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

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



I'm really getting excited about our upcoming Labor Day festival. In the last newsletter, I included some notes about the Wayfarers and Berachah Valley, and in this newsletter you'll find information on the other bands that will be appearing. I think we'll have a nice variety of interesting entertainment on stage!

As I mentioned last month, gas prices spiked just in time for our Memorial Day festival. Although they have eased somewhat lately, we of course have no idea where they will be around Labor Day. And, of course, we have no clue what the weather will look like then.

But, the one thing we know for sure is that the festival will represent a great entertainment value; a reasonably priced, family friendly event. There are few family entertainment opportunities on the holiday weekends that can compare to the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association (NIBGA) offerings, both in terms of the stage show and also relative to the reasonable camping price.

Of course, we couldn't have the festivals without volunteer help. I think it deserves mention that one of the advantages NIBGA holds over other non-profits is that none of the staff collects any salary or compensation. We do what we do for the same reason as the volunteers at the festival, because we want to promote the music that we love while providing a service to the community that has long served as our host and partner. Our reward comes in the form of satisfaction when the events take place, and that helps make our events more affordable.

As always, I want to thank the volunteers for help making Memorial Day happen – we listed many of them in the last newsletter. I apologize if we left anyone out!

We were blessed to sign up several new patrons at the Memorial Day festival, and I want to send special thanks their way also. We had a few issues getting the patron T-shirts, but I think we are caught up now – please let us know if you are expecting a T-shirt that you haven't received.

As I've said many times, NIBGA is more like a family than a club. It takes all of us to make things happen, and we appreciate the input that we receive from all club members. The board can't act on all suggestions as quickly as we might like, but we do review and consider all input. That includes bands that you think might be a good fit for our stage. Please let us know if there is anyone you would like to see, and we'll see if we can't make it happen for 2023!

I'll see you in a couple months!

Joe Steiner

To say that **Kevin Prater** has been a key player in the bluegrass world be a major understatement. Hailing from the small town of Belcher in eastern Kentucky, Kevin has been active as a performer for many years, performing with many of the bluegrass greats, including James King and Melvin Goins.

He is a strong lead singer in the traditional style, as well as an awesome picker on many instruments. He has now fronted his own band for several years -- it is only fitting that a performer of his stature would eventually step out from the sideman role to front and center.

Having appeared previously at Tri-State on several occasions, he has demonstrated that he surrounds himself with the best musicians in bluegrass. His current lineup is no exception, with Gary Isehour featured at the core playing guitar and assisting with both lead and harmony vocals. A hard-driving banjo player is essential to Kevin's sound, and he has one in Jake Burrows, who also pitches in on harmony vocals. Mallory Hindman is a young and innovative fiddler, and Alex Donahue rounds out the group with his solid bass work.

Hailing from right in our back yard in Southern Indiana, **Jim and Lynna Woolsey** are one of those groups that probably should have been on our stage a lot sooner. These folks can do it all! And they do it all really well -- REALLY well! From composing all the way through to delivering on stage, they are like the ultimate bluegrass machine! They make you laugh, make you cry, and keep you on the edge of your seat, drawing you in with the unexpected.

They write some terrific material, crossing into several different genres while remaining firmly planted in what we know and love as bluegrass – really powerful stuff! And, if we're talking about powerful, we need to consider their vocals. Their singing is smooth, no doubt, but they have an unabashed, convincing delivery. There's no holding back and they have just the right touch of bluegrass edge mixed in – really powerful stuff!

They are also top notch in the instrumental category, and I don't just mean hot leads. They are rock solid on rhythm,



Oh my goodness! I am so humbled by the number of people that have stepped up and said, “yes, I want to help keep bluegrass alive in the Tri-State area. I will be a Patron”. Many of these Patrons donated above and beyond the \$100 cost. We also had people walk up to us and give us donations to put towards the association’s costs. I am sure that you don’t see this type of support in other music genres. Tri-State Bluegrassers are a special breed. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support!

Here is our most recent list of Patrons. Please tell them THANK YOU when you see them! If you signed up to be a Patron and don’t see your name on this list, please let me know at NEWS@NIBGA.com or call 419-721-8016. Or if you’d LIKE to be a Patron, contact me!

Ron Armstead
David & Virgie Buhler
Jim Chilton
Verl & Sue Dasher
Julie Goldsmith/Jim Geise
Keith & Terri Grannis
Mark Hauenstein
Rachel Lattimore
Bob & Carol Mauck
Chere McKinley

Jerry & Sioux McLane
Bill Merrill
Anonymous Patron
Ian Oliveros/Alison Thompson
Tom Rondo
Poul & Linda Sandersen
Charles & Amanda Shepard
Joe & Chris Steiner
Stephen J. Troyer

Chris Vogie
Dave & Marianne Vogie
Cathy Voors
Terry & Peggy Wallace
Ronald Wedekind
Paul & Barb Welch
Stewart E. White
Jim & Linda Winger
Shari Wolf

Buzz on the Bands, continued

always clicking into a groove that says, “these guys have rehearsed until they are tight!” Don’t get me wrong – they have hot leads too. But not too hot – they’re refined and tasteful, which is the mark of the great players.

In addition to Jim and Lynna on vocal and guitar, the group includes David Foster on bass and vocals, with Mike Curtis and Brian Leaver on resonator guitar and banjo, respectively.

Tony Hale and Blackwater, from southwestern Ohio, will be making their first appearance on our stage. This band specializes in traditional grass and a high-energy stage show. In addition to Tony on guitar, the group includes Brad Jessmer on banjo, Wayne Haddix on mandolin, Evan Lanier on lead guitar, and Bubba Griffith on string bass.

New Augusta Bluegrass, from central Indiana, takes a traditional approach to bluegrass, with several lead singer options and some nicely layered harmonies. They also feature some nice instrumental work with Roger Banister on banjo and fiddle, David Schroeder on guitar, John Gates on mandolin, and Lisa Wagoner on string bass.

I thought **Medicinal Bluegrass** had an interesting name, so I checked them out a little more and found a cool video they did for their rendition of Ricky Skaggs’s Highway 40 Blues. It pictures them convincing a farmer, Mark Hite, to let them use his silo for recording. I don’t know if they really did record in his silo or not, but I’ve got to say I love that creativity!

The group features John Funk on banjo, Debbie Lanning on guitar, Karol Wainscott on mandolin, Bob Nelson on bass, and Bob Auth and Jeff Klafka on fiddles. I have to admit that the chuckles I got from the video were indeed medicinal, and it was a nice performance to boot!

Calabogie Road has been on our stage several times now, and they always put on a great show. Formerly known as the Patchwork Band, this group has been ac-

tive for over 30 years! They seem to get smoother and tighter every time I see them.

Anchored by John and Ruth Lakatos, on bass and guitar respectively, they really have some nice harmonies, a solid bluegrass vibe, some nice instrumental solos, and a comfortable, fun stage presence. John and Ruth are joined by Mark Walker on mandolin, Ian Tronsen on banjo, and Marten VanEyck on fiddle.

It’s been over five years now since I first heard about **Blue Holler** – it doesn’t seem that long since I’m still excited that they’re playing music together. The folks in this band will be familiar faces to most of you since they have been attending the festival for a while and have played on the stage twice previously. You have probably seen bassist Chere McKinley serve as our stage announcer at some of the festivals. The group currently consists of four founding members: Chere, Stan Sallee (guitar), Doug Tyler (banjo) and Tim Cunningham (mandolin).

What can I say about the **Debutants**? They hail from right here in Fort Wayne Indiana, and they are really fun on stage. I will have to warn you that straight-ahead bluegrass isn’t really their main thing, but, if you’re willing to stretch it out a bit, you’ll be impressed by their arrangements and the level of musicianship they field.

You can certainly see the foundations of bluegrass and folk in their music, but they also show strong influences from rock and roll, soul, and blues. 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 (mandolin) and Jon Swain (guitar). They feature two fiddlers, Lauren Blair and Sean Hoffman, which is not too unusual for bluegrass, but they are one of few bluegrass bands with a cellist (Ellen Coplin). They also feature Michael Earl Newsome on banjo and Colin Taylor on string bass.

Upcoming Events - confirm event status before leaving home

INDIANA

1st Thurs Wakarusa Bluegrass Jambo-ree, West Park Pavilion, 500 N. Nappanee St., Nappanee, IN 46550 6:30-9p

2nd Thurs: Whiteriver Folk & Bluegrass jam, Emery Lee Building, Beulah Park Jam, 400 E. 4th St., Alexandria, IN 46001 6-9p

3rd Fri Winamac Bluegrass Jam, American Legion, 110 Franklin St., Winamac, IN 46996
Tom 574-205-2274 7-10p

3rd Sun Indiana Friends of Bluegrass, Concord Community Center, (southside of Indy) 1310 S. Meridian St. Indianapolis, IN 46225 indianafriendsofbluegrass@yahoo.com

Last Fri Boardwalk Jam, Ben's Pretzels, 100 Berkshire Dr, Shipshewana, IN 46565-8757 6:30p year around

Every Sat. 6090 S. Oakwood St., N Judson, IN 46366 219-878-3123 5:30p CDSTexcept during Kendallville Festival

08/06 Daily & Vincent; Graber Community Building, 9164 E 875 N, Odon, IN 47562

08/18-21 The Grascals, Branded Bluegrass, Kevin Prater Band, Wayfarer's Band, Bahler Golden Age Band, New Outlook, FireBox, Blue Holler Band; Winding Creek Bluegrass Festival, Russiaville, IN

MICHIGAN

every Weds. jam with Ron Hammon, Moose, 4043 Howe Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439 6:30-9p
Ron - 810-309-0032

every Sun. Bob's Barn Jamborees, 1417 Johnson St., Lake Odessa, MI 48849 616-374-8205
3-4p show, 4:30-7p jam
bobwarner40@gmail.com

1st Sat Manton Jamboree, Ranger room, Manton HS, 105 5th St, Manton, MI 6-9p
lwestbrook17@hotmail.com

1st Tues Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road

Westland, MI 48135
313-617-4864 7-9:30p Wendy Hause, whause@frontier.com

2nd Sat Maumee Street Music Jam, First Presbyterian Church, 156 E. Maumee, Adrian, MI 49221 6p, use east side door, snack bar, Mullins 517-607-8085, Church 517-265-2168

3rd Tues Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road, Westland, MI 48135 313-617-4864 7-9:30p Wendy Hause, whause@frontier.com

3rd Sat West MI Bluegrass, Aiden's Place, 42 E Lake St, Sand Lake, MI 49343 616-419-6713 1p

3rd Sun Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, MI 48917 2-5p \$5 donation 517-505-2809

3rd Tues Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, MI 7p 313-617-4864

4th Sat Michigan Bluegrass Assoc., Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr., Flint, MI 48506 6p 810 736-5332

08/02-06 Special Consensus, more; Milan Bluegrass Festival, Milan, MI

08/13 Blissfield Bluegrass on the River, Blissfield, MI

08/17 Liam Purcell & Cane Mill Road; The Common Concert Series, 122 Days Ave, Buchanan, MI 49107 FREE

08/19-20 Yonder Mountain String Band, String Dusters, more eclectic bands; Hoxeyville Music Festival Wellston, MI

08/26-27 The Po' Ramblin' Boys, eclectic bands; Porcupine Music Festival, Winter Sports Complex, 36606 Carp Lake Tower Rd, Ontonagon, MI 49953
906-884-2047 / 906-231-1589

OHIO

Mon. Slow Bluegrass Jam, Violet Baptist Church, 8345 Blacklick-Eastern Rd NW, Pickerington, OH 43147 614-562-9730 6-8p

Call to confirm event status

Every Tues - FOMC jam, 1196 Ross Millville Rd, Millville, OH 45013 7-9p 419-568-1220

Weds. Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45252 513-832-1422 free, food available 6:30-8:30p

Every Thurs Open Bluegrass Jam; Bluegrass Picking Circle, Rambling House, 310 N Hudson St, Columbus OH 43202 614-468-3217 6-8p free, acoustic, no mics

4th Fri Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45252 513-832-1422 free, food available 7-9p (8/26)

Every Sat. Dry Creek Cafe, 201 Columbus Rd, Mt Vernon, OH 43050 8-10p free, food available 740-830-6083

08/05 Buffalo Rose; Natalie's Coal Fired Pizza, 5601 N. High St, Worthington, OH 43085 9:30p 614-436-COAL 9p

08/05 Rhonda Vincent, Alan Bibey, Joe Mullins; Bluegrass & Brew, Main St. Commons, 103 W Main St. Fairborn, OH 45324 4p

08/05 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Hamilton's Urban Backyard, 501 Main St., Hamilton, OH 45013 513-893-9482 7-10p

08/07 Steep Canyon Rangers, Logan Halstead, Jerry Salley & Buffalo Wabs, Price Hill Hustle; Bloomin BGF, Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheater, 5968 Marietta Rd., Chillicothe, OH 45601 5:30-??

08/12 Steep Canyon Rangers; Riverfront Live, 4343 Kellogg Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45226 8p

08/12 Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Oxford Community Arts Center, 10 S College Ave Oxford, OH 45056 513-524-8506 7p free

08/12 McLain Family Band; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling OH 43143 614-323-6938 6p

08/13 Steep Canyon Rangers; The Kent Stage, 175 E Main St,

Kent, OH 44240 8p
08/13 Kevin Prater Band; Salt Fork Arts Festival, Cambridge Park, 8th Street, Cambridge, OH 43725 noon

08/13 Kevin Prater Band; Nickel Tavern, 33900 Township Rd 68, Frazeyburg, OH 43822 7p

08/14 Kevin Prater Band; Grace Church, 7798 Big Walnut Rd, Westerville, OH 43082 10a

08/14 Berachah Valley; Miami County Fair, 650 N CR 25A, Troy, OH 45373 4:30p

08/19-21 Rumpke Mountain Boys, Donna the Buffalo, Leftover Salmon, Bluegrass Sweethearts, Darin

& Brooke Aldridge, The Travelin' McCoury's, Del McCoury Band, Trampled by Turtles, Henhouse Prowlers, Wu Grass, Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers, Peter Rowan, Yonder Mountain String Band, Infamous Stringdusters, Blue Moon Soup; Grassfire Bluegrass Festival, Nelson Ledges Quarry Park, 12001 Nelson Ledge Rd, Garrettsville, OH 44231

08/20 Malpass Brothers; Hoover Auditorium, 115 W Third St, Lakeside Marblehead, OH 43440 7:30 pm

08/20 Corndrinkers; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 7:30 pm.

08/20 Clay Hess Band; Twin City Opera House. 15 West Main St, McConnelsville, OH 43756 6p

08/25-27 Nothin' Fancy, Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper, Grasscals, Harbourtown, Edgar Loudermilk Band, Gary Strong & Hard Times, New Outlook, 7 Mile Bluegrass, Slippery Creek; Brown County Fairgrounds, 325 W State St, Georgetown, OH 45121

**Don't
Forget!**

Don't forget the Tri-State Bluegrass Festival starts September 1, although campers will start arriving several days earlier. Join us! Early camping is only \$15 a night. 10 great bands (see the 8 in this newsletter, plus Berachah Valley and the Wayfarers mentioned last month), Kids' Korner, Gospel Sing, Songwriting workshop by Jim and Lynna Woolsey, "Jam with the Band" hosted by Kevin Prater Band, and much, more more! For more information, flyer and schedule, see www.BluegrassUSA.net

Guaranteed to be a good time. See you there!

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

**TRI STATE
BLUEGRASS**



A KENZALLVILLE TRADITION

August 2022

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