



We have a great lineup this year at the two Tri-State festivals. As always, our objective this year went beyond bringing top-notch musicianship to the stage -- we aim for variety in the lineup, so as to please everyone in the audience.

It is encouraging to see that there are quite a few young groups playing bluegrass, and it is especially satisfying to see the number of different approaches to the music which all fall solidly in the bluegrass spectrum today.

Many in our audience have a love for the music which is centered on the approach of the first-generation masters, and I will wholeheartedly join with them in professing that love. However, others, including many younger attendees, will have come into the music from another direction, and we want them to feel they have a place at the festival as well. As with many families, we, at NIBGA and Tri-State, both value our similarities and celebrate our differences.

Again this year, we were not able to satisfy several requests for bands due to various reasons, including scheduling. But please continue to contact the board with suggestions, and be assured that your comments are recognized and valued.

It is pretty unlikely that anyone who has been around bluegrass very long would not be familiar with Dale Ann Bradley and the **Dale Ann Bradley Band**. Hers is a resume which is much harder to thin out than embellish. She began her career with the New Coon Creek Girls in 1991, and the first album she released after embarking on her solo career, *East Kentucky Morning*, charted in the top ten on both the Bluegrass Unlimited and Gavin Americana charts. She is a five-time IBMA Female Bluegrass Vocalist of the Year and has received a Grammy nomination for her album, *Pocket Full of Keys*. Her band features Steve Wilson on banjo, Scott Powers on Mandolin, Matt Leadbetter (son of the legendary

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President's Corner



Last weekend the temperature was almost camping weather as it was in the mid 50s. As I write this column we are getting our

first real snow of the season. Seems the weather cannot make up its mind.

Much like the weather, your NIBGA board also had some difficulty making up its mind when we considered the topic of festival pricing over the winter. We recognized that the club had to change its pricing structure since we cannot continue to lose money as we have over the last few years, but we also wanted to be certain that festival pricing still constitutes an excellent entertainment value.

In addition, the board felt a strong responsibility to ensure that pricing and value is equitable for all attendees: those coming earlier vs. later, those camping vs commuting, etc. Pricing structure also has to be easy enough to apply that gate personnel can quickly compute and communicate charges.

After lengthy discussion, the board made a decision, which passed unanimously, to change the camping rate structure. Daily camping will still be \$15 per day, as it has been in the past, but it will now apply for each day of the festival, including Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Camping on the weekend days, Friday through Sunday, will only be available as a package for \$45 with the purchase of a weekend ticket. Upon implementation of the new camping rate structure, the surcharge for electric will be discontinued.

The festival ticket price will remain unchanged at \$35 for the

weekend. As in the past, NIBGA members can purchase tickets at a discounted price of \$30 at the gate.

To enhance value for those who act early, the club will soon make a special advance ticket package available that bundles one weekend ticket and camping for the three weekend days together for \$65, a savings of \$15 over gate pricing. This special package will be available until May 1 for spring festival tickets, and until August 1 for fall tickets.

Among the factors that the board considered in our discussions is that it is not unusual for private campgrounds to require campers to purchase a weekend package over a holiday weekend. NIBGA's \$45 weekend rate is very attractive when compared to three nights, on a holiday weekend, at Gordon's Camping for \$127.20. Two days (not three) over a holiday at Angola KOA would be \$122.96, and two days at Bixler Lake in Kendallville would run \$104.94.

On December 8, Linda and I attended the Ricky Skaggs concert in Ft. Wayne. An estimated 1,000 fans were there. Most of the audience appeared to be middle aged adults, folks who might be considered prime candidates for camping and festival attendance. We recognized only a couple of those attendees, which means that most have not been to Tri-State. This indicates there is a bluegrass fan base in the area that we have not reached -- how we can reach them in the future is something your board will need to consider as we move forward. We are open to any and all suggestions.

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll see you at an area Bluegrass event.

James A. Winger
President

BUZZ On the Band, cont.

Phil Leadbetter) on dobro, and Tim Dishman (who has spent time with Special Consensus and Alan Jackson) on string bass.

We're really excited to welcome **Detour** back to our stage this spring. This fine Michigan group, headed up by mandolinist Jeff Rose, was originally formed in 2008, and they were immediately recognized for both great picking and powerhouse vocals. Their popularity continued to grow, and, after the addition of Missy Armstrong as featured vocalist, they found themselves among bluegrass music's elite upon the release of their third album, *A Better Place*, which was a critical success. They signed with Mountain Fever records for the release of their fourth album, *Going Nowhere Fast*, in 2014 and they were nominated for IBMA's Emerging Artist of the Year

award that same year. They have some fine original material from Jeff and Missy and awesome vocal harmonies. There are also hot instrumentals all around, including driving, creative banjo work from Lloyd Douglas and expressive fiddling from Peter Knupfer.

They have been taking a hiatus from touring over the last couple years, and we are really honored that they have chosen Tri-State as one of a few select events where they will be appearing as they return for a limited number of appearances in 2019.

We will highlight the remaining Spring bands in the next couple newsletters. If you are anxious to see who they are NOW, check out the facebook page (Northern Indiana Bluegrass in Kendallville, Indiana).

Joe Steiner

Over Jordan



Anyone that has attended TriState will recognize Maggie Bilby. She and her husband, Gary, hosted the Saturday "Intermediate Jam" for many years and hosted several bands at the festival, providing meals, assistance at the CD table, and companionship.

"Margaret "Maggie" H. Bilby, age 65 of Jerome, Michigan passed away on Friday, November 30, 2018 at Henry Ford Allegiance Hospice Home in Jackson, Michigan. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to her favorite volunteer work project, "Friends of Walker Tavern", a state owned historical site near Brooklyn, Michigan."

This quote was taken from her obituary in the Brooklyn Exponent. In addition, it went on to say that she was a retired teacher and enjoyed playing and teaching bluegrass music [she was a certified Pete Wernick Jam Instructor]. It said she loved traveling, her dogs and her flower beds. And, of course, her home in the country and her husband.

What it failed to mention was the extreme void that will be left in the bluegrass world, and particularly Tri-State and NIBGA. It failed to mention that Maggie was the rock that everyone clung to when they, themselves, faced tragedy and hardships. Maggie was the one that started prayer chains for anyone that asked, and made sure that everyone in her huge circle of friends knew if anyone needed help, whether a physical hand, or a virtual hug.

She has probably touched more lives than anyone I

know because of her genuine concern and compassion for so many. Heaven gained another banjo player. RIP, "BanjoBrownEyes".



On January 3, 2019, we lost of another of Kendallville's icons, **John Vernon Stockslager**. You will remember him as the little, older man who always wore bright, bold socks and matching shorts and danced at the stage at every festival. His daughter, Gale Livengood, called us to let us know that he died and that some of his last thoughts were about Kendallville, and that he'd have to cancel his hotel for the spring.



Vernon was 86 and lived in Walnut Creek, Ohio, at the time of his death. As recently as last fall, Vern made the twice-yearly trek to TriState where he enjoyed dancing at the stage, especially with the children, and attending the gospel sing where he frequently gave testimonials.

A talented musician, he loved to sing, play various instruments, lead music at church, and sing in quartets. He was the founder of the Stockslager Family Singers and a bluegrass music store known as "Acoustic Music Outfitters" in Grantsville, MD. Vernon served in many capacities at many churches including as a lay preacher, deacon, and Sunday School teacher.

In my heart, however, I'll always remember him as the little "dancing guy" with the wild socks and shorts, and 100 megawatt smile.

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 Mon.** 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 MS, 301 N. Elkhart St., Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 6:30-9p 574-862-2200
- 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.** 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 Sun.** jam Jan-Apr 2019; Northern Ind. Bluegrass, SWCC, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46809 noon-5p 260-918-4790 drinks & sandwiches available, no carry in.

- 3rd Mon.** 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
- 02/16** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Possum Saloon, 23903 Stateline Rd., Bright, **IN** 47025 free 8-12p 812-637-1227
- 03/15** April Verch Band; Delphi Opera House, 109 S Washington St, Delphi, **IN** 46923 765-564-4300 7:30p

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
- Every Fri.** Acoustic jam; Bob's Barn Jamborees Performance Art Theater 1417 Johnson St., Lake Odessa, **MI** 48849
- 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
- 4th Sun.** Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open stages & jams 6-10p Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr, Flint, **MI** 48506 810-736-5332 donation

- 02/02** Blades of Bluegrass; Huron Valley Eagles #3732, 13636 Telegraph Rd (US 24 & Telegraph Rd.), Flat Rock, **MI** 48134 8 - 11:30p \$7
- 02/08** RFD Boys; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 \$11 8p
- 02/15** Fulton County Bluegrass, Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 02/19** Sierra Hull; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 \$20 8p
- 02/22** Calabogie Road Bluegrass, Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$8
- 02/27-28** We Banjo Three from Ireland; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 \$25-\$40 734-761-1800 8p \$25-40
- 03/01** Red White & Bluegrass, Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, **MI** 46174 734-782-0132 \$7
- 03/06** The Earls of Leicester; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 \$40 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
- 2nd Sat.** Central Ohio Bluegrass Assoc., Grace Chapel Church, 7798 Big Walnut Rd., Westerville, **OH** 43082 jam: 5:45-7p bands 7p
- Sun.** Old Time Jam; Rambling House Soda, 310 E Hudson St, Columbus, **OH** 43202 614-468-3415 7p
- Every Sun., Mon.;** Open Jam Sun, Open Mic Mon, Clay Valley Pizzeria 6921 Ceramic Road Roseville, **OH** 43777 740-469-8000 740-469-8000 6-9p Free
- Tues.** Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, **OH** 45873

419-594-2816 6p winter months
Wed. Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian
Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069
Colerain Ave., Cincinnati,
OH 45252 513-385-9309

02/02 7 Mile Bluegrass; Sterling Blue-
grass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt
Sterling **OH** 43143
614-323-6938 5p

02/02 Grassinine; Woodlands Tavern,
1200 W. Third Ave., Columbus,
OH 43212 614-299-4987

02/03 Tom Ewing & Friends, Combustion
Brewery, 80 W. Church Street,
Pickerington, **OH** 43147
614-834-9595 4-7 pm followed by
an open jam from 7-9 pm

02/08 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian
Grass; Butler County Coon Hunters
Club, 200 Warwick Rd, Hamilton,
OH 45013

02/08 Mark Whitt & Truegrass,
Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave.,
Columbus, **OH** 43212

614-486-4722 7-9p

02/16 Vertical Limit, Caney Creek,
Limited Edition; Bluegrass Junction,
Shalersville Town Hall, 9090 OH-44,
Ravenna, **OH** 44266 7-11p

02/18 Vernon McIntyre Trio; Wood-
bourne Library, 6060 Far Hills Ave,
Centerville, **OH** 45459
937-435-3700 6:30p

02/22 Larry Stephenson; FUMC, 207
S. Court St, Marysville, **OH** 43040
937-642-4712 \$25 7p

Bands for 2019

What a line-up! (In no particular order...) the Dale Ann Bradley Band, Detour, Dave Adkins, Edgar Loudermilk, Audie Blaylock, Cedar Hill, the Wooks, the Miller Family, Breaking Grass, Bluegrass Outlaws, Bull's Eye, That Dalton Gang, New Outlook, Harbourtown, Out of the Blue, Po' Ramblin' Boys, New Blue, Kentucky Just Us, Bluegrastronauts, ... and more! Watch future newsletters for feature articles on each band.

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Address Service Requested



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Next NIBGA Jam - February 17, 2019