from the Indiana Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) to be used for advertising the festival, including a web site redesign. Unfortunately, we were turned down for the Indiana Arts grant and the Dekko grant. We are still awaiting word on the Cole grant application.

The redesigned web site is nearing completion with the artistic help of Chris Steiner. Several design companies were contacted for estimates and it appeared that a new web site would cost \$5,000 to \$20,000. This is far more than the club, even with the grant, could afford.

The current web site was started in the late 1990s and has been added to periodically. It needs refreshed. It is built on old technology. It does not have the capability to be used by today's tablets and phones

effectively.

Designing a new web site has two major components:

Technical: the how is it assembled using what tools, and;

Artistic: what is the content and what should it look like so people will visit.

I could handle the first part and, partnering with Chris, we as a team came up with a new design that will work with today's technology.

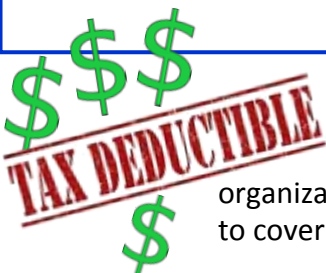
The IODT grant contained \$2,000 plus the club would match that for a new web site. Our plan is to use "in kind work effort" for the funding so there will be no out of pocket expense.

We will need a handful of folks to review the site and find what we missed. We will be sending invitations out in the coming weeks. Hopefully the site will be live before mid-February.

Hunker down for winter. Find a good Bluegrass show or jam, if the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise.

Jim Winger

President



It's that time of year again. When deciding on where to make donations, don't forget about your favorite 501(c)(3) organization, NIBGA! Check with your employer, too, because some businesses will match any charitable donations made to 501(c)(3) organizations. It is a win-win for everyone. You get a tax deduction and NIBGA gets needed funds to cover costs for things such as grants, educational workshops, and community concerts.

Over Jordan



Margaret L. Randall, 78, of White Pigeon, MI passed away Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015, at Fairview Nursing and Rehabilitation Community in Centreville, MI following an extended illness.

Marge and Dale were very early members of NIBGA and attended nearly every festival until the last couple of years. They would park up on Michigan Hill at the curve with the "Down Yonders" playing music all day. Marge always came by and had a great banter with us at the festival. We all will miss her smiling face.



Buzz on the Bands, continued

Making their first appearance at Tri-State will be Rural Rhythm recording artists, **Nu Blu**. I have been wanting to bring this stellar group from Siler City, North Carolina to Indiana for several years now, and I was finally able to make it happen!



Headed up by the husband/wife team of Daniel and Carolyn Routh, on guitar and bass, respectively, they represent rock solid, driving bluegrass at its best.

Carolyn is the band's featured vocalist, but Daniel also occasionally handles the lead vocal work, as does banjo player, Levi Austin. Together, they generate powerful harmonies that are a trademark of their sound.

Along with Milom Williams II on mandolin, they drive the rhythm like a freight train and deliver blistering, innovative instrumental solos.

Stay tuned for more information on 2016 bands in future newsletters!

Joe Steiner

Volunteers Needed

For the NIBGA board members, winter is a time to get together, regroup, and plan for the coming year. I know that Joe Steiner, our vice president and talent buyer, has been working tirelessly on lining up the best bands to grace our stage. See the "Buzz on the Bands" column for more information on that. He is still waiting for final signatures on a few bands before he can announce them - and I'm sure you'll be very pleased with them - but that will be your surprise for NEXT month.

We were awarded some grant money to use to promote NIBGA via websites, social media, and other marketing techniques, but now we need someone that is creative and has skills, and the desire, to help promote their favorite bluegrass association and festivals. Could that be **YOU??** If you think this would be a fun volunteer project, please contact the president, Jim Winger.

We are also looking for someone to coordinate the taxis. This position would involve putting together the schedule, making sure the vests, taxis and radios were available, and manning the taxi phone line (with a phone provided by NIBGA). We have a volunteer that will help, will make sure all shifts are covered, and will do the physical shift changes and training of volunteers, but we need someone to coordinate it all. If interested, contact Chris Steiner.

Both of these are volunteer positions (the same as all of the board members with their responsibilities), but there is a tremendous amount of satisfaction to be gained in knowing you made a contribution to something you love and want to promote. I can throw in two free weekend tickets to the festival, and an invitation to the board member's semi-annual potluck. Does that sweeten the pot? We could sure use fresh, creative people in committees for the association.

Upcoming Events

Illinois

- 01/29** Ry Cooder, Sharon White & Ricky Skaggs; Thalia Hall, 1807 S. Allport St., Chicago, **IL** 60608 312-526-3851 \$39/\$59/\$67/\$100
- 02/27** Becky Buller Band; Chicago Bluegrass, American Legion, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, **IL** 60201 8p

Indiana

- 1st Thurs.** Wakarusa Jamboree, Northwood Middle School, 301 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 6:30-9p (Sept. - May) 574-862-2200
- 1st & 3rd Fri.** Bluegrass jam, Bacon's Rhythm & Brews, 7954 S Wayne St., Hamilton, **IN** 46742 7pm 260-488-4001
- 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Tues.** Jam 6:30-8:30 Old Jail Museum jam, 121 N Indiana St., Warsaw, **IN** 46580 Come to back door. 260-403-5067
- Every Tues.** Old Timey jam; Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N. Main St., South Bend, **IN** 46601 574-232-2853
- 2nd Wed.** 11/11 Jam, CrossRoads Inn, 5975 S SR 9, Columbia City, **IN** 46725 260-396-2144 6:30-8:30p
- 3rd Fri.** Bluegrass, Country, Gospel Jam 7-9pm SR 14, Community Center, North Akron, **IN** 46910
- 3rd Sat.** Eagle Quest Church Acoustic Open Mic Jam, 1120 N SR 109, Columbia City, **IN** 46725 260-244-5955 starting 11/15 6p Bluegrass Gospel Folk Old Country, One mic for vocals, no amps except bass. Out of respect for Eagle Quest please no cheating or drinking songs Raymond Desrosiers, rjd@locateus.com
- 3rd Sun** jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, **IN** 46069 1-5p
- 01/27** The Matchsellers w/ Sean Ellsworth-Hoffman; JK O'Donnell's, 121 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46802 260-420-5563 7-10pm
- 01/29** Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers; Roberts Park, Connersville, **IN** 47331
- 02/14** Central Ind. Bluegrass jam; Jonesboro, **IN** Community building, Fairmount Ave, Jonesboro, **IN** 46938 1p 765-674-5117

Michigan

- Every Tues.** Jam/dance, Scotts Community Center, 8450 36th St S, Scotts, **MI** 49088 6-9p 269-388-3839 free
- Every Tues.** jam; Senior Center, Main St., E. Jordan, **MI** 49727 6-10p 231-434-9153
- 2nd Tues.** slow jam, Public Library, 6260 92nd St., Caledonia, **MI** 49316 616-891-8825
- 2nd Tues** Jam ; 3rd Floor Van Deusen
- Room, Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo, **MI** 7-8:30pm
- 3rd Thur** jam; Elderly, 1100 N Washington, Lansing, **MI** 48906 517-372-7880 7-8:30p
- 3rd Fri** Jam/Dance, Ostemo Grange Hall, 3234 North 3rd Street, Kalamazoo, **MI** 49009 6:30-9p 269-388-3839 free
- 3rd Sun** Nov 15, Dec 20, Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15 Mid-Michigan jams, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, **MI** 48917 517-482-2382 \$4 donation
- Last Mon.** Slow jam, Public Library, 3943 W. River Dr., Comstock Park, **MI** 49321 616-272-8815
- Last Tues.** thru 03/39 Boatyard Brewing, 432 E. Paterson, Kalamazoo, **MI** 269-226-0300 7-9p
- 01/22** Bridge County; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 01/23** New County Grass; Huron Valley Eagles #3732, 13636 Telegraph Rd (US 24 & Telegraph Rd.), Flat Rock, **MI** 48134 8 - 11:30 PM \$7
- 01/23** Mountain Heart w/ Molly Cherryholmes on fiddle; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104-2108 734-761-1800 \$35
- 01/29** Marvin Webb & friends; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 01/30** Ry Cooder, Sharon White & Ricky Skaggs; 39th Ann Arbor Folk Festival, Ann Arbor, **MI**
- 01/30** Roy Cobb, Dana Cupp & The Coachmen; Huron Valley Eagles #3732, 13636 Telegraph Rd (US 24 & Telegraph Rd.), Flat Rock, **MI** 48134 8 - 11:30 PM \$7
- 02/05** Ottawa County; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 02/05** RFD Boys; The Ark 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104-2108 734-761-1800
- 02/05-06** Joshua Davis and his Trio, The SteelDrivers, The Steel Wheels, Josh White Jr., The Red Sea Pedestrians, Ten Strings and a Goat Skin; Cooper's Glen Music Festival, Radisson Hotel, 100 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, **MI** 49007 Hotel: 269-343-3333 and mention the Cooper's Glen Music Festival
- 02/12** Clark Brothers Band; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 02/13** Mich. Fiddlers; Barry County Comm. on Aging, 320 W. Woodlawn, Hastings, **MI** 49058 269-795-3143 1-4p fiddlers, 4-5:30p open jam, 5-6p dinner, 6-7:30p square dance
- 02/19** North Back 40 Bluegrass w Matthew Thacker; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romu-

- lus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$8
- 02/21** The Claire Lynch Band; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104-2108 734-761-1800 7:30 pm, \$20
- 02/26** TBA; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132
- 02/27** BLUE WATER RAMBLERS; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, **MI** 49329 2p
- 02/28** Mipso; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 7:30 pm, \$15

Ohio

- 1st Sat** - Traditional, bluegrass, country music with acoustic instruments - Three rooms of jammin' for your musical pleasure. Nettle Lake United Brethren Church, 18560 County Road 5-75, Montpelier, **OH** 43543 6p 517-270-2870 or 419-485-4112
- 01/30** Strung Up Bluegrass; Sunroom at the Brick, 113 E. High St., Frankfort, **OH** 45628 740-998-4060 7-9p
- 02/01** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Miami University Hamilton Downtown Center, 221 High St., Hamilton, **OH** 45011 7-8:30p
- 02/06** Planet Riders, Hocking River String Band, Strung Up; Woodlands Tavern, 1200 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 7p \$10
- 02/06** Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Cabin Fever Bluegrass Concert, Church of the Ascension, 555 S. Main St., Johnstown **OH** 43031 6:30p
- 02/12** The Steel Wheels, Shedd Theater, 549 Franklin Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43215 8p
- 02/13** Strung Up Bluegrass; Boondocks Restaurant, 2987 State Route 61, Fulton, **OH** 43315 419-864-4446 9-12p
- 02/19** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 02/20** Strung Up Bluegrass; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 7p
- 02/22** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Washington-Centerville Public Library, 111 W. Spring Valley Rd., Centerville, **OH** 45458 937-610-4419 6:30-8:30p
- 02/26** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Reflections@PMG Restaurant, 3377 US -35, W. Alexandria, **OH** 45381 937-839-4500 7-9:30p
- 02/27** Anna Allen & Traditional Plus; Sterling Jamboree, 26 E. Main St., Mt. Sterling, **OH** 43143 7p



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BanjoConfucius
says:



If Jimmy cracks corn and no
one cares, why did they write a
song about him???

Things that make you go "hmmmm"

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association
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Vol 40, Issue 10 Feb 2016

Next NIBGA Jam - Feb 21, 2016