



Correspondence: NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946 (260) 918-4790 NL@nibga.com
Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: Noon-6 PM Oct. 16, 2016 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



It is really hard to get worked up over camping when we are having rain, hail and snow! Our RV is out of storage

and our first trip will be to visit our granddaughter at IU at the end of April. We need the weather to start acting like SPRING!!

Joe adds information about our exciting Memorial line up in this newsletter. There is an excellent group of bands that will perform over 29 hours of acoustic music on our stage. There will be workshops as well as campfire jamming.

Now is the time to get that old RV cleaned out and ready to travel to Kendallville. Early camping will start May 19 and is still \$10 per night up to the festival weekend. Per the new contract with the fair board, camping prior to May 19 is \$15 per night. Camping applies even if the rig is empty for a few days.

This festival will again have the Suzuki Fiddlers on Saturday. Northeast Indiana Suzuki teaches students from kindergarten through High School where they learn classical violin. NIBGA provides them the opportunity to learn folk and bluegrass fiddle by

awarding them a \$1,000 grant for their performance at the festival. Your board feels that investing in these budding musicians will expose them to an alternative genre, Bluegrass

The dues form is a part of this newsletter. You are encouraged to not wait and send your membership in now. Memberships will still be taken at the gate through Tuesday, May 24. Our treasurer also wants to thank those who have enclosed a SASE. It really facilitates her work load.

You belong to a club that works because of all the volunteers who work so tirelessly, some all year long, planning the festival, hiring bands, scheduling the workshops, managing the finances, creating the web site and contributing to the newsletter, to name some of the efforts. All are working to make the festival, and the club, the best!

Your help is needed. The club asks you to volunteer to work a two-hour shift during the time you are at the festival. This is one of the reasons our costs are so low.

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll see you at Kendallville.

Jim Winger

President



Blue River will be making their first appearance on the Tri-State stage this year. Led

by mandolinist Glenn Alford, they have been together now about 10 years, and their sound is centered strictly in the hard-driving traditional style. Their repertoire consists largely of originals, penned by Glenn and the other band members, but it is always delivered up in the old style.

Glenn and guitarist Matthew Phelps share the lead vocal duties and are both fine, expressive lead singers. I particularly like Matthew's lead combined with Glenn's tenor and fiddler Joel Whittinghill's baritone, but the group also builds some really nice harmonies on Glenn's awesome high lead.

The fine vocal work is supported by some great instrumentals, with Billy Edlin driving the sound forward with his innovative banjo work. Glenn's syncopated mandolin shows an obvious Monroe influence and is particularly effective in setting up the group's old style sound, especially when combined with Billy's five.

Matthew contributes some creative lead work on the guitar, as well as providing solid rhythm on guitar. Joel's fiddling is bluesy and smooth, conjuring up memories of Bobby Hicks with the Bluegrass Boys, and Paula "Boggie" Alford, Glenn's wife, is rock solid on bass.



The **Dyer Switch Band** has now been around over 20 years, featuring the songwriting and lead vocals of guitarist JoAnn Sifo. JoAnn is versatile in her approach, and she is able to deliver either sweet or gritty as needed, much like an actress preparing her character.



Festival Guide Corrections

1. Tri-State Bluegrass Festival, Kendallville, IN **09/01-04**, **NOT** 09/03-06
2. WMBMA Fall Fest, Lowell, MI - **09/16-17**, **NOT** 10/16-17

BUZZ on the Bands, cont.

The group now has a fine male lead vocalist, and another songwriter, in fiddler Bob Bates. In addition to originals from JoAnn, Bob, and mandolinist Tom Thorpe, the group features covers of bluegrass classics and unique arrangements of tunes from other genres.

Well-known instructor Bob Altschuler handles the banjo work, and Bill "Butch" Ryan holds things together on bass.



Circa Blue, also appearing for the first time at Tri-State, initially caught my ear as a group with an entirely different approach. As their web site states, and their name implies, they are "'about' bluegrass ... not completely traditional, not completely newgrass."

Hailing from Martinsburg, West Virginia, they have the standard bluegrass instrumentation and are centered in bluegrass. However, they have not created their sound by copying licks or techniques verbatim from other bluegrass artists and putting them together. Rather, they have built from the ground up using the classic bluegrass ensembles as inspiration and guidance.

When I first heard of them, they were a trio featuring vocals from Steve Harris and Ron Webb, supplementing from time to time with guest artists; but they are now travelling as a five-piece group.

At the core are longtime members Steve Harris, on guitar and vocals, and Matt Hickman on banjo. New to the ensemble are Garret Wren (mandolin, vocals), Malia Furtado (fiddle, vocals), and Ashley Stewart (bass, vocals).

The new lineup features several top-notch lead vocalists, including Steve, with harmonies that are smooth and tight. The instrumental work is awesome, they have

some great original material, and they feature creative arrangements of cover tunes.



Longtime favorites, Donnie Voiles and **Echo Valley**, will be returning this year. Built on Donnie's expressive lead vocals and Jack Chaffin's hard-driving banjo, Echo Valley delivers authentic, traditional bluegrass with Chris Martin on mandolin and Max Napier on string bass.



From the Grand Rapids, Michigan area, **Steam Powered Bluegrass** will be making their first appearance at Tri-State this year. Mixing traditional bluegrass with occasional crossover tunes done bluegrass style, they have an energetic stage presence with Jim Vanderwall (bass), Steve Albert (banjo), Jim Strangways (mandolin), Al Pursley (guitar), and Jerry Tobin (fiddle).

Joe Steiner

NIBGA 2016-2017 Membership Form

BluegrassUSA.net Due by April 30, 2016. Make check payable to NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti, Ft. Wayne, IN 46804

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ e-Mail: _____

Canada: snail mail (2) \$15, e-Mail (1) \$10 **Yes: e-Mail mine:** _____ No, snail mail it _____

New: _____ Renewal: _____ \$10 Single: _____ \$15 Family (includes children thru 15): _____

Upcoming Events

If you are traveling any distance, be sure to call ahead to make sure the event is still as scheduled.

Illinois

- 04/30** Chris Jones & the Night Drivers; Chicago Bluegrass, American Legion, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 8p
- 05/14** The Gibson Brothers; Brashler Barn, 17560 S. Gougar Rd., Lockport, IL 60441 815-838-1549 7p \$40
- 05/21** Kody Norris show; Chicago Bluegrass, American Legion, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 8p
- 05/25** Michael Cleveland and Flame-keeper; Brashler Barn, 17560 S. Gougar Rd., Lockport, IL 60441 815-838-1549 5p \$35

Indiana

- 1st & 3rd Fri.** Bluegrass jam, Bacon's Rhythm & Brews, 7954 S Wayne St., Hamilton, IN 46742 7pm 260-488-4001
- 1st Sat** Contra Dance, First United Methodist Church, 215 South 5th St., Goshen, IN 46526; 1st Sat., General Public: \$7, Members \$6, Students: \$4, Student members \$3, Children under 12: free, Family maximum cost: \$18. 7:30p beginner lessons, 8-11p dance 574-533-9906 year around
- 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 Sun** jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, IN 46069 1-5p
- 04/23** Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver; Simon J. Graber Community Building, 9164 E 875 N, Odon, IN 47562 7p 812-486-6470
- 05/26-29** Special Consensus, Danny Paisley, Becky Buller, Nu Blu, Shotgun Holler, Blue River, Echo Valley, Circa Blue, Steam Powered Grass, Suzuki Fiddlers, more, band scramble Sat., gospel sing on Sun. AM, workshops, square dance; Tri-State Bluegrass

Festival, 580 N. Fair St., Kendallville, IN 46710 wknd \$30, camping \$10/day prior to 5/25. 260-918-4790

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
- Last Mon.** Slow jam, Public Library, 3943 W. River Dr., Comstock Park, MI 49321 616-272-8815
- 04/22** The Waynewood Boys,; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 04/23** Roy Cobb; Eagles, 13636 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134 8 - 11:30 734-782-9215 \$7
- 04/29** TBA; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 04/30** Dana Cupp; Eagles, 13636 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134 8 - 11:30 734-782-9215 \$7
- 05/06-08** Bluegrass Jam Camp by Maggie Bilby; Holiday Inn Express, 3506 O'Neil Drive, Jackson, MI 49202
- 05/06** North Back 40 Bluegrass; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$8
- 05/07** Mich. Fiddlers: Hopkins HS, Clark St., Hopins, MI 49328 269-795-3143 1-4p fiddlers, 4-5:30p open jam, 5-6p dinner, 6-7:30p square dance
- 05/13** Bridge County Band; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd.,

- Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 05/14** Calder Baker & East Tennessee State University friends, Zellie's band; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, MI 49329 6p \$10
- 05/19-22** New County Grass, Williams Family, Out of the Blue, Luke Lenhart, Steam Powered Bluegrass, Pryer Times, Calabogie Road, Two High Strung; The Bluegrass Gathering, Oceana Fairgrounds, 1025 S. State St, Hart, MI 49420 231-742-0202 or 231-893-4942 bluegrassgathering@gmail.com
- 05/27** Kody Norris & The Watauga Mountain Boys; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$10
- 06/04** New County Grass w/Kyle Estep, Zellie's band; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, MI 49329 7p

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
- 04/23** Echo Valley Bluegrass; Norada Lanes, 1102 SR 235, Ada, OH 45810 7p free 812-584-8689
- 04/23** Anna Allen & Traditional Plus; Coshocton Village Inn, 115 N. Water Street, Coshocton, OH 43812
- 04/29** Rock Island Plow Co.; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 04/30** Steve Scott & the Scott Brothers, Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 SR 66 Oakwood, OH 45873 7p 419-594-2816
- 05/02** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Miami University Downtown Downhome, 221 High St., Hamilton, OH 45011 7-9p vaughnhj@gmail.com
- 05/06-08** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass, more music & crafts; Appalachian Festival Old Coney, 6201

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Kellog Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45230 \$10
05/21 Anna Allen & Traditional Plus; Hwy. 57;
Lincoln Way Rec Center, St Rt 602 , Bucyrus,
OH 44820 7p
05/21 Sawmill Ridge; Coshocton Village Inn,
115 N. Water Street, Coshocton, OH 43812
05/28 Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Velvet/Sertoma
Ice Cream Fest., 11339 Mt. Vernon Rd.
Utica, OH
05/29 Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Concerts on the
Green, Worthington, OH 7p

2016/17 memberships are due by April 30. The dues form is in this month's newsletter. One membership is \$10 and additional memberships at the same mailing address are \$5 each. We encourage enrolling in our e-mail program where you will get the newsletter in color and about one week earlier.

Canadian memberships by e-mail are \$10 for one, \$15 for two. Canadian memberships by post are \$15 and include two memberships.

Thanks to everyone who sent a SASE for your membership cards. It has been a big help.

Linda Winger – Treasurer



It's EASY, It's FREE, and it benefits your favorite charity - NIBGA!

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

Address Service Requested



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Next NIBGA Jam - Oct 16, 2016