

Groovin' to the Blues



By Richard Briggs, Edited by Tracie Smith
Photos provided by Richard Briggs



When Woodstock was happening in 1969, I couldn't go because I was picking tomatoes on our family farm. Later in life as an artist and filmmaker, my experience in television and film production helped me realize that I could bring a **blues festival** to Northeast PA. And so my wife, our sons, daughters-in-law, and grandsons started the Briggs Farm Blues Festival. Today people are coming from all over the country to gather in those same fields.

Briggs Farm is a perfect place to sit back and enjoy a weekend of live, world-class blues music. The Briggs Farm Blues Festival is located near the intersection of Routes 93 and 239 in Nescopeck Twp., PA and just minutes from the intersection of I-80 and I-81.

Many of the bands that perform at our festival are "old time players" who sat on the back porch in the **Mississippi Delta**, learning how to play from their parents and other relatives who had a direct connection to the days of slavery in the South. From there formed the roots of modern American music.



The thing that makes our festival special and which keeps people coming back year after year is the **beautiful environment and laid back vibe**. Concert-goers love that they can set up camp on Friday and have no reason to leave the property until Sunday. Music lovers are finding that they enjoy the communal sharing that comes with this temporary gathering of like-minded people.

I know that one of the things people look forward to is our sweet corn. We pick the corn early in the morning the day of the concert and cook it over open fires. In addition to the corn, we offer an authentic assortment of Mississippi Delta type food including chicken, pulled pork and sausage. Our **hayride**, which starts at the main stage and circles around the cornfields and through the camping areas, is very popular, always full and free.

Producing this Blues Festival is hard work, but it's hardly work because we find it so fulfilling. We have over 50 volunteers who do so much to help prepare for the concerts each year. And of course the whole Briggs family is involved.

Come join us this year on the **rolling hills of Briggs Farm** for our 13th annual Briggs Farm Blues Festival July 9 & 10, 2010.

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