

WELCOME BACK TO OUR

# Quarterly Newsletter

## Return to your regularly scheduled BBMA

Hello everyone, and welcome back to the Badgerland Bluegrass Music Association's quarterly newsletter.

We took quite a bit of time off while the bluegrass world was pretty much on hiatus during the pandemic and have lately been putting a good deal of thought into the direction we might want to go once we had re-assembled. Here's a taste of what we've been working on so far:



*Bluegrass jam at The Gig in Milwaukee.  
(Photo courtesy of Sarah May)*

First, a matter of business. We didn't think it would be fair to insist members re-up their dues following a few years of inactivity on the part of the association. So we've decided to let those who last paid dues in 2020 maintain their membership for another year free of charge. They won't have to worry about paying again until 2024.

Of course, we're more than happy to welcome new members. Just as a reminder, the cost of joining for a year is \$15 for an Individual, \$20 for a family, \$30 for a business and \$40 for a band. There'll be more on what that membership buys you below.

Second, we've decided we want to continue our annual "Big Thaw" bluegrass festival, traditionally held in the spring. We're in talks with a venue about an exact date. Please check back for more on that.

Finally, we want to continue providing the services that have made the BBMA such a central part of the southeastern Wisconsin bluegrass scene for so many years.

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Bands can continue to come to us for a listing of their schedules and fans can look here to find out when their favorite performers may be in town. We'll also try to have notices for nearby festivals and jams. Above all, we'll seek to be a central forum allowing people who share the love of this music to meet up and discuss whatever they fancy at the moment.

More than all this, though, we want to hear from you about what you think the BBMA should be doing to promote the regional bluegrass scene. We all know that social media and the internet have forever changed the ways we communicate. What can an association like the BBMA do to supplement all the other avenues now out there for getting a message out? If possible, we don't want to be merely replicating what already exists. What other services should we consider providing?

We who serve on this board are nothing more than the curators of the BBMA. You, the members, are the ones who ultimately set the direction. So, please, let us know your thoughts.

*- Dan Shaw, BBMA vice president and newsletter editor*



## JAMMING 102 by Linda Sandersen



As a child in Brooklyn, NY, I always heard my mother singing along to the Metropolitan Opera on the radio or listening to show tunes on records. I was encouraged to join in, too. Arthur Godfrey was on the radio, too, playing his ukulele. Mom had one, too. She taught me to play it when I was 5 or 6 so I could accompany myself singing. She even trusted me to take it to school in 2nd grade to sing for my class. I only knew a few chords, but they were in the I-IV-V pattern and I could "feel" the chord changes.

Over the years I learned to play the piano, organ, upright bass, guitar, mountain dulcimer and autoharp. I enjoy them all, but don't remember a lot about a few. I think one of the best parts of playing Bluegrass instruments is getting to play with others, especially in a jam.

There are several good jams to attend in the Milwaukee area & all are listed in the newsletter – unless we don't know about them. If you know one that isn't listed, let us know so we can list it.

Jams have some basic rules that should be followed, especially if you wish to be asked back.

1. Take your turn & don't jump in on someone else's turn.
2. Stick to Bluegrass or old-time country tunes.

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3. Don't play melody when someone is singing, as it could throw them off
4. Don't play melody when someone else is taking a lead break. You'll get a turn if you want it.
5. Pick a tune that has only a few chords, preferable in the I-IV-V pattern.
6. Just because Bill Monroe or Jimmy Martin sang a song in a certain key, doesn't mean that you have to or should. Pick your own key so you can sing it well.

We hope to see you at a jam. Check the jam listings & come to play or to listen! Either way, it'll brighten your day!

# COMING SHOWS

## SEPTEMBER

- East Troy Bluegrass Festival, Sept. 9-10, all day., Village Square Park, East Troy, [www.easttroybluegrass.com](http://www.easttroybluegrass.com)
- Barred Owl String Band, Sept. 7, 7:30 p.m., Ope Brewing Company, 6751 W. National Ave., West Allis, [www.opebrewing.com](http://www.opebrewing.com)
- Black Lung Brewing Company festival, Sept. 16, noon, Black Lung Brewing Company, 2217 N. Illinois 83, Round Lake Beach, Ill., [www.blacklungbrewing.com](http://www.blacklungbrewing.com)
- Pickin' Up Speed, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m., Holy Hill Art & Crafts Fair, 1525 Carmel Road, Hubertus, [www.holyhill.com/events/holy-hill-arts-and-crafts-fair](http://www.holyhill.com/events/holy-hill-arts-and-crafts-fair)
- The HomeGrown Bluegrass Festival, Sept. 24, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Foundry 45, 9480 U.S. 45 Kewaskum, [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-homegrown-bluegrass-festival-tickets-699937420667](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-homegrown-bluegrass-festival-tickets-699937420667)
- Pickin' Up Speed, Sept. 23, 11 a.m., Whitefish Bay Farmers Markets, 325 E. Silver Spring Drive, Whitefish Bay, [www.whitefishbayfarmersmarket.com](http://www.whitefishbayfarmersmarket.com)
- Boars and Bluegrass, Sept. 21-24, all day, Winona, Minnesota, [www.boatsandbluegrass.com](http://www.boatsandbluegrass.com)
- Wise Fest 2023, Sept. 29-30, Kettle Moraine Ranch, W379 S9674, Eagle, [www.wisefarmproductions.com/wise-fest](http://www.wisefarmproductions.com/wise-fest)

## OCTOBER

- Heartland Howlers, Oct. 1, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Pioneer Village, 4880 County Rd I, Saukville, [www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us/pioneer-village](http://www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us/pioneer-village)
- Pickin' Up Speed, Oct. 1, 11 a.m., Unitarian Church North, 13800 N. Port Washington Road, Mequon
- Amerigrass at the Hook, The Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge, Oct. 7, 4 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis, [thehookmpls.com/event/utc23-amerigrassfestival/](http://thehookmpls.com/event/utc23-amerigrassfestival/)
- Heartland Howlers, Oct. 7, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Old Germantown, W148N12696 Pleasant View Drive, Germantown, [www.oldgermantown.com](http://www.oldgermantown.com)
- Pickin' Up Speed, Oct. 7, 11 a.m., Whitefish Bay Farmer Market, 325 E. Silver Spring Drive, Whitefish Bay, [www.whitefishbayfarmersmarket.com](http://www.whitefishbayfarmersmarket.com)
- Chicken Wire Empire and Golden Shoals, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., Stoughton Opera House, 381 E. Main St., Stoughton, [www.stoughtonoperahouse.com](http://www.stoughtonoperahouse.com)
- The MilBillies and Miles over Mountains, Oct. 20, 6 p.m., The Bend Theater, 125 N. Main St., West Bend, [thebendwi.org](http://thebendwi.org)

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# NOVEMBER

- Bluegrass Sampler, Nov. 3-4, 6 p.m., Delta Hotels by Marriott, Racine, 7111 Washington Ave, Racine, bluegrassampler.org
- Bluegrass Jamboree, Nov. 4, 4 p.m., Kettle Moraine Ranch, W379 S9674, Eagle, www.wisefarmproductions.com/copy-of-wise-fest

# OPEN JAMS

- October through May, the second Sunday of every month, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., Dr. Dawg, 6969 N. Port Washington Rd. Glendale, 1:30 - 4 pm
- Sundays from 1 through 4 at the Gig in Riverwest

## JOIN THE BADGERLAND BLUEGRASS MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Bluegrass instrument(s) you play:

 Banjo  Guitar  Fiddle  Bass  Mandolin  Dobro  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Membership preference (All memberships are due July of each year)

 New  Renewal Individual - \$15  Family \$20  Corporate - \$30  Band \$40**Mail your check or cash to: BBMA 11641 N. Lake Shore Dr., Mequon, WI 53092**