



2023 Year in Review

Promote, Preserve & Support the Blues

BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS



Thomas Jefferson 6th grade class..

We once again were able to present Blues in the Schools (BITS) programs at Thomas Jefferson and Building Community Bridges in Jefferson City for 6th grade and afterschool students on October 25th. Our blues ambassadors were Ron Roskowske of the Kingdom Brothers Band and Big George Brock, Jr., both from St. Louis, who performed for the students. They covered the history of blues music from its early origins in the plantation fields of the south to the music of today. The students enjoyed the programs. The BITS presentations were also the subject of a prominent article appearing in the **Jefferson City News Tribune** the following day. It is gratifying to be able to fulfill this key mission of our MO Blues organization.



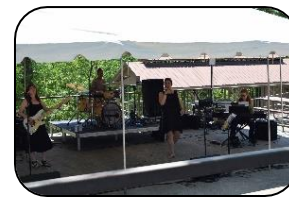
Above: Guitarist Ron Roskowske with Big George Brock, Jr. at Building Community Bridges

THE FESTIVAL

We once again organized the **Lorie Smith Blues Festival** on May 7th, but this time at McClung Park in conjunction with Jefferson City Parks Department's Spring Porchfest on nearby Fairmont Blvd. This was the 3rd year for the festival which has become a popular community event. We kicked off the afternoon with the band Buddha Blue, followed by Aina Cook and, finally, the Kingdom Brothers band. Generous grants, local sponsors, and no small amount of hard labor by club members who assembled the stage cover allowed us to bring a really nice show to Jefferson City at an excellent new location.



Buddha Blue



Aina Cook



Kingdom Brothers



Enjoying the show!

CD PROJECT

This year we released our 1st CD compilation of songs by 8 member bands entitled "Headin' Out". It showcases the talent of our member blues bands. CDs are available for purchase at any of our events, *Will West Music & Sound* and *60's Spirit* in Jefferson City.



*Visit our website at www.moblues.org, our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mobluesmissouri>, or email us at PO Box 105758, Jefferson City, MO 65110

BLUES IN THE PARK

Our annual celebration of the blues was again held in the Memorial Park Pavilion on October 1st in conjunction with the Jefferson City Parks Department's Fall Porchfest at nearby Forest Hill Avenue. The entertainment and food were free of charge. Many thanks to our hard-working kitchen crew who served drinks and BBQ sundaes. The event featured the music of The Megan Boyer Band, GrajMahal and Buddha Blue. Each band did a wonderful job. It was gratifying to see so many from the area come out on a fine day to enjoy the event. We held a raffle for a Fender Stratocaster "Tuxedo Blackie" tribute guitar generously donated by longtime member and past-President Kris Webber.



Buddha Blue



GrajMahal



Megan Boyer Band



It wouldn't be a party without the kitchen crew.



Winner of the Fender guitar, Matt Worley.

Front: Meghan Vossen, Carmen Marsch, Lisa Mueller,
Back: Bernard Thompson, Gary Peneston, Mike Maloney

OUR PARTNERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Without the continued support of our members and sponsors, we could not bring these blues events and programs to our city. MO Blues would like to thank the following businesses for their generous support:

Missouri Arts Council
Hawthorn Blank
Busch's Florist
Painters /Taper's Union
The Wallstreet Group
Lee's Chicken
KJLU Radio

Central Trust Bank
Capital Plaza Hotel
Blind Racoon Records
Will West Music
River Region Credit Union
News Tribune
JC Parks & Rec

THE HOLIDAY BLUES BLAST



Our big holiday celebration took place at the *Capital Bluffs Events Center* on December 3rd. The dinner/show featured the return of the extraordinary bluesman Mike Zito who got things started with a ripping version of "I'll Make Love to You" for an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. It was a wonderful highlight to another great year of blues music in mid-Missouri.

THE JAMS

MO Blues scheduled approximately nine jam sessions throughout the year hosted by various member bands. These commenced in January with a jam at the *Eagles Club* in Jefferson City. Other locations hosting jams were *Prison Brews*, *The Mission*, *The Outpost*, and *Serenity Valley Winery*. The monthly jams are a good way to encourage folks to get personally involved in living the blues.



Prison Brews - host Ben Green



Eagles - host Better Than Bad

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