

# PICKIN' POST

The official publication of Louisville's Bluegrass Music Association

SPRING 2019 issue 68



Stretch your wings  
at the Kentucky Fried Pickin'  
End of Winter Jam  
March 14-16, 2019  
Holiday Inn  
Owensboro, KY

## In This Issue

- Bluegrass Anonymous Fundraiser
- New weekly jam at Wick's Pizza
- Update on Fire at Louisville Folk School
- Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars
- 10th Annual Member Appreciation Jam and "Pick-nik" (See cover)

....and much more

BLUEGRASS ANONYMOUS PRESENTS THE

## 10th Annual Member Appreciation "Pick-Nik"

With special guest performance by  
the Tennessee banjo-man

## "Leroy Troy"

Saturday, May 11, 2019

Endris Lodge - Lapping Park  
2404 Greentree N., Clarksville, IN

Jammin' starts at 11:00 am  
Lunch at 1:00 pm  
Leroy Troy Show 2:30 pm

**FREE** for BA Members  
Suggested \$5 donation for  
non-members



BA will provide  
Entrees, plates,  
napkins and  
drinks



*"Bluegrass has brought more people  
together and made more friends than any  
music in the world. You meet people at  
festivals and renew acquaintances year  
after year"*

....Bill Monroe,  
The Father of Bluegrass Music



[WWW.BLUEGRASSANONYMOUS.ORG](http://WWW.BLUEGRASSANONYMOUS.ORG)





# JOHN <sup>#9</sup> HARTFORD MEMORIAL FESTIVAL

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THE NEW OLD CAVALRY · STILL SHINE · THE SWEET LILLIES · THE WAYFARERS

WHITE LIGHTNING BOYS · WHISKEY BENT VALLEY BOYS · THE WHISPERING WILLOWS

BAND CONTEST · SONG WRITING CHALLENGE · KID ACTIVITIES · JAMMING · WORKSHOPS · CAMPING

# MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2019

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## New and Renewing Members

**Welcome to our newest members:**

Kaintuck (band): Jim Armstrong, Loren Johnson, Brandon Kindoll, Travis Reynolds: Pendleton, KY.  
 (Members # 1,287 – 1,290!)  
 Patrick Murphy: Shelbyville, KY

**Many thanks to the following renewing members, for their continued support of BA and its mission:**

Jim Allen: Louisville, KY  
 Tony and Joy Baker: Louisville, KY  
 David Craig, Depauw, IN  
 Kerry Dupaquier: Borden, IN  
 Phil Eaton (Perfection Plus Remodeling): Fairdale, KY  
 Jeannie & Charlie Ford: Louisville, KY  
 Kenny & Genie Lee: Louisville, KY  
 Nancy & Steve Leffler: Louisville, KY  
 Enid Redman: Louisville, KY

**\* Included donation in support of Louisville's Public Radio "Sunday Night Bluegrass Show" with their membership renewal. The Sunday Night Bluegrass Show with Aaron Bibelhauser airs Sundays, 8:00 – 11:00 pm ET, 91.9 FM, WFPK.org**

## Pickin' Post

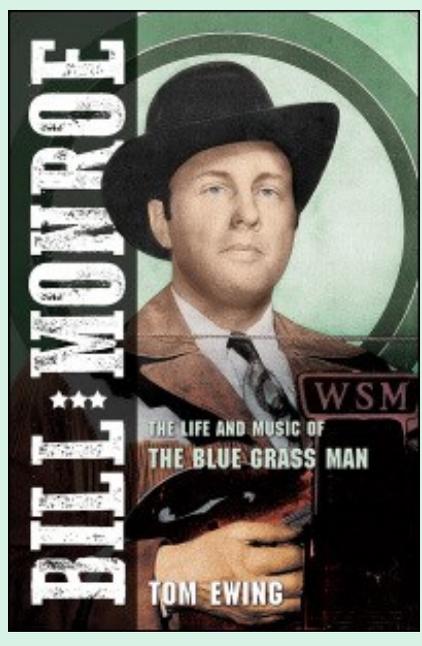
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 Robin Thixton, Editor  
 The official publication of  
**BLUEGRASS ANONYMOUS**  
*Louisville's Bluegrass Music Association*

**Mission Statement:** *Bluegrass Anonymous, Louisville's Bluegrass Music Association, is dedicated to promoting and supporting bluegrass music, preserving its tradition, and nurturing its growth by providing inclusive opportunities for pickin', singin', and listenin'.*

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## Bill Monroe

### The Life and Music of the Blue Grass Man

Author – Tom Ewing

The Father of Bluegrass Music, Bill Monroe was a major star of the Grand Ole Opry for over fifty years; a member of the Country Music, Songwriters, and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame; and a legendary figure in American music. This biography sets out to examine his life in careful detail. Former Blue Grass Boy and longtime music journalist Tom Ewing draws on hundreds of interviews, his personal relationship with Monroe, and an immense personal archive of materials to separate the truth from longstanding myth. Ewing tells the story of the Monroe family's musical household and Bill's early career in the Monroe Brothers duo. He brings to life Monroe's 1940s heyday with the Classic Bluegrass Band, the renewed fervor for his music sparked by the folk revival of the 1960s, and his declining fortunes in the years that followed. Throughout, Ewing deftly captures Monroe's relationships and the personalities of an ever-shifting roster of band members while shedding light on his business dealings and his pioneering work with Bean Blossom and other music festivals. Filled with a wealth of previously unknown details, Bill Monroe offers even the most devoted fan a deeper understanding of Monroe's towering achievements and timeless music. The book may be purchased in hardcover on Amazon, County Sales, or through the University of Illinois Press.



## There's a New Jam in Louisville... PICK!

Bluegrass Anonymous has partnered with Wick's Pizza to host a weekly open bluegrass jam at their Middletown location at 12717 Shelbyville Road Louisville, KY 40243 and will be facilitated by BA Board Member Paula Halfacre. This weekly jam is open to all levels of Bluegrass players! So pack up your guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle and bass and come jam with us and have some of the best pizza around.

*Bluegrass Anonymous, Louisville's Bluegrass Music Association, is dedicated to promoting and supporting bluegrass music, preserving its tradition, and nurturing its growth by providing inclusive opportunities for pickin', singin', and listenin'.*



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# Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars: Keeping the Music Alive

by Sandy Smith



L-R Danny Roberts, Ashlyn Smith, Jimmy Mattingly, Brannock McCartin, Gary Davis

2019 started off in a great way for local bluegrass kids. BA member Ashlyn Smith (9 years old) was featured in a four-page spread in the January issue of "The Bluegrass Standard" magazine. Ashlyn (Louisville, KY) and Brannock McCartan (Crestwood, KY) won first place in the guitar and banjo categories, respectively, at the 2019 Kentucky Bluegrass Music Kickoff, held January 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> in Lebanon, KY.

The fine family band Kentucky Just Us played at the evening festival and won first place in the Songwriter's Contest. Ashlyn worked with Brad Lanham and Gary "Biscuit" Davis (Dolly Parton's banjo player). They introduced bluegrass music to five grade schools and a couple of high schools from central Kentucky.

Louisville's bluegrass youth band, Kentucky Borderline, played the Shepherdsville Music Barn at the end of 2018. The band includes Jacob Head, Mackenzie Bell, Brannock McCartan, Rachel Detrick and Ashlyn Smith. The band will play at Molly Malone's in Louisville on February 22 and will be one of the youth bands opening for Joe Mullins' Southern Ohio Indoor Music Festival on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, held in Wilmington, OH.



Some fine ,young up and coming pickers from AL



Cutter Singleton, Ashlyn Smith

Kids had a great time at SPBGMA in Nashville over the weekend of February 1<sup>st</sup>. Zoe Shiner (16 years old; New Albany, IN) purchased a new Gibson F5 mandolin and was all smiles. Many of the Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars performed on stage and also in the SPBGMA Band Contest. Ashlyn Smith received an endorsement from Blueridge Guitars. Many thanks to Dave Gartland, Director of Marketing and Artist Relations for Saga Musical Instruments and Blueridge Guitars for the honor! At the invitation of George Gruhn (Gruhn Guitars; Nashville, TN) Ashlyn spent over two hours discussing George's rare reptile collection he keeps in his private office and then she played some of his most valuable guitars. Among those she played was a Yamaha owned by and made expressly for the late John Denver, valued at \$65,000, and a Martin D28 that was owned by the late Johnny Cash that he used to write a couple of hits on. She played several songs on Johnny's guitar, including Wayfaring Stranger and Ghost Riders in the Sky. Mr. Gruhn played several styles for her and she had an enjoyable time with him.

Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars, Inc. (based in Louisville, KY) is a group of talented young bluegrass musicians striving to preserve yesterday's music for tomorrow. The group's President, Larry Smith, is working with several festivals to get stage time for the young pickers and to provide jamming space at the festivals. TBS will be represented at the Southern OH Festival, The Remington Ryde Festival in Pennsylvania, and is hoping to be represented at the Vine Grove Bluegrass Festival in Vine Grove, KY. in the fall.

Make no mistake, bluegrass music is in good hands with youngsters, thanks to organization like IBMA, Bluegrass Anonymous and Tomorrow's Bluegrass Stars, Inc. For more info, go to [www.TomorrowsBluegrassStars.org](http://www.TomorrowsBluegrassStars.org)



Ashlyn playing John Denver's guitar



Ashlyn with George Gruhn



## Noteable



- **Tom Ewing's book, Bill Monroe The Life and Music of the Blue Grass Man**, is on sale now. It can be purchased through its publisher, University of Illinois Press, County Sales and Amazon. Several local bluegrass folks were mentioned in the book: Eddie "Slick" and Yvonne "Peanuts" Bush, Jim Smoak, Danny Jones and Alan Phelps.
- Do you have a story and/or pictures of an encounter with Bill Monroe? Would you like to share those with BA for future newsletters? If so, please, **submit those** to our editor, Robin Thixton, at [louisvillebg@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillebg@gmail.com).
- B.A.'s Pig & Pickin' Roast, the annual member appreciation pickin' party, has a new name, the **B.A. Pick-Nik**. In an effort to be inclusive to both vegetarians and carnivores, it was decided to make a name change. Same great event with a new name! Come join the fun on May 11, 2019 at Lapping Park.
- **Michael Cleveland & Flamekeeper Live from the Bluegrass Underground.** The show was taped in May 2018 and you can watch the 23 minute show at [www.FlamekeeperBand.com](http://www.FlamekeeperBand.com). The documentary about Michael's life is due for general release in mid-February 2019.
- **Bluegrass Nights at the Ryman** series tickets are on sale! The series starts June 20 with Billy Strings and the Steep Canyon Rangers and runs through August 1. For info see [www.Ryman.com](http://www.Ryman.com).
- **Adam Steffy** moves to playing mandolin with the band **Volume Five**. Jacob Bureson will switch to guitar. Can't wait to hear the new configuration.
- Lots of great bluegrass in Louisville coming up. Friday March 1, 2019 **The Travelin' McCoury's** along with the **Jeff Austin Band** will be at Zanzabar. March 28 WFPK presents **The Infamous Stringdusters** at Headliners Music Hall. **The SteelDrivers** will be at the Brown Theater on Saturday, April 6. **Gary Brewer** has a great lineup for the remainder of the **Friday Night Bluegrass** shows at Shepherdsville Music Barn featuring **Chris Jones, Dale Ann Bradley, Trinity River Band and Lorraine Jordan and Carolina Road** just to mention a few. Let's go out and support these venues so that they keep bringing in the best and brightest for us to enjoy.

# B.A. Fundraiser is Under Way

Drawing will take place at Forest Fest, May 18, 2019

(Need not be present at Forest Fest to win)

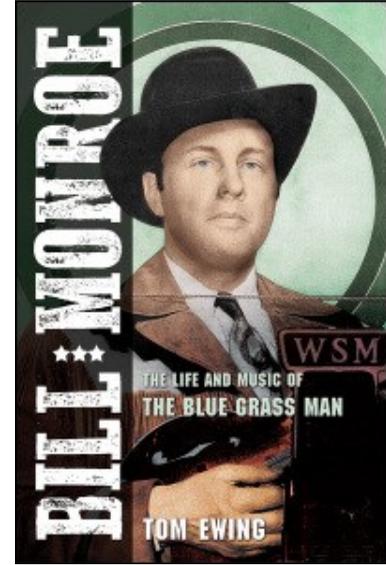
You could be the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of this beautiful, wooden music stand made by Larry Raley (Hog Operation).  
2nd place is a 15" x 40" hand-crafted art piece designed, made and donated by former B.A. board member Justin Moreschi.

3rd place winner gets a copy of Tom Ewing's book, "Bill Monroe The Life and Music of the Blue Grass Man".

Purchase tickets from board members, at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Pick-Nik, or at Forest Fest.

Ticket prices: \$ 3.00/each or 2 for \$ 5.00

Good luck and thanks for your support!



## Fire at Louisville Folk School - Update

~ by Dave Howard

On the eighth of January 2019, a fire broke out in the Clifton neighborhood building where Louisville Folk School teaches classes on banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, singing, and jamming. Thankfully, the fire occurred after classes had let out and everyone had left for the day, so there were no injuries.

While damage to the building was extensive, there were only a handful of instruments and a few furnishings damaged or destroyed that night. By far the biggest loss was being displaced from our classroom spaces in the first week of our largest Folk School session since we opened four years ago. With over 100 students in 20 different classes, plus many private students, it was a major project to re-home all of those students and classes on the fly. I would like to thank Louisville Nature Center, Louisville Academy of Music, Louisville Collegiate School, and the Lettersong Calligraphy Gallery for stepping up and allowing us to continue our classes in their spaces - especially on such short notice. Thank you also to everyone who has offered to help through this challenging time for the school! We sincerely appreciate your messages of support.

As of the deadline for this publication, we are waiting for our location to be restored so that we can again host all our classes under one roof, all the while looking for a larger, and hopefully permanent home in the Louisville area. We expect our application for 501(c)(3) status to be filed by the time this issue reaches your hands, and we will then begin fundraising to help secure the future of Louisville Folk School for generations to come.



January 8, 2019 Fire

Join us on Sunday, March 10 from 2:30-4:00 pm at the Speed Art Museum for our SPRING Showcase !

For more information about Louisville Folk School classes or to learn how you can help us secure the future of the school, email [dave@louisvillefolkschool.org](mailto:dave@louisvillefolkschool.org)



Recent Wernick Method bluegrass jam camp at Louisville Folk School



Winter session student showcase

# Forest Fest



Saturday,  
May 18

10:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.

FEATURING

Michael Cleveland



Becky Buller  
Amythyst Kiah  
Relic  
Grizzly Goat  
Ida Clare

MORE INFORMATION AT  
[facebook.com/forestfestlouisville](https://facebook.com/forestfestlouisville)



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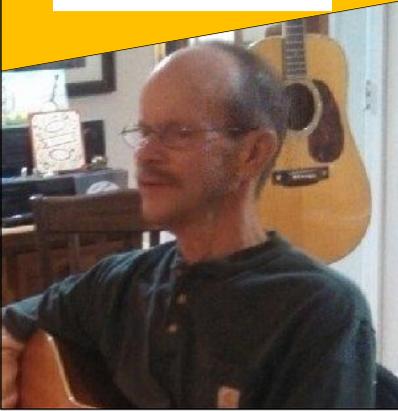


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Gerald "Gerry" Matherly (Louisville, KY.) has been a member of B.A. since 2008. Gerry plays mandolin and guitar and sings a lot of great songs. He's a great addition to any jam. He volunteers his time playing music for church, nursing home and hospital events and always has a smile and positive attitude to bring to any gathering. Thanks for your support, Gerry!

- *Bluegrass Anonymous*



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