



Looking back on the Labor Day festival, I am very pleased with the results. Not only did we have a great stage show all 4 days, but we also had some great workshops.

Donna Ulisse's songwriting workshop was very well attended, and the participants were very pleased. They felt they received insight into the songwriting process and good tips which will be helpful as they hone their songwriting skills in the future. In addition to the workshop, Donna held 6 one-on-one songwriting sessions which filled up almost immediately.

Likewise, Terry Thacker's fiddle workshop was well-received and well-attended, as was Shari Wolf's guitar class. These 3-hour extended workshops really laid the groundwork for many new players.

And, as always, one of the most popular events of the festival was the intermediate jam session led by Gary and Maggie Bilby and friends.

The Kid's Korner with Dixie Andres even had a musical theme, with several music related construction projects and an instrument petting zoo.

Caitlin Boltz taught several women how to make beautiful seasonal wreaths during the adult craft workshop.

Now that another year is behind us, we have started preparing for the 2017 festivals. We always appreciate suggestions for bands, either new or returning, and I have already received several recommendations for next year.

Of course, we cannot work in all recommendations, due to scheduling conflicts and budget considerations, but we'll try our best!

You can send recommendations to [bands@NIBGA.com](mailto:bands@NIBGA.com), or bands can submit promotional materials directly to Joe Steiner, 314 Frazer St, Findlay, OH 45840.

*Joe Steiner*

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

## President's Corner



It has been a number of years since we had such wonderful weather at the Labor Day event. Other than a little rain a couple of times

early in the week, it was pleasantly warm days and campfire nights which were perfect for jamming around a glowing campfire.

Campers arrived very early and there were over 100 units on the grounds the Sunday before. The fairgrounds was mostly ready with the grass freshly mowed in most places ready for a camper. With the mild weather, A/C was not a requirement so we had few electrical problems.

There were two underground water leaks which were promptly fixed by the fairgrounds maintenance team. We did turn off the water to the north west camping area as we diagnosed one of the leaks but it was only off for a short time.

Reflecting on the volunteers, they were a dedicated group. Several had various injuries or health issues but they smiled and worked tirelessly making the festival a great success.

To be associated with such a dedicated team is a rare privilege. In my working career, I rarely saw such extended team work. Each member knew what needed to be done in their area, did it, and made-on-the-spot decisions for unexpected problems.

As we settle into the fall, there are still a few outdoor events where you can camp and jam but soon it will be indoor concerts. We encourage you to let us know about events in your area so they can be shared with the club members.

The web site has easy-to-use forms on the event pages for each state. Fill one out and get your events published. Although a few weeks lead time is nice to make the newsletter, the web can be updated on a weekly basis.

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll see you around a glowing campfire!

*Jim Winger*



Look at the joy on those faces! Thank you to Greg Aldrich and friends for leading the Sunday morning gospel sing.

250+ people all making a joyful noise equals bluegrass gospel at its finest.

Thanks to Terri Grannis for the great photo.

# Fall Festival Reflections

## Thank you - From the Gate

It was beautiful weather with just enough rain to cool things off somewhat. Our staff and volunteers put in a lot of hard work to make this happen, so I'd like to thank the following gate volunteers:

Bob & JoAnn Bower, Barb & Ed Bronson, Sandy Conine, Ben Crofoot, Warren Curtis, Claire, Hannah & Michaela Gerken, Larry & Roger Gum, Lee Hunkin, Mike & Kathleen Knight, Tristen Lewis, Bruce & Joyce MacLean, Jack Mullins, Poul & Linda Sandersen, Chris Steiner & Lauryn Lehman, Annette & Jerry Tobin, Wayne Vincent, Braden Winger, Jeanette Young.

Associate Captains: Jim Miller, Dave Smith, Leslie Ellis, Brenda Aldrich.

Gate Captains: Paul Saurborn, Pam Keiper.

Come early & stay late! See ya!

*Paul Saurborn*

## 50/50 Drawing

Thanks to Danielle Winger, Elaine Vogie, and Jay Winger for collecting for the 50/50 drawing. Nearly \$400 was awarded to winners, with matching funds put into the club coffers for future festival events.



## Great Intermediate Workshop, Jammers!

Thanks to Ben Crofoot, Rusty Beyer and Vickie Conley on assisting Gary and myself at our "Intermediate Bluegrass Jam Workshop" on Saturday of the festival.

Wow, pleased with the great turnout AND involvement by those who attended. There were several returnees and new pickers. Hope to see more at the spring festival. Be sure to work on your songs this winter and come prepared to knock our socks off!

Thanks to the festival board for allowing us this opportunity to meet new jammers and spread the word on how much FUN bluegrass jamming is.

*Maggie & Gary Bilby*



## And it Continues....

Thank you to ALL of the volunteers that assisted at the festival. While you see many of them - the volunteers at the gate, taxi drivers, and merchandise table volunteers, there are many others that work behind the scenes.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed to make this festival a success. First and foremost are the board members that work year-round to plan and execute this festival, not counting the 24/7 they work during the festival.

Other volunteers handle things such as: making sure the electric and water work during the festival, setting up and decorating the stage, MCs, calling square dances, hiring bands, social media, advertising, newsletters and websites, organizing workshops and events, keeping the "green room" stocked with homemade goodies, leading events, workshops and jams, organizing 50/50 drawings & band scrambles, contacting vendors, keeping taxis fueled and running, cleaning up the grounds... and the list goes on and on. **Please let us know if there is anything YOU would like to assist with... we'd greatly appreciate the help!**

A huge thanks to Cheri Frantz for keeping the bathrooms clean and usable. While she is the only one that isn't technically a volunteer (she gets a small stipend), she does a VERY necessary job that no one else wanted to do. Make sure to tell her "thank you" when you see her in the future.

One last big thank you... to **YOU** and all who attended the festivals. Joe and I are usually the last ones to leave the festival so that we know everyone has made it out safely and without issues. We hook up our camper and do a "victory lap" around the festival grounds before we leave and I'm always SO amazed at how nice and clean the grounds are. You can't tell that anyone had been there...not a piece of trash anywhere. It sure isn't that way after a fair, or craft show, or sporting event.

After the last show on Sunday night, a woman showed up wearing rubber gloves and carrying a trash bag. She walked around the pavilion and midway and picked up anything she could find. No one asked her, she just did it. And here is a 13-year-old sweeping the stage area on Monday morning.

Bluegrassers are the best!

*Chris Steiner*



While we will have more information in the next newsletter in recapping the festival, I'd like to thank all the MCs now: Announcer chair Chris Vogie, Announcers - Donnie Voiles, Terry Thacker, Elaine Vogie, Terri Grannis, & Bill Merrill

## Upcoming Events

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

### Indiana

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.** Central Indiana jam, Hall Community Bldg, 307 W South St, Gas City, **IN** 46933 noon-?? (Oct. 2, Nov. 6, Dec. 4, 2016) 765-674-5117
- 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs.** Wakarusa Jamboree, Northwood Middle School, 301 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 6:30-9p (Sept. - May) 574-862-2200
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sat** Contra Dance, First United Methodist Church, 215 South 5<sup>th</sup> 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
- 2nd Thurs.** 5:30p meeting; 6p jam White River Folk & Bluegrass jam, FOP, 2614 Mounds Rd., Anderson, **IN** 46016 765-606-0761 (Oct '16-April '17)
- 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 Thurs.** 6p jam White River Folk & Bluegrass jam, FOP, 2614 Mounds Rd., Anderson, **IN** 46016 765-606-0761 (Oct '16-April '17)
- 10/01** Cornfields & Crossroads, Blue Mafia, Big Iron; Lions Club BGF, Lizton, **IN** 46149 317-372-7207
- 10/01-02** Hoosier Hills, Elkridge BGB, Cumberland Gap, Harvey Branch String Band, Punkin' Holler boys, Whiskey Bent Valley, Backwoods BGB, Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers, Lost Mill String Band, Red Cedars, James White, Blue Mafia; Friendship Music Fest, Old Mill Campground, 7249 1st St., Friendship, **IN** 47021 812-689-7431
- 10/07** Doyle Lawson; Blue Gate Theatre, 175 N Van Buren St, Shipshewana, **IN** 46565 888-447-7275
- 10/08** Cornfields & Crossroads; Mallow Run Winery, 6964 W Whiteland Rd, Bargersville, **IN** 46106 317-422-1556 2-5p
- 10/08** Blue Mafia; Tailfeather Farm Market, North Vernon, **IN** 47265
- 10/08** Farm Hands Quartet; Mitchell Opera House, 7th & Brook St., PO Box 37, Mitchell, **IN** 47446 (812) 849-4447 7-9p \$10

- 10/08** Indiana State Picking & Fiddling Championships, Boonville HS, 300 N 1st St, Boonville, **IN** 47601 \$5,000 prizes 812-305-4390
- 10/15** Backwoods Bluegrass & Gospel Band; Mitchell Opera House, 7th & Brook St., PO Box 37, Mitchell, **IN** 47446 812-849-4447 7-9p \$10
- 10/15** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Historic Hoosier Theater, 209 Ferry St., Vevay, **IN** 47043 812-427-3237 7-9p
- 10/15** Rhonda Vincent; Blue Gate Theatre, 175 N Van Buren St, Shipshewana, **IN** 46565 888-447-4725
- 10/15** Special Consensus, Buffalo Wabs, Price Hill Hustle; Delphi Opera House, 109 S Washington St, Delphi, **IN** 46923 765-564-4300 7p \$25

### 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
- 10/02** Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies; 214 N St Joseph St, Suttons Bay, **MI** 49682 231-271-3772
- 10/07** Company of Strangers; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 10/08** 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
- 10/14** Ottawa County; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 10/15** Old Fashion Opra show; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, **MI** 49329 \$12 2p
- 10/16** Mid-Michigan jam, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, **MI** 48917 517-482-2382 \$4 donation
- 10/18** Opry Show with Gary Fountain, Missy Armstrong, Jeff Rose, Nick Griffith, Mark "Foose" Zickefoose, Danny "Steel" Hullihen, Marty Roberts, Steve Albert, Miss Minnie, More; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, **MI** 49329 2p \$12

- 10/20** Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies; Rare Bird Brewpub, 229 Lake Ave, Traverse City, **MI** 49684 231-943-2053 9p
- 10/21** New River Band; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 10/21** Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies; MSU Community Music School, 4930 S. Hagadorn, E. Lansing, **MI** 48823 7:30p
- 10/22** Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies; Pin Drop Concert Series at Seven Steps Up, 116 S Jackson St, Spring Lake, **MI** 49456 616-678-3618 8p \$25
- 10/23** Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 7:30p \$20
- 10/28** Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies; State Theatre, 913 Washington Ave, Bay City, **MI** 48708 989-892-2660 7p
- 10/29** Lindsay Lou & The Flatbellies; Founders Brewing Co., 235 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, **MI** 49503 616-776-1195 9:30p \$5

### 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
- 10/01** Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Prairie Peddler Festival, 3170 OH 97, Butler, **OH** 1 & 3 pm
- 10/07** Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Charm Festival, State Route 557, Charm, **OH** 8p
- 10/08** Anna Allen & Traditional Plus; Sterling Theater Concert, 430 South Main St., Pataskala, **OH** 43062
- 10/08** Erika Hughes & The Well Mannered; Marietta Brewing Co., 167 Front St., Marietta, **OH** 45750 740-373-BREW 10p
- 10/14** Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Bob Evans Farm Festival, Bidwell, **OH**
- 10/15** Strung Up bluegrass; Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E Main St, Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 6:30p 7-10p
- 10/17** Fox N Hounds; Rambling House, 310 E. Hudson St, Columbus, **OH** 43202 614-468-3415 \$5 9-midnight
- 10/21** Strung Up bluegrass; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W 3rd Av, Columbus **OH** 43212 614-486-4722
- 10/28** Fox N Hounds; Casa Nueva, 6 W State St, Athens, **OH** 45701 740-592-2016 10p
- 10/29** Erika Hughes & The Well Mannered; Rambling House, 310 E Hudson St, Columbus, **OH** 43202 614-468-3415 9p



From Maggie Bilby

CANCELLED: The Wernick Bluegrass Jam Camp that was to have been held Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2016 is OFFICIALLY cancelled. Students have been notified; this is to inform any of you who were contemplating signing up at the site or letting others know.

Unfortunately, even though my cancer numbers are doing better, the stamina is not there yet for me to conduct a weekend camp in the manner it should be conducted plus other treatments/surgery scheduled. Thanks for your understanding. If all goes well, I plan on doing a camp in 2017 in Jackson, MI - May 5, 6 and 7, 2017.

*I have tons of pictures that I'd love to share with you of the various events of this last festival, but just don't have room in this issue. I hope to get them in future issues. In the meantime, post YOUR favorite snapshots to the facebook page at [facebook.com/KendallvilleBluegrass](https://facebook.com/KendallvilleBluegrass)*

**Oct 16 & Nov 20  
Mtg & Jam**

Our meeting location, the Southwest Conservation club, is in the process of rebuilding after the April fire. At this juncture, the facility is not ready to be rented. Rather than finding a new location, it was decided to eliminate the October and November jams. We are hoping that the facility is restored by the January 15 NIBGA meeting and jam.

Your board will be meeting on the normally scheduled October and November days at 2p at the Richards Restaurant, 252 Frontage Rd, Columbia City, IN 46725. They have set aside a small area for us. You are welcome to attend the meeting or contact us to have items discussed at these meetings.

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

### Address Service Requested



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**Next NIBGA Jam - TBD**