



Last month, Joe Steiner began providing us with a short biography of each of the bands that will be appearing at the Labor Day festival. Here are the remaining bands.

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Next Jam: Noon-6 PM Oct. 16, 2016 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



Since the Marshall festival, we have spent time at home finalizing the Memorial festival and getting ready for the upcoming Tri-State

Labor day activities.

Linda has been working on the Memorial festival financials which are close to being done. It takes time as she balances the tickets sold to the gate deposit, merchandise sales to before and after inventory, logs all the expenses and more. This data is entered into a spread sheet which is presented to the board.

The preliminary Memorial weekend financials show a guess at the profit around 13% of gross. Why don't we have final numbers? The fairgrounds has not yet billed us for trash, water and electric. We plugged in an estimated number until we get a detailed bill. There are a couple of minor discrepancies that need to be resolve but they don't amount to much. Linda likes for the report to be accurate.

For the upcoming Labor Day weekend festival, she has counted all the new tickets which are serial numbered. A couple of printing errors were found. She recorded and sent complimentary tickets, setup band ticket envelopes for the gate and created, printed camper registrations

and membership forms.

There was a problem with some of the merchandise that required a trip to the supplier. She analyzed merchandise sales and reordered as needed, assembled contracts, and more. It is a lot of work but she loves doing it for the club. We are very fortunate to have someone so dedicated.

On December 11, 2015, we were awarded a grant of \$4,365 from the Indiana Dept. of Tourism to promote the festivals. The money outlined in the grant had to be spent by June 30. The state would then reimburse the club for those expenses.

NIBGA spent the money redesigning the web page, promoting the festivals via social media, distributing flyers to other clubs, bands and festivals and more. The club is hoping to see reimbursement for what was spent in the near future.

The upcoming festival would not be possible without all the volunteers who work so hard to make it a success. Reflect on this fact as you enjoy the 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 Kendallville!

Jim Winger

President

It has been a few years since the **Freight Hoppers** have been to Tri-State, and the lineup has changed a bit since the last time. But, one thing that hasn't changed is their love of the old timey tunes and songs, their relentless enthusiasm, and the infectious driving rhythm.

One familiar face in the band is founding member Frank Lee handling banjo and resonator guitar. Merritt Smith now provides the driving fiddle in perfect old time style, pushed along by the powerful string bass of Andrea Smith.

The Freight Hoppers have always been a bit more attentive to the vocal parts than most string bands, especially in recent incarnations. This latest lineup is no exception, as guitarist Allie Burbrink steps in to provide some energetic vocals, teaming up with Frank on some crisp duets which have just the right amount of old timey "edge"



I first learned about **Cumberland Gap Connection** at an IBMA showcase several years ago. They impressed me then with their solid drive, strong vocals, and great original material. They have since been to Tri-State 3 times, and they are still a top-notch, driving bluegrass band, featuring strong vocals and great original material.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the group is also awesome when it comes to instrumental prowess (and that would be an understatement). One listen to this group tells you that it's not

Continued on next page

Help needed!

We need help in distributing posters to area merchants to put in their windows before the festival. Extra flyers have been printed to put on car windshields at Kendallville stores. If you arrive at the festival early, would you help? Check in with any board member. Thank you!

about individuals, but rather the solid band sound they have flawlessly crafted. Fronting the band, as he has since the early days, is Mike Bentley, a powerful, expressive lead singer who also contributes some great original material.

Rod Smith, another longtime member, drives the five as well as anybody anywhere while contributing some nice harmony vocals, and he doubles occasionally on resonator guitar. Matt Hiser is amazing on the mandolin, as is Josh Brown on guitar, and Jeff Smith is firmly in command of the drive department on string bass.



Jeff Brown is one of those guys who doesn't really seek the spotlight but has the kind of talent that ultimately lands him in it. He has played with many of the greats, including Larry Sparks, Charlie Sizemore, and Johnny Cash; and he has appeared on both the Ryman Auditorium and Grand Old Opry stages, as well as on TV's Austin City Limits.

A unique, smooth, and expressive lead singer in the "lonesome" style, he knows how to get the feeling across to the audience. He has long been due to step out with his own group, and he has done just that in **Still Lonesome**, surrounding himself with top talent at all positions.

He has innovative hard-drivin' banjo player Mitch Walker, formerly with Audie Blaylock and James King, Nick Goad on mandolin, and Kyle Murphy on fiddle, all delivering up some blistering instrumental work. Austin Brown, on string bass, may be the youngster in the group, but his playing reflects a wealth of musical experience as he holds the group tightly together.



To say that **Kevin Prater** is a fixture of the bluegrass music scene in eastern Kentucky would be a major understatement. Kevin has been active as a performer for many years, performing with many of the bluegrass greats all over the county. He is a strong lead singer in the traditional style, as well as an awesome picker on many instruments.

It is only fitting that a performer of his stature would eventually step out from the sideman role to front and center, and he has done just that, surrounding himself with some of the best musicians in bluegrass featuring the multi-talented Tom Timberlake on banjo. Veteran singer/songwriter Rick Barley is on guitar, and Danny Stiltner is rock solid on string bass.



I found out about **Backwoods Bluegrass** when I received a CD from them for my radio show. I interpreted the fact that Ron Stewart produced the CD as a pretty good recommendation, so I gave it a listen right away and was immediately impressed with the overall band

sound. But I was especially impressed with a couple of the young band members. Mandolinist Austin Harper's lead vocal work is first-rate by any standard, but is particularly inspired when viewed in light of his young age.

Sarah McCullough's banjo playing is truly innovative and reflects a variety of influences (one of which, I bet, is Ron Stewart). They've got some nice harmonies, thanks to Aaron Tackett, who provides a particularly nice edge with the high parts, and Joe East. Aaron and Joe also handle the guitar work, with Joe providing some nice lead work and Aaron doing a great job of holding down the rhythm. Rusty Collier anchors the rhythm section on string bass.



I don't know why **Steve Scott and the Scott Bros** have not been on the Tri-State stage before! It's obvious that Steve is a good partner for NIBGA, supporting bluegrass music by running the Bluegrass Opry Barn shows in Continental, Ohio and the Van Wert County bluegrass festival.

It's also obvious that Steve knows and understands bluegrass music. He is usually seen on stage with a guitar but is a multi-instrumentalist who could cover several of the bluegrass instruments.

He is also a proud father, featuring his two sons, Steve Jr. and Brian, on banjo and mandolin, respectively. Steve and sons are joined by Izzy Daniels on string bass.



Some folks will probably know **Calabogie Road** by their former name, the Patchwork Band. Although the name is new, the group has been active for over 30 years now. Hailing from Western, this group is anchored by John and Ruth Lakatos on bass and guitar, respectively.

They are joined by Mark Walker on mandolin, Steve Van Wyck on banjo, and Marten Van Eyk on fiddle. They feature some nice harmonies and a fun stage show.



Branded Bluegrass from central Indiana, features Larry Norfleet on guitar and lead vocals and his brother, Jesse Norfleet, on dobro. Larry's son, Tristen Norfleet, is on mandolin, and they have a real five driver in Derek Dillman on banjo.

Handling the bottom end is Mike Martin on bass, and Albert Swain covers the fiddle work. Larry is a strong lead singer and handles most of the lead vocal work, while Derek also sings lead occasionally in a more mournful, lonesome style. The whole group teams up to create some nice harmonies.



I'm really proud of this line up and think it one of the best ever! I hope you think so, too.

Joe Steiner



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, Northwood Middle School, 301 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 6:30-9p (Sept. - May) 574-862-2200
- 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.** 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 year around
- 4th Sat** through Sept. Bluegrass Jam, Jan- sen Pavilion, Bixler Park, Kendallville, **IN** 46755 (west side of the Bixler Lake) 260-347-1064 5p
- 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, band scramble & workshops Sat., gospel sing Sun. AM, square dance Fri.; 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
- 09/18** Branded Bluegrass, Borrowed Tyme, Blue Mafia; Meg's Country, 4700E CR 800N, Eaton, **IN** 47338 765-729-6694 \$10 noon-8p
- 09/21-24** Doyle Lawson, Illrd Tyme Out, Bobby Osborne, Band of Ruhks, Larry Sparks, Marty Raybon, Melvin Goins,

Jr. Sisk, Tommy Brown, David Parmley, Ernie Thacker, Farm Hands, Feller & Hill, Flatt Lonesome, James King band, Jeff Brown, Jesse McReynolds, Joe Mullins, Karl Shiflett, Kenny & Amanda, Kevin Prater, Larry Cordle, Larry Efaw, more; Uncle Pen Days, Bean Blossom, **IN** 800-414-4677

09/22 Frank Lee & Allie Burbrink; Delphi Opera House, 109 S Washington St, Delphi, **IN** 46923 765-564-4300 7p \$15 -30 workshops available

09/23 Blue Mafia; FallFest, Todd-Creech Park, Lawrenceburg, **IN** 8p 812-532-3500

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

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 Festival, Remus, **MI**

09/10 Special Consensus, Illrd Tyme Out, Chris Jones, David Parmley; Parade of Stars, 1827 N. Squirrel Rd., Auburn Hills, **MI** 48326 248-370-9353 \$10 12-7p

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

09/23 Bobby Hutch & Grand Ole Country; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7

09/30 Northwood Ramblers; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7

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

09/02 Joe Mullins; Fairgrounds, 1043 S Main St, Dayton, **OH** 45409 7p

09/02-04 Turning Ground, Blue Mafia, Nightflyer, The Grascals, Adkins & Loudermilk, Barnlizards, Wildfire, Flatt Lonesome, Sideline, Blue Highway, The Steeldrivers, Joe Mullins, Lonesome River Band, Illrd Tyme Out, Doyle Lawson, Balsam Range, Shenandoah; SamJam Bluegrass Festival, Pike Co. Fairgrounds, 311 Mill St., Piketon, **OH** 45661 \$100 wknd camping \$25/day 812-699-0962

09/03 Chestnut Ridge; Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E Main St, Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 6:30p

09/09 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Clermont County Library, 6678 SR 132, Goshen, **OH** 45122 513-722-1221 6:30-8p

09/10 Dailey & Vincent; Bearcreek Memories Dinner Theater, 3769 US 127, Celina, **OH** 45822 2p & 7p 567-510-0096

09/10 Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Belmont County Fair, St. Clairsville, **OH** 4p

09/10 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Farmer's Market, Elementary School Parking Lot, 9609 Montgomery Rd, Montgomery, **OH** 45242 9-12p

09/15-17 Hillbilly Gypsies, Nightflyer, Sugar Creek, Blue Highway, Special Consensus, Border Ride, Lonesome River Band, Michael Cleveland, Valerie Smith, Karl Shiflett, Northwest Territory, Wheeling Park High School Bluegrass Band; Mohican Bluegrass Festival, 22462 Wally Rd, Glenmont, **OH** 44628 3 day \$63 plus camping, see web site.

09/16 Erika Hughes & The Well Mannered; The Walrus, 143 E. Main St., Columbus, **OH** 43215 614-817-1710 10p

09/16 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Coffee Peddler, 112 Harrison Ave, Harrison, **OH** 45030 513-202-0047 7:30-9:30p

09/17 Big Country Bluegrass, Nightflyer, Henhouse Prowlers, Clay Hess Band, My Brother's Keeper, Evan Lanier & Bluegrass Express, Hocking River

Continued on back

String Band, Mad River Railroad;
Riverfront park, 3 N Miami Ave,
Miamisburg, OH 45342
937-414-5577 11a-11:30p \$15 adv.,
\$20 gate

09/17 Erika Hughes & The Well Man-
nered; Ariel Park Foundation, 10 Pitts-
burgh Ave., Mt. Vernon, OH 43050
740-393-9577 12p

09/17 Fox N Hounds; The Walrus, 143 E.
Main St., Columbus, OH 43215
614-817-1710 10p

09/17 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers;
Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E
Main St, Mt Sterling, OH 43143 6:30p

09/23 Fox N Hounds; Rambling House,

310 E. Hudson St, Columbus, OH 43202
614-468-3415 \$5 9-midnight

09/23 Kevin Prater; JUGZ Tavern, 420 W.
Main St, Newark, OH 43055 7p

09/24 Kevin Prater; Coshocton Village
Inn, 115 N. Water St, Coshocton, OH
43812 7p

09/24 Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Covered
Bridge Festival, 17141 Inskeep-Cratty
Rd, N. Lewisburg, OH

09/24 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian
Grass, music, crafts; Johnny Appleseed
Farm Park, 1582 Slabtown Rd., Lima,
OH 45801

09/24 Wood & Strings; Sterling Bluegrass
Jamboree, 26 E Main St, Mt Sterling,

OH 43143 6:30p

09/24 Michael Cleveland, Special
Consensus, Joe Mullins, TNT Bluegrass;
Bluegrass On Main Street, W Church St,
Newark OH 43055 740-485-2534
12pm-11pm \$10 for 2

09/25 Kevin Prater; Trinway United
Methodist Church, 12750 2nd Ave,
Trinway, OH 43842 10a

09/25 Kevin Prater, Sawmill Ridge;
Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E
Main St, Mt Sterling, OH 43143 6:30p

09/25 Stockdale Family Band w/Joe
Steiner; Prairie Peddler Festival, 3170
OH 97, Butler, OH 1 & 3 pm.

Kudos, Announcers

We had a fabulous Memorial Day festival with outstanding bands again.

The announcers did an excellent job getting the bands on for your enjoyment. I was very pleased to work with this group of volunteers. The Memorial weekend announcers were Terri Grannis, Terry Thacker, Elaine Vogie and, helping me out in a pinch on Saturday, Bill Merrill. I would like to thank them all for volunteering their time and effort to make our festival the best in the Midwest.

Chris Vogie/Stage Chairman

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