



Summer
Edition

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Music Association

August
2016

Keeping Bluegrass Music Alive in the Northern Kentucky Area

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Owensboro, KY. Just a short drive from Northern KY. If you haven't visited the International Bluegrass Music Museum located in Owensboro, you are missing a treasure chest of Bluegrass related experiences. Located in the newly renovated business district, just one block from the Ohio River and adjacent to the new waterfront park, it is within walking distance of great hotels and conveniences. As their slogan goes **'Discover the Richness and the Excitement of Bluegrass Music'**. So plan a trip to Western Kentucky. Bring your instrument(s) and tour the only bluegrass music museum in the world dedicated to the international history of this amazing high lonesome music.

Special exhibits include the Bluegrass Hall of Fame featuring pioneers of the music and people who have contributed to its greatness. Enjoy the stage-screen presentations of the museum's new digital Video Oral History Project (VOHP) documentary series of films

featuring First Generation musicians including Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs.

The Classic Band display tells the story of how Bill Monroe, Earl Scruggs, Lester Flatt, Chubby Wise and Howard Watts changed the musical world defining the instruments in today's Bluegrass band. On display are historically significant instruments such as the fiddle played by James Pendleton Vandiver, an uncle of Bill Monroe's immortalized in the tune **Uncle Pen**.

The Timeline of Bluegrass Music is a special display filling a long hallway. It outlines the history of Bluegrass music from the Scots-Irish string bands to camp meetings and gospel quartets, through the era of fiddling conventions, bluegrass during the jazz era, and the influences of the folk music revival on up to modern day bluegrass.

In March of 2013, the Museum opened to the public its database of digital images of artifacts and recordings from the entire IBMM collection. This digital archive provides incomparable research opportunities for bluegrass fans, musicians, musicologists, and cultural anthropologists. Access is by appointment only.

Efforts to keep bluegrass music alive and growing include professionally taught music lessons, riveting assembly programs for schools, and terrific performances by national/international acts to local students.



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IBMM cont'

Every Saturday from fall through mid-June professionally taught group music lessons are hosted for all interested in learning how to play bluegrass. Everyone is encouraged to join the fun and become a Kentucky Bluegrass AllStar!

Annually since September 2006, the Museum has sponsored The Monroe-Style Mandolin Camp. Campers hail from dozens of states and from as far away as Brazil, Europe, Japan, Australia, Canada and England. The goal is to preserve the performance style of the father of bluegrass, Bill Monroe. The intensive 3-day, hands-on study of Monroe's unique style of mandolin playing is led by a faculty of first rate ambassadors of the Monroe style. Each camp features an All-Star Faculty Concert that is open to the public.



ROMP Bluegrass Roots & Branches Festival as it is now known includes old time, traditional and progressive bluegrass. Dozens of legendary bands from North America, Europe, and the Far East perform. The festival features non-stop music, after parties that go until dawn, workshops, forums, jamming, camping, a film festival, museum tours and more. Included are professionally conducted children's activities. ROMP won the 2012 IBMA International Event of the Year and, in 2013, the Kentucky Governor's Award for Community Arts with attendance topping over 20,000.

As bluegrass has surged in popularity around the world, more and more fans are performing and enjoying this inspiring music. "Bluegrass has brought more people together and made more friends than any music in the world" (Bill Monroe) The attic and storerooms of the museum are filled with artifacts with no place to go for display so.....

It is now official. Construction is underway for the new Museum. Overlooking the Ohio River in downtown Owensboro and spanning an entire city block, the center will serve as the home for the International Bluegrass Music Museum, the International Bluegrass Hall of Fame and include a 500 seat concert hall, rooftop restaurant, a research library, classrooms, and an international meeting hall. Situated adjacent to the new Downtown Owensboro Convention Center, several new hotels, and a new \$64 million waterfront park this will be an incredible place to visit. Completion is scheduled for 2017 so mark your calendars and plan a visit soon. Check their website for all the latest details at www.bluegrassmuseum.org.



Held in June, ROMP is the Museum-sponsored celebration of bluegrass music in all its forms.



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CROSSROADS Performs at the OSBORNE BROTHERS HOMETOWN FESTIVAL in Hyden, KY

Gene Thompson and his Crossroads Band performed at the Osborne Brothers Hometown Festival in Hyden, Kentucky on Saturday, August 6th. All of the band members were hot that evening.....hot in every way you can

think of. It was above 90 degrees, humid and the audience was packed in.

The band was comprised of NKBMA members, Tweed, Marty, Gene, Ron and guest fiddler Elija Collet from Hyden.

It seems the audience was ready and wanting to hear that Ralph Stanley sound and they weren't disappointed by any means. If nothing else gets the music focused in that Mountain Sound, as described by Ralph Stanley himself, Tweed Donahue and Marty Dunn can do it. Gene and I hung on to complete the sound while guest fiddler Elija Collet filled the bill very well with some heart felt four string fiddle fireworks.

As we left the stage the audience demanded an encore. We did not disappoint providing another very traditional tune in the style that Crossroads delivers so well.

Festival host, Dean Osborne told the appreciative audience, and rightfully so, that the Crossroads sound was the real deal and they all agreed he was right.

When Gene Thompson talks about retiring.... and he does so now and then, we who have joined him on stage over the years for gigs like this just say NO. And that's THAT!

Festival Season Isn't Over

Tri-State Festivals Yet This Season:

Kentucky:

Sept 16-20 Jerusalem Ridge Bluegrass Festival, Rosine, KY
URL: <http://bluegrassfestivalguide.com/jerusalemridge.htm>

Sept 22-24 Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival, Vine Grove, KY
URL: <http://bluegrassfestivalguide.com/vine-grove-bluegrass-festival.htm>

Indiana:

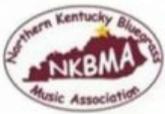
Sept 21-24 Bill Monroe Hall of Fame Uncle Pen Days Festival, Bill Monroe Music Park and Campground For info go to URL: <http://www.billmonroemusicpark.com>

PETE WERNICK'S BLUEGRASS JAM CAMP
Hosted by the International Bluegrass Music Museum
OCTOBER 21-23, 2016 ★ BLUEGRASSMUSEUM.ORG ★ OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

Riverfront Accomodations Wernick Method All Inclusive Camp

For more info, click here

"I talk to myself because sometimes I need expert advice.



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JUST A REMINDER *by Pam Messer*

You don't meet genuinely, heart and soul, good people every day, but it seems that they are so much more common in the bluegrass community. I believe that it is a combination of the music, a sense of family and faith in God combined that blesses us with such wonderful people. This story really starts about 7 years ago when Tom and I purchased the Famous Festival Couch.

We had originally purchased the denim-covered, 5000 pound sofa bed from a Goodwill store for \$35.00 on our way to a JD Crowe Festival. On the final night of the Festival, Dean Osborne turned the couch into a photo op with the Grascals. We had intended to drop it back off at Goodwill on the way out of town, but once we started getting the musicians' signatures on it and pictures, we had to keep it! We lugged that thing around to festivals for 7 years. The Grascals, JD Crowe, Dailey & Vincent, The Lonesome River Band, Doyle Lawson, The Steeldrivers, Chris Jones and so many others signed that couch over the years and some of those signatures we will never be able to get again.

As most of you know, Tom and I have suffered through not one, but TWO house fires. On February 12, 2014 the RV that we were living in while renovating the stick cabin on the farm burnt to the ground. We lost everything in that fire, but most sadly- we lost all three of our dogs. On June 12, 2015 - exactly 18 months after the RV fire - a mower ignited the renovation project. It was about 11:30 pm and Tom and I were sleeping. My Son Christopher, woke us up so that we could save a few instruments and ourselves. Thankfully no one was hurt in that fire, but we lost 3 years of hard work and all of our possessions once again; including the Famous Festival Couch and a pretty extensive library of bluegrass CDs. Replacing everything a second time was becoming very frustrating!

Nothing compared to the loss of our pets, but the music and inspiration of our favorite artists has been with us since the very first day of our building and renovation project. 'If I had a Hammer' and 'Sadie's Got Her New Dress On' are just a tiny example of the songs blaring from a portable CD player on the site. Singing, and occasionally dancing, the music helped the hard work move along more quickly and happily.

When we started to rebuild again last November we were down to just a few CDs that managed to escape the second blaze. It was time to start replacing our music And start another festival couch!

Now you CAN find bluegrass music here and there. Cracker Barrel and even Dollar General carry some, but you can't walk into Walmart or the few music stores that sill exist and find much at all! The best place to get them is at the festivals where you can meet the artists in person, get an autograph, shake and howdy and purchase the music from the source. Wellit was November so we had to wait until festival season to start our replacement mission.

We have limited ourselves again this year to just a couple festivals since we are our own contractor and doing most of the construction ourselves. We sadly missed Sally Gap this year(which is a whole other story in itself), but we did make it to Rudy Fest. We had been to this festival a few years ago and had a blast! The lineup is amazing and everyone there goes above and beyond to make you feel welcome, helping when needed

IT Poured! It took two pickup trucks and a skid steer to get our RV parked. The 'road' in front of our RV was almost knee deep in mud for much of the weekend and you couldn't buy a pair of muck boots for a 50-mile radius. The staff helped us haul the 'new' couch - now christened the 'GROUP W BENCH' - to the seating area. In spite of the rain, storms and mud all of the artists showed up and each put on an amazing performance. As the bands came off stage and went to their merchandise tents we would visit and purchase replacements and new CDs for our library. We were also able to get a fair number of them to tromp through the mud and sign the new couch.

Dailey & Vincent signed the original couch on our first visit to the festival several years earlier and I wanted to get them to sign the new one. I walked over to the merchandise tent in my shorts and muck boots feeling like a troll and saw Darin Vincent in a suit AND MUCK BOOTS! What luck! I asked him if he would mind coming over to sign the couch and he agreed. On the way over I explained how we lost the first couch in the house fire. Of course he said he was sad to hear that and was happy we were alright. After he signed the couch I asked him not to run off because



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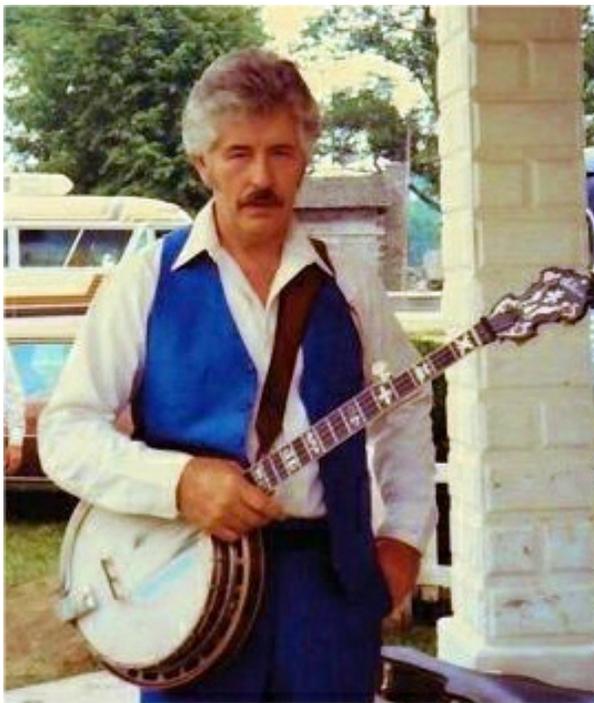
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I had to replace my music too. He asked, “You lost all your music, too?” And I told him, “Yes - I’ve been replacing it left and right all weekend.” Then I continued to babble about how we would listen to the music while we were building and some other such nonsense. When we got back to the merchandise tent Darin selected several CDs and the new LIVE DVD and handed them to me. I started to take out my money to pay for them (I was perfectly able - and more than willing- to pay for the music that is so much a part of our life) but he wouldn’t take it. I told him that I could pay for them, that he was trying to make a living too, but he said, “I don’t want your money.” I was stunned speechless! I hugged him and thanked him several times and started to cry. All he said was, “Just enjoy

them.” I assured him that we would and returned to the couch.

I was so touched by the generosity and continued to sob. Since he wouldn’t let me pay him for the CDs I decided the least I could do was to say a prayer for him. I asked God to continue to bless him, and thanked God for REMINDING ME that there are genuinely good people in the world. They do not ask for money or praise for their deeds. They are humble and gentle and walk with God every day. They come into our lives and restore our faith. I’ve totaled up the monetary value and intend to ‘pay it forward’ on behalf of Darin Vincent, but the GESTURE of kindness and SPIRIT of Christian generosity is the true value of my unforgettable experience. -Pam



Don Parmley July 30, 2016 - lifelong banjo player and patriarch of the legendary Bluegrass Cardinals, has died at the age of 83.

The Bluegrass Cardinals is sort of an odd name for one of the finest and most innovative Bluegrass bands ever. First of all a cardinal bird is also known as a red bird. Red birds are what they call people who look nice but can’t sing. Now you know. And those of you who have just found out your chorus

teacher wished you would have perched on someone else’s tree, well, it’s too late to cry about it now.

Don Parmley however, and later with his son David, developed one to the most distinctive bands with some of the smoothest vocals in the business.

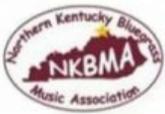
Don was a Kentucky native who moved to California and it was there that he started to enjoy the works of Earl Scruggs. Learning to play the banjo by listening to Earl is not a new idea.

Don took up with young musicians Chris Hillman and Vern Gosdin forming the **Hillmen**, also know as the **Golden State Boys**. As their popularity grew in California they frequently appeared on television. This led to Don landing the role of banjo player for the show the *Beverly Hillbillies* playing all the incidental banjo music for the show. (Earl, of course played the theme song for the show). When Hillman left to join the Byrds, the group disbanded and Don formed the Bluegrass Cardinals.

Don performed with many famous musicians including Chris Hillman, Vern Gosdin, Don Rigsby, Randy Graham, Herschel Sizemore, Larry Stephenson, Mike Hartgrove and so many more.

While hampered by ill health in recent years, he still cheered on his son David who has from time to time rekindled the Cardinal’s fire and has a new group called the **Cardinal’s Tradition**.

Thank You Don for a legacy of great music and a son who recognizes the value of your work here on Earth. Rest in Peace and Thanks again. -Ron Simmons



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“The Future is in Good Hands” Farewell to Melvin Goins



With every passing month, we seem to be watching our Bluegrass pioneers disappear into the Heavenly Gates. I don't mean to say that's a bad thing, it's just not as good for us on Earth as it is for men like Melvin. At 83, so many are complaining about one thing or another. Melvin wasn't feeling well on his way to Canada for a gig, but he still went knowing there was a gig, a festival and more importantly, an audience to play his music for.

Melvin grew up in West Virginia near Bluefield where my family toured an old coal mine about 35 years ago on our way to Pipestem Resort. Those hills were exactly what his music was about. Hills, hollers, rocky tops, piney ridges, mountain men, families in

poverty but thinking they had all they needed, coal to mine and most of all the God that would one day take them home.

Melvin's brother Ray worked with him when they were young men until Melvin finally struck out on his own. They eventually played together again until Ray's death in the mid 90's. Losing your Brother or Sister who is a friend and band mate really throws one for a loop. Jim and Jess, The Lewis Family, Ralph and Carter Stanley.....an so on to name a few have suffered such loss. Picking up the pieces is what they do because it is the right thing to do.

I recall being at Rosine, KY, on the 100th anniversary of Bill Monroe's birth with Gene Thompson. Melvin Goins was on stage and he asked young Kyle Ramey to come up and perform with him and the band. Kyle was a "pickin' prodigy" at about 11 years of age at that time. Melvin just stepped out of the way and let Kyle take over the show. Kids and puppies do that you know. Just seem to take over. What stuck with me all these years are the words Melvin spoke when Kyle finished showing off and accepting the acclaim from the audience he was due. Melvin said, "Folks, the future is in good hands". He was right and is right. We must support the young people leaning this wonderful style of music.

Well, Mr. Goins, since you were one of the many that laid the groundwork for upcoming performers, when at the Pearly Gates, Put **mentor** and **nice guy** on your resume. You certainly won't need to, but you definitely deserve it. R.I.P.

Ron Simmons

Rabbit Hash General Store Rebuild Update

Donations from \$10 to \$2500 have rolled in to help rebuild this N. KY. iconic building. Over 1100 people have donated to the cause. While still short of total funds needed to rebuild the structure, actual construction has begun. Let's be sure to continue to support this worthy effort by attending future money raising events or contributing directly to the fund via www.gofundme.com/fewqjkh8.





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Grey Fox Music Festival

July 2016 - Jerry Schrepfer

High on a mountain top deep in the heart of the Catskill Mountains near Woodstock, NY., some of the best musicians on the planet converge for 4 days of non-stop music. I have been fortunate to attend the festival for 3 years now and come away each year with a deeper appreciation for music not only as a form of entertainment but as a form of conversation, a language all it's own.

Our campsite, featuring Bill Keith's iconic teepee and a couple of easy-ups, always becomes a favorite jam spot for some of the most famous bluegrass musicians around as well as little known studio musicians and amateurs.

One night as the sun set and the lantern we hung in the middle of the tent shed its soft light, musicians began wandering in. Soon we had a bass, 2 guitars, 2 mandos, 2 banjos and 4 fiddles. I watched quietly from my campstool as the group increased in size, no names exchanged, no band affiliations obvious. Just musicians who exchanged very little verbal communication. I realized this group conversed thru their instruments, the music they made was their conversation, the language spoken that of Bluegrass, Blues, Jazz, and what I'll call Showtunes.

The fiddles had their own little huddle and took their breaks in harmony, challenging the others by throwing the conversation around to the others who responded in flawless articulation and timing. I was witnessing an incredible conversation, all instrumentals, covering many topics in many colorful ways.

Soon, a young man slipped into the shadows on the opposite corner of the easy-up from me. He pulled out an 'F-hole' 4 string tenor guitar! I hadn't seen one of those since the 60s and the Kingston Trio days. Wow! He nibbled around the edges of the conversation until they threw him a break. His fingers flew and he played one of the best guitar breaks I have ever heard on those 4 strings.

As the evening progressed the conversation moved from one genre to another moving into jazz and show tunes. What I will simply call a Benny Goodman tune was being exchanged around the group. In the shadows, unnoticed by most, the unknown man in the corner set his 4 string down and pulled something out, stuck it in his mouth, softening the reed. One of the guitar players noticed and when the fiddle group threw the break to him he shook it off, threw it to the man in the corner where suddenly the air was filled with the sounds of clarinet. A flawless response. The group reaction was priceless!



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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
Florence, KY 41042
859-525-6050



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NKBMA Annual END OF SUMMER PICNIC -1:00pm Sunday September 25th

At the Bushelman Lodge, Verona

COME ON OUT !!

Bring your Instrument, Bring a Friend, Bring a Covered Dish or Dessert to pass and Join others in our **Annual End of Summer Picnic Jam.**

NKBMA will provide Grilled Meats, Bean Soup and Soft Drinks.

Fun starts at 1:00pm and goes until your fingers are sore and you just can't eat any more!

Donations appreciated at the gate

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 new **BUSHELMAN LODGE** (rear view) 3 Pickin' Porches, Food Tent, plenty of parking **2263 Waller Rd, Verona, KY 41092** Call Tom or Pam for Directions or GPS the location for directions from your house! (Handicap accessible)

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!

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FUTURE BLUEGRASS SPECIAL EVENTS

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

WOODSONGS® COFFEEHOUSE EVENTS

Saturday, October 15th

7:00pm

Vernon McIntyre

and

The Appalachian Grass

**The perfect way to kick off the return of
WoodSongs events this Fall**

Lightning Fast Instrumentals, Great Vocals,
Bluegrass Music at its Finest

Kitty and Vernon have been delighting
audiences for years. Be sure to come out and
support this popular **NKBMA Member
Band** and our first WoodSongs event of the
new season at Willis Music, Mall Rd.,
Florence KY 41042

Details: call Gene Thompson(859)689-7431
\$10 Donation at the Door



Saturday, November 19th

7:00pm

Cody Norris and

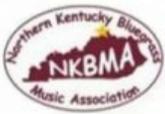
The Watauga Mt Boys

from Mountain City, TN

Traditional Mountain Sounds and Old Time
Gospel Music from Yesteryear

Willis Music, Mall Rd, Florence, Ky
Details: call Gene Thompson(859)689-7431
\$10 Donation at the Door





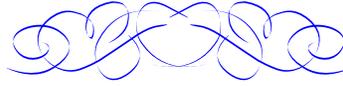
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MEETINGS AND JAMS



Gene Thompson -Hebron Jams will be back

1st Friday of each month Oct thru May
Hebron Lodge, Hebron, KY
Starts at 6:00pm; \$2 donation at the
door; refreshments available
Come and play or listen. Info Contact:
Gene Thompson (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

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

NKBMA Monthly Bluegrass Jam

4th Friday of each month
Open Mic Fun! Backroom Jammin'
6pm to 9pm Willis Music on Mall Rd,
Florence, KY
Come and play or listen.
Contact Rick Fuchs (859)525-6050



NEWEST JAM!!

Richwood Flea Market Jam

10915 Dixie Hwy, Walton KY
Every Sunday 2pm to 5pm
On the Flea Market Restaurant Stage
Contact Jerry Schrepfer for info:
(859)393-1175





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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 schrepferjerry38@gmail.com

WANT TO BE A MEMBER OF NKBMA OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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 and member band event schedules can be added to our website/Facebook calendars.

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

Northern Kentucky Bluegrass Association

P.O. Box 133

Hebron, Kentucky 41048

Join the NKBMA team for 2016 and help us support Bluegrass Music in the Northern Kentucky Area.



Address Label

NKBMA
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**Featuring International
Bluegrass Museum**



**Past and Future Events and More
Pick up an instrument
And Make Some Music!**