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Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, Oct 21. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

BWZZ on the Bands



Regardless what words I choose to say how happy we are to welcome **Art Stevenson**

and **High Water** back in 2018, there is no way to avoid coming up with an understatement. It has been a few years since we have seen them, and they have been a big part of our festival over the years.

They always put on a top-notch show and even play along with some good-natured shenanigans from time to time. Hailing from Wisconsin, they have all the right ingredients from the bluegrass cookbook, and boy do they ever know how to put them together.

It would be impossible to comment on all facets of their stage show, but fine duet vocals from Art and Stephanie Stevenson are just one of the many highlights. They also feature stellar instrumental work from Bruce King on mandolin, and Dale Reichert is second to none on delivering up hard-driving banjo.

And, Art will also pull a harmonica out of his pocket from time to time and demonstrate his dexterity on that instrument!

It has been quite a few years since **Open Highway**, from Columbus, Ohio, has been on our stage. Playing bluegrass in the traditional style, they have been around for over 20 years but took a few years hiatus before getting back together in 2010.

The current lineup is Max Mobley on guitar, John Obora on fiddle, Matt Inboden on Banjo, Scott Adkins on mandolin, and Jim Duty on bass.

The **Dyer Switch Band** features original and traditional bluegrass. JoAnn Sifo and her "dusky drawl," as her lead vocals are described on the band's web site, have been mainstays of the group since they have been appearing at Tri-State. Fiddle player Bob Bates has been with the group for the

last few years and his aggressive fiddle style has become a trademark of their sound.

JoAnn and Bob are both also talented songwriters and contribute some fine original material to the group. Joann and Bob co-composed "Silver and Gold," which reached #1 on the European country music charts, and Bob penned "I Just Can't Say," which reached #21 on the Sirius bluegrass chart. The group now includes innovative banjo-player Chris Schultz and bassist Bruce Barker.

Vernon McIntyre's **Appalachian Grass** features Vernon's driving bluegrass guitar and lead vocal work, and he has just the right feel for that classic bluegrass sound. Along with wife Kitty's fine fiddling, he heads up a great bluegrass unit with Susan Shook on mandolin, Robert Campbell driving the five-string, and Tammy Powers holding down the bottom end on string bass.

Vernon handles the MC work and keeps the show moving as the group delivers up bluegrass songs and fiery instrumentals. You will definitely want to catch Kitty's trick fiddling segment! **Kitty will also be teaching a master's fiddle workshop during the festival.**

I was really excited to hear that founding member David Bass has returned as fiddler for **The Freight Hoppers**, and I am even more excited that they are returning to the Tri-State stage this year! They are a true old-timey ensemble and handle a variety of old-timey styles with equal aplomb, from hard-driving fiddle tunes to ballads and country blues.

There is no better combination on fiddle and banjo than David and Frank Lee, another founding member – they can drive the rhythm like a freight train. Allie Burbrink, on guitar, and

President's Corner

As Joe has told you, we have been very involved since February 9 with a major first floor remodel. It is coming to an end just in time for festival



season to start. The first step was to get the RV out of winter storage and move it to summer storage. It was 31° April 7, the coldest it has been when RV was taken out of storage. Even our robins are wearing long johns.

Have you renewed your membership yet? Now is the time as there is only one more mailing prior to the festival. Our treasurer needs time to process the renewals and she will be at Kendallville when the next newsletter is mailed.

Why should I be a member? You receive 11 newsletters, one a month except December, an annual festival guide listing not only festivals & locations but contact information. The newsletters have updates throughout the year on bluegrass items of interest in the upper midwest. Each newsletter monthly lists where our music is happening. In the festival season, area event flyers are included. Finally, each membership receives \$5 off a weekend festival ticket. A couple renewing for \$15, would receive \$10 off a pair of weekend tickets at each festival or \$20.

If you can, consider receiving your newsletters by email. They are in color and generally arrive 5-7 days ahead of snail mail. They are easy to print or read on most devices. It saves your club significant labor and money!

The festival flyer with the schedule is inserted in this newsletter. Thanks to many who work on the upcoming festivals. It is a labor of love for all.

If the creek don't rise & the good Lord's willin', we will be on our first campout of 2018 on May 3!

Chris DeVictor, on bass, fit right in, as the group clicks together on every style. But they don't just drive all the tunes straight ahead. Just watching the group, you can feel the energy as they navigate each tune, with Chris making sure the engine fires perfectly on all cylinders no matter whether they are



bouncing along on a song or if David is mashing down the accelerator for a fiddle break. Unlike many old-timey groups, they feature some particularly nice harmonies, and one can tell that they spend some time honing their vocals. Founding member Frank Lee and Allie Burbrink deliver some really nice duet harmonies.

It's true old timey music with an edge, descended directly from the Gid Tanner's Skillet Lickers and Charlie Poole's North Carolina Ramblers, and no worse the wear, or any less exciting, for being perhaps a little more refined.

Clay Hess, from Athens, Ohio, first came to prominence as the lead guitarist for Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, and he has a Grammy Award from his time with that band. It was during this time that many took notice of his syncopated guitar style. He keeps the listener guessing as to where he is headed next, but unlike many guitarists who play loose with the rhythm, he doesn't leave the listener totally hanging as he works his way around the downbeat. Rather, the listener can feel the momentum and anticipation as he navigates through syncopated passages, even at breakneck speeds.

After leaving Kentucky Thunder, he eventually became known also as a talented lead singer, touring with many other bluegrass music greats over the years, including Mark Newton, Mountain Heart, and Sierra Hull.

After his third solo album, 2012's *Rain*, was met with critical acclaim, including a #1 slot for the title cut on the Bluegrass Today chart, he decided to step out on his own with The Clay Hess Band. As his web site says, "Today with The Clay Hess Band you can hear the result of all the jam sessions, bar gigs, bluegrass festivals, and hours learning from relatives/musicians/recordings." That's a lot of great music and energy!

And, to add to the energy, Clay will be releasing a new album on the Pinecastle label in June, and he will be "debuting" the material from that project at the Spring festival!

It is hard to believe it has been over 5 years since **Feller and Hill and the Bluegrass Buckaroos** hit the bluegrass music scene! An almost instant success, their sound still seems amazingly fresh to me even though it is based heavily on the "traditional" bluegrass sound of the late 1940s

and 1950s.

With the addition of guitarist Tony Holt, they have one of the best traditional bluegrass vocal combinations ever! Mandolinist Tom Feller has handled much of the lead vocal work since the group's inception, but, as anyone who remembers the Wildwood Valley Boys can attest, Tony is also a fine lead singer. And, when Tom and Tony combine with banjoist Chris Hill, one of the most versatile part singers in bluegrass, they create some of the smoothest harmonies you will hear.

Rounding out this bluegrass drive machine is Wheatfield IN's own Bobby Davis on string bass. The members of this group have a plethora of bluegrass lineage and experience which is far too lengthy to mention here, but it includes The Boys from Indiana, 3 Fox Drive, The James King Band, and Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper. This explains why they are at the pinnacle of the music both vocally and instrumentally. And, with three native Hoosiers in the group (Tom, Tony, and Bobby), they are right at home on the Tri-State stage.

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

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

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

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 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

4th Sun Maple Wood Nature Center, 4550 E 100 S LaGrange, IN 46761 1:30-5p bluegrass, folk 260-350-2666

05/05 Dailey & Vincent - Bluegrass; Blue Gate Theatre, 175 N Van Buren St, Shipshewana, IN 46565 888-447-4725 1-2:30p, 7-8:30p \$44.95

05/05 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian

Grass, Brian Wallen, Carl Bentley & Brooke Steele, Wes Miller, Cornfield and Crossroads, Mark Poe & All American Boys, Mountain Sound Reunion; Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, IN 47030 noon - ??, free will offering, bring lawn chairs

05/19 Branded Bluegrass; Wildcat Creek Winery, 3233 E 200 N, Lafayette, IN 47905

05/20 Branded Bluegrass; Courthouse Square, Danville, IN 46122

05/24-27 Clay Hess Band (special CD release at festival), Freight Hoppers, Feller and Hill, Po' Ramblin' Boys, Art Stevenson & Highwater, Billy Droze, Dyer Switch, Nu Blu, Appalachian Grass, Blue Holler Band, Open Highway Bluegrass Band, Suzuki Fiddlers; Tri-State Bluegrass Festival, 580 N. Fair, Kendallville, IN 46755 Early camping starts 5/17@\$10/day; week-end ticket \$35 includes Fri-Mon camping 260-918-4790



Upcoming Events, continued

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
- 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
- 05/04** New County Grass; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 05/11** North Back 40; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$8
- 05/15** Mipso w Courtney Hartman; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$15
- 05/18** Bobby Hutch; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 05/25** Huron River Band; Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$7

- 05/31-06/02** Greensky Bluegrass, Jeff Tweedy, Mike Gordon, Trampled By Turtles, The Wood Brothers, Billy Strings, Fruition, Rayland Baxter, Marco Benevento, The War & Treaty, Joshua Davis, Chris Jacobs Band, May Erlewine, The Go Rounds; Camp Greensky Hoxeyville Festival Grounds, 11130 W 48 1/2 Rd., Wellston, MI 49689 \$175/ea + \$375 RV pass

Ohio

- 1st Sat** - Traditional, bluegrass, country music with acoustic instruments - 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 7798 Big Walnut Rd., Westerville, OH 43082 jam: 5:45-7p bands 7p (Nov. - May)
- 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 (This event is on again off again. Call first)
- 05/02** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Pit to Plate BBQ, 8021 Hamilton Ave., Mt. Healthy, OH 45231 7-9p 513-607-1874
- 05/04** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing Company, 1445 Compton Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45231 7-9p 513-832-1422
- 05/05** New Outlook; Moon City, 1208 Lunar Dr., Wapakoneta, OH 45895 567-204-0929 7p \$10
- 05/05** Hwy 57, Bluegrass Mountaineers; Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd, Leavittsburg, OH 44430 330-240-1904 7p
- 05/05** Open Rail; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 05/05** Out of Mind Bluegrass; Eldorado Scioto pavilion, 6000 S. High St., Columbus, OH 43207 3-5:30 pm
- 05/05** Sawmill Ridge; Whistle Stop Opry, 45 E. 2nd St. Xenia, OH 45385 937-372-0516 7p
- 05/09** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Christ Church, 965 Forest Ave. Glendale, OH 45246 12-12:30p 513-771-1544
- 05/11-13** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass, Newtown, Kevin Prater, Wayfarers, Nightflyer, more; Appalachian Festival, Old Coney, 6201 Kellogg Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45230
- 05/12** Sugar Grove; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 5 p
- 05/12** Open Highway; Coshocton Village Inn, 115 N. Water St., Coshocton, OH 43812 7p 740-498-8456
- 05/12** Timberline; COBA, 7798 Big Walnut Rd, Westerville, OH 43082-9407 7p doors 5:30p
- 05/14** Joe Mullins; LaComedia, 765 W. Central Ave., Springboro, OH 45066 \$42-44 show & dinner 800-677-9505
- 05/16** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Pit to Plate BBQ, 8021 Hamilton Ave., Mt. Healthy, OH 45231 7-9p 513-607-1874
- 05/18** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Possum Saloon, 23903 State-line Rd., Bright, IN 47025 8-12p 812-637-1227
- 05/18** Williamson Branch; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 7p

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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): _____

05/19 Hwy 57, Ottawa County; Lincoln Way Rec Center, St Rt 602 , Bucyrus, OH 44820 7p 419-462-4363

05/19 Sawmill Ridge; Arts Festival, Delaware, OH 43015 11a

05/19 Strung Up; Steiner's Speakeasy, 31 S Paint St, Chillicothe, OH 45601 740-773-0010 9-11p

05/19 Vern McIntyre and Appalachian Grass; Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, OH 45873-9357 419-594-2816 shows 7p \$10

05/20 Chestnut Ridge; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 2p

05/26 Kim Robbins and 40 Years Late; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E.

Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 5 p

05/26 South 79, Lost & Lonesome; Grange, 9778 Old SR, Chardon, OH 44024 330-240-1904 7p

05/26 The Price Sisters; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, OH 45316 937-767-1767 7:30p \$10



Over Jordan

John N. Fulk, 85 of Bushnell, Fla. passed away March 12, 2018. John served on the NIBGA board from 1986-1991. He and wife Vasta attended most festivals until they moved to Bushnell in the late 2000s. Even then, they would return to a festival or two. He usually would be seen playing guitar while Francis Geels played fiddle tunes. Two of John's favorite songs to sing were *Cigarettes and Whiskey and Wild, Wild Women* and *Rye Whiskey*.

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association
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Address Service Requested



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