

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, Mar 16, SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46899

President's Corner - Joe Steiner



Well, I keep thinking that festival season must be getting closer, but the weather outside certainly hasn't been supporting that train of thought! We've still got at least a couple months before camping weather is upon us, but that's alright – there are plenty of indoor jam sessions going on, including NIBGA's own jam each month at the Southwest Conservation Club in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Below, you'll see a nice article by member Ron Hathaway explaining how he recently dusted off his guitar and found encouragement at our monthly jam. That concept of welcoming pretty much says it all for our bluegrass community – we've always been welcoming, and we want to share the fun. It takes ALL of us to make a festival, jam session, or other event happen. And, bluegrass and acoustic stringed instruments just seem to naturally make the environment less intimidating to newcomers.

Of course I'm excited about upcoming festivals, especially the Tri-State festivals. But, if you're chomping at the bit to get out of the house and pick (like me), come on out to the NIBGA jam or one of the other indoor jam sessions while you wait out the winter weather. I'll see you there!

Joe

They call it that High "Lonesome" Sound...

I have a face for radio and a voice for silent movies. But, this old introvert decided he had to get out. I saw a Facebook post about a Bluegrass Jam. I decided to be brave and attend.

I took my dusty guitar from the corner of the room. I drove down the long drive and I snuck into the clubhouse. I was so intimidated. I tried to put my chair behind the circle. But the circle just opened to include me. Those to the left and right were friendly. They made sure I had room and was comfortable. They said welcome.

The folks in the circle were a mix of all skill levels. There were a few like me. We could strum the chords as long as we could see the more experienced players.

There were the experienced players. To me, they knew every song. There was no hesitation no matter the selection. I was impressed but less intimidated.

Regardless of the skill level, everyone was involved. I never felt alone or noticed any judgement. All encouraged everyone.

It was the little interactions between songs that hooked me. "It is nice to meet you." "Checkout this App or book for getting song chords and tabs." "I haven't seen that type of capo. What do you think of it?" All were very friendly. Everything was a positive experience.

Again, I am an introvert. But something happened in that circle at my first jam. I found myself singing along with "Will the Circle be Unbroken". I was a part of something great. When I walked in, I didn't

We'll have a great lineup again this year at both the Tri-State festivals, and there will be several bands appearing that are new to our stage

I'm particularly excited about several of those bands, including the **David Mayfield Parade**. Recently signed by Mountain Fever Records, this is a band that has it together in all departments. Although definitely not your cookie cutter type band, they do have plenty of drive. But, they have an energetic approach to the music which steps outside the beaten path a bit.

The group is anchored, of course, by David Mayfield on guitar, who contributes lots of great original material. He's also got a great rapport with the audience – he will keep you laughing while he keeps the show in over-drive. On banjo is Steven Moore, who has contest wins at Winfield, Rocky Grass, and Merlefest (among many others). Ryan Wallen is fiery hot on dobro and also contributes some great original songs. Keith Wallen contributes some top notch mandolin work, and Graham Bell is rock solid on string bass.

But, as great as they are instrumentally, the Parade fields vocals and arrangements which are just as strong. The first time I heard these guys, I was floored by their total command of not just bluegrass, but everything musical and entertaining. I can't wait to see them on the Tri-State stage!

Another group I'm particularly excited about that is new to our stage, is **New Valley Grass**. I say that with my tongue in my cheek, because none of the members of this group are a stranger to our festival, even though this group is recently formed. One thing that will be instantly recognizable is the golden voice of guitar player, Donnie Voiles – I don't think it's a stretch to say his soulful expression is right up there with the bluegrass greats.

Joining Donnie will be Chris Martin on mandolin, who is one of the best part singers in bluegrass. Both Donnie and Chris were previously members of Out of the Blue as well as Echo Valley, the fine group which Donnie headed up for many years.

But what's a bluegrass band without drive? Here comes the best part (at least for a banjo player) – Gene Elkins is the five-driver in this outfit! There aren't too many folks who aren't familiar with Gene, who is well known in the banjo world as the go-to guy for any type of banjo pickin', setup, or accessory question. Rounding out the ensemble is Gene's wife, Deb, on string bass. I think these guys are gonna knock your socks off – I can't wait!

See next month's newsletter for more bands!

Upcoming Events - confirm event status before leaving home

INDIANA

- 1st Sun** mostly Central Ind. BGA jams
Hontz Hall, 307 E South H St, Gas
City, **IN** 46933 765-674-5117
noon-??
- 1st Thurs** Wakarusa Bluegrass Jambo-
ree, Doc Able Pavilion, 116 W. Wa-
terford 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 info: 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
03/15 My Brother's Keeper, 04/12
Boozehounds Bluegrass
- 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.
- 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 5:30P
- Every Sun.** Mouse Trap bar, 5565 N
Keystone Ave, Indianapolis, **IN**
46220 317-255-3189 8p
- 03/14** Mama Said String Band; Duke's
Indy, 2352 S West St, Indianapolis,
IN 46225
- 03/15** My Brother's Keeper; Opry
Barn, 19189 Pennington Rd,
Metamora, **IN** 47030
- 03/16** My Brother's Keeper; Whiskey
City's Liberty Theater, 229 Walnut
St, Lawrenceburg **IN** 47025

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 Sat** West MI Bluegrass, Aiden's
Place, 42 E Lake St, Sand Lake, **MI**
49343 989-430-2149 jam 1-3p
- 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
(between Wayne & Newburg Rd)
acoustic only. 7-9p
- 1st & 3rd Tues** Presbyterian Village
32001 Cherry Hill Road
Westland, **MI** 48135 7-9:30p
Wendy Hause, 313-617-4864
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
snack bar, 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 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
- 4th Sat** Michigan Bluegrass Assoc.,
Armstrong Middle School, 6161
Hopkins Dr., Flint, **MI** 48506

- 6p 810 736-5332
- 03/01** RFD Boys; Ark, 316 S Main St,
Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104
734-761-1800 8p
- 03/15** The Steel Wheels; Ark, 316 S
Main St, Ann Arbor, **MI** 48104
734-761-1800 8p
- 03/29** Schlitz Creek; Music Festival,
Allegan HS Performance Center,
1560 M-40 Hwy, Allegan, **MI** 49010

OHIO

- 1st Sun** Church on the Hill, 1861 Mill
St. in Albany, **OH** 45710 (Hosted by
Jim & Alan Stack) 2-4p
- 2nd Thu** - Richwood Acoustic Jam,
First Baptist Church of Richwood.
101 E. Ottowa 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
(south entrance), 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 event
status, fstaunton59@gmail.com
- Sat** - Bluegrass Musicians Supply,
1370 S. High St. Columbus, **OH**
43207 longest running weekly jam
session! 10a-5p

Continued on next page →

03/01 Dailey & Vincent; People's Bank Theater, 222 Putnam St, Marietta, OH 45750 8p \$32-\$107

03/01 Walhalla Ramblers; Java Central Coffee Roasters, 20 S State St, Westerville, OH 43081 7p

03/01 Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Backyard Taproom, 501 Main St, Hamilton, OH, 7: 10p (Free Admission)

03/03, 10, 17, 24, 31 Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Rib City BBQ, 746 NW Washington Blvd, Hamilton, OH 45013 7p

03/05, 12, 19, 26 Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Vinoklet Winery, 11069 Colerain Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45252 6:30 513-385-9309

03/07 Silas Powell Band, Just Plain Grass; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, OH 43773, 7p

03/08 Blackwater; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143, 614-323-6938 6p

03/14 Rhonda Vincent & The Rage; Methodist Church, Life Center, 207 S. Court St, Marysville, OH 43040, 7 PM, 937-642-4712

03/15 Lincoln Highway; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143, 614-323-6938

03/16 Columbus Bluegrass Review; Combustion Brewery, 80 W. Church St, Pickerington, OH 43147, 614-834-9595, 3-6 PM

03/18 Walhalla Ramblers; Combustion Brewery, 80 W. Church St, Pickerington, OH 43147, 614-834-9595, 3-6p

03/20 The Travelin' McCourys; Ludlow Garage, 342 Ludlow Ave, Cincinnati, OH, 7:30p

03/21 Donna Ulisse, Lincoln Highway Bluegrass; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, OH 43773 7p

03/22 Kaintuck; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143, 614-323-6938

03/22 John Jorgensen Bluegrass Band; Holland Theater, 127 East Columbus Ave, Columbus, OH, 7:30p

03/22 Vern McIntyre's Appalachian Grass; Clifton Opera House, 5 South Clay St, Clifton, OH, 7: 9p

03/23 Deadgrass; Woodlands Tavern, 1200 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-299-4987 5p

03/26 Shadowgrass; Woodlands Tavern, 1200 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-299-4987 7p

03/28 Country Gentlemen Tribute, Junction 144; Pennyroyal Opera House, 139 Fair Ave, Quaker City, OH 43773, 7p

03/29 Open Highway; Sterling Bluegrass Concert, 26 E. Main St., Mt Sterling, OH 43143, 614-323-6938 6pm

03/29 Sam Bush; Woodlands Tavern, 1200 W. Third Ave., Columbus, OH 43212 614-299-4987 7p

President's Corner, cont.

know anyone in the building. By the end, I felt I was among friends. I was not alone.

I left when my fingers couldn't hold down the strings any longer. After packing up, I stayed and listened for a while. It sounded like a group who played together for a long time.

I had a great feeling in my chest driving back out that long drive. For at least a week, I had a new found self-confidence, not in my guitar playing, but in life in general. There are strangers who will welcome me. There are people who take you without judgement. What a feeling. A High "Lonesome" Sound? I respectfully disagree. Bluegrass is a High "Welcoming" Sound. My guitar is going to be less dusty in the future.

~submitted by Rob Hathaway,
Proud NIBGA Member



Over Jordan

Samuel "Sam" Tash, 93, of North Manchester, IN, passed away on January 9, 2025.

Sam retired from Fort Wayne National Bank in 1995. He began performing with Audiences Unlimited in 1988, entertaining at public venues and health care facilities for 33 years. In 1989, he co-founded the Northeast Indiana Banjo Society, which performed numerous concerts until 2016.

Sam was a long term NIBGA member. He attended both our winter meetings and could be seen at our festival. His area events were often in the early newsletters.



Thank-You to everyone that signed up to be a Patron for 2024/25... YOU are helping to keep bluegrass alive in the Tri-State area! I am so thankful for all of the NEW Patrons this year, and for the continuing support of previous Patrons. When you see someone wearing a Patron t-shirt (no matter WHICH year), please tell them "thank you!".

Watch for membership renewal information in the next newsletter. Please consider joining the Patron program and helping to support Bluegrass music in the Tri-State area. See the next page for the list of our current Patron members. Remember to tell them

THANK YOU!



2025 Design - Dobro

Current NIBGA Patrons Thank you very much!

Anonymous Patron 1
Anonymous Patron 2
Ron Armstead
Wayne Boltz
Steve Carroll
Jim Chilton
Jim Clay
Verl & Sue Dasher

Uwe Eickert
Roy & Nancy Fike
Jim & Julie Geise/
 Goldsmith
Keith & Terri Grannis
Mark Hauenstein
William Lake
Jerry & Sioux McLane

Bill Merrill
Anita Moran
Thomas & Donya Rondo
Joe & Chris Steiner
Ron & Sandy Tedford
Stephen Troyer
Visit Noble County
Chris Vogie

Dave & Marianne Vogie
Roger & Jody Vogie
Cathy Voors
Terry & Peggy Wallace
Paul & Barb Welch
Stewart White
Jim & Linda Winger
Shari Wolf

Next NIBGA Jam in Fort Wayne, March 16, 2025



*May your blessings outnumber
the shamrocks that grow,
and may trouble avoid you
wherever you go.*

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



Mar 2025

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