



da Mudcats

PERFORMING IN THE NATIONS BEST BLUES CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS SINCE 1985



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www.damudcats.com



daMudcats

A BLUES BAND THAT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME, SINCE 1985

With their 6th album release, *Easy Does It*, daMudcats show why they have been a blues band in demand for 35 years!

They have opened for internationally acclaimed blues musical legends such as *Bo Diddley*, *Koko Taylor*, *James Cotton*, *Albert King*, *Marcia Ball*, *Buddy Guy* and many more. A full list of Concerts and Festivals is on the next two pages. daMudcats continue to perform private concerts, and special occasions as well as festivals and popular nightspots. Whether it's California performing at the Monterey Bay Blues Festival or in their own backyard at the Garvin Gate Blues Festival, they have been playing the finest festivals alongside blues legends. Through the years daMudcats have released 6 CD's. The latest, released in October of 2016, *Easy Does It*, is available now through CDbaby.com, iTunes, on or at any of daMudcats' performances. The band was presented the Sylvester Weaver Award from the Kentuckiana Blues Society in 2006. daMudcats are honored to be a finalist for the 2017 Louisville Music Awards in the Blues category!



"daMudcats ability to engage the audience and deliver the energetic kind of blues that festival goers are looking for year after year is one of the reasons for our festival's success."

– **Mike Suttles**
Co-Producer / Music Buyer
Garvin Gate Blues Festival



Our Concert Experience

WE HAVE SHARED THE STAGE WITH THE TOP BLUES LEGENDS

Buddy Guy

Joe Lewis Walker

Albert King

Lonnie Brooks

Charlie Musslewhite

Lonnie Mack

Koko Taylor

Magic Slim

The Fabulous Thunderbirds

Byther Smith

Delbert McClinton

Marcia Ball

Elvin Bishop

Mississippi Heat

April Wine

Pine Top Perkins

Bernard E. Allison

The Blue Devils

Blood Sweat & Tears

**The Kentucky Headhunters
featuring Johnny Johnson**

Bo Diddley

Clarence Gatemouth Brown

Eddie "The Chief" Clearwater

James Cotton

Keri Leigh



Our Festival Experience

WOWING CROWDS AT BLUES FESTIVALS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Monterey Bay Blues Festival, Monterey, CA

The Extravaganza, Nashville, TN

Bluestock, Memphis, TN

WC Handy Blues Festival, Henderson, KY

Garvin Gate Blues Festival, Louisville, KY

Beloit College Blues Festival, Beloit, WI

International BBQ Festival, Owensboro, KY

Kentucky Bourbon Festival, Bardstown, KY

Colonel Bill Williams Heritage Festival, Greenup, KY

Kentucky Derby Governor's Breakfast, Louisville, KY

Six Flags Blues Festival, Louisville, KY

Madison Ribberfest, Madison, IN

Kentucky State BBQ Festival, Danville, KY

Waterside Blues Festival, Louisville, KY

Morehead Blues Festival, Morehead, KY

Louisville Blues and BBQ Festival, Louisville, KY

Jeffersonville Indiana Blues Festival, Jeffersonville, IN

Germantown Schnitzelburg Festival, Louisville, KY

Pitt Academy BBQ Festival, Louisville, KY



GENE WICKLIFFE *Percussionist & Band Leader*

Right out of high school Gene began performing with the Debow Brothers who had a production contract in Muscle Shoals where they recorded a demo with Tony Joe White.

Gene went on to play for nationally known artists like Ben E King, The Coasters, and The Drifters. Locally he has been the “go to” drummer for countless performance and recording sessions with groups like The Monarchs, Cosmo & the Counts, and Bodeco as well as Sherry Edwards, Robbie Bartlett, Rick Bartlett, Johnny Barry and Steve Cooley.

In 1985 Gene was introduced to harmonica great Jim Rosen who was putting together a Blues band with vocalist Susan O’Neil. Gene joined daMudcat Blues Band at it’s inception and has remained with the group ever since.

His dynamic driving percussive style has been part of the signature sound that is daMudcats.



SUE O'NEIL *Vocalist*

Susan has been singing and entertaining in local and regional venues for many years. She and Jim Rosen were the founding members of da Mudcats Blues Band. Susan left daMudcats after 8 years to be more available to her family.

Susan's musical influences includes Blues greats like Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, and Koko Taylor as well as soul singers like Aretha Franklin and her all time favorite Etta James.

Through the years Susan has recorded background vocals on projects with local artists Kessler's Friends, Robbie Bartlett and Steve Ferguson.

Susan is thrilled to be singing once again with daMudcats and is looking forward to collaborating with her band mates, writing and performing the music that she loves.



ROB PICKETT *Guitar, Vocals*

Rob picked up his first guitar at the age of 10 and was soon playing the folk music of the day accompanying vocalists in church and at special occasions like the Concerts in Shawnee Park.

Rob has played guitar in numerous bands starting around 1973 with Mantis, a funk group that after receiving a nod from Casablanca Records, toured the Country from Florida to Canada.

Rob returned to Louisville around 1977 and joined the group Sophisti-funk playing local and regional venues. He also played for Matlow Band that negotiated a development deal with Atlantic Records.

In 1985 Rob opened his store, Modern Music Outlet on Spring Street in Jeffersonville, Indiana. It was in this timeframe that a friend recommended him to Jim Rosen of daMudcats and thus began his tenure with daMudcats as lead guitar player and he continues to delight fans with his flare for the Blues.



BRENDAN LEWIS *Bass, Vocals*

Coming from a musical family, Brendan started touring in 1977 playing mostly rock 'n roll. In 1981 he delved deeply into jazz, a genre he truly loves. He continued touring and spending time doing studio work where he landed a contract with Elektra records. His studio work carried him to New York, LA, Nashville, Memphis and to the wonderful Belmont Mall, John Mellencamp's place. Brendan then spent time exploring the acoustic side of music. He approached that with the same discipline he had with Jazz. Brendan's ability on bass, guitar and mandolin led him to a stint with the Louisville Mandolin Orchestra. Eventually Brendan followed his calling back to blues. He played in several blues bands regionally when he got a call from Nashville to join a blues band. Lucky for daMudcats who had approached him at the same time, he opted to rejoin the group he had been such a big part of years earlier.



WES BURGISS *Keys*

Wes began his love for music playing drums in high school. He first started playing keyboards in college. He was influenced early on by blues artist such as Jimi Hendrix, the Allman Brothers, BB King etc. After college, he attended the Ringling College of Art and Design In Sarasota, Florida. While living in Sarasota, he ran into locals that were friends with a few of the members in the Allman Brothers. A few jams later and Wes was asked to audition for the Allman Brothers, and did... and that's another story. A long story for another day.

Wes has found a deep love for fusion, funk and jazz. Playing in bands for years on the road and at home, he still loves to go back to where it all began.... the blues. Nothing is more fun for him than the opportunity of playing out with the hope that you enjoy all of what he brings into his music.



Music & Media



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VOTED BEST SELF
PRODUCED CD OF
2016



EASY DOES IT
Our latest CD release



OUR NEXT CD SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE IN SUMMER OF 2020

PAST CD'S CURRENTLY SOLD OUT

**BACK
TO
BASICS**

**I WANT TO PLAY
IN YOUR
BIG BACKYARD**

**LIVE
AT
MOM'S**

**BLUE
KENTUCKY
MOON**



Press & Testimonials

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT US...

"It is not possible to discuss a definite history of the Louisville blues scene without including da Mudcats. Performing continuously since 1985, there are the area's longest surviving blues band – no small feat when you consider the nature of the music business. Members have come and gone over the years but the band endures. The current roster of performers includes co-founder, Susan O'Neil, a soul-searching vocalist who can belt it out like Big Mama Thornton or cool it down à la Billie Holiday; Rob Pickett, who's intense guitar playing stacks up against axeman on the local or national scene; keyboard player Wes Burgiss, who played previously with The Tarnations and once auditioned for the Allman Brothers; and with a rhythm section of Mike Lynch on bass and Gene Wickcliffe on drums, you have all the ingredients for a supremely good time. When it comes to the blues, da Mudcats are the cream of the crop."

– **Gary Sampson**

Vice President and Music Director 100.9 FM WCHQ

Former President of the Kentuckiana Blues Society

Music Director, 100.9 FM, WCHQ

"Louisville's longest running (and most popular) blues band, daMudcats are a must-see for all blues fans. The only band to play all 23 Garvin Gate Blues Festivals and a mainstay on the Louisville, KY blues scene, daMudcats are always a sure bet to have the crowd off their feet groovin' to the soulful voice of Louisville's Blues Matriarch, Susan O'Neil. Backed by a group of consummate professionals including Rob Pickett on guitar, Wes Burgess on the keys and the never-die rhythm section of Mike Lynch on bass and Gene Wickcliffe on drums. daMudcats bring their A-game to each and every show. Live blues doesn't get any better than Da Cats!"

– **Mike Suttles**

Co-Producer/Music Buyer

Garvin Gate Blues Festival



VOTED BEST CD 2016





Contacting daMudcats

KENTUCKIANA'S PREMIER BLUES BAND SINCE 1985

Thank you for your interest in daMudcats and your consideration for you event. If you have any further questions or are in need of press materials, please contact us.



Click on card to email us

