



Summer
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

August
2021

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Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

WELCOME BACK BLUEGRASS MUSIC!

Welcome back to the world of bluegrass music and interaction with other folks. Some people may look and sound better with masks on but by and large, I think we are all glad to be back to the old normal. New normal was just too weird. Our august organization is based almost entirely on the gathering of musicians and fans which was mighty hard to do when gatherings were mostly banned for the last year. Most outdoor bluegrass festivals were shut down with the ever changing news landscape and, not knowing what next week might bring. A couple of festivals happened throughout Kentucky as it looked like we were breaking through the crisis and they all managed to do so without spreading anything but good cheer and music. Our local jams are mostly back in full swing, with perhaps even more jams happening on a regular basis than pre-pandemic. However, our major 4th Friday NKBMA jam at Willis music will not return with corporate concerns and modified store hours but we hope to be able to replace it with something like it very soon. That was the only NKBMA jam that contributed to the financial necessities of our small club helping to pay for liability insurance, our PO box, newsletter mailings, our domain name and website costs and the big salary I get (just kidding there).

Your membership dues and random generous donations are the other sources of income that we have available. This year's membership drive is very late but no less important and I hope that you will consider renewing your

membership at the next jam you are at, or even send your renewal in to the address in this newsletter. Membership rates and information are on page 7. For those of you with bands, I will mention that a gentleman called me up this week looking for a bluegrass band for an event he was planning. I was able to direct him to our website to peruse member bands and contact one of his choosing. A band membership includes membership for up to 5 people and will certainly be the most inexpensive way to get your band out there in front of people while supporting our efforts at the same time.

Part of the NKBMA mission statement is to promote bluegrass music among the young people and we have awarded scholarships to students in several college level bluegrass programs. My wife (the former Mrs. President) and I have spent time with all of these kids for nearly a decade now and watched them become movers and shakers in the music world, garnering Grammy nominations, IBMA awards, and mentoring in their own right. You can pat yourselves on the back for helping to add a little momentum to the careers of these fine young musicians and we hope to continue this tradition. I remember watching scholarship winner Andy Hunt wander around the JD Crowe festival with his banjo, playing along with whatever was happening on the stage or nearby jam almost without thinking about it in any key, as easy as walking and breathing. (Con't next page)



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Another recipient, Seth Moulder had not played a dobro before and at the Osborne Brothers festival, he tried mine out and in very short order, was playing like Josh Graves. Much closer to home, NKBMA Scholarship recipient Kendall Potter started playing banjo as quietly as she could at our local jams and now comes home from bluegrass college to still play at the Masonic Lodge in Hebron as quite an addition to a jam at any level and bless her for sometimes bringing other students with her.

Get out and pick, reconnect, buy a new instrument, and enjoy all things bluegrass in the bluegrass state. Please renew your membership and if you would like to be more involved; any help would be welcome. Start a new jam, visit old ones, and, in the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, tell colorful stories even if you have to deviate from the truth, laugh often and love much.

Tom Bushelman Jr., *President NKBMA*

BLUEGRASS FESTIVALS

Since I last put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) I have been to Bluegrass in the Bluegrass which is an indoor winter festival at what was formerly the Red Slipper Lounge where JD Crowe made such a mark through the early part of the 1970s and to which he attended the inaugural festival. It was a fantastic event with plenty of great music and lots of jams in rooms that reminded me of IBMA or SPBGMA. There were people in overalls talking about instruments and horses and much to my own dismay, a growing trend of “man-hugs”. I have never been much of a hugger but what can you do when an old picking friend comes up and enthusiastically wraps his arms around you. There were short haired hippies and long haired Marines and the crowd was hollering like Jerry Clower. The Caleb Daugherty band had a 22nd anniversary song dedication on February 29th..... Do you think the groom picked that date for a wedding? He would only have to remember his anniversary once every four years. At the Sideline merchandise table, their bus driver with a Sam Elliott moustache was wearing an old beat up western hat that we talked about. Turns out to be the same type of hat Augustus McCray wore in Lonesome Dove. I said I had heard it was a pretty good movie at which point I was stopped cold and told in no uncertain terms that it was the best western movie ever made, period. I was then invited to get on the tour bus with the band which was heading to California that night and the nine hour ‘Dove’ movie would most certainly be playing for my educational benefit.

Early August 2020 brought on the Colt Adams Memorial CAMfest at Mandolin Farm where I witnessed one of the most touching moments I have ever seen. We arrived early, unloaded the Gator from the back of the horse trailer and set up home for the next four days. Then we toured the extensive campground roads with the Gator seeing what there was to be seen. Finally, we come to a stretch of road that must have had 50 or 75 side-by-sides all lined up on both sides of the road like a military formation. At the end of the line, we saw someone we knew and asked what was going on. Apparently Vic Adams’ (one of the festival promoters) Dad had been ill for some time but was insistent on coming to the festival, no matter how he came off that hill. He joined Monroe and Scruggs and the other past greats right there at CAMfest in an RV at a bluegrass festival and I can’t think of a better way to go. The funeral home brought him out of there and as the hearse passed the line of side-by-sides, they pulled out from each side in perfect formation, weaving together into a long tribute line of bluegrass music fans and followed that hearse for about a mile out of there and I have never been more proud to be a part of something. I am not a sentimental person by nature but that was one of the most moving things I have ever seen, on par with presidential funerals with the riderless horse with boots backward in the stirrups. The festival went on with many fans sitting in their side-by-sides assuring tight gatherings were minimized and again, nary a sneeze or sniffle was reported. I did have some of the finest frog legs from one of the vendors there. My only regret was that I only had so much room in my stomach because the food was fantastic.

Labor Day brought on the 4th annual Sam Jam festival in Piketon Ohio. Sammy Karr manages to bring in a heck of a lineup every year and I heartily recommend this one to everyone. We no longer carry the famous festival couch to sit in comfort in front of the stage after the death of two couches but we still had great seats right near the front. Here is the tip of the day for you festival goers: *Show up early to get your chairs up front.* Even with that, we spent a fair amount of time sitting in the Gator, socially distancing which is the best thing that could happen to a non-hugger like myself. Everything is outside at a festival which had been declared the safest place to be. I watched Junior Sisk absolutely nail ‘Rounder at 21’ and ever since then, I have driven my wife crazy watching every video made of that song. It is way outside my vocal skills but Dave Evans really wrote a hit with that one and it just sticks with me.



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Sideline broke out their new hit ‘Thunder Dan’ which drove the crowd crazy. Great tune, everybody singing along and dancing, just a great vibe. Then a former band member came up on stage to do some songs with them and also did ‘Thunder Dan’, again, because the crowd was chanting for it. Before the night was out, they did that song six times at the insistence of the crowd which went wild every single time. It was pretty awesome to be part of it. Some close friends camped near us and I got put in charge of cooking the steaks one night which no sober person would ever approve. I am not a cook, but I did my best. I cooked those steaks exactly the way my Dad used to and that meant turning the heat all the way up and when the smoke alarm went off, they were done. That is a true story and it seems to generate a perfect medium rare steak every time, the festival steaks being no exception and as a bonus, I know the smoke alarm works in the horse trailer.

The final festival for 2020 was an inaugural kickoff at Mandolin Farms of Boo Grass which included a costume party and best decorated Halloween campsite. There were some dandies there for sure. The weather turned out to be very nice for almost November and we got a campsite within sight of the stage. Sadly, the frog leg people either were not there or all of the slow frogs had already been caught. The music was again fantastic and more fun was had than should be legally allowed. We took our ancient Great Pyrenees dog with us and he rode around in the back of the Gator on a dog bed. While we watched the show, he would nap which is his favorite sport. More than once, people came up from behind us to ask if he was ok because they weren’t sure he was still breathing. He is very good at relaxing. At our campsite, we had a Halloween graveyard set up with headstones and skeletons and that old dog limped his way into the graveyard and sprawled out like he was dead. Great addition even though we didn’t win. That old dog by the way, still rides around in my truck every day going to work with me.

2021 has already brought festivals including some new ones for me and some new instrument acquisitions,

and a book of all of my Dad’s instrument builds to come out in the next newsletter. Stay tuned and pick on.
Tom Bushelman Jr.



NKBMA Scholarship Recipient Seth Mulder



Great Pyrenees dog on back of Gator

NKBMA Board of Directors for 2021:

President - Tom Bushelman
 Vice President - Rick Crawford
 Treasurer - Myrna Murphy
 Secretary - Jerry Schrepfer

Members at Large:
 Pam Bushelman
 Ron Simmons
 Gene Thompson
 Kathy Wolfe, Steve Wolfe



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2021 WORLD OF BLUEGRASS Nominations:

Entertainer of the Year

- Balsam Range
- Billy Strings
- Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
- The Del McCoury Band
- The Po' Ramblin' Boys

Vocal Group of the Year

- Darrin & Brooke Aldridge
- Balsam Range
- Blue Highway
- Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver
- Sister Sadie

New Artist of the Year

- Appalachian Road Show
- Carolina Blue
- Gina Furtado Project
- High Fidelity
- Merle Monroe

Instrumental Group of the Year

- Appalachian Road Show
- Billy Strings
- Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper
- The Infamous Stringdusters
- The Travelin' McCourys

Male Vocalist of the Year

- Ronnie Bowman
- Del McCoury
- Danny Paisley
- Junior Sisk
- Larry Sparks

Female Vocalist of the Year

- Brooke Aldridge
- Dale Ann Bradley
- Sierra Hull
- Molly Tuttle
- Rhonda Vincent

Banjo Player of the Year

- Gena Britt
- Gina Furtado
- Rob McCoury
- Kristin Scott Benson
- Scott Vestal

Bass Player of the Year

- Mike Bub
- Todd Phillips
- Missy Raines
- Mark Schatz
- Marshall Wilborn

Fiddle Player of the Year

- Jason Carter
- Michael Cleveland
- Stuart Duncan
- Bronwyn Keith-Hynes
- Deanie Richardson

Reso-Guitar Player of the Year

- Jerry Douglas
- Andy Hall
- Rob Ickes
- Phil Leadbetter
- Justin Moses

Guitar Player of the Year

- Trey Hensley
- Billy Strings
- Bryan Sutton
- Molly Tuttle
- Jake Workman



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THE APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL IS ON FOR 2022

Who were those masked men, women and children?

The festival that was so ready to present the next edition in a long series of Cincinnati festivities was extinguished by a virus that set everyone back almost as far as the Spanish flu. What a relief that the virus is tapering down...even if slowly and with a very resistant variation on a theme. Good Riddance!

The Appalachian Festival Committee has decided to go back to Coney Island again, but for a 2 day 'restart festival' and make it better than ever. Once again it will be on Mother's Day Weekend, May 8th and 9th of 2022. The days of having 2000 school children on a Friday morning are over. Schools can't afford it and the resistance to people mixing like the old days is not in good standing yet.

That said, I, along with my newest help and advice compatriot, Jerry Schrepfer have spent hours trying to iron out the who, what, when, why and where for the musical entertainment next year. We are pretty sure at this point that we will feature two of the most sought-after groups, the 'Po Ramblin Boys' and 'Joe Mullins and the Radio Ramblers'. Headliners like that ought to be enough to get anyone off the couch to come out and party with us, but we aren't stopping there. When we have all the details sewed up, we will be back to you with more information and a full schedule. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for next May 8th and 9th for a great Appalachian Festival including square dancing & clogging, storytelling, crafts, food, Native American Campers and demonstrations, jamming, the Big Show featuring the Comet Allstars and a very popular event with Artie Werner and the 'Art of the Jam' pickers and singers. Stay tuned for more news!

Ron Simmons

STATUS OF LOCAL JAMS:

Jams are starting back up around the area. Here are a few that we have been made aware of. If you know of more, drop us a note at nkbma.com/contact-us.html

Hebron Jam at the Lodge 1st Friday of the month 6-10pm, \$3 donation, snacks, beverages, food available. Hart Dr, Hebron, KY. For info: Gene at 859-689-7431

Newport Lodge jams, 2nd Friday of the month, 6-10pm \$6 donation, potluck dinner. 5th and Park, Newport, KY For info contact Russel at russturner22@gmail.com

Hebron Gospel Jam 3rd Friday of the month 6-10pm, \$3 donation, snacks, beverages, food available. Hart Dr, Hebron, KY For info: Gene at 859-689-7431

Camp Springs Tavern, last Saturday of the month, 6-10pm 7009 Stonehouse Rd, Melbourne, KY, favorite libations available. Details at campspringstavern.com

Molly Malone's Monday Night Jams, 7pm, 4th and Court St., Covington, KY. Food and beverages available

Augusta Pub Bluegrass Jams, 3rd Sunday of the month, 1:30-4:30pm, 120 Main St, Augusta, KY 41002

"Old Time Jam", Bean & Barley in O'Bryonville, every Sunday. Celebrate traditional music from Appalachia.

Old Time Fiddler's Jam, 2nd Sunday of the month, 1-4:30pm, Whitewater Community Center, 6125 Dry Fork Rd, Cleves, OH. All acoustic only.

Old Time Music Co. Jam, every Tuesday 7-9pm. Famous Old Time Music Co, 1196 Ross Millville Rd, Hamilton OH.

**HOPEFUL CHURCH
BLUEGRASS JAM**
6:30 TO 8:30PM
3rd Wednesday
of the Month
6430 Hopeful Church Rd
Florence, KY 41042
No donation required

Because local health guidelines may change, we recommend that you check the local venue via contact information to ensure that the jam is actually happening.



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2021 NKBMA END OF SUMMER PICNIC & BLUEGRASS JAM

DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
TIME: 2:00—5:00 P.M.
LOCATION: HEBRON CHURCH OF CHRIST
2966 DEMASCUS ROAD
HEBRON, KY

The church has plenty of parking and multiple jam rooms inside, plus a full sound setup in the sanctuary for lots of jamming music fun!

Bring the family or a neighbor! Come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and music! Rain or shine—the weather will be no problem! Donations at the door are appreciated.



PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESERT TO SHARE!

- NKBMA IS PROVIDING:**
- BURGERS
 - HOT DOGS
 - BUNS
 - CONDIMENTS
 - SOFT DRINKS/WATER
 - ICE

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU

THE HUMOR CORNER

Church Bulletin Bloopers: “The Fasting and Prayer Conference will include meals this year”
“This morning’s sermon: Jesus Walks on the Water; tonight’s sermon: Searching for Jesus” “Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands”
“Don’t let worry kill you off - let the Church help.” “For those of you who have children and don’t know it....we have a nursery downstairs” “Next Thursday will be choir tryouts....they need all the help they can get” “A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.” “Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm - prayer and **medication** will follow.” And finally, the topper....”The Ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement of the Church on Friday afternoon!”



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Updated NKBMA website now Apple Compatible

Go to www.nkbma.com for all the latest news, special events, concert schedules and jams plus our huge archive of old photos and past Northern Grass issues.

Plus our own Facebook Page www.facebook.com/nkbma

Visit the page whether you have a Facebook account or not and see photos from past events and the latest event schedules

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

JOIN the TEAM for 2021. Please send your annual membership dues to the NKBMA , remain a member in good standing and help keep Bluegrass music alive in the area. Membership benefits:

- ** Bands are listed on our website with links to their websites.**
- ** Musical Scholarships to acoustic Instrument students**
- ** Weekly Jams supported around the area**
- ** Annual picnic and Turkey Jam and Christmas Dinner**
- ** Quarterly Newsletters like this one mailed to members**
- ** Email notification/reminder network for events**

Your membership fees help pay for our liability insurance, our PO Box, our website and domain name, and the costs of publishing this newsletter, music scholarships and more. *Renewals between now and the picnic will be good thru January 2023.* Send your name, mailing address, current email address and payment to:

**Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association
P.O. Box 133
Hebron, Kentucky 41048**

(current rates: \$15 Single, \$20 Couple, \$25 Band)

Join the team for 2021, become a Board Member or Volunteer. Enrollment forms also available at www.nkbma.com

The FUTURE of the ORGANIZATION Depends Upon YOU

NEW NKBMA APPAREL NOW AVAILABLE

Product looks great and is going fast! And we now have a variety of items in a variety of sizes and colors to make you the fashion talk of any group, jam or gathering. Here is a listing of items available:

| | |
|---|------------|
| T-SHIRTS, sizes Large to 3x, 3 colors | \$15.00 ea |
| POLO SHIRTS, sizes L to 3x, 2 colors | \$25.00 ea |
| CREW SWEATSHIRTS, Large to 3x | \$20.00 ea |
| Zipper Front HOODIES, Large to 3x | \$30.00 ea |
| BALL CAPS , 2 colors | \$10.00 ea |

Be sure to check the items out at the next Hebron Jam

Address Label

NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, KY 41048



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Welcome Back Bluegrass

Festival Stories/News

Jam Statuses

End of Summer Picnic

**Pick up an instrument
And Mentor Someone!**

