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## President's Corner - Joe Steiner



Normally, the board of directors doesn't meet during the summer because the season's festivals have already been worked out before the first festival over Memorial Day weekend. But, with all of the ups and downs of the past year, we are still planning and making arrangements for the Labor Day festival. So, the board met this past Sunday to discuss the festival and iron out some wrinkles – speaking of wrinkles, we'd like to ask for your help with some of the ironing.

We are pleased that we were able to work with the Noble County Community Fair Corp (NCCFC) in negotiating a new contract which is substantially unchanged from previous versions, but there were a few new caveats in the mix. One of which is that we must leave the fairgrounds in pristine condition. I've always been proud of how the grounds look after the bluegrassers leave, for the most part. But now NCCFC will be going over the facility with a fine tooth comb, and NIBGA will suffer a financial penalty if there are any trash or firewood remnants left.

The reasoning behind this new requirement is that NCCFC wants to be able to mow after the festival without having to dismount to clear away

items that would damage a mower. Jim and I have always gone around on Monday and cleaned up what little trash is left, but we often didn't bother with the firewood or fire ashes, etc. But now those will need to be cleared or NIBGA will lose part of our deposit. We ask that you please clear your site of all trash, and firewood, before leaving.

Another twist, which isn't entirely new, having been in place for the last couple years, is that we are limited on trash disposal stations. Rather than having totes around the fairgrounds, there will be dumpsters. We will be fined if anything is placed ANYWHERE except in the proper dumpsters.

We ask:

- Please throw trash in the dumpsters.
- Please do not throw your trash in the bathroom receptacles, since they are not sized appropriately for that use.
- Please, please, please do not throw trash in the porta-jons. Trash in the porta-jons causes difficulties when emptying them, and it could result in additional charges or in NIBGA being unable to negotiate reasonable rates for porta-jon services. (Evidently people throw their cans in there?!? Who would do that?)

There will be signage posted on buildings, bathrooms, and porta-jons showing locations of dumpsters and reminding folks to clean up their

camping areas. I would like to ask your help in doing your part, and also in reminding your neighbors to do their part. We are very fortunate to have use of a fine facility, and I want to be able to call it home for a long time to come -- we've always been pretty good about leaving the fairgrounds in great condition, but we need to ramp up our game a bit this year.

Now that I've handled that little chore (the board told me I had to), I'd like to say how excited I am for the festival to happen. YIPPEE! I CAN'T WAIT to see all the friends that I haven't had the opportunity to pick with for the last two years! This festival will be special because of that, but it will also be special for a couple other reasons, too.

We will be celebrating two board members who have either stepped down, or moved into a different position. Barb Collins has decided to just relax and enjoy the festivals (and keep TJ in line) after being on the board as the secretary after 23 years.

Also, after reviving the festival and being president for the last 30 years, Jim Winger has decided to step back (just a tiny bit... he's still Vice President and in charge of more things than we even know about).

There will be a celebration held at the festival, so please watch for details there. If you are unable to attend the festival and celebration, please send your congratulation wishes for Jim and Barb to the newsletter (news@nibga.com) and we will get them in an upcoming newsletter. Or Jim can be reached privately at VP@NIBGA.com

See you soon! I'm getting packed and ready to go!

Joe Steiner

## BUZZ on the Bands

It will probably come as no surprise that the **Mike Mitchell Band** is headed up by Mike Mitchell! Mike is a smooth singer, a fine fiddle player, and he also is a great songwriter. He reminds me a bit of Charlie Walker in that he has adopted a style based on a bit large portion of the folk music world than most bluegrass en-



sembles. But, his music is definitely traditional American folk music, and he has assembled a surrounding cast of excellent musicians. Although he has plenty of original material to draw from, he also performs bluegrass classics and traditional folk music. In addition to the band's



## **BUZZ ON THE BANDS, Continued**

stage performances on Saturday, Mike will also be conducting a song-writing workshop.

**Full Cord** is one of those groups that can handle pretty much any style with aplomb – it's just our good fortune that they've chosen acoustic bluegrass music as their platform. They've become well-known in Michigan for their merging of both repertoire and stylistic elements from pop, rock, and jazz into their bluegrass foundation. They also have much of the standard bluegrass repertoire at their disposal, as well as some nice original material. They feature some jaw-dropping awesome instrumental work from Lloyd Douglas on banjo, Brian Oberlin on mandolin, and Grant Flick on fiddle. Eric Langejans on guitar and Todd Kirchner on bass provide a rock solid foundation in whatever groove the band decides on. Vocally, Eric and Brian both contribute some nice lead vocal work, and they team up on some really smooth harmonies.

We are happy to have Lori and Brad Lambert back at the festival, with their fine group, **New Outlook**. They know how to drive the music and entertain the audience. Lori has a soulful, powerful voice and drives the rhythm of the ensemble with the string bass, while Brad drives with the five and contributes some additional nice vocal work. They have both penned some great songs, and they keep things moving with a show that features much of their original material. Brad and Lori manage the Moon City Event Center in Wapakoneta, Ohio and often feature bluegrass music concerts there.

Get ready to have some fun when the **Debutants** take the stage on Sunday at the festival. These guys are from right in our own back yard, Fort Wayne, but have never played on our stage before. I will have to warn you, though, if straight-ahead bluegrass is your only thing, you probably won't really get into these guys; but, if you're willing to stretch it out a bit, check out what they have to offer. While you can certainly see the foundations of bluegrass and folk in their music, they definitely show strong influences from rock and roll, soul, blues, and other genres. You might call them newgrass, or jamgrass, but they don't play themselves into a corner with definitions. The group was formed in 2019 and is headed up by long-time friends Lynn Nicholson and Jon Swain.

**Crabgrass**, from central Ohio, was founded by brothers Kevin (mandolin) and Andy (resonator guitar) Crabtree. Both are seasoned musicians, and many will be familiar with them through Kevin's stints with Harbourtown and Northwest Territory or Andy's tenure with Family Tradition. The band's guitarist, Billy Conley, and bassist, Billy Sparks, are also well known in the tri-state area, having previously been members of Harbourtown. Adam Cope is the youngest and newest member of the group, on banjo. All are rock-solid on the instrumentals, and they know how to drive the bluegrass rhythm. They are truly blessed in the vocal department, with several members who would be featured vocalists in many

groups, and they put together some powerful, tight harmonies.

I'm finally starting to be consistent in calling **Calabogie Road** by their proper name, although I still occasionally find my tired, old brain bringing up their former moniker, the Patchwork Band. This group has been active for over 30 years now, and while their sound has been stylistically consistent over the time, I am always impressed at how their sound seems to get smoother and tighter every time I see them. They really have some nice harmonies, solid bluegrass vibe, nice instrumental solos, and a comfortable, fun stage presence. The group is anchored by John and Ruth Lakatos on bass and guitar, respectively. They are joined by Mark Walker on mandolin, Ian Tronsen on banjo, and Marten VanEyck on fiddle.

**Out of the Blue** has made several appearances at the festival over the past few years, and they have always been well received. They are sounding their best ever now, with the addition of the soulful voice of Donnie Voiles. Donnie is unmistakable, and he joined a group that has top talent in every corner with banjo player Dave Conley Jr, hot flatpicker Dave Conley Sr, and rock solid bassist Jeff Lawless. They are now also joined on mandolin by Chris Martin, who has appeared at Tri-State with several groups, including Harbourtown and the Kim Robins band. They do a great job all around on the instrumentals and put together some nice harmonies around Donnie's fine lead vocals.

Vernon McIntyre's **Appalachian Grass** features Vernon's driving bluegrass guitar and lead vocal work, and he has just the right feel for that classic bluegrass sound. Along with wife Kitty's fine fiddling, he heads up a fine bluegrass unit with Susan Shook on mandolin, Robert Campbell driving the five-string, and Tammy Powers holding down the bottom end on string bass. This fine group now also features Jenny Lee contributing some nice lead vocal work. Vernon handles the MC work and keeps the show moving as the group delivers up bluegrass songs and fiery instrumentals. This is just great bluegrass entertainment -- you will definitely want to catch Kitty's trick fiddling segment!

The name **Blue Holler** is now familiar to most Indiana folks, and this will be their second appearance on our stage. They do things up in the traditional way with Doug Tyler on banjo, Tim Cunningham on mandolin, Stan Sallee on guitar, and Chere McKinley on string bass. These folks are all longtime supporters of NIBGA and the Tri-State festival. They feature some nice, traditionally-styled trio harmonies, with Stan and Doug sharing the lead vocal work. Many will also recognize Chere from her MC work – she has helped out in that capacity at many festivals over the years.

Make sure to check out all of these fine bands (and also Fast Track, That Dalton Gang and the Alex Leach Band, mentioned in previous newsletters) at the Labor Day Tri-State Festival in Kendallville, Indiana.

## 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

- 08/07** Blue Holler Band; Lake County fair, 889 S Court St, Crown Point, IN 46307 6pm CST
- 08/07** Michael Cleveland & Flame-keeper; Muncie Three Trails Music Series, 500 S Walnut St, Muncie, IN 47305 8p free
- 08/07** Del McCoury Band; Lincoln State Park, 15476 County Rd 300 E, Lincoln City, IN 47552 6:30p tickets
- 08/12** Old Crow Medicine Show; Blue Gate, 105 E Middlebury St., Shipshewana, IN 46565 888-447-4725 8p
- 08/13-15** Blue Holler Band; Osceola BGF, Herschberger Park, 202 N. Lamport, Osceola, IN 46561 574-674-0015 times TBD
- 08/14** Indiana Fiddlers' Gathering, Tippecanoe Battle Field Park, Battle Ground, IN 47906 10-9pm (no camping) ifgbattleground@gmail.com
- 08/14** Caleb Daugherty; Stables Event Center, 7071 S 100 E, Lafayette, IN 47909 7p
- 08/19-21** Trinity River Band, Branded Bluegrass, Hillary Klug, Wayfarer's Band, Bahler Golden Age Band, New Outlook, Alec Hurtubise & The Eagle Creek Boys Cornfields & Crossroads, Medicinal Bluegrass, The Hammer and the Hatchet, Flatland Harmony Experiment; Winding Creek BGF, 9912 CR West, 100 S, Russiaville, IN 46979 4 day \$45, primitive camping free
- 08/21** Punkin Holler Boys; Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd,

Metamora, IN 47030 6:30p  
MetamoraMusic@gmail.com

- 08/26** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; New Castle Library, 376 S. 15th St., New Castle, IN 47362 7p

### MICHIGAN

- 08/06-07** Amanda Cook, Breaking Grass, Dave Adkins, High Fidelity, Jimmy Fortune, Larry Stephenson, Malpass Brothers, Rhonda Vincent, Steve Thomas, Trinity River; Milan BGF, KC Campground, 14048 Sherman Rd, Milan, MI 48160 734-439-1076
- 08/06-07** Michael Cleveland & Flame-keeper, First Impression, Out of the Blue, Clay Hess Band, Calabogie Road, Radio Hill, Clay Hess Band; Manton Station Railroad Park, State St, Manton, MI 49663
- 08/13-14** Fiddlers Convention; Hillsdale Fairgrounds, 115 S Broad St, Hillsdale, MI 49242 231-871-0320 \$10, camping \$20/day
- 08/14** Out of the Blue, The Hand Hewn String Band, J.T. & Thunder Hill, Bridge County, Huron Ridge, Red, White, and Bluegrass, Jesse Manns Bluegrass Band: Side Stage Bands: Fiddlin' Dixie with Friends, Bobby & Patsy Anne Hutch, Genevieve Rose, The Galbriath Clan, Tom Silveous, Kimberly Leach; Blissfield Bluegrass on the River, Bachmayer Park, 113 S Monroe St, Blissfield, MI 49228 11a - 8p free

### OHIO

- 08/06** Joe Mullins & Radio Ramblers; Bluegrass & Brew, 103 W. Main, Fairborn, OH 45324 9p
- 08/06** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Colerain Park, 4725 Springdale Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45251 7p
- 08/07** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; McCoys, 6008 Springdale Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45247 7p
- 08/14** Bridge County Bluegrass; Black Swamp Historical Festival, 901 S Main St, Gibsonburg, OH 43431-9773 8-10pm
- 08/20** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Butler County Bluegrass Association, 5113 Huston Rd, Collinsville, OH 45004 937-417-8488 7-9p free
- 08/21** Sierra Hull with The Infamous Stringdusters; Rivers Edge Amphitheater, 116 Dayton St, Hamilton, OH 45011 6:30p
- 08/26-28** Brown County BGF, Georgetown, OH - CANCELED
- 08/27** Greg Beasley, New Mountain Heritage, Berachah Valley; Bluegrass at the Barn, Clark County Park District, 930 S. Tecumseh Road, Springfield, OH 45506 937-882-6000 6p-8:30p \$5, 12 & under free Advance registration is required
- 08/27** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Fibonacci Brewing, 1445 Compton Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231 7p



**Thank you** to the members that signed up to be Patrons for 2021! As of this printing, the following people have signed up as Patrons to support their favorite bluegrass association:

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

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



I'm thrilled to announce that, in addition to the normal Saturday festival offerings of the **Kid's Korner** with Fiddlin' Dixie and Friends, and the **Intermediate Jam** with the Drays, we will be having a

### **Song Writer's Workshop with Mike Mitchell**



Bluegrass Songwriter Mike Mitchell is also the founder and director of the Floyd Music School in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. A member of the Songwriter's Committee at the IBMA, he is fortunate to co-write with some of the top talent in the business. A natural teacher and chart topping artist, Mike brings the perfect blend of charisma, creativity and knowledge of craft to a songwriting workshop. Attendees can expect to be challenged and engaged while writing a song together. Folks are also welcome to share, if they would like, a composition of their own. Bring a notebook and pencil, along with a smartphone device. Chorded instruments are optional.

## Reminders

**Mark your calendars for the 2021 Tri-State Bluegrass Festival in Kendallville, IN. It's back! Music starts Thursday, Sept. 2 and runs through Sunday night, Sept. 5. Four days of music and activities for \$45 per person (\$40 if you are a NIBGA member).**

**Next NIBGA Jam in Fort Wayne - 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