

Summer
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

August
2018

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

FESTIVAL RECAPS and MORE!

**In This
Edition**



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50 Years of A Festival and A Marriage

The Appalachian Festival just passed successfully thru it's 49th year May of 2018 featuring regional bands, Appalachian way-of-life displays and craft workshops. I am president of the Appalachian Community Development Association, which sponsors the Festival. That means I call meetings to order and then try to control the disorder. As the festival approaches year 50 it is much like being married for 50 years, which is also happening simultaneously.

When all things are considered, I suppose there were, as always, things I could have done better. That is part of the opinion process which most of us are bombarded with.

I am trying to figure out the best way to celebrate both occasions and am coming to the conclusion that doing what has been done for all of those years is probably the wisest thing. Let's face it folks, making too many changes after 50 years is a shot in the dark. My wife and I have made the worst and best situations just another part of life. We roll with the punches and swing back

when we think it will do some good.

Festivals are a little that way, too. People come and go within the planning organization, all with opinions and good intentions. However, once into a reasonable routine, don't change too much or "opinions" will become more important than reality. When is the last time someone in your family or outside your circle of friends (or detractors) told you how to change your life after 50 years and make it better? Every day, right? Opinions are just one of the things we all have in common, so I am told.

We'll tweak the Festival somewhat and I'll tell my wife I love her a few more times. Other than that, I don't have a clue yet how we will glorify either event. I will weigh my experience with both against the opinions of those that know better than me about what I should do on both counts. Thank God I have developed selective hearing, which my wife is used to and the board has come to expect. Everyone has a golden suggestion. Me too. Know what I mean?

Ron Simmons - Bass'ically Bluegrass

For more Festival news, turn page...



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MORE APPALACHIAN FESTIVAL!

The 49th Appalachian Festival

“SATURDAY JAM STAGE”

On May 12th I was honored to host the second year of “Artie’s Big Appalachian Festival Jam”, an all-day, on-stage jam session during the 49th Appalachian Festival at Old Coney, situated on the Up Close and Personal stage.

The idea came from Ron Simmons who approached me last year and requested that I host the event. I knew what fun this could be and immediately seized the opportunity. The 2017 session proved quite successful so we increased the number of performers for 2018 and extended the event from 6 to 8 hours.

While many of the musicians on site that day have or are currently performing together in bands, there were no rehearsals for this show. Each song was chosen at random as we progressed throughout the day, rotating fourteen scheduled players on and off the stage for an eight hour marathon jam session. I tried to arrange the schedule to allow each musician the opportunity to perform with all participants, a challenge since we could only fit six players on the stage at one time. From my point of view we were taking part in a big family reunion and I wanted everyone to have a chance to visit each other through a microphone. Additional performers were also added when they stopped by.

Steve Bonafel kicked off the show singing some of his original tunes and we began adding a musician every few minutes until the stage was full. When the time came for someone to take a breather another player would step in to fill that spot on stage. We had a lot of fun and the audience (standing room only at times) seemed to really enjoy the spontaneity of the songs, the stories, and laughter echoing from the stage.

Our schedule of entertainers for the day included Steve Bonafel, Jeff Roberts, Brad Meinerding, Suzanna Barnes, Will Kimble, Ed Cunningham, Brandt Smith, Gil Benson, Shawn Brock, Shane Gosney, Missy Werner, Bubba Griffith, Chris Hill, and myself. These fantastic players (many of whom are multi-instrumentalists) made my job easy. I played bass and emceed while immensely enjoying them display their talents. These individuals represent some quality bands from around the area: Feller and Hill, The Comet Bluegrass All-Stars, The Missy Werner Band, Bluegrass Still, Rivertown Darby, Shotgun Holler, Blackwater, and Steve Bonafel and One Iota. Please keep an eye on their calendars and attend a show whenever possible.



Artie’s Jam Stage with artists including young Sonya Moomaw on Cello. Check video link below

The additional, walk-on performers were also outstanding. Randy Barger gave us a nice rendition of an original tune. Then came Scott and Katie James known as NKBMA member band Kornerstone. Scott plays fiddle with a unique style, seated while playing with his fiddle standing on his leg and Katie possesses a wonderful voice. Jack Bullock was there with his dobro. Brenda Wolfersberger stopped by for some tunes and provided me an extra few minutes relief on the bass. She had performed earlier on the Dulcimer Stage with a group of young fiddle students directed by Vince Phelan. Also joining us during the day were two 7 year old young ladies. First, from the young fiddle show was Areli Haught, who demonstrated that she is on the way to becoming a talented musician. Next was cellist Sonya Moomaw. She is a very gifted young performer and if you think that a cello (hers was half size) has no place in Bluegrass, listen for a few minutes and she just might change your point of view! Click the link below to view and listen to her performance. It is truly a joy to witness young artists carrying on the tradition.

Many thanks to all of the terrific musicians who joined me, to Ron Simmons for the idea, and to the ACDA for a wonderful Appalachian Festival weekend. We hope to return for the 50th anniversary next year and look forward to seeing you there. - Artie Werner

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=KxkO1xAzJs8&feature=youtu.be&list=PLF8r-HnFfApthvhU0VtSWkRSmPY8ZReeD>



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HAPPY SUMMER!

We hope everyone is having a safe and enjoyable season! I know we are! We are still getting back into the swing of festival hopping after the many years of construction, reconstruction and Tom's set-back last year, but we're on our way! Right now, we're on the Raghead tour and having a big time!

RUDYFEST



After last year's disastrous flood at RudyFest the promoters decided to move this festival to Poppy Mountain and, despite the rain, RudyFest was not a washout this year! Vic, Rudy and the entire team were on hand to meet every need - as always! These guys go out of their way to help in any and every way possible to enhance and continue this festival.

FIRST - Yes it rained. It always rains at RudyFest, but the new venue on Poppy Mountain is a beautiful location and NOT in a flood zone. The campground was wonderful and, being on a mountain, was not a mud pit as it had been in past years. When the rain came, the bands performed in the barn which also housed a very eclectic mix of antiques from signs to bicycles. There was also a showcase stage and some amazing groups played after hours. We were camped right outside the door of the barn and could see the showcase stage and listen to these groups from the comfort of our own 'front porch'. What a great way to end the evening after the headliners have gone and you still want to hear some great bluegrass.

SECOND - The lineup for this festival is always top notch! You can check out the lineup at <http://www.rudymfest.com/2018-line-up.php> The Lonesome River Band had a reunion with Ronnie Bowman, Don Rigsby and Kenny Smith. Ronnie

Bowman was not feeling well at all, but still brought his A-game for an outstanding performance! Everything was top of the line - rain or shine!!! (I want credit for this new phase!) We've also heard that J.D. Crowe will be performing at RudyFest 2019! We can't wait and have already booked our camping spot! If you have never been or haven't gone to RudyFest in awhile - you need to get there in 2019!

THIRD - Wow! We have to thank Rudy, Vic and his team for all their help. We were trying to sell our tickets for the NKBMA Martin Guitar raffle and Vic made sure that the emcee announced our efforts at each break. He also let us set up a tent next to the vendor booths. Between our own travels around the camp ground and the tent setup we managed to sell \$650 worth of tickets at that festival and we can't thank them enough for their support!

FOURTH - BLUEGRASS FAMILIES! We look forward to festivals not just for the music, but also because we love to catch up with our bluegrass families. We stay in Bentleyville with Cindy and Marty Bentley and a slew of other friends. Cindy and Marty both are amazing cooks and they're determined to feed the masses! We also get to see Leon and Elaine from Stage B, Sarah Smith from Sallygap, Sammy Karr from SamJam with the Raghead family and Marty and Mo-Jo from right here in Northern Kentucky. We always have lots to share, lots of laughs and great times with even better friends.

FIFTH - New Talent - Doesn't it just make you jealous sometimes when you meet someone who can play any instrument you put in their hands? Well, this year we met Ashlyn Smith, a 9-year old from Louisville. She won the 13 and under flat picking championship this year and her grandpa brought her by to play some for us. Ashlyn has been playing on stage since she was 5 years old and has played with Nathan Stanley, Ralph II, Little Roy and Lizzie, Bluegrass 101, Josh Williams, Rhonda Vincent and Larry Cordle just to name a few. She was also gearing up to perform with Rhonda Vincent at the Ryman for a show on July 19th. I'm sure it went well! Click here to view a quick video of Ashlyn playing for us and you'll see what I mean about being jealous - she doesn't even have to look!!! Great job and good luck Ashlyn! Thank you Rudy, Vic and everyone for another great time - rain or shine! - *Pamela Bushelman - President*



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NEW FESTIVAL Heating Up Northern KY



A J Jolly Park, Campbell Co. KY

The air was hot and the strings were hotter in late July at the 2018 Sun Valley Bluegrass Festival. This festival continues to grow with a Friday night kickoff jam and a full slate of bluegrass performances on Saturday, 2018 marked the fourth year for our celebration of bluegrass music and culture here in the northern corner of our state of Kentucky.

The Friday night kickoff jam (photo montage below) got underway in the shady grove of trees stage left. It was well attended and we picked well into the night - even after the "lights" had gone out. A couple dozen pickers and some listeners reeled off some standards, and some little know tunes. Vanessa Cassat, Rick Crawford, John Young (The Usual Suspects) along with Jerry Schrepfer, Trina Emig, Luther Hensley, and others had an excellent time getting a lake breeze and singin' tunes. What a great night to pick next to the big lake with the lights of boats and campfires in the distance.

Saturday morning saw the tents going up, vendors popping up their tents and the smell of smoke from the barbecue pits. Fueled by some KY coffee we set up our tents and lights and put about 100 bottles of water on ice. Pat Douglas of Independence, our stage manager, brought

his camper for a place to cool off and do some costume changes.

Soon enough, the reason we all were there...the music! The lineup just keeps getting better and better and this year we were lucky enough to start things off with the Old Timey sounds of the Part-Time Gentlemen featuring the gripping vocals of TJ Male and some fine instrumentals. NKBMA member band, Cull Hollow took the stage with their unique duo stylings of banjo and guitar. Then things got serious.



Part-Time Gentlemen take the stage

Tweed Donaho is well known in NKY Bluegrass circles. But the performance by Tweed, Marty, and Danny Davis (a Stanley Brothers alum) was amazing. Closing your eyes you'd think you were at a Stanley Brothers show. Do not doubt it, the harmonies were great!

Then it was time for a short breather and time for some local talent to entertain. 'Singing-for-their-supper', Vanessa Cassat, Steve McDaniel and Pat Douglas





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entertained the crowd with some solid impromptu bluegrass tunes. Also, local performer Elton Pressley performed his unique rendition of Mule Skinner Blues/Man of Constant Sorrow. Yeah!

The night continued with performances by Curnie Lee Wilson and Rick Oldfield featuring Steve Sparkman on banjo. What good solid bluegrass! Rounding out the program was Rebel Records recording artists The Price Sisters with Scott Napier and Will Parsons. The girls brought their usual excellent sibling harmonies and instrumental abilities to the stage, performing Monroe standards and other tunes in a bright and crisp performance.

All good things must end eventually, and we hated to bring the curtain down. We had so much music we still wanted to put out into the cooler night air, but alas the park has a bedtime.

A special thanks to all who made this show happen: Steve McDaniel, our capable MC; Pat Douglas, stage manager; our excellent sound crew from GBS Productions; and the folks who stayed 'til every tent was struck and each cord put away.

The music was excellent, but meeting new music friends and visiting with old ones is the best experience a person could hope for. Bluegrass was truly in the air and in people's hearts and even jamming in the parking lots! I am always amazed at the genuine friendliness and goodness of the people I have met through bluegrass music. We hope to see you all at the festival next year!

- Jeff Trauth, organizer



The Price Sisters with NKBMA member Rick Crawford

Additional Notes:

An NKBMA booth featuring our Martin guitar raffle and membership information, website information, and free newsletters was manned by numerous volunteers throughout the day and evening on Saturday. \$290 worth of tickets at a chance to win the \$1700 Martin were sold.

Cudos to Jeff Trauth and the Campbell County Parks and Recreation Department for collaborating on this event. Campsites were available, parking was free and admission only \$5. Now there is a real bargain for bluegrass music lovers!

DCRSG Road Series Martin Cutaway RAFFLE

The NKBMA is dedicated to the promotion and preservation of bluegrass and traditional music. In order to raise money to help fund our activities, we are raffling a Martin DCRSG Dreadnought cutaway.

List Price \$1699.00

TICKETS ARE \$10.00ea Selling ONLY 250 TICKETS

Drawing Date: when all are sold or Friday, Dec 14th, 2018

*****NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN*****

A dreadnought cutaway built with Sitka spruce top and mutenye (African tonewood) back and sides. This guitar produces a beautiful even tone with good bass and clear mids and trebles, features a Richlite fingerboard and bridge, high performance taper neck and Fishman Sonitone electronics making this guitar READY for the ROAD! Also includes a Martin hardshell case.

Come to one of our jams or events and check it out! Pick it up and play it. Your odds of winning are great since only 250 chances will be sold. See a board member or Tom and Pam to purchase a ticket or two or three!





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FUTURE FESTIVAL FAVORITES



AUG 29 - SEPT 2

Pike Co. Fairgrounds

Piketon, OH

Tom and I are now getting everything ready to head to our next festival... SamJam on Labor Day weekend! We

love this festival and everything that Sammy Karr and the Ragheads do to make it another great experience. This is a relatively new festival (officially in Piketon since 2016) and what a great time! Being partners with the RudyFest promoters these guys put on a first-rate festival as well! The line up: SPECTACULAR! The campgrounds and venue: MARVELOUS! The staff: MAGNIFICENT!

Sammy personally visits every camper on the grounds to be sure that they have everything they need. This really says something about the level of dedication he has for ensuring his guests are well cared for and enjoying themselves. Being the 'Sam' in SamJam he has a bunch going on before, during, and after the festival, but if there is something you need, and he can make it happen - he will!

This year Megan Darby from Glenville State College and her bluegrass music students will be coming to do a kid's workshop. This will be for kids 18 and under, and include instruction, a history lesson, back stage visits and food! We love Sam's dedication and passion for the music, the fans and the memories that are part of this quickly growing festival.

Go to <http://www.samjambluegrass.com> to get tickets and camping details. Why wouldn't ya'?

Have a great summer and we hope to see you soon at one of our NKBMA jams, events or the great festivals yet to come this summer!

Pamela Bushelman - President NKBMA

Add'l Future Festival Favorites:

Kentucky:

Sept 13-15 **Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Festival, Monroe Homeplace, Rosine, KY**
[URL: https://www.jerusalemridgefestival.com](https://www.jerusalemridgefestival.com)

Sept 20-22 **19th Annual Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival, Vine Grove, KY**
[URL: https://vinegrovebluegrass.com](https://vinegrovebluegrass.com)

Indiana:

Sept 19-22 **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)

New York:

Aug 24-26 **Summer Hoot Music Festival, Ashokan Center, Olivebridge, NY.** For info go to: [URL: http://hoot.love](http://hoot.love)



End of Summer Picnic and Jam - September 23rd 2 to 6pm

Tom & Pam's Homestead 2263 Waller Rd, Verona, KY 41092 Come on out for Tom's famous bean soup hot from the pot, lot's of music, food and fun! Bring a covered dish or dessert to pass. Main course and beverages provided. THIS YEAR..... multiple jam areas plus main music stage for listeners, plenty of parking. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!! Rumors abound.....maybe a special headliner band. Eat, share good times with fellow music lovers and pick 'til your fingers bleed. Rain or shine. Donations appreciated.....See you all there.



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OCTOBER 18-20, 2018

Thursday 10/18/18

Legends Night

The first event in the new building takes place in the state-of-the-art Woodward Theatre and centers on the IBMA special Hall of Fame induction class of Vassar Clements, Mike Seeger, Jake Tullock, Allen Shelton, and Joe Val. Performances by current Hall of Fame members as well as other artists will pay homage to those who shaped bluegrass music. Attendance by invitation only.

Friday 10/19/18

Sam Bush Concert - Sold Out

Kentucky native Sam Bush headlines the first public event in Woodward Theatre, which has already sold out. Much like one of his influences, Bill Monroe, Sam Bush is an innovator and continues to push the boundaries while tipping his hat to those who blazed the trail.



Sam Bush

Saturday 10/20/18

Free Day of Music - Outdoor Stage

FREE concerts on the outdoor Downtown Romp stage with performances by **High Fidelity**, **Front Country**, **Town Mountain**, and headliner **Yonder Mountain String Band**. Also 1st day for public tours of Museum.



High Fidelity Band



Headliner - Yonder Mountain String Band

Interested in a show and tour of the new Bluegrass Museum and Hall of Fame?? NKBMA is putting together a bus trip to Owensboro, KY for next March. A long, all day trip and tour returning late the same day. Prices will depend upon number of interested parties. If you are interested please see Ron Simmons who is the trip coordinator



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MOLLY MALONES PLEASANT RIDGE

Many of you are aware of the devastating fire that broke out on June 7th at the Molly Malone's Pleasant Ridge location, which for nearly eighteen months had been the host site of a weekly Wednesday evening jam session. While most of that structure still remains, a business next door, The Coffee Exchange, was completely destroyed along with two apartments above. Those dwellings were home to two of Molly's employees, who lost everything. GoFundMe accounts were established for those workers, which aided in helping them recoup from their horrible loss. Additionally, nearly twenty five members of their staff were left without a job that day. The Pleasant Ridge Business Council also put together a fund raising event for all involved. Nice to see a neighborhood join together to assist local business.

Although they are waiting for final word from their insurance company, the ownership hopes to begin a four to six month rebuilding process within the next thirty days. We wish them all of the best in expediently getting the job completed and resuming normal operations.

Meanwhile, if you are looking for a jam session please try the Monday evening Jam at Molly Malone's Covington, located at 112 E. 4th Street. This jam runs



Molly Malone's Pleasant Ridge after the fire

from 8 to 11pm and has been going for nearly twelve years now. They also feature live bluegrass on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm with The Missy Werner Band and other select acts.

Please come out for some jamming fun on Mondays or a Thursday evening show and support this establishment just as they support our music . -

Artie Werner

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

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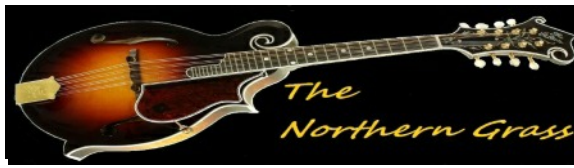
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JAMS

Gene Thompson Jam

1st Friday of each month

Temporarily back at the Lodge

Hart Dr., Hebron, KY Contact:

Gene Thompson (859)689-7431

\$2 donation at the door

NKBMA Gospel Jam

3rd Friday of each month

Temporarily back at the Lodge

Hart Dr., Hebron, KY Contact:

Gene Thompson (859)689-7431

\$2 donation at the door

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday of each month

Main Stage Open Mic Fun!

Backroom Jammin'

Willis Music on Mall Rd,

Florence, KY Come and play or listen.

New Hours 5pm to 8pm

\$2 donation at the door

Contact Rick Fuchs (859)525-6050

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

Old Time Fiddlers Jam

2nd Sunday of each month 1 - 4:30pm

Whitewater Community Center

6125 Dry Fork Rd, Cleves, OH

All Acoustic, bring instruments or
listen and enjoy. Refreshments available.

roseballard3@aol.com

Camp Springs Bluegrass Jam

1st Sunday of each month 3:30-6:30pm

Camp Springs Tavern

7009 Stonehouse Rd, Melbourne, KY

bring your instrument and a friend or

come out to listen. Details at:

campspringstavern.com



Bands Performing at Willis Music

Mall Rd, Florence, Kentucky

All Performances 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Vernon McIntyre and Appalachian Grass

\$10 donation at the door

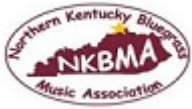
Saturday, November 17, 2018

Po Ramblin' Boys

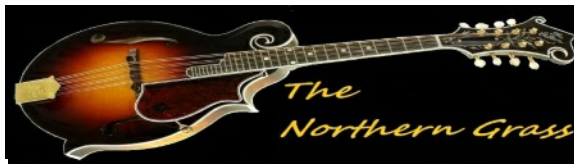
\$15 donation at the door



Live Music at it's finest in a warm, friendly setting. Bring a friend.



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Email:

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Located across from the Florence Mall and
Next to SHOOT Point Blank on Mall
Road, our Florence Superstore has it all
Our staff bring years of service and
experience to meet your every Musical
need. 10% discount on accessory items to
NKBMA members

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, Florence, KY 41042
859-525-6050



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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 own Facebook Page



Find us on
Facebook

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

If you haven't already, please send in 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.**
- ** Members are also VIP customers at Willis and receive 10% on all accessory purchases and other discounts on equipment.**
- ** Musical Scholarships to acoustic Instrument students**
 - ** Weekly Jams supported around the area**
 - ** Annual picnic and Christmas dinner**
- ** Quarterly Newsletters like this one mailed to members**
- ** Email notification/reminder network for events**

Send payment (\$12 Single, \$15 Couple, \$25 Band), your address

And your current email address to:

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

P.O. Box 133

Hebron, Kentucky 41048

Join the team for 2018, become a Board Member or Volunteer

Enrollment forms available at

www.nkbma.com

**The FUTURE of the
ORGANIZATION Depends
Upon YOU**



Address Label

NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, KY 41048



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**Museum/Hall of Fame
Bluegrass Festival News
Jams, End-of-Summer
Picnic, Woodsongs Events
and More**



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