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Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly
Next Jam: 1-5 PM, Nov. 15, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



As we wind down this festival season, it is appropriate to dub 2020 the year of the "festival that never was". Although we had great plans for the year, very few actually materialized since it was mid-March when everything was shut down due to COVID-19.

I am hopeful that we'll be able to hold events as "normal" in 2021, although I expect a few precautions, to which we've now become accustomed, will remain. I'm also hopeful that we'll see a return of normal attendance numbers, or perhaps even an increase.

I, for one, will never take for granted again the wonderful gift we have of being able to attend bluegrass festivals. I vow to spend more of my time enjoying this wonderful music and swapping musical ideas with others who enjoy it. As I mentioned in last month's column, I can't wait to get back to picking with friends and experiencing the energy that comes with floating new musical ideas in a jam session.

Alas, the camper made very few trips this year, and now we're already thinking about putting it away

for the winter. None of those trips were for music festivals, although I will have to say it still felt good when we were able to get out and enjoy some time in the campground.

The Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association (NIBGA) has been in existence now for 44 years, and I don't think there has ever been a year when we were not able to hold at least one festival. Our mission is to promote bluegrass music, and, in doing so, we also provide a community service in producing family-friendly music events. Our other initiatives, such as bringing entertainment into local nursing homes, providing scholarships for deserving students, and providing monthly jam sessions, were also curtailed due to concerns over COVID-19.

There is some information on NIBGA's history elsewhere in this newsletter, and we will be including additional historical information in future newsletters. We can all be proud to be a part of this fine organization, helping to support its mission.

It pains me that we had to essentially put our mission on hold for a year. I can honestly say, though, that we tried our best, and that we will be going full speed ahead again as soon as we are able. I hope that is in 2021.

IBMA 2020 Winners

New Artist - Mile Twelve
Instrumental Group - **Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper**
Vocal Group - **Sister Sadie**
Female Vocalist - Brooke Aldridge
Male Vocalist - **Danny Paisley**
Entertainer - **Sister Sadie**

Banjo Player - Scott Vestal
Bass Player - Missy Raines
Resophonic Guitar Player - Justin Moses
Fiddle Player - Deanie Richardson
Mandolin Player - **Alan Bibey**
Guitar Player - Jake Workman

Collaborative Recording -
"The Barber's Fiddle"
Instrumental Recording -
"Tall Fiddler", **Michael Cleveland**
Gospel Recording -
"Gonna Rise and Shine," by **Alan Bibey & Grasstowne**
Song - "Chicago Barn Dance" by artists **Special Consensus** with **Michael Cleveland & Becky Buller**
Album - Live in Prague, Czech Republic by Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver

Bold/blue designate artists that have performed at Kendallville. Dale Ann Bradley is with Sister Sadie.

NIBGA Club History

During the winter months, when bluegrass news is slow, it seems like a good time to present a little history of NIBGA. This is the first of several articles that were originally written by Charles Carnes and meticulously typed on a typewriter, not a computer. The pages were recently scanned, converted to MS Word and edited by Jim Winger, Vice-President, for the newsletter.

NIBGA incorporation

The club, Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association, Inc., was incorporated as a not-for-profit (501(C)(4)). The club later became a 501(C)(3), which is a tax deductible corporation, on the 22nd day of August 1977.

Article II of the incorporation document states the purpose of the club as; To educate the public to, and promote the awareness of, Bluegrass and Old Time Country Music.

The original Board of Directors as shown on the incorporation document were;

Donald W. McFarland	Fay M. McFarland
James A. Cornell	Kenneth DeMarcus
Patricia L. Honeycutt	Leonard Prescott

Section II of the "By Laws" states; Musical instruments will be limited to those acoustical, non-electrified instruments traditionally associated with Bluegrass and Old Time Country music.

The Articles of Incorporation were signed by Donald W. McFarland and Fay M. McFarland. The Articles of Incorporation were prepared by Frank L. Gallucci of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

1976 Prelude to the Organization

About a year prior to the decision to organize, bluegrass pickers, fans, and families were meeting almost every Saturday night at each other's homes and most often at the home of Don and Fay McFarland in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The crowds had become so large and the pressures of hosting such a large group had become so demanding that a decision was made to move the get-to-gather to a larger facility.

The meeting moved to the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ft. Wayne. This meeting was set for Friday, April 9, 1976. Vic and Eleanor Rigsby volunteered to provide a keg of beer for the meeting. Don (Mac) McFarland asked for a list of people who might be interested in bluegrass music and a list of 60 or 65 names was assembled.

Invitations were mailed out for the first meeting. Vic had made the statement that he had been trying to sell bluegrass music in Ft. Wayne for 30 years and they probably wouldn't get a half dozen people to the meeting. According to Don, there were close to 300 people there. The Association was formed and officers were elected at this meeting. LaVerne Widner belonged to a dulcimer club so she wrote the by-laws

for the newly formed organization.

After the initial meeting at the Knights of Columbus Hall the meetings were held at a couple different places before they were moved to the Kings High Kick. This was a club where Don and Fay had been taking square dance lessons for about 5 years. The meetings were held there for about 2 years.

NIBA or NIBGA? Originally NIBA was going to be the abbreviation for the club name, however the owners of the King's High Kick where the meetings were held were involved in the Northern Indiana Boating Association, whose abbreviation was NIBA so in the interest of getting along, the club opted for NIBGA.

The following are the officers and board members elected at this first meeting.

President – Don McFarland
Treasurer – Fay McFarland
Secretary – Penny Honeycutt

Board of Directors:

Urban Steckler	Weldon Yoder
Jim Cornell	Clyde Bowling
Len Prescott	Gordon Perry
John Melvin	Kenny DeMarcus

These persons served until the November 1976 elections.

Next month, the first campgrounds & first festival

Over Jordan

James (Jim) Franklyn Craycraft, 85, passed August 16. He is survived by his loving wife, Jean, of 66 years. He was a long time member of the club and attended most festivals. Jim blessed others over the years with his skillful musical and vocal ability. He played many instruments, including guitar and banjo with various bluegrass gospel groups. Jim will be missed greatly by his NIBGA bluegrass family.



IBMA Announces Mile Twelve as New Artist of the Year



Boston-based **Mile Twelve** got their start in 2014 and released their latest full-length album, *City on a Hill*, in 2019. In producing *City on a Hill*, the group went through a transformative process to hone and distill their emerging voice. Guitarist and lead vocalist Evan Murphy said it had been their intention to record the album “as live and authentically as possible.”

The intention of authenticity certainly comes through in the album’s sound, where each member seems to have found room for their influence. All five members, Murphy, Nate Sabat (bass/lead vocals), David Benedict (mandolin), Catherine “BB” Bowness (banjo), and Bronwyn Keith-Hynes (fiddle), are credited as songwriters on the album. The collaboration, according to Murphy, is made possible by focusing on each person’s high-level strength. And it’s clear when listening to the album that

there is a classic Bluegrass precision to the tunes but with the group’s own feeling and breath at the core of the way the sounds layer, build, and express.

Murphy and Sabat introduced the broad lyrical ideas for the album - ideas which explore the lives and perspectives of classic bluegrass problems but with some contemporary characters. These include the PTSD of a modern war veteran, an immigrant family fleeing war, a parolee struggling to reintegrate into their community. The stories of these characters can’t help but cause the listener to reflect on extrinsic socio-political situations - though without looking directly at them - an unintentional theme that Murphy says came from the quest for authentic songwriting.

The album can be found on Spotify and the band’s website, miletwelvebluegrass.com. Their latest EP, *Roll the Tapes All Night Long*, includes 6 covers and welcomes guest artists Billy Strings, Bruce Molsky, Chris Eldridge, and Brittany Haas. Mile Twelve has also been producing socially-distanced music and releasing it on their youtube channel. Their latest video, uploaded October 11th, is the Bluegrass staple “Will You Be Lovin Another Man,” sung by Murphy, and shows each member recording separately in their homes.

Perhaps when it can be done safely, we’ll see this promising young group together on stage at Kendallville.

~ Alexis Goldsmith

(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. PLEASE CHECK that these are still a “go” before you drive there!

The November issue from last year shows nearly 2 pages of events for this month! Hopefully soon.....

Indiana

- 11/13** Marty Stewart; Blue Gate Performing Arts Center, 760 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana, **IN** 46565
- 11/18** Ryders in the Sky; Blue Gate Performing Arts Center, 760 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana, **IN** 46565

Michigan

From the events page for Michigan:
WE ARE ON CORONAVIRUS HIATUS.
STAY WELL, STAY SAFE

Ohio

- 10/24** Doyle Lawson; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938
3p & 7p
- 10/24** Crabgrass; Moon City Music Center, 1208 Lunar Dr., Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 567-204-0929 7:30p \$15
- 11/06** Gipson & Fitz; Byrne’s Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 11/13** 7 Mile Bluegrass; Byrne’s Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 11/13** Kevin Prater; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938
- 11/14** Kevin Prater; Bluegrass Opry Barn , SR66, Oakwood, **OH** 45873

Sister Sadie IBMA's Vocal Group of the Year, Entertainer of the Year

At the October 1st IBMA awards, hosted over video, Sister Sadie became the 2020 vocal group of the year. Leading this group are four seasoned bluegrass musicians - Dale Ann Bradley (vocals, guitar), Tina Adair (vocals, mandolin), Deanie Richardson (fiddle) and Gena Britt (banjo).

Just one listen might tell you how IBMA voters chose the 2020 vocal group of the year. Sister Sadie's vocals are at once classic, refined, masterful - with a range from playful to chilling. At times you will may feel homesick, as in the harmony between Adair and Bradley, in "900 Miles." Other times you may feel fresh wonder and observation, as in their take on Tom Hall's "Washed My Face in the Morning Dew." And the next moment you may be baffled by the power of these ladies, as in "Unholy Water", the group's most popular song on Spotify.

Sister Sadie has travelled from coast to coast, from Grass Valley, CA to Mamaroneck, NY. Their second album, the aptly named Sister Sadie II, can be found on their Youtube and Spotify pages. ~Alexis Goldsmith



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THE TRADITION LIVES ON

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TRI STATE
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

MAKING GREAT MUSIC

SINCE 1976



KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA

Next NIBGA Jam - Nov 15, 2020