

Spring
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

May
2019

In This Edition



Page 1
Message from
the Editor

Page 2
Appalachian
Festival

Page 3
More Favorite
KY Festivals

Pages 5-6
SamJam and
Tri-State
Festivals

Page 7
Jeff Parker Event

Page 8
Tom Murphy

Pages 9-10
Important Jam
Information

Page 11
Sponsor Ads

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

Spring Means Festival Season is Here!

Hitting the festival circuit is always a fun way to experience high quality entertainment at a reasonable price! Festivals offer great opportunities for experiencing great live musical performances by some of the genre's best as well as some of the exciting new, rising artists and locally popular favorite bands. Often, if lucky you can enjoy meeting your favorite band or artist up close and personal. And there are always plenty of parking lot picking sessions as part of the scene along with vendor booths, workshops and good summertime food.

On the following pages we have listed many festivals happening around the country this season and highlighted details of some of our favorites. Each listing has been verified and online links for additional details included.

Making vacation plans and wondering about music festivals near your destination or just want to plan on making the festival circuit and don't see anything listed on the following pages for the area you are traveling in or through? A more comprehensive national listing by State, Region, and Date can be found at:

<https://www.bluegrassfestivalguide.com>

Be A Contributor

If you are headed to a festival or show we'd like to have you send us a short

article about your experience with details and a photograph or two. Part of our mission is to support bluegrass and traditional music and any contributions or comments from our members are greatly appreciated. Become a contributor to The Northern Grass newsletter and share your experiences by sending your articles and photos to jerry@nkbma.com.

Be sure to visit page 7 for a recap of the recent Jeff Parker Woodsongs Event. We were very privileged to have this very talented entertainer spend an evening with us at Willis Music. And the one-on-one interview between sets conducted by Ron Simmons was a gem.

And with a heavy heart, page 8 is dedicated to one of our long time NKBMA members who passed in February.

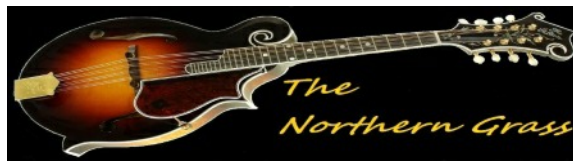
Pages 9 and 10 are dedicated to local jams. Be sure to mark your calendar for the AITG Jam sponsored by NKBMA, the Queen City Balladeers and the Northern Kentucky Unplugged Acoustic Society in beautiful Augusta, Kentucky. See page 9 for details. If you know of a local jam that we haven't listed, be sure to let us know the details.

And don't forget the wonderful sponsors listed on page 11. Patronize them as often as the need arises and thank them for their support.

Today, a man knocked on my door and explained he was soliciting donations for the local swimming pool. So..... I gave him a glass of water! ☺



Spring
Edition



May
2019



"The Family Event"- Ron Simmons, pres., ACDA

May 10th thru 12th at Coney Island is our 50th presentation of some of our areas finest bands, artists, vendors, dancers, storytellers, historic re-enactors, and just plain all 'round good family fun with a lot of food and ample parking.

The Appalachian Community Development Association presents this fun and educational program to raise money for those who still need help in Appalachia with food and education. We support those that care enough to teach and nourish those whose lives have changed drastically in a traditionally depressed area. We are a 501c3 organization.

I have found over the years that the Appalachian Mountains, while beautiful, have produced something much more important than a good vacation spot. Those mountains have produced people who have become some the finest ambassadors of human values on the planet. *Common sense and Morality* are core to their values we sure need all we can get of those things!

So, come on out Mother's Day Weekend and enjoy the Appalachian history, storytelling, dancing, crafts and educational demonstrations of the Appalachian way of life. And, of course, the music on two stages.

Some of the bands this year include: Steve Bonafel and One Iota, Forest Hills Bluegrass Band, Vernon McIntyre's Appalachian Grass, Uncle Mike Carr, Skirt and Boots, Nightflyer, Higher Vision, The Tillers, Kornerstone, Rabbit Hash String Band and more. Learn to dance, tap your foot or rest up a bit at the Storytelling stage. Or bring your instrument and jam along with Artie Werner and his '*Art of the Jam*' on the Up Close and Personal Stage, Saturday from 11:30am to 5:30pm. For more details and performance times, see our Website at Appalachianfestival.org.



Artie's Big Appalachian Festival Jam
"The Art of the Jam"
Up Close and Personal Stage
Saturday, May 11th, 2019 from 11:30 to 5:30

Featuring:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Steve Bonafel | Brad Meinerding |
| Shawn Brock | Ed Cunningham |
| Brandt Smith | Will Kimble |
| Gil Benson | Suzanna Barnes |
| Jeff Roberts | Missy Werner |
| Artie Werner | |

And more.....

Bring your acoustic instrument and play a couple songs with us!

"The Art of the Jam" is our third year of jamming fun. Some of the above professionals will be present at any given time to assist you in providing great traditional acoustic music for the audience.



Spring
Edition



May
2019



Some of Our Festival Recommendations

The Festival of the Bluegrass - June 6-9

Kentucky Horse Park

Campground - exit 120, I75

National and Regional Favorites

A special Music Camp June 4-6
for kids 8-18

Camping and Jamming

For info:

www.festivalofthebluegrass.com



Roy and AnnaMarie Cornett - Festival Directors

19th Annual RUDY FEST June 15-22

**Hosted at Poppy Mountain
Morehead, KY.**

Four full days of bluegrass music are scheduled for the end of the week, including Lonesome River Band, Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, Balsam Range, The Steeldrivers, Doyle Lawson and Quicksilver, Russell Moore and IIIrd Tyme Out and more. Plus June 15, 16 & 17 Rudy Fest Band Competition with the winner receiving \$500 and a chance to play



on the main stage.

Visit their website for ticket, lodging and contact info and the complete lineup of performers:

www.rudymfest.com

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak 😊



Spring Edition



May 2019



IBMA Museum
ROMP
FESTIVAL
June 26-29
Owensboro, KY
Waterfront Park
 Great Music all weekend, good food and lot's of fun. Check out the IBMA Museum while you are there!

ROMP
Main Stage Daily Lineup

| THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|
| TRAMPLED BY TURTLES RHONDA VINGENT & The Hoops BILLY STRINGS THE JACOB JOLLIFF BAND WOOD & WIRE | THE DEL MCCOURRY BAND THE WOOD BROTHERS JEFF AUSTIN BAND & THE TRAVELIN MCCOURYS <i>perform the Grateful Ball</i> HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES JOE MULLINS & the Fiddle Frenchie THE TRAILBLAZERS | RICKY SKAGGS & Kentucky Thunder <i>with Special Guest</i> PATY LOVELESS SAM BUSH STEVE EARLE & The Dukes DELLA MAE CHATHAM COUNTY LINE JIGJAM THE FAMILY SOWELL |

Jagoe Homes After Party Stage

| WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|
| GLADE CITY ROUNDERS RELIG | WOOD & WIRE RUMPKE MOUNTAIN BOYS | SONGS from the ROAD BAND HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES | DUSTBOWL REVIVAL |

JUNE 26-29, 2019
Owensboro, Kentucky
ROMPFEST.COM

Sun Valley Bluegrass Festival - July 12-13

Open Jam Friday Night!!
 Live music on Saturday!
 Family Friendly Fun!
 Food, Drink, Camping and Kids Activities
 Come out and support our Member Bands and Regional Favorites at beautiful AJ Jolly Park, Campbell Co., KY

info: call Jeff (859)750-0505

2019 SUN VALLEY BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Featuring:
Sammy Adkins & The Sandy Hook Boys
Ma Crow & Company
Tweed Donahoe & Marty Dunn
Long Time Drifters
Carter Bridge
& Tons of Local Talent!

FRIDAY NIGHT OPEN JAM!
JULY 12-13 * AJ JOLLY PARK * SEE YA THERE



Spring
Edition



May
2019



Aug 28-Sept 1 Pike County Fairgrounds Pikeston, OH

An amazing 5-day festival start to finish featuring some of the best names in Bluegrass Music! Sam Karr and his staff go above and beyond to make this one of the best festivals of the summer. The line up is first rate; the camping and venues are clean and well maintained; jams are friendly; and the staff is accommodating and efficient!

And we aren't the only ones to feel this way. Attendees and performers alike helped Sam Jam win the coveted 'Best New Festival' award from IBMA for their 2018 festival.

This year it includes a youth music camp sponsored by Glenville State University, the Pinecastle Records National Band competition, a cornhole tournament and a Sunday prayer service.

For this year's line up and info:

www.samjambbluegrass.com

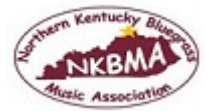




Spring
Edition



May
2019



Additional 2019 Festival Favorites:

Kentucky:

July 11-13 **29th Annual Shriners Bluegrass Festival**, Olive Hill, KY For info go to [URL: http://www.shrinersbluegrassfestival.com](http://www.shrinersbluegrassfestival.com)

Sept 12-15 **Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Celebration, Monroe Homeplace**, Rosine, KY [URL: https://www.jerusalemridgefestival.com](https://www.jerusalemridgefestival.com)

Sept 26-28 **20th Annual Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival**, Vine Grove, KY [URL: https://vinegrovebluegrass.com](https://vinegrovebluegrass.com)

Indiana:

May 29-June 1 **9th Annual Bean Blossom John Hartford Memorial Festival**, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground For info go to [URL: http://www.johnhartfordmemfest.com](http://www.johnhartfordmemfest.com)

June 8-16 **53rd Annual Bill Monroe Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival**, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground. 8 big days, over 50 bands! For info: [URL: http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com](http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com)

July 5-7 **9th Annual Bean Blossom Southern Gospel Jubilee**, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground For info go to [URL: http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com](http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com)

Sept 18-21 **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)

Ohio:

June 5-8 **Bluegrass in the Hills**, Mickey's Mountain, Hopedale, OH For more info go to [URL: http://bluegrassfestivalguide/events/bluegrass-in-the-hills/](http://bluegrassfestivalguide/events/bluegrass-in-the-hills/)

July 24-27 **Musicians Against Child Cancer Festival**, Marengo, OH, Cardinal Center Campground. For more info [URL: http://www.musiciansagainstchildhoodcancer.com](http://www.musiciansagainstchildhoodcancer.com)

New York:

July 18-21 **Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival**, Oak Hill, NY. 4500 campsites. For info go to: [URL: https://greyfoxbluegrass.com](https://greyfoxbluegrass.com)

Aug 23-25 **Summer Hoot Music Festival**, Ashokan Center, Olivebridge, NY. For info go to: [URL: http://hoot.love](http://hoot.love)

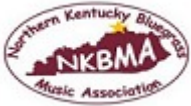


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May
2019



**CoffeeHouse
Event
JEFF PARKER
and FRIENDS**

Jeff Parker brought his new band to Willis Music and made a fine evening of good Bluegrass music. While it is a work in progress, it is not a tattered group as new bands can be. Jeff's talent is undeniable when he gets down to the music. It is easy to understand why he was a forming member of the Dailey & Vincent group, a popular offshoot of the Doyle Lawson 'School of Bluegrass Music' or 'Business', which ever you prefer.

If you didn't come out for the event you missed a wonderful opportunity because this is perhaps the most up close and personal way to meet the performers and get to know why they do what they love. In the Willis Music Auditorium, Jeff introduced his current new band members, talked about their talents, told a number of stories and performed some great music for the audience. During the break, Ron Simmons and Jeff took center stage and chatted about Jeff's decision to leave Dailey and Vincent after 27 years and strike out on his own. While a serious move on Jeff's part, the audience reassured him the decision has

him moving in a positive direction by their acclaim for the show.

Where do Woodsongs performers come from? Gene Thompson doesn't find these bands, they find him. Winter is a tough time to find gigs for bands in this region. There are few festivals but not many concert facilities like the Willis Music Auditorium. It is important for bands to play often in front of audiences where they can experiment with the music and hone their skills. Live music is and should be a team effort for both musicians and the audience. When the summer festival season winds down and the Willis Woodsongs Coffee House events start back up next fall, bring friends when you come and see how much noise, appreciation, and all out support you can give the bands. It is a win/win for all members of the team. Check the NKBMA website for upcoming events. You are encouraged and welcome to attend and so are all of your friends. - Ron Simmons



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Spring
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May
2019



In Memorandum
**Long-time
NKBMA
member,
musician,
friend:
Tom
Murphy
1947-2019**

Tom entered eternal life on February 12, 2019 at his residence with his loving family at his side. Tom was a US Army Vietnam Veteran, life-long member of Florence Baptist Temple, known for his sense of humor and a bluegrass musician. Fellow musician friends had the following to say:

‘I often told people that Tom Murphy was the best bluegrass rhythm man in the tri-state area of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. Tom made everyone sound better if you were lucky enough to pick with him.

‘Tom and I traveled many, many hours together each week going to and from practice in New Richmond, OH. We also had some longer trips to Meadow Green Park in Clay City, KY., where we performed four or five times and to Lexington’s Kentucky Horse Park where we played at the Festival of the bluegrass on two occasions.

‘As some of you know, Tom had an opinion on everything!;; And he was usually right. He was a staunch conservative and had little patience with liberal ideas and the people who pushed them! He also had a great sense of humor and could tell some great off-color jokes. There was this one....no, I can’t go there, but we laughed and laughed often. Tom was a special friend to me and I will miss him greatly. He called me “Bar” and then he would say “Bar rake me an open one”, as we checked our tuning.’

-Barry Hartman

‘What do I remember about a guy like **Tom Murphy**?’
‘When asked to write something about my friend Tom Murphy I thought about a place to start, sort of. I will say that we didn’t see each other every day, but we did communicate every few days to discuss politics, current events, dogs, relatives, cars, the Civil War, pocket knives, zippo lighters.....and sometimes gigs for our band called My Favorite Bluegrass Band. Then we lost Bud and Mark to the Angel Band and were devastated when they left but we knew where they were.

‘What can I say about the latest events that have changed the dynamics again. Tom joined them. Tom Murphy was a good man that left a good family and a lot of music behind. He was the center of the band always standing in the middle because so much of what the rest of us did as musicians and friends revolved around his knowledge of Bluegrass in general. He could play it, sing it, arrange it and be patient enough to put up with my crabbing that the vocals weren’t right and we needed to practice that tune again.

‘Barry and I, later Kevin, spent hours in my basement getting it as good as we could. We knew we were up to doing it all better so we tried hard. There is no more ‘trying’ because all that’s left are the memories. Kevin is at the James Cancer Center in Columbus now trying to overcome Lymphoma. Barry and I agreed a while back that the commitment that MFBGB had back then just isn’t there with some musicians. I miss those times and I miss Tom’s friendship, work ethic and sarcastic remarks when he got to stick one in you.

‘Nothing will make the memories any better or more vivid because like history itself, time will buffer the pain. Tom’s donation to my life strand will become just another hallowed spot in my heart alongside Bud and Mark.

‘I hope I never have to write another article like this for our NKBMA newsletter again. At least I won’t have to write my own. If you understand this hint just make a note of my demise as a smooth spot in the road of my life because I plan to get the band going again in a better place than my basement. On that Tom would agree.’

-Ron Simmons

And because Tom enjoyed a good story:

I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble, but shouldn't that be an EVEN number? OR....I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night. OR....I can't understand why women are okay with JC Penny having an older women's clothing line named, "Sag Harbor" AND speaking of women.....When wearing a bikini, women reveal over 90% of their body....men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.



Spring
Edition



May
2019



OPEN MUSIC JAM
Art in the Garden
Augusta, Kentucky
June 1, 2019
Bring Your Instrument
To an Art Show!

3 Jam Areas - Bluegrass - Folk - Modern Songwriter

Acoustic Music, 80+ artists booths, food and wine in beautiful historic AUGUSTA

The Augusta Art Guild would like to invite all musicians to an **OPEN Jam** as part of their 19th annual “**Art in the Garden**” event to take place on Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 10:00am to 5:00pm. This premier event brings together fine regional artists along the banks of the Ohio River in beautiful Augusta, Kentucky. It is an exciting time in Augusta and over 5,000 visitors are expected for the day.

Come and lend your voice and instrumentation to this fun and entertaining event! Join with musicians from the Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association, Queen City Balladeers, and Northern Kentucky Unplugged Acoustic Society.

Riverside Drive, Augusta, Kentucky

Play some music, listen to some music, browse the 80+ artist booths displaying local art items, enjoy local food and wine favorites. A family fun-filled day on the Ohio.

Info:

Augusta Art Guild

6 Main Street, Augusta, Kentucky 41002

Augustaartguild.com

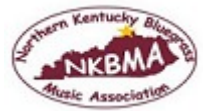
Contact: David Laskey (606)412-0711



Spring
Edition



May
2019



MORE JAMS

Gene Thompson Jam

1st Friday of each month

Hebron Masonic Lodge

Hart Drive, Hebron, KY

Starts at 6:00pm; \$3 door donation

Food and refreshments available

Come and play or listen.

Contact: Gene Thompson (859)689-7431

Russell Turner Bluegrass Jams

2nd Friday of each month

5th and Park St, Newport, KY

6pm to 10pm - Pot Luck-\$6 donation

Contact Russell Turner at:

rturn02@zoomtown.com



Camp Springs Tavern

7009 Stonehouse Rd, Melbourne, KY

All acoustic, bring instrument or just
come out to listen.



NKBMA Gospel Jam

3rd Friday of each month

Hebron Masonic Lodge

Hart Drive, Hebron, KY

Starts at 6:00pm; \$3 door donation

Food and refreshments available

Come and play or listen.

Contact: Gene Thompson (859)689-7431

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



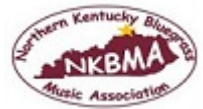
*Jams are subject to change. Check our Jams and
Events pages at www.nkbma.com for more jams.*



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MONDAY NIGHT BLUEGRASS JAM
STARTS AT 8 PM

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Covington, Kentucky

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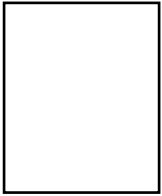
Located across from the Florence Mall and
Next to H. H. Gregg on Mall Road, our
Florence Superstore has it all.

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

Address Label



NKBMA
PO Box 133
Hebron, KY 41048



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May
2019



Bluegrass Festival News Jams and More



Pick up an instrument And Mentor Someone!