

Correspondence: NIBGA, 1020 Wyandot Rd, Bucyrus, OH 44820 (260) 918-4790 , news@nibga.com
Memberships: \$10 one, \$15 two w/one mailing, Published 2nd Sunday, Mailed 3rd Sunday monthly,
Next Jam: 1-5 PM, Oct 19, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



The 2025 Fall Tri-State Bluegrass Festival is now in the books, and it was another great one. In addition to great stage shows, we had some great special events. Among the best attended of these were the "Jam with the Band" sessions in the Mini Barn after hours. Many thanks to Low Landers, the Booze Hounds, Blue Diggity, and Hill-billy Chic for coordinating these!

Chris Steiner, our Special Events Chairperson, came up with the Jam with the Band idea – she is always trying to find ways for people to feel comfortable and welcome at the event. What better way than to have them participate in a jam session with some high profile people – who doesn't love to say they jammed with their favorite bluegrass "stars"? And, she was thinking that many folks didn't know a place to go where there is a jam session they can comfortably participate in.

That led me to think about the festival and our future as a club. We have always existed to increase exposure of the bluegrass music we love, which, in turn, provides opportunities for bluegrass music artists. I don't want that to change, and that means that we need to make sure that our world portrays an open invitation to potential new fans of this great music.

Chris understood that, for the uninitiated, the world of bluegrass music can be daunting. Some may know a group of folks to jam with, but, if not, there isn't a comfortable place to hang out. Those of us who have been around forever may not realize that. The very thing that many of us love, the open environment of parking lot picking and campfire jamming, can instead be a source of trepidation and fear for some. In order to continue the club's legacy, we need to make sure potential new fans not only have a great stage show available but also feel welcome to participate in the bluegrass experience. I feel that we do a good job of that, but we need to not lose sight of the importance of that part of our function.

One main appeal of bluegrass music has always been the approachability of the musicians, and the admiration fans have for their favorite artists is increased when they understand the music themselves. With that understanding comes an appreciation of the high level of talent required to perform the music. For instance: trying to replicate the "Stanley Sound" yourself will quickly grow an appreciation for the talent that Sammy Adkins demonstrates so deftly and effortlessly on stage. Learning Johnny Cash's *Let the Train Blow the*

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Since bands won't be hired for a couple more months, I'm going to use this column to talk about the past fall festival. I hope you were there — the weather was perfect. The nicest "Kendallville" weather that we've had in a long time.

We got there about a week before the start of the festival in order to make sure things were ready to go. The stage came in early in the week, and the guys were all over it trying to get the backdrops up and merchandising lights and tables set up. I don't know if I got all of the names, but the stage set up was handled by Jim Clay and Jim Miller, with LOTS of help by Dan Denny, Terry Parker, Paul Welch, and Roy Fike.

Tear down on Sunday night went just as fast with the additional help of Wayne Boltz and his son and grandchildren, and Jim Winger's grandchildren and friends. I hope to have a better list of all of the volunteers in the next newsletter. In the meantime, thank you to all the volunteers that ran the gates, taxis, helped with Kids' Korner, merchandise sales, and everyone that helped us keep the festival safe and clean. EVERYONE there is a volunteer!

Every year, we (Joe and I) are the last ones to leave the fairground and we take one last "victory lap" on a golf cart to check out the grounds and make sure everything is clean and back in place. I'm always SOOO impressed at how clean the fairgrounds are when we leave. You can't tell that it was swarming with campers and bluegrass fans earlier. The stage area is spotless. Thank you so much. You make our lives immensely easier!

We had 7 Patrons sign up or renew for 2026 already! See the updated list on the back page. Thank you so much! For anyone signing up right now for 2026, we will send them the remainder of this year's newsletters, and enroll them in 2026. Tell your friends! Wouldn't that make a nice Christmas gift?

Chris Steiner

President's...cont.

Whistle will make you appreciate Hillbilly Chic's great performance of that tune.

Over the winter, the board will be discussing next year's festivals, and our discussions will involve a lot more than just deciding which bands are best for the NIBGA stage. We'll talk about all things related to the festival and the bluegrass experience. As always, your comments are not only welcomed but encouraged – if you know a board member or captain, please bend their ear! If not, drop us a line using the information or contact form on the About US/Contact page of the NIBGA web site, BluegrassUSA.net. Or call us at (260) 918-4790 to reach the myself or Jim Winger.

Hope to hear from you!

Joe

Over Jordan

Paul Saurborn, 88, of Kouts, Indiana, passed away Thursday, August 14, 2025. We just learned of this during the fall Tri-State Festival and were deeply saddened to hear this. Paul had been a fixture of the festival for many, many years, serving most recently as a Gate Captain. Due to health/family reasons, he had not attended the last few festivals, and he was deeply missed.

Besides his cheerful attitude, I always remember Paul as being the guy that could park anyone's camper slicker than a whistle and who knew how to fix any emergency you had whether it was vehicle problems or grounds maintenance.

Excerpts from Paul's obituary: He was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army, serving as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. He then pursued a career as an independent truck driver. Paul was deeply involved in several organizations. He was a dedicated 50-year Master Mason. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 301 of Kouts. Paul shared his passion for music as a member of the Northern Indiana Blue Grass Association and historical machinery with the Northern Indiana Historical Power Association. He also cultivated a passion for aviation, earning his pilot license and developing into a talented stunt pilot.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on September 27, 2025 from 10:00-12:00 PM at Kosanke Funeral Home 309 S. Main Street, Kouts, with a Masonic Service and American Legion Honors beginning at 12:00 PM.



Upcoming Events

Please check the BluegrassUSA.net website for updates to the events and the jams.

INDIANA

- 1st Sun** Central Ind. BGA jams 307 W South H St, Gas City, IN 46933 317-508-2642
- 1st Thurs** Wakarusa Bluegrass Jambo-ree, Doc Able Pavilion, 116 W. Waterford St, Wakarusa, IN 46573 6:30-9p Free, 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
- 2nd Thurs** Bluegrass Gospel Jam, 2nd Floor Old Bag Factory, 1100 Chicago Ave, Goshen, IN 46526 6:30-9p Bill L: 574-202-5502
- 3rd Fri** Winamac Bluegrass Jam, Knights of Columbus, 340E50N, Winamac, IN 46996 Tom 574-205-2274 7-10p
- 3rd Sat** Mar-Nov - Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, IN 47030 6:30p MetamoraMusic@gmail.com

3rd Sun Northern Ind. Bluegrass jam & meeting, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46809 noon-6p free, acoustic only instruments, food & beverages available. Next jam 10/19

Last Weds. Bluegrass and folk Jam; Davey's Delicious Bagels, 1006 Broadway, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 6-8p 404-960-4210

Last Fri. March-Oct, Metamora Opry Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd, Metamora, IN 47030 6:30p

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

Every Sun. Mouse Trap bar, 5565 N Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-255-3189 8p

10/03 Booze Hounds Bluegrass; Carmel Niemann Harvest Market, 2140 E 116th St, Carmel, IN 46032 6-9p

10/18 Vern McIntyre & Appalachian Grass; Opry Barn, 19189

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

10/18 Booze Hounds Bluegrass; Primeval Brewing, 960 Logan St, Noblesville, IN 46060

10/26 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St., Wabash IN 46992 260-563-1102

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
bobwarner40@gmail.com

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

1st Sat West MI Bluegrass, FOE, 32 E. Lake St, Sand Lake MI 49343 jam 1-3p 269-806-8561

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OHIO

1st Su Farm Pickin', River Saint Joe, 15475 Walton Rd, Buchanan, **MI** 49107 1-3pm

1st & 3rd Mon Library; 7215 Headley St SE UNIT 309, Ada, **MI** 49301 5-7:45p

1st & 3rd Tues Dyer Center, Wayne Westland Education Center, 36745 Marquette, Westland **MI** 48185 acoustic only. 7-9p

1st & 3rd 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 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, Mullins 517-270-2870, Atkins 517-607-9868 6p

3rd Sat West MI Bluegrass, Aiden's Place, 42 E Lake St, Sand Lake, **MI** 49343 989-430-2149 jam 2-4:30p

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

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

10/02-04 Dave Adkins, Kevin Prater, Sammy Adkins, HarbourTown, Tim Coffey, Cedar Creek, Stanley Efaw, more; Backwoods BGF, 4175 Clark Rd, Croswell, **MI** 48422 810-858-7581 \$85 w dry camping

10/10 RFD Boys; The Ark, 316 S. Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 8p

10/16 Lindsay Lou; The Ark, 316 S. Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 8p \$29

10/19 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; Dow Event Center, 303 Johnson St, Saginaw, **MI** 48607 6p 989-759 -1320

10/25 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; Frauenthal Center, 425 W Western Ave, Suite 200, Muskegon, **MI** 49440 231-722-9750

10/26 Dan Tyminski Band; The Ark's 29th Fall Fundraiser, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104 6p

last Mon bluegrass and country jam, Library, 3900 King Rd, Toledo, **OH** 43617 6:15-8:15p

1st Sun Church on the Hill, 1861 Mill St. in Albany, **OH** 45710 (Hosted by Jim & Alan Stack of Rarely Herd) 2-4p

2nd Thu – Richwood Acoustic Jam, First Baptist Church of Richwood. 101 E. Ottawa St. Richwood, **OH** 43344 6-8p

3rd Thu – Open Bluegrass Jam, Thomas Auction Center, 176 S. Main St, Fredericktown, **OH** 43019 740-507-5392 7p

3rd Sat – Jam Central Ohio "Big Jam" Clinton Heights Lutheran Church, 15 Clinton Heights Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43202 11a-5p

3rd Sun Church of the Nazarene, 7951 Tylersville Rd, West Chester, **OH** 45069 937-530-2127 3-5p

Mon – Central Ohio Bluegrass Jam, Summit Music Hall, 2210 Summit Street, Columbus, **OH** 43201 6-9p (8-9 fast jam)

Tues - FOTMC, 1196 Ross Millville Rd, Millville, **OH** 45013 6:30-8:30p 419-568-1220

Tues - Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 OH-66, Oakwood, **OH** 45873 419-594-2816 6p

Tues - Diner-20 jam, 10938 US-20, Lyons, **OH** 43533 5-7p

Wed – Central Ohio Bluegrass, Fraternal Order of Eagles, 3800 Westerville Rd, Columbus, **OH** 43224 6-9p

Thurs Slow Jam, Violet Baptist Church, 8345 Blacklick-Eastern Rd NW, Pickerington, **OH** 43147 614-562-9730 6-8p confirm status, Fstaunton59@gmail.com

Sat - Bluegrass Musicians Supply, 1370 S. High St. Columbus, **OH** 43207 10a-5p

10/03 Peach Mountain Boys; Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 43212, 614-486-4722 7-9p

10/04 Fast Track\ Dale Perry; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 937-767-1767 7p

10/05 Fast Track; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 2p

10/10 Farm Hands, New Mountain Heritage; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 7p

10/11 Tim Shelton Syndicated, Tim Graves & the Farm Hands;

Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p

10/12 Tim Graves & The Farm Hands; Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, 16 S Walnut St, Chillicothe, **OH** 45601 10:45 am

10/16 Red Mountain String Band; Natalie's Grandview, 945 King Ave, Columbus, **OH** 43212 8:30p

10/18 Open Highway; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p

10/18 Daniel Dye; Clifton Opera House, 5 S Clay St, Clifton, **OH** 45316 937-767-1767 6p

10/19 Ramblin' Bluegrass; Combustion Brewing, 2971 North High Street, Columbus, **OH** 3-6 pm

10/21 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; Midland Theatre, 36 N Park Pl, Newark, **OH** 43055

10/22 Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; MGM Northfield Park Casino, 10777 Northfield Rd, Northfield, **OH** 44067 330-908-7625

10/24 Nothin Fancy, Blue Diggity; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 7p

10/24-25 Kevin Prater Band, Dale Ann Bradley, New Outlook, Eagles Acoustic Tribute, Matt Leadbetter, Little Roy & Lizzy Show, Carl Bently, New Mountain Heritage, Carl Bentley Band and more; Howlin Goodtime Pink Out Festival, Howard Johnson Hotel, 1920 Roschman Ave, Lima, **OH** 45804

10/24 Larry Sparks; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p

10/25 Jason Carter Band, Ramblin' Bluegrass; McConnell Arts Center, 777 Evening St, Worthington, **OH** 43085 7-10p

10/31 David Mayfield Parade, Just Plain Grass; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, **OH** 43773 7p

10/31 Echo Valley; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling **OH** 43143 614-323-6938 6p



If you see errors or omissions in this list, please contact us at News@NIBGA.com

Current 2025 (& new 2026) NIBGA Patrons Thank you!

Thank-You to everyone that signed up to be a Patron for 2025 & 2026... YOU are helping to keep bluegrass alive!

Anonymous Families (2) (and 2026)

Evan & Megan Argueta *

Ron Armstead

Randy & Cindy Bellamy *

Wayne Boltz (and 2026)

Steve Carroll

Jim Chilton - new 2026

Jim Clay

Ben & Connie Crofoot *

Verl & Sue Dasher

Dan Denny *

Larry & Karen Donaldson - new 2026

Charles & Jane Downey - new 2026

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Shari Wolf

* **New Patrons** Thank you very much!

Thank
You!



NIBGA activities are made possible in part by Arts United, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

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



October 2025

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