

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, Jan 19. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



There are three ways to balance the budget. We have in prior letters talked about increasing attendance and

reducing expenses. Both of those have been carefully looked at by the board and will continue to be a high priority. The third leg of the financial stool, is to change price structure.

The October board meeting was long with heated discussions on pricing for 2020 festivals. Between December 2017 and now, the club treasury has lost \$18,343. The price changes last year still left us with an \$6,825 loss. The weather over the Memorial event wasn't bad but the forecast was terrible every time I looked. 2020 is the fifth year of our 5 year contract with the Kendallville fairgrounds. Decisions have to be made on how can we break even, how much can we afford in a new contract, do we stay in Kendallville and more. Your volunteer board has its work to do.

The stage fire a few years ago was a mixed blessing. Insurance fattened our treasure by \$30,000 and that has caused the club to be slow in making pricing changes. Several ideas to raise money have been floated such

as having a tiered membership structure with benefits at various levels. Grants are still high on the discussion list with some action happening but unless there is a white knight, grants are not the total answer.

Members need to be reminded that NIBGA is a 501C3 club which means donations are federal tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Why would you want to donate to NIBGA? In 2019, the club held education seminars for youngsters and they performed on stage after studying bluegrass instruments. Bands, some donated their time but some were paid, played at area nursing homes. Suzuki fiddlers played at the Memorial festivals and received a \$1,000 grant for their Old Time fiddle program. Of course, the festival itself might be the reason you would like to donate.

It is not all black. NIBGA needs to produce a quality event. The focus is to continue on having a family-friendly event that you, your kids & grandkids can enjoy whether at the stage or around the campfire. Where pickers want to come and enjoy playing music. Sometimes it takes a few rules to make sure this happens but most folks are cognizant of the requirement to respect their neighbors.

The board approved a slight increase in the band budget for 2020. Joe Steiner has done a yeoman's job of finding top talent that is rarely seen in the upper Midwest. He promises that 2020 bands will be better than 2019.

Last month we spoke about signing up for Amazon Smile for the club. As a reminder go to, smile.amazon.com, in the search box asking for *Charity name or location*, enter **35-1424100** and then select Northern Indiana Bluegrass. This month we encourage you to sign up for Kroger's community rewards.

Northern Indiana Bluegrass' Kroger number is **VJ779**. If you get your newsletter by email, click [here](#) to enroll. You need to sign up for a Kroger or affiliate membership which is free. You then browse to www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow/ and enroll VJ779. We used our phone number as an alternative to the Kroger card. Now we don't have to have a card with us to get rewards. Even if you only shop at Krogers occasionally, your purchases will reward NIBGA at no charge to you. You might also get discounts on your purchases.

Join us for a board meeting and/or a jam January 19, 2020 the third Sunday of the month, at the Southwest Conservation Club in Fort Wayne, IN. If the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise, we'll be there.

James A. Winger



The board and newsletter take December off to enjoy the holidays. The next newsletter will be mailed in January 2020. Happy holidays to all.

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
- 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 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
- 1st Sat** Contra Dance, 1st United Methodist Church, 215 S. 5th St., Goshen, IN 46526; 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
- 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 Fri.** Jam, City Hall, 210 N Jefferson St, Converse, IN 46919 765-395-3459 5p
- 2nd Fri.** Jam, VFW, 4202 N 400 E, Rolling Prairie, IN 46371-8881 219-575-1369 5:30-10p CST
- 3rd Sun** jam; Sheridan Public Library 103 W. 1st St., Sheridan, IN 46069 1-5p (317) 758-5201
- 3rd Sun** jam; January 19...no December jam; Northern Ind. Bluegrass, SWCC, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46809 noon-5p 260-918-4790 drinks & sandwiches available, no carry in.
- 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 Blv, Fort Wayne, IN 46808 6:30-8:30p 260-445-3348

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 Presbyterian, 156 E. Maumee, Adrian, MI 49221 517-270-2870 church 517-265-2168 6-11p
- 2nd Sat** Portage Prairie UMC, 2450 Orange Rd, Niles, MI 49120 989-544-0342 5p
- 3rd Thur** jam; Elderly, 1100 N Washington, Lansing, MI 48906 517-372-7880 5-7:30p
- 4th Sat usually** Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open stages & jams 6-10p Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr, Flint, MI 48506 810-736-5332 \$\$ for hall rental: 11/23, 1/25/2020
- Last Wed** jam; Boatyard Brewing Company, 432 E. Paterson St., Kalamazoo, MI 49009 269-226-0300 7-?p
- 12/06** Full Cord Bluegrass, Hoptown Ramblers, Eric Englblade; Park Theatre, 248 S River Ave, Holland, MI 49423 8p \$12
- 12/07** Full Cord Bluegrass; Center for the Arts, 107 S Harrison St, Ludington, MI 49431 7p
- 12/08** Full Cord Bluegrass; Salt of the Earth, 114 E Main St, Fennville, MI 49408 6p
- 12/18** Full Cord Bluegrass; SpeakEZ Lounge, 600 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 8p
- 12/19** Full Cord Bluegrass; Jerry's Pub, 650 Egan Hwy, Brooklyn, MI 49230 517-467-4700 7:30-10P
- 12/20** The RFD Boys; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1800 \$11 8p
- 12/27-28** Billy Strings: Majestic Theatre, 4140 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201 313-833-9700 8p \$29.50 adv \$35 door

01/11 Full Cord Bluegrass; @ 5:20p, more eclectic; Winter Wheat, The Intersection, 133 Grandville Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Ohio

- 1st Sat** - acoustic instruments - 3 rooms, Nettle Lake United Brethren, 18560 County Rd 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 6-9p Free
- Tues.** Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, OH 45873 419-594-2816 6p
- Weds.** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, OH 45252 513-385-9309 Call to confirm
- 12/06** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Butler County Bluegrass Association, 5113 Huston Rd, Collinsville, OH 45004 7p
- 12/06** Larry Stephenson; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143 614-323-6938 7p
- 12/06** Joe Mullins; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, OH 45316 937-767-1767 7p
- 12/06** Open Highway; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 12/07** The Grascals; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 12/07** Dailey & Vincent; Convention Center, 2223 Russell Rd, Winchester, OH 45697 7p \$38/42
- 12/07** Family Pride, Tug Creek; Community Ctr, 800 Gillmer Rd, Leavittsburg, OH 44430 330-240-1904 7p
- 12/07** Kyle Jarvis; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 12/13** 7 Mile Bluegrass; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 12/14** Donna Ulisse; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 12/14** Two by Two; COBA, 7798 Big Walnut Rd, Westerville, OH 43082 4p
- 12/14** Appalachian Grass plus LOTS of other Oxford talent; Oxford Community Arts Center, 10 S College Ave, →

Lil' Friends Music Program

Fiddlin' Dixie with Lil' Friends Music Program was a great success at the 2019 Fall Northern Indiana Tri-State Bluegrass Festival.

Happy to report that we had 21 kids (and that didn't include babies and us big kids) that showed up to explore the fun music stations at the Labor Day Weekend Bluegrass Festival for 2019. Our Lil' Friends Kids Corner usually runs just over an hour before the kids decide its time for lunch, but this year we had so much fun that the kids lingered til' we hit the 2 hour mark.

The Fid-dough and Mando Munchies were enjoyed by all and the instruments in the Instrument Petting Zoo got plenty of pickin' pets and attention from all ages. Dixie shared some fiddle tips with a young fellow fiddler.

There was some serious looking Checker Game Competitions. Every once in a while, you could hear the crash of the Giant Jenga game in the background. We had 14 active Lil' Luthiers creating their own custom design eggcellent shakers. They learned some great rhythm. We had 8 active Lil' Composers who created some amazing lil' riffs for Fiddlin' Dixie to fiddle around with.

We also had several Instrument Artists take on the



challenge of designing our Lil' Friends Guitar Picks for 2020. We had 8 fantastic entrees. Who knows? Maybe one of them will be our All-Festival Pick Design Champion for 2020! We'll find out when next years picks get handed out at the Instrument Zoo!

It was an exciting year packed with fond memories. Now the Lil' Friends supplies are to be cleaned up and stored 'til next year. We hope everyone will join us next year as we celebrate our music program's 10th Anniversary! We will be having some special treats to celebrate this milestone birthday.

Hope we get to see you there! ~ Dixie Andres

Thank you from the Stage Chairman

It takes a lot of volunteers to get your festival put together for your pleasure. 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 Labor Day weekend announcers were Terri Grannis, Terry Thacker, Chere McKinley and Banner Kidd. 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

If you would like to be considered for an emcee spot in an upcoming festival, please contact Chris at "stage@NIBGA.com"

FROM THE MAIL BAG...



Camping in our new trailer for the first time. Went well. Got there on Monday and the Camper/Festival Police were on the spot to direct us where to put in and had everything with her to pay for the fest and the camping. She made that easy. Waved and smiled at people that I

don't know, that were waving and smiling back, all week. We met the nicest people, from all over the states, during the shows and the jam sessions at night after the shows. The shows were great -bluegrass music everywhere you looked. Even the performers asked permission

before they sang a country song with a bluegrass flavor to it, how thoughtful.

Michael Cleveland was unbelievable. The guy can do it all and did it all, right in front of me. The Bluegrassnauts were kids having fun and they were good and funny. Got to jam with the banjo player that night. Dave Adkins was great. And ya just gotta have the PO BOYS there. Nu Blue still on top. Just had a great time! Greg Aldridge was a great help all week ... even helped me set up the camper. Had too much fun and can't wait to do it again.

Thank you again for your entertainment and hospitality. ~ T.C.

Moving? Did you know that if the post office notifies us of your new address, it costs us \$.61? We just received a new change of address for an October newsletter after 30 days so the turn around is very slow.

Drop us an email of your new address you will save the club a little money and we will mail your newsletter to the correct address. You can email "Pres@NIBGA.com"

Oxford, OH 45056 513-524-8506
12/21 Alex Leach; Christmas party
 Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main
 St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143
 614-323-6938 5p
12/28 Three Rivers Bluegrass 10th Anni-
 versary Celebration. 6p, pot luck din-
 ner, open jam session until 11 pm.
 Will honor Duane Hardesty and the
 Hardesty Family. Free, handicap ac-
 cessible. Village Inn and Sts, 15 Water
 St., Coshocton, OH 740-502-0443
01/04 Hidden Drive and Matt Efaw &
 RFD; Johnson Community Center, 800
 Gillmer Rd, Leavittsburg, OH 44430
 330-240-1904 7p

01/09-11 Ralph Stanley II, Kyle Jarvis, &
 MORE. Bluegrass in Super Class,
 Maumee Bay Lodge, 11750 State Park
 Rd #2, Oregon, OH 330-645-1541.
01/10 Joe Mullins; Methodist Church,
 207 S. Court St., Marysville, OH
 43040 937-642-4712 7p
01/10 Ralph Stanley II; Sterling Bluegrass
 Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling,
 OH 43143 614-323-6938 5p
01/12 Rhonda Vincent; Stuart's Opera
 House, 52 Public Square, Nelsonville,
 OH 45764 3p
01/18-19 Steve & Debbie Gulley, Clay
 Hess, Mitch Meadows, Edgar
 Loudermilk, Brad Lambert & Adam

Schlenker; Moon City Music, 1208
 Lunar Dr, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
 567-204-0929
01/18 Crabgrass, Vertical Limit; Bluegrass
 Junction, Shalersville Town Hall, 9090
 OH-44, Ravenna, OH 44266 7-11p
01/19 Crabgrass; Ohio Theater, 156. W.
 Water St, Loudonville, OH 44842
 419-994-3750 2-4p
01/25 Tug Creek, Back Woods Blue-
 grass; Grange, 9778 Old SR, Chardon,
 OH 44024 330-240-1904 7p
01/25 Three Rivers Bluegrass, Coshocton
 Village Inn & Suites, 115 North Water
 Street, Coshocton, OH 7 pm



*For the remainder of the 2019/2020
 club year, memberships are **only \$5** and are
 good until April 30. This a great stocking
 stuffer for a musical friend! They will get
 newsletters through April 2020.*

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

Address Service Requested



Next NIBGA Jam - January 19, 2020