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Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing, Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly,
Next Jam: 1-5 PM, Jan 21, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



Now that the camper is winterized and put away, it's time to start thinking toward next year's festivals.

I'm really excited about the great bands we have lined up. We are sure grateful for any and all suggestions we receive as far as bands. It doesn't always work out for us to hire all the bands suggested, since there are always more suggestions than we have slots to fill.

In 2024, though, the NIBGA board suggested that we try to accommodate more requests than in the past. Toward this end, we are having each band perform a fewer number of times than at previous festivals, which opens up slots for additional bands. Although this requires a larger financial commitment (since bands are willing to discount multiple shows at the same location), the board felt strongly that this additional expense was a constructive use of the grant money we have received over the past year.

We always try to work in a variety of music stylistically, from traditional bluegrass to roots and branches in the old-timey and progressive genres, as well as including representation from national, regional, and local bands. Providing this variety brings another set of criteria. If one of your suggested bands isn't hired this year please mention them again, because we may be able to include them in the future.

I am elated many deserving bluegrass artists are very popular with concert audiences today. While this gives us encouragement for the future of the music we love, it also means that the availability of these groups is limited. Each year it is a challenge to book the top national acts, with competition from other events around the U.S. and even foreign tours. This year is no exception; however, we are really proud and excited that we were able to work both High Fidelity and Volume 5 into the lineup, along with lots of other great bands.

I mentioned last time that I'm encouraged by the number of young bluegrass enthusiasts we are seeing these days, and I mentioned several of the younger IBMA award winners, like Molly Tuttle and Trey Hensley. We recently became aware of an organization called Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars (TBS) which encourages school-age children with an interest in bluegrass by partnering with festivals to provide a central gathering place. These students are throughout all of the United States. And these aren't just "kids learning to play instruments"... these are youngsters that are already making a name for themselves in the music world, showcasing at the Opry, and playing with the heavy hitters of the bluegrass world. I think it will be exciting to host them!

TBS doesn't ask for any special treatment or consideration... just an

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Below is a partial list of bands that will be appearing at the 2024 festivals – we'll have notes about these bands in upcoming newsletters. This list is NOT complete – stay tuned for additions!

As you can see, there are more bands than usual at this year's festivals – some of these bands will be appearing only once or twice.

The theme this year is "Come Early and Stay Late"! The best festival deal is to buy a weekend ticket for only \$45, kids 15 and under FREE. That includes all the shows Thursday through Sunday night. Camping for Friday-Sunday is only \$45 per rig. (Additional camping nights, Thursday and prior, are only \$15) That's as inexpensive as it comes for a family holiday weekend getaway! And, you get almost 30 hours of great entertainment!

Why not just stay right at the fairgrounds, so you are right on site to catch your favorite bands?

Watch the facebook page for updates!

Memorial Day Weekend bands include:

High Fidelity
Dry Branch Fire Squad
Appalachian Swing
My Brother's Keeper
New Outlook
The Matchsellers
Debutants
Blue Diggity
Carl Bentley
Fox Crossing
Muddy Krick Mountain Band
Steve Scott and the Scott Brothers
Ottawa County Bluegrass
Cedar Creek And more!

Labor Day Weekend bands include:

Volume 5
Kevin Prater Band
McClain Family Band
Roger Brown & Borrowed Tyme
Elijah Boggs & The Mountain Echos
Hillbilly Chic
Open Highway
Won Peace
Blue Hollar
Dead Pickers Society
And many more!

More bands &
info to come!

President's Corner, continued

appropriate gathering facility at a family-friendly festival. We're in the process of arranging for them to gather at one of the 2024 festivals, and we may even be treated to a performance or two by members of the organizations! See more info in upcoming newsletters.

Unfortunately, speaking of younger bluegrass artists, you will read elsewhere in this newsletter about the untimely passing of Mason Ruble, who appeared with the promising Harmon and Ruble band on our stage earlier this year. He and his promising future in our music will be greatly missed – who could have known that his picking during the “jam with the band” at our festival would be among his last?

Over the winter, as you attend indoor events and jam sessions, please help spread the word about our bluegrass club, as well as our affordable family-friendly festivals. Let's show everyone how “cool” (said the baby boomer) bluegrass music is! And, don't forget about the club jams this winter – as I mentioned last time, they're a great way get out and socialize with other bluegrassers and pick up a few musical ideas.

Joe



We need As you know, the TriState Festival is run totally by volunteers...and many volunteers are needed! While you can sign up “at the gate” to help with some things, we'd love to have people sign up in advance for a few things in which we need assistance. This year, Big Al Weekley has offered to emcee for Friday and Saturday, but we still need emcees for Thursday and Sunday. Here's your chance to be on stage. To hobnob with the bands. To drink that wonderful “green room” coffee! Hahaha. Please contact me at news@nibga.com if you would be interested.

Over Jordan



Another very sad announcement. The death of anyone is devastating, but someone so young and full of promise is harder to accept.

Mason Ruble was just at our festival this past spring as part of the new Harmon and Ruble Band.

Mason Ruble, 20, passed away on October 21 due to an automobile accident. He was from Kansas.

Mason made a name for himself as a banjo player from a very young age, and played coast to coast. He was also a passionate outdoorsman.

His parents requested, in lieu of flowers, to make a donation to the Mason Ruble Memorial Fund which will be used for various bluegrass music scholarships.



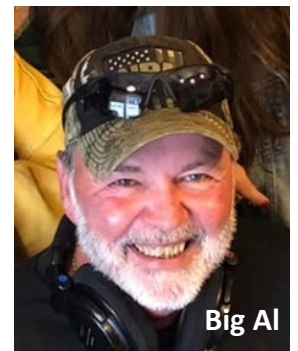
If you aren't able to get out to events, you can still LISTEN to bluegrass! Give a listen online to:

NIBGA President, **Joe Steiner** on *Blue Ridge Breakdown* Mondays from 8-10 pm (for 25 years!) WLFC883.com

NIBGA Patron, **Big Al Weekley** on *The Big Al & Sandy Show* (since 1987!) Saturdays from 8-noon. WDICradio.com



Joe



Big Al

Thank you to our 2023 Patrons!

Thank-You to our Patrons that have signed up . YOU are helping to keep bluegrass alive in the Tri-State area! If you signed up & your name isn't here please let me know!

Ron Armstead
Steve Carroll
Jim Chilton
Jim Clay
Verl & Sue Dasher
Larry & Karen Donaldson
Jim & Julie Geise/Goldsmith

Keith & Terri Grannis
Mark Hauenstein
William Lake
Cliff & Jan Lawton
Bob & Carol Mauck
Jerry & Sioux McLane
Anonymous (2)

Tom & Donya Rondo
Poul & Linda Sandersen
Charles & Amanda Shepard
Joe & Chris Steiner
Steve Troyer
Chris Vogie
Dave & Marianne Vogie

Cathy Voors
Terry & Peggy Wallace
Big Al Weekley & Sandy
Paul & Barb Welch
Stewart White
Jim & Linda Winger
Shari Wolf

Upcoming Events - confirm event status before leaving home

INDIANA

- 1st Sun** mostly Central Indiana BGA jams, Hontz Hall, 307 E South H St, Gas City, **IN** 46933
765-674-5117 noon-? (12/3)
- 1st Thurs** Wakarusa Bluegrass Jamboree, Doc Able Pavilion, 116 W. Waterford St, Wakarusa, **IN** 46573 6:30-9p Free, refreshments, since 2000, 574-862-2200
- 2nd & 4th 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** Northern Ind. Bluegrass jam & meeting, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46809 noon-6p free all welcome, acoustic only instruments, food & beverages available.
(No December jam)
- Every Sat.** 6090 S. Oakwood St., N Judson, **IN** 46366 219-878-3123
5:30p CDST
- 01/20** Debutants & friend; Clyde, 1808 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, **IN** 46809 7p

MICHIGAN

- every Weds.** jam with Ron Hammon, Moose, 4043 Howe Rd, Grand Blanc, **MI** 48439 6:30-9p
Ron - 810-309-0032
- every Weds.** Eagles, 301 Detroit St, Jackson, **MI** 49201
Eagles: 517-782-5622
Jam leader: 248-247-9766 6-9p acoustic only!
- every Sun.** Bob's Barn Jamborees, 1417 Johnson St., Lake Odessa, **MI** 48849 616-374-8205
bobwarner40@gmail.com
- 1st Sat** Manton Jamboree, Ranger room, Manton HS, 105 5th St, Manton, **MI** 6-9p
lwestbrook17@hotmail.com
- 1st & 3rd Sat** West MI Bluegrass, Aiden's Place, 42 E Lake St, Sand Lake, **MI** 49343 989-430-2149 jam 1-3p or 2-4:30 (call to confirm)
- 1st & 3rd Mon** Library; 7215 Headley St SE UNIT 309, Ada, **MI** 49301

5-7:45p

- 1st & 3rd Tues** Presbyterian Village 32001 Cherry Hill Road Westland, **MI** 48135 7-9:30p
Wendy Hause, 313-617-4864, whause@frontier.com, Snack bar.
- 2nd Sat** Maumee Street Music jam, First Presbyterian Church, 156 E. Maumee, Adrian, **MI** 49221
5:30p 517-607-8085 or 517-270-2870
- 2nd Tues** West MI Bluegrass; Slow Jam, Library, 6260 92nd St SE, Caledonia, **MI** 49316
989-430-2149 5-7:45p free
- 3rd Fri** Lake Diane Jams, Hillsdale Community Center, 1810 W. Territorial Rd, Camden, **MI** 49232, snack bar, Mullins 517-270-2870
Atkins 517-607-9868
- 3rd Sat** Heritage Park Barn, 121 Tefft St, Hanover **MI** 49241
Nov - April 6-11p
- 3rd Sun** Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing, **MI** 48917 2-5p \$5 donation
517-505-2809 11/20
- 4th Sat** Michigan Bluegrass Assoc., Armstrong Middle School, 6161 Hopkins Dr., Flint, **MI** 48506 6p 810 736-5332

OHIO

- 3rd Sun** Church of the Nazarene (south entrance), 7951 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, **OH** 45069
937-530-2127 3-5p
- Tues** - FOMC jam, 1196 Ross Millville Rd, Millville, **OH** 45013 7-9p
419-568-1220
- Tues** - Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, **OH** 45873
419-594-2816 6p
- Thurs** Slow Bluegrass Jam, Violet Baptist Church, 8345 Blacklick-Eastern Rd NW, Pickerington, **OH** 43147 614-562-9730 6-8p Call to confirm event status
- 12/01** Open Rail Bluegrass, Red Brush; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 7p
- 12/01** Dailey & Vincent Christmas Ohio Star Theater, 1387 Old OH-39, Sugarcreek, **OH** 44681
7p 855-344-7547

- 12/02** Carson Peters & Iron Mountain; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p
- 12/03** Slate Ridge; Combustion Brewery, 80 W. Church St, Pickerington, **OH** 43147
614-834-9595 4-7p
- 12/06-13-20-27** (Every Wed) Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, **OH** 45252, 513-385-9309
or vinokletwinery@fuse.net
showtime: 6:30pm, admission free, food available
- 12/08** Nothin' Fancy; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 7p
- 12/08** Open Highway; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212
614-486-4722 7-9p
- 12/08** Joe Mullins; Christmas Show, St. Marks Lutheran Church, 315 S. College Drive, Bowling Green, **OH** 7p
- 12/09** Lafferty Pike; Christmas Show, Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 937-767-1767 2-4p
- 12/09** My Brother's Keeper; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143
614-323-6938 6p
- 12/10** Joe Mullins & the Radio Ramblers; Christmas Show, Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 937-767-1767 7:30p
- 12/10** Henhouse Prowlers, Whiskey Drinks; Winchester Music Tavern, 12112 Madison Ave., Lakewood, **OH** 44107 7:30p \$20
- 12/16** Open Highway; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143
614-323-6938 6p
- 12/18** Rhonda Vincent; Amish Country Theater, 4365 OH-39, Millersburg, **OH** 44654
(888) 988-7469 7:30p
- 12/23** TBA; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p

12/29 Ramblin' Bluegrass; Loose Rail Brewing, 37 W Waterloo St, Canal Winchester, **OH** 43110
614-321-6634 7-10p

01/03-10-17-24-31 (Every Wed)
Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, **OH** 45252, 513-385-9309
or vinokletwinery@fuse.net
showtime: 6:30pm, admission free, food available

01/11-13 Th: Danny Paisley, Ottawa county, Next Paige Fri: Ralph Stanley II, Lorraine Jordan, Harbortown, Crabgrass, Dean Osborne Sat: Rhonda Vincent, Remington Ryde, Larry Efaw, Dean Osborne, New Outlook; BLUEGRASS IN SUPERCLASS, Convention Center, 1750 State Park Rd #2, Oregon, **OH** 43616

01/12 Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers; Methodist Church, Burnside Family Life Center, 207 S. Court St., Marysville, **OH** 43040 7p 937-642-4712

01/14 Rhonda Vincent & The Rage; Stuart's Opera House, 52 Public Square, Nelsonville, **OH** 45764 3p

01/27 Darin & Brooke Aldridge; Holland Theater, 127 E. Columbus Ave, Bellefontaine, **OH** 43311 7:30p

**Next NIBGA Jam in Fort Wayne, Jan 21, 2024
No December Jam.**



Over the River and through the Woods
To Grandfather's house we go.
I'll take my banjo, you grab your guitar,
He'll have his fiddle and bow.

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



Dec '23 - Jan '24

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