



It is a privilege to have two-time IBMA Entertainers of the Year, **The Grascals**, returning this fall. I was very pleased that we were able to welcome them to our stage the first time, so I am ecstatic that we were able to arrange for not only a second, but now a third appearance.

As I mentioned the last time they were here, you have to love a group that devotes a whole album to honoring the Andy Griffith Show and gives it a title like "Dance Til Your Stockings Are Hot and Ravelin'!"

And, you know they're making some good things happen when they appear on the Tonight Show and have a special recording project developed for, and sold in, Cracker Barrel stores!

Although it has been a few years since they took the bluegrass world by storm, their music is timeless and seems as fresh now as it did back in their early days. They are certainly blessed in the lead vocal department, with both John Bryan and Terry Eldridge, who, thanks to his tenure with the Osborne Brothers and Lonesome Standard Time as well as with the Grascals, has one of the most recognizable voices in bluegrass music.

Of course, in bluegrass music, lead vocals are only the start, and the Grascals deliver smooth, solid harmonies as well, thanks in large part to Osborne Brothers alumnus Terry Smith. Instrumentally, they are awesome, with three-time IBMA Banjo Player of the Year Kristin Scott Benson, mandolinist Danny Roberts, founder of the fine group New Tradition, and fiddler Adam Haynes.

If you're looking for an energetic performance, and a rocking, rollicking good time, you will want to check out the **Hog Slop String Band**. They are passionate about the old-timey music they play, and they deliver it up much the way the classic string bands, like the Skillet Lickers and the Fruit Jar Drinkers, did almost a hundred years ago in the 1920s and 1930s.

Originally formed as a pickup square dance band in the summer of 2009, they remind me very much of the Highwoods String Band and the

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Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, Oct 21. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



Right on time the hot weather rolled in during the two weeks we attended Charlotte and Lowell. It was so hot, we didn't do much picking at the Lowell festival. We were also inhibited in that Linda's mandolin tuner broke and needs to be replaced.

The Charlotte festival had a very good daily turn out. There were more daily cars on the track infield on Saturday than we had seen in some time. The talent on stage was excellent and varied. There were more vendors present than we had ever seen in 20 years. Our hats off to SBW productions headed by Wes Pettinger for the outstanding job of reviving a formerly dying festival.

Lowell suffered 90° weather with high humidity just before the stage started. This dramatically slowed the daily drive-ins to a stop. They had a decent lineup and worked hard to make ready. I'm sure it was a disappointment that the dailies were slow.

How can the Kendallville festival attract a strong daily attendance? You can publicize on social media, radio, newspapers and thru club members talking up the festival. You encourage the bands to promote their appearance to their friends. But, the bottom line is you cannot

predict weather or what the attendance at the festival will be in advance. You can only hope for the best.

The Labor Day festival is fast approaching as it is starting August 30 thru September 2. We had feedback that the Holiday Inn motel is already fully rented and the Best Western 621 Professional Way, Kendallville, IN 46755 260-347-5263 only had 3 rooms available @ \$139/night as of July 6.

There are motels on the north side of Fort Wayne, a short 30 minute drive. Google *motels north Fort Wayne, IN* for more info. AirBnB.com has some Kendallville area availability. If you need a room, don't wait, get it booked now.

It takes an army of volunteers to make the festival work. Consider spending a couple of hours helping out. Ask at the gate or any of the officers how you can help. One thing all the campers could do to help is deposit their trash in a nearby dumpster. With all the golf carts on the grounds, I'm sure your neighbor would help you out if you needed a ride with your trash.

If the creek don't rise & the good Lord's willin', we will be at the Marshall festival then winding up the summer season at Kendallville. See you there!

James A. Winger
President

Make sure to mark your calendars for the best parking-lot pickin' festival in the midwest! TriState starts "officially" on August 30, but there will be plenty of campers already staking out their spots at least a week prior to that. Plan to come early, bring your family and friends, and relax. Early camping is only \$10 a night!

Saturday will be a big day with many activities, including Intermediate Jam, Kid's Korner, and workshops by Grasstowne, and others.

Watch the website (www.BluegrassUSA.net) & the Facebook page (Northern Indiana Bluegrass in Kendallville, Indiana) for updates as they happen.



Freight Hoppers in their love of, and respect for, the traditional music. And I think they will eventually have a similar impact on the music as those previous revival bands have had. Based in Nashville now, they hail from Georgia & Tennessee with Kevin Martin on fiddle, Gabriel Kelley on guitar, Daniel Binkley on banjo, and Casey "Pickle" McBride on the washtub bass.

Three things come to mind as important when I describe the **Finley River Boys**. First, although they are stylistically a solid bluegrass outfit, they have their own approach to the music which is evidenced in their creative arrangements.

It's further apparent in Alan Johnston's syncopated, bouncy banjo work and Brett Dudenhoeffer's innovative fiddling. Second, their vocal harmonies are smooth and strong. Third, they are as tight as you can get when delivering up the bluegrass drive, clicking into solid rhythm over Bill Crider's guitar and Brad Reynolds's precise string bass.

It's always refreshing to hear a group that starts from the ground up when building their bluegrass style rather than imitating the masters. The Finley River Boys definitely fall into that category, drawing plenty of inspiration from those that came before while delivering up their own musical ideas.

Nightflyer has appeared at the festival several times, but it has been awhile, three years to be exact, since their last appearance. They are still travelling with the same lineup as when they first appeared at Tri-State, and in those three years they have gotten hotter than ever.

I was blown away when I heard their first album, and then their second. But I am now convinced more than

ever that they are truly one of those groups that has more than their fair share of bluegrass talent, delivering up fantastic vocals and awesome instrumentals on a wide variety of well-arranged music.

Their featured singer is guitarist Richard Propps, and he is nothing but awesome, singing with a powerful conviction that comes from the heart. Mandolinist Rick Hayes could easily be the featured singer, were it not for travelling with Richard's incredible talent.

And, they are also blessed with other vocalists who could easily hold their own as a featured singer in most groups, including bassist Tony Kakaris. Given this, it's not surprising that their harmonies are superb, smooth, and creative. Although the vocals are a trademark of their sound, they are overloaded instrumentally as well, with a killer five-driver in Ronnie Stewart, fiery dobro from Tim Jackson, and Rick's fine mandolin work.

Out of Mind is a group that hails from central Ohio. They are a solid, driving group which excels on traditional grass, but they also have some progressive bluegrass influence in their sound.

Formed in 2009, they feature guitarist Daniel Phelps on lead vocals, and he is heavily influenced by Tony Rice both vocally and in his awesome picking. They have two other lead singers in banjoist Brandon Fox and mandolinist Scott Adkins, and the three combine for some really nice, powerful harmonies which have that perfect, lonesome bluegrass edge. Their sound is tight and polished, thanks in large part to Lisa Fox holding things together with some solid bass work.

Joe Steiner

TriState Festival - Thank-You!

MEMORIAL DAY INTERMEDIATE JAM

The pickers gathered again in the mini barn to pick tunes and share jamming experiences. Thanks once more to Ben Crofoot, Rusty Beyer, Bob & Vickie Conley for joining Gary and me on leading the pickers in a rousing jam session.

Many attendees have jammed with us at this workshop over the years. We did attract a few new ones plus some "seasoned" pickers who joined us. Get your songs ready and join us at the Labor Day "Intermediate Jam". Check out the fall jam AND festival. Bring a friend and have some fun!!!

Keep on pickin',
Maggie Bilby (also, a Wernick Certified Jam Camp Instructor)

STAGE EMCEES

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, Joe Steiner, Terry Thacker and Elaine Vogie.

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

FROM THE TAXI SHACK

A big thank you to my willing drivers. Bob Gilson took 6 shifts, Jay Winger took 2 shifts and filled in whenever someone had to eat or wasn't feeling well. Mark Freed, who drove 2 shifts and would have taken any shift I needed him to. Ron Tedford took one shift and then filled in when I needed him. Brooklyn and Sam (my grand daughter and her friend). Alexis Goldsmith who has been

to every festival since her birth. Talia Calcagno and Libby Webman (Bill Merrill's grand daughter) who just got their drivers licenses, and Jan Meade who has had hers for awhile! I also want to give a big thank you to the private golf cart owners who willingly picked up other people who needed a ride. You made my job so much easier! Thank you again and again,
Sandra L Carnes

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
- Every Fri.** Fulton Branch Library, 514 N SR 25, Rochester, **IN** 46975 574-857-3895 6:30-8:30p
- 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, W. Park Pavilion, 500 N Nappanee St., Nappanee, **IN** 46550 6:30-9p 574-862-2200 (June-Aug.)
- 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
- 2nd Fri.** as of 07/13/2018 ; Gospel open Mic and Jam, Church of the Nazarene 506 N. Main Street Columbia City **IN** 46725 260-213-3142 7-9p Ray Desrosiers Jr.
- 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
- 08/03** Blue Holler; Lake County Fair, Crown Point, **IN** 6p
- 08/03** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Possum Saloon, 23903 State-line Rd., Bright, **IN** 47025
- 08/16-19** Nothing Fancy, Little Roy & Lizzy, Edgar Loudermilk, Branded Bluegrass, Phillip Steinmetz & His Sunny Tennesseans, Cornfields & CrossRoads, Bahler Golden Age, Ronnie Deaton & Risin' Ridge, Alec Hurtibise & Friends, Kokomo Cowboy Church Band, New Balance & Medici-

nal Bluegrass; Winding Creek Bluegrass Festival, 100 South 9912 West, Russiaville, **IN** 46979 \$55, free dry camping

- 08/30-09/02** Grascals, Danny Paisley & the Southern Grass, Trinity River Band, Grasstowne, Hog Slop String Band, Nightflyer, Out of Mind Bluegrass, Rock Island Plow Co., Zellie's Band, Calabogie Road, Finley River Boys; Tri-State Bluegrass festival, 580 N. Fair St., Kendallville, **IN** 46755 wknd \$35 includes camping Fr/Sa/Su. Early camping \$10/nite, \$10 one time electric charge 260-918-3790

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
- 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
- 08/02-04** Amanda Cook, Balsam Range, Becky Buller, Breaking Grass, Chasin' Steel, Dave Adkins, Detour Reunion, Doyle Lawson, ETSU Bluegrass Pride, Hammertowne, Illrd Tyme Out, Joe Mullins, Junior Sisk, Larry Efaw, Little Roy & Lizzy, Lonesome River, Malpass Brothers, Mountain Faith, Rhonda Vincent, Sugar Creek, Summer Brooke; KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd, Milan, **MI** 48160 734-439-1076
- 08/04** Hawktail; **07/28** RFD Boys; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$11
- 08/10** RFD Boys; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$15
- 08/17-19** Dawes, Leftover Salmon, The Infamous Stringdusters, One Night Stand Band, Billy Strings, Steppin In It, Larry Keel, Luke Winslow-King, Lindsay Lou, Sweet Water Warblers, Jon Stickley Trio, The Crane Wives, Airborne Or Aquatic, Richie & Rosie, The Insiders, More; Hoxeyville 1/4 mile W of the intersection of M-37 & W 48

- 1/2 (Hoxeyville) Rd., near Wellston, **MI** \$175+\$100 tent camping only
- 08/18** Detour Bluegrass, Fossil Creek, Huron River, Red, White & Bluegrass, Calabogie Road, One Accord; Bachmayer Park, Blissfield, **MI** free 11a-8p

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
- Sun** Old Time Jam; Rambling House Soda, 310 E Hudson St, Columbus, **OH** 43202 614-468-3415 7p
- 08/01** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252
- 08/03** Sideline, New Outlook, Brian Holbrooks & Poor Bottom Grass; Moon City Music, 1208 Lunar Dr, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 567-204-0929 7p \$15
- 08/03** Larry Efaw; Gazebo, 2491 Canfield Rd, Akron, **OH** 7 pm
- 08/03** The Wayfarers; Y-Bridge Arts Festival, Zanesville, **OH** 7 pm
- 08/04** The Wayfarers; Baltimore Festival in Baltimore, **OH** 12:30 pm
- 08/08** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252
- 08/11** Lonesome River Band; Paxton Theater, 133 E Main St, Bainbridge, **OH** 45612 7p
- 08/11** The Hamiltons; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 7:30p 937-767-1767
- 08/11** Kevin Prater; Salt Fork Arts Festival, Cambridge, **OH** 43725 noon
- 08/11** Kevin Prater; Larry's Music Barn, 20038 Lexington Rd., Fredericktown, **OH** 43019 Jam 6p, concert 7p
- 08/12** Canyon Creek; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 2p 937-767-1767
- 08/12** Kevin Prater; Wesley Chapel, 17333 Chapel Rd, Newcomerstown, **OH** 43832 11a
- 08/15** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252
- 08/17** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; McCoy's Colerain, 6008 Springdale Rd, Cincinnati, **OH** 45247
- 08/17** Junior Sisk; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938
- 08/21-25** Band of Ruhks, Junior Sisk, Hammertowne, Caney Creek, Dana Cupp, South 79, Larry Efaw, Harbortown, Ottawa County, Smith

Brothers, Grassholes, Hwy 57, Anthony Prater, Copus Hill. more; Mansfield Jam Fest at the Richland Fairgrounds, 750 N Home Rd, Mansfield, OH 44906 wknd \$55 camp \$15/day

08/22 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, OH 45252

08/23-25 Doyle Lawson, Joe Mullins, Edgar Loudermilk w/Jeff Autry, Little Roy & Lizzie, Higher Vision, Nightflyer,

Branded Bluegrass, Shane Adkins, Ma Crow; Brown County BGF, Fairgrounds Georgetown OH 45121

08/25 Sugar Creek; Village Inn, 115 N. Water St., Coshocton, OH 43812 740-498-8456 7p

08/29 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, OH 45252

08/26 Adam Schlenker, Kenny & Amanda; Arts Center, 777 Evening St, Worthington, OH 43085 3p

08/31-09/02 Blue Moon Soup, Restless Leg String Band, String Therapy, Red Brush String band, Bluegrass Sweethearts; Athens Harvest Fest and Bluegrass Jamboree at Lake Snowden, 5900 US-50, Albany, OH 45710

Events Reminder

Due to the fact that the newsletter is published 6 weeks prior to the end of the following month, some events do not get published. Please see the website for the most UP-TO-DATE postings. www.BluegrassUSA.net

Event producers, please submit your postings AT LEAST 6 weeks prior to the event date to be included in the newsletter. Thank you!

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Address Service Requested



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Next NIBGA Jam - October 21, 2018