

Thanks for 25 years of support!

This year's event is presented by the Great Northern Blues Society, a group of music lovers who put on this terrific show each year. With funds raised by this event, the GNBS has so far granted more than \$25,000 worth of scholarships to qualified area students at Wausau East, Wausau West, D.C. Everest, and Wausau Newman High Schools. We also support the Memphis, TN based Blues Foundation, which sponsors many organizations that help the Blues Music Community.

This event has been planned and executed by a group of people that make up the current active membership of the GNBS. Bottom line is that we are all getting one year older each year, and it has come time for some new blood to get involved in managing and running the GNBS. If you have a love for this music, and do not want to see this show fade off into the sunset, we need you to step up and get involved. Visit our website or email (board@gnbs.org) us if you're interested.

We are eager to have some new people put their own personal stamp on the future of the GNBS. Our meetings are held at Loppnow's Bar, in the back room, every second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 PM.

How membership dues are used ...

Your membership is important for us to continue with the programs below.
Single memberships are \$20.

Scholarships to area students : This year we will award five \$500 scholarships to musically inclined students in our area.

Blues in the Schools events :

Yearly events to expose blues artists to students within the region.

Blues Foundation donations : Donated \$1000 to help with construction of the Blues Hall of Fame in Memphis.

WXPR's Friday Night Blues : Commercial-free blues in the northwoods.

The Blues Café : Our annual fundraiser providing unbelievable talent at a beautiful venue, for a great price.



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25th ANNIVERSARY

March 7th & 8th • 2025

**AT THE ROTHSCHILD PAVILION
WAUSAU METRO AREA**

FRIDAY NIGHT DOORS OPEN @ 5:30PM

Blues Café All-Stars
hosted by the
Jay Edward Band



@ 8:30pm



MoJo & Friends
@ 6:30pm

SATURDAY DOORS OPEN @ 1:00PM

Altered Five Blues Band
@ 8:00pm



The Avey Grouws Band
@ 6:00pm



Brandon Santini Band
@ 4:00pm



Dirty Red and The Soul Shakers
@ 2:00pm





2025 Blues Café presented by
GNBS and the Village of Rothschild

**\$40 for Advanced Tickets • \$10 for Friday Only or
\$45 for Both Nights (when you pay at the door)**

**For Tickets & Info:
GNBS.ORG**

Featuring solo acoustics with
Howard "Guitar" Luedtke
between shows



Welcome to the Great Northern Blues Society's 25th Annual Blues Café

March 7-8, 2025 • Rothschild Pavilion

- FRIDAY NIGHT -

6:30 PM

Mojo & Friends

Mojo & Friends undoubtedly will have some faces that you will recognize. Led by Joe Fittante, of Hip Pocket fame, this band is sure to kick off our 25th anniversary show quickly. Mojo & Flipside is a Central Wisconsin band of very talented musicians. Funky-Blues Americana best describes their style music. Featured musicians are Joe and Kelvin Kasper, Tony Wagner, Charlie Sauter and Bill Jordan. Bring your 'dancin' shoes' . . . they'll be needed early!



8:30 PM

Jay Edward

Jay started his music career at age 15 in the Fox River Valley growing up in Oshkosh. At age 20 he moved to Southern California and continued his pursuit of a music career. Under the teaching and influence of Charlie Musselwhite, William Clarke and others, Jay eventually found his style and tone to become one of the region's best. *The Jay Edward Band has also agreed to bring in a few "artists from the past" to the stage with them to put on an "All-Star Show" that will most assuredly put a smile on the faces of our attendees. You do not want to miss this show!*



- SATURDAY NIGHT -

2:00 PM

Dirty Red & the Soul Shakers

For our 25th Anniversary Show we've decided to kick the show into high gear right out of the gate. This band out of Oklahoma will undoubtedly do that! Dirty Red & The Soul Shakers are a modern-day powerhouse-blues band, built on old-school influences and a mutual love for the down-n-dirty style of blues that define the band's sound. A dangerously tight rhythm section, backing a funky, shake-your-money-maker groove, guarantees ladies dancing and good times! Top that with wailing blues harp, jaw-dropping guitar licks, and the unmistakable charm and soul of the towering blues-man they call "Dirty Red," and you can bet you're gonna find yourself hooked.



4:00 PM

The Brandon Santini Band

Illinois-based Brandon Santini radiates raw emotion and infectious energy to audiences worldwide. Born in the Piedmont region of North Carolina and raised on historic Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee; Santini's profound connection to the blues & American roots music fuels his high-energy



blend of traditional blues with a contemporary twist, earning him critical acclaim and awards along the way. He has performed at festivals and venues throughout North America, South America, U.K., Europe, India, and Egypt. Santini's near twenty years of touring and combined passion for the genre shine through in every note, establishing him as a true torchbearer of the blues tradition in the 21st century. His soulful vocals and fire igniting harmonica style carry the torch of the blues into a new era, inspiring generations with his incredible talent, undeniable passion, and unwavering commitment to the music that he loves.

6:00 PM

The Avey Grouws Band

Hailing from the Iowa side of the Quad Cities, Avey Grouws Band resonates with the raw power of the Mississippi River, infusing their roots rock sound with a diverse blend of blues, rock and soul. Fronted by dynamic vocalist Jeni Grouws and fueled by the guitar prowess of Chris Avey, this two-time top ten Billboard charting band has carved out a reputation for a gritty sound paired with electrifying live performances.



Sophomore album, "Tell Tale Heart," recorded in Nashville, Tennessee, under the guidance of Grammy award winner Casey Vasner (Keb' Mo', Taj Mahal), stands as a testament to Avey Grouws Band's musical evolution. Released in 2021, "Tell Tale Heart" stormed onto the scene, debuting at an impressive #7 on the Billboard Blues Album chart. This achievement followed their 2020 debut album, "The Devil May Care," which also made waves on the Billboard charts, peaking at #10 and marking the band as a formidable force in the roots rock landscape.

8:00 PM

The Altered Five Blues Band

Altered Five Blues Band makes music with a swaggering stomp of bruising, barrelhouse grit. According to *Downbeat* magazine, frontman Jeff Taylor "sings powerfully" and "Jeff Schroedl's live-wire guitar reaches the high bar of mixed invention and fluidity." *Blues Bytes* magazine declares the group features "the funkier rhythm section outside of Memphis."



A 2018 Blues Music Award nominee, the Milwaukee-based quintet released its latest album, *Holler If You Hear Me*, September 3 on Blind Pig Records. Recorded over five days in Nashville, TN and produced by three-time Grammy winner Tom Hambridge, the 13 original tracks showcase the band's deft songwriting, Taylor's mighty baritone voice, and the intuitive musical interplay of the longtime bandmates. Harmonica ace Jason Ricci also joins the group on five tracks. The album debuted at #3 on the *Billboard* Blues Chart.

ACOUSTIC ARTIST BETWEEN MAIN-STAGE ACTS

Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke

Say the name Howard "Guitar" Luedtke, and little more needs to be said. Howard is a staple in the blues scene and with good reason. He has 50-plus-years of playing guitar in both the Midwest and on the international stage. In 1964, Howard got his first guitar and today when he picks up his Les Paul, he will transport you into the world of the blues. He's incredibly talented and his passion and love for what he does shows through.



Gifted Hands Kitchen LLC

Where The Food Is Made With love

FRIDAY NIGHT:

BBQ Pork Tacos	\$10
BBQ Pork Sandwich	\$6
Beef Nacho	\$10
Big Beef Franks Dogs	\$6

SATURDAY NIGHT:

Pork Tacos/Nachos	\$10
Chicken Tacos/Nachos	\$10
Beef Tacos/Nachos	\$10
Hot Beef Sandwich	\$10
Cheese Burgers	\$6