



Correspondence: NIBGA, 5034 Wapiti Ct., Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946 (260) 918-4790 NL@nibga.com
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Next jam: Noon - 6 PM 01/16/11 SW Conservation Club, 5703 Bluffton Rd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46809

PRESIDENTS CORNER:

Gee, were we fooled; there were some 70 degree days recently and it made us wonder if we didn't put the RV away too soon. That thought vanished when the chilly winds and cold weather of mid November hit.

The holiday season is almost upon us and as usual there this is a combined December and January newsletter. We have tried to get 2011 events into this letter but the most current list will be on the NIBGA web site, BluegrassUSA.net. If you have a gig or know of a concert, we'll get it posted.

Linda and I will be missing the winter jam in November. We are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary that Sunday with family and friends at a local restaurant. Echo Valley has been hired to provide entertainment. As I recall, this will only be the second meeting that we have ever missed.

We'll be off to Oakpark, IL for a big jam the day after Thanksgiving. This has been a annual event since before 1990. It is a lot of fun to jam with different folks. On New Years eve we'll be in Michigan to jam and party with several friends. Have you had a jam/party at your place recently?

The Spinney Brothers will be in our general area in early February. We are hoping to put a house party together with them. If it happens we'll have information in the next newsletter. If you have not had a house party with a band, you are missing a lot of fun. It is pretty simple. We provide food, a place to stay and invite 20-25 folks who will pay the band \$10 or so for an up close show in our living room. The band gets gas money and free lodging while in the area.

One T-shirt design for 2011 has been received. If you have some art work that would fit a T-shirt send it to us. The selected design gets two tickets to one of the 2011 festivals.

The post office is looking to increase postage again in 2011. Please consider getting your newsletter by e-mail. You receive it several days earlier and it is in color. You also save the club the printing and postage costs.

If the good lord's willing and the creek don't rise, we'll be at club meetings and hopefully we can find some nearby bluegrass music!

Jim Winger — President

THIS AND THAT:

NIBGA WINTER JAMS:

The winter jams and clubs meeting are the third Sundays in the winter. Remaining dates are Jan. 16, 2011, Feb. 20, Mar. 20 and Apr. 17. The meeting is from noon until 6p. Typically, we fold and label newsletters starting at noon and jamming begins shortly thereafter.

The Southwest Conservation Club kitchen will have breakfast, sandwiches and beverages available. Why not come a little early and enjoy a good, inexpensive breakfast?

LABOR DAY PICS:

Several photos have been uploaded at <http://tinyurl.com/24oyz84>

BLUEGRASS JAMMING:

I was a young girl of twelve. With a clarinet. My entire musical background consisted of band compositions I learned to play in middle school, or the occasional evenings that I snuck into the attic, my little refuge from the world, and listened to one of the two record albums that I owned ... Sons of the Pioneers, or Elvis Presley.

Weekends were spent with my grandparents, listening to Lawrence Welk on the little TV, and learning to dance the Charleston with records off the Victrola. One evening my grandfather came running in and said, "Grab your clarinet. There are some people at the park playing music and they said anyone could join them. We're going!" I grabbed my little Bundy clarinet, a couple pieces of sheet music, and we were off.

I don't remember if there was a crowd there or not. In fact, I don't remember anything at all except for two older men standing, playing music and singing. One man had a guitar and the other had ... something. As a child that had never seen a stringed instrument before, I recognized the guitar, but the other instrument was a total mystery to me. It could have been a mandolin, or banjo, or fiddle ... I truly don't remember what it looked like and suppose I'll never know.

We watched them until they finished their song and then my grandfather went up to them and said, "This is my granddaughter and she plays a mighty fine clarinet. Can she join you?" The men said, "Sure! Get that thing out and we'll make some music." As I think back on this now with the advantage of

a few decades of wisdom, I wonder what they were really thinking?

They asked me what I could play. The only thing that I had the sheet music for was The Star Spangled Banner. Remember, I was in a middle school orchestra back in the 60's .So they said, "Okay, the Star Spangled Banner it is!" I was surprised that they didn't have sheet music so that they could play along, but after a bit of trial and error (what is a "key", anyway?) we started to play.

I squeaked and squawked my way through the song while they played, encouragingly, in the background. People applauded when we were done. My grandfather, puffed up like a proud peacock, announced that it was now past my bedtime and I needed to be getting home. Unbeknownst to me, that was my first taste of jamming. Unfortunately, I wouldn't recognize it as such for many, many years.

Fast-forward two decades. I now dreamed of being able to play a stringed instrument and sing like those two fellows in the park had done. Now, anyone that knew me, or had ever heard me sing, would realize how ridiculous that dream was! There was a small ad in the local paper. "Learn to play a dulcimer. Learn to play ten songs in two hours. Only \$30 and you keep the dulcimer." Wow! Maybe even I could learn to play!

Fast-forward several more years. By that time, I had learned to play not only the lap dulcimer, but also the hammered dulcimer and really enjoyed old time music. This was also about the time that I was invited on a "blind date" and I was meeting my date at a bluegrass festival.

Bluegrass? What is that? I'd seen Heehaw. Would this guy have teeth? Would he play one of those annoying, obnoxious banjos? By the way, the answers turned out to be "yes" and "yes!"

The night of the blind date approached. We met at Henry Verhoff's Hillbrook Recreation Park, for what was known simply as "Ottawa" (which was the name of the closest town). I don't know that I ever heard an official name for the bluegrass reunion ... just "Ottawa." That was my first introduction to parking lot picking. That's all they did there ... there weren't any stage shows. I was told that the festival had officially ended years before, but all the guys still showed up on the same weekend each year anyway. And I had a blast. I was only going to stay for the evening, but ended up spending the entire weekend, sleeping in my car. My date invited me to attend another bluegrass festival with him in the spring, and I eagerly accepted.

Memorial Day weekend found us at the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association's Tri-State Bluegrass Festival in Kendallville,

Indiana. Oh my! It had been said that this festival was the Midwest's largest parking lot picking festival, and I'm guessing that was pretty accurate. Hundreds, no, thousands of people. All playing instruments! This festival was held at a fairgrounds and everywhere you turned were campers and tents and motor homes, and each of them had a group of people standing around a campfire playing instruments and singing. All night. For a week!

While I was there I watched a young couple get married, complete with white wedding gown and cake. I asked someone why anyone would get married at a bluegrass festival. They replied, "Why not? All these people are their closest friends and family. Bluegrass is what they love. Why not?" A few years later, the birth of their son was celebrated there, too.

As do hundreds and hundreds of loyal "bluegrass'ers", we've now made the twice-yearly pilgrimage to Kendallville for many years over Memorial and Labor Day weekends. A \$25 ticket gets me admission for the entire 4 days, which includes my camping fee! Like so many others, I've found that this is an extremely low cost vacation and great way to hold family reunions and get-togethers. For instance, there is a group of mostly widowed, older women, known only by the collective name "the sisters", that meet there each year. They always park their motor homes and campers in the same spot and just spend the week hanging out with each other.

I've attended some of the free instrument workshops ... one of these days I'll actually learn to play a banjo ... and have spent many an hour checking out the pre-festival flea market tables, vending booths, craft demonstrations, and children's activity pavilion.

Rumor has it that they have a great stage show with over 31 hours of music by well-known international, national, and regional artists. For a segment of the population, that's a great way to enjoy the long weekend ... sitting under the tent, watching act after act after act.

But for me? I'm out there jamming. That's what makes it a festival. It's all the people coming together and making music. It's the willingness to accept another into their midst, whether they have a guitar, banjo, mandolin, or whatever ... just like those two fellows in the park with that brash, young clarinet player and her proud grandfather so many years ago.

(Chris Cooperrider wrote this article for the Minnesota Bluegrass Assoc.)

BAND NEWS:

The 35th Anniversary/Reunion concert at the Old Town School of Folk Music (Chicago) on, Oct. 23 was truly a "family

reunion." In addition to current Special C members (Greg Cahill, David Thomas, Ryan Roberts and Rick Faris), band alums who performed songs from each of the 15 band recordings include Josh Williams, Justin Carbone, Dallas Wayne, Chris Jones, Ashby Frank, Tim Wilson, Dennis White, Robbie Fulks, Marc Edelstein, Ed Walsh, Tim Dishman, Jamie Clifton, Paul Kramer, Scott Salak, Marty Marrone, Drew Carson, Darren Wilcox, Ollie O'Shea, Andrea Roberts, Al Murphy, Colby Maddox, Chris Walz, Tres Nugent and Ron Spears. What a night!

The concert began at 8p and ended at 12:45am (with a 20 minute intermission). Sirius XM radio personalities (and Special C alums) Chris Jones (Bluegrass Junction) and Dallas Wayne (Outlaw Country and Willie's Place) emceed in addition to performing and Chris will include interviews he conducted in the green room throughout the show on his Wednesday program, Oct. 27th, 3-9p, Sirius 65/XM 14.

A huge thanks to all the musicians who came from across the country (and Canada) to perform, to our families, friends and fans who attended and to Peter who did an excellent job with the sound. More info and photos will appear on the Bluegrass Blog in the next few days.

Greg Cahill

(We attended along with several of our friends. The show was awesome. Greg had albums and news releases from over the years on the band table. The NIBGA festival in Kendallville was one of the bands earliest on the festival circuit. J.W.)

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This month Rebel Records releases two gems in the second installment of their continuing campaign to digitally reissue classic albums from their archives. Beginning on November 23, *The Young Fisherwoman* by The Country Gentlemen and Del McCoury's self-titled Rebel Records debut will be

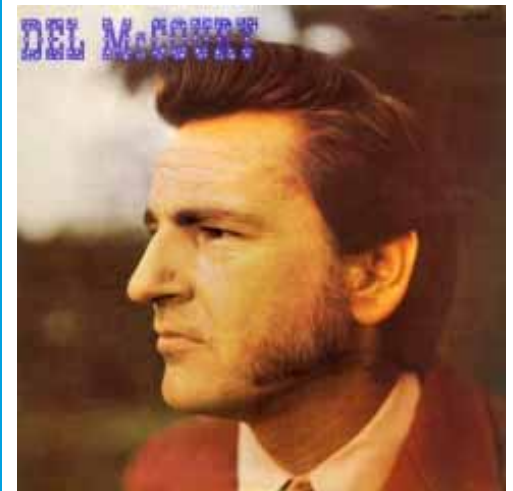


available for download through major retailers including iTunes and Amazon MP3.

In addition to *Bringing Mary Home*, *The Young Fisherwoman* was one of just two issued Rebel albums to feature The Country Gentlemen in their "classic" lineup with Charlie Waller on guitar, John Duffey on mandolin, Eddie Adcock on banjo, and Tom Gray on bass.

The title track, a cult favorite among Country Gentlemen fans, has never been re-released since the LP went out of print nearly thirty years ago. The album was released in 1970 but is comprised of recordings from the early 1960s.

Del McCoury's 1975 album – the first of his four Rebel label recordings – kicks off with *Rain and Snow* considered by many to be the definitive version of this old folk song. Also shining are two Ola Belle Reed-penned tracks: *Springtime of Life* and *I've Endured*, the latter showcasing McCoury's lead vocals at their high-lonesomest.



Del McCoury features his original band The Dixie Pals in one of their finest lineups with Bill Runkle on banjo, Donnie Eldreth on mandolin, Bill Poffinberger on fiddle, and Dewey Renfro on bass.

####

BELL BUCKLE, TN: Multi-award winning vocalist, Valerie Smith has just released a new Christmas single, *Send Yourself Home For Christmas*. The song was written by Lisa Aschmann and Joni Bishop and is reminiscent the 1940's era of classic Christmas songs. Valerie provides her trademark vocals and is joined by Becky Buller (fiddle, vocals); Ernie Evans (mandolin, guitar! and vocals), and Bobby Davis (bass).

Send Yourself Home For Christmas is now available for sale via CD Baby and other outlets. Radio is being serviced by Airplay Direct and physical copies upon request.

The Redline Model TW Guitar

It all started with a Jam Session at SPBGMA when a fan asked Audie to sing *Send Me Your Address From Heaven*. Teddy Workman owner of TW Guitars, lent Audie one of his guitars to play. Fast forward several months later when Teddy called Audie saying he'd like to get his guitar in the hands of some professionals, and wanted to custom build a guitar for Audie.

Audie was certainly excited and intrigued by the idea. Since he's never been interested in flashy guitars, they designed the guitar with a sleek red line down the peg head and fret board, an idea that Audie had always envisioned. Teddy went on to craft the Redline Model TW Guitar.

Ask Audie and he'll tell you that the guitar *sounds fabulous and is absolutely beautiful. It exceeded my expectations and I love playing it!* He describes Ted Workman as *one of the best people you would ever want to meet, a genuine sincere guy.*

Teddy builds one or two guitars at a time to assure quality is not sacrificed and each instrument gets his full attention. Each guitar is built with great attention to detail, both inside the instrument and out, resulting in excellent construction and a cosmetically appealing guitar. All TW Guitars are built using traditional hide glue, hand split Adirondack bracing and nitrocellulose lacquer, all add to the volume and tone qualities found with TW Guitars.

I am honored that Teddy called me and am delighted to be telling this story! —Audie Blaylock

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Dean Barber, founder of the Fort Wayne old time music jam has been offered a position in Dallas, TX and has moved. Dean was a significant force in the Fort Wayne music scene.

Matthew Katinsky, (MKatinsky @ gmail.com) has taken responsibility for the bimonthly Fort Wayne Southern Old Time jam sessions.

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Country Music Hall of Fame & Grand Ole Opry Member, Charlie Louvin is fighting pancreatic cancer.

MAIL BAG:

Hi Jim, Joe and Chris;

Just a note to say that there was a misquote in the cover story on The Special C in the Nov. issue of Bluegrass Unlimited - I gave all credit to the Northern Indiana Bluegrass Assoc. for the first video of our TAM Program that eventually led to the IBMA *Discover Bluegrass* video/DVD production.

I think Chris Stuart must have jotted notes when we spoke and "NIBA" in his notes became the "Northern Illinois Bluegrass Assoc" because I live in IL. Pointing this out in case you want to send a correction note to BU - or you may want me to do so.

Sorry about that - I did give you the credit!

Best, - Greg Cahill

(A note was sent asking for a correction. J.W.)

OVER JORDAN:

Charlie Gilbert Oct. 22, 2010

Charlie passed away of natural causes at his apartment in Warsaw, IN.

He played in several bands over the years including Tippy River and Possum Trot Orchestra. He appeared on our stage several times, with his band, Gilbert & Co.

The family requests that memorials be directed to the Otis R. Bowen Center for Human Services, 850 N. Harrison St., Warsaw, IN 46580.

Charlie on the NIBGA stage May 28,



A Tribute to Charlie

Dear Ones:

By now many of you have learned that Charlie Gilbert has left this world. 58 years old?????

Tragic.

A man immersed in bluegrass music.

One of the founders of NIBGA.

I owe him much.

Many things and/or people can change the course of history. Obviously, Charlie was one of those people who affected that very course.

What if.....

- he chose another genre of music?
 - he didn't share his love for the music he cherished?
 - he remained in the logging and forestry business of the west? His dream?-----
- Charlie was a friend and mentor for many years....

I picture him beyond the gates of heaven in a private jam session (with who knows) singing *Long Black Veil*, and *Honey in the Rock*

with absolute perfection in a way only Charlie could.

He will be sorely missed. I regret that I lost the opportunity to tell him how influential he was in his life, and how much he meant to me.

God Bless you Charlie. (I'll bet they're having a great time in heaven.)

Jeanette Young

INTERNET FEATURES:

NIBGA chat room: tinyurl.com/yh3ew5t

NIBGA Blog: nibga.blogspot.com

NIBGA web page: BluegrassUSA.net has links to the above and includes all the events in the newsletter plus additions between newsletters.

CONCERTS & CLUBS:

IN THE CLUBS:

The Ark 316 S Main St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-761-1451 8p.

- 12/04 Gibson Brothers \$15
- 01/07/2011 Mountain Heart \$25
- 02/11 Kruger Brothers \$15

Kentuckians of Michigan, 28391 Bredow Rd., Romulus, MI 46174 734-782-0132 \$8 buffet 7-8p

- 12/03 Harbourtown \$6
- 12/10 Pushin the Limit \$6
- 12/17 Eddie Adkins \$6

Pietro's Italian Restaurant, 2780 Birchcrest Dr SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506; 616-452-3228 7-10p

- 11/25 (Thanksgiving) dark
- 12/02 Schlitz Creek
- 12/09 Patchwork Band
- 12/16 Zellie's Opry House Band
- 12/23 Williams Family
- 12/30 Blue Water Ramblers

Zellie's Opry House, PO Box 332, 230 E. Edgerton, Howard City, MI 49329 616-260-3032 \$5 show 7p doors 6p

- 12/12 For Heaven's Sake; Luke Lenhart

Bluegrass Opry Barn, 9461 SR 66, Oakwood, OH 45873-9357 1 mile N of Oakwood, OH in Paulding county 419-594-2435 or 419-594-2816 7p about \$10. Jam every Tues. 6p until ?

- 12/04 Wildwood Valley Boys
- 01/15/2011 Summertown Road

Glass City Opry, 601 E. Conant St., Maumee OH 43537-3363 doors 6p show 7-9p 419-250-1096

- 12/04 Jim Hurst

Wapakoneta, OH Bluegrass, Wapakoneta Middle School, 400 W. Harrison St., 45895 567-204-0929 7p \$8 lorilynandnewoutlook@yahoo.com

- 02/19 New Outlook, Kati Penn & Newtown
- 03/11 New Outlook, Jerry Butler & Blu J's
- 04/02 New Outlook, New County Grass

American Legion, 1030 Central St., Evanston, IL 847-475-9076

- 12/11 James King

Miami University, 1601 University Blvd., Hamilton, OH 45011 Parrish Auditorium, 513-785-1968 7:30p

- 02/11 Michael Cleveland, Boxcars

FESTIVALS & EVENTS:

11/26 Greensky Bluegrass, Bell's Eccentric Cafe, 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007 269-382-2332 9:30p

11/27 Dulci-Jam, folk instruments, FOTMC, 20322 US 33, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 1-3:30p free 419-568-1220

11/27 Greensky Bluegrass, Bell's Eccentric Cafe, 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, **MI** 49007 269-382-2332 9:30p

12/03 Wildwood, Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 7-9P 614-486-4722

12/04 Appalachian Grass, Beracah Valley; FOTMC, 20322 US 33 Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 419-568-1220 4p \$10

12/04 Bobby Davis, Kenny Stone & their circle of friends, Wheatfield Municipal Building, 170 S. Grace St., Wheatfield, **IN** 46392 Davis Family Concert Series 7-10p 219-956-3119 \$10 adv. \$12 door

12/17 Henhouse Prowlers, Fiddler's Hearth, 127 N. Main, South Bend, **IN** 46601 9-12p

12/17 Slate Ridge, Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 7-9P 614-486-4722

12/18 Appalachian Opry FOTMC, 20322 US 33 Wapakoneta, **OH** 45895 staff Band w/ V. & Kitty, Laura's Comedy Crew+ guests; 7-10:30p \$10 419-568-1220

12/18 Corn Fed Girls, Bell's Eccentric Cafe, 355 E. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, **MI** 49007 269-382-2332 9:30p

02/19 Corn Fed Girls, LVD's, The Old Bag Factory, 1100 Chicago Ave., Goshen, **IN** 46528 574-825-7785 7p, \$15

03/03-06 East Peoria, **IL** Shorty's Strickly Bluegrass Festival, Stoney Creek Inn 309-671-0175 or 641-799-0565

03/18-20 Rhonda Vincent, Monroe Crossing, Special Consensus, James King, Darin & Brooke Aldridge, Art Stevenson, Kati Penn, Morgan Daniels Band, Southern Raised, The Panches Family, New Heir Bluegrass, Keith Yoder jam camp, guitar show, workshops, jamin' rooms, open stage showcase; 17th Naperville, **IL** Bluegrass Music Festival, Holiday Inn Select (1-88 exit Naperville Rd, then East on Diehl St.) Hotel 630-505-4900 Festival: 217-243-3159

12/10 Caney Creek, Buckeye Valley Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 7P

12/10 Grassahol, Byrne's Pub, 1248 W. Third Ave., Columbus, **OH** 7-9P 614-486-4722

12/10 James King Band, Sugar Creek, Branded Bluegrass, Jeremy Morris & the Harvest Road Band, Daybreak Community Church, 1219 Main Ct., Lapel, **IN** 46051 sponsored by Central Ind. Bluegrass 5-10p \$10, concessions, no carry-in, 765-674-5117 or 800-414-4677

12/10 Old Fashioned Country Christmas, Ashley Lewis & Ashton Gap, Kendall County Court House, 110 W. Madison, Yorkville, **IL** 60560 7p \$10

12/10 Valerie Smith, LVD's, The Old Bag Factory, 1100 Chicago Ave., Goshen, **IN** 46528 574-825-7785 7p, \$15

12/11 New Outlook, Buckeye Valley Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 7P

12/17 Frosty Morning, Buckeye Valley Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 7P

12/18 Northern Illinois Bluegrass Assoc., 2010 Holiday Picnic & Jam, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 12760 Lee Road, Hinckley, **IL** 60520, church 815-286-3885, info 815-895-6945, 12-5p Members free. Non-members buy a \$15 membership. Bring a hot dish or salad to pass.

2011

01/07-08 Special Consensus, Front Porch Music, 505 E. Lincolnway Valparaiso, **IN** 46383 219-464-4700

01/14-15 Bluegrass in Super Class, Holiday Inn, French Quarters Perrysburg, **OH** 330-645-1542

01/15 Appalachian Grass, New Outlook, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 43025 5p \$10

01/30-02/06 Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike, Monroe Crossing, Hard Ryde, Remington Ryde, Smokey Greene, Tomorrows News, Pure & Simple, Nothin' Fancy, Dennis Cash; Bell Buckle Cruise, 931-389-0223

03/19 Appalachian Grass, New Outlook, Buckeye Valley Bluegrass Opry, 2300 National Road SW, Hebron, **OH** 43025 5p \$10

04/08 Special Consensus, LVD's, The Old Bag Factory, 1100 Chicago Ave., Goshen, **IN** 46528 574-825-7785 7p, \$15

Northern Indiana Bluegrass Association
5034 Wapiti Court
Fort Wayne, IN 46804-4946

Address Service Requested



Next winter jam
Jan. 16, 2011