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President's Corner



First let me thank our VP, Joe Steiner, for doing my column last month. We were overwhelmed with tasks and just

couldn't get it done. It is great to have a board that supports the club and does work as needed.

For those that missed the wind on the early Thursday morning of the festival, you were lucky. In 40 years of camping we have never lost our awning but this time a sudden, short blast of wind at 4:30a came down by the Merchants building and lifted our awning off of the trailer. The awning then, without any support arms left, dropped back down and covered our two doors trapping us inside our RV. There was no danger other than terrible thoughts about all that might have happened and that we could not exit the RV. Our friends helped us by lifting the dropped awning enough to allow us out.

Jeremie Cole informed us he could fix our awning, took measurements of it and other damaged items, ordered the parts and installed them at the Charlotte festival. Wow! We were very impressed with his skill and would highly recommend you check with him for any repairs to an RV.

The Charlotte festival was very well attended and reminded us of years ago when the campground hummed. The camping is much more compact than Kendallville so it

is easy to browse for a jam. Congratulations to Wes Pettinger for bringing back to life a great festival.

If you plan on camping at the upcoming Labor Day Kendallville festival, you have until August 1 to get your advance camping package for \$65 (Weekend camping and one ticket). It will save you \$15 versus waiting until you arrive at the gate. We will have tickets at the upcoming Marshall festival, so get yours and save.

How has the word about the NIBGA festival been spread? Well, Chris Steiner used prior camper registrations and created labels. 432 flyers with advance camping information were mailed to those non-members in early July. 400 Flyers were inserted into the Charlotte, MI program. Jeremie Cole has said he will put them into the Marshall, MI program. Kurt Hickman said he was putting 300 in the recent Norwalk, OH festival program. All the bands have at least 20 flyers which is generally enough for them. Chris put together a video promoting the festival on Facebook. Our flyer is on Facebook and is being promoted in the Tri-State area. If you are on Facebook, share the NIBGA info with your friends. The site is <https://www.facebook.com/KendallvilleBluegrass/> All of this points a lot of campers and a full festival.

If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll see you at the Marshall festival.

James A. Winger

BUZZ on the Bands



Nu Blu has appeared at the festival a couple times before, and I always look forward to seeing them on our stage. While their roots are solidly bluegrass, they actually view themselves as more of an Americana band, and they will stretch the limits a bit. And that's a big part of their appeal for me – I love what they do with their arrangements and the creative approach they take to the music. Even knowing they will stretch the boundaries, they are never predictable and are always driven by an awesome sense of musicality.

Headed up by Daniel and Carolyn Routh, and featuring Carolyn's fine vocals, they have powerful harmonies which are both smooth and inventive. Daniel's guitar work is just the start of their awesome picking, with Zach McCracken on banjo and Justin Harrison on mandolin and fiddle. They have released several highly acclaimed CDs and I'm glad to hear they will be releasing a DVD entitled *The Stories We Can Tell* shortly. In Nu Blu's case, audio recordings can only tell part of the story – the picture is only complete with their comfortable, welcoming stage presence.

I'm really proud that many folks attending the fall festival will be learning about **Kentucky Just Us** at our event. This is a family group that I think has a really bright future ahead of them, and they are not limited by the personnel challenge which confronts many family groups.

Most importantly, you can tell that their music comes from the heart, each word and each note honest and sincere. It was this honest approach that first caught my attention, but their level of talent is also abundant, starting with John Meador's fine, expressive lead vocal work and some tight sibling harmonies.

Kacey O'Neal provides some smooth fiddle work, as well as some nice original material. Jesse Meador provides some hot banjo, while Shelane O'Neal provides the solid bass line to hold it all together. Nine-year old Caleb O'Neal is also gaining a level of comfort and confidence as a mandolin player. I just learned about these fine folks last year, but I can honestly say I'm one of their biggest fans. I can't wait to see where they're headed next!

Cont. on pg. 3

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 or 2nd Sun. 10/13 2nd, 11/3, 12/8 2nd Central Indiana jam, Hall Community Bldg, 307 W South St, Gas City, IN 46933 noon-?? 765-674-5117
1st Mon Old Timey Jam, 3 Rivers Grocery, 1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 6:30-8:30p 260-445-3348
1st Thurs. Wakarusa Jamboree, Schmidt Furniture Co., 903 Nelson's Parkway, Wakarusa, IN 46573 6:30-9p 574-862-2200 (June - August)
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 Mon mostly Irish jam; 3 Rivers Grocery, 1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 6:30-8:30p 260-445-3348
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 also jam on 4th Thurs.
2nd Sat Gospel open Mic and Jam, Church of the Nazarene 506 N. Main Street Columbia City, IN 46725 260-213-3142 2-4:30p 260-213-3142
2nd Fri. Jam, City Hall, 210 N Jefferson St, Converse, IN 46919 765-395-3459 5p
3rd Sun jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, IN 46069 1-5p year around (317) 758-5201
3rd Mon Old Timey Jam; 3 Rivers Natural Grocery, 1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 6:30-8:30p
3rd Wed. Jam: Legion, 1122 N Main St, Roanoke, IN 46783 6:30-8:30p
4th Sun Maple Wood Nature Center, 4550 E 100 S LaGrange, IN 46761 1:30-5p bluegrass, folk 260-350-2666
4th Mon mostly Irish jam; 3 Rivers Grocery, 1612 Sherman Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 6:30-8:30p 260-445-3348
08/01-02 Blue Holler; Lake County Fair, Crown Point, IN 574-292-0041
08/11 Trinity River; Westview Wesleyan

Church, 1300 W 6th St, Jonesboro, IN 46938 11a
08/11 Trinity River; Church of God of Prophecy, 906 N. 10th Street, Gas City, IN 46933 6p
08/15 A Life of Sorrow - the Life and Times of Carter Stanley; Gary Reid performing, Firefighter's Union Hall, 748 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204 7:30p
08/16-18 Jim and Lynna Woolsey, Kim Robins & 40 Years Late, Caleb Daugherty, The New Balance, Blue Holler, Rusty Nail Crossing, Sugar Creek, Doug Harsch; Osceola BGF, Fern Hunsberger Park, 202 N Lamport St, Osceola, IN 46561
08/15-18 Trinity River, Red Tail Ring, Edgar Loudermilk, Branded Bluegrass, FireBox, Cornfields & CrossRoads, Bahler Golden Age, New Outlook, Blue Holler, Alec Hurtubise, Cumberland Gap, Kokomo Cowboy Church; Winding Creek BGF, 9912 W 100 S, Russiaville, IN 46979
08/17 Rated Bluegrass Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, IN 47030
08/17-24 A Life of Sorrow - the Life and Times of Carter Stanley; Gary Reid performing, Firefighter's Union Hall, 748 Massachusetts Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204
8/17 - 1:30p
8/18 - 6:00p
8/19 - 7:30p
8/23 - 6:00p
8/24 - 9:00p

08/29-09/01 Michael Cleveland & the Flamekeeper, Dave Adkins Band, Bluegrass Outlaws, Bluegrastronauts, Breaking Grass, Kentucky Just Us, Miller Family, New Outlook, Nu Blue, Po'Ramblin Boys, Sound: Dave Chiches-ter; Tri-State Festival, 580 N. Fair St., Kendallville, IN 46755 Advance camping package until Aug. 1, prices on flyer & website (www.bluegrassUSA.net) 260-918-790

Michigan

Every Sun. Open Mic with the Orphans; Coldwater American Legion, Coldwater MI 49046 260-242-8553 2-6p free
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. Slow Jam ; 3rd Floor Van Deusen Room, Kalamazoo Public Library, 315 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo, MI 6:30-8pm
3rd Thur jam; Elderly, 1100 N Washington, Lansing, MI 48906 517-372-7880 6-8:30p
Last Wed jam; Boatyard Brewing Company, 432 E. Paterson St., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 269-226-0300 7-?p
08/02 Yonder Mountain String Band; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 7:30p \$40
08/02-03 Deadwood; St. Joe Valley Old Engine Assoc., Boothill Ranch, 10542 Bair Lake St., Three Rivers, MI 49093 1-4p 269-496-8188
08/03 RFD Boys; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 7:30p \$11
08/03 Trinity River; The Gospel Barn, 4751 Bankers Rd, Hillsdale, MI 49242 7p
08/17 Kim Robins, The RFD Boys, Calabogie Road, Band of Brothers, Red White and Bluegrass, Waynewood Boys; S. Monroe, Blissfield, MI on the River 49228 248-890-8918 11a-8p
08/18 The Del McCoury Band; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 7:30p \$45-75

Ohio

1st Sat - Traditional, bluegrass, country music acoustic instruments - 3 rooms for jammin', 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
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 year around
Weds. Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, OH 45252 513-385-9309 Call to confirm
Last Fri. Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45231 7-9p 513-832-1422 (March thru Oct)
08/02 The Wayfarers; Y Bridge Arts Festival, Zanesville, OH 43701 6:30p
08/02 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Butler County Bluegrass Association, 5113 Huston Rd, Collinsville, OH 45004 7-9p
08/02-03 Hammertown, Lacey Creek, Highway 57, Sour Mash String Band, Mike Havens, , 7 Mile Bluegrass, Kauff-

Upcoming Events, continued

- man Road, Long Time Drifters, Lost Creek; 7 Mile Bluegrass Festival, 4569 Lyden Rd., Greenfield, OH 45123 740-701-0834 Two cans of food/person entry fee for VA Hospital, primitive camping.
- 08/03** Ricky Skaggs; Ohio Star Theater, 3787 Old SR 39, Sugarcreek, OH 44681 1p & 7p
- 08/03** Southridge; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 08/04** SteelDrivers, Dale Ann Bradley, Jerry Salley, Joe Mullins; Boomin' Bluegrass Festival, Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheater, 5968 Marietta Rd, Chillicothe, OH 45601 5:30p
- 08/04** The Wayfarers; Combustion Brewery, 80 W. Church St, Pickerington, OH 43147 614-834-9595 4p
- 08/09** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Oxford Community Center, 10 S. College Ave, Oxford, OH 45056 6-9p 513-524-8506
- 08/10** Sugar Creek; Jersey Church Festival, 13260 Jersey Rd., New Albany, OH 43054 (740) 927-1859
- 08/10** Audie Blaylock & Redline; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 08/10** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; McCoy's Colerain, 6008 Springdale Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45247 7-10p 513-237-4583
- 08/10** Sawmill Ridge; Wright Place, 14572 Hock Hocking Road, Logan, OH 43138 (740) 385-8372 Open mic 6:30-7p Show 7p
- 08/11** Mike Gorrell; Velvet Ice Cream Co., 11324 Mt Vernon Rd, Utica, OH 43080 2p
- 08/16-17** Caney Creek, Carolina Blue, Vertical Limit, Anthony Prater, South 79, Kyle Jarvis; Wayne Ohio BGF, 4026 Rt. 322, Williamsfield, OH 44093 330-442-3377
- 08/17** BJ Abbott & Showtime; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 08/20-24** The Grascals, Flatt Lonesome, Sideline, Carolina Blue, Claybank, New Grass Country, Remington Ryde, Larry Efaw and the Bluegrass Mountaineers, Accoustic Edge, Ottawa County, Harbortown, Lincoln Highway, Bryan Holbrooks & Poor Bottom Grass, Kyle Jarvis & Illrd Generation, Crabgrass, The Grass Holes, Caney Creek; Mansfield Jamfest, Fairgrounds, 340 Lantz Rd., Mansfield, OH 44906
- 08/22-24** Malpass Brothers, Joe Mullins, Highland Travelers, Ralph Stanley II, Edgar Loudermilk Band, Big Country Bluegrass, Shannon Slaughter, Higher Vision, New Outlook, Remington Ryde, 7 Mile Bluegrass, Kim Robbins; Brown County BGF, 325 W State St, Georgetown, OH 45121 706-768-1503
- 08/23** Danny Paisley; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 7p
- 08/24** Sugarcreek Bluegrass; Coshocton Village Inn, 115 N. Water St., Coshocton, OH 43812
- 08/24** Out of Mind Bluegrass; Wright Place, 14572 Hock Hocking Road, Logan, OH 43138 (740) 385-8372 Open mic 6:30-7p Show 7p
- 08/27** Northwest Territory; New Concord Summer Concert Series, New Concord, OH 43762 7p
- 08/29-09/01** Kody Norris, Lacy Creek, Billy Droze, Darrell Webb, Russell, Brad Hudson, Doyle Lawson, Seldom Scene, J.D. Crowe, Appalachian Road Show, Caleb Daugherty, Band of Kellys, Turning Ground, Ricky Skaggs, Sideline, New Again, Pinecastle, Hammertowne, Wildfire, Lonesome River, Cleverlys; SamJam BGF, Fairgrounds, 311 Mill St, Picketon, OH 45661
- 08/30** Dailey and Vincent at Memorial Hall OTR, 1225 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH 8 pm
- 08/31** Jonah Riddle; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 7p

Buzz on Bands (cont)



I had no idea where to start when describing the **Bluegrastronauts**. The two words that popped into my mind were “diverse” and “unpredictable.” But neither of those words begins to describe the nature of their music, and describing their music is, well, the whole point of this article.

Maybe I should start by telling you that the Bluegrastronauts are an augmentation (I like that word!) of the Matchsellers. If you were able to catch the Matchsellers on stage a few years ago, you know that they are an entertaining duo consisting of Andrew Morris and Julie Bates. Andrew is the front man, and, by my estimation, he is in charge of the entertainment aspect of things. He has a humorous take on just about everything, and he has a story, which in most cases is at least grounded in truth, to go along with just about every song. Julie appears to me to be mostly in charge of trying to keep Andrew in line.

Although the entertainment aspect is a large part of their show, both Julie and Andrew are top-notch musically. For starters, they do some nice vocal work, with just the right amount of “edge” and expression in the harmonies. Plus, they have composed some great original material. And, they also shine instrumentally, each having been blessed with more than their fair share of musical prowess on their respective instrument.

Julie's fiddling is flawless, but it's hardly bogged down by its technical perfection. She knows how to get in the groove on everything from beautiful waltzes and ballads

to driving hoedowns. And, she gets the ultimate in support from Andrew as he sets up any kind of rhythm on guitar, whether it's Lester Flatt bluegrass or a smooth jazz comp.

I told you the above to tell you this: the Matchsellers become the Bluegrastronauts when Andrew and Julie are joined by the Breakfast Sides. Remember that augmentation I mentioned? The Breakfast Sides are Chad Graves, of the Hillbenders, on resonator guitar (and occasionally banjo) and Betsey Mae Graves on bass.

Like the Matchsellers, the Bluegrastronauts are difficult to describe. They are neither bluegrass nor old timey. Nor are they a combination of the two. They are certainly not Americana (that sounds way too tame). However, their music shows the influence, and mastery, of these and many other styles of music, including Cajun and gospel. Their music, and they themselves, may defy description and resist all monikers, but there can be no doubt they are great!

Featuring the fine lead vocals of bassist Becky Monk and driving banjo of Chris Monk, the **Bluegrass Outlaws** were formed in 2016. Originally from West Virginia, and currently living in the mountains of East Tennessee, Becky and Chris are joined by Joshua Raines on guitar, Andy Stinnett on mandolin, and Jacob Metz on resonator guitar. Their sound is focused and direct, rooted in the traditions set by Bill, Lester, Earl, Ralph and Carter. All members of the band are top-notch on their instruments. Blessed by Becky's fine female lead, the group also



