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Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, April 19. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner



As I was preparing to write this President's Column, I began thinking about the many acts that have appeared on our Tri-State stage. While I cannot possibly name them all, they include a lot of the elite names in bluegrass music, both nationally and regionally.

Going down through the list, I see some that represent the true cornerstones of the music, and others that represent the further reaches of the bluegrass estate. I couldn't be prouder that we represent the whole gamut of the music's breadth, including its old-timey foundation.

As I looked over those pieces of the past, I began to reflect on the future of bluegrass music. In doing so, I realized that the future will be every bit as diverse as the past, maybe even more so. There are many great bands today who identify with bluegrass music, and each has its own creative ideas.

We will no doubt in the future have bands like High Fidelity, who drive the music just like Lester & Earl, Carter & Ralph, Don & Red, and Bill did. Boy, am I glad! But, I'm really encouraged by the number of groups taking a little different slant these days. Folks like The Hogslop String Band thrive on the old timey drive like Gid Tanner, Riley Puckett, and Clayton McMichen did. And folks like Cane Mill Road move things in a new

direction, much as Tony Rice and Sam Bush did years ago.

One comment that I hear over and over from bands that appear at Tri-State is they feel at home at our festival. They comment about how nice all the folks are, and how welcome they feel at the event. I see our festival continuing in that same way into the future, being a place where all folks who love this music can come together.

Much as Bill Monroe did when he put his own twist on the string band music that came before him, all the folks who love this music today (enough to live it, breathe it, and grow it) will put their own stamp on the music.

The future that I see for bluegrass music, and NIBGA, includes and welcomes all those folks. Some will turn heads with a sound akin to that which Lester, Earl, and Bill had years ago, while others will turn heads with a sound a bit farther out (in the roots or in the branches).

We all know how great bluegrass music is, and it is finally getting the recognition we have all longed for, with its own grammy award and trade association (International Bluegrass Music Association). We are blessed to have a whole world of great talent – let's enjoy it!

Stay Calm and Keep That Bluegrass Music Going!

Joe Steiner, President



High Fidelity is one of those groups that gives me faith that the traditional bluegrass sound will not only survive but prosper in the future.

Headed up by Jeremy Stephens, this group has such a comfort level with the sound of the first generation grassers that you would think they were born with their instruments in their hands and a bluegrass memory chip in their brains. You can tell they are influenced a little more by Reno and Smiley than the other early groups, but they drive it just like Bill, Lester, and Earl did.

Although they are undoubtedly hard-driving traditional bluegrass in every respect, they are proof that the traditional sound doesn't need to be just an imitation of the past as they put their own brand on the music. They are top notch in every department instrumentally.

Jeremy is the 5-driver and Corrin Rose Logston handles the fiddle work, while Daniel Amick drives the rhythm on guitar as well as contributing some great lead work. Vickie Vaughn holds everything together with her solid and creative bass playing.

The Hogslop String Band will be making their second appearance at Tri-State at the Memorial Day festival. To say they are high energy would be a massive understatement – their stage show is a thoroughly entertaining experience.

They drive it as hard as anyone that has ever been on our stage, but their inspiration comes more from the Skillet Lickers than the Bluegrass Boys. Although I think they would clean up well, it is difficult to tell with certainty since they aren't the type that tend to dress up in suits and ties. They also tend to be the type that act... well... a little crazy. I think that's mostly because of their washtub bass player, Pickle. But, again, it's hard to tell for sure.

Kevin Martin drives the group in true old-time fashion from the fiddle, and Gabriel Kelley handles the guitar and much of the vocal work while keeping the stage show moving. Of course, clawhammer banjo is a critical piece of this driving machine, and that is handled Daniel Binkley.

I mentioned Pickle (yes, that's his name, or at least that's what he an-





Buzz on the Bands, continued

swers to), who plays the washtub bass. You don't see many good washtub bass players, since most folks hold down the bottom end of a bluegrass ensemble with a string bass. However, Pickle is a really good washtub bass player – he might give some bass fiddle players a run for their money on intonation, and, if you aren't watching, it's hard to tell he's not playing an upright bass.

Many folks in Northwest Indiana will think of Donnie Voiles when they hear the band name Echo Valley, since that was the name of the fine, hard-driving band which he led for many years. There will be an **Echo Valley** at Tri-State this Memorial Day weekend, but it won't be Donnie's band. (Donnie will, however, be performing with Out of the Blue on the Memorial Day lineup.)

The "other" Echo Valley is from Western Pennsylvania and is comprised of 7 siblings who grew up playing music on the family farm. Their sound is based on their tight, sibling harmonies which are among the best I have ever heard. Their approach is very expressive and creative, both in arranging and performing.

They have some great ideas and they execute them extremely well – their vocals go beyond the definition of "beautiful" and are filled with both power and excitement. The band was formed by sisters Elizabeth, Emily, Isabelle, Olivia, and Emmaline, performing on guitar, fiddle, mandolin, banjo, and string bass, respectively. They have now been joined by sister Annamae and brother David on mandolin and banjo. When you see the band I think you will agree with me that they are a lot prettier than Donnie's band ever was!

In next month's issue we will highlight the remaining Spring bands. It's going to be a great line-up! *Joe Steiner*

Welcome to our new Secretary!



Stephanie Dray joined the board in 2020 accepting the Secretary position. Her responsibilities will be maintaining records of all business meetings and club memberships along with scholarships.

Stephanie is the daughter of Carol and Larry "from Wisconsin" Finseth, the guitar player whom many will recognize from the festival. She has attended the festival since 2000, joined by her husband, Bryan Dray (attendee since 1995), who plays guitar and banjo. Stephanie plays bass and guitar.

Stephanie says that they LOVE to jam at the festivals and would love to see more bluegrass jamming! She and her husband will be leading the "Intermediate Jam" at the festival and invites you to come out and say "hi". And bring your instruments, of course!

Stephanie currently works in IT/Computers at Lima Memorial Hospital in Lima, OH as a SR Business Intelligence Developer/Team Lead.

We are thrilled to have her (and her amazing computer expertise!) on our board. Please welcome her when you see her next.

NIBGA is a 501(c)3 organization under IRS statute which means that all donations are fully tax deductible. Please remember us (your favorite charity!) when you make your contributions for the year.

Upcoming Events

If you are traveling any distance, be sure to call ahead to make sure the event is still as scheduled.

Indiana

Every Mon. Arthur's Music Store, 931 Shelby St, Indianapolis, IN 46203 317-638-3524 5-8p

Every Tues Old Timey jam; Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N. Main St., South Bend, IN 46601 574-232-2853 7-10p

Every Fri. Fulton Branch Library, 514 N SR 25, Rochester, IN 46975 574-857-3895 6:30-8:30p

1st Sun. 4/5 Central Indiana jam, Hall Community Bldg, 307 W South St, Gas City, IN 46933 noon-?? 765-674-5117 last jam until fall

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; 1st Sat., General Public: \$7, Members \$6, Students: \$4, Student members \$3, Children under 12: free, 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, Converse, IN 46919 765-395-3459 5p

3rd Sun jam; Library, 209 W. Brinton St. Cicero, IN 46034 1:30-3:30p

3rd Sun jam Northern Ind. Bluegrass, SWCC, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne,

IN 46809 noon-5p 260-918-4790 drinks & sandwiches available, no carry in, acoustic bluegrass only please. Last jam until fall.

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 3/28, 4/25 Contra Dance, St Paul's Memorial Methodist Church, 1001 W Colfax, South Bend, IN 46616 574-243-3683 7-10:30p

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

04/16 John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band; Pruis Hall Ball State; 2000 W University, Muncie, IN 47306 (765)285-5524 8



Upcoming Events

If you are traveling any distance, be sure to call ahead to make sure the event is still as scheduled.

04/23 Dailey & Vincent; Hatfield Hall, 5500 Wabash Ave, Terre Haute, **IN** 47803 7:30p

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 Jambores 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

3rd Sat West Michigan Bluegrass Assoc. meeting & jam, Lake Michigan Sports Bar, 4072 Lake Michigan Dr. NW, Grand Rapids, **MI** 49534 616-288-7587 1-4p

3rd Sun Mid-Michigan jams, Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd.,

Lansing, **MI** 48917 517-482-2382

\$4 donation 2-6p

4th Sat 4/25 Michigan Bluegrass Music Assoc. open stages & jams 6-10p Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr, Flint, **MI** 48506 810-736-5332

Last Wed jam; Boatyard Brewing Company, 432 E. Paterson St., Kalamazoo, **MI** 49009 269-226-0300 7-?p

04/11 Michigan Fiddlers Assoc.; Barry County on Aging, 320 W. Woodlawn, Hastings, **MI** 49058 1-7:30p 269-795-3143

04/14 John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band; Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 734-761-1800 8p \$20

04/17 John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band; Museum of Art, 296 W Webster Ave, Muskegon, **MI** 49440 7p

04/25 Michigan Fiddlers Assoc.; Morley HS, 4700 Northland Dr., Morley, **MI** 49336 1-7:30p 269-795-3143

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

last Fri. Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd, Cincinnati, **OH** 45231 7-9p 513-832-1422

04/02 2nd Time Around; Miami Downtown, 221 High St, Hamilton, **OH** 45011 7-8:30p

04/03 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Butler Co BG Assoc., 5113 Huston Rd, Collinsville, **OH** 45004 7-9p 614-384-5640

04/03 Coal Cave Holler; Loose Rail Brewing, 37 W Waterloo St, Canal Winchester, **OH** 43110 614-321-6634 7p

04/04 Joe Mullins; Stuart's Opera House, 52 Public Sq., Nelsonville, **OH** 45764 7:30p

04/04 Vertical Limit, Caney Creek; Community Center, 800 Gillmer Rd, Leavittsburg, **OH** 44430 330-240-1904 7 pm

04/04 Alex Leach Band; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 4:30p

04/04 Sideline; Pike County Fairgrounds, 311 Mill St, Piketon, **OH** 45661 7p

04/05 Sideline; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 4 pm

04/11 "Tommy: A Bluegrass Opry:" by the Hill Benders; Finkelman Auditorium, Miami University, 4200 N University Blvd, Middletown, **OH** 45042 \$32 7:30p

04/11 Sawmill Ridge; COBA, 7798 Big Walnut Rd, Westerville, **OH** 43082-9407 4p

04/11 Price Sisters; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 4:30p

04/15 John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band; G.A.R. Hall, 1785 Main St., Peninsula, **OH**



NIBGA 2020-2021 Membership Form a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit BluegrassUSA.net

● Due by April 30, 2020 ● NIBGA, 4535 Lincoln Hwy, Lima, OH 45807 ● ph:567-371-9627 ● email: secretary@nibga.com

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ e-Mail: _____

Yes: e-Mail mine: _____ No, snail mail it _____ Canada: snail mail (1 or 2) \$15, e-Mailed(1) \$10/(2) \$15

New: _____ Renewal: _____ \$10 Single: _____ \$5 ea addl same address 16 & older _____

OH 44264
04/17 Remington Ryde; Nickel Valley Resorts, 33900 TWP. RD 68, Frazeyburg OH 43822 7 pm Free
04/17 Tony Hale & Blackwater; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 6:30p
04/18 Coal Cave Holler; Hocking Fairgrounds, 150 N Homer Ave., Logan, OH 1p
04/18 Chosen Road; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling

OH 43143 614-323-6938 4:30p
04/18 Remington Ryde; Shalersville Town Hall, 9090 OH-44, Ravenna, OH 44266 7p
04/18 Wayfarers; Combustion Brewery, 80 W. Church St, Pickerington, OH 43147 614-834-9595 3p
04/24 Dailey & Vincent; Methodist Church, 207 S. Court St., Marysville, OH 43040 937-642-4712 7p
04/25 Coal Cave Holler; Loose Rail Brewing, 37 W Waterloo St, Canal Winchester, OH 43110

614-321-6634 7p
04/25 Dailey & Vincent; Finkelman Auditorium, Miami University, 4200 N University Blvd, Middletown, OH 45042 \$38 7:30p
04/25 M&M Express, Young N-Blue; Grange, 9778 Old SR, Chardon, OH 44024 330-240-1904 6:30p
04/25 The Grascals; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 7-10p



Remember to order your advanced camping package by **May 1** to save \$15 on your weekend camping.

The package includes 1 weekend pass, and 3 days of camping (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) for \$65. You can purchase additional weekend passes and days of camping at the gate.

Send your money to **NIBGA Camping, 5034 Wapiti, Fort Wayne, IN 46804**. Include your name, address, contact information and a SASE. In return you will receive a voucher that can be used at the festival gate.

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

Address Service Requested



Next NIBGA Jam - April 19, 2020