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Next Jam: 1-5 PM, Jan 16, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I find myself thinking back upon the many things for which NIBGA can be thankful and I'd like to share my thoughts on some of them. There are very few organizations which exemplify giving more than NIBGA. There have been many volunteers over the years who have given generously of their time to support the music we love – **THANK**

YOU! And NIBGA as an organization has always given generously to support both the bluegrass music world, through scholarships and workshops, and also the community, with outreach programs.

NIBGA is now in its forty-fifth year of existence, having been founded on August 22, 1977. To those folks who had the foresight to found this organization back then – **THANK YOU!** Many of the folks who were here in those earliest days, like Don McFarland and Jim Cornell, are no longer with us, but their legacy is.

No doubt NIBGA had challenges long before I became associated with it. But we are still around because there have been many folks over the years who were there to meet those challenges. I hesitate to start listing names, because it is hard to draw a line and I certainly don't want to overlook anyone, but to all those folks who helped meet challenges and bring the club to where we are today – **THANK YOU!**

One of the biggest challenges the club faced was finding a home for the festival, and I am grateful for the partnership we now have with the city of Kendallville. For all those who helped make that partnership happen – **THANK YOU!**

Certainly 2020 and 2021 were challenging years for us! **THANK YOU** to the Patrons who helped keep bluegrass alive during those two years. I am certainly thankful that we were able to hold the fall festival in 2021, after having cancelled three festivals prior. To all those who helped at the festival, and to all those who attended, helping make our "return" a successful one – **THANK YOU!**

I would certainly be remiss if I didn't mention how thankful I am for the music we all love, for all those who devoted their talent and energy to create it over the years – **THANK YOU!** In this newsletter, we note the passing of two of the music's greats: Sonny Osborne and Phil Leadbetter. But while we mourn their passing, we also have to be thankful for the many contributions they made. And, although some have gone on, there are many others who are keeping the music alive today and growing it for the future – **THANK YOU!**

There are just a couple other areas of thanks I'd like to mention. I'd like to say **THANK YOU** to the Indiana Arts Council, since NIBGA was the recipient of a grant which we can use to fund workshops, instructional jam sessions, and other programs which help bring bluegrass music to the public. We are thinking we may hold another program similar to

the Bluegrass Kids' Academy which we held in 2019 – **THANK YOU** Chris Steiner, the students and their parents, instructors, and all the other volunteers who made that happen!

Lastly, I'd like to mention that we have recently received a couple inquiries regarding donations of instruments to the club. We have been blessed with several instrument donations over the years – **THANK YOU!** The club has several instruments, and we put these to use for workshops and bluegrass-in-schools instruction. I'd like to note that such contributions are always much appreciated, and if you have an instrument that you might consider donating, please talk to one of the NIBGA board members. [A side note....these donations are tax deductible since we are a 501(c)(3).]

In closing, I'd like to say that I am thankful to all the wonderful friends I've met in bluegrass music, and all those who share a love for the music and for NIBGA, helping to make our festivals and jam sessions a success.

I would like to remind you that there is no December jam session, but keep pickin' and I'll see you in January.

Joe Steiner

2021 Patrons— Thank you so much!

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

Over Jordan



We were very sorry to hear of the passing of **Sonny Osborne** on October 24. Sonny died after a series of strokes at the age of 83. Sonny was one of the greatest and most influential banjo players that ever lived. He was there as a core constructor of the bluegrass sound almost from the very beginning, playing with Bill Monroe in

1953, while he was still in high school, and with Red Allen later in the 1950s.

To say he was an innovator would be the very definition of understatement. It seems kind of funny to say that about someone who was an outspoken critic of the melodic style of banjo playing, which was taking the bluegrass world by storm in the 1960s and 1970s! But, an innovator Sonny was, nonetheless. He experimented with the six-string banjo (not a banjo-guitar, but rather a modification of the five-string banjo which added a lower pitched long string while retaining the short string, or chanterelle).

The Osborne Brothers, which he and brother Bobby headed for over 50 years, were one of the first groups to experiment with electric instruments and drums. Also, the Osborne Brothers were the first to feature a high lead vocal, with both harmony parts below the melody.

Who can say where bluegrass would be today if Sonny and Bobby hadn't lit the entire world on fire by including Rocky Top on the Yesterday, Today, and the Osborne Brothers album in 1968? Although the melodic style wasn't Sonny's "thing", it only takes a listen to the banjo break on that recording to see that he was an innovator. The Osborne Brothers even beat the Eagles to the punch in recording Midnight Flyer!

It would be impossible to list all Sonny's accomplishments or to mention all those who were profoundly affected by his influence. But, just to scrape the surface, the Osborne Brothers were members of both the WWVA Jamboree and the Grand Ole Opry, and they were inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Association's Hall of Fame.

Even after he retired from touring in 2005, Sonny still continued to influence bluegrass music. Always outspoken, he provided commentary through various forums, including the "Ask Sonny Anything" column in Bluegrass Today on the web, and he designed and sold

his own line of Osborne Chief banjos.

He will be greatly missed.



The world of bluegrass music lost another one of the greats when **Phil Leadbetter** passed away on October 14 at the age of 59. A five-time cancer survivor, Phil was hospitalized for COVID-19 in late September and was suffering from stage 4 kidney failure, brought on by cancer chemo treatments.

Phil began playing resonator guitar as a teenager, and found fame almost instantly, appearing with the Knoxville Bluegrass Boys at a White House bicentennial celebration in 1976 and with New Dawn at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville.

After stints with Grandpa Jones and Vern Gosdin, he became a household name in the world of bluegrass when he joined J.D. Crowe and the New South in 1990. While with J.D., he honed his business talents, eventually taking over the booking duties for the group.

After leaving the New South, Phil moved on to form Wildfire with Robert Hale and Darrell Webb in 2001, and then Grasstowne with Alan Bibey and Steve Gulley in 2006.

After the cancer initially hit, Phil had to cut back on his touring but performed at different times with both Dale Ann Bradley and Flashback. He also toured occasionally during 2018-19 with his own group, the All-Stars of Bluegrass, which featured a varying cast of top tier bluegrass musicians (including Phil's friend Steve Gulley who died just last year from cancer).

Phil's many recordings include several with JD Crowe, Wildfire, and Grasstowne as well as three solo albums and one with Phil Leadbetter and the All-Stars of Bluegrass. He was also a sought-after session musician, appearing on albums by Doyle Lawson, Special Consensus, Darrell Webb, Steve Gulley, and others.

Somewhat of a prankster, Phil was loved by pretty much everyone that knew him. His accomplishments were many, including being name International Bluegrass Association Dobro Player of the Year three times and beyond honored by Gibson with a signature dobro model.

He will be missed by many.

December/January Events

It is great to see so many events starting to happen again. However, please call ahead to make sure it is still on before you travel a distance.

INDIANA


- 11/18** Annie Moses Band; Blue Gate, 105 E Middlebury St., Shipshewana, **IN** 46565 888-447-4725 8p
- 11/20** New Cumberland Gap; Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, **IN** 47030 6:30p MetamoraMusic@gmail.com
- 11/28** My Bluegrass Heart: Béla Fleck, Sam Bush, Jerry Douglas, Stuart Duncan, Edgar Meyer, & Bryan Sutton; Clyde Theatre, 1808 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46809-1306 260-747-0989
COVID-19 VACCINATION/TEST REQUIREMENT: *Béla Fleck is requiring that all attendees provide proof of full Covid-19 vaccination or negative PCR COVID-19 test (NO RAPID OR ANTIGEN TEST RESULTS ACCEPTED) within 72 hours of show time for entry along with corresponding government-issued photo ID. Your final dose of Pfizer/Moderna or single dose of Johnson & Johnson must be at least 14 days prior to event date (by Sunday, November 14). Additionally, the artist requires all concert attendees to wear a mask at all times while inside the venue, unless eating or drinking.*
- 12/31** Malpass Brothers, Doug Church & Dennis Swanberg; Blue Gate, 105 E Middlebury St., Shipshewana, **IN** 46565 888-447-4725 2p & 9p

MICHIGAN

- 11/21** Billy Strings; Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave, Detroit, **MI** 48201-3469 313-961-5451 (11/20 sold out)
- 11/27** Jerry Douglas, Bela Fleck, My Bluegrass Heart tour; DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, **MI** 49503-2233 616-742-6500 *This event is being sold at full capacity with no social distancing in the seating area. Proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 PCR/Antigen test administered between 11.24.21 to 11.27.21 is required for entry, and we ask all audience members to be masked indoors when not eating/drinking.*
- 12/30-01/01/22** Bill Strings; GLC Live at 20 Monroe, 11 Ottawa Ave NW, Grand Rapids, **MI** 49503 844-678-5483 (all sold out)

OHIO

- 11/17** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p free 513-385-9309
- 11/19** Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers, Northwest Territory; Route 39; Bluegrass @ Harvest Ridge, 8880 SR 39, Millersburg, **OH** 44654 800-965-9324 7p \$25-\$30
- 11/19** Nothin' Fancy, Silas Powell Band; Pennyroyal Opera House, Exit 198 of I-70 Fairview, **OH** Doors 5p Music 7p
- 11/19** Special Consensus; Natalie's Coal Fired Pizza, 5601 N. High St, Worthington, **OH** 43085 9:30p 614-436-COAL Doors 8:30 Music 9p
- 11/19** The Little Roy & Lizzy Show; Flow-ers Hall, 344 Darla Dr, Hanover, **OH** 43055 7p 740-763-3477
- 11/20** Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers; Stuart's Opera House, 52 Public Square, Nelsonville, **OH** 45764 7p
- 11/20** Lakeside; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 11/20** The Blue Notes; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 937-767-1767 7:30p
- 11/20** New Grass Station; Bluegrass Happy Hour, Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 11/20** Vertical Limit, Hidden Drive, Hershel Blevins; Bluegrass Junction, Shalersville Town Hall, 9090 OH-44, Ravenna, **OH** 44266 7-11p
- 11/21** Sideline Bluegrass; Natalie's Coal Fired Pizza, 5601 N. High St, Worthington, **OH** 43085 9:30p 614-436-COAL 8p
- 11/24** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p free 513-385-9309
- 12/01** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p free 513-385-9309
- 12/03** The Family Sowell, Mountain State Bluegrass; Pennyroyal Opera House, Exit 198 of I-70 in Fairview, **OH** Doors 5. Music 7p
- 12/04** The Family Sowell; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 12/05** We Banjo 3; Kent Stage, 175 E Main, Kent, **OH** 44240 330-677-5005 8p
- 12/05** Perennial Rye; Beers & Bluegrass, Combustion Brewery, 80 W. Church St, Pickerington, **OH** 43147 614-834-9595 4-9 pm
- 12/07** New Mountain Heritage Band; Downtown Hamilton Center, 221 High St., Hamilton, **OH** 45011 513-785-7005
- 12/08** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p free 513-385-9309
- 12/10** Donna Ulisse; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 7p
- 12/10** Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers; Clifton Opera House, 5 South Clay Street, Clifton, **OH** 7-9 pm
- 12/10** Slate Ridge; Bluegrass Happy Hour, Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212 614-486-4722 7-9p
- 12/10** Little Roy & Lizzy Show; The Venue on Lake Grant, 13257 US-68, Mount Orab, **OH** 45154 513-504-4681
- 12/11** Dailey & Vincent; Red Barn Convention Center, Winchester, **OH** 8 pm.
- 12/12** Dailey & Vincent; Pritchard Laughlin Center, 7033 Glenn Highway, Cambridge, **OH** 3p
- 12/15** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p free 513-385-9309
- 12/18** Wildfire; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 5p
- 12/22** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p free 513-385-9309
- 12/29** Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave. Cincinnati, **OH** 45252 6:30-8:30p free 513-385-9309
- 01/06** Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder; Arts Center, 330 University Dr NE, Kent State University, New Philadelphia, **OH** 44663-9452 330-308-6400 7:30 pm

Cont. next page 

01/06-08 Jesse Alexander Band, Kyle Jarvis, Larry Efaw, Rhonda Vincent & the Rage, Vertical Limit, Ottawa County, Harbourtown & Caney Creek, Junior Sisk, Larry Efaw, Remington Ryde, Loraine Jordan, Dean Osborne; Bluegrass in Superclass @ Maumee Bay State Park Lodge, 1750 State Park Rd #2, Oregon, OH 43616-5632 419-836-7758

01/07 Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers; Marysville Winter Bluegrass Series, First United Methodist Church, 207 S Court St, Marysville, OH 43040 937-642-4712 7:30 pm

01/15 Vertical Limit, Open Highway Bluegrass; Shalersville Town Hall, at the intersection of SR 44 and SR 303 in Shalersville, OH Doors open at 6. Music begins at 7.

01/26 Sierra Hull; Newport Music Hall, 1722 N High St, Columbus, OH 43201 614-461-5483 6:30p (Note: Sierra appears with non bluegrass artists)

01/28 Back Up & Push, New Outlook, Caney Creek, Kevin Prater, Sideline; Blast Off Winter, Moon City Events Ctr, 1208 Lunar Dr, Wapakoneta, OH 45896 567-204-0929 Music Fri 6p Sat 7p

Next NIBGA Jam in Fort Wayne - Jan 16, 2022 (no Dec. jam or newsletter)



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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