

**Volunteer Spotlight:
Adam Kiesling**

How long have you been a volunteer with MBOTMA? Around 15 years or so.

What current volunteer role(s) do you have with MBOTMA?

I'm not sure how I will volunteer in the future, but I was most recently on the Winter Weekend Committee. Rina Rossi and I were responsible for the old-time dance parlor, and would hire the bands and square dance callers along with determining the day's programming.

What MBOTMA volunteer role(s) have you held in the past?

My first role was as the raffle coordinator for the August fest, and then I moved onto the workshop coordinator position until 2010 or 11. I usually sneak in a slot as a main stage MC at the August fest as well, and was also the MC for the 2019 band competition at the State Fair.

How long have you been part of MBOTMA and what brought you into the organization?

I started going to the August festival back in 1996 or so, which was right around the time I was trying to figure out how to flatpick on the guitar. Being able to sit in close at a workshop was an eye-opener.

Why are you a MBOTMA volunteer?

It's a great organization, and I'm just trying to do my part to help out! How has being a volunteer impacted you? It has been great getting a chance to

meet all of the different folks involved with MBOTMA and being a small part of this great organization.

Do you have a favorite festival or activity at a festival?

I like hanging out in the woods with friends, making music and cooking some big meals. I like the intimacy of the workshops and showcases, and love being able to take in



some of my favorite bands at the main stage.

What occupation did you have or do you have now?

I'd like to do as little as possible, but instead have been working as a proofreader for over the past 20 years for a financial printing company. I'm also a gigging musician--I play mostly solo or with my band Corpse Reviver (a tribute band to Harry Smith's Anthology of American Folk Music).

What are some of your hobbies and interests?

I like to play and listen to a lot of music, and spend way too much money on instruments and records. I like to read a lot, and enjoy the look of an overstuffed bookshelf. I like to dabble a bit in the woodshop, and am also trying to perfect the French omelette. It's still edible (usually) even if you mess up.

What's a fun fact about you? I grew up in Wisconsin, and it's hard to be humble when you're from Wisconsin.

Do you have a fun story about being a volunteer or about MBOTMA that you'd like to share?

My favorite MBOTMA memory is of sitting in the showcase tent on a late Thursday night/early Friday morning as a storm rolled through (it pretty much rained that entire weekend). We just hung out playing tunes and watching the rain drip off of the sides of the

tent. The showcase tent ended up coming down the following day during a storm that Friday afternoon, but it was repaired overnight and was back in place for Saturday. I never did get a chance to put up my tent that weekend due to the rain, so I slept in my minivan instead. It smelled like a wet sock on the drive home, but I wouldn't have changed a thing.

What would you tell a new MBOTMA member/volunteer?

Sign up early and often, and don't be afraid to take on a variety of tasks.

