

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

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



Last month, when the new year was just getting started, I reflected on the time when bluegrass music was first getting started. And, I pondered the question of what, stylistically, should be included within the body of music we call bluegrass music.

I compared the early days of bluegrass, when the founders of the music were young men, to today's bands putting their own stamp on bluegrass music, and I posed the question of where bluegrass music stylistically begins and ends. A month later, I'm now thinking one might make the case that any acoustic stringed instrument music falls, to a certain extent, within the bluegrass style. Certainly much, if not most, current acoustic stringed music is at least somewhat influenced by the bluegrass pioneers.

Continuing from last month, I reflect on how this diverse range of music is represented in the lineups at this year's Tri-State Festivals. As always, we have worked to find a wide variety of music, representing a wide spectrum of the bluegrass music world, to present on the Tri-State stage.

As you read this month's Buzz on the Bands, and in the next couple newsletters, you will find some familiar names as well as some new ones. You will find that some follow the style forged by the first generation bluegrassers more than others.

Where does bluegrass music, stylistically, start and end? What a journey we have ahead as we explore that question! The fun never stops as we find out about new bands, new musicians, and new approaches to this music we love. I can't wait to get started on this year's journey!

Joe

We will have **My Brother's Keeper**, a favorite of Tri-State fans, at the Memorial Day festival this year. It's easy to see why folks love this band – they have great lead singing, from both Titus and Benjamin Luckhaupt, as well as smooth and powerful harmonies. And, they have great instrumentals all around – not just fiery solos (which are creative, not cookie-cutter), but also rock solid and innovative backup and rhythm.

The band consists of brothers Titus, Benjamin, and Joshua Luckhaupt on guitar, mandolin, and fiddle respectively, along with Wyatt "Sawmill" Murray on upright bass and Adam Moehlman on fiddle. Their repertoire contains a lot of original material, all of which is top-notch. Many of their originals deliver powerful messages in contemplative and reflective ways. But, even in interpreting standard repertoire from bluegrass and other genres, they take an approach that is unique and exciting. I can't wait to see what they've been up to since last year!

The Mark Hembree Band will be making its first appearance on the Tri-State stage during the spring festival this year. Many folks will recognize Mark as a bass player for Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Boys who went on to become a founding member of The Nashville Bluegrass Band as well as having been a member of the

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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.**

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

Upcoming Events

Please check the BluegrassUSA.net website for updates to the events and the jams.

INDIANA

1st Sun (except Easter) Central Ind. BGA jams, 158 E 1075 S, Bunker Hill, **IN** 46914 317-508-2642 (2026, 3/1, 4/12 centralindiana-bluegrass@gmail.com **MOVED** It is on a residential property, should see a small white building closer to the road. Its up the lane.

1st Sun Watershed Ramblers; Leroy's "Hot Stuff", 333 US-20, Porter, **IN**, 46304 6-9p FREE

1st Thurs Wakarusa Bluegrass Jamboree, Doc Able Pavilion, 116 W. Waterford St, Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 6:30-9p Free, since 2000, 574-862-2200

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

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

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

3rd Sat Mar-Nov - Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, **IN** 47030 6:30p MetamoraMusic@gmail.com

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

3rd 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.

Last Fri. March-Oct, Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, **IN** 47030 6:30p

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

03/06 Watershed Ramblers; Melody Inn, 3826 N Illinois St, Indianapolis, **IN** 46208 (317) 923-4707

03/20 Yonder Mountain String Band, Debutants; Moontown Brewing Company, 345 S Bowers St, Whitestown, **IN** 46075 \$

03/20 Booze Hounds Bluegrass, Chicago Farmer (rock); The Hi-Fi, 1043 Virginia Ave, Indianapolis, **IN** 46203 \$

03/21 Yonder Mountain String Band; Moontown Brewing Company, 345 S Bowers St, Whitestown, **IN** 46075 \$

03/27 Sam Bush; Honeywell Center, 275 W Market St, Wabash, **IN** 46992 260-563-1102 7:30p \$

MICHIGAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

1st & 3rd Tues Dyer Center, Wayne Westland Education Center,

36745 Marquette, Westland **MI** 48185 (between Wayne & Newburg Rd) acoustic only. 7-9p

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3rd Sun Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, **MI** 48917 2-5p \$5 donation 517-505-2809 2-5p

03/12 Appalachian Road Show; The Ark, 316 S Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 8p \$

OHIO

1st Sun Church on the Hill, 1861 Mill St. Albany, **OH** 45710 Hosts Jim &



Alan Stack of Rarely Herd. I heard they have resumed this jam, but your might want to confirm. Call or text Alan at 740-698-6609.

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

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

3rd Sat Central Ohio "Big Jam" Lutheran Church, 15 Clinton Heights Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43202 11a-5p Slow Jam w/Fred at noon

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

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

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 3rd Bluegrass Musicians Supply, 1370 S. High St. Columbus, **OH** 43207 longest running weekly jam session! 10a-3p

03/01 Steel Wheels; Auditorium, 47 E Union St, Athens, **OH** 45701 740-593-1780

03/04, 11, 25 Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 513-385-9309 6:30-8:30p

03/06 Don Rigsby, Ryan Abercrombie & Secret Creek; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 740-827-0957 7p \$

03/06 Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; First Friday United Methodist Church, 220 S Broad St, Middletown, **OH** 45044 12p

03/07 Kevin Prater Band; Pemberville Opera House, 115 E Main St, Pemberville, **OH** 43450 7p

03/07 Don Rigsby, The Fly By Nights; Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E Main St, Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p

03/13 Rhonda Vincent; Marysville Winter Bluegrass Series, Cornerstone Global Methodist Church, 207 S Court St, Marysville, **OH** 43040 7p

03/13 The Malpass Brothers; Amish Country Theater, 4365 SR 39, Millersburg, **OH** 44654 7p

03/18 Yonder Mountain String Band; Woodlands Tavern, 1200 W 3rd Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43212 7p

03/20 Cabin Fever, Steve Ludwig; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 740-827-0957 7p \$

03/21 Kauffman Road; Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E Main St, Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p

03/28 Poverty String Band Trio (PSB3); Loose Rail Brewing, 37 W Waterloo St, Canal Winchester, **OH** 43110 7p

03/28 Tennessee Bluegrass Band, Ramblin' Bluegrass Ensemble; McConnell Arts Center, 777 Evening St, Worthington, **OH** 43085 7p

03/28 Danny Paisley & Southern Grass; Sterling Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E Main St, Mt Sterling, **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p

03/28 Hillbilly Chic; Natalie's Grandview, 945 King Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-436-2625 8p

03/31 Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Miami University Hamilton, 1601 University Blvd, Hamilton, **OH** 45011 7p



BUZZ on the **BAND** continued

supergroup The Dreadful Snakes.

While browsing the web one day I happened upon a photo of Mark playing with the Bluegrass Boys while riding in a wagon during a parade. He, no doubt truthfully, commented, "It's not easy playing bass in a crosswind on a wagon being pulled by mules!" That is likely an understatement, but it stands as a testament to the character of a man who has a long and storied career in bluegrass music.

Mark has had the good fortune of playing with the best in the business over the years, and he has a reputation as one of the best bass players in bluegrass. This is not only because of his solid rhythm but also because of

his tasteful approach and feel for the subtleties of stylistic interpretation. He has covered a variety of styles, including Western Swing, but his music has never strayed far from the bluegrass roots of his high-profile gig with the Bluegrass Boys.

As it says on their Facebook page, The Mark Hembree Band is "straight-ahead, traditional bluegrass: solid rhythm, hot picking, tight harmonies, good humor, and a wealth of great stories." In addition to Mark, the group features Michael Cohen on banjo, Paul Kienitz on fiddle, and Starr Moss on guitar.

More Spring bands will be included in the next couple of months, including Blue Diggity, The Ruta Beggars, Crabgrass, Edgar Loudermilk Band, Acoustic Collection, Freshcut Grass, and more!



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.

Current Festival Line-up..... Make sure to come check out these bands!

Memorial Day Festival:

Mark Hembree Band
Edgar Loudermilk Band
My Brother's Keeper
Blue Diggity, The Ruta Beggars
Acoustic Collection, Crabgrass
Fresh Cut Grass, and more!

Labor Day Festival:

Kevin Prater Band, Hillbilly Chic
The Matchsellers, The Debutants
Miles Over Mountains, Blue Holler
The Booze Hounds, Ottawa County
Muddy Krick Mountain Band
Watershed Ramblers, and more!

Are you planning to come to the festival before the shows start? Next month we'll list area activities. Stay tuned!



**Dreaming of campfires with all our old friends
Of singing the songs, the tunes never end
Toasting the masters (especially ol' Earl!)
It's St. Paddy's day in the bluegrass world!**

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



March 2026

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