



While the fact remains that not having a festival is putting a dent in the spider-web-covered coffers of the association, the ones that are REALLY being affected financially are the bands. For many of them, these festivals and live venues are their largest source of income for their bands and their family. Many, many bands have told us that 2020 is going to be a total bust for them, and if they are to survive, it will be by other, innovative means.

While we can't assist them by hiring them for 2020, we are hoping to help in other ways. I have reached out to them to see what they are doing and how we can best support them. Over the next few newsletters, I will publish links to their sites and let you know how YOU can keep up with these bands that should have played the Kendallville stage this year.

We can show our support by checking out their websites, "liking" their facebook pages, and following their youtube channels. Please consider buying their products so they can continue playing music.

So.... more about the bands (this IS the "buzz", after all!)

I am really, REALLY excited about this! First, his promo...

Singer, Songwriter and Fiddler, **Mike Mitchell** "Live With You House Concert" is on FaceBook every Tuesday Night at eight o'clock. Partnering with Bluegrass presenters and festivals, each house concert supports a nonprofit in that presenter's community.

With his effortless vocals, distinctive songwriting, and instrumental prowess, Mike continues to capture audiences and carve out his own place in bluegrass.

His latest album, "Small Town", debuted at #2 on the Billboard bluegrass chart.

Now, for the most exciting part! Mike Mitchell has agreed to perform the Tuesday night virtual concert on

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Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: Noon-6 PM, Oct 18. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



If this were a normal year, we'd be getting ready to head to Kendallville for the fall festival. However, this year I must instead sadly report that the fall festival has been canceled. This decision was not undertaken lightly by the NIBGA board, but the health and safety of the bluegrass community, the Kendallville/Noble County community, our bands, and our vendors were

our top priority.

Since the CDC classifies events such as our festival as "Highest Risk" level for the spread of COVID-19, we would be especially obligated to ensure we follow guidelines. Unfortunately, the logistics of the festival would make social distancing difficult and impossible to control, and, complicating matters, the event draws people from many different parts of the country (and possibly even from other countries).

We do not feel, even under the most optimistic of scenarios, that we would be able to hold the event in a manner which would do justice to the great tradition of bluegrass music that we present on our stage while following the requirements necessary to ensure the safety of attendees.

As we deal with the disappointment of this year's event cancellations, I'm glad that we have the support of our fellow "bluegrassers". One thing unique about the world of bluegrass music is the sense of community we share. I am always impressed by the broad appeal of bluegrass music and the diversity of our community. Though we are all different, in some ways, we are the same in our love for honest, heartfelt, unpretentious music.

At this time, I think it is important to celebrate this sense of community. Although the "official" events have been canceled, we still have the opportunity to share our great music in smaller, informal gatherings. We fortunately live in an era when we can use electronic media to share. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information on various web-based performances. Please support the music and the musicians by checking them out and making purchases or donations to show your appreciation.

I'm thankful that I'm part of this bluegrass family, and I'm looking forward to a return of our wonderful bluegrass events in 2021.



Tri-State Bluegrass Festival
Labor Day Weekend - Sept. 4-6 2020
CANCELED



August 18 for NIBGA! We have chosen to designate all monies collected (I'm thinking this may be via a virtual tip jar) to the Noble County Fairgrounds Board. As you will see in the article on page 3, they are seriously struggling this year. 100% of all donations will go directly to them. There will be more information on how to see the concert posted on our website and facebook pages, and the details are still being worked out as we speak. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/mikemitchellbandpage/> to see Mike Mitchell's previous Tuesday night concerts.

Full Cord Bluegrass has a few upcoming gigs that are still being held. Please check them out at:

Gig Info:

<https://www.bandsintown.com/a/2615206-full-cord>

Website: <https://www.fullcord.net>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fullcordbluegrass>

Youtubes: <https://www.youtube.com/user/fullcord>

It's been a slow summer for **That Dalton Gang** with almost all of our summer canceled due to the Covid. We were honored to be able to play for 5 straight days at Silver Dollar City in Branson in early June and here is a video from that special time. Hopefully we can make it back to Indiana for next year's festival and bring our music to you. Stay safe, everyone, and check us out on facebook at That Dalton Gang or on the web at

www.thatdaltongang.com, or <https://www.facebook.com/chevenne.dalton.71/videos/3316953735196296>

"Any churches that are having church services, would you be interested in special music? Brad and I are looking to visit some churches to visit for a love offering. Contact us!" This is from Lori and Brad Lambert of **New Outlook**. Their facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/lori.m.lambert.5>) shows that they have several church gigs coming up, so contact them soon if you'd like to see them performing in YOUR church. They can be reached at 567-204-0929.

Steve Gulley and New Pinnacle have a song on the final IBMA ballot! From their website, "So proud and honored to be on the final IBMA ballot for Song of the Year with "Both Ends Of The Train", recorded by Blue Highway, which I co-wrote with my buddy, Tim Stafford." Check out Steve's facebook page and buy some of his best singles (only 99 cents!).

<https://www.facebook.com/steve.gulley.9>

More "buzz" next month! Thanks for supporting our bands!

Chris Steiner

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Sunday, July 5, 2020

To the Board Members and Officers of the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association,



We are writing to urge you to ban the Confederate flag from all future NIBGA festivals.

Bluegrass music is for everyone, from all walks of life. A few years ago we began to notice the Confederate flag hanging on a camper or two and more than one flying on the back of a golf cart that makes the rounds every few hours. We silently cringed when we saw them, but we know the time has come to move beyond simply cringing. We hope that the larger bluegrass festival community will agree that now is the moment for positive change.

That flag is a symbol of racism, violence, and white supremacy. It says, "People of color are not welcome here." Yes, it's true that the majority of Kendallville's festival-goers are white. White people, however, do not own bluegrass music. Its roots do not stop in Appalachia. We would not have so many of the gospel tunes, jigs, reels, and old-time music that we enjoy at festivals today without the music of Black Americans which was co-opted by white musicians. One of the most iconic bluegrass instruments, the banjo, came from Africa. To proudly wave the Confederate flag seeks to erase the his-

tory of the music we love by negating the contributions of the people of color who made it what it is today. To display that flag publicly is to send a message that any person of color who might be interested in camping, jamming, and listening to great acoustic music with the rest of us should stay away. An increase in diversity can only strengthen the growth and survival of bluegrass festivals.

That flag belongs in a museum, the rightful place for Confederate paraphernalia, where it can be used to teach our nation's history. Flying it publicly only sets our country back to some of its darkest days and declares its owner to be intolerant, hateful, and racist. Please send a message to festival attendees that our festivals are for all music loving people, no matter the color of our skin. Please ban the Confederate flag from future festivals and show us that bluegrass music is indeed for everyone.

Sincerely,
Julia Garlotte & Ben Benedict
NIBGA members and longtime festival attendees

[President's note: I want everyone in our bluegrass family to feel welcome at our festival. Thoughts? Drop us a line at News@NIBGA.com]

NCCFC Needs Our Help

Another casualty of the Covid 19 cancellations is the Noble County Fairgrounds, where the Kendallville Bluegrass Festival is held twice yearly. Nearly 100% of their income is made up of rental of their facilities.

"They've had to cancel all of their rental income and we've also lost the bluegrass festival, so basically the Noble County Fair Board does not have any income stream, yet they still have all of the normal expenses that go along with the fairgrounds — water bills, electric bills, insurance bills to pay," said Noble County Purdue Extension Educator Doug Keenan, who works closely with the fair group to host the annual 4-H component of the county fair.

For instance, in one month, the fairground had expenses of about \$5,000 to cover, but due to the previous stay-at-home order and ongoing restrictions barring large gatherings and public events, the fair board lost \$10,000 in rental income.

Just as many bands are struggling to stay afloat for the year, the fairgrounds have the same issues. No events, no income, no way to raise money.

If you read "Buzz on the Bands" starting on page 1, you will see that NIBGA has co-partnered with the Mike Mitchell Band to help raise funds for the Noble County Fairgrounds. Please consider supporting the fairgrounds so that we can continue the tradition of bluegrass in Noble County. The virtual concert event will take place on August 18. Stay tuned for more information or check out <https://www.facebook.com/mikemitchellbandpage/>

(A Very 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

7/25 Blue Holler Band. Potato Creek State Park. Free concert with admission to park. \$7 carload. 7-8:30 pm. 25601 Indiana State Road 4, North Liberty, IN 46554 574-656-8186

08/13-16 Steve Gulley & New Pinnacle, Kenny & Amanda Smith, Wayfarers Band, Branded Bluegrass, FireBox, Flatland Harmony Experiment, Bahler Golden Age Band, New Outlook, Alec Hurtubise & Friends, Medicinal Bluegrass, Kokomo Cowboy Church Band; Winding Creek Bluegrass Festival, 9912 W 100 S, Russiaville, IN 46979

Michigan No events scheduled at this point.

Ohio

Weds. Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45252 513-385-9309 Call to confirm, August 5, 12, 19, 26 September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. Schedule may change with COVID restrictions; please verify before driving: 513-385-9309

Last Fri. Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45231 7-9p 513-832-1422 August 20 and September 25, 2020. Schedule may change with COVID restrictions; please verify before driving: 513-832-1422

07/23 Northwest Territory; Band Shell, Brookside Park, 209 Parkside Dr, Ashland, OH 44805 419-281-3018 8-9:15p

08/07 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Butler County Bluegrass Association, 5113 Huston Rd, Collinsville, OH 45004. Schedule may change with COVID restrictions; please verify before driving: 513-410-3625

08/21 Clay Hess Band; Moon City Music Center, 1208 Lunar Dr., Wapakoneta, OH 45895 567-204-0929 7:30p \$15

08/24-29 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

09/11 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Butler County Bluegrass Association, 5113 Huston Rd, Collinsville, OH 45004. Schedule may change with COVID restrictions; please verify before driving: 513-410-3625

09/17-19 Breaking Grass, Carolina Blue, Colebrook Road, Gary Brewer and the Kentucky Ramblers, Northwest Territory, Sister Sadie, Solid Rock, Sugar Creek, Sunrise Ridge, The Denison University Bluegrass Ensemble, The Cleverlys, Three Rivers Bluegrass, Wheeling Park HS Bluegrass Bands; Mohican Wilderness Campground BGF, 22462 Wally Rd, Glenmont, OH 44628 740-599-6741

When we set a personal goal of having 30 people become Patrons for NIBGA, I thought we were being overly optimistic. I have since learned to never underestimate bluegrassers when it comes to supporting things near and dear to their heart. Please thank these people for helping bluegrass survive and thrive in Noble County.

Ben Benedict and Julia Garlotte
Wayne Boltz
Richard Borkowski
Steve Carroll
James Chilton
George Clawson
Roy and Sandy Conine
Verl Dasher
Mary Day
Larry and Karen Donaldson
Bryan and Stephanie Dray
Julie Goldsmith & Jim Geise

Keith and Terri Grannis
Eric and Pam Hinkle
Pam Keiper
Francis Klenzak
Jerry and Sioux McLane
Ian Oliveros
Bruce and Sandy Pettinger
Poul and Linda Sandersen
Paul and Sue Saurborn
Jim and Joan Settlemyre

Mark and Cheryl Smith
Joe and Chris Steiner
Ron and Sandy Tedford
Chris Vogie
Dave and Marianne Vogie
Terry and Peggy Wallace
Ronald Wedekind
Paul and Barbara Welch
Stewart E White
Jim and Linda Winger



The International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) announced that due to ongoing health concerns relating to COVID-19, and the logistical challenges of creating a safe in-person event experience, this year's IBMA World of Bluegrass will take place virtually. The planned conference, showcases, awards and festival performances will be presented as an online experience September 28-Oct. 3, with the possibility of extending event content beyond those dates. Watch IBMA.org or WorldOfBluegrass.org for further details.

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

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KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA

Next NIBGA Jam - Oct 18, 2020