



Correspondence: NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946 (260) 918-4790 NL@nibga.com
Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, Oct 20. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



When we arrived at the Kendallville fairgrounds the week before the festival started, it was hot and muggy. Two other vol-

unteers pulled in that Tuesday before and set up camp along with us. The grounds looked the best ever with the grass mowed and trash from the recent county fair had been picked up.

We were pleasantly surprised when we heard a mower working on the grass where campers normally park. Fair board volunteers were on the spot trying to make everything right. They worked several days mowing some areas for the second or third time. Our hats off to them for their work. Also we must thank Greg Aldrich for also doing some spot mowing just before the festival as a shower had encouraged the grass to quickly grow.

Attendance at the festival was up significantly over the past few years. Campers are registered so we know where they are from whereas dailies require a guess by reviewing the in-field parking lot where we found vehicles from adjacent states and Alabama! A review of camper registra-

tions found most campers were from Michigan followed by Indiana and Ohio. Campers also arrived from Illinois, Wisconsin, Florida and New Jersey.

Advertising on Facebook was boosted and focused on campers within 200 miles before the festival. As the music dates approached, the advertising was focused on dailies within 50 miles of upper Indiana, Ohio and lower Michigan. Based on Facebook statistics and attendance, it appears the advertising worked.

This festival, bands went to 4 nursing homes in the county and gave their residents an hour or so relief with upbeat Bluegrass music. These visits and the free night on Thursday drive-in show is a part of the club's give back to the community where the festival is held. NIBGA does not charge for this and no one has asked that it be done. A few dollars could be saved eliminating these programs but as good citizens it is our duty to give back.

The success of the festival relies on the efforts of the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scene. They work the gate for a week, setup and tear down the stage backdrop, setup the green room to give the bands a comfortable place

before they go on stage. They managed the membership table and inventoried before and after plus setting it up and tearing it down each night. They took calls from vendors, sought vendors, managed them and collected their payments.

They dispatched and drove golf cart taxis for those that could not walk far. They did mundane work like filling the gas tanks on the rented golf carts, which was required. The M.C. chair lined up announcers. The announcers on stage were all volunteers. On Labor Day, volunteers made sure the grounds was as clean when we left as it was when we arrived.

The Saturday workshops were arranged before the festival and managed by volunteers. Negotiating pricing and play dates with the bands, reserving their parking, overall stage management and paying them required dedicated volunteers. The art work for the festival flyer, ordering and distribution of the flyers was all by volunteers. The distribution of the garbage totes in the midway was done by volunteers and they were returned to the grandstand area on Labor Day.

The list goes on but you get the idea. There is a lot that is required to make the festival a success and it is the volunteers who do it. Our thanks to all of them.

The outdoor festival season is drawing to an end but a few are left. Support them where you can. If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll see you at a Bluegrass event.

James A. Winger

We would like to thank all of the wonderful folks who donated their festival time to help at the gate...we could not do it without your help!

Volunteers included: Ben Crowfoot, Josie Conley, Michaela Gerken, Julie Lawlass, John and Ruth LaKatos, Barb Welch, Janie Pergeot, Brooklyn Rummer, Andrew

Shields, Marianne Vogie, Jim Clay, Wendy Conner, Barb Beyer, Sandy Conine, and Wayne Vincent.

To our gate captains who work tirelessly - you rock! Leslie Ellis, Patty Page, Brenda Aldridge, Jan Meade, and Jim Miller.

Thank you all. Pam Keiper

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 Timey 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. 2019 - May 2020)
- 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 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 Ray
- 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 Sun** jam Oct. 20 & Nov. 17, 2019; Northern Ind. Bluegrass, SWCC, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46809 noon-5p 260-918-4790 drinks & sandwiches available, no carry in please
- 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 Sat** 10/26 River Run country dance band; Contra Dance, <https://www.sbcontras.org/> St Paul's Memorial Methodist Church, 1001 W Colfax, South Bend, **IN** 46616 574-243-3683 7

- 10:30 \$8, student \$5, family \$20
- 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
- Oct. 19** New Augusta Bluegrass, Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, **IN** 47030

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
- 2nd Sat** Maumee St. Jam, First Presbyteri-an, 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 05/19** Mid-Michigan jams, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, **MI** 48917 517-482-2382 \$4 donation
- 4th Sat** Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open stages & jams 6-10p Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr, Flint, **MI** 48506 810-736-5332 donation for hall rental
- Last Wed** jam; Boatyard Brewing Company, 432 E. Paterson St., Kalamazoo, **MI** 49009 269-226-0300 7-?p
- 10/05** Old Salt Union; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 \$20 8p
- 10/18** The Steel Wheels; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 7:30p \$25

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
- Last Fri.** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd, Cincinnati, **OH** 45231 7-9p 513-832-1422 (March thru Oct)
- 10/05** Alan Sibley; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 10/05** M&M Express, Wildwood Express; Johnson Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd, Leavittsburg, **OH** 44430 330-898-6891 7p
- 10/05** Sawmill Ridge; Plain Folk Cafe, 10177 SR 132, Pleasant Plain, **OH** 45162 513-877-2526 7p
- 10/05** High Water Drifters; Vino Bellissimo, 2412 Cable Ct, Lima, **OH** 45805 419-221-1010 8p
- 10/05** Muleskinner; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 937-767-1767 7:30p \$10
- 10/06** Mike Gorrell; Velvet Ice Cream Co., 11324 Mt Vernon Rd, Utica, **OH** 43080 2p
- 10/11** Robert Mabe Band; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 10/11** Perennial Rye; 10 Pin Alley, 5499 Ten Pin Alley, Hilliard, **OH** 43026 614-876-2475 7p
- 10/12** Edgar Loudermilk Band featuring Jeff Autry; Moon City Music, 1208 Lunar Dr, Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 567-204-0929 7p
- 10/12** Three Rivers Bluegrass; Fairfield County Fair, 157 E Fair Ave, Lancaster, **OH** 43130 1p
- 10/12** Little Roy & Lizzy; Wright Place, 14572 Hock Hocking Rd, Logan, **OH** 43138 740-385-8372 7p
- 10/12** Rob Ickes & Trey Insley; Natalie's Coal Fired Pizza, 5601 N. High St, Worthington, **OH** 43085 :30p 614-436-COAL
- 10/18** Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers; Senior Community, 695 Wycliffe Dr, Xenia, **OH** 45385 6p Free 866-901-5018
- 10/19** Rhonda Vincent; Auditorium,

Cont. on last pg.

This was published in the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Foundation newsletter.

Dozens of cameras snapping pictures and videos, several "Facebook Live" feeds, hundreds of people clapping and cheering and a massive standing ovation... these are just a few of the final results of two intensive days of workshops by 26 youngsters attending the Bluegrass Academy for Kids sponsored by the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association (NIBGA) in Kendallville, Indiana. A huge thanks to the IBMA Foundation and the Black Swamp Arts Council for funding this amazing venture.

This program was offered absolutely free to the children, and the parents were given free admission to the 3-day festival. Children were given lessons in their choice of guitar, banjo, mandolin, bass, and fiddle. There was even a session on the "can-jo" for the very youngest students. Because of the young age of the students, a lot of additional activities were mixed in to keep their attention. A guest appearance by "That Dalton Gang" was a highlight of the weekend. The band demonstrated how the various instruments combine to create the bluegrass sound and demonstrated vocal harmony singing. They answered questions from the students, including "why is there only one girl in your band?" and "do YOU know how to play a can-jo?" The students then asked if they could pose with the band for pictures.

The TriState Bluegrass Academy in Ohio and NIBGA provided guitars, mandolins and banjos for those students who didn't have their own instruments. At least 11 of the students had never held an instrument until the Academy. One glitch in the program was that the instruments came in boxes, never opened, so we didn't realize that straps and picks weren't included. We scrounged enough picks, and improvised straps made out of yellow caution tape. The students loved their straps!

Lunch and snacks were provided, and a cook-out with all of the students and their families was held on Saturday night. A bonfire and s'mores finished off the evening. After the cookout, four of the students approached us and asked if we would jam with them. In addition to the students, a few other adults joined in and had a jam.

One parent later wrote, "overall, the best part of the whole weekend was watching [two of the students] and some other kids and adults jamming after the cookout. I loved that the adults were willing to play slowly and the kids were able to relax and try out what they had learned. The girls were just glowing."

The highlight of Sunday was the concert on the stage. Students were excited that they got to hang out in the

green room just like "real" musicians. They filed up on stage and were joined by That Dalton Gang and all of their instructors. They performed "Bile Them Cabbage Down", singing two verses and playing. They finished with "Mama Don't 'Low", including verses and breaks for "Bluegrass Pickin'", each of the individual instruments and even a verse of "Mama don't 'low no Dalton Gang up here!" One student later commented that his favorite memory was playing onstage with a famous band, and that HE was famous now, too.

While on stage, our little 6-year-old mandolin player motioned me over between songs and whispered, "I think they like us! We need to keep playing!". A huge standing ovation topped off the performance.

And it doesn't end there. The parents have been responding and sending pictures. Their children have been talking non-stop about their experiences, they have been playing their instruments and practicing their new tunes, they are counting money in their piggy banks to see if they can afford to buy equipment. They have asked to take lessons. One youngster thought that this was going to be a weekly event and wanted to know if they could come back each week. One funny comment from a student was that, when asked what she would change, she said "I don't want those things on my fingers any more!". After a bit more probing, her parents found that she was referring to the callouses on her fingers. She announced to her parents that she was told she didn't need to do dishes any more because it would soften her callouses and make her fingers sore again.

I wish you could see all of the emails and notes I've received. This was a life-changing event for some of these kids. This is probably the most valuable workshop we've ever offered in terms of touching lives and introducing bluegrass to others. My heartfelt thanks goes out to the instructors (Dixie Andres – fiddle/can-jo, John Bahler – mandolin, Joyce Harrison – bass, Sean Hoffman – fiddle, Kent Roe – banjo and Shari Wolf – guitar), NIBGA, the TriState Bluegrass Academy, the IBMA Foundation, and all of our volunteers for making this possible for our next generation of bluegrass pickers.

Chris Steiner



It wasn't ALL work and no play...

1601 University Blvd, Hamilton, OH
 45011 513-727-3412 7:30p \$36/34
10/19 Kevin Prater; Bluegrass Opry Barn,
 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, OH
 45873 419-594-2816 7p
10/19 Wayfarers; Apple Butter Festival,
 600 N Whitewoman St, Coshocton,
 OH 43812 noon
10/19 New Balance; Sterling Bluegrass
 Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Ster-
 ling, OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
10/20 Kevin Prater; Barnegie Hall, 31950
 Krebs Rd, Avon Lake, OH 44012 4p
10/24 Sam Bush, The Travelin'
 McCourys; Kent Stage, 175 E Main,

Kent, OH 44240 330-677-5005 8p
10/24 Steep Canyon Rangers; Midland
 Theater, 36 N Park Pl, New-
 ark, OH 43055 740-345-5483 7:30p
10/24 Remington Ryde; H.S., 800 Amrine
 Mill Rd, Marysville, OH 43040 7p
10/25 Open Highway; Byrne's Pub, 1248
 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212
 614-486-4722 7-9p
10/25 Erika Hughes & the Well Man-
 nered; 10 Pin Alley, 5499 Ten Pin Alley,
 Hilliard, OH 43026 614-876-2475 7p
10/25 Tim O'Brien w Jan Fabricius; Short
 N. Church, 25 W 5th Ave,
 Columbus, OH 43201 8p

10/26 Echo Valley; Coshocton Village Inn,
 115 N. Water St., Coshocton, OH
 43812 7p
10/26 Hocking Valley Bluegrass Boys;
 Wright Place, 14572 Hock Hocking Rd,
 Logan, OH 43138 740-385-8372 7p
10/26 Vertical Limit, Hidden Drive;
 Grange, 9778 Old State Rd., Chardon,
 OH 44024 7p.
10/26 Relentless Mules; Sterling Blue-
 grass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Ster-
 ling, OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p



Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association
 5034 Wapiti Court
 Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946

Address Service Requested



**NIBGA is a non-profit 501c3 club
 Next Jam - October 20, 2019**