

The roots of Left Wing Bourbon go back further than you'd expect for a blues band from West-Central Wisconsin. Weaned from a young age at the famous River's Edge blues jams of the mid-to-late 1990s, along the banks of the Chippewa River, every member of the group was playing alongside blues veterans while young and unformed enough to take the impressions to heart.

While the blues jam venues may have changed over time, the members that would go on to form the core of Left Wing Bourbon continued to cut their collective teeth in various incarnations throughout the Chippewa Valley and south to the banks of the Mississippi. Officially formed in 2007, Left Wing Bourbon is a confluence of regional musical streams—some of which have run together for years, others just mixing.

Seasoned with years of hosting and playing at blues jams, serenading the night from some country porch, or moving the masses to swing their bodies at a summer festival, the collective members of Left Wing Bourbon mix soul, sweat, boogie and booze into a kinetic cocktail that leaves the foot tapping and the body wanting more.

Faith Ulwelling's vocals channel 60's soul and Delta grit, and her brother Jacob Ulwelling caresses the bass guitar until it moans and sings a counterpoint all it's own. Jason Keisler works the guitar with finger, pick or slide, cascading a catalogue of blues from Clapton-like growls to a Waters mudslide. Tim Caswell, the veteran of the group, brings a sawdust-stage savvy, careening the band from ragtime to Motown and back, always solidifying the core. Derrick Biederman exudes seemingly boundless energy on the drums, and his diverse percussive vocabulary woos the audience to stand to attention, move their hips, and wander to the dance floor.

Left Wing Bourbon plays funk, blues, and feel good. Left Wing Bourbon mixes the season of experience with the zest of youth. Left Wing Bourbon sweats the blues out its skin and moves the room until you have no choice but to join in too. And why not? Funky blues won't hurt a bit.

## Left Wing's Upcoming Schedule

Jul 24 Gas Alley Pub, Tomah  
 Jul 25 Sparta Blues and BBQ Festival, Sparta  
 Jul 31 Shari's Chippewa Club, Durand  
 Aug 2 Blues on the Chippewa, Durand  
 Aug 7 The Mousetrap, Eau Claire  
 Aug 15 Private Party  
 Aug 29 Erwin's 19th Hole, Chippewa Falls

visit them online:  
[myspace.com/leftwingbourbon](http://myspace.com/leftwingbourbon)

## Next Week Lucy Creek

Since last August, the Lucy Creek Blues Band has not played a gig together. Their performance at Owen Park on Tuesday, July 14 will be in keeping with the group's original flavor—"no rehearsals, no egos, and let's have fun creating music." You won't want to miss this unique group.

# The Chippewa Valley Blues Society presents Tuesday Blues on the River at Owen Park

July 7, 2009

## LEFT WING BOURBON



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# The Weekly Bluesletter

## A Little About the Blues

**Bukka White** (true name: Booker T. Washington White) was born in Houston, Mississippi in 1906. He got his initial start in music learning fiddle tunes from his father. Guitar instruction soon followed, but White's grandmother objected to anyone playing "that Devil music; nonetheless, his father eventually bought him a guitar. When Bukka White was 14 he spent some time with an uncle in Clarksdale, Mississippi and passed himself off as a 21-year-old, using his guitar playing as a way to attract women. Somewhere along the line, White came in contact with Delta blues legend Charley Patton, who no doubt was able to give Bukka White instruction on how to improve his skills in both areas of endeavor. In addition to music, White pursued careers in sport, playing in Negro Leagues baseball and, for a time, taking up boxing.

In 1930 White traveled to Memphis where he made his first recordings, singing a mixture of blues and gospel material under the name of Washington White. Victor only saw fit to release four of the 14 songs Bukka White recorded that day. As the Depression set in, opportunity to record didn't knock again for Bukka White until 1937, when Big Bill Broonzy asked him to come to Chicago and record for Lester Melrose. By this time, Bukka White had gotten into some trouble -- he later claimed he and a friend had been "ambushed" by a man along a highway, and White shot the man in the thigh in self defense. While awaiting trial, White jumped bail and headed for Chicago, making two sides before being apprehended and sent back to Mississippi to do a three-year stretch at Parchman Farm. While he was serving time, White's record "Shake 'Em on Down" became a hit.

Bukka White proved a model prisoner, popular with inmates and prison guards alike and earning the nickname "Barrelhouse." It was as "Washington Barrelhouse White" that White recorded two numbers for John and Alan Lomax at Parchman Farm in 1939. After earning his release in 1940, he returned to Chicago with 12 newly minted songs to record for Lester Melrose, that became the backbone of his lifelong repertoire. Among the songs he recorded on that occasion were "Parchman Farm Blues", "Good Gin Blues," "Bukka's Jitterbug Swing," "Aberdeen, Mississippi Blues," and "Fixin' to Die Blues," all timeless classics of the Delta blues. Then, Bukka disappeared -- not into the depths of some Mississippi Delta mystery, but into factory work in Memphis during World War II.

Blues purists will tell you that nothing Bukka White recorded after 1940 is ultimately worth listening to. This isn't accurate, nor fair. White was an incredibly compelling performer who gave up of more of himself in his work than many artists in any musical discipline. The Sky Songs albums for Arhoolie are an eminently rewarding document of Bukka's charm and candor, particularly in the long monologue "Mixed Water." "Big Daddy," recorded in 1974 for Arnold S. Caplin's Biograph label, likewise is a classic of its kind and should not be neglected.

~ Uncle Dave Lewis, All Music Guide

**2nd Annual BLUES ON THE CHIPPEWA**

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Durand, WI Aug 1 & 2, 2009  
www.bluesonthechippewa.org

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## Got a Minute?

The Chippewa Valley Blues Society has a tent on the grounds today where we sell a variety of things like shirts and hats. We'll also sign you up to be a member of the Blues Society. The money we take in on these things goes to help put on shows throughout the year including the one you're at today.

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## Tuesday Night Blues 2009

All shows begin at 6:30

**May 26 Howard "Guitar" Luedtke & Blue Max**  
howardluedtke.com  
myspace.com/howardluedtke

**June 2 Mojo Lemon**  
www.mojolemon.com  
myspace.com/mojolemonbluesband

**June 9 Sue Orfield Band**  
www.sueorfield.com

**June 16 The Blues Dogs**

**June 23 The Pumps**  
www.thepumpsband.com  
myspace.com/thepumpsband

**June 30 Young Blues Night**  
**July 7 Left Wing Bourbon**  
myspace.com/leftwingbourbon

**July 14 Lucy Creek**  
www.lucycreek.net

**July 21 Deep Water Reunion**  
www.myspace.com/dwreunion

**July 28 The Love Buzzards**  
www.lovebuzzards.com  
www.myspace.com/lovebuzzardsbluesband

**Aug 4 The Tommy Bentz Band**  
myspace.com/tommybentzband

**Aug 11 Catya's Trio**  
www.catya.net

**Aug 18 Ellen Whyte**  
www.ellenwhyte.com

**Aug 25 The Jones Tones**  
www.amblues.com

**Sept 1 Mojo Lemon**

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## Become a Friend of the Blues Society

The Chippewa Valley Blues Society (CVBlues) is dedicated to increasing awareness, understanding and appreciation of Blues music as a part of America's musical heritage. CVBlues works to expand the presence and vitality of the Blues in communities throughout the Chippewa Valley by promoting family venues & events such as this with the support of our local sponsors and Friends of the Blues. We try to encourage early venues and more regional performances. Your membership helps us to show that the community is behind these events.

## Join CV Blues

By joining the Blues Society you will be helping us fund many of the educational and community events that support the Blues in our community. We will add you to our growing email list and keep you up to date through our website, of membership of meetings and special events as they develop. Your membership dues of \$10, although small, can mean a lot to increasing events such as these in our community. Visit the CVBlues hospitality tent and find out how you can help to create more FREE music events in our community. Your membership & your donations will help us increase the Blues & continue FREE music events.

## Friends of the Blues

(Thank you for your donations)

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