

**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 2023

All shows begin at 6:30

May 30: Paul Tweed Band

June 6: Kyle Renfro

June 13: Jay Stulo

June 20: Bridget Kelly Band

June 27: Joyann Parker

July 4: Lamont Cranston w Nick Foytik

July 11: Sue Orfield Band

July 18: Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max

July 25: Tommy Bentz Band

August 1: Stefan Geisinger Band

August 8: Mark Cameron Band

August 15: Left Wing Bourbon

August 22: Avey Grouws Band

August 29: Mojo Lemon

Find out more about the bands at:

**TuesdayNightBlues.com**

## Tuesday Night Bluesletter

July 18, 2023

### Howard 'Guitar' Luedtke & Blue Max



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## A Little About the Blues

**W**alter Trout was born on March 6, 1951, in Ocean City, New Jersey. Trout's career began on the Jersey coast scene of the late 1960s and early 1970s. He relocated to Los Angeles where he became a sideman for John Lee Hooker, Percy Mayfield, Big Mama Thornton, Joe Tex, and many others. Between 1981 and 1984, he was the lead guitarist in Canned Heat. From 1984 to 1989, he was the lead guitarist in John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. The many successes on stage were accompanied by a self-destructive lifestyle offstage. Trout recalled in a 2018 interview with Blues Radio International that while playing with John Mayall, he was rescued from a complete descent into alcohol and substance abuse by a post-gig encounter with Carlos Santana.

Trout left the Bluesbreakers in 1989 and formed the 'Walter Trout Band' which developed a successful following in Europe, especially Scandinavia where he found himself playing to large festival crowds such as at the Midtfyns Festival and Skanderborg Festival. The Times named Trout's first solo album, Life in the Jungle, "the greatest album in the history of the blues-rock genre." Between 1990 and 1992, Trout's first two albums sold over 100,000 copies.

In June 2013 Trout got the first signs that he was suffering from cirrhosis of the liver. With his health deteriorating, he continued to tour until told he needed a liver transplant within 90 days. Supported by donations from fans, his wife raised the money needed for them to move out of state for lengthy stays to qualify for transplantation in various states. Trout received his life saving operation on May 26, 2014. Trout recovered from his cirrhosis and subsequent liver transplant in a hospital bed for eight months, during which time he suffered from brain damage, which caused him to lose the ability to speak, play the guitar, and recognize his family. Due to being bedridden, he also lost the use of his legs during this time. He had to relearn how to speak and walk

Trout has also stated that he spent eight hours a day over the course of a year to relearn how to play the guitar. By 2015, Trout had recovered and was able to go on tour in Europe where he performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London. His 2015 album, Battle Scars, chronicled his battle with liver failure and the wait for a donated liver. In 2019, Trout's album, Survivor Blues, debuted with two consecutive weeks on the Billboard Blues Chart at number one and stayed in the top ten for twelve weeks. Metal Zone magazine, reviewed his performance in London by naming Trout "the ultimate, supreme bluesman of the 20th and 21st centuries."

(continued)

On his latest single "Waiting For The Dawn," released June 25, 2022 via Provogue/Mascot Label Group, Trout urges fans—and himself—to stay strong in light of all of the challenges we've faced over the past few years. "There were times in this pandemic where I have sunk into some pretty deep depressions, sitting around, wondering whether life has a point," Trout recalls. It's the latest single from Trout's new studio album 'Ride,' out August 19th. Written in his beloved and often-missed home in Huntington Beach, California, the album is filled with pointed reflections from Trout, informed by his decades of stardom in the blues world.

Some memories that Trout examines on 'Ride' are long-distant but eternally poignant. The deceptively upbeat title track recounts the locomotive that rattled past his childhood home each night and enticed him to freight-hop to freedom. "That song is about what it felt like to lay there in bed and dream about escaping on that train. I also wanted to express that music has always been another sort of virtual escape for me."

The stormy "Hey Mama" takes inspiration from the same period, with Trout debating whether his trauma could have been averted. "I'm not pissed off with my mom and I love her memory," he says, "but my wife says, 'Your mom probably could have done more to protect you from your stepdad.'" Walter Trout is the beating heart of the modern blues rock scene. Respected by the old guard. Revered by the young guns. Adored by the fans who shake his hand after the show each night. Be sure to catch Walter at Big Bull Falls Blues Fest in Wausau on Saturday, August 19th!

Compiled from Wikipedia.org and waltertrout.com

## Next Week (July 28) Tommy Bentz Band

Some may say that **Tommy Bentz's** greatest asset is his confident and mature electric slide guitar style. Others insist that his insightful lyrics and adept layering of sound are what keep them coming back for more. With four full-length albums thus far, Bentz is a musician with spirit, drive, and unmatched ability. TBB's distinct blend of Southern jam-style Blues rock and singer/songwriter lyricism, combined with nuances of jazz, classical, and progressive performance, create an intense - yet immediately accessible - musical experience.

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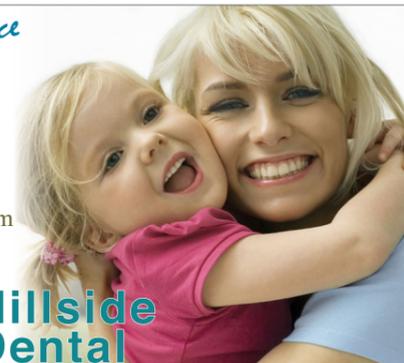
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7 PM BAREFOOT JIMMY & THE BLUES DISCIPLES	3 PM GHOST TOWN BLUES BAND
9 PM GABE STILLMAN	5 PM ALBERT CUMMINGS
	7 PM MARCIA BALL W/ THE JIMMYS
	9 PM WALTER TROUT

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