

# The Northern Grass

Steve McCain News Editor

Early  
Summer  
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

May  
2014

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive In The Northern Kentucky

## From The Desk Of Our President

### TIME FOR THE SUMMER FESTIVALS

THE APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL WAS HELD OVER MOTHERS DAY WITH A LOT OF GOOD BLUEGRASS MUSIC. THE WEATHER WASN'T THE BEST, BUT THE BAD WEATHER DIDN'T STOP THE BLUEGRASSERS.

SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVALS AND AT THE 4TH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT WILLIS MUSIC STORE ON MALL ROAD IN FLORENCE FOR THE NKBMA OPEN BLUEGRASS JAM.

MYRNA MURPHY  
PRESIDENT—NKBMA



**NKBMA BOARD  
& ADVISORS  
2014**

Your 2014 NKBMA Board Officers are:

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# **APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL**

## **A GREAT SUCCESS AT CONEY ISLAND**

### **By Ron Simmons**

Mother's Day Weekend had every chance to be a rainy, cold, windy weekend for the Appalachian Festival. That said, we did have a little rain, a good breeze and cool nights with warm days, and lots of sunshine too. If I told you I prayed for that and my prayers were answered, because I did it so convincingly that even God granted my request, you'd probably think I was a little smug. And you would be right! I will tell you though that everyone who has ever put together an outdoor festival, has had that talk with the Ultimate Weather Man. Thank you.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that I have booked the music talent at the festival and I can say with all honesty that I have come to a deep and enduring appreciation for others that do the same thing. I will also say that good musicians and bands seem to understand rather instinctively what an Appalachian Festival is as opposed to an outright Bluegrass Festival. Covering all the bases is not as easy as it would seem. We needed old mountain style classic melodies which Mike Oberst of the Tillers helped me with by bringing in Jean McDowell. I found a group believe it or not through a blind request on the internet from the Zanesville, Ohio area called the Wafarers. These young guys are great and lay down the old time sound as good as any veteran group in the business. One microphone, and a circle of chairs.....hammer down.

My friends from Nightflyer and Blackwater were the local heavy hitters for pure current Bluegrass. These are 2 local groups that if you see them listed to perform, just go, then call me and thank me for the advice. The newest faces were a band called Dry Mill Road. They brought the New Grass into the mix with a subtle blend of tradition that even the purists had to agree they were great.

If I didn't say that Vernon and Kitty were in fine form I would be asleep at the keyboard. The addition of Mike Elliot to that band is just what the doctor ordered. The Rabbit Hash String Band is a local favorite for a reason, like the Tillers, a true tradition at the Appalachian Festival.

I brought in two new groups that are up and coming in the neighborhood, one being the Good'le Boys and the other P's in a Pod. They love to play and mix the Bluegrass with their own versions of popular songs that made a few people say "I didn't know that was Bluegrass". Sorry folks, but the beautiful Irish tunes played by Amy Kuykendall weren't Bluegrass either until they were strained through the cloth of Appalachia and dried out and played by the likes of Kenny Baker and Chubby Wise. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

# **APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL**

## **A GREAT SUCCESS AT CONEY ISLAND**

### **By Ron Simmons**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

There is one more point I want to make very clear after all this patting myself and the bands on the back. I've missed a few names, but they all did well by me and the Appalachian Festival. If this were a 5 day festival, they'd all be back next year. It's not. I must make some decisions to keep the festival fresh, which I have spoken to Gene Thompson, Don Morgan and Gary Strong about. They do understand the problem of having so many friends in the business that they can't hire them all. Hopefully with each year that passes, the best entertainers and musicians will be back on a rotating basis. Without Gene's help MC'ing and Don's help in understanding and discussing my dilemma, I would feel very bad about this job. They have been here and done that, which makes my future endeavors very hopeful thanks to their empathy and advice.

I have to say that the show on Sunday which featured the Comet Bluegrass Allstars, Missy Werner, Steve Bonafel, Ma Crow and many others was as usual a big hit. We call it the Appalachian Gateway Festival Show. If you missed it, you missed the closest thing to The Ryman Auditorium as Cincinnati has. Hannah Sue Cooper did a great job of introducing our guests and she found out she grew up near Randy Barger in separate "hollers" near Hazard. By the way, I recruited Don Morgan right out of the audience to come up and sing a Gospel song, which he did, and proved positively we are a small but mighty group of humanity that loves, sings, and lives the Appalachian Traditions.

I'll conclude with something Randy Barger (i.e. "The Bluegrass Jammin Man") said to me a couple of years ago that I still believe to be true, "You have to grow older, but you don't have to grow up". He didn't write that little homily, but he sure lives it. (God Love Him"! ) I thank him for sharing his love of Bluegrass and his total enthusiasm to entertain anybody that wants to listen.....or doesn't. Here's one for you Randy....."timing isn't everything, but everything has a time"!

Thanks to you and all that were at the Appalachian Festival. See you next year on Mother's Day Weekend.

Ron Simmons

Proudly a member of NKBMA



# NKBMA RECEIVES NON-PROFIT 501(C)3 STATUS

In the fall of 2012 the NKBMA Board began filing for 501(3)c status with the IRS. Past President, Pamela Messer, completed the necessary documentation and it was filed by the Board on December, 31, 2012. Now, more than a year later, we have received our approval for Non-Profit Status from the IRS. This opens many new opportunities and resources for our organization, and we need all the help and support we can get from our membership. Our current abilities are limited, but the brainstorming continues!!! Please join us at our monthly board meeting to learn about plans and ideas for future events. There is an urgent need for volunteers who can commit to helping us utilize our new status to it's full potential.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF NON-PROFIT STATUS?

Charities, foundations, grant funds, educational institutions and faith-based organizations have many purposes, including bettering the community, serving others and helping those in need. Although each of these organizations fulfill different niches, one thing they have in common is they all have primary purposes that do not involve turning profits. Such organizations often organize as nonprofit corporations, typically under the Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3) structure. This affords them several advantages.

**TAX EXEMPT STATUS**—One benefit of registering under IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation status is that it provides an organization with exemption from all local, state and federal taxes. Tax-exempt status allows nonprofit businesses and organizations to devote more money toward their primary missions and goals, rather than paying taxes.

**GOVERNMENT GRANTS**—Another advantage 501(c)(3) organizations have is eligibility for federal and state government grants, most of which are not available to for-profit businesses. Nonprofits may use these grants, which range from emergency shelter awards to scientific research payments, to fund general daily operations, expansion, special projects and new capital purchases. Organizations can apply for these grants online at the federal [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) website, as well as on their state and local government websites.

**DONATIONS**—Entities incorporated as nonprofit organizations can accept monetary and property donations from individuals, businesses and other nonprofits. These donations provide vital cash and equipment for nonprofit organizations, and can greatly aid such organizations in fulfilling their missions and goals.

**CORPORATE BENEFITS**—Although nonprofits are not-for-profit businesses, the IRS still considers them corporations. This status affords owners -- called shareholders -- and offers organizational protection from personal financial or legal liability due to the actions of their nonprofits. This means nonprofit shareholders and officers are not personally liable for judgments, lawsuits or collections stemming from the actions of the organization, and creditors cannot place liens or claims against their personal properties to satisfy the nonprofit corporations' debts.



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Located across from the Florence Mall and next to H.H.Gregg on Mall Road, our Florence Superstore has it all. Store manager Rick Fuchs brings years of service and experience to meet your every need. Our Florence location also features a 24 track digital recording studio and performance center in addition to the Kate Young Music Makers studios and lesson center.

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# LAST CALL TO RE-NEW YOUR NKBMA MEMBERSHIP

The NKBMA would like to remind all 2013 NKBMA members that have not yet renewed their membership for 2014 will be dropped from the membership list at the end of the month of June 2014. We need all of the support we can get to keep the tradition and art of Bluegrass music alive. PLEASE RENEW TODAY!!

FEEES ARE: SINGLE \$12.00  
COUPLE 15.00  
BAND 25.00

## MEETINGS & JAMS

NKBMA Monthly Board Meeting—OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

1st Wed of each month

Willis Music on Mall Rd. Starts at 6:00

Russell Turner Bluegrass Jam

2nd Friday each month

6th and Park Street Newport, Ky.

Contact Russell Turner at [rturn02@zoomtown.com](mailto:rturn02@zoomtown.com)

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday each month

Willis Music - Mall Road Florence, Ky

Contact Rick Fuchs at Willis Music 859-525-6050

NKBMA  
PO Box 133  
Hebron, Ky. 41048

