

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, Oct 17, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

## President's Corner - Joe Steiner



It has certainly been crazy since COVID-19 hit, and especially since the US shut down in

March 2020. I would never have guessed in early 2020 that we would have to cancel the Tri-State festivals for over a year, and that we would still be facing an uncertain future right now.

In every cloud, there is a silver lining, and, I guess, in this one that lining is an increased appreciation of the wonderful world of music festivals and jam sessions. Fortunately, we weren't shut down from camping very long,

but camping is just not the same without music. I can't get to sleep when I'm camping and there isn't music going on somewhere outside!

I know I am certainly itching to get together with other folks again, and I am certainly hoping we will be able to do that very soon. The NIBGA board will be meeting this weekend to discuss the fall festival, and I'm hoping we'll be able to make a decision to move forward.

Unfortunately, I don't know anyone who hasn't been impacted by COVID-19 and the related shutdowns, but I'm thankful that it appears we have finally turned the corner. Let's pick!

I can't think of a better band to headline the 2021 Fall Tri-State Bluegrass Festival than **Fast Track**.

Although it will be held during the fall, our first festival post-COVID will have a feeling of spring. We will be getting back to what we've loved all along, but since some time has passed, we will be starting new, in a way. The same is true of Fast Track – these are the guys we have loved all along, in different groups, but we will now be seeing them in a different light as they take the stage together. This group of musicians has all the ingredients of traditional bluegrass, including instrumental virtuosity and well executed, exciting vocal harmonies, but they put their own brand on the music.

It is not possible for me to list the plethora of accomplishments the members of this group have on their resumes, but here are just a few, select notes. Duane Sparks is featured on guitar and lead vocals and is formerly a member of Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers. Jesse Brock is on mandolin, and his work is unequalled and well known through his previous efforts with Dale Ann Bradley, Michael Cleveland and Flamekeeper, and The Gibson Brothers (and many others). Dale Perry is a true five-driver on banjo, and he helped to shape bluegrass music as a member of some of the greatest bands ever, including the Bluegrass Cardinals, the Lonesome River Band, and Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver. Steve Day is the group's fiddle player, and he has appeared with Ronnie Reno, David Parmley, and Gary Brewer.

Rounding out this fine group on string bass is Ron Spears, whose name is well known to many in bluegrass music as a songwriter, singer, and instrumentalist. He fronted his own band, Within Tradition, for many years, and he also performed with Rhonda Vincent, Doyle Lawson, James King, and Special Consensus.

Together, these guys are rock solid in putting together the bluegrass drive, and they bring a fresh, creative approach to both vocals and instrumental breaks. They have all the ingredients, put together in the right way to create a bluegrass powerhouse.

## Over Jordan

**MICHAEL A. DEAN**, 64, of Sidney passed away Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Lori Lambert said it best... "We were so blessed to travel the roads and make music with Mike Dean, one of the best banjo players ever. Mike joined New Outlook in 2016. He was not only a great banjo player, he was even a better human being. He was one of those guys that everyone would look for at festivals, and just sit down and pick one with him, or just to visit and talk about a variety of topics. Also, famous for his 'Dean's Beans,' found at their campsite that Mike and his wife prepared. Everyone couldn't wait to visit, eat, and pick!



Mike was a hard driving banjo player with the love of Flatt & Scruggs that showed in his playing. When you heard that banjo ring you knew it was 'Big Mike.' Mike played for many years and in several bands including New Outlook, Simple Tymes, Harbourtown, Mountain Furrow, and many others. Mike made his home in Sidney, OH with his wife Kris. Please keep the family in your prayers.

New Outlook will sure miss Mike more than any words can express. But Mike would tell us to keep pickin' on! You can for sure know that we'll do our best to keep Mike's original and unique banjo tunes alive, and he will be on our minds and forever in our hearts."

## 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 sixth 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...

### Stage History, Part II

Clarence Yoder delivered the stage to the festival site twice a year since 1984. The festivals were held in several locations but it faithfully arrived. Setup followed usually by Clarence and helped by the Down Yonders; Dale Randall, Sharron (Zeb) Miller, and others of the group. Until the last few years they could always be found north of the gate where the road turns east.

Clarence retired and sold his Carriage RV Company around 1998. He sold the stage to the club for \$1. The club assumed ownership and responsibility for the stage. This required finding a storage location near the festival. It was stored at our friend Ross Jett just west of Kendallville until he no longer was in the storage business. We moved it to a Kendallville location that was in an old lumber yard building next to the rail road in Kendallville.

[Addendum by Jim Winger] One cold January 17, 2014 morning while we were at the hospital while our son was getting a knee replaced, the cell phone rang. It was the Kendallville number where the stage was stored. My heart dropped. The caller said that his building was totally destroyed by fire. Our stage was a total loss.

With the internet search capability the possibility of finding a replacement stage was started. After 3 months of looking, calling, pricing stage replacements, and many board discussions a potential solution was found in a converted trailer from Ohio. After renting it for two festivals, it was determined that a different solution was needed.

The *Activities Building* at the fairgrounds would become the stage. Risers for the band were rented, tarps were acquired to cover the north opening and a new stage was formed. It sheltered the stage area so rain and wind did not blow on the performers. After a couple of setups under the giddiness of several volunteers lead by Greg Aldrich and Dave Keiper, the setup and tear down became routine. Many expenses related to having the old stage were eliminated and saved the club money.

And that is the story of the stage to date. (More history next month!)



## (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.

### INDIANA

- 06/26** Branded Bluegrass; Harley Davidson Kokomo, 335 S. 00 EW, Kokomo, IN. 46902
- 06/27** Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver; Buck Lake Ranch, 2705 W Buck Lake Rd, Angola IN 46703 260-665-6699 1p \$30, \$50 show + Homestyle Luncheon

### MICHIGAN

- 06/24-26** Blue Highway, Little Roy & Lizzie, Harbortown, Out of the Blue, Edgar Loudermilk, Audi Blaylock, New Outlook, Kevin Prater, Doyle Lawson, Family Sowell, Bobby Hamlin, Kyle Jarvis & III<sup>rd</sup> Generation; Charlotte BGF, Fairgrounds, 1025 Cochran Ave, Charlotte, MI 48813 \$75 camping \$18/day +\$5 for online sales 269-832-5519

- 06/27** Calabogie Road Bluegrass Band, gospel show; Tri-Ponds Campground, 3687 Dumont Rd, Allegan, MI 49010-9219 269-673-4740 10 am

### OHIO

- 06/19** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass, The Hamiltons, Ma Crow, P's in a Pod plus others TBA; Vinoklet Bluegrass Festival @ Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, OH 45252 noon - ?? 513-385-9309 or vinokletwinery@fuse.net
- 06/24** Bridge County Bluegrass; National Threshers Assoc., Fairgrounds, 8514 State Rte. 108 Wauseon, OH 43567 6:30-9 pm



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

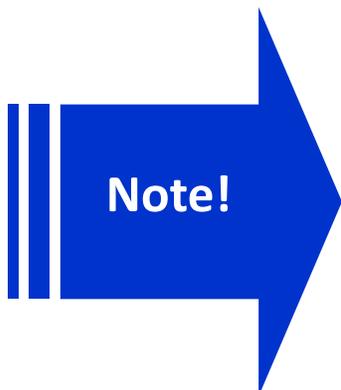
Patron name(s) as it should appear on recognition board: \_\_\_\_\_

(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:

Wayne Boltz	Jerry & Sioux McLane	Joe & Chris Steiner	Paul & Barbara Welch
Kevin Chriss	Ian Oliveros	Chris Vogie	Stewart White
Verl Dasher	Terry & Irene Rassi	Dave and Marianne Vogie	Jim and Linda Winger
Mary Day	Linda & Poul Sandersen	Terry & Peggy Wallace	Marvin Woolet
Bryan & Stephanie Dray	Jim & Joan Settlemyre	Robert & Gail Warfel	
Julie Goldsmith & Jim Geise	Mark & Cheryl Smith	Ronald Wedekind	

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



**Next NIBGA Jam - Oct 17, 2021**

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



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