



Joe Steiner has provided us with a short biography of each of the bands that will be appearing at the Labor Day festival. The remainder of the bands will be in next month's issue.

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



We attended two great festivals in June, Charlotte and Lowell. It was exciting to see Charlotte back to its old self with

lots of RVs, jamming and top talent. The Bluegrass community owes a hats off to promoter Wes Pettinger for his hard work.

West Michigan's Lowell had a new group to us, *Flatt Lonesome*. This six piece group ranged in age from 22-26 yet they have produced three CDs over the last couple of years and a single is scoring in the top three of Bluegrass Unlimited charts. Folks have told us we need to have young groups to attract the "younger audience." Lowell put this idea front and center.

A look at the 2016 talent roster at Kendallville finds the club has booked several stars according to the July Bluegrass Unlimited charts. This Memorial festival had *Danny Paisley* with both a single and a CD on the charts. Labor Day brings *Donna Ulisse* who has singles at #1 and #30 along with a #6 CD. Appearing with Donna on

Saturday is *The Grascals* with a #2 single and #1 CD. Not to be overlooked is more great talent filling out the four days. Joe has information on the groups in this and the next newsletters.

They say bad news comes in threes but ours came in fours; Dave Keiper, Maggie Bilby, Barb Collins and TJ Collins all are having a rough summer. We hope to see them all back on Labor Day.

Camping with friends, picking music, eating meals together, watching awesome Bluegrass talent on stage and in the parking lot is what makes our genre of music unique. If you go to festivals only for the day, you miss the camaradery of the Bluegrass festival. You can arrive at Kendallville starting August 25 and only pay \$10 per night camping until the festival weekend. Pack your bags and join us!

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll see you at one of the many summer festivals. Do your part and attend as many as you can. Bands and promoters need your support

Jim Winger

President

Hailing from the Clinch Mountains, **Donna Ulisse** grew up surrounded by traditional bluegrass music. She became known first as a backup singer, and that exposure eventually led to a deal with Atlantic Records to record a country album.

Although critically acclaimed, neither the album nor its singles generated widespread attention, so Donna went back to her roots composing and performing bluegrass music. She has recorded several well-received albums through Hadley Music Group, highlighting her own vocal work and songwriting abilities.

She has four times been nominated for the IBMA songwriter of the year award, and her songs have been recorded by such artists as Del McCoury and Claire Lynch.

[Donna will be teaching an extended song-writing workshop on Saturday]



The **Dry Branch Fire Squad** has been around now for almost 40 years, and bandleader/mandolin player Ron Thomason has worked with an amazing number of top notch bluegrass musicians. The latest iteration of the group, though, I think is one of the best lineups he has fielded.

In the guitar position is Adam McIntosh, who first joined DBFS in 2000 but took a hiatus of several years to play with

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Workshops for the Fall

Make sure you plan to attend the song-writing workshop by Donna Ulisse on Saturday! There will also be the traditional Friday night square dance, and on Saturday, an extended beginner guitar workshop, extended beginner fiddle workshop, Kids' Korner, Intermediate Jamming Workshop, and a craft workshop for adults. Sunday morning will bring a gospel sing before the first band. More information in the next newsletter!



Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers, and with American Drive. Longtime member Tom Boyd is a top-notch banjo and dobro player who has worked and recorded with many of the top bluegrass names, including Larry Sparks, Mac Wiseman, and Hylo Brown. Jeff Byrd rounds out the lineup and is rock solid on string bass.



Two-time IBMA Entertainers of the Year, **The Grascals**, will be returning this fall. It's hard to believe they have now been around for over 10 years, since their music seems as fresh now as it did back in their early days.

Like I said before in these pages, you have to love a group that devotes a whole album to honoring the Andy Griffith Show and gives it a title like "Dance Til Your Stockings Are Hot and Ravelin'!" And, you know they're making some good things happen when they have a special recording project developed for, and sold in, Cracker Barrel stores!

They feature Terry Eldredge, one of my all-time favorite high lead singers who was an alumnus of the Osborne Brothers in the late 1980s, and he is joined by another Osborne Brothers alumnus Terry Smith on bass.

Kristin Scott Benson has long been admired for her innovative, hard-driving banjo work, winning IBMA Banjo Player of the Year honors three times, and Danny Roberts, on mandolin, is well known in bluegrass music as co-founder of the fine group, New Tradition. Add top-notch fiddler Adam Haynes, formerly of the Dailey and

Vincent band, and guitarist John Bryan, and you've got a dynamite bluegrass band!




Feller and Hill and the Bluegrass Buckaroos are the very definition of hard-driving traditional bluegrass.

Much like Danny Paisley and the Southern Grass, who appeared on the spring lineup, they are unapologetic about approaching the music from its roots – honest and straightforward. When you take that approach, though, you've got to know your stuff, because it's the raw strength of the music that holds things together when you don't weave in a lot of other distractions.

Tom Feller and Chris Hill know their stuff. Vocals are a hallmark of their sound with tight harmonies that scream "high lonesome," and the instrumental work is just as powerful, with Tom's syncopated mandolin providing the bounce and Chris's crisp banjo keeping things in over-drive.

Their supporting cast includes Mark Poe on guitar, who knows how to kick a bluegrass band into drive, having worked with both Larry Sparks and Dave Evans. On bass, they have a local favorite from Wheatfield, IN, Bobby Davis, who has helped provide the drive for such stellar names as Audie Blaylock, James King, Don Rigsby, and Valerie Smith.

Their web site indicates that their sound is heavily influenced by the Boys from Indiana, and that is very evident not only in their music, but also in their fast-paced stage show which mimics the great bluegrass groups of the past.

 Joe Steiner

Over Jordan

Bernardus Hendrikus Schurink, 79, of R.R. #1, Shakespeare, ONT passed June 28. He was better known as *Junk Yard Benny*. It wasn't unusual for him to arrive at Kendallville in the dead of night and park his big 5th wheel in a spot no sane person would try to use. You would then find him out in the jams slapping his bass.

We were at a festival in Charlotte, MI when a friend of many, Shinn, came limping in with her motor home. Benny assessed the problem as a failed transmission. He put the RV up on a couple of wood blocks, grabbed his tool kit and proceeded to remove the transmission.

He went to a local salvage yard and found a good one, returned, crawled under her motor home and lifted it into place and the problem was solved.

This was all done in an afternoon after which he grabbed his big bass and went off to a bluegrass jam.

Ralph Stanley, 89, died June 23. Ralph Stanley was a true first generation bluegrass musician. He and his brother Carter literally helped define the style in the 1950s with their group, the Clinch Mountain Boys. Over the years, the Clinch Mountain Boys included such notable performers as Curly Ray Cline, Roy Lee Centers, Junior Blankenship, Keith Whitley, and Ricky Skaggs.



Upcoming Events

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

Indiana

- 1st Thurs.** Wakarusa Jamboree, Elementary School, 400 N. Washington, Wakarusa, IN 46573 6:30-9p (June - Aug.) 574-862-2200
- 1st Sat** Contra Dance, First United Methodist Church, 215 South 5th St., Goshen, IN 46526; 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.** Jam, CrossRoads Inn, 5975 S SR 9, Columbia City, IN 46725 260-396-2144 6:30-8:30p
- 08/12-14** Echo Valley Bluegrass, New County Grass, Lonesome Meadow, Cross Creek Review, Branded Bluegrass, New Outlook; Osceola, IN BGF, Fern Hunsberger Park, Pierce St, Osceola, IN 46561 Free 574-674-0015, randy@randy-insurance.com
- 08/18-21** New Found Road, Michael Cleveland, Branded Bluegrass, Cornfields & Crossroads, Shane Adkins, Bahler Golden Age Band, Blue Mafia, New Balance, Alec Hurtibise & Friends; Winding Creek BGF, 100S-9980W, Russiaville, IN 46979 765-438-1050
- 08/20** Lick Creek Band; Mitchell Opera House, 7th & Brook St., PO Box 37, Mitchell, IN 47446 (812) 849-4447 7-9p \$10
- 08/27** Larry Sparks, Blue Mafia, Carl Bentley, Cornfields & Crossroads; Attica Heritage Days, 2016 Ravine Park, Attica, IN 47918 2p \$15 765-299-1455
- 09/01-04** Grascals, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Feller & Hill, Donna Ulisse, Cumberland Gap Connection, Freight Hoppers, Jeff Brown, Kevin Prater, Steve Scott & Scott Bros., Backwoods Bluegrass, Branded Bluegrass, & Calabogie Road. Square dance Fri., Band scramble & workshops Sat., Gospel sing Sun. AM. Tri-State Bluegrass Festival, 580 N. Fair St., Kendallville, IN 46710 wknd \$30, camping \$10/day prior to 8/26 260-918-4790
- 09/03-04** Battleground String Band, Cornfields & Crossroads, Handsome Molly, New Balance, New County Grass, Blue Mafia, Lost & Found; Earl Park IN 219-730-8003
- 09/17** Cornfields & Crossroads; Forest Park, Noblesville, IN 6-7p
- 09/18** Cornfields & Crossroads; Christian Church Fall Festival, Zionsville, IN 4-6p
- 09/18** John McCutcheon; The Warehouse, 254 1st Ave. SW, Carmel, IN

46032 317-661-1760 8p

- 09/21-24** Doyle Lawson, Illrd Tyme Out, Bobby Osborne, and many more. Uncle Pen Days, Bean Blossom, IN 800-414-4677
- 09/23** Blue Mafia; FallFest, Todd-Creech Park, Lawrenceburg, IN 8p

Michigan

- 812-532-3500
- 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
- 08/04-06** Gibson Brothers, Crowe Brothers, Trinity River Band, Sugar Creek Bluegrass, Russell Moore, Rhonda Vincent, Joe Mullins, Hammertowne, Gibson Brothers, Dailey & Vincent, Breaking Grass, Blue Highway, Becky Buller, Adkins & Loudermilk, Wayfarers, Mountain Faith, , Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Milan Bluegrass Festival, 14048 Sherman Rd., Milan, MI 48160 734-439-1076 call for rates
- 08/12-13** Mich. Fiddlers Convention, fairgrounds, 115 S. Broad St., Hillsdale, MI 49242 269-795-3143
- 08/18** The Steelwheels; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$22
- 08/26** Darren Beachley, Shayne Bartley, Greg Luck, David Carroll: The Railroaders, Zellie's band; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, MI 49329 7p \$12
- 08/27** Darren Beachley, Shayne Bartley, Greg Luck, David Carroll: The Railroaders; Aten Place Barn, Old Mackinaw Trail, Boyne Falls, MI 49713 7:30 PM
- 09/09** Gibson Brothers; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$20
- 09/09-11** Gibson Brothers, more eclectic; Wheatland Music Fest. Remus, MI
- 09/17** Johnny Campbell & the Bluegrass Drifters; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, MI 49329 \$10 2p
- 09/17** Johnny Campbell & the Bluegrass Drifters; Eagle, 13636 Telegraph Rd., Flat Rock, MI 48134 8 - 11:30 PM
- 09/30-10/2** Bluegrass Jam Camp by Maggie Bilby; Holiday Inn Express, 3506 O'Neil Drive · Jackson, MI 49202

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
- 08/05** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; City Park , 7700 Perry St., Mt. Healthy, OH 45231 7-9p free 513-931-8840
- 08/06** Becky Buller, Larry Sparks, Joe Mullins; Green County Fair Grandstand, 120 Fairground Rd, Xenia, OH 45385 6p 937-372-8621
- 08/06** Berachah Valley; Ohio State Fair, DNR Amphitheater, Columbus, OH 43229 4p
- 08/07** Trinity River; Baptist Church, 722 Albert St., Englewood, OH 45322 937-836-3476 11a
- 08/07** Trinity River; Baptist Church, 705 S. Elm St., W. Carrollton City, OH 45449 6p
- 08/07** Joe Mullins, Open Rail; Fairgrounds Grandstand, 286 W Union St, Athens, OH 45701 7p
- 08/10** Northwest Territory; Lake Anna Park, 615 W. Park Ave., Barbarton, OH 44203 11:30a - 1:30p
- 08/11-13** Coney Carver, Red Dust Mountain, Highway 57, Joe Mullins, Larry Efaw, Little Roy & Lizzie, Ottawa County, Ralph Stanley II, Loraine Jordan, Chris Henry, Matheson Family; Buckeye BGF, Greenwich Coon Hunters Club, 3221 Plymouth Rd., Greenwich, OH 44837 330-645-1542 Bluegrassmusic@sbcglobal.net
- 08/12** Sugarcreek Bluegrass; Fair, 14028 Fairgrounds Rd, Hartford, OH 43013 6p
- 08/13** Grassahol; Clintonville Farmer's Market, N. High St., Clintonville area of Columbus, OH 43214 10a
- 08/13** South Ridge; Sterling Community Bluegrass, 26 E Main St, Mt Sterling, OH 43143 6:30 pm
- 08/14** Trinity River; Baptist Church, 6533 S. Tipp-Cowlesville Rd., Tipp City, OH 45371 10a
- 08/18** Grassahol; Clintonville Resource Center, 3222 N. High St., Columbus, OH 43202 7-9p 614-268-3539
- 08/19** Strung Up; Harvest Moon Café, 7 N.High St. Canal Winchester, OH 43110 7-10p
- 08/19-20** Red Dust Mountain, Vertical Limit, Caney Creek, Mitch Jr., Bluegrass Mountaineers, Lloyd Blevins; Bluegrass Festival, 4026 U.S. 322, Williamsfield, OH 44093 330-442-3377

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08/20 Berachah Valley, more; Eagles
2306 Eagle Rd, Mechanicsburg, **OH**
43084-9761 937-834-2812
Music begins at noon

08/20 Streamliner Bluegrass; Sterling
Community Bluegrass, 26 E Main St,
Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 6:30 pm

08/23 The Wayfarers; New Concord
Village Hall, 2 W. Main St., New
Concord, **OH** 43762 7p

08/25 Special Consensus; Hoover
Auditorium, 100 West 3rd Street,
Lakeside, **OH** 43440 8:15 pm

08/25-27 Brown County Bluegrass
Festival, Brown County Fairgrounds,
325 W. State St. #1, Georgetown, OH
45121

08/26 Grassahol; State House lawn,
Columbus, **OH** Noon to 1p
614-728-2130

08/26 Fox N Hounds; Creekside Park, 101
Mill St, Gahanna, **OH** 43230
614-416-8188 6-7p

08/27 Sugar Creek Bluegrass, Chestnut
Ridge; Coshocton Village Inn, 115 N.
Water Street, Coshocton, **OH** 43812

08/27 Muleskinner, Mad River Railroad;
Butterflies & Bluegrass, 1301 Mitchell
Blvd., Springfield, **OH** 45503 10a - 5p
937-324-7316

08/27 Tyler Williams Band; Sterling
Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E Main St,
Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 6:30p

08/28 Anna Allen & Traditional Plus,
Wood & Strings; Church of Christ,
900 Orange St., Chillicothe, **OH** 45601
10a free

08/28 Rhonda Vincent; Sugarloaf
Mountain Amphitheater, 1658
Marietta Rd. Chillicothe, **OH** 45601

Campsite Flea Market

It's not too early to start boxing up your unwanted items and planning to set up for the campsite flea market. You can sell items at your campsite until the Friday of the Labor Day festival. I've seen many people sell enough junk, I mean, unneeded treasures, to finance their festival weekend! Now, remember, the object is to go home with LESS than you started with!



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