



Hall of Honor Induction, Potluck and Jam

August 8, 2026 12 p.m.
James Couzens Memorial Park
13751 Main St, Bath, Michigan

Mark Gaynier

Mark took ownership of the KC Campground in the late nineties. The campground had been the home of the Milan Bluegrass Festival in prior years. Jerry Yates and Jim Wilder approached Mark with the opportunity to revive the festival. Mark hosted the festival for 25 years. First with Jerry and Jim and then with Jim. He took over promotion of the festival after Jim's passing.

Mark is one of the founding members of the Southeast Michigan Bluegrass Music Association. He hosted Association meetings, jams, and Hall of Honor inductions at the campground.



Ron Benton

Ron has been a member of the Association and chairman of the Hall of Honor committee since its inception ten years ago. He has recently assumed the position of Association vice-president. He has always brought thoughtful reasoning to Hall nominations. Many of the Hall members can thank him for his knowledge of the bluegrass community.

For many years Ron has been an active member of the bluegrass community, participating in jams and other events. In addition, he has been an anchor in our meetings. He consistently helps with our instrument petting zoo, and helped with the Blissfield Festival when we managed it.



Jeremie Cole

Jeremie has been a part of the Southeast Michigan bluegrass scene for a number of years. We first saw him on stage with the R&L Express.

He helped establish and still fronts the Harbourtown band. Harbourtown has played at numerous festivals in many states.

Jeremie took over promotion of the Marshall Bluegrass Festival when his uncle Burke Cole passed. The festival has continued to grow under his supervision. He has established a scholarship program for deserving area students under the umbrella of the festival.

Hall of Honor Members

2016

Michael Adams
John Bayerl
David Blakney
Bobby Hutch
Tom Laing
Gordon L. Lamb
Larry McDaniel
Virgie McClearen
Nick Mladjan
John Morris
Jim & Fay Wilder
Jerry & Ada Yates

2017

Gary & Maggie Bilby
Burke Cole
Dana Cupp, Sr.
Leroy Drumm
Fred Ellis
Pete Goble
Cayce & Ruth Kiger
Mitchel Manns
Roy & Fay McGinnis
Freddie Newby
Cranford (Ford) Nix
Ralph Paige
Virgil Shouse
Bill & Pam Warren
Robert White

2018

Bob Campbell
Jimmy Campbell
Roy Cobb
Dana Cupp, Jr.
Richard "Dick" Dieterle
Tim Ellis
Jimmy Thompson

2019

Ruby Bennett
Greg Cahill
David Conley, Sr.
Duane Estep
George Kilbreath
Jimmy Kittle
The RFD Boys

2020

Gary Adams, Sr.
John Coffey
Jerry Eicher
Marvin "Red" Ellis
Jim LaPrad
Oscar N. McKiney
Ralph Mullins
Bruce Pettinger
Wes Pettinger
Roger Schultze
Sandy Schultze/
Pettinger

2021

Randy Beckey
Farrell Clark
The Miller Brothers
Dick & Sandy Neff

2022

Brad Campbell
Wayne Holcombe
Terry Nisley
Dan Taylor
Larry Taylor
2023
Lee "Nolan" Faulkner
Sherman Funk
Marvin Ramsey

2024

Deja and Bonnie
Davenport
Les Emard

2025

Steve Hunt
Vic Holly
Ronnie McKeever

2026

Ron Benton
Jeremie Cole
Mark Gaynier