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Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, Oct 18. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

## President's Corner - Joe Steiner



It feels good to begin planning to hold a festival again! You will soon be seeing information on NIBGA's facebook page about the upcoming festival and the bands that will be appearing.

In these unsettled times, your NIBGA board has been holding monthly meetings, even though we do not typically hold them over the summer. Of course, one of the main topics of discussion has been whether to hold the fall festival as planned, and, if so, what special precautions will we need to take.

As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, our primary focus is the safety of our attendees and the local Noble County Indiana community. It appears, from the guidance we are seeing, that we WILL be able to hold the festival, and in a way that does not cause undue risk.

We are taking into consideration social distancing and additional cleaning and disinfecting of restrooms and other common areas. We have been closely monitoring the CDC guidelines. We are also considering some other changes that will increase the safety, such as changing the stage and concert seating layout, and limiting workshops.

At this time, it is likely that we will hold the festival as planned; however, we would also like to get your thoughts! You will soon be seeing a survey become available, and there will be links posted on our web site and our facebook page. You will also see the online survey address elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have really been pleased by the number of orders we received for the "non-festival" t-shirt, and, especially, by the number of patron memberships that have come in. NIBGA exists to support the bluegrass community, and, especially during difficult times like these, it is important that we work together to make the music available to listeners and provide venues for performers.

While the members of the NIBGA board sometimes have differing opinions or ideas, we always find ways to work together to make things happen. That has continued now for well over 40 years, and I'm confident it will continue for many more. Just as the music has continued and grown, so will NIBGA. We all share a love of this music, and I look forward to a bright future for NIBGA when the current craziness is behind us.

When folks show their support of NIBGA, through things like the patron membership program, it gives a clear picture of just how much we "bluegrassers" stick together to support our common goals. I'm really proud that NIBGA is a voice for bluegrass in the tri-state area.

I'll see you Labor Day weekend! Until then, stay calm and keep pickin' that bluegrass!



When David Parmley decided to retire from road life, the members of Cardinal Tradition decided to form a new group called **Fast Track**. Dale Perry (banjo, bass vocals), Ron Spears (bass, vocals), and Steve Day (fiddle, vocals) all have bluegrass resumes a mile long. They rounded out the new group with two other renowned veteran musicians: Jesse Brock (mandolin, vocals) and Duane Sparks (guitar, vocals)

In addition to receiving multiple awards from both the International Bluegrass Music Association and the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music in America, the members of Fast Track have performed and recorded with many of the greats in bluegrass music. It would be impossible to name them all, but among the many performers on the list are Rhonda Vincent, Greg Cahill, Michael Cleveland, the Gibson Brothers, the Lonesome River Band, Joe Mullins, Gerald Evans, and Ronnie Reno.

Just as one would expect from their resumes, each member is a top notch musician with a thorough understanding of bluegrass music. Instrumentally, they are both creative and versatile; but, most importantly, they know how to drive the music like a freight train. Vocally, they are gifted with several lead options, and they have strong top-notch harmonies.

Although they have recently stepped out on their own with Fast Track, these guys are rock solid, a bluegrass cannonball made up of top-notch veteran performers.

**Steve Gulley** was a founding member of both Mountain Heart and Grasstowne. And, before helping establish those two iconic groups, he had already done a stint with Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, as well as performing at Kentucky's historic Renfro Valley.

**Jim Winger submitted this from Kiplinger's Newsletter:**

In any crisis or emergency situation, people look to churches, food pantries, and other charitable organizations for help. It's no different with the coronavirus crisis—charities will provide relief to those who are suffering like they always do. So, to encourage charitable giving in 2020, the CARES Act includes two tax provisions that reward people who donate to charity.

First, a new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 is allowed for *cash* donations to charity in 2020. Donations to donor advised funds and certain organizations that support charities are not deductible. (As a 501c3, your club qualifies under this rule.) You can't claim this deduction if you itemize deductions on your 2020 tax return (i.e., you must claim the standard deduction).

For taxpayers who do itemize on their 2020 return, the 60% of adjusted gross income limit that normally applies to cash contributions is waived. That means you can deduct more of your charitable cash contributions this year. As with the new above-the-line deduction, donations to donor advised funds and supporting organizations don't count.

## From the International Bluegrass Music Association Foundation Newsletter, June 2020



It's time for the summer bluegrass festival season! We anticipate hearing our favorite bands in person, catching up with music friends we rarely see elsewhere, learning something from camps and workshops, and (of course) jamming. As we all know by now, most live music events

have been cancelled or postponed due to the health risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus. So...what are your plans?

Our friends at the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association who host Memorial Day and Labor Day festivals in Kendallville, IN, cancelled their May 21-24 event, refunded tickets, asked regular attendees to post videos of their socially distant jams at home on the NIBA Facebook page, and even sold "non festival 2020" t-shirts (see above)—which will likely become collector's items in the tri-state area!

Those who are not affected financially by the pandemic could do a number of things to help those affected by the year of no gigs or festivals. Here are some ideas: Instead of taking the refund on those tickets you pre-purchased, just donate the amount back to the event producers to help them get through the year. Check digital festival experiences. Check out live streaming blue-

grass concerts on Facebook and YouTube. Make a donation to your favorite bands, who are all really taking a hit this year. Take a Skype lesson from a non-touring musician, buy some music or a t-shirt, or just make a donation to help keep your favorite artists afloat during this difficult year.

It's always a great idea to support the IBMA Trust Fund, which is staying extra busy helping members of the bluegrass music industry in need. IBMA World of Bluegrass in Raleigh, NC, Sept. 30-Oct. 3, hosted by the Foundation's parent organization, will most certainly be impacted financially by the pandemic, and a donation to IBMA is also tax-deductible.

At the IBMA Foundation, we're working to fund endowments for two bluegrass-related scholarships. The Sally Ann Forrester College Scholarship for female musicians needs \$5,000 more to meet our \$20,000 goal, and the IBMA Bluegrass College Scholarship still needs around \$5,000 to meet the initial \$10,000 endowment goal.

It's certain that 2020 will be a festival season we won't forget. One thing COVID-19 has taught us is how we're all connected – economically as well as socially. More than ever, we're realizing how various parts of the bluegrass ecosystem affect the whole community. If you need help, please ask. If you are able to help those having a lean year, please do so.

~ Nancy Cardwell, IBMA Foundation executive director (printed with permission of Nancy Cardwell)

## (A Few) Events

Until things get back to normal, we are just listing events that have been brought to our attention. Please let me know if you have something we can include. Email News@NIBGA.com

### Indiana

**June 21** Blue Hollar Band is playing at Potawatomi Wildlife Park State Rd 331, South of State Rd 10. Tippecanoe, **IN**. 6 PM

**July 11** Jim and Walt's 22nd Acoustic Jam and Picnic. Drazer Park, Kouts, **IN**. ½ mile South of IN 8 on IN 49. ½ mile West on Daumer Rd. Bring your instruments, family, lawn chairs, and a dish to share. 12:30 p.m. Jim Miller (219) 766-3061 NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS!!! NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS OR THEFT. ACOUSTIC INSTRUMENTS ONLY

**July 18** Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass at Metamora Opry. 19189 Pennington Rd., Metamora, **IN** 47030 7pm

**August 13-16** Winding Creek Music Festival, 9912 West, 100 South, Russiaville, **IN** 46979. Steve Gulley and New Pinnacle, Kenny & Amanda Smith, Wayfarers Band, Branded Bluegrass, and many more.  
Www.windingcreekbluegrass.com

### Michigan

**July 19-25** Marshall Bluegrass Festival. Calhoun County Fairgrounds, Marshall **MI**. Edgar Loudermilk Band, Kevin Prater Band, Clay Hess Band, Lorraine Jordan & Carolina Road, Larry Efaw, New Outlook, and many more.  
Www.marshallbluegrassfestival.com for more information.

**August 05-08** Michael Cleveland, Larry Stephenson, Jr. Sisk, Lonesome River Band, Illrd Tyme Out, High Fidelity, Rhonda Vincent, Carolina Blue, Blue Steel, Merle Monroe, RFD boys, Dave Adkins, Breaking Glass, Gibson Bros., Steve Thomas, Huron Ridge, Remington Ryde, Bothers Walker, Malpass Brothers, more; Milan MI Bluegrass Festival, KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd, Milan, **MI** 48160 734-439-1076

### Ohio

**Every Wednesday** from 6:30-8:30 pm. Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass is playing at Vinoklet, 11069 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati, **OH** 45252.

**June 27** Kaufman Road at Three Rivers Bluegrass. 115 Water Street, Coshocton, **OH** 43812 7 PM

**June 28** We're back at Moon City Music & Event Center located at 1208 Lunar Dr., Wapakoneta, **OH**. We've rescheduled shows due to covid19. Protocols are in place and we're ready for some bluegrass and hope you are too! First show we'll be June 28th - Sunday 2 p.m. will New Outlook. Other acts coming to venue is Midnight River, Clay Hess Band, Crabgrass and more. Visit our website www.mooncityeventcenter.com or call 567-204-0929 to reserve your tickets.

**July 4** Family Sowell from Nashville will be at Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, doors open 3:30, house band 5 pm, feature band 6 pm. \$15 advance tickets available 614-323-6938. 26 Main Street, Mt. Sterling, **OH** 43143

**July 24** Bluegrass at Colerain Park. 4725 Springdale Rd., Colerain, **OH** 45251. 7-9 PM. Hosted by Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass. FREE

**July 25** Sugar Creek Bluegrass, 213 Canal Street, Newcomerstown, **OH**. Doors open at 5, Chestnut Hill at 6, feature band 7. Great food, family and handicap accessible. Duane Hardesty, 740 502 0443

**August 24-29** Acoustic Edge, Bluegrass Album Band Tribute, Bluegrassholes, Candy Creek, Crabgrass, Dave Adkins, Echo Valley, Hammertowne, Jr. Sisk, Kyle Jarvis, Larry Efaw, Lonesome River Band, Ottawa County, Sideline, Smith Brothers, Sons of Tradition, South 79, Turning Ground, Vertical Limit; Mansfield Jamfest, Richland Fairgrounds, 340 Lantz Rd., Mansfield, **OH** 44906 330-354-4402

**August 29** Open Highway Band at Three Rivers Bluegrass. 115 Water Street, Coshocton, **OH** 43812 7 PM

## Buzz on the Bands - continued

He is well known as a singer, and he has been a featured vocalist on projects from Keith Whitley, Ronnie Bowman, Dan Tyminski, Tim Stafford, Dwight McCall, and Dale Ann Bradley. But, he has also enjoyed considerable success as a songwriter, having penned songs which were recorded by groups like Blue Highway, Kenny & Amanda Smith, and Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver. With Tim Stafford, he co-wrote Blue Highway's song "Through The Window Of A Train" which was voted International Bluegrass Music Association Song Of The Year for 2008.

After a lot of years collaborating with others, Steve felt the time was right in 2015 to step out with a band under his own name. He chose **Steve Gulley & New Pinnacle** in honor of a band that his dad, Don Gulley, played in, The Pinnacle Mountain Boys. And he also felt

that it described a new plateau in his musical journey.

Steve has recruited top notch musicians for New Pinnacle. Bryan Turner, previously a member of Cumberland Gap Connection, Pine Mountain Railroad and The Dale Ann Bradley Band, plays bass and also sings lead and harmony with the band. Matthew Cruby, who toured with Appalachian Trail and Dave Adkins and Republik Steele, plays banjo and helps out with harmony vocals. Gary Robinson, who previously performed with Cumberland Gap Connection and Cumberland River, rounds out the ensemble on mandolin.

**That Dalton Gang** is a young group from Missouri featuring the singing and mandolin playing of Cheyenne Dalton. Until they performed at the spring 2019 Tri-State Bluegrass Festival, I was not very familiar with them, but

when I saw them on our stage last year I was completely blown away by the talent in this young group.

Instrumentally, they sizzle in every corner, with hot solos from Mason Ruble on banjo, Cheyenne Dalton on mandolin, and Jimmy Meyer on guitar. And, building on Wyatt Harmon's rock-solid bass line, they are the very definition of precision when setting up a rock-solid, syncopated rhythm groove.

Vocally, they have both a top-notch female lead in Cheyenne and an equally strong male lead in Jimmy, but, they also feature a level of power and expression in their harmonies that really sets them apart.

I knew it was only a matter of time until their talent became well-known in the bluegrass world. At the SPBGMA MidWest Bluegrass Music Awards earlier this year, we saw what I believe will be just the beginning of that recognition when they came home with eight awards, including Band of the Year, Entertainer of the Year, and Album of the Year.

I will include the remaining bands in the August newsletter. I hope you are as excited about all of these bands as I am! *Joe Steiner*

We'd like  
**YOUR**  
thoughts...

Please take 30 seconds and fill out the 3 question survey that is online. We are trying to gauge how many people are considering attending the festival this year. The link is:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YK3GMXK>  
Thanks!

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

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KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA

Next NIBGA Jam - Oct 18, 2020