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Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, Apr 15. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

BZZ on the Bands



If you are a Bluegrass Unlimited subscriber, you will recognize **Nu Blu** on the cover of the February 2018 issue. Nu Blu is not cookie cutter bluegrass, but have no doubt that they know how to drive!

While they resist putting labels on their music, and proudly explore new sounds, it is obvious that their music is built on the rock solid foundation of the bluegrass masters.

Headed up by Carolyn and Daniel Routh, on guitar and string bass, Nu Blu has happily and deftly created their own opportunity for musical expression by forging their own path into a new musical dimension. They are “bending the boundaries of bluegrass,” if you will, which is appropriately the slogan painted on the side of their tour bus.

As the Bluegrass Unlimited article mentions, they have historically focused on original material, although their latest CD, *Vagabonds*, is their first containing no compositions from Daniel and Carolyn.

While Carolyn is the featured singer of the band, handling both sweet and raucous with aplomb, the band has plenty enough talent in the vocal department. Since each member is a talented singer in his/her own right, they put together some awesome harmonies, with, as one might expect, some creative arranging.

In addition to Daniel and Carolyn, the group includes TJ Honaker on banjo and Justin Harrison on mandolin, both monsters on their instruments. They are definitely

worth checking out if you want to see what the cutting edge of modern bluegrass sounds like.



Your NIBGA board prides itself on featuring a variety of styles at the Tri-State festival, including something for everyone, as much as possible, while staying within the bluegrass framework. If you are not one who likes venturing out from the foundation of bluegrass with a group like Nu Blu, you may find the **Po Ramblin Boys** to be more your style.

These boys know and understand the classic bluegrass sound, and they are very happy staying close to home. Musically speaking that is, since from a geographic perspective they have wandered far from home displaying their craft as the band has increased in popularity.

As lead singer and mandolinist CJ Lewandowski says, they want to be known for “keeping the old music alive, and making some new music that’s still close to the roots. A tree can’t stand without its roots. So we are just trying to keep those roots alive. We want to complement and not take away.”

Guitarist Josh “Jug” Rinkel will feel right at home on the Tri-State stage, since he has performed on it at least once as a member of Tommy Brown’s County Line Grass. His job with the Po Ramblin Boys is the same as when he was working for Tommy; driving the rhythm like a freight train and belting out the vocals from deep inside his heart.

Banjo player Jereme Brown rides

President’s Corner

The weather is finally starting to warm up, at least a little. The fingers are getting itchy for picking outside, and the NIBGA board is busy getting ready for the Memorial Day Festival. We’re going to skip the President’s Column this month to make more room for notes on the bands appearing at the festival and other articles.



Just a couple more months to go until we’re camping and picking at the Noble County Fairgrounds!

Leadership Bluegrass

NIBGA member Jessica Grossman attended the Leadership Bluegrass seminar in Nashville earlier this month. I’m sure that the program has changed quite a bit since I attended 15 years ago, but many of the same topics remain. Central to discussion were the future of bluegrass music, how to define (or not define) the boundaries of the music, distribution formats, effective marketing, considerations for bluegrass music venues, and bluegrass music education (both inside and outside mainstream curricula).

While we don’t have room to print Jessica’s notes on her experience in the newsletter, we do have it posted on NIBGA’s web site so if you are interested, stop by the NIBGA web site to get the scoop:
www.BluegrassUSA.net

the same train, which is not surprising since he is Tommy’s son. Of course, the drive in bluegrass music needs to be built on a solid bass line, and the Po Ramblin Boys have Jasper Lorentzen to handle the bottom end. If you like your bluegrass to drive like a diesel locomotive hitting on all cylinders, you will want to give the Po Ramblin Boys a listen.

Continued →

BUZZ on the Bands, Continued

Although most folks won't recognize the name **Blue Holler**, many will recognize the faces in this group since most of the members are longtime festival attendees and NIBGA members.

Singer and bassist Chere McKinley often helps out with the MC work at the stage, while dobroist Greg Aldrich will be found leading the gospel sing on Sunday morning as well as helping lead maintenance, setup, and teardown efforts.

Joining Chere and Greg are guitarist Stan Sallee, who splits time with Chere on lead vocals, Doug Tyler on banjo, and Tim Cunningham on string bass.

These folks know how to play bluegrass, and I'm looking forward to seeing them on the TriState stage.



Look for information on the rest of the bands, including the Freight Hoppers with original fiddler, David Bass, in next month's newsletter.

Joe Steiner

Band Survey

Communication and feedback are always important aspects of a well-run organization. To facilitate this, your club is working to ensure we provide the best place for bands to perform by asking the bands to complete a short, 7-question survey. Below are the results from Spring and Fall 2017. We can use the data and comments to ensure we meet the band's and audience's expectations.

- ◆ "Keep up the great work and we hope we can work you all way into the future. Thanks for being so kind to us. Thank you again. The Kevin Prater Band
- ◆ "We always have a great time here and really enjoyed being able to perform here as well. Great time and great people."
- ◆ "Keep up the great work, U all done good"
- ◆ "Always good host there and water and snacks. People very helpful."

These are the questions that bands were asked: How would you rate the sound quality and setup? In general, how would you rate the stage schedule and change over between bands? How well did the Green room meet your expectations? How would you rate the quality of our emcees for audience engagement and your introduction? How many of our festival flyers were you able to distribute? How likely would you recommend NIBGA to a friend or colleague? Overall, how would you rate this event?

Details of this survey will help the club in future improvements but overall we received over 70% excellent or very good on all questions.

Submitted by Julie Goldsmith

Upcoming Events

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

Indiana

Every Tues Old Timey jam; Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N. Main St., South Bend, IN 46601 574-232-2853 7-10p year around

Every Tues Arthur's Music Store, 931 Shelby St, Indianapolis, IN 46203 317-638-3524 5-8p

1st or 2nd Sun. 04/01, 10/14, 11/04, 12/09 but 2nd on 12/10 Central Indiana jam, Hall Community Bldg, 307 W South St, Gas City, IN 46933 noon-?? 765-674-5117

1st Tues Old Time Jam, 3 Rivers Natural Grocery, 1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 6:30-8:30p 260-445-3348

1st Thurs. Wakarusa Jamboree, Northwood Middle School, 301 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, IN 46573 6:30-9p 574-862-2200 (Sept - May)

1st Sat Contra Dance, 1st United Methodist Church, 215 S. 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
2nd Mon mostly Irish jam; J K O'Donnell's, 121 W Wayne St, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 7-10p 260-420-5563

2nd & 4th Wed. Jam; CrossRoads Inn, 5975 S SR 9, Columbia City, IN 46725 260-396-2144 6:30-8:30p

2nd Thurs. Whiteriver Folks & Bluegrass, FOP Lodge, 2614 Mounds Rd., Anderson, IN 5:30p meeting, carry-in, 6:30p jam

3rd Sun jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, IN 46069 1-5p year around (317) 758-5201

3rd Sun jam Jan-April 2018; Northern Ind. Bluegrass, SWCC, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46809 noon-5p 260-918-4790 drinks & sandwiches available

3rd Tues Irish Jam; 3 Rivers Natural Grocery, 1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 6:30-8:30p

3rd Fri. Bluegrass, Country, Gospel Jam; Community Center, 815 Rural St, Akron, IN 46910 7-9p

04/14 Little Roy & Lizzy; Mitchell Opera House, 217 North 7th St., Mitchell, IN 47446 812-849-4447 7-9p \$12

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

1st & 3rd Sat Eagles, 13636 Telegraph Rd., Flat Rock, MI 48134 8p usually \$7

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

2nd Sat Maumee St. Jam, First Presbyterian, 156 E. Maumee, Adrian, MI 49221 517-270-2870 church 517-265-2168 6-11p (Sept - May)

3rd Thur jam; Elderly, 1100 N Washington, Lansing, MI 48906 517-372-7880 6-8:30p

3rd Sun Mid-Michigan jams, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, MI 48917 517-482-2382 \$4 donation (no Easter)

Upcoming Events, continued

3-24, 4-28, 5-19 Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open stages & jams 6-10p Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Drive, Flint, **MI** 48506 810-736-5332 donation

04/07 Harbourtown, Red, White, Blue grass, Hand Hewn, Lonesome Drive; Legion, 11601 Lewis Ave., Ida, **MI** 48182 \$10 adv, \$12 door 734-915-8835 3p

04/13 RFD Boys; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$10 mbr

04/18 Jimmy & Friends, Tim Evans band, Journeymen, Pam Bowman & Friends, Out of the Blue, Heart to Heart, Ellen Beam & friends; Ionia Bluegrass Special, Ionia Theatre, 205 W Main St, Ionia, **MI** 48846 noon - 6p

04/19 Sierra Hull; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 \$20 8p

04/20 Mountain Heart; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800

04/20-22 Bluegrass Jam Camp taught by Maggie Bilby using the Wernick Method; Holiday Inn Express, 3506 O'Neill Drive, Jackson, **MI** 49202 Hotel 517-788-6400

Sun Old Time Jam; Rambling House Soda, 310 E Hudson St, Columbus, **OH** 43202 614-468-3415 7p

Tues. Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, **OH** 45873 419-594-2816 6p winter months

Weds jam with Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass, Pit to Plate BBQ, 8021 Hamilton Ave., Mt. Healthy, **OH** 45231 7-9p 513-931-9100

04/06 Jack McCarthy; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

04/06 Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd, Cincinnati, **OH** 45231 513-832-1422 7-9p

04/07 Larry Sparks; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 5p

04/07 Vertical Limit, Caney Creek; Johnson Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd, Leavittsburg, **OH** 44430 330-240-1904

04/08 Appalachian Grass; American Legion, 377 N. Third St. Tipp City, **OH** donation 2-3p

04/08 Larry Sparks; Eagles, 509 Sports St., Fairborn, **OH** 45324 937-878-9211 1p

04/13 Joe Mullins; Cedarville Opera House, 70 N Main St, Cedarville, **OH** 45314 7:30-9:30p adv. \$18

04/13 Appalachian Grass; Butler Co. BG Assoc, 200 Warwick Rd, Hamilton, **OH** 45013 7-9p donation

04/13 Little Roy & Lizzy; Flowers Hall, 344 Darla Drive, Hanover, **OH** 43055 740-763-3477 7p

04/13 Sandy Tar Bros; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

04/14 Appalachian Grass; Jenny Lee; China Garden Buffet, 1108 W. Kemper Rd., Cincinnati, **OH** 45240 \$25 includes dinner doors 6p show 7p 513-607-1874

04/14 Volume Five, Ottawa County Bluegrass; Clyde HS Auditorium, 1015 Race St, Clyde, **OH** 43410 419-547-0588 7:30p \$25

04/14 Doyle Lawson; Miami U Hamilton Campus, Parrish Auditorium, 1601 University Blvd., Hamilton, **OH** 513-727-3412

04/14 Sawmill Ridge; Community Center, 122 W. Liberty St., Martinsburg, **OH** 43037 7p

04/14 Diamond Ridge; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 5p

04/14 Joe Williams; COBA, 7798 Big Walnut Rd, Westerville, **OH** 43082 5:30p

04/15 Asleep at the Wheel; Kent Stage, 175 E Main, Kent, **OH** 44240 330-677-5005 7:30p \$32-47

04/20 Other Brothers; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

04/21 Out of Mind; Moon City, 1208 Lunar Dr., Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 567-204-0929 7p \$10

04/21 Audie Blaylock; Holland Theater, 127 E. Columbus Ave., Bellefontaine, **OH** 43311 937-592-9002 7:30p

04/21 Anthony Prater; Village Inn, 115 N. Water St., Coshocton, **OH** 43812 7p 740-498-8456

04/21 Blue Mafia; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 5p

04/22 Mike Gorrell; Velvet Ice Cream Co., 11324 Mt Vernon Rd, Utica, **OH** 43080 2p

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Ohio

1st Sat - Traditional, bluegrass, country music with acoustic instruments - Three rooms of jammin'. Nettle Lake United Brethren Church, 18560 County Road 5-75, Montpelier, **OH** 43543 6p 517-270-2870 or 419-485-4112

2nd Sat Central Ohio Bluegrass Assoc., Grace Chapel Community Church (in the Recreation Hall), 7798 Big Walnut Rd., Westerville, **OH** 43082 jam: 5:45-7p bands 7p (Nov. - May)

NIBGA 2018-2019 Membership Form

BluegrassUSA.net Due by April 30, 2018. 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): _____

04/27 Dailey & Vincent; Methodist Church, 207 S. Court St., Marysville, OH 43040 937-642-4712 7p \$25

04/27 Ricky Skaggs; Center for the Arts, 940 Second St., Portsmouth, OH 45662 740-351-3600 \$35-85 7p

04/27 Strung Up; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p

04/28 M & M Express and Young- N-Blue; Grange, 9778 Old SR, Chardon, OH 44024 330-240-1904 7p

04/28 Rhonda Vincent, Ottawa County, Larry Efaw; OJ Work Auditorium, 151 Main St, Wadsworth, OH 44281 330-645-1541 \$20 7p

04/28 Sugar Creek; Victoria Opera House, 101 S. Main St., Baltimore, OH 43105 614-450-0237 7p

04/28 Sugar Grove; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p

04/29 The Wayfarers; Museum, 8850 E Pike, Norwich, OH 43767 740-872-3143 7p

Checkin' In

I just got home from “**Shorty’s Strickly Bluegrass Festival**” in Peoria, Illinois. This indoor festival went Thursday through Sunday with entertainment by the Bluegrass Martins, the Baker Family, First Impression, Branded Bluegrass and Living Water for \$35, but I went for the jamming.

People were already jamming in the lobby when I arrived. Not long after I joined, Trustin Baker played with us before his show. The Stoney Creek Inn is a jammer’s dream. In addition to the lobby, there was jamming in the breakfast rooms and the terrace. There were private rooms and a gathering space on each floor.

Everyone was very welcoming and I’m looking forward to more jamming and seeing my new friends on February 28 – March 3, 2019. <http://shortysbluegrass.com/>

~ Contributed by Patty Page

[Send NL@NIBGA.com a short description of an event you’ve attended recently and we’ll post the best ones]

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association
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Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946

Address Service Requested



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Next NIBGA Jam - April 15, 2018