

Correspondence: NIBGA, 1020 Wyandot Rd, Bucyrus, OH 44820 (260) 918-4790 , news@nibga.com  
Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing, Published 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Mailed 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday monthly,  
Next Jam: 1-5 PM, Feb 15, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

## President's Corner - Joe Steiner



With the new year still in its infancy, I thought it might be interesting to look back upon that time period when bluegrass music was in its infancy. In the early 1940s, when Bill Monroe was first creating his adaptation of string band music, which would later develop into the bluegrass sound we know today, he was in his early thirties. When he made his first recordings with Lester Flatt and Earl

Scruggs in 1946 he had just turned 35. Lester was 32, Earl was 22.

When these landmark recordings were made, Bill, Lester, and Earl were young men exploring string band music. I suspect that, at the time, they had no game plan for developing their new music – they were just putting their own brand on a music that they were already part of.

By the time I became interested in this music in the late 1970s, many others had arrived to continue what Monroe, Flatt, and Scruggs started. Some of those who followed took paths that diverged farther from the original string band music that inspired Bill Monroe than others. That time when I first discovered bluegrass music was fascinating for me, with an amazing number of new experiences in store as I explored the music both from a current and historical perspective.

I envy those who are just now discovering bluegrass music for the first time because of the experiences and wonderful discoveries in store for them. Just waiting to be discovered is a whole catalog of great music that has been made over the last 80 years. I can imagine what it must be like to open the pages of that catalog for the first time. And, or course, as they discover the catalog, they will also get to enjoy watching the music evolve along with the rest of us. ✓

There are many groups today who are developing and growing the music with new ideas, taking the music in a variety of different directions. Like Monroe, Flatt, and Scruggs, these folks aren't working from a game plan – they are just putting their own brand on the music they are part of and watching the music grow on its own. Some take an approach which is more parallel to those Monroe/Flatt/Scruggs sides, while others veer farther away from the beaten path. It will be fun to see where they take the music in this new year.

As I think upon where the music might be headed, I can't help but consider the broad stylistic depth of bluegrass music. And, I find it interesting that "bluegrass" has become a term used to help describe the style of almost any acoustic musician. The music of Monroe, Flatt, and Scruggs has become so influential that the brand of string band music they created in the 1940s and 1950s has become a yardstick for the bulk of acoustic stringed music!

Thinking about the influence of bluegrass on acoustic music then begs the question as to what, stylistically, should be included within the body of music we call bluegrass music. Where does it stylistically begin and end? How much does music need to diverge from what Monroe, Flatt, and Scruggs created before it is no longer bluegrass? I don't really feel a need to answer those questions, but they will be fun to ponder as we watch to see where the music takes us in the new year!

Joe

## Current 2025 (& new 2026) NIBGA Patrons Thank you!

For the remainder of this year (through April 2026), if you sign up to be a Patron and elect to get your newsletters via email, you will receive all of the 2026 Patron benefits, **PLUS receive the remainder of this year's newsletters.**

Anonymous Families (2)  
**Evan & Megan Argueta \***  
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**Randy & Cindy Bellamy \***  
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Cathy Voors  
Terry & Peggy Wallace  
Paul & Barb Welch  
Stewart White  
**Jay Winger \***  
Jim & Linda Winger  
Shari Wolf

\* **New Patrons** Thank you very much!

## Over Jordan



**Kent Jeffrey Roe**, 64, passed away unexpectedly at his Fort Wayne home on November 25, 2025.

Kent and his wife, Debbie, were familiar faces at NIBGA festivals. You could usually find them settled on the north side of the gate near the highway fence. Kent was a great friend to many festival goers and always

welcomed others into a jam, most often with his banjo in hand.

Kent began playing banjo at age 16 and went on to become an accomplished musician. He was a member of Shady Grove Steam & Grass and the Roanoke Rounders. He loved playing at bluegrass festivals on and off stage along with jamming with fellow musicians.

Kent also played for Audiences Unlimited at nursing facilities and shared his love of the banjo by teaching many others to play. He ran many banjo workshops at our festival.

The family requested memorials to Freedom Hunt, Boy Scouts, Audience Unlimited or Northern Indiana Bluegrass (5034 Wapiti Ct, Ft. Wayne, IN 46804).



**Marvin Wendell Woolett**, 84, of Osceola, IN passed away peacefully on October 29, 2025. Marvin & his wife, JoAnn, were long-time NIBGA members and faithful festival attendees. They were generous patrons who helped support the

music and the community we all enjoy.



## Upcoming Events

Please check the [BluegrassUSA.net](http://BluegrassUSA.net) website for updates to the events and the jams.

### INDIANA

**1<sup>st</sup> Sun** (mostly) Central Ind. BGA jams  
307 W South H St, Gas City, **IN**  
46933 317-508-2642 (2/1, 3/1,  
etc.) 317-508-2642

centralindianabluegrass@gmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Thurs** Wakarusa Bluegrass Jambo-  
ree, Doc Able Pavilion, 116 W.  
Waterford St, Wakarusa, **IN** 46573  
6:30-9p Free, 574-862-2200

**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs** Whiteriver Folk &  
Bluegrass jam, Emery Lee Building,  
Beulah Park Jam, 400 E. 4th St.,  
Alexandria, **IN** 46001 6-9p

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs** Bluegrass Gospel Jam,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Old Bag Factory, 1100  
Chicago Ave, Goshen, **IN** 46526  
6:30-9p Bill Landow 574-202-5502

**3<sup>rd</sup> Fri** Winamac Bluegrass Jam,  
Knights of Columbus, 340E50N,  
Winamac, **IN** 46996  
Tom 574-205-2274 7-10p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** mostly Alley Kat's Curiosity  
Shoppe, 1515 Roosevelt Rd,  
Valparaiso, **IN** 46383 2-4 mostly

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** Northern Ind. Bluegrass jam &  
meeting, SW Conservation Club,  
5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, **IN**  
46809 noon-6p free all welcome,  
acoustic only instruments, food &  
beverages available. no summer  
jams (Feb 15, Mar 15, Apr 19)

**Every Sat.** 6090 S. Oakwood St., N  
Judson, **IN** 46366 219-878-3123  
5:30p CDST

**Every Sun.** Mouse Trap bar, 5565 N  
Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, **IN**  
46220 317-255-3189 8p

**02/12** The Debutants, Chicken Wire  
Empire; Turntable, 6281 N College  
Ave, Indianapolis, **IN** 46220 8p

**02/12** Sister Sadie; Ball State Univer-  
sity - Pruis Hall, Muncie, **IN**

**02/17** The Milk Carton Kids, Sierra  
Hull; Brown County Music Center,  
200 Maple Leaf Blvd, Nashville, **IN**  
47448 812-988-5323 7:30p

**02/20** Milk Carton Kids (indie folk  
duo), Sierra Hull; Blue Gate PAC,  
760 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana,  
**IN** 46565 (260) 768-4725 7:30p

**02/21** Booze Hounds Bluegrass; Bier  
Brewery, 1618 S 10th St,  
Noblesville, **IN** 46060  
(317) 444-8500 7:30-8:30p

### MICHIGAN

**every Weds.** jam with Ron Hammon,  
Moose, 4043 Howe Rd, Grand  
Blanc, **MI** 48439 6:30-9p  
Ron - 810-309-0032

**1<sup>st</sup> Sat** Manton Jamboree, Ranger  
room, Manton HS, 105 5th St,  
Manton, **MI** 6-9p  
lwestbrook17@hotmail.com



**1<sup>st</sup> Sat** West MI Bluegrass, FOE, 32 E. Lake St, Sand Lake **MI** 49343  
jam 1-3p 269-806-8561

**1<sup>st</sup> Su** Farm Pickin', River Saint Joe, 15475 Walton Rd, Buchanan, **MI** 49107 1-3p

**1<sup>st</sup> Su** Mountain Dulcimer jam Bob's Barn, 1417 Johnson St., Lake Odessa, **MI** 48849 10:30a - 12p  
616-374-8205  
bobwarner40@gmail.com

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon** Library; 7215 Headley St SE UNIT 309, Ada, **MI** 49301  
5-7:45p

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues** Dyer Center, Wayne Westland Education Center, 36745 Marquette, Westland **MI** 48185 (between Wayne & Newburg Rd) acoustic only. 7-9p

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues** Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, **MI** 48135 313-617-4864 7-9:30p  
Snack Bar Wendy Hause, whause@frontier.com

**1<sup>st</sup> Fri** Old Time Jam, Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing, **MI** 48906  
517-372-7880 5-6:30p

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sat** Maumee Street Music jam, First Presbyterian Church, 156 E. Maumee, Adrian, **MI** 49221  
6p 517-607-8085 or 517-270-2870

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tues** West MI Bluegrass; Slow Jam, Library, 6260 92<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Caledonia, **MI** 49316  
989-430-2149 5-7:45p free

**3<sup>rd</sup> Wed** Lake Diane Jams, Hillsdale Community Center, 1810 W. Territorial Rd, Camden, **MI** 49232, snack bar, Mullins 517-270-2870, Atkins 517-607-9868 6p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Thur** Bluegrass Jam, Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing, **MI** 48906 517-372-7880 5-6:30p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Fri** Irish Jam, Elderly Instruments, 1100 N Washington Ave, Lansing, **MI** 48906 517-372-7880 5-6:30p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sat** West MI Bluegrass, Aiden's Place, 42 E Lake St, Sand Lake, **MI** 49343 989-430-2149 jam 2-4:30p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sat** Heritage Park Barn, 121 Tefft St, Hanover **MI** 49241 Nov - April 6-11p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sun** Methodist Church on 13777 Main St, Bath **MI** 48808 2-5p  
517-896-0621 Marcia Bailey  
marciacarp@aol.com

**4<sup>th</sup> Sat** Michigan Bluegrass Assoc., Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr., Flint, **MI** 48506  
6p 810 736-5332

**02/19** Sister Sadie; The Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104  
734-761-1818 8p

**02/23** The Steel Wheels; The Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104  
734-761-1818 8p

## OHIO

**1st Sun** Church on the Hill, 1861 Mill St. Albany, **OH** 45710 Hosts Jim & Alan Stack of Rarely Herd. Confirm at 740-698-6609.

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon** Doug Fox & the Cedar Hill, VFW, 1131 Sugar Grove Rd, Lancaster, **OH** 43130 6:30-9p

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thu** – Richwood Acoustic Jam, Baptist Church, 101 E. Ottawa St. Richwood, **OH** 43344 6-8p

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sat** – Central Ohio “Big Jam” Lutheran Church, 15 Clinton Heights Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43202  
11a-5p Slow Jam with Fred at noon

**Mon** – Jam, 2210 Summit Street, Columbus, **OH** 43201 6-9p (8-9 fast jam)

**last Mon** bluegrass and country jam, Library, 3900 King Rd, Toledo, **OH** 43617 6:15-8:15p

**Tues** - FOTMC, 1196 Ross Millville Rd, Millville, **OH** 45013 6:30-8:30p  
419-568-1220

**Tues** - Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, **OH** 45873  
419-594-2816 6p

**2nd & 4th Tues** - Frosty Morning - American Legion Post 285, 108 Waters St, Hebron, **OH** 43025  
6:30p 740-403-7896

**Tues** - slow jam @ Violet Church, 8345 Blacklick Eastern Rd, Pickerington, **OH** 43147 6-8p  
614-562-9730 to confirm.

**Wed** – Central Ohio Bluegrass, Eagles, 3800 Westerville Rd, Columbus, **OH** 43224 6-9p

**Thurs** - TNT Bluegrass, American Legion Post, 108 Waters St, Hebron, **OH** 43025 7-9p 740-403-7896

**Sat**, no 3<sup>rd</sup> - Bluegrass Musicians Supply, 1370 S. High St. Columbus, **OH** 43207 longest running weekly jam session! 10a-3p

**02/04, 18 & 25** Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, **OH** 45252  
513-385-9309 6:30–8:30p

**02/06** Pitney Meyer; Marysville Winter Bluegrass Series, Cornerstone Global Methodist Church, 207 S Court St, Marysville, **OH** 43040 7p

**02/06** Blue Diggity, Shortline Junction; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 7p

**02/19** Sam Bush; Kent Stage, 175 E Main St, Kent, **OH** 44240  
330-677-5005 7:30p

**02/20** Sister Sadie; Kent Stage, 175 E Main St, Kent, **OH** 44240  
330-677-5005 7:30p

**02/20** Kenny & Amanda Smith; Denison American Roots Festival, Swasey Chapel, Granville, **OH** 43023 7p

**02/20** David Parmley, Old Hometown; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 7p

**02/21** East Nash Grass; Denison American Roots Festival, Swasey Chapel, Granville, **OH** 43023 7p (noon workshop)



If you get your newsletter via email, it arrives IN COLOR and a few days before the USPS-mailed newsletters. AND.... It saves the club money on postage. Please consider switching to email.

Contact [NL@nibga.com](mailto:NL@nibga.com)



NIBGA activities are made possible in part by Arts United, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



Come early to the jam at the Southwest Conservation Club! In addition to claiming your seat in the jam circle, or a good spot at a table just to watch, they have great food available for purchase. Your support of the SWCC helps to keep our rental costs reasonable and ensures the continuation of the jams.

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



**February 2026**

If your name and address are not correct, please notify us so that our records are up-to-date. Call (260) 918-4790