



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 Mar. 20, 2016 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



First we need to thank the folks that helped us test the new web site. It needed to be tested not only using desktop

computers but different browsers on those computers such as IE, Chrome, Firefox, etc. Then various size devices, like tablets and phones including different brands needed to run tests. I think we covered all our bases but if you find something that does not seem right, let us know so we can investigate.

We do have a publicity chair! Julie Goldsmith has agreed to fill that spot. "I need the club to help guide me, but I want to do it," she said. Attitudes like this is what makes this club!

Our congratulations to our VP, Joe Steiner, for the band line up in 2016. It is going to be a fantastic set of festivals. The new web site has the band line up. There are a couple of bands that are

being finalized before they can be announced.

At the January board meeting, the question of allowing golf carts at the festivals was again discussed. It was pointed out that over the past few years, golf carts have been accepted by insurance companies and communities. For many, golf carts are the difference between enjoying a bluegrass campout and staying home.

Your board has voted unanimously to allow golf carts at the festivals. There will be a few common sense rules that will be forthcoming but, in general, adult, licensed drivers will be allowed to have and use carts. Liability is the responsibility of the cart owner.

The mild winter has us thinking of camping. I'm told it is only 14 weeks until the festival! If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll be camping soon!

Jim Winger

BUZZ on the Bands



We are really excited about the lineup for the 2016 festivals -- both festivals will feature some of the top names in bluegrass music. Appearing at the spring festival will be Dan Paisley & Southern Grass, Special Consensus, Becky Buller, Nu Blue, Shotgun Holler, and Circa Blue. In the fall, we'll have the Grascals, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Donna Ulisse & the Poor Mountain Boys, the Freight Hoppers, Feller & Hill, and Cumberland Gap Connection. You read about Special Consensus and Nu Blu in last month's column, and we will have more information about the rest of the lineup in upcoming newsletters.

Joe Steiner

SPBGMA Awards

The **SPBGMA Bluegrass Music Awards** were held in Nashville, Tennessee on February 7, and The Farm Hands, competing in their hometown, came up big winners. They captured Bluegrass Gospel Group of the Year and Bluegrass Vocal Group of the Year awards. Individual awards went to Daryl Mosley for Songwriter of the Year and Tim Graves for Dobro Player of the Year.

Flatt Lonesome was also a big winner, bringing home Bluegrass Band of the Year as well as Bluegrass Album of the Year for their recent release, Runaway Train. Russell Moore received Male Vocalist of the Year, and Female Vocalist of the Year went to Rhonda Vincent.

Ronnie Reno was inducted into the Preservation Hall of Greats as "Bluegrass Music's Youngest Old Timer," joining such luminaries as Bill Monroe, Hylo Brown, Mac Wiseman, Larry Sparks, Jim & Jesse McReynolds, The Osborne Brothers, Doc Watson, Carl Story, Rhonda Vincent, Flatt & Scruggs, Reno & Smiley, and Bill Harrell.

SPBGMA hosts the annual awards show as part of its mission to preserve bluegrass music. Like NIBGA, SPBGMA allows only acoustic instruments at their events but makes no limitations based on style of performance, valuing both the traditional and progressive. In conjunction with the annual awards show, SPBGMA also hosts the International Band Championships, with this year's awards going to the bands shown below.

NIBGA members will be familiar with the fourth band on the list, The New Balance, which appeared at Tri-State during the fall festival:

- ◆ Bluegrass Outlaws
- ◆ The Turkey Creek Band
- ◆ Clay Bank
- ◆ The New Balance
- ◆ Bluff City
- ◆ Spring Fever Bluegrass Band
- ◆ Iron Mountain Boys
- ◆ The Baker Family
- ◆ Tennessee Tradition
- ◆ Amanda Cook & Kennesaw Ridge

Over Jordan



Ronald (Woody) Burkhead, 72, died January 11, 2016, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne after a recent cancer diagnoses. He was often found camped east of the tracks between the big barn and the campground. You would see him going around the grounds in his mobility scooter. He enjoyed camping, fishing and being surrounded by nature. He will be missed by his friends at Kendallville.



Gloria Merrill, 69, passed away February 8 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico after a brief hospital stay. A celebration of life is planned for March 5 in the Chicago area*.

She was a dear friend who had beaten two kinds of cancer, breast and leukemia. She had been in remission from leukemia for 3 ½ years but, suddenly, her leukemia returned with a vengeance and she couldn't make it.

Gloria and her husband Bill have not only been club members since the 1990s but they have been active volunteers helping at the festival. Gloria assisted with publicity, wrote grant applications and managed the green room for many years. She would always make suggestions on how the club could improve and expand. They attended almost every festival the club hosted along with many others over the years. Their "After Thanksgiving Bluegrass House Parties" were a treat that many musicians attended.

Our hearts ache from her passing. ~Jim & Linda Winger

*Celebration of Life from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the VFW Post #2801, 39 E. St. Charles Road in Villa Park, Illinois, 60181



On the evening of Thanksgiving, after all their guests had left, Dave Keiper became aware of a fire at his 5th wheel RV. The fire department arrived quickly but the RV was a total loss between the fire, smoke and water damage. The trailer was fully loaded in preparation for their winter trip to Texas. The electric was the only thing turned on.

What happened? Based upon the burn marks, it appears that the refrigerator caught fire. Both Dometic and Norcold have had recalls on some of their units. Norcold had a recall on one of the recalls.

If you have not checked your RV fridge for a recall please consider doing so before using it. Identify and write down the refrigerator model and serial number. Call Norcold's Recall Center at 1-800-767-9101 or Dometic at 574-294-2511 to determine if your unit is recalled.



[Dave Keiper's wife, Pam, is the Gate Co-Captain, and Dave is often seen fixing electrical & plumbing issues around the campgrounds, in addition to setting up the stage, and a bazillion other duties.]

Upcoming Events

Illinois

- 02/27** Becky Buller Band; Chicago Bluegrass, American Legion, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 8p
- 03/03-06** 11th Annual Shorty's Strickly Bluegrass Festival. Stony Creek Hotel, 101 Mariners Way, E. Peoria, IL 61611
Shortysblugrass@comcast.net (See Flyer) Great Bands, Great Jamming!
- 03/12** Rhonda Vincent w/Gene Watson; Performance Center, 1325 Outer Belt W., Effingham, IL 62401

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.** 02/20, 03/19 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; Eagle Quest Church, 1120 N SR 109, Columbia City, IN 46725 260-244-5955 2p Raymond Desrosiers, rjd@locateus.com
- 3rd Sun** jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, IN 46069 1-5p
- 02/27** Lick Creek Band, Mitchell Opera House, 217 North 7th Street, Mitchell, IN 47446 812-849-4447 \$10 7p
- 03/05** Central Ind. Bluegrass jam; Jonesboro, IN Community building, Fairmount Ave, Jonesboro, IN 46938 1p 765-674-5117
- 03/11** Jeff Brown & Still Lonesome; Connersville Bluegrass Music Assoc., Roberts Park, 30th and Park St., Connersville, IN 47331 7-9p
- 03/12** Becky Buller, Blue Moon, New Balance; Park Theatre Civic Centre, 25

N Madison Ave, North Vernon, IN 47265 812-346-0330 7p \$20

- 03/13** MIPS0; The Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St. Portland, IN 260-726-4809 4p
- 03/19** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd., Metamora, IN 47030 7p
- 03/25** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Connersville Bluegrass Music Assoc., Roberts Park, 30th and Park St., Connersville, IN 47331 7-9p
- 03/26** Paul Bryant & Kentucky Border; Opera House, 7th & Brook St., PO Box 37, Mitchell, IN 47446 812-849-4447

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** Mar 20, Apr 17, May 15 Mid-Michigan jams, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, MI 48917 517-482-2382 \$4 donation
- 4th Sa** except May, Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open stages & jams (02/27, 03/26, 04/23, 05/21) 6-10p Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Drive, Flint, MI 48506 810-736-5332
- 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
- 02/26** Northwest Ramblers; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 02/27** Merv Spencer & Bridge County Band; Huron Valley Eagles #3732, 13636 Telegraph Rd, Flat Rock, MI 48134 8 - 11:30 586-754-6955
- 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 48104-2108 734-761-1800 7:30 pm, \$15

- 03/04** Company of Strangers; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 03/05** Schlitz Creek; Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival, Kalamazoo Valley Museum, 230 N. Rose St., Kalamazoo MI 49007
- 03/11** Harbourtown; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$10
- 03/11** Open Highway; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$8
- 03/13** Rhonda Vincent; Temple Theatre, 201 N. Washington Ave., Saginaw, MI 48607 989-754-7469 \$20 & \$25 3p
- 03/18** Schlitz Creek; Library, 212 N Paw Paw St, Lawrence, MI 49064 269-674-3200 \$10
- 03/19** Mich. Fiddlers: Jamboree & Square Dance, Gaelic Ball Room, 2068 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48216 fiddlers 3-6p, potluck 6-7p, square dance 7p 269-795-3143
- 03/19** Schlitz Creek; Zellie's Opry House, 230 E. Edgerton St., Howard City, MI 49329 2p \$10
- 03/25** Ron Bloomfield; 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
- 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
- 02/28** Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; OKI Music Series, Fairborne Fraternal Order of Eagles, 509 Sports St., Fairborn, OH 45324-5138 2p
- 03/04** Anna Allen & Traditional Plus, Audie Blaylock and Redline; Penny Royal Opera House, Fairview, OH 7p

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03/04 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Southern Ohio Opry, 4459 Henley Deemer Rd., McDermott, **OH** 740-259-4085 740-259-5351 7-10p

03/04 Strung Up Bluegrass; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

03/05 Sawmill Ridge; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 7p

03/06 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Leo Coffeehouse, Church of Christ, 2301 Indian Mound Ave., Norwood, **OH** 45212 513-531-5400 8:15-9p

03/11 Anna Allen & Traditional Plus;

Southern Ohio Opry, 4459 Henley Deemer Rd, Lucasville, **OH** 45648 740-259-4085 7p

03/11 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Village Troubadour, 46 Eswin St., Greenhills, **OH** 45218 7-9p 513-648-9357

03/13 Sugar Creek Bluegrass; Jersey Baptist Southern Gospel, 13260 Morse Rd., Pataskala, **OH** 9:30a

03/19 Art Stevenson & Highwater, Balsam Range, Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, Doyle Lawson, Paul Williams & Joe Mullins, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers,

Mountain Faith, Nothin' Fancy, Paul Williams, Primitive Quartet, The Wayfarers; Southern Ohio Indoor Music Festival, The Roberts Center, 123 Gano Rd., Wilmington, **OH** 937-372-5804

03/26 Ma Crow & the Lady Slippers; Reflections@PMG Restaurant, 3377 US-35, W. Alexandria, **OH** 45381 937-839-4500 7-9:30p

03/26 Strung Up Bluegrass; Steiner's Speakeasy, 31 S Paint St, Chillicothe, **OH** 45601 740-773-0010 7-11p

03/26 Sugar Creek; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 7p

Spring Special Events

Spring workshops are still being scheduled, but some super ones are already penned in. We are concentrating on NEW players this year and will offer 1-hour beginner sessions in **bluegrass banjo, fiddle, mountain dulcimer**, and more. A special treat this spring will be a 1-hour **song-writing workshop** by the award-winning Becky Buller. In addition to the music workshops on Saturday, there will be the **Kid's Korner** with activities for kids, a **women's craft hour**, and the **band scramble**. Reserve Friday night from 7-9 for a **square dance**... no experience required. On Sunday morning, we will wake the camp with our joy-filled **gospel sing** at the stage. Bring your voices or instruments and prepare to join in.

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association
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Address Service Requested



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