

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, May 16, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



Spring is here, the birds are singing and the weather is getting warmer. We got our camper out last weekend and spent some time around the campfire talking and playing music.

I can't wait to start picking outside again, and I feel now very much like I did when I first got involved in this music over 40 years ago. The excitement is building as we get ready to start going to festivals again. I am looking forward with anticipation to the music I will hear, the concerts I will enjoy.

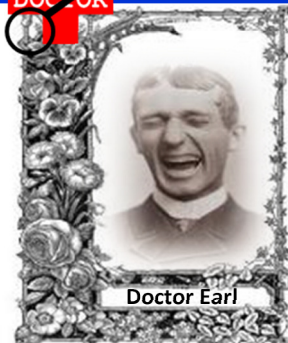
Just like 40 years ago, I don't know what each new bluegrass event will bring, but I know each one will be FUN. I have never doubted over the years that the music

would not only survive, but grow. But the really interesting part is seeing how it has grown.

Bluegrass music has lost many greats over the years, but there are many others who have stepped up to take their place. It is a thrill to see the direction they take the music. There are many who are taking the music strictly forward, and others who move it backward, revisiting the past, in new and interesting ways.

The possibilities are truly endless, and the music is to the musician as a canvas is to a painter. It is amazing what people come up with when combining the 12 notes of the chromatic scale!

As we get ready to see what the upcoming season holds, let the good times roll!



Dear Wise Doctor,

As I sit here reading the news that more and more people are getting vaccinated and states are starting to relax their covid requirements, I find myself frustrated that my favorite festivals

are still cancelled until fall at the earliest. If I'm not worried about getting covid and will risk it, why can't the festivals still be open for those who think as I do? I'm ready to be done with this and get back to bluegrass!

Signed, Sick of it!

Dear Sick of It,

I'm there with you, buddy! There's nothing I'd rather do than sit in my lawn chair, listening to my favorite bands, and then go pickin' around the campfire with my friends and going to bed smelling of smoke.

I've talked with some association board members about this to find out the REAL scoop and this is what I found (in no particular order): Plans need to be made months in advance and no one has a crystal ball. If plans ARE made, and then need to be cancelled,

there are some serious financial penalties. Facilities, tents, port-a-potties all need rented, and there is a penalty for cancelling at a late date. Some venues will not allow functions yet because of insurance reasons (and no one knows yet how to "insure" covid issues). Some bands are fearful of travel yet, and won't perform at this point. Some states are still under rules that specify how many people are allowed at various types of events.

Ok, so you may be thinking, "why don't they hire local bands, or bands not worried about traveling, and... uh... find a location that will allow rental." So, if they COULD do that, and get enough staff or volunteers to handle the crowd they'd still need to find food vendors that will come for a weekend with no guarantee of how many people will be there (and many vendors want to be assured of "x" number of participants or they won't come). IF they could do this, and IF even HALF the normal amount of people show up, most festivals would lose their shirts. Literally, not figuratively. I know that your local NIBGA is a non-profit, and doesn't make money on the festivals. If they had a festival and only half the people showed up, they'd go under and never be able to have another festival. Is it worth going bankrupt just to get out there a few months earlier?

My plans for the next few weeks are to listen to all the bluegrass music than I can on the radio and online. Find interesting new bands that I haven't heard before. Visit with friends in small groups and jam to my heart's content. Learn some new licks to impress my buddies when we get back to festivals.

Oh yes... and to build a campfire, and go to bed smelling like smoke.

NIBGA Club History

During the covid months, when bluegrass news is slow, it seems like a good time to present a little history of NIBGA. This is the fifth 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. So, in Charlie's own words...

THE STORY OF THE STAGE

Anyone who has come to our festivals since 1984 has seen our mobile stage. Did you ever wonder where it came from? This is the story.

During the winter of 1983/84, Don and Fay McFarland had planned a meeting with club members Clarence and Idena Yoder to look over the Happy Acres Campground as a possible site for NIBGA's 1984 festivals. The Happy Acres campground is located on the east side of I69 about a mile south of its intersection with US 20.

There had been about an inch of snow that night in Ft. Wayne but that didn't appear to be a factor for the trip, that is until Don and Fay approached the intersection of I69 and US 20. The snowfall there was closer to 11 inches. They met the Yoders and drove down the snow covered road to the campground. They had already begun to wonder what they would be able to determine with 11 inches of snow covering everything.

While wading through the snow, Clarence announced that he was building a mobile stage for the club at his RV factory in Millersburg, IN. He said he intended to give it to the NIBGA. After looking the campground over and deciding it would be suitable for the 1984 festivals, the two couples went to the nearby Redwood Lounge for dinner. During lunch, the mobile stage was discussed and some of the matters relating to it such as insurance, maintenance, storage, and a vehicle to tow it among other things. For a few moments it looked like Don might have to turn down this generous offer when Clarence said, "Well, I'll just keep it and take care of those things and whenever you need it call me and I'll deliver it and set it up." This was truly an offer that couldn't be refused and from that first festival in 1984 to the present *[at the time Charlie wrote this]* every time the club has called, Clarence has delivered the stage, set it up, and then picked it up after the festival. (More history next month!)

2021 Summer Bluegrass Events

The NIBGA web site has a database of 2021 events/festivals. The url is BluegrassUSA.net/events/flyers/ There are 36 events listed. Each entry has a link to the event's web site so you can see the current status.

Some listings have band names and schedules. There are still events that have not posted prices, bands or schedules on their web sites due to uncertainty of local COVID regulations for large group events. One notable site is Beanblossom, IN which normally has several summer events. At this time only a "camp-out" for the John Hartford event has been announced.

Events that have been rescheduled to 2022 or have been canceled are not included.

In reviewing over 50 sites it was interesting that very few are producing a flyer. It appears that either Facebook or a website is the only way to obtain information about your favorite festival. This is unfortunate as there are still many who do not have internet access or computer skills to search for festivals. These folks in the past have depended on flyers.

As a service, the NIBGA newsletter publishes festivals and jams in the upper Midwest in the newsletter. Is this of value to the membership?

Your feedback on keeping this information on the web site is welcomed. It takes time to find the events, make them into one or two pages and to pay for the expense of a web page. If you have comments send a card or email: news@nibga.com

(Major Lack of) 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 contact venues before driving there.

05/05, 05/12, 5/19, 05/26 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; 6:30-8:30 pm. Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave.. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 513-385-9309 Call to confirm.

05/08 Michigan Fiddlers Assoc.; Hopkins High School, 333 Clark St, Hopkins, **MI** 49328 231-871-0320 1-7:30p dinner 4-7p

05/22 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Sterling

Bluegrass Jamboree, 26 E. Main St., Mt. Sterling, **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 \$10 5p date change from April.

05/22 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; Kalamazoo State Theatre, 404 South Burdick, Kalamazoo, **MI** 49007 8p

05/28 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd, Cincinnati, **OH** 45231 7-9p 513-832-1422

Please consider supporting your favorite bluegrass festival by becoming a **2021 Patron**. For a \$100 donation, you will receive a family membership for the 2021 year (which entitles you to discounted tickets for the festival and newsletters through April 2022), a special edition 2021 Patron T-Shirt, and your name listed on all donor publications and announcements. You can sign up to be a Patron on the regular renewal form published in this newsletter. Here is a picture of the 2021 Patron T-Shirt and the 3 colors in which it is available. If you'd like a second shirt for a family member, you can buy one for \$20. **As a "Thank you" to the renewing Patrons from 2020, they will receive their 2nd t-shirt free when they renew.**

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!!



NIBGA 2021-2022 Membership Form a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit BluegrassUSA.net

● Due by May 1, 2021* ● NIBGA, 4535 Lincoln Hwy, Lima, OH 45807 ● ph:567-371-9627 ● email: secretary@nibga.com
 * Memberships expire April 30, 2022

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ e-Mail: _____

Yes: e-Mail mine: _____ No, snail mail it _____ Canada: snail mail (1 or 2) \$15, e-Mailed(1) \$10/(2) \$15

New: _____ Renewal: _____ \$10 Single: _____ \$5 ea addl same address 16 & older _____

OR TO BE A PATRON (includes dues and one T-shirt)

I want to be a 2021 Patron and support the club: \$100 _____ T-Shirt Size? S M L XL XXL _____ color*

Additional 2021 Patron T-shirt: **OR** \$ 20 _____ T-Shirt Size? S M L XL XXL } _____ color*

For renewing 2020 Patrons - T-shirt : FREE _____ T-Shirt Size? S M L XL XXL } _____ color*

*color choices: red, light blue, gray

Patron name(s) as it should appear on recognition board: _____

(Please print clearly)

Thank you to the members that signed up to be Patrons for 2021! See previous page for more information on the Patron program. As of this printing, the following people have signed up as Patrons to support their favorite bluegrass association:

Verl Dasher	Jerry and Sioux McLane	Terry and Peggy Wallace	Stewart White
Mary Day	Terry & Irene Rassi	Robert and Gail Warfel	Jim and Linda Winger
Bryan and Stephanie Dray	Joe and Chris Steiner	Ronald Wedekind	Marvin Woolet

Please be sure to thank these people for supporting the association and keeping bluegrass alive and healthy in the tri-state area.



Note!

Is your label printed in **RED**? That means our records show you have not yet renewed your membership. Please consider renewing. Thank you for your support of the club.

Because of cancellation of the Memorial Day Festival, we will have an extra jam session at the Southwest Conservation Club (5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899) on May 16th (3rd Sunday). It will run from noon until 5:00. I hope you can make it!

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

Kendallville Indiana
The Tradition **STILL** Lives On

