

**Natchel' Blues Network, Inc.** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to promoting blues as a true American art form. **Your annual contribution puts you on our mailing list for the newsletter/calendar and notices of special NBN events and meetings.** If you *enjoy* blues music and/or *play* blues music, please join the NBN! Become an NBN Member = **Receive discounts at area businesses on food, entertainment and musical merchandise!** (Discounts applicable only when presenting valid NBN Membership Card.) **Please support your local blues organization!**

**VIRGINIA  
BEACH**

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

**ANNUAL TAX DEDUCTIBLE MEMBERSHIP DUES:**

INDIVIDUAL \$20                      FAMILY \$30                      CORPORATE \$100

Please return this membership application with your check or money order to: Membership, Natchel' Blues Network, P.O. Box 1773, Norfolk, VA 23501-1773. Dues are for the period of one calendar year, starting with your application date. Thank you for supporting the blues!

NBN is sponsored in part by The Hampton Arts Commission, Virginia Commission for the Arts, & the City of Virginia Beach through the Virginia Beach Arts & Humanities Commission.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Telephone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (E-Mail Address) \_\_\_\_\_

What hours are you most available by phone & where? \_\_\_\_\_ AM \_\_\_\_\_ PM \_\_\_\_\_ Home/Work \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_ Individual \_\_\_ Family \_\_\_ Corporate \_\_\_ New \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Band \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the activities you would like to help us with:

\_\_\_ NBN Newsletter \_\_\_ Mailings \_\_\_ Festival \_\_\_ Fundraising/Sponsorship \_\_\_ Membership Development \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Promotion/Policy \_\_\_ Education Programs \_\_\_ Monthly/Semi-Monthly Shows \_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please call (757) 456-1675                      Moving? Please send your new address. Bulk mail is not forwarded!

**CD REVIEWS CONT.**

**JACKIE GREENE**

*American Myth*

Verve Forecast B0006091-02

www.verveforecast.com

www.jackiegreen.com

Jackie Greene hails from California and was *discovered* at an open mic night. It's no wonder; Greene is an extremely talented multi-instrumentalist. On this CD alone, he plays guitar, dobro, piano, organ, harmonica, percussion, and sings. He is backed by fourteen other fine musicians who contribute their talents to make *American Myth* a beautifully crafted effort.

Greene comments on his influences: "I went into the basement and I found all these old records. The first thing I put on was a Ray Charles record, and it was the first time I'd ever heard music like that. I was totally mesmerized, and I spent the whole summer going through this pile of records. I kind of worked my way backwards, from Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones to Muddy Waters, Leadbelly and Hank Williams, Sr."

Greene's music can best be described as American roots music. At the same time, it is hard to pigeonhole. I can hear Tony Joe White, John Fogerty, Roger McGuinn, Bob Dylan, R.L. Burnside, Mick Jagger and Peter Wolf at different times throughout the CD. Almost every cut is different. The overall effect is somewhat mellow. It would be among my first choices to put on when the in-laws come over for dinner. Or something nice to wake up to on a Sunday morning. Chances are if you heard this CD playing in a restaurant or coffee shop you'd ask the manager who it was.

Jack Campbell

Visit blues society websites by finding their links at:  
<http://blues.about.com/od/bluessocieties/>

**BANDS THAT PLAY BLUES  
IN HAMPTON ROADS**

- Big Brewster & Blue Rocks** - Bruce Brinkley - 721-2006
- Big Fun** - Bruce Gray - 622-7235
- Black Rose Blues Band** - JD Silvia - 523-4372
- Black White Blues** - Carlton Newsome - 864-0481
- Blues Empacts** - Bill Kelly - (757) 229-9672
- Blues Xchange** - Tommy Parker - 498-3545
- dc3** - Dave Coghill - 463-2384
- DOAD** - Ted Doty - 486-9740
- Dunn & Co.** - Bryan Dunn - 631-8790
- Eddie Level** - Lloyd Jones - 418-1910
- Fat Tony** - Sandy Martin - 406-2425
- Freeborn Blues Band** - Dan Lubertazzi - 872-8580
- Fully Loaded** - Johnny Ray Light - (757) 719-3271
- HammerHead Blues** - Phil Branton - 483-1350
- Hollie & the SpeedBumps** - Denny Fohringer - 646-9757
- H.M. Johnson Band** - Carlton Lillard - 547-4506
- John Baldwin Group** - John Baldwin - 735-4409
- Michael Clark Band** - Michael Clark - 533-3088
- Mojo X** - Lloyd Jones - 418-1910
- M.S.G., the Acoustic Blues Trio** - Jackie Merritt - 722-5811
- Nasty Phat** - Mono Lee - 235-2725
- Rhythm Kings** - Mike Coghill - 460-6414
- Right Time for the Blues** - Reggie Barber - 237-6920
- Rylo** - Gabriel Baesen - 729-4660
- Shelly Craig-Potter** - 546-1528
- Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew** - Ernie Williams - 855-7461
- Tim Morgan & the Mojo Brothers** - Tim Morgan - 875-0447

If I've missed anybody or need to update some information,  
e-mail [bluzq@hotmail.com](mailto:bluzq@hotmail.com) with subject as "Band List."



**NATCHEL  
BLUES  
NETWORK**

**NATCHEL' BLUES NETWORK**

*"Keepin' the Blues Alive in Hampton Roads Since 1984"*

Volume 22

Number 4

July/August 2006

Norfolk, Virginia



Recipient of 1998 KBA Award  
"Blues Organization  
of the Year"

**13TH ANNUAL  
BLUES AT THE BEACH  
LINE-UP**

**BIRDS, BLOSSOMS AND  
BLUES WRAP-UP**

**SHOW REVIEWS**

**BLUES BITS**

**2006 BLUES MUSIC  
AWARD WINNERS**

**THE BLUE HIGHWAY**

**DVD/CD REVIEWS**

**BLUES CALENDAR**

**AND MORE**

THE NATCHEL' BLUES NETWORK AND BEACH EVENTS  
PRESENT THE **13TH ANNUAL**

**BLUES at the BEACH**

September 15-17, 2006  
17th Street Stage Virginia Beach, VA  
FREE and open to the public

**Friday, September 15, 2006** (Gates: 6:30pm)

6:45pm-7:45pm **Blues Empacts**

8:15pm-10:00pm **Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/ "Magic Dick" (J. Geils Band), Mark Wenner (The Nighthawks) & Steve Guyger**

11:30pm-1:30am **Blues Cruise, TBA**

**Saturday, September 16, 2006** (Gates: 1:30pm)

2:00-3:00pm **John Baldwin Group**

3:00-3:30pm Workshop, Artist - TBA

3:45-5:00pm **Paul Mark & The Van Dorens**

5:00-5:30pm Workshop, Artist - TBA

5:45-7:00pm **James Armstrong**

7:30-8:45pm **Ana Popovic**

9:15-10:45pm **The Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings**

**Sunday, September 17, 2006** (Gates: 11:30am)

Noon-1:00pm **Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew**

1:00-1:30pm Workshop, Artist - TBA

1:45-3:00pm **Nora Jean Bruso**

3:30-5:00pm **Mitch Woods & The Rocket 88's**

NON PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Norfolk, VA  
Permit #344



## Where U can Hear the BLUES

- WHRV 89.5 FM** **Blues Stage** with Melvin Van Peebles  
Thursday @ Midnight
- Out of the Box** with Paul Shugrue  
Monday-Thursday 6:30-8:30 pm, Sat. 1-4 pm
- A Shot of the Blues** with Paul Shugrue  
Friday 8-9 pm
- Blues Before Sunrise** with Steve Cushing  
Sunday 1-6 am
- WHOV 88.1 FM** **Nothin' But the Blues**  
Wednesday 7-10 pm
- WESR 103.3 FM** **Blues Review** with Billy Sturgis  
(VA Eastern Shore)  
Wednesday 8-9 pm
- WFOS 88.7 FM** **Who's Got the Blues** with Richie Babb  
3rd Sunday of month 4-7 pm
- Blues Traffic Jam**  
Monday-Friday 3-7 pm

## NBN Drawing

Once a month we will draw the name of a new/renewing member for a **FREE CD**

**NBN CD WINNERS**  
May - Judy Kuniba  
June - Barbara Wade

## Natchel' Blues Network Bands!!

Advertise in *Blues News* with a 1/4 page ad (usually \$45) for only **\$30 per issue.**

Provide us with the info and we will **DESIGN** the ad for you. One picture only.

Ad must be pre-paid.  
Call Beth Jarock at 623-8559.

# The Blue Highway

## Travelin' Blues: Savannah, GA

**The Mercury Lounge** at 126 W. Congress Street in Savannah is one hip joint. You take one look at the place and say, "hmm, martini bar." The leopard-skin-covered bar stools and a mural of the original Rat Pack plastered on the far wall tend to give it away. Swinging free-form jazz piped through the PA system reinforces the feeling.

**But Tuesday nights at the Mercury belong to the blues.** A guy named Eric is the host. Eric appears to be an unassuming 30-something guy just getting a job done. But wait, my friends, when Eric picks up his guitar he is transformed! I can easily say Eric is one of the best guitarists I ever played with, and his band is very tight as well. He's right up there with Michael Clark, Jimmie Silvia, Ted Doty and that other local guy whose name escapes me.

The jam starts late at the Mercury, around 10:30 pm. There is usually something going on down the street at **Savannah Blues** beforehand. If you play your cards right, you could sit in with the act at Savannah Blues early, and follow the musicians down the block to the Mercury for the real jam.

Both times I attended the jam at the Mercury, there were two other harp players (the same ones each time). We all got plenty of playing time and everyone was complimentary. On both nights, the crowd was moderate but really into the blues. And as usual, it's a clientele that's easy to engage in a conversation about music.

Mild night temperatures, a host of entertainment options, and a relaxed atmosphere make Savannah's City Market area a cool place to visit. Warm Southern hospitality and mighty hot blues music make The Mercury Lounge a certified destination for any blues odyssey!

Keep the Blues Alive!  
**Jack Campbell**

## Dale Butcher Jr. Benefit Thank You

On behalf of the entire Butcher family I wish to thank all who freely gave their time and resources for my son Dale. Our thanks go to Jimmy (JD) Silvia for his efforts to make this happen, the Black Rose Blues Band for hosting the benefit, Nellie Tiger Travis & the Tuesday Night Choir, The Michael Clark Band featuring Tracy Clark, and Goodfellas Restaurant. The benefit was a success in many ways. Thank you and may God richly bless each one of you for your generosity.

**Dale Butcher Sr.**

## NBN ADVERTISING INFO

**Reservation deadline:** 6 weeks prior to publication date.  
**Copy deadline:** 5th of the month prior to publication date.

### Rates

Classified Ad	\$10
Business Card	\$30
1/4 page	\$45
1/2 page	\$85
Full page	\$150

*A fee of \$35 will be added if not camera-ready*

**For more information, contact Advertising**  
Beth Jarock (757) 623-8559  
e-mail - bluesbet@infionline.net

Deb Malenda Hill  
e-mail - bluzq@hotmail.com

**Graphic Info**  
Jackie Merritt (757) 722-5811  
FAX 722-5811

**Membership and Volunteer Information**  
Natchel' Blues Network  
P.O. Box 1773  
Norfolk, VA 23501-1773

**NBN Hotline**  
For updates, call (757) 456-1675

**EVERY SUNDAY!**  
Open Mic from 7-11pm  
@ Tribeca Club, Omni Hotel (NN)

**EVERY TUESDAY!**  
Open Mic Night w/Don Butcher  
@ Goodfellas (H)

**EVERY THURSDAY!**  
H.M. Johnson Band  
@ O'Sullivan's Wharf (N)

## DISTRIBUTION MANAGER FOR BLUES NEWS NEEDED!

If interested, please call  
Andree T. Butcher  
@ 482-2198.

## CLASSIFIED ADS NOW AVAILABLE!!

*Looking for an additional musician  
for your band?*

*Selling or searching for an instrument?*

*Want to advertise your business?*

Only \$10!  
Maximum 25-30 words  
Contact Beth Jarock at (757) 623-8559 or  
bluesbet@infionline.net



This certifies  
**John Xyz Doe**  
as a member in good standing and eligible to all rights and privileges of the Natchel' Blues Network, Inc.

## Classified Ad

**The Black Rose Blues Band**  
is looking for an experienced vocalist. If interested, please contact J.D. Silvia at 523-4372 or bluzgrman@verizon.net to schedule an audition.

## NBN Members:

Receive the bimonthly *Blues News* and the NBN Calendar.

Plus, enjoy discounts with your Membership Card at these participating area businesses:

### Birdland Music 10% Off

Records, Tapes, & Compact Discs  
Providence Square, Virginia Beach, VA

### Captain Zig-Zag Newsletter Advertisement Coupons

4704 Hampton Blvd.  
Norfolk, VA  
(Unisex haircutting, across from ODU)

### Goodfellas 10% Off Food only 50% Off Cover Charge for National Acts

13 E. Queens Way  
Hampton, VA

### Quality Music Center 10% Off In-store Merchandise

300-A N. Battlefield Blvd.  
Chesapeake, VA 23320

### The Jewish Mother 20% Off Food only 20% Off Cover Charge for National Acts

3108 Pacific Avenue  
Virginia Beach, VA

*[Discounts applicable only when presenting valid NBN Membership Card]*

NBN membership form is on the back page

## NBN Vice-President

seat needs to be filled!  
Call Andree Butcher at 482-2198.

## July 2006 BLUES CALENDAR

Cities: (N) Norfolk...(VB) Virginia Beach...(P) Portsmouth...(C) Chesapeake...(S) Suffolk...(H) Hampton...(R) Richmond...  
(NN) Newport News...(W) Williamsburg

For Listings to the NBN Calendar

please contact: Ron Parker [rjparker1213@verizon.net](mailto:rjparker1213@verizon.net)

### Saturday 1

dc3 – Randzz (S)  
Doad – Abbey Road (VB)  
H.M. Johnson Band – Indian Cove Campground (VB) 7:30 pm  
Michael Clark Band featuring Tracy Clark – J.M. Randall's (W)

### Sunday 2

H.M. Johnson Band – Baja (VB) 5 pm

### Monday 3

John Baldwin – 18th Street Café (VB)

### Tuesday 4

Open Mic Night w/Don Butcher - Goodfellas (H)  
John Baldwin – Wild Wing Café (C)

Rhythm Kings (CD Release Party) – Chick's Beach Café (VB) 8 pm

### Wednesday 5

John Baldwin – Beach Street Café (VB)  
Big Fun – Ocean Eddies (VB)

### Thursday 6

Terry Garland – Jewish Mother (VB)  
H.M. Johnson Band – O'Sullivan's Wharf (N)

### Friday 7

The Blasters w/Rylo – Jewish Mother (VB)  
Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew – Baron's Pub (S)  
dc3 – Hat Trix (H)  
Doad – Rosie's II (N)  
H.M. Johnson Band – Signature @ West Neck Golf Club (VB) 6 pm  
Michael Clark Band featuring Tracy Clark – Goodfellas (H)

### Saturday 8

dc3 – Hat Trix (H)  
Doad – Rosie's II (N)  
H.M. Johnson Band – Hilton 31st Street Park Stage (VB) 12 pm  
H.M. Johnson Band – Best Western Pelican Pub (Eastern Shore) 8 pm  
Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew – Goodfellas (H)

### Sunday 9

NBN Fundraiser Blues Jam (Host Band, DOAD) - Goodfellas (H) 5-9 pm  
John Baldwin – 18th Street Café (VB)

### Monday 10

John Baldwin – Beach Street USA (VB)

### Tuesday 11

Doad – Blues on the Boardwalk. 17th St. Stage (VB) 8-9 pm  
Hollie & the SpeedBumps – Blues on the Boardwalk, 17th St. Stage (VB) 9:30-10:30  
Open Mic Night w/Don Butcher - Goodfellas (H)

John Baldwin – Ocean House (VB)

### Wednesday 12

John Baldwin – Beach Street USA (VB)

### Thursday 13

H.M. Johnson Band – O'Sullivan's Wharf (N)

### Friday 14

Skyla Burrell – Goodfellas (H)  
Blues Exchange – Ft. Monroe (H)  
H.M. Johnson Band – O'Sullivan's Wharf (N) 12 pm

### Saturday 15

Rhythm Kings – Catch 31 (VB) 12 pm

[For Mid-Atlantic listings, visit [www.natchelblues.org](http://www.natchelblues.org)]

### Sunday 16

John Baldwin – Abbey Road (VB)  
Rhythm Kings – Baja (VB) 5 pm

### Tuesday 18

Tuesday Night Choir – Blues on the Boardwalk, 17th St. Stage (VB) 8-9 pm  
Rhythm Kings – Blues on the Boardwalk, 17th St. Stage (VB) 9:30-10:30 pm  
Open Mic Night w/Don Butcher - Goodfellas (H)

### Wednesday 19

Big Fun – Ocean Eddies (VB)  
John Baldwin – 18th Street Café (VB)

### Thursday 20

H.M. Johnson Band – O'Sullivan's Wharf (N)  
John Baldwin – Beach Street USA (VB)

### Friday 21

Hollie & the SpeedBumps – Jerry's (C)  
Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew – Winston's Café (C)  
Big Fun – Baker St. (VB)  
dc3 – Baron's Pub (S)

### Saturday 22

Doad – Jerry's (C)  
Black White Blues - Redbones Bar & Grill (C)  
Hollie & the SpeedBumps – Boomerang's (P)

### Tuesday 25

H.M. Johnson Band – Blues on the Boardwalk, 17th St. Stage (VB) 8-9 pm  
RTB (Right Time for the Blues) - Blues on the Boardwalk, 17th St. Stage (VB) 9:30-10:30 pm  
Open Mic Night w/Don Butcher - Goodfellas (H)

### Wednesday 26

John Baldwin – 18th Street Café (VB)  
Rhythm Kings – Baja (VB) 8 pm

### Thursday 27

H.M. Johnson Band – O'Sullivan's Wharf (N)  
John Baldwin – Beach Street USA (VB)

### Friday 28

Mem Shannon & the Membership - Jewish Mother (VB)  
H.M. Johnson – Baja (VB) 8 pm  
dc3 – A.J. Gator's (C)  
Hollie & the SpeedBumps – Goodfellas (H)

### Saturday 29

dc3 – Baker Street (VB)

### Sunday 30

John Baldwin – Beach Street USA (VB)

### Monday 31

John Baldwin – Beach Street USA (VB)

Thank you  
JACKIE SCOTT and  
TED DOTY for  
compiling the June  
& July calendars!

## NBN Fundraiser Blues Jam

*Calling all local musicians and Blues Lovers!  
Come on out ~ Listen, Enjoy, & JAM....*

Support the NBN Fundraising Blues Jam  
**\$5 at the door – 5:00 pm-9:00 pm**

Bring an instrument = No cover charge!

**Sunday, July 9th - Goodfellas, Hampton –  
Host Band - Doad**

P.O. Box 1773  
Norfolk, VA 23501-1773  
24 Hour Blues Hotline:  
(757) 456-1675

### BLUES NEWS

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the NBN, Inc. 2006

### BLUES NEWS

The official publication of the  
Natchel' Blues Network, Inc., a 501  
(c) (3) non-profit organization, run by  
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as America's one true musical art form.

### BLUES NEWS EDITORS

Beth Jarock, Editor  
Cynthia Horen, Associate Editor

### LAYOUT & DESIGN

JAMW GRAPHICS & MUSIC  
JACKIE MERRITT (757) 722-5811

### CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Scott Allen & Jen Taylor ([vividpix.com](http://vividpix.com)),  
Cathy Dixson, Sue Julene,  
Stephen Kinstler, Alan Kurzer,  
Bob Mahan & Tommy Parker

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Andree T. Butcher, Jack Campbell,  
Ted Doty, Tommy Fisher, Cynthia Horen,  
David Horen, Beth Jarock, Alan Kurzer,  
Bob Mahan, Jackie Merritt, Jackie Scott,  
Dave Simoson & Don Sippel Jr.

### 2006 NBN BOARD

#### Directors & Officers

Andree T. Butcher, President  
Open seat - Vice President  
David Horen, Treasurer  
Martha O'Berry, Secretary

Sue Doty, Ted Doty, Georganne Fischer,  
Bruce Kincaid, Jackie Merritt, Shelly Craig  
Potter, Ernie Williams & Shar Wolff

### Webmaster

Jeff Miller

*The views & opinions expressed in this publication  
by individual writers are not necessarily the opinions  
of NBN or Blues News.*

## Words from the PRESIDENT

The NBN Fundraising Jams have proven to be quite popular amongst local blues musicians, bands and the general membership. Several of you have asked when and where our next Jam would be; look for upcoming information on our website at [www.natchelblues.org](http://www.natchelblues.org) and join us for a Sunday afternoon/evening of local blues music. These jams provide our local blues musicians from various bands the opportunity to play together while the general membership and local blues lovers enjoy the talent for a nominal cover charge of \$5 per person.

A big thank you goes out to all of our awesome volunteers that worked the **Bayou Boogaloo**. Your time translates into dollars for the NBN, which keeps this non-profit organization going strong. Thank you to **Georganne Fischer** and **Dan Rodgers** for helping coordinate our volunteers. The NBN also wishes to thank **FestEvents** and their efforts to produce one of the best festivals in the Mid-Atlantic area.

**Blues on the Boardwalk Series:** Each Tuesday night in July and August, two local blues bands are featured on the **17th Street Park Stage** to share their musical talents with local blues lovers and tourists. Blues on the Boardwalk is **Free to the Public**. Save the lineup from page 13 and join us for an evening of blues. You don't want to miss a single show!

**Blues at the Beach Festival:** September 15th, 16th and 17th at the **17th Street Park Stage**. Three days of "Blues Fun" with local, regional and national blues musicians to entertain you! Again, this is a **Free to the Public Festival!** On site will be the NBN merchandise and festival t-shirts for sale. Back by popular demand will be the **Blues Cruise on Friday night**. Please check our website for band information. Get your tickets early, as it will sell out!!!

**We need blues lovers to assist with the Blues at the Beach Festival** on several committees that include stage, NBN merchandise tent, beer sales & service, and festival security. Check the website or give me a call for more volunteer details. All volunteers are entered into a drawing for fun stuff like posters, music and merchandise! The **Volunteer Appreciation Party** is in the fall. Please plan to join us for this year's festivities!

The NBN is proud to support and distribute the **2006 Blues Festival Guide**. This is your Guide to the World of the Blues! Need to know where and when the Blues Festivals are? The *Blues Festival Guide* provides you with information on over 60 blues festivals, articles and blues society listings. Pick up your free copy from any NBN Board member, at any of the NBN events and at selected NBN newsstands around town!

Please contact me at [andreetbutcher@cox.net](mailto:andreetbutcher@cox.net) or by telephone at **757-482-2198** should you have any comments, suggestions, complaints or advice.

**Andree T. Butcher**  
NBN President 2006

### CORRECTIONS

Thank you to Deb Malenda Hill for  
emceeing the NBN Fundraising Jam at the  
Jewish Mother on April 9, 2006.

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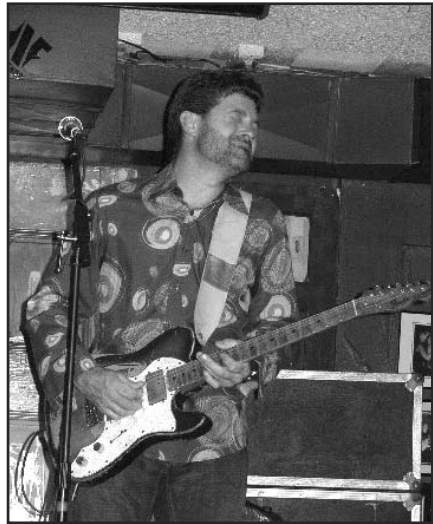
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Tab Benoit

Photo by Alan Kurzer

## Tab Benoit @ The Jewish Mother {Virginia Beach, VA - May 17, 2006}

Fresh from the Blues Music Awards in Memphis, where his *Fever for the Bayou* won Best Contemporary Blues Album, Tab Benoit gave Virginia fans a fiery show at the Jewish Mother on May 17th. Accompanied by his longtime Louisiana musical partners Carl Dufrene, on a very funky bass, and Darryl White, drummer extraordinaire, Benoit greeted the packed house with "Dirty Dishes" and Professor Longhair's 1936 hit "Her Mind is Gone," (from his *Wetlands* CD).

Pleased to see many familiar faces, he interspersed the tunes with relaxed and lively conversation with the crowd; to our delight, he asked what we wanted to hear and played many of our requests--of course, there are only excellent choices in this tunesmith's catalogue! Next up was the slow-dance classic "Bring It on Home" from his brand-new *Brother to the Blues*, "Night Train," and the ever-popular "Got Love if You Want It." Benoit lit up the night with "Love Lights," "Pack It Up," Otis Redding's "These Arms of Mine" and the raucous Chuck Berry-like "Crawfishin'."

He started the second set solo with Hank Williams' "Bucket Got a Hole in It" and "Stackolina," thrilling the audience with his trademark treatment of the strings (as if he is playing a rubboard) and then sliding his nails down the string—as one fan put it, "scratching his guitar's itch"! On the funky "Baby Blue," Dufrene took an extended solo to demonstrate his chops while the multi-instrumental Benoit took over the drum kit, followed by a drumming duel with White (who next displayed another level of his amazingly elegant stickwork); Benoit's own stinging staccato guitar finished that tune. WOW.

But what really brought down the house was that Tabasco-and jazz-infused Holy Musical Trinity: "Jambalaya," "Iko Iko" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" (the last as a rumba). We were all Louisianans that night!

Relentless applause drew Benoit back to the stage to announce that of course he had to talk about it—"it" being the state of post-Katrina New Orleans. His impassioned speech began with "It is NOT better!" He explained that in spite of Jazzfest publicity, the city is very much still in disrepair and in need of help, asserting that most of the funds have been wasted or gone to line the pockets of big business, and that attention must be paid in Washington to correct the situation. He urged each of us to contact our representatives to insist that New Orleans must be made whole again through appropriate national oversight, and reminding us that in another hurricane, it could be Hampton Roads facing incomprehensible obstacles to bringing its citizens home. (Benoit is beloved by New Orleanians for keeping hope alive as he travels the country.)

The final tune of the night was the rabble-rousing "Got a Bone to Pick." We tried to keep him there for yet another encore, but it was long after midnight on a Wednesday after all, so the crowd reluctantly let him go—until August 9th!

Cynthia Horen

# SHOW REVIEWS



Merritt



Spicer



Gibbs

Photos by Cathy Dixon

## M.S.G.-The Acoustic Blues Trio CD Release Party @ Granby North Restaurant [Norfolk, VA - April 30, 2006]

### Good things come in 3s

April 30th. Every year, this day is something very special to my wife and me, as it marks the anniversary of when we met (which is the best thing that's happened in my life since my children were born, by the way). And this year, we chose to attend the *Meet Me in the Middle* CD release party for M.S.G.-The Acoustic Blues Trio of Jackie Merritt, Miles Spicer, and Resa Gibbs. This event was coordinated with a benefit fundraiser for the Tidewater Arts Outreach (TAO). The house, Granby North Restaurant (9619 Granby Street), was absolutely full. Family, friends, and yes, newcomers and strangers all joined in welcoming the Trio to the stage with their two-hour performance.

They call it 'Piedmont Blues' style, featuring guitar, harp, washboard, kazoo, bones, and some awesome harmonies. I mean AWESOME harmonies. It's as if there is one voice singing two and three parts at once, the way their voices' timbres just complement one another. But Gibbs sings the majority of the leads, and if you close your eyes, you might think Anita Baker just became a blues singer. With an amazing range, sultry and appealing, she can take any song she wants to and make it her own and bring you with her.

And this band's music simply wouldn't be the same without any one of these individuals involved in doing it. Spicer's guitar playing is top notch and is the nucleus for each song. He plays a parlor-sized, modern-day version acoustic guitar that if they were alive today, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Leadbelly, or the Wolf might use. Merritt's harmonica brings dynamics and inflection. "Sugar Lips" really deserves a lot of "Merritt" for the way she complements each composition (she also writes for the band) with tasty, subtle parts. And then there's the washboard--just precisely the amount of percussion for their music! Resa, I gotta get me one of those and start writing some stuff with that in it! Merritt also plays the bones, and add a little kazoo to the mix and you have a non-toxic preservative of the blues known as MSG-The Acoustic Blues Trio.

There is no question that the audience loved MSG's performance, and as far as this writer is concerned, the music from the CD is still in the player and the tunes are continuing to swim around in his head. What a great education, to hear these guys, M.S.G.-The Acoustic Blues Trio. That's how it's done!

Ted Doty, aka DOAD

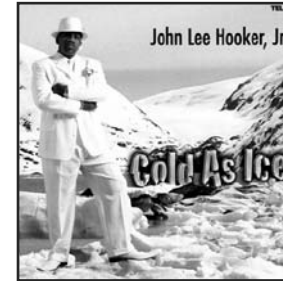
# CD REVIEWS

## JOHN LEE HOOKER, JR.

*Cold As Ice*

Telarc CD 83642

www.johnleehookerjr.com



With a W.C. Handy Award for Best New Artist Debut and a Grammy nomination for his *Blues with a Vengeance* CD behind him, John Lee Hooker, Jr. has once again assembled the same rock steady musicians that graced his initial release. Although he changed record labels from Kent to Telarc, Hooker Jr. has lost none of the songwriting edginess that permeated his debut disc.

Starting off with "I Pity the Fool" horn arrangements, "You Blew It Baby" features Hooker Jr. soulfully critiquing a woman who has managed a really bad choice. "Fed Up" is classic R&B right out of the '60s, with The O'Town Passion Singers on sweet backup harmonies and Hooker Jr. railing on about his so-called friends. The jazz blues swinging "Cold As Ice," with the amazing guitarist John Garcia, Jr. spitting out Mike Bloomfield licks, unfortunately finds Hooker Jr. on the receiving end of a bad relationship. Will "Roc" Griffin's rhythmic keyboards and Garcia Jr.'s plaintive soloing fatten up "Do Daddy," Hooker Jr.'s heartfelt bio tribute to his famous musical dad. On this track, Hooker Jr. aggressively sings, "We called him Do Daddy, because he did everything he said he'd do." On the keyboard- and horn-powered funky blues "Trapped," Hooker Jr. finds himself stuck in a very bad love affair. Hooker Sr.'s classic slow blues "I'm In The Mood" receives an earthy treatment, with Jr.'s gritty vocals, Garcia Jr.'s intense vibrato fills and Griffin's vigorous piano work.

On his spirited sophomore release, John Lee Hooker, Jr. seems determined to keep his family's legacy alive, while furthering his own personal stamp on blues music in the new millennium.

Alan Kurzer



## GARY MOORE

*Old New Ballads Blues*

Eagle Rock ER20090-2

www.gary-moore.com

Hailing from Belfast, Northern Ireland, veteran rocking blues guitarist Gary Moore's early influences ranged from Elvis Presley to the Beatles. His love affair with the blues was fueled by catching live performances of Jimi Hendrix and John Mayall, and his mentoring under noted British guitarist Peter Green. From musical outfits Thin Lizzy, Skid Row and the inventive Colosseum II, Moore has progressed as an expressive guitarist. His nearly thirty-year solo career found him playing with music heroes Albert King, B.B. King and Albert Collins and cutting the tribute album *Blues for Greeny* for the influential Fleetwood Mac guitarist Green. With his 1990 breakthrough release *Still Got the Blues* and its successor *After Hours*, Moore's reputation as a hard-charging blues performer was firmly in place.

On this new recording, Moore manages to mesh his own energetic original numbers with classics by blues legends Willie Dixon and Otis Rush. Over a background of Don Airey's tasteful Hammond organ, the heavy rumba-influenced Rush gem "All Your Love" receives a vigorous reading, spotlighting Moore's rough-and-tumble vocals and energized guitar work. The fiery new bluesy instrumental "Cut It Out" features current Jethro Tull bassist Jonathan Noyce laying down a funky bottom alongside percussionist Darrin Mooney, as Moore squeezes every last vibratoed note out of that Les Paul. As the keyboards swirl and the brass section punctuates Dixon's slow minor blues "You Know My Love," Moore's gritty, heartfelt vocals and soaring solos drive the point home.

With a musical legacy that runs the gamut from hard rock to Celtic to progressive, Moore's current passion and drive are with the blues...and he really nails 'em.

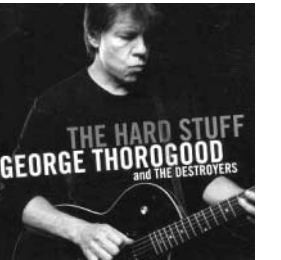
Alan Kurzer

## GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS

*The Hard Stuff*

Eagle Rock ER20039-2

www.georgethorogood.com



You know, from the get-go, I have to admit that I was never a huge George Thorogood fan. I favored my own team, which included Albert King, Mike Bloomfield, Jeff Beck, Rory Gallagher, Duane Allman and Eric Clapton. That being said Wilmington, Delaware's own guitar bruiser has managed to survive three decades in this brutal music business. He's more popular now than ever, with a 2005 Gold CD titled *30 Years of Rock* ninety weeks on the charts, and also named Billboard's Top Blues Artist of 2005. The musician who brought you "One Bourbon, One Scotch and One Beer" and "Bad To The Bone" is back with an impressively tight five-piece that lets Thorogood get his boogie thing going on.

On John Lee Hooker's hyper boogie "Huckle Up Baby," Thorogood slides his heavily distorted Gibson electric right on down the track. The band effectively uses its driving guitars and gritty vocals on energetic numbers like "Rock Party" and "Any Town USA." You could catch a little of the '80s Z.Z. Top tone in there as well. The swinging instrumental "Cool It" finds both second guitarist Jim Suhler and sax player Buddy Leach shining in the spotlight. The band tackles Bob Dylan's "Drifter's Escape" with nice rootsy acoustic guitar background. Fats Domino's classic "Hello Josephine" receives a spirited send-up, with a liner notes dedication to "the spirit of the people of New Orleans." The legendary Howlin' Wolf's country blues "Moving" features Thorogood's tough vocals and some tasty blues bending guitar from Suhler.

To all those following this long-running group, it looks like Thorogood's hit another one out of the park.

Alan Kurzer

## MIGHTY SAM McCLAIN

*Betcha Didn't Know*

Mighty Music 102

www.mightysam.com

When it comes to gospel-drenched deep soul blues that incorporate the funk of a Crescent City second line and could be spilling as easily from a juke as a sanctuary, I like to look north to Little Epping, New Hampshire, to see what Mighty Sam is up to.

Sam McClain has taken control of his own musical destiny. From publishing and management to writing, arranging, and production, Sam and his family can handle it all for his own imprint. *Betcha Didn't Know* is the sophomore release on Sam's Mighty Music label, following the terrific 2003 *One More Bridge to Cross*.

Backed by a four-man combo, the six strong Mighty Horns, The Funky Divas of Soul, and rapper Jesse Lanoo (Ape Sh\*\*), Sam and collaborator Pat Herlehy present thirteen originals with a modern edge and a very old soul. Sam's conviction, message, and delivery create a powerful force that can move and inspire even a cynic like me. Recommended.

Magic Dave Simson



Cont. from page 15

# CD REVIEWS

## RYLO

*Drnt Music*

Self Produced

www.drntmusic.com

If you like your blues, hard, hot and sweaty, then you've come to the right place. On *Drnt Music*, the young cats in Rylo rev-up their brand of high-energy blues. It's akin to driving with a madman behind the wheel. Either close your eyes and crawl under the dash or let the top down, stand on your seat and howl at the moon. Front man Al Baesen does the howling, growling and fiery harp playing for the band, while guitarist Gordon Bradley's solos run the gamut from the coolest big-hollow-body jazz licks to amphetamine-fueled blues and rockabilly.

All tunes on *Drnt Music* were self-penned. Lyrically, the songs are remarkably well crafted, displaying creative wit and word play while never leaving the gritty side of town. Their repertoire leans toward those two blues staples--bad love and drinkin' liquor. Standouts include the jazzy "Post Time," beginning as a slow burner before exploding into a raging battle between harp and guitar. The rave up "Bullets" is pure punk blues. Think The Ramones doing Chuck Berry at break-neck speed, and then kick it up a notch. Finally, the rowdy sing-along "Nine Steps (to the liquor store)" is a sinner's delight.

Rylo's music and incendiary live shows are not for the faint at heart, but if you're jonesing for some hard-driving, sweat-soaked blues, check these guys out. Rylo opens for the legendary Blasters at the Jewish Mother July 7; the band is featured at NBN's Blues on the Boardwalk August 22.

David Horen

## DADDY MACK BLUES BAND FEATURING BILLY GIBSON

*Slow Ride*

Inside Sounds ISCD 0527

www.insidesounds.com

What do you mean when you say a Memphis blues man has done a whole CD of covers from British and American Rockers (from the Monkeys to Santana)? Well, they stole the sound from the blues folks, lo, those many years ago, and Daddy Mack is now returning the favor.

Those fast-tempo driving rock songs have been rearranged by Daddy Mack and the boys into slow, soul-searching ballads and down the alley tunes. Daddy Mack provides the vocals and guest Billy Gibson provides the harp accompaniment. You'll recognize every tune from Clapton to Fleetwood Mac to Led Zeppelin, and once you listen to it for a while, it will grow on you. I had it on heavy rotation in my car for a few weeks, and it's great for driving in heavy traffic or would be great to listen to when you are at home and just want to chill out. This CD takes great rock music back to the roots sound that it originated from way back when. Find it, play it, and add it to your collection. You won't be disappointed.

Bob Mahan

## SMOKIN' JOE KUBEK & BNOIS KING

*My Heart's in Texas*

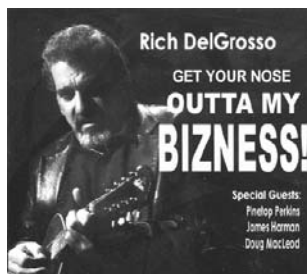
Blind Pig BPCD 5102

www.blindpigrecords.com

From hot Texas licks to smooth and soulful jazz/blues ballads to slow drags down the alley, this most recent effort has it all. Joe Kubek is truly smokin' when he wants to be and Bnois King adds a slower, less incendiary jazz-influenced rhythm counterpoint to Joe's guitar. Having seen a partial set live at Blues at the Beach a few years ago in Virginia Beach, I can appreciate this first "live" recording for the duo. That evening, the show was called due to lightning, and therefore no one was electrocuted and we still have them with us today. This CD was worth the wait. My information tells me that Blind Pig didn't feel real good about a live project. Joe convinced them and this recording from the J & J Blues Bar in Fort Worth, Texas this past New Year's Eve is the fine result.

"Where I Want to Be" and "She's Too Busy" are brand new from Kubek and King. "Boogie on Down" (Freddie King) and "That's Alright" (James Lane) are covers never before recorded by this duo. All other songs are from the *Roadhouse Research* or *Show Me the Money* CDs. I like the live versions of those tunes better, and you can tell the crowd was energizing the band. It was just released May 9th, so you'll probably have to go to your local music store or the Blind Pig website to get it. If you like blues, you'll like this one.

Bob Mahan



## RICH DELGROSSO

*Get Your Nose Outta My Bizness!*

Mandolin Blues MB10001

www.mandolinblues.com

Listening to the down home sounds of Rich DelGrosso's debut solo artist CD brings back fond memories of him jammin' on the porch of the Hallehurst Mansion, at Augusta Heritage BluesWeek at Davis & Elkins College. Every 3rd week in July, I make that sojourn to Elkins, WV, where for one full week, non-stop acoustic blues flows endlessly through my veins. Several years ago, I had the pleasure of jamming one evening with Rich and some other legendary acoustic musicians like John Jackson, Phil Wiggins, John Cephas, and more. I can clearly picture that evening, with him laughing, singing, storytelling and plucking away on the strings of his mandolin. At first it's an odd image, because he's a BIG man with a BIG infectious grin, and in his hands that small instrument seems even smaller than it really is.

Rich DelGrosso is considered one of the world's greatest blues mandolin players. On this CD, he pays homage to the history of the blues. The Delta blues actually came from the string band tradition of mandolins, banjos, fiddles, jugs and kazoos. This album is very enjoyable and full of life. From the background sounds of Pinetop Perkins, now at the age of 92 sounding better than ever, and others laughing on some of the cuts, you know these guys just set back and laid down a groove. To some of us, these old standards we've all heard before, but with the added element of Rich's richly toned mandolin, they have a new fresh sounding flavor that changes from one cut to the next. I especially liked the duo of him and Pinetop finishing out the sixteen-cut CD with an instrumental version of "How Long Blues."

*Get Your Nose Outta My Bizness!* was listed on the Top Ten Living Blues charts for Nov./Dec. 2005. DelGrosso was just nominated for "Best Instrumentalist-Other" at the 2006 Blues Music Awards in Memphis this past May. With special guests Pinetop Perkins, James Harman and Doug McLeod, this is I think, one of the best recordings I've heard in a long time. This album is a jewel, and I guarantee you'll it play over and over.

Jackie "Sugarlips" Merritt

## WELCOME New Directors Sue and Ted Doty

Sue and Ted Doty will be filling the two vacant seats. You may have seen, read and heard some of Sue's and Ted's creative works in their photography, writing and music. These two very talented and gifted individuals have also volunteered to join the NBN's Merchandise Committee as well.

The Vice-President seat is vacant.

## KINGS FOR KING'S DAUGHTERS

Please join Quality Music in Chesapeake, for  
KINGS FOR KING'S DAUGHTERS, an event to  
benefit The Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters

Saturday, August 12th - 10am-5pm

Performances by local Elvis® tribute artists, raffles for gift certificates  
and music items, with proceeds to benefit CHKD.

Quality Music, 300A N. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake, VA  
(757) 547-1231 for Info.

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757-547-1231

WWW.qualitymusiccenter.com

300-A.N. Battlefield Blvd. Chesapeake, VA 23320



## The Blues Foundation, headquartered in Memphis, Tennessee, the "Home of the Blues," may be coming to Hampton Roads!

They are the producers of The Blues Music Awards (formerly known as the W.C. Handy Blues Awards), the Blues Hall of Fame, the Lifetime Achievement Awards, the Keeping the Blues Alive Awards, The Hart Fund and, the International Blues Challenge (IBC).

With more than 145 affiliated blues organizations and membership spanning the globe, the Foundation serves as the hub for the worldwide passion for Blues Music.

The Blues Foundation's Board of Directors is interested in conducting meetings around the country and is looking at some possibilities for its fall meeting. They began by looking at some festivals during that time frame in locations in which they have an affiliate or Board or Advisory Board members, including:

- |                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a. Sept. 16 Virginia Beach, VA | Blues at the Beach                    |
| b. Sept. 23 San Francisco, CA  | San Francisco Blues Fest.             |
| c. Oct. 21 Detroit, MI         | Motor City Blues and<br>Boogie Woogie |
| d. Oct. 28 Sarasota, FL        | Sarasota Blues Festival               |

What an honor to be on this list! Along with an outstanding line-up of artists for the Blues at the Beach Festival, the Natchel' Blues Network also has a Blues Cruise planned for September 15th following the evening's performances, and an After-Party at the Jewish Mother on Saturday evening!

The band has not been selected for the Blues Cruise. If you would like to be considered for this event, have 3-4 members in your band (small stage area) and play blues, please let one of the NBN Board members know! (The Blues Foundation will be invited to the cruise!)

Please check our website at [www.natchelblues.org](http://www.natchelblues.org) for updates on this exciting weekend!

For more information on The Blues Foundation, check them out at [www.blues.org](http://www.blues.org). Membership to The Blues Foundation is available through your local blues society, The Natchel' Blues Network.

Andree T. Butcher  
NBN President 2006

## Suffolk Blues & Jazz Series

Surprising Suffolk! With a back yard venue such as the one behind The Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in downtown Suffolk, how much more perfect can it get?

Suffolk Parks & Recreation launched its first Blues & Jazz Series at Constant's Wharf Park & Marina on May 12th, 2006 for a three-week series of Blues and Jazz music. Kicking off this event was **Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew**, followed by the **Young Razzcals Jazz Project** on May 19th and **Mo Debree** on May 26th, 2006.

The NBN wishes to thank **Melanie Scoggins** of Suffolk Parks & Recreation for inviting the Natchel' Blues Network to be part of this event. Special thanks to our dedicated volunteers: **Tommy Fisher, Jim Kidder, Bruce Kincaid, Martha O'Berry, Steve Volovsek, and Shar Wolff.**

Andree T. Butcher  
NBN President 2006

# DVD REVIEWS

## CLASSIC ALBUMS

*Cream-Disraeli Gears*

Eagle Rock Entertainment EV30160-9

[www.eaglerockent.com](http://www.eaglerockent.com)



In the mid sixties, as power trios go, you couldn't do much better than the British group Cream. When major percussionist Ginger Baker and jazzy bassist/vocalist Jack Bruce hooked up with Eric Clapton, sparks were bound to fly. Baker and Bruce hailed from the jazz-oriented Graham Bond Organization while former Yardbirds guitarist Clapton had just completed his inspiring stint in John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. After their initial 1966 album, *Fresh Cream*, the band went to New York to record *Disraeli Gears*, which peaked at Number 4 on Billboard's record charts. Thus began Cream concert sellouts worldwide, with audiences delighting in the extended improvisational jams that provided the first glimpses of jazz/rock.

Special DVD moments include recent interviews with all musicians, artists, lyricists, and record label owners who were historically connected to Cream. Besides dissection of all the album tracks (each with accompanying vintage videos), there are live solo recordings done especially for this disc. Clapton does fine acoustic guitar and vocal versions of "Sunshine of Your Love" and "Outside Woman Blues." Bruce offers an emotionally drenching piano/vocal interpretation of "We're Going Wrong." Baker sits at home behind his massive drum kit, explaining taradiddles, South African drum techniques, and more about Cream's history. There are some highly electric vintage live Cream nuggets, including a spirited "Tales Of Brave Ulysses."

Throughout there are numerous short video clips, from a '60s TV version of "Hey Lawdy Mama" to last year's reunion version of "We're Going Wrong." From start to finish, this is an excellent historical notepad for one groundbreaking electric outfit.

Alan Kurzer



## THE NIGHTHAWKS

*Blue Moon In Your Eye - Live At The Barns At Wolftrap*

Rolling Storm Communications RSC0601

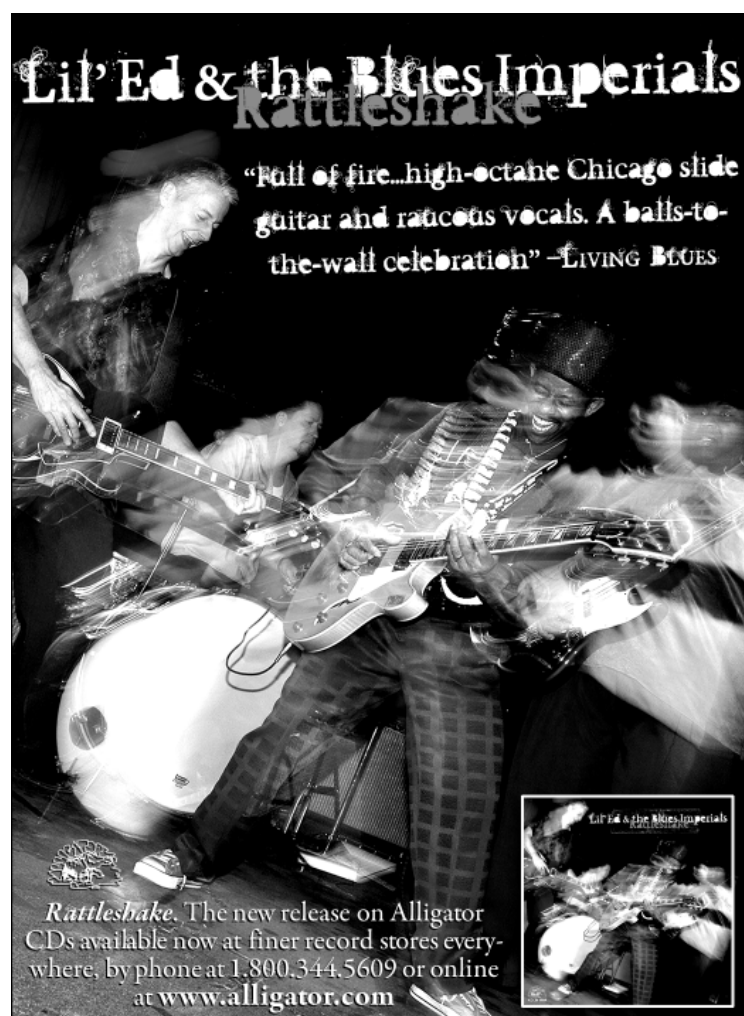
[www.thenighthawks.com](http://www.thenighthawks.com)

With twenty-plus recordings over thirty years, The Nighthawks easily qualify as the hardest-working blues group pounding the pavement. With their revolving door of fine musicians, most notably guitarists Jimmy Thackery and Bob Margolin, The Nighthawks continue handling hundreds of live gigs every year. They've played with blues legends from Muddy Waters to John Lee Hooker to Hubert Sumlin while still advancing their own musical chops, as shown on *Blue Moon in Your Eye*, their new adventuresome two-disc CD/DVD release, recorded at The Barns at Wolftrap.

Lead vocalist/ace harmonica player Mark Wenner gets the sweat glands going early with deep Chicago-style harp on *The Sopranos* theme song "Woke Up This Morning." With some tasteful Paul Bell rockabilly guitar licks, bassist Johnny Castle throws his vocal grit around on the Chuck Berry '50s rocking gem "Thirty Days" and the driving Bo Diddley boogie "You Don't Love Me (You Don't Care)." For a real soulful treat, try drummer Pete Ragusa's passionate vocals on the R&B nugget "Jump Into My Fire" and his original heartwarming "Soul Of A Man." The slow blues nugget "Black Night" is classic Nighthawks, complete with Wenner's inspiring, overdriven harp and Bell's aggressive guitar breaks.

Like a sweet breeze blowing, Bell's behind-the-slide fretwork recalls Sonny Landreth on the rootsy, country Johnny Cash tune, "Big River." The driving Willie Dixon standard "You Can't Judge A Book By Looking At The Cover" features a vigorous harp/guitar attack that'll leave you wanting for more. Anyway you cut it, folks, this is the strongest Nighthawks release to date.

Alan Kurzer



# CD REVIEWS

## BILL RHOADES & THE PARTY KINGS

*Voodoo Lovin'*

White Owl Records OWL001

[kjoewilliams@earthlink.net](mailto:kjoewilliams@earthlink.net) (White Owl Records)

[www.billrhoadesandthepartykings.com](http://www.billrhoadesandthepartykings.com)

From their humble beginnings (read: keg parties) to the top of their game, Bill Rhoades & the Party Kings have never failed to entertain. Rhoades plays the harmonica like his life depends on it. He is backed up by a tight band with Michael Osborn (former John Lee Hooker sideman) on guitar, Tom Szell (used to play with Stevie Ray Vaughan) on bass, and Johnny Moore (played with Albert Collins, R.L. Burnside & others) on drums.

**For all harp players out there, this CD is essential to your collection.** Let's look at Rhoades' resume: nominated by the Cascade Blues Association for its *Muddy Award* 12 years running, won 10 times (including four for *Best Blues Harp*), has a blues radio show on KBOO FM in Portland, produces "The Harmonica Summit" and "The Harmonica Blow-off," and works full-time at a music retailer.

I contacted Rhoades via email and he was happy to share details about the equipment he uses. "Yes, I do play Hohner Marine Band harps exclusively. I've found that if I play them gently for a couple weeks to break them in, they respond better than anything else that I've tried. I seem to play pretty hard, but they hold up. Right now for an amp, I've been using a Fender Bassman re-issue and sometimes I use a Sovtek top with either one 12- or one 15-inch speaker. For a mic, I either use a Green Bullet with a volume control, or an Astatic JT 30 with a volume control. On our CD, on a couple of the cuts, I used a Pignose amp with an old Electro Voice (low impedance) mic."

Jack Campbell

## MISSISSIPPI HEAT

*Glad You're Mine*

CrossCut Records CCD11085

[www.crosscut.de](http://www.crosscut.de)

[www.mississippiheat.net](http://www.mississippiheat.net)

Mississippi Heat is a contemporary blues band, formed in 1991 and based in Chicago, focused on resurrecting the vintage Chicago sound of the '50s. Their vision is to mix the strength, passion, and tradition of older music with a modern up-to-date sound. The combination is simply beautiful. But before I gush, let me introduce the band: Pierre LaCocque, founder, songwriter, harmonica; Inetta Visor, vocals; Chris Winters, Steve Doyle, Carl Weathersby, guitars; Kenneth Smith (son of Willie "Big Eyes" Smith), drums; and Spurling Banks, bass.

From the very first song, "Dirty Deal," this album grabs me. Trust me; this is not a one-hit wonder. The whole CD sizzles from front to back. Visor's voice comes through strong and clear on every track. The entire band is just really, really tight. Pierre LaCocque's harp playing prowess is also very evident. It is clear that he has studied many techniques of the world's greatest harpists. I asked him to share some of his techniques with us. This was, in part, his reply:

"For ... Glad You're Mine I used two Fender amps simultaneously, that is, two amps connected each with a 'Y' chord. These were the Fender '59 Bassman Reissue, and the Fender Super Reverb, also a reissue. I connected both to a portable Fender Reverb Tank (a reissue that came out about five years ago), and with a DOD digital delay pedal to get as close to that 1950's Little Walter's amplified sound. Both amps were mic'd. Thus, we mixed two separate harp tracks to bring a fuller sound. I used a Shaker microphone to blow harp into the 2 amps. The Shaker is the least feedback-inducing microphone I have found that gives me that amplified Chicago sound."

Enough technical stuff... now for the gushing. Buy it! This is a great CD. You cannot go wrong. It's got something for everyone. You like female vocalists? World-class harp? Call and response guitar licks? Upbeat songs? Mellow songs? It's all here in one neat package.

Jack Campbell

## WILLIE "BIG EYES" SMITH

*Way Back*

Hightone Records HCD8191

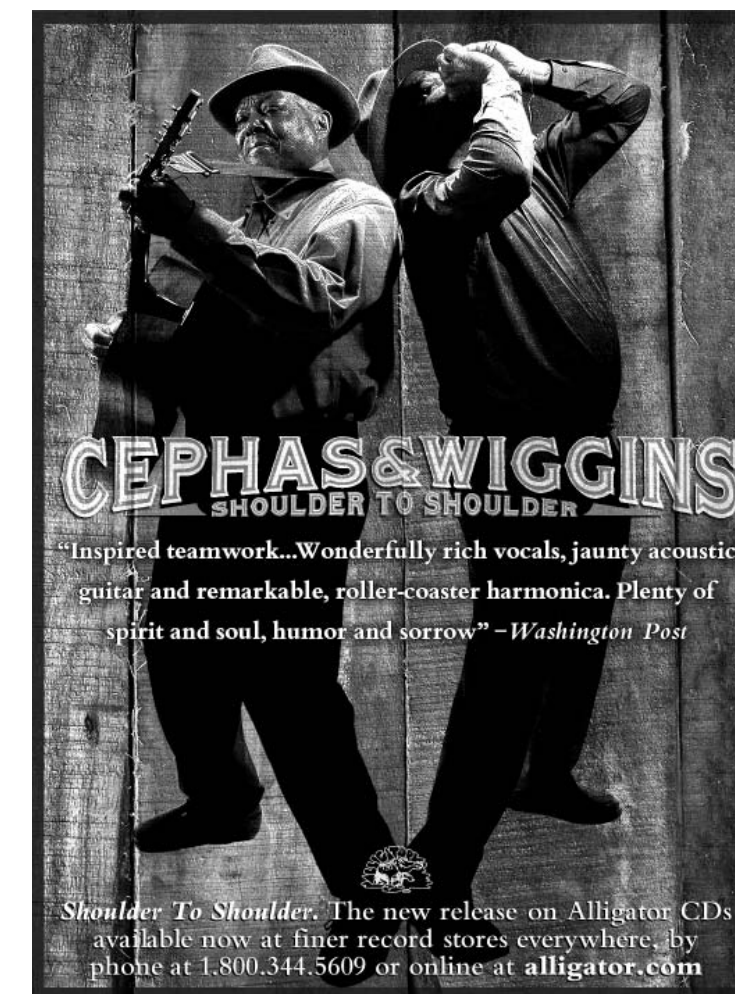
[www.hightone.com](http://www.hightone.com)

Willie "Big Eyes" Smith was a longtime drummer with the Muddy Waters Band. That always looks good on a resume. Before he was a drummer, Smith was an accomplished harmonica player. On this CD, Smith goes back to those roots and blows some powerful harp licks. He is joined by such greats as Pinetop Perkins on piano, James Cotton helping out on harp, and Steady Rollin' Bob Margolin on the guitar. Other contributors include: Billy Flynn, Calvin "Fuzz" Jones, Bob Stroger, Bob Corritore, Johnny Rapp, Kenny "Beedy Eyes" Smith (Willie's son), and Little Frank Krakowski. Apparently you don't have to have a nickname to play in this band...but it helps!

This is old school music. It seems like anytime guys like Smith, Margolin, Perkins and Cotton get together, the results are predictable. I don't mean that in a bad way. *Way Back* provides us with 11 tracks of that old stand by – the Chicago blues shuffle. But wait! Before you dismiss this CD as same old-same old, let me disclose that Smith wrote six of these songs, plus he was one of the early Chicago bluesmen who helped shape the old traditional rhythms.

This CD contains the tunes you'd expect to hear as the house music in cool blues clubs like Jewish Mother and Goodfellas. It's just great musicians with nothing left to prove having a good old time jamming away. So if good old school Chicago blues is your thing, you can't go wrong with *Way Back*.

Jack Campbell



## New NBN Members & Renewals

Thanks to the following new members or renewals over the last couple of months. Your support is helping to keep the Natchel' Blues Network and blues music in Hampton Roads alive!

Mark Anthony Anderson	George Necak
Teri & Barrett Betz	Richard Norman
Jack Vast-Binger	W. Lee Norman, Jr.
Tim Brown	Martha O'Berry
Michael Conover	Shelly Potter
Cathy Dixon	Scott & Robin Reed
Ted & Sue Doty	Darryl Roadcap, Seven Cities Electric, Inc.
John Gamble	RYLO (Gabriel Baesen, Band)
George & Shirley Hancock	Jeff & Terry Shelanskey
Julie Ann Hawkins	Jim Shelor
Thelma & Frank Hodges, Jr.	Don Sippel
Glenn F. Holloway	Miles Spicer
Albert Hooper, Jr.	Rick & Danna Vroman
Mike Johnson	Doug & Barbara Wade
Juli M. Jones	Lyn & Ed Ward
Judy Kuniba	Emily Wells
John D. McDonald	Michael F. Werne
Mark & Pamela McGowan	

## Volunteers Needed!!!

### Help Support The Blues

**Blues at the Beach Festival:** The Natchel' Blues Network is looking for volunteers to help put on the Blues at the Beach Festival during **September 15-17, 2006** on the **17th Street Stage** at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. It will feature 3 days of national, regional, and local blues acts. **We need volunteers all three days for security, stage, beer ticket sales, beer serving, NBN merchandise tent, set-up, breakdown, etc.** Volunteer and receive a free staff festival t-shirt and listen to some great blues music.

**Natchel' Blues Network Members:** You will receive a separate mailing for volunteering for the above event. Please do not fill out this form.

If interested in volunteering, please fill out the form below and mail it to: Natchel' Blues Network, P.O. Box 1773, Norfolk, VA 23501-1773. Or phone Georganne Fischer at 631-1983. We will contact you and coordinate dates/times.

Thanks,  
Georganne Fischer

#### Volunteer Form for Non-NBN Members:

I am interested in working Blues at the Beach on  
Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## NBN CORPORATE MEMBERS

Stuart Burnley, *Hermitage Farms Nursery*

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John Hammond @ Jewish Mother, 3/12/06  
Photo by Russ Helgren

## 2006 Blues Music Award Winners

Photos by  
Scott Allen & Jen Taylor  
(vividpix.com)



Shemekia Copeland



Kim Wilson, Elvin Bishop and Tommy Castro



Hubert Sumlin



Ann Rabson



Janiva Magness



James Blood Ulmer



Nora Jean Bruso



The Blues Foundation's  
Jay Steleman (Executive Director)  
& Paul Benjamin (President)



Pinetop Perkins presenting piano player of the year award to  
Marcia Ball

### 2006 Blues Music Awards Go To....

On May 11th at a star-studded and fun, fun evening, the 2006 Blues Music Awards were given out in 25 categories. The evening's most honored nominee was the late **Little Milton**. His widow Pat was on hand to accept the four awards he received as a result of the votes cast by Blues Foundation members. The four awards are: Soul Blues Male Artist; Soul Blues Album for *Think of Me*; Song of the Year for "Think of Me" and Album of the Year, also for *Think of Me*. There were two other multiple winners. Legendary guitarist Hubert Sumlin took home two awards--Best Guitarist and Traditional Blues Album for *About Them Shoes*. First-time winner Paul Oscher was selected as the Acoustic Artist of the Year and his *Down in the Delta* was chosen as the Acoustic Album of the Year. Other first time honorees included: Eddie Shaw, Al Kooper, Mookie Brill, Janiva Magness, Tab Benoit and Zac Harmon. The B.B. King Entertainer of the Year award went to Buddy Guy and the Band of the Year is Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers.

**Acoustic Album of the Year** - *Down In The Delta* - Paul Oscher

**Acoustic Artist of the Year** - Paul Oscher

**Album of the Year** - *Think of Me* - Little Milton

**B.B. King Entertainer of the Year** - Buddy Guy

**Band of the Year** - Rod Piazza & the Mighty Flyers

**Best New Artist Debut** - Zac Harmon - *The Blues According to Zacariah*

**Comeback Album of the Year** - *Black Coffee* - Al Kooper

**Contemporary Blues Album of the Year** - *Fever For The Bayou* - Tab Benoit

**Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year** - Janiva Magness

**Contemporary Blues Male Artist of the Year** - Kim Wilson

**Historical Album of the Year** - *Hoochie Coochie Man: Complete Chess Recordings, Volume 2, 1952-1958* - Muddy Waters, (Chess/Hip-O Select)

**Instrumentalist-Bass** - Mookie Brill

**Instrumentalist-Drums** - Willie "Big Eyes" Smith

**Instrumentalist-Guitar** - Hubert Sumlin

**Instrumentalist-Harmonica** - Charlie Musselwhite

**Instrumentalist-Horn** - Eddie Shaw

**Instrumentalist-Other** - Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown - Fiddle

**Pinetop Perkins Piano Player of the Year** - Marcia Ball

**Song of the Year** - "Think Of Me" written by Jon Tiven, Milton Campbell, Pete Shoulder; performed by Little Milton, *Think Of Me*

**Soul Blues Album of the Year** - *Think of Me* - Little Milton

**Soul Blues Female Artist of the Year** - Mavis Staples

**Soul Blues Male Artist of the Year** - Little Milton

**Traditional Album of the Year** - *About Them Shoes* - Hubert Sumlin

**Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year** - Etta James

**Traditional Blues Male Artist of the Year** - B.B. King

The Natchel' Blues Network and Beach Events Presents...

# The 13th Annual Blues At The Beach Festival

September 15-17, 2006

17th St Stage, Virginia Beach VA

FREE and open to the public

Friday, September 15, 2006

(Gates: 6:30pm)

6:45pm-7:45pm **Blues Empacts**  
 8:15pm-10:00pm **Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/ "Magic Dick" (J. Geils Band) Mark Wenner (The Nighthawks) Steve Guyger**

11:30pm-1:30am **Blues Cruise, TBA**

Boarding begins at 11:00pm

(Ticketed Event, call 757-425-3111 for info)

*The Jewish Mother (3108 Pacific Ave.) invites everyone to the Friday Night After-Party with The Nighthawks*

Saturday, September 16, 2006

(Gates: 1:30pm)

2:00-3:00pm **John Baldwin Group**  
 3:00-3:30pm Workshop, Artist - TBA  
 3:45-5:00pm **Paul Mark & The Van Dorens**

Saturday, September 16, 2006

5:00-5:30pm Workshop, Artist - TBA  
 5:45-7:00pm **James Armstrong**  
 7:30-8:45pm **Ana Popovic**  
 9:15-10:45pm **The Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings**

*The Jewish Mother (3108 Pacific Ave.) invites everyone to the Pro Jam After-Party with host band Paul Mark & the Van Dorens*

Sunday, September 17, 2006

(Gates: 11:30am)

Noon-1:00pm **Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew**  
 1:00-1:30pm Workshop, Artist - TBA  
 1:45-3:00pm **Nora Jean Bruso**  
 3:30-5:00pm **Mitch Woods & The Rocket 88's**

DISCLAIMER FOR BLUES AT THE BEACH ADVERTISEMENT  
 Sunday's gates open at 11:30am



Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew  
 Photo by Bob Mahan



Dancers  
 Photo by Sue Julene

## Blues Cruise on Virginia's Jewel

June 3rd, 2006

NBN members and out-of-towners were treated to a midnight cruise in Virginia Beach on the Virginia's Jewel on June 3rd. Perfect weather offered cruisers a view of the half moon and lights along the shores of the Lynnhaven River. The featured band was **Sweet Papa & the Too Hot Blues Crew**: **Ernie Williams** (drummer and band leader), **Lathan Hill** on lead guitar, and **Richard Moraski** on bass. Included in the two-hour cruise was a hot hors d'oeuvres buffet and a cash bar. Dancers enthusiastically accompanied Sweet Papa's tunes—their two sets included original songs, blues stalwarts and some very jazzy renditions of standards such as "Autumn Leaves"!

Thanks to all who made the cruise a success, especially to **Deb Hill** for organizing this party with Beach Events, to **David Horen** for his tireless work coordinating ticket sales, to NBN president **Andree Butcher**, and to **Beach Events**.

Cynthia Horen

## 2006 Blues on the Boardwalk

Tuesday Night Concerts, 17th Street Park, Virginia Beach

Free and Open to the Public

7/11/2006	8:00-9:00	DOAD
	9:30-10:30	Hollie & the SpeedBumps
7/18/2006	8:00-9:00	Tuesday Night Choir
	9:30-10:30	Rhythm Kings
7/25/2006	8:00-9:00	H.M. Johnson Band
	9:30-10:30	RTB (Right Time For The Blues) Band
8/1/2006	8:00-9:00	Blues Exchange
	9:30-10:30	Big Fun
8/8/2006	8:00-9:00	Black Rose Blues Band
	9:30-10:30	Freeborn Blues Band
8/15/2006	8:00-9:00	Incognito Brothers
	9:30-10:30	dc3
8/22/2006	8:00-9:00	HammerHead Blues
	9:30-10:30	Rylo
8/29/2006	8:00-9:00	Fat Tony
	9:30-10:30	Michael Clark Band featuring Tracy Clark

THE NACHEL' BLUES NETWORK AND BEACH EVENTS  
 PRESENT THE 13TH ANNUAL

# BLUES at the BEACH

September 15-17, 2006  
 17th Street Stage Virginia Beach, VA  
 FREE and open to the public

**FRI, SEPTEMBER 15**  
 (Gates: 6:30pm)  
 6:45pm-7:45pm Blues Empacts  
 8:15-10pm Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/ "Magic Dick" (J. Geils Band) Mark Wenner (The Nighthawks) and Steve Guyger  
 11:30pm-1:30am Blues Cruise, Band TBA,  
 Boarding begins at 11pm (Ticketed Event, call 757.425.3111 for info)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
 (Gates: 1:30pm)  
 2-3pm John Baldwin Group  
 3-3:30pm Workshop  
 3:45-5pm Paul Mark & The Van Dorens  
 5-5:30pm Workshop  
 5:45-7pm James Armstrong  
 7:30-8:45pm Ana Popovic  
 9:15-10:45pm Chicago Rhythm & Blues Kings

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
 (Gates: 1:30pm)  
 Noon-1pm Sweet Papa & The Too Hot Blues Crew  
 1-1:30pm Workshop  
 1:45-3pm Nora Jean Bruso  
 3:30-5pm Mitch Woods & The Rocket 88's

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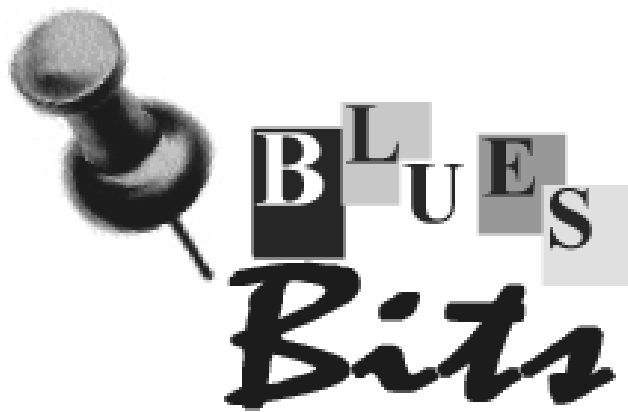
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Compiled by Beth Jarock

**Buzz Montsinger**, Noble Watt's longtime sax player and a member of several R&B and blues bands in Florida and Virginia, is in the hospital at MCV in Richmond after an accident April 30th that damaged his spinal cord. He was going through physical therapy after having had neck surgery and was expected to leave MCV on June 30th. He had no health insurance when the accident happened and there will be a **fundraiser for him in Richmond on July 16th, tentatively being held at Planet Zero in Richmond from 1-6 pm.** Buzz has played with many blues artists including Kenny Neal, Noble Watts, Rufus Thomas, and others, and was associated with **Bob Greenlee and Kingsnake Records** for many years. Tentative musicians to play at the fundraiser include Billy Ray Hatley, Steve Bassett, Robben Thompson, Ron Moody and the Centaurs. For more information, visit [www.givelovetobuzz.com](http://www.givelovetobuzz.com).

"**Mike Westcott & Blues on Board**, from Baltimore, won the challenge and received \$250 cash, \$100 gift certificate from Sam Ash, a spot at the Blues Bash on Sept. 24 and the opportunity to represent the **RCBS (River City Blues Society in Richmond)** in Memphis at the International Blues Challenge in 2007. **Rylo**, from Hampton Roads, was chosen second place and received \$150 cash and a \$50 Gift Certificate from Sam Ash. **Johnnie & the Lowdowns**, from Richmond, placed third and received \$50 cash and a \$25 gift certificate from Sam Ash. **Thanks to the bands, the fans who stayed** through all the acts and **supported every band.** Thank you to **Greg Willard** for being the point man for the challenge. Thanks to **Cy** and **Affordable Audio** for a smooth running stage. To the **Phifer-Marshall Band** for supporting the society and arranging a jam with **Deborah Coleman**. How cool was that?! Thanks to **Poe's Pub, Michael, Reggie, Bob** behind the bar and the waitresses who hustled all day. And Bill Z. for getting us into Poe's with short notice and setting up the hotel rooms for our out of town judges. Thanks to Peggy for taking on the MC job! Ginette for handling the door and Rebecca for doing the raffle. A special thank you to **Tina Terry, Deborah Coleman and Peter Kaufman** for the professionalism as judges." –Ellen Foster, RCBS President.

**Richmond's Li'l Ronnie & the Grand Dukes** are the featured band at the **Lincoln Center's Mid-Summer's Night Music Series** on Friday, July 14th. They'll play 2 sets @ 7:30 pm & 9 pm. Jump Blues Night! Big outdoor show! For more information, visit [www.lincolncenter.org/programs/swing\\_home.asp](http://www.lincolncenter.org/programs/swing_home.asp) The band is also playing **Bucks County Blues Society's 24th Annual R&B Picnic** on Saturday, July 15th (Levittown, PA; outside Philly area).

**Singer, songwriter, and harmonica player Curtis Salgado** has been battling a chronic condition, which has now been diagnosed as liver cancer. He is receiving treatments with the hope of transplant surgery in the future. The cost of Salgado's radiation and chemotherapy treatment is estimated at \$100,000, and that's before a liver transplant. Donations can be made to the "Curtis Salgado Fund" at any US Bank or can be mailed to: US Bancorp, 2550 NW 188th Ave., Hillsboro OR 97124. More information is available at [www.curtissalgado.com](http://www.curtissalgado.com).

**Preservation Hall Reopens In New Orleans:** Preservation Hall, the dust-covered French Quarter building caked in Jazz history, is reopening, eight months after Hurricane Katrina turned New Orleans into a ghost town. The hall's reopening was scheduled for April 27, coinciding with the opening of the annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. "Man, it felt so good," Benjamin Jaffe, the Preservation Hall director, said about recent jam sessions to warm up the Hall. It was opened in 1961 by his parents, Allan and Sandra Jaffe, with the aim of preserving the traditional sounds of New Orleans. The Hall was a place that reveled in the passage of time: years' worth of dust clings to the rafters; no one patches plaster that's fallen off the walls; street-facing windows haven't been cleaned in years. It was starting to feel too much like a museum. But now there will be some changes. **The Hall was always open seven nights a week, but with money so tight, the venue will have shows only on Fridays and Saturdays to start with. The future is uncertain because so many musicians are still displaced and**

**the number of tourists is down.** Preservation Hall was one of the only venues in the French Quarter where music took precedence over liquor, but "This is an improvisational period," Jaffe said. "If we have to sell drinks to stay open, we'll sell drinks."

**Blues Revue/BluesWax Launches Blues Cable Channel:** Visionation, the Des Moines, Iowa-based publisher of *Blues Revue* and *BluesWax*, the two largest blues publications in the world, have announced the launch of The Blues Channel, **BluesWax2**, the first cable channel dedicated to blues music. Visionation has partnered with the Venice, Florida-based Southern Entertainment Television (SET) for the venture. The Blues Channel will offer commercial-free blues programming 24 hours a day. The channel will be a premium subscription-based channel. BluesWax2 is currently in the testing phase of production and is currently in negotiations with the major cable providers in the U.S., Europe, and the Caribbean who will provide the service to consumer households later this year.

**Janiva Magness**, who won the Best Contemporary Female Blues Artist award at the Blues Music Awards, has signed with **Piedmont Talent** for exclusive worldwide representation. Her new CD, **Do I Move You?**, is out now on NorthernBlues.

**BLUES ICON CLIFFORD ANTONE DIES OF APPARENT HEART ATTACK.** Clifford Antone, one of the blues' best-known and best-loved promoters, blues historians, and club-owners, died on May 23, 2006 of an apparent heart attack in Austin TX, the town he helped transform into "Live Music Capitol of the World" since opening the first Antone's nightclub on the now famous 6th St.. He was 56. In the late 1970's, when many of the world's greatest blues musicians were barely hanging on, Clifford gave Muddy Waters, Albert King, Eddie Taylor, Hubert Sumlin and many more a musical home, an audience to play to, and treated them like the royalty that they were. Some of them, such as James Cotton and Pinetop Perkins, subsequently moved to the Texas capitol. Thirty years and two locations later, Antone's had spawned and/or furthered the careers of a vast array of musical talent including Marcia Ball, Angela Strehli, Lou Ann Barton, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, W.C. Clark, Doug Sahn, Jimmie Vaughan, Stevie Ray Vaughan and a host of others. With his succession of Austin clubs and his record label, Antone did more for the blues than just about anybody.

**Rev. Billy C. Wirtz Gets Radio Show.** You're Saved! Yes, salvation is at hand with the Reverend Billy C. Wirtz taking to the airwaves to spread the Word via the miracle of radio. Beginning, May 26th, the pastor of the First House of Polyester Worship and Horizontal Teenage Throbbing started hosting "**The Reverend Billy's Rhythm Revival**" on WFIT-FM in Melbourne, Florida. The program will air every Friday from 10 pm to midnight (EST), and can be heard live worldwide via streaming audio on the station's website (<http://www.wfit.org>).

**Memphis-based Yellow Dog Records** opens a new chapter in American roots music with the July 11 release of **William Lee Ellis' God's Tattoos**, a twelve-song acoustic dreamscape produced by rock veteran **Jim Dickinson** which blurs the line between the sacred and the secular, at once embracing and departing from American folk traditions.

**Jeremy Spencer**, one of the original members of **Fleetwood Mac**, has signed with **Blind Pig Records** to release his first album since 1979, entitled *Precious Little*. The CD will be released on July 18, 2006.

**Little Milton's last performance**, recorded by Paul Benjamin (President of the Blues Foundation) at the North Atlantic Blues Festival in Rockland, Maine in July 2005, is now available on CD. It is only available at [www.littlemiltonsstore.com](http://www.littlemiltonsstore.com) with all the proceeds going to his widow. A DVD is also available, with part of the proceeds going to the Blues Foundation in Little Milton's memory, at [pour.midcoast.com/~bluesman/nabrecords.html](http://pour.midcoast.com/~bluesman/nabrecords.html).

**Chris Smither Signs With Signature, Album in Fall:** New Orleans bluesman and guitarist Chris Smither has recently signed with Massachusetts record label Signature Sounds Recording Company. His first release for the label, entitled **Leave The Light On**, will be released in September. *Leave The Light On* is Smither's 12th album since 1970 and is produced by David "Goody" Goodrich, who also produced his 2003 CD *Train Home*. Special guests on the album include Grammy Award-winner **Tim O'Brien** and rural American roots band **Ollabelle**.

**House Of Blues To Open In Seattle Next Year.** A new House of Blues Club venue will open in Seattle, WA, following a preliminary deal between the entertainment giant and the Seattle Theatre. The agreement calls for a new club to be developed **adjacent to the historic Paramount Theatre in downtown Seattle**, according to *Billboard*. The venue and restaurant, located inside the Paramount Tower, is slated to open in **2007** after renovation, bringing major improvements to the landmark structure. HOB has long been active throughout the region, promoting more than 200 shows annually in the Pacific Northwest, and also operates the 22,000-capacity Gorge Amphitheater, an outdoor venue near the Columbia River in central Washington.

## 2006 Birds, Blossoms & Blues Festival WRAP-UP

*I would like to personally thank the NBN for its support during the inaugural Birds, Blossoms & Blues Festival. The creation of this unique partnership will allow the Natchel' Blues Network, and Norfolk Botanical Garden the opportunity to provide the Hampton Roads area with another place to listen to, support, and appreciate the blues! I have heard nothing but positive comments from our guests throughout the entire festival weekend, and musicians from all over the country have been contacting me to be part of next year's event. Norfolk Botanical Garden is a unique venue for musical performances. When music is combined with flora and fauna, all of our senses are stimulated, providing an enjoyable entertainment experience. From our national act kick-off concert featuring Gary U.S. Bonds, to enjoying the acoustic blues sounds from various local artists all weekend long, the Birds, Blossoms & Blues Festival 2006 was a great success!*

*Thanks again for all of your support.*

*Don Sippel Jr.  
Events & Exhibits Specialist*

*Norfolk Botanical Garden*

When I received a flyer in the mail and read about the upcoming Blues Festival at **Norfolk Botanical Garden**, I called and left a message as **Don Sippel** was out of town for a few days. Lucky for all of us, Don returned my call; we talked and decided to meet to discuss how the NBN could partner-up with NBG to present the inaugural **Birds, Blossoms & Blues Festival**. Since Don and I share the same passions, good blues music, meeting new people and bringing them together, a plan was formulated. With the expert assistance from longtime NBN member, **Mark Johnson**, the artists were selected and booked.

The festival was a success! All who attended enjoyed some great blues music from **John Baldwin, Smokin' Joe Kubek featuring Bnois King** and **Gary U.S. Bonds**. If you missed this one, don't be alarmed. There are more blues coming to Norfolk Botanical Garden!

**SINCERE THANKS TO EACH OF OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

Liz Bernhard, Andree T. Butcher, Dale Butcher, Fran Caldwell, Laurel Chung, Tracy Clark, Cathy Dixson, Jim Dombie, Laurie Dombie, Georganne Fischer, Tommy Fisher, Ronnie Fleming, Jack Highfill, Charlene Holland, Candace Holzman, David Horen, Mark Johnson, David Kleinman, Maurice Kleinman, Rebecca Kleinman, Loretta Koehl, Paul Koehl, Bernie Mayer, Debbie Mayer, Jackie Merritt, Ron Nusbaum, Martha O'Berry, Jackie Scott, Carolyn Sturgill and Mary Anne Toboz.

**Special thanks** to Marti Craver at WFOS 88.7 in Chesapeake for promoting this event, AL&M, Associated Distributors, Budweiser, Craftwork Sound, *Port Folio* and Silver Diner.

On Saturday, May 13th and Sunday, May 14th, 2006, the Natchel' Blues Network provided acoustic blues music for the last two days of the Birds, Blossoms & Blues Festival. **Tommy Parker, Shelly Craig Potter, Ted Doty** and **Tim Morgan** entertained us with a variety of blues music, history and a blues workshop.

**Andree T. Butcher  
NBN President 2006**

Nothing can rejuvenate the soul like music. I am still in awe at the level of talent that flows so freely in this area. One example is the **John Baldwin Group**. Although his music is not strictly blues oriented, he can cruise into a blues number with no trouble at all. Quietly unassuming until he picks up his guitar, it's evident that he has a passion for music and doesn't mind sharing his enthusiasm with the audience. His set consisted of something for everyone and everyone enjoyed it.

Speaking of enthusiasm, **Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King** were like fire and ice. Mr. Kubek's blazing guitar solos fired us up while Mr. King's soothing vocals and smooth playing style cooled us right down. Boy, what a duo!! While both are great musicians on their own, it is obvious they share a mutual admiration for each other. If we looked close enough, we could see the smiles on their faces as they traded licks as well as acknowledging fellow band members. It is evident they love the blues.

Local favorite **Gary U.S. Bonds** gave everyone everything they wanted and more. He, along with his band and his backup singers (his wife and daughter), showed everyone that he still knows how to party. He took the time to acknowledge longtime friends and reminisce with the audience of his musical roots here in Norfolk, proving once again that musicians never forget the most important part of the show: the fans.

**Jackie Scott  
Black Rose Blues Band**

Gary U.S. Bonds & His Roadhouse Rockers came out on fire to make Norfolk Botanical Garden's first Birds, Blossoms & Blues Festival one great time! The Roadhouse Rockers kicked the night off with a rocking version of "When the House is a Rocking Don't Bother Knocking," complete with blazing guitar leads. Bonds took that groove and wouldn't let the crowd exhale!

Gary sang the doors off with "Sha La La La," and when the crowd might have been able to sit down, Bonds lit into his smash "New Orleans" (released in 1960 to radio stations in sleeves saying "Buy U.S. Bonds," hence the moniker) complete with an old-fashioned call and response, with the crowd trying to mimic Bonds' soulful vocal bends.

Bonds, raised in Norfolk, reminisced for a little while on the music and club scene in Norfolk and Virginia Beach where he paid his dues. He made jokes to family and friends in the audience, some of whom were in his first groups before he had a record deal and was just a Norfolk kid with a dream. He paid homage to his fans and family (including his wife of 40+ years and his daughter, who did double duty as some of the strongest background singers I have seen in a while) and talked about an old club in Virginia Beach called the Queens Lounge, a great hangout in its heyday. As his career launched, he made many new friends, one of whom he took to the Queens Lounge. That friend was the late great Otis Redding! Next was the Redding classic "I Have Dreams to Remember" from his 2004 release *Back in 20* (his first release in 20 years, which won a Handy award for Comeback Album of the Year). Bonds sang this melancholy tune with a tender soulfulness that left onlookers in awe!

Bonds continued to rock the crowd for almost 2 hours that felt like 10 minutes. He played some of his old classics as well as new material, including some collaboration with Bruce Springsteen and Steven Van Zandt. All and all, he put on a hell of a show, complete with great showmanship, musicianship and a downright party atmosphere! As people danced and cheered for an encore performance, Bonds came back and tore the roof off with his famous "Quarter to Three" (a #1 song in 1961). One fan said before the show when meeting Bonds with his mother, "When I heard he was coming to town, I could not think of a better Mother's Day treat for mom." I'm sure that mom hasn't had a Mother's Day treat like the one provided by Norfolk's own Gary U.S. Bonds and the 1st Annual Norfolk Botanical Garden's Birds, Blossoms and Blues Festival!

**Tommy Fisher**



# BIRDS, BLOSSOMS AND BLUES WRAP-UP

Photos by Cathy Dixson

Norfolk Botanical Garden featuring local blues man **John Baldwin**, **Legendary Smokin' Joe Kubek** with **Bnois King** and Norfolk's own, **Gary "U.S." Bonds** and his **Roadhouse Rockers**.



John Baldwin



MC, Mark Johnson



Don Sippel and Smokin' Joe



Smokin' Joe Kubek



Gary "U.S." Bonds



Dale Butcher, Gary "U.S." Bonds, Andree Butcher (NBN President) and Don Sippel, Jr. (NBN Coordinator of Events)  
Photo by Stephen Kinstler



Photo by Stephen Kinstler



Gary "U.S." Bonds horn player  
Photo by Stephen Kinstler



Photo by Stephen Kinstler



Bnois King



Backup singers, Gary "U.S." Bonds' daughter and wife



Shelly Craig Potter  
Photo by Tommy Parker



"Guitar" Tommy Parker  
Photo courtesy of Tommy Parker

Acoustic Blues  
Provided by  
NBN

Saturday,  
May 13th  
and  
Sunday,  
May 14th,  
2006



Tim Morgan  
Photo by Sue Julene



Doad  
Photo by Sue Julene

## Upcoming Shows

July 6 Terry Garland July 7 The Blasters w/ Ryle  
 July 13 Bonerama July 15 Tim Reynolds w/ Jesse Chong  
 July 28 Mem Shannon & The Membership w/ The Blue Method  
 August 9 Tab Benoit  
 September 15 Blues at the Beach After Party  
 w/ The Nighthawks  
 September 16 Blues at the Beach Jam  
 hosted by Paul Mark & The Van Dorens  
 More dates TBA! Check [www.jewishmother.com](http://www.jewishmother.com)

## Wednesday Night Blues Jam

Musicians Wanted

NBN Blues Jam Fundraiser, 2nd Sunday of Month  
 Natchel Blues Network Members Receive  
 20% discount off Ticket Price w/ NBN Card

**3108 Pacific Ave., Virginia Beach Virginia • 757.422.5430**