



Summer
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

August
2017

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Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

The Festival of The Bluegrass

..... A Bucket List Item Collected

Ron Simmons - The 2nd weekend of June is a time I look forward to every year. I was at the Horse Park in Lexington to participate in one of this country's oldest and in my opinion most prestigious Bluegrass Festivals ever. The Cornett family is headed into their 50th year very soon. I have been going there for 16 of those years (and still have a T-shirt from 2002 to prove it.). As a spectator, it is so much fun.

Just in case you are not familiar with the Festival of The Bluegrass, it started in a field, on a hay wagon, with rain, very little comfort accommodations, and no small amount of expectations. Bob and Jean Cornett thought it would be fun. I think the amount of work and surprising 'situations' taught valuable lessons to the family.

Bob Cornett told me a story I found rather interesting if not profoundly funny. Seems they had hired Doc Watson to perform 2 shows but didn't really communicate this to Doc. After he performed his first show, Bob and Jean gave him his check so they wouldn't forget. Doc, being a good performer but not necessarily a savvy businessman thought, 'well, if I've been paid, I must be done'. When he was supposed to do his 2nd show he couldn't be found. The Cornetts' were told he left hours ago. Now just think about that because I will not make any reference to the thought process in a Bluegrass performers mind of that era. Heaven knows once the

seeds have been planted, it's time to put the hoe back in the barn. "Just sayin!"

Bob and Jean were at Meadow Green park some years ago and heard a group called "My Favorite Bluegrass Band". We were performing and having a great time on that venerable stage. Roy Cornett, Bob's grandson, told us that his granddad wanted to talk to me. I still remember that huge shock of gray hair walking toward me in the field outside the parking area. After a kindly handshake, he asked if we would like to perform at the Festival of The Bluegrass. It may seem silly but it took me a few seconds to get the yes out of my dried up throat. Money? Didn't care. Time? Didn't care. Day? Didn't care. All I knew was that after being there years as a spectator, I was going to perform with the band at the FOTBG! I thanked him very kindly and gave Roy all of the info he needed to contact us. We were Barry, Tom, Bud, Mark, and me and we were going to do the biggest show of the band's tenure 65 miles south of the Ohio River. I can't describe the feeling we all had. As for each of us I think we knew what was ahead as far as practice and making sure we were ready in every way. We had a blast and were invited back the next year, but as some of you know, Mark had a previous engagement and eventually Bud and Mark went to pick for their creator. The band is now gone but the moments will never be forgotten. (Continued)



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(From page 1) Some years later I had a phone call from Roy Cornett, who with his wife, Anna Marie, now run the festival. They are the 3rd generation of Cornetts to take charge. I was sitting on my deck with a semi cheap cigar and a drink when Roy asked my opinions concerning festival MCs and who he might use. Now mind you, this is two weeks before the festival when he said, and I quote, "Well, what are you doing that weekend?" I thought about it for a day and decided it was too good an opportunity to pass up. I called Roy back and asked him rather incredulously how much I would have to pay him to do this. He laughed and said, "No, we'll pay you and provide food and a room to stay in for the duration of the festival". Trust me, I didn't even ask how much. I didn't care. All I had to do was make sure everyone there knew they were welcome.

That was 4 years ago. Since then Jean Cornett, Godmother of that festival, has passed away. Her memory and her strict rules of family friendly entertainment and bands with great music made by good people are still being adhered to. The Kentucky Horse Park is clean, lot's of RV space, close parking, swimming pool, Horse Park tours, music education for young people thru the week prior to the show and 3000 of your best friends all enjoying the music and the Cornett hospitality.

Now just so you don't think I forgot to tell you about those "rags" worn by some of the bands, (see photos), here's the scoop....The 'Ragheads' are a group of folks who although rather rowdy at one time are now rather calm because of détente and family considerations. They bestow the sweatbands to groups they especially appreciate for their hard work and good music. The chief rag 'bestower', Sam Carr, is the head honcho at SamJam in Piketon , OH. The SamJam Festival is over Labor Day weekend. Google or Yahoo it. www.samjambluegrass.com (see page 5)

I love to play Bluegrass music, as it is all about the Appalachian mode of lyrics and playing style that lightens my heart and soul. I will say that I have been blessed to introduce some of the finest bands I have ever heard on that 2nd weekend in June and will continue as long as Roy and Anna Marie will have me or the Good Lord needs me more. Those performers have become friends and we talk about our families, mutual acquaintances, instruments, travels and above all the love of being on the stage making music!



IIIrd Tyme Out with Sweatbands at FOTBG



The Ruhks at FOTBG



Kenny Smith and a vintage Martin Guitar



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And of course one of the most important local events was this past Mother's Day weekend.

Appalachian Festival Recap - 49 Coming Up, Headed for 50

I wish this were about my age, but no.....

The Appalachian Festival had another great year with great weather, and to think it was early in May! Coney Island was the sight of yet another wonderful 3 days of crafts, demonstrations of Appalachian tool and textile making, dance, music, historic re-enactments, food, storytelling and just plain fun. The festival program is put on by the Appalachian Community Development Association to gather funds to help those folks and their descendants from Appalachia. We donate to 501c3 groups directly applying for help. They come from all walks of life and strife. We at the ACDA are all volunteers. No board member is paid. Join us if you have the heart.

If you have not been to this event, you have missed the music of Tommy Brown and County Line Grass, Tony Hale and Blackwater, Mike Feagan and the Fiddlegrass Band, Brandon Bankes and the Wayfarers, Chloe

Blain and the Bluebelles, the Rabbit Hash String Band, Tony Holt and the Wildwood Valley Boys, Vernon McIntyre and Appalachian Grass, Steve Bonafel and One Iota, Ed Cunningham and the Comet Bluegrass Allstars, Mike Oberst and the Tillers, etc., etc., etc. What I am trying to say is that this festival is one of the largest festivals in this region featuring local and nationally recognized bands. The cost at \$10 bucks to get in is as good as it gets even for the tightest budgets. I think there is plenty of time to save up for this event and you can bring the kids and grandchildren. They will like it too. It's a family event.

Next year in 2018, the dates are May 11th thru May 13th on Mother's Day Weekend. This will be our 49th year. I have already secured Katy Penn & Jr. Williams and Newtown Band from Lexington, Kentucky. Rick Hayes and NightFlyer, plus Pam Temple with Wild Carrot & Root are coming as well. I'll keep you posted as the acts commit. You keep saving and holding the date.

Ron Simmons - President ACDA

Sun Valley Music Festival - A J Jolly Park - July 8, 2017

Festival Organizer - Jeff 'Pickman' Trauth

The weather was good, the music even better. This year's lineup of talent included The Price Sisters, Stephanie C. Jeter Band, Mikaya Taylor, The Part-Time Gentlemen, Cull Hollow, and the Hartstrings Bluegrass Band.

The Price Sisters, twins Lauren on mandolin, harmony/lead vocals and Leanna on fiddle, lead/harmony vocals, thrilled the crowd with their special familial harmonies and posed for photos and signed autographs.

The Part-Time Gentlemen are from Cincinnati's west side and played an energetic blend of traditional Old Time and Americana music.

Our member band, Cull Hollow provided their unique arrangements of traditional and original music highlighting the melodic banjo skills of Jordan Bennett and the guitar artistry and vocals of Mickey McAdams.

The Hartstrings Bluegrass Band, also a member band, provided the familiar tunes that all of us attending our locals jams are used to hearing from them.

You're getting old when 'getting lucky' means walking into a room and remembering why you're there



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WHEN The WEATHER GETS BAD - Flooding at Rudy Fest

Grayson, KY The 17th annual Rudy Fest Bluegrass Festival in Carter Co., KY was cut short after flash flooding covered the festival grounds with water and mud. Every year the event brings bluegrass lovers from around the country to the Carter Co. Fairgrounds for 4 days of camping and musical fun. However, heavy rains from Tropical Storm Cindy dumped over 4 inches of rain in a 2 hour period early Friday evening causing festival organizers to cancel the remaining scheduled events for the rest of the weekend.

State Senator, Robin Webb, was in attendance and said she wasn't particularly concerned about the forecast at first and other festival goers seemed to feel the same way since the festival had been rained on in years past. Feelings were that this was just another one of those times. Event organizers began announcing from the stage and around the campsites that flash flooding was a possibility and evacuation was suggested. Once they saw that it was going to be a hard rain coming they announced over and over from the stage to get ready for flooding and strongly suggested evacuation.

But, absent a mandatory evacuation order by any law enforcement agency, many refused to leave on their own causing problems for those who tried to evacuate. Vehicles soon blocked the only road out of the area as they became mired in the mud and water. Festival volunteers on the main stage were quoted as saying that the flood waters rose almost 4ft in 15 mins. Making it impossible to get campers, Rvs and vehicles out of harms way. People simply left everything behind and headed for high ground. Some campers floated until they filled with water and sank. Water rose and flooded 5th wheel trailers and RVs. Coolers and furniture floated down the swollen Barrett Creek that flows past the campground.

Tom Bushelman and Pam lost their famous festival couch to the raging waters. Waters rose to the tops of chairs in front of the main stage and stage B was all but swept away.

The Grayson Fire Department and emergency crews used boats and large trucks to rescue people who had been trapped inside their campers and submerged vehicles. The Carter Co. Sheriff Dept. was on hand making saving human lives the priority for the moment and as a consequence lost 3 of their vehicles to mud and flood waters. While no serious injuries or loss of life were apparent, the following story began to circulate:

Two ladies walked into a drainage ditch that was sweeping into a drainage pipe and the swift current took them into the open end of the pipe. 3 volunteers helping with the cleanup saw what had happened and were able to grab one of the women dragging her to safety. The other woman was sucked inside the pipe opening. Someone ran to the other end of the pipe, saw the lady's arm, grabbed her and pulled her out. She wasn't breathing. The rescuer wasn't sure what to do so he simply gave her a huge hug trying to get some of the water out of her lungs. She started breathing again and was loaded into a truck and taken to a local hospital where she was treated and released. She was apparently okay for she made it back to the festival site the next day to begin salvaging her belongings.

The Saturday cleanup crew arrived around 5:30 am and by afternoon the fairgrounds was full of tow trucks working to pull stranded campers, 5th wheels and vehicles from the mud and receding waters. Many didn't get their equipment out of the campgrounds until Monday or Tuesday the next week. The cleanup operation continued all week because the following weekend another event was scheduled for the fairgrounds. Many lost all of their equipment, expensive campers and RVs were ruined, making the loss run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. That no one lost their life was indeed a miracle.





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Aug 31 - Sept 3 Bluegrass Festival Piketon, OH

The SamJam Bluegrass Festival is excited to announce that the Lonesome River Band has been added to this year's show! They will close the festival on Sept 3rd and don't be surprised if Bradley Walker makes an appearance with them! Also on Sunday, there will be a Dave Evans tribute featuring the Evans Brothers and a collection of bluegrass all-stars honoring his iconic music. Additional bands on Sunday include

Almost There and New Again, The Alecia Nugent Band w/Bradley Walker, Steve Dilling & Sideline, and The Seldom Scene.

The SamJam Bluegrass Festival is situated in the picturesque foothills of the Appalachian mountains and is filled with the most familiar names in bluegrass today. Camping w/electric and water hookups are available along with a facility equipped with excellent showers and restrooms.

For a complete look at the 2017 SamJam lineup and directions to the Pike County Fairgrounds go to: www.samjambgrass.com



BIG NAMES IN BLUEGRASS COMING THIS YEAR!

The Moron Brothers will be performing on several occasions from August thru November. Lardo and Burley are fan favorites at Bluegrass Festivals all across the nation and have been entertaining for years with their stories and songs.

Rhonda Vincent & the Rage The Queen of Bluegrass herself will be on stage November 14th. They are the 'most award winning band in Bluegrass' with over 100 awards. Seeing them live from our stage you will be experiencing one of the hottest tickets in any music genre today!

Dailey & Vincent the 'Rockstars of Bluegrass' will be performing on Friday, December 8th as part of their Spirit of Christmas Tour. They have received numerous awards and nominations including: Grammy Nomination for 'Bluegrass Album of the Year', in 2014, three-time IBMA 'Entertainer of the Year' and IBMA Vocal Group of the Year'

Renfro Valley is conveniently located off I-75 exit 62, Mt Vernon, KY. Easy to find and hard to leave! Tickets and show info available at www.renfrovalley.com or call 800-765-7464. In Renfro Valley.....It's all about the Music!





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Grey Fox Annual Report - Once again I was fortunate to accompany Steve Martin as special guests of Mary Doub, the producer of the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival in the Catskill Mtns of NY. Close to Woodstock and the Ashokan Center, this is the fertile crescent of today's bluegrass talent. The Arising Artist Bands that were featured were all phenomenal renewing faith in the belief that the genre will continue in good hands.

But the genre is changing. 4 days of music from 5 stages demonstrated the following trends from new as well as veteran performers. Scruggs style banjo is on the decline and clawhammer increasing. Folk and jazz are having greater influences on set lists as groups blend Americana, roots and bluegrass with more modern sounds. Single mic setups were rare and multiple mic setups are giving way to direct plug in of instruments with only vocals captured by mics. The effects pads on stage for each musician allowing multiple instrument plug-ins were impressive for the artist that is multi-instrumental. And stage monitors are disappearing as in-ear monitors are becoming more prevalent. The sounds from each member of a band are now captured clean with no bleed from adjacent instruments, no feedback from monitors and the resulting quality of the live music is breath-taking.

Bands are adding drums as Bill Monroe did years ago. (Actually Bill Monroe sometimes added electric guitar and piano as well). Bass players are bowing, cellos are being added. When two fiddles, a cello and a standup are all bowing the supporting sound created behind the mando or banjo will send chills down your spine.

The usual bluegrass greats including Bela Fleck, Jerry Douglas, Del McCoury, Balsam Range, Gibson Brothers, Steep Canyon Rangers and many more performed. Each group conducted intimate workshops on low meadow stages when not performing on the high meadow stage. The opportunities to listen to and ask questions is a treat for fans! And of course, the merchandise tent was full of CDs and other items from each band.

While many of the performances were exciting to me, the highlight was Jerry Douglas and Band on the main stage Saturday night. With my VIP pass I was able to sit

on stage, with other notables and watch Jerry perform music from his latest CD to be released this month. 'What If' is the result of, as Jerry puts it....What if a dobro player added horns. His band now consists of a fusion guitar player, a bass player that plucks and bows, a fiddle player with effects pad for multiple sounds, a drummer with full drum set, a sax player and a trumpet player and him playing dobro and lap steel guitar. His hour long show was 90% jazz and left the 3000 people in the audience screaming for more!

The most moving moment came from the Creekside stage as Mike and Ruthy plus the Mammals performed a one hour radio show. Ruthy Unger is the daughter of famed fiddler and songwriter, Jay Unger. They shared my campsite with me the last three days of the festival and I got to sit in on a couple of rehearsals. But when they took the stage and closed their set with Ashokan Farewell it was impossible to keep the tears from forming. Ruthy put together a group including two fiddles, a cello, a 6 string guitar, a 12 string guitar, and grabbed Tony Trischka from the audience. Her tender fiddle ending to the song sent the crowd into total bliss. As she came off the stage she saw my tears and gave me a big hug!

Of note was the weather. Mind you, this is very near the original Woodstock site. Rain is normal sometime during the festival. But this year it rained multiple days, all day. The show went on but the resulting mud was a flashback to the original Woodstock. - *Jerry S.*



REMAINING TRI-STATE FESTIVALS

Kentucky:

Sept 21-23 **Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival**, Vine Grove, KY
For info go to vinegrovebluegrass.com/

Indiana:

Sept 20-23 **Bill Monroe Hall of Fame Uncle Pen Days Festival**, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground For info go to [URL: http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com](http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com)

Kentucky:

Oct 6-8 **KY Wool Festival**, Falmouth, KY
For info go to www.kywoolfest.org

Ohio:



Aug 31-Sept 3 **SamJam Bluegrass Festival**
Pike Co. Fairgrounds, Piketon, OH
info go to www.samjambgrass.com



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A bargain in ad space
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Can design it for you:

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½ Page	\$15.00	\$60.00
Full Page	\$25.00	\$90.00

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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.
Rick Fuchs and staff bring Years of service and experience to meet Your every Musical need.

Our Florence location features a 24 track Digital recording studio and performance Center (seats 200) in addition to the Kate Young Music Makers studios and lesson center
7567 Mall Road
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FUTURE BLUEGRASS SPECIAL EVENTS

There is nothing better than live music. Bring the family, a friend, or grab a neighbor!!



COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

Don't Miss the chance to experience

A live performance from these exciting Professionals!

Saturday, Sept 9, 2017

7:00pm

Devon Johnson and The Midnight Travelers

Yes, that's Trina Emig on the mando!

This is an exciting new group featuring Devon Johnson on guitar, Trina stretching out and showing her talents on the mando, 40 year bluegrass veteran Bill Lykins lighting the banjo on fire and providing the lead vocals, and Brian Saxton on the upright providing intense bass runs and beat that enhance the driving energy of the group.



This event is a must for all music fans. Willis Music doors open at 6:30pm. Seating is limited so get there early. For more details: call Gene Thompson(859)689-7431 \$10 Donation at the Door

NKBMA member bands are some of the best in the area. To see more information about any of our member bands go to www.NKBMA.com and click on 'Member Bands'. We provide links to their websites and contact information for your ease in finding the best entertainment in the area. What....you're band isn't listed?? Becoming a member band is easy. Contact jerry@NKBMA.com





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COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

Don't Miss the chance to experience

A live performance from these exciting Professionals!

**Saturday, October 14,
2017**

7:00pm

**Michelle Canning
Band**

Hailing from the New England region, the Band features hard-driving bluegrass tunes, soulful ballads, honky-tonk country music and original material. Recognized for her vibrant stage presence, Michelle Canning plays primarily banjo but performs on a variety of instruments including the guitar and bass and provides lead and harmony vocals. A graduate of Morehead State University's Kentucky Center for Traditional Music, Canning fronts her own Bluegrass Band.



This will be a special live event you don't want to miss. Willis Music auditorium, Florence, KY

For more details call:

Gene Thompson(859)689-7431

\$10 Donation at the Door

theSoundWorkshop

RECORDING STUDIO

Located within **Willis Music** on Mall Road in Florence, KY. Contact Rick Hopkins for all your recording needs at:

(513)607-9855 or visit their website at:

www.soundworkshop.net

The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T. Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis and he stayed drunk!



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JAMS



MONDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS JAM
STARTS AT 8 PM

MOLLY MALONE'S

Irish Pub & Restaurant
Covington, Kentucky
www.mollymalonesirishpub.com

JOIN IN OR LISTEN TO SOME OF THE AREA'S FINEST IN FRONT OF OUR FIRST FLOOR FIREPLACE. FULL MENU AND \$2 BULLEIT SPECIALS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

112 E. 4th Street, Covington, KY 41011

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS JAM
STARTS AT 8 PM

MOLLY MALONE'S

Irish Pub & Restaurant
Pleasant Ridge, Ohio
www.mollymalonesirishpub.com

JOIN IN OR LISTEN TO SOME OF THE AREAS FINEST BLUEGRASS MUSIC. FULL MENU AND FAVORITE BEVERAGES

6111 MONTGOMERY ROAD

Hebron Gospel Jam

3rd Friday of each month - 6:00pm
Hebron Lodge, Hart Dr., Hebron, KY
Enjoy great gospel music, bring your Acoustic instruments or come to listen and enjoy. Different food surprise each Month. Call Gene for info(859)689-7431

Russell Turner Bluegrass Jams

2nd Friday of each month
5th and Park St, Newport, KY
6pm to 10pm year round
With Pot Luck and \$6 donation
Contact Russell Turner at:
rturn02@zoomtown.com

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday of each month - Main Stage
Open Mic Fun! Backroom Jammin'
6pm to 9pm Willis Music on Mall Rd,
Florence, KY Come and play or listen.
\$2 donation at the door
Contact Rick Fuchs (859)525-6050
Or Gene Thompson (859)689-7431



Camp Springs Tavern, 7009 Stonehouse Rd., Melbourne, KY 41059



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Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

Go to www.nkbma.com for all the latest news, special events, concert schedules, jams, and photos.

Plus our own Facebook Page



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/nkbma

Want to be part of our Event Reminder Network? Send your current email address to Jerry@NKBMA.com

End of Summer Picnic and Jam September 10th 1:00 - 5:00 pm

**Sid's Red Barn, 9626 Decoursey Pike, Ryland Hgts.
Spaghetti/Meat Ball Dinner, Garlic Bread, Soft Drinks
Bring a Covered Dish or Dessert and Your Instrument
Donation at the Door Appreciated**

Board nominations will be taken at October 27th Willis Jam. Please consider running for the Board. Elections will be held at the November 24th 'Turkey Jam'.

Or VOLUNTEER to HELP us support Bluegrass Music in the Northern Kentucky Area. See a Board member at the next Jam. If you haven't already, please send in your annual membership dues to the NKBMA, remain a member in good standing and be part of the team helping keep Bluegrass music alive in the area. Member bands are listed on our website with links to their websites and member band event schedules when provided are added to our NKBMA website/Facebook calendars.

Send payment (\$12 Single, \$15 Couple, \$25 Band) plus name, mailing address and your current email address to:

**Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association
P.O. Box 133**

Hebron, Kentucky 41048

The Future of the
Organization, Events
and Jams Depend Upon
YOUR SUPPORT!



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2017 Bluegrass Festival Recaps

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End of Summer Picnic and More

Pick up an instrument

And Make Some Music!