

**H**oward 'Guitar' Luedtke and Blue Max has been playing the Blues since 1982. With 40+ years of playing guitar in the Midwest and on international stages, Luedtke is a Blues icon..

"I grew up with the Beatles, Hendrix, and the Stones," says Luedtke. "Then in '69 or '70, I was first exposed to the classic Blues and was fascinated by it." Howard played in a variety of Blues, rock and country bands in the Wisconsin area during the early seventies, including Black Cat Bone Band in 1974.

Rounding out the band are Howard's wife, **Deb Klossner**, on bass, and a talented selection of drummers, including **"Wild" Bill Weiss**. Originally from New Ulm, MN, Klossner had been performing since 1983. After four years of performing with several rock bands in Southern Minnesota, Klossner joined Blue Max in 1987.

When Luedtke was first learning guitar, he fell in love with the playing of Travis Wammack and two of his instrumentals: "Fire Fly" and "Scratchy." "I just loved the guitar picking on 'Fire Fly.'" Luedtke knew little of Wammack until Klossner discovered the artist had 13 CDs and a book in 2013, and offered all of them up to Luedtke for his birthday. Soon after, Luedtke contacted Wammack and arranged a meeting and recording session at the legendary Muscle Shoals studio. "We went down there, and I walked up to him for the first time and I said, 'Sir, I've been looking for you for 50 years,'" Luedtke said.

Over the years Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max have opened for the likes of Long John Baldrey, Sugar Blue, Lonnie Brooks, Clarence 'Gatemouth' Brown, Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, Debbie Davies, Tinsley Ellis, Jeff Healey, Jimmy Johnson, Kenny Neal, A.C. Reed, Eddie Shaw and the Wolfgang, James Solberg, Hubert Sumlin, Koko Taylor, George Thorogood and the Destroyers, Joe Louis Walker and Howard's guitar idol, Johnny Winter.

Luedtke's guitar playing and larger-than-life presence has earned him a place in the hearts of fans. He can be heard performing solo, as a duo with his wife Deb on bass, or with the Blue Max Band, performing an average of 150 nights per year.

## Tuesday Night Blues 2021

All shows begin at 6:30

July 6: Stefan Geisinger w/  
The Flaming Doublewides

July 13: Mark Cameron Band

July 20: Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke  
& Blue Max

July 27: Brian Naughton

August 3: Sue Orfield Band

August 10: Mojo Lemon

August 17: Tommy Bentz Band

August 24: Dee Miller Band  
featuring Craig Clark

August 31: Joyann Parker

Find out more about the bands and listen to samples at [TuesdayNightBlues.com](http://TuesdayNightBlues.com)

## Tuesday Night Bluesletter

July 20, 2021 at Owen Park

### Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max

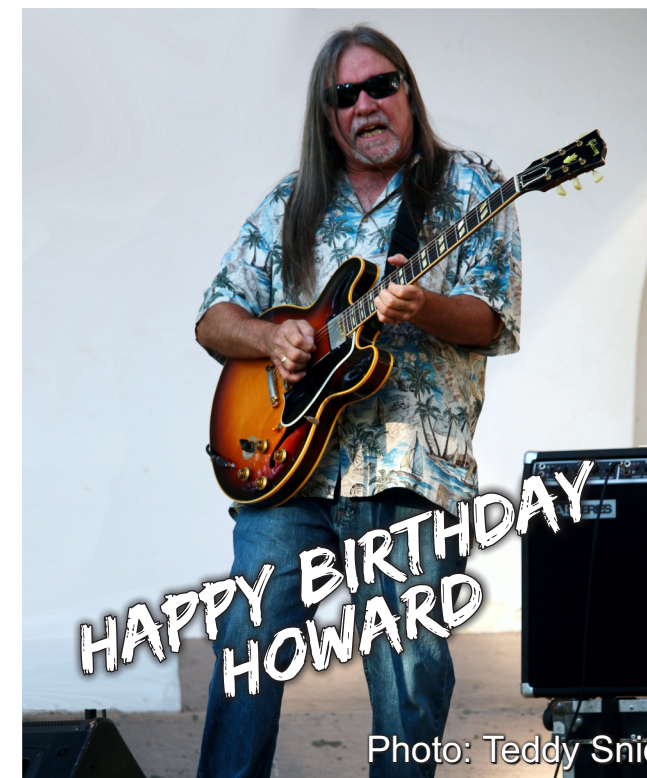


Photo: Teddy Snider

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**Next Week (July 27, 2021)  
Brian Naughton**

**Brian Naughton**, a recording artist, singer, songwriter and guitarist born in St. Paul, Minnesota, possesses a signature sound driven by an energetic mix of Blues, Rock, Funk and Soul, originating far from the Twin Cities. His wails, croons and soulful emotion derive in and around the heart of the Deep South. At seven-years old, Brian picked up his first guitar and discovered the love of all three Kings, Albert, Freddie and B.B. in quick order.

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**A Little About the Blues**

The first major blues and jazz singer on record and one of the most powerful of all time, **Bessie Smith** rightly earned the title of "The Empress of the Blues." Even on her first records in 1923, her passionate voice overcame the primitive recording quality of the day and still communicates easily to today's listeners. At a time when the blues were in and most vocalists (particularly vaudevillians) were being dubbed "blues singers," Bessie Smith simply had no competition.

Back in 1912, Bessie Smith sang in the same show as Ma Rainey, who took her under her wing and coached her. Although Rainey would achieve a measure of fame throughout her career, she was soon surpassed by her protégée. In 1920, Smith had her own show in Atlantic City and, in 1923, she moved to New York. She was soon signed by Columbia and her first recording (Alberta Hunter's "Downhearted Blues") made her famous. Bessie Smith worked and recorded steadily throughout the decade, using many top musicians as sidemen on sessions including Louis Armstrong, Joe Smith, James P. Johnson, and Charlie Green. Her summer tent show Harlem Frolics was a big success during 1925-1927, and Mississippi Days in 1928 kept the momentum going.

However, by 1929 the blues were out of fashion and Bessie Smith's career was declining despite being at the peak of her powers. She appeared in St. Louis Blues that year (a low-budget movie short that contains the only footage of her), but her hit recording of "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out" predicted her leaner Depression years. Although she was dropped by Columbia in 1931 and made her final recordings in 1933, Bessie Smith kept on working. She played the Apollo in 1935 and substituted for Billie Holiday in the show Stars Over Broadway. The chances are very good that she would have made a comeback, starting with a Carnegie Hall appearance at John Hammond's upcoming From Spirituals to Swing concert, but she was killed in a car crash in Mississippi. Columbia has reissued all of her recordings, first in five two-LP sets, then on five two-CD box sets that also contain her five alternate takes, the soundtrack of St. Louis Blues, and an interview with her niece Ruby Smith. "The Empress of the Blues," based on her recordings, will never have to abdicate her throne. -By Scott Yanow for allmusic.com

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W93 Norden Rd  
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July 30: Joyann Parker  
July 31: Catya's Trio

Burger Night 4-9pm  
Music 5:30-8:30pm