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Next Jam: 1-5 PM, Oct 18. , SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

## President's Corner - Joe Steiner



Last month at this time, I was writing with the sad news that NIBGA's fall festival had been cancelled.

I'm sure almost all of us will remember the year 2020 and the crushing effect it had on our lives. That effect was not felt anywhere more deeply than in the performing arts.

A performer's stock in trade is the ability to connect with an audience. After all the practice and honing of skills, the time in the limelight is ultimately what gets the performer's adrenaline flowing. And it's the level of comfort in that setting that gives the performer's craft value.

One could argue that recordings, videos, and online events give a showcase for the same product; however, interaction with an audience brings more life, energy, and creativity to a performance. And, for the audience, sharing the experience with other enthusiasts is part of the value in a performance.

Until it was taken from us, I didn't realize how fortunate we were to participate in festivals and concerts. I'm hoping that we will soon turn the corner on COVID-19 so we can resume the events we love. In the future I will realize what a privilege it is to participate in events and give them due appreciation.

That brings me to the subject of our monthly jam sessions. I'm happy to report that, unless something changes, we will be holding our meeting as planned on October 18 at the Southwest Conservation Club. Jamming will be from 1-5 p.m. The kitchen will be open, so no carry-ins will be allowed. Come prepared to pick or to listen to bluegrass.

We may need to ensure safe distancing, and the club will be extra careful and diligent in disinfecting, but at least we will be able to gather together. Masks are strongly recommended for all indoor events based on the state of Indiana's current Covid 19 restrictions.

Let the fun begin!

As much as I hate to think about it, it is time to start thinking about holiday shopping. Please don't forget to mention NIBGA when you shop at Kroger or Amazon. You need to sign up in advance to use the programs (and I'm hoping you have all already done that!), but once you have signed up, it doesn't take ANY effort to designate a portion of your sales to your favorite charity... NIBGA BLUEGRASS! And the best part is that it doesn't cost you a single cent!

So far, we have received **\$810.34** from Kroger, and **\$569.18** from AmazonSmiles. That is **\$1379.52** donated to the club just for buying things that you normally purchase anyway.

### *"What is AmazonSmile?"*

*AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice."*

Donate with  




For more information on how to register with Kroger, see [www.BluegrassUSA.net/grants/](http://www.BluegrassUSA.net/grants/)

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association would like to thank all those who contributed to this organization in memory of **Richard "Duke" Roberts**. He was a regular festival attendee, camping along Route 6, who loved the music and was very supportive of this organization. These contributions are very welcome and much appreciated.

NIBGA is a 501(c)(3). Contributions are deductible to the extent of the law.

## Over Jordan

The bluegrass world lost one of its most powerful pickers when a massive stroke claimed the life of **Kenny Ingram** at only 67 years old on July 26.

When I was just getting interested in bluegrass, Kenny was a young man playing banjo in Lester Flatt's Nashville Grass. When Lester and Earl split up, it was Kenny who was there driving the bluegrass train for Lester and the boys.

Just the thought of essentially filling Earl's shoes on the greatest bluegrass stages in the world would make almost any mere mortal tremble, but Kenny handled it with aplomb, never missing a note or letting up on the drive. And, after that, he took over when JD Crowe left Jimmy Martin's Sunny Mountain Boys.

When you say "Big K" to any bluegrass fan, they know you mean Kenny Ingram. It is no stretch to say that his name belongs up there with Earl and JD.

After Lester and Jimmy, Kenny went on to work with Rhonda Vincent, Larry Stephenson, and others. It was with Rhonda Vincent that Kenny appeared at Tri-State in May 2003. He was featured on many recording projects over the years, always driving like a freight train with an impeccable sense of timing, perfect tone, and a finesse in his phrasing that was not only the epitome but indeed the very definition of bluegrass banjo.

~ JS



One of the great talents in bluegrass music was taken from us much too early when **Steve Gulley** passed away on August 18 at the age of 57. Steve honed his skills working as an entertainer at the Renfro Valley Barn Dance before joining the bluegrass elite in 1994 as a member of Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver.

Most folks will remember Steve as a founding member of Mountain Heart or as a founder of another bluegrass powerhouse, Grasstowne. Many will remember Steve as a talented songwriter who co-wrote "Through the Window of a Train", IBMA 2008 Song of the Year, with Tim Stafford, and whose songs have been recorded by many greats, such as Kenny and Amanda Smith, Blue Highway, and Doyle Lawson.

To those that knew him well, Steve will be remembered for his humility and pleasant off-stage demeanor, never flaunting his accomplishments as a cornerstone of some of the greatest outfits in bluegrass.



Steve's death is filled with irony: that he passed away while his beloved bluegrass world was shut down from COVID-19; that, after supporting his good friend Phil Leadbetter during several bouts of cancer over the years, he passed away only a few short

weeks after being diagnosed with cancer himself; and that he had recently completed recording a second album with Tim Stafford which was to be titled *Still Here*.

Steve and his band, New Pinnacle, were slated to appear on our own Tri-State stage during our ill-fated fall 2020 festival. None of us realized that our last chance to hear his strong, expressive tenor voice had already passed.

~ JS



Gerry Parker

We are so sorry to confirm that member **Gerry Parker** of Howell, MI was in a collision on August 18 and died the following day. Her companion, Les, was slightly injured. The accident was on M-50 near Eaton Rapids. There will be a remembrance gathering in the coming months but nothing has been confirmed. Gerry attended the Tri-State festival for many years.

Do you know what all of these people have in common? They all own that extremely stylish, limited edition Patron T-shirt! Well, that, and more importantly, they have contributed to the success of NIBGA and the Tri-State Festival.

There is still time for you to get in on the bandwagon (no pun intended) and snap up one of these soon-to-be-collectible-and-never-available-again shirts. A \$100 patron membership will give you a family membership for the 2020 year, a special edition 2020 Patron T-Shirt, and your name listed on all donor publications and announcements.

Patrons are keeping NIBGA afloat this year and guaranteeing the survival of bluegrass in the tri-state area for the foreseeable future. Thank you for your support!!

PS. Bonus! I have one red, size L, Patron shirt left ready for immediate shipment. I can order other sizes and colors (sapphire, gray, or royal blue), but those will take 3-4 weeks to arrive. Please let us know if you'd like to sign up to be a Patron!



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  
Tim and Roberta Little  
Jerry and Sioux McLane  
Ian Oliveros  
Bruce and Sandy Pettinger  
Poul and Linda Sandersen  
Paul and Sue Saurborn

Jim and Joan Settlemeyre  
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

### (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](mailto:News@NIBGA.com). PLEASE CHECK that these are still a "go" before you drive there!

#### Indiana

**10/18** NIBGA Board Meeting and Open Bluegrass Jam. SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899 1-5 pm. Food available for purchase. Please, no carry-in.

#### Michigan

No events that I am aware of

#### Ohio

**10/02** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Butler County Bluegrass Association, 5113 Huston Rd, Collinsville, OH 45004 513-410-3625

**10/03** Bluegrass with Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45252 513-385-9309.

2-6 pm. Bring a lawn chair, enjoy the craft vendors, good food and wine, and music.

**10/03** Rhonda Vincent & the Rage; Woodward Opera House, 107 S Main St, Mt Vernon, OH 43050 740-393-9602 7p \$38-56 proceeds to The Foundation for Knox Community Hospital

**10/16** Remington Ryde; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938

**10/17** Ottawa County Bluegrass; Moon City Music Center, 1208 Lunar Dr., Wapakoneta, OH 45895 567-204-0929 7:30p \$12

**10/17** Remington Ryde; Cornerstone Inn, 201 5th St, Beverly, OH 45715

**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

**10/30** Bluegrass Night at Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231. Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass. Free admission, 7-9 p.m. 513-832-1422





Kenny Ingram and Rhonda Vincent playing the Tri-State Stage in May 2003. What a show!

Northern Indiana Bluegrass is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Charitable donations to the club are deductible from Federal taxes. The recently enacted government stimulus bill (the "CARES Act") provides some additional tax relief for donors. This makes it easier to give and save at the same time.

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. 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 itemized 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.

Send contributions to NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46804

If you have questions, seek help from your tax advisor.



See the notes in the President's Column about the next NIBGA Bluegrass Jam. I'm ready to PICK!!!! Please come out and join us.



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

THE TRADITION LIVES ON

20  20

TRI STATE  
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL  
MAKING GREAT MUSIC  
SINCE 1976  
\* ||||| \*

KENDALLVILLE, INDIANA

Next NIBGA Jam - Oct 18, 2020