



# In Step

Promoting traditional Celtic dance, music and culture

Newsletter of the Greater Washington Ceili Club






[www.gwcc-online.org](http://www.gwcc-online.org)

 M a r c h 2 0 0 7 



## Happy Saint Patrick's Day

This year, there are so many wonderful ways to celebrate. Being especially fond of the dance myself, here's a rundown on the highlights (see "Upcoming Events" and fliers for full details). Get out the cushioned inserts and epsom salts, because March is just packed!

-  **Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup>**, hot off the press...Timmy McCarthy, a favorite set dancer teacher, raconteur, spirited box player and lively dancer from Co. Cork, Ireland is coming to the Frost Center in Rockville for a workshop and ceili of Sliabh Luachra dance and music. He will teach a bodhran workshop beforehand as well. Jim Morrison from Charlottesville, Va will join him.
-  **Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>**, Blackthorn has a ceili at Washington Grove, MD.
-  **Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>**, we have our ceili at Cherry Hill to the Bogwanderers' fabulous music.
-  **Wednesday March 21<sup>st</sup>**, join the reunion and final ceili at Glen Echo.
-  **Sunday March 25<sup>th</sup>**, dance to Billy McComisky's music at J Pat's Pub in Baltimore. Joe moved the regular ceili from the second Sunday to accommodate the March 11<sup>th</sup> Baltimore Parade.



## DANCE NOTES

by Edie O'Donnell

### February Ceili

Snow and ice got the better of us in February, so we had to cancel the ceili. This should mean that all of you are really anticipating the March ceili, so we're hoping for a b-i-g crowd this month!

### Patrick O'Dea Workshop

On the Thursday night before that, three and a half sets had the pleasure of learning the Connemara Jig Set (tug, hug, and swing!) and the Glengarriff Set from Patrick O'Dea, who stopped here on his tour of the US. Because we spent most of the evening polishing our performance on the Connemara Jig, we finished that set with only ½ hour to go, but Patrick assured us he could get one more in, and he did! The Glengarriff has short easy figures, and we danced the whole thing in 20 minutes. That left enough time for a final Connemara Reel Set to end the evening.

### Dancing in March

Don't forget that you have two opportunities to dance with us in March. On March 15th, there will be a workshop and mini-ceili at the Frost Center in Rockville. We're fortunate to have Timmy "the Brit" McCarthy in the area that night; Timmy will teach a bodhran workshop at 7 and a set workshop at 8, followed by dancing to the live music of our Frost Center musicians until 10:30. Don't miss this chance to get a head start on your St. Patrick's Day festivities!

Also, please note that St. Patrick's Day lasts all weekend long, as our March Ceili will take place on the third Sunday this month, March 18th. The band will be the wonderful Bogwanderers Ceili Band, and the workshop set is the Kildownet Half Set. The dance card is full of our best-known dances, so bring a friend, and share the joys of set dancing!

### DANCE CLASS NEWS



We are sad to announce the end of our Glen Echo dance classes, due to an increased pricing policy by park management. Everyone is invited to the final ceili March 21<sup>st</sup>. Our heartfelt thanks to the excellent and committed teachers: Dick de Freyre, Ann Marie Breheny and Jim Keenan.



## FAVORITE POEM

submitted by Brenda Sullivan-Miller

### The Lake Isle of Innisfree by William B. Yeats

I will arise and go now,  
and go to Innisfree,  
And a small cabin build there,  
of clay and wattles made;  
Nine bean rows will I have there,  
a hive for the honeybee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there,  
for peace comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning  
to where the cricket sings;  
There midnight's all a glimmer,  
and noon a purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and  
day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by  
the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the  
pavements gray,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.



### HOT DRINK RECIPE "Blas Meala"

submitted by Brenda Sullivan-Miller

½ cup orange juice  
1 teaspoon honey  
1 oz Irish whiskey  
whipped cream

Heat orange juice to hot (not boiling), stir in honey and whiskey. Top with whipped cream. More traditional than Irish Coffee. Drink or eat with a spoon.



## TRAVEL TALES Ballyvourney Dance Weekend

by Cory Clark

While I was attending The Burren College of Art in Ballyvaughan, Ireland last fall, I had the amazing opportunity to attend MANY ceílís and lessons. I danced 26 times, not including workshops! Through the next few articles I will share some of my experiences.

One of my favorite events was Timmy the Brit's Cork/Kerry weekend in Ballyvourney. My parents quickly extinguished thoughts of hitchhiking, so I settled on reaching Ballyvourney by bus. Normally a three or four hour drive, I took four buses to reach the small southern town.

As friendly as always, Timmy invited me to stay in his home along with his son Tony, Tony's fiancé, and several other visiting French friends. Though his promises of a rollicking good time were inhibited by my lack of ability to speak French, I settled right in with company from Timmy's cat, a good book, and the presence of a fellow artist (Timmy's eccentric woodworking skills and collected oddities reminded me of a hobbit house).

The language barrier continued through the weekend in some form or another. Throughout the weekend of workshops and ceílís, Timmy taught in his distinct hands-on approach with the addition of jokes and stories. Since I had yet to perfect my ability to understand the Irish, understanding Timmy's jokes and stories posed a bit of a problem, and laughing with everyone else became habitual.

Interestingly many of the weekend goers were from France, with others coming from Norway, Sweden, England, Germany, and one couple from the States. Luckily, though Ballyvourney is a Gaeltacht region (meaning Irish is the official language) I did not encounter any more language difficulties.

Most of the dances that weekend were from the Cork/Kerry region and very few from Clare. This was a relief since, by then, I had had my share of the Caledonian Set! One of the great workshop dances Timmy taught was Hurry the Jug. Very complex, but great fun! Not to mention I loved dancing to polkas and slides played by Timmy, Tony, and Timmy's French friend. On another night members of the Sliabh Luachra band provided music.

The hall was never packed, which was a welcome change after the crowded halls I encountered elsewhere. Many dancers attended all the workshops in addition to

the ceílís, which gave the weekend a very personal feel as I began to recognize faces and make friends. Overall the weekend was very exciting with a variety of dances and friendly company.

I would like to thank GWCC for their support in my studies in Ireland. I was extremely excited to receive a 250 dollar travel grant. This grant was used for ceílí admissions, transportation and accommodation. Thanks also to Linda Fitzpatrick for her time and effort!



Ballyvourney dance weekend band - Timmy 'the Brit' McCarthy on bodhrán is accompanied by his son Tony and friend on flute.



### SPOTLIGHT A SEAN-NOS DANCER: Shannon Dunne

Shannon Dunne and her students treated us to a sean-nos dance performance and step lesson at the CCE ceili last month. She teaches this old form of Irish dance at the Joy of Motion ([joyofmotion.org](http://joyofmotion.org)), and has studied with Mick Mulkerrin and Mairead Casey, Kieran Jordan, Roisin Ni Mhainin, and John Sikorski. She is a 2006 recipient of a Folk Arts Grant from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

As Shannon describes it "Sean-nos is a battering style individual dance that emphasizes keen musicality, playfulness and a loose upper body. A great way to learn footwork for set dancing!"

Her sean-nos classes at Joy of Motion are:

Bethesda class, Wednesdays,

6:30-7:30 PM

Capitol Hill class (at the Atlas Studio), Sundays

2-3 PM (Beginning)

3-4 PM (Beginning II)

Next session begins March 21st. To register, visit [joyofmotion.org](http://joyofmotion.org), or call (202) 399 6763.



## SO FATHERS BE GOOD TO YOUR DAUGHTERS

by Stephen D. O'Regan

As adults, we know the world is complicated. Trying to make sense of it to our children is challenging. So, when we explain things, we take calculated liberties - smooth over rough edges, make things out to be a little more black and white than they really are. All done with the forethought that we will add more realism to this worldview as our children mature. The risk of course is that our children will feel misled. And as all children are natural-born prosecutors, they zero in on minute inconsistencies of yesteryear's explanations. Case in point, a recent conversation with the daughter...

**Daughter:** Beethoven was German.

Father: Hmmm?

**Daughter:** Beethoven was German. He was born in Bonn, Germany, and lived his adult life in Vienna, Austria.

Father: That's right.

**Daughter:** You said he was from Ireland.

Father: His parents were ...

**Daughter:** German. Both of them.

Father: very fond of Ireland. They spoke Irish at home.

**Daughter:** You said his family was Irish.

Father: They were, in a manner of speaking.

**Daughter:** How's that?

Father: They spoke Irish at home. That is being Irish in a manner of speaking.

**Daughter:** Nice try.

Father: Beethoven wished he was really Irish.

**Daughter:** How do you know that?

Father: Common knowledge.

**Daughter:** Right.

Father: Are you finished?

**Daughter:** You said the Fifth Symphony was a jig.

Father: It is. Bah-bah-bah BAAH,  
Bah-bah-bah-BAAHH. That's a jig.

**Daughter:** That's not a jig.

Father: Jig-LIKE ... I meant that it's jig-like. Not exactly a jig but very close.

**Daughter:** You always said it was a jig, not 'jig-like'.

Father: That's when you were younger. You were too young to understand the subtle nuances of classical music. Now you're more mature.

**Daughter:** OK. What about Mozart? Was he really from Cork?

**Father:** Absolutely.



## HIGHLIGHT

### A RECORDING: Celtic Tapestry

from Maggie Sansone

Time-Life CD featuring Maggie's Music Artists!

This new CD is called Celtic Tapestry: A Collection of Contemporary and Traditional Celtic Music. Its a one of a kind 2-CD collection produced by Time-Life and contains 32 tracks from the Maggies' Music catalog that includes recording artists Karen Ashbrook, Robin Bullock, Ceoltoiri, Ensemble Galilei, Hesperus, Ken Kolodner, Jody Marshall, Al Petteway & Amy White, The City of Washington Pipe Band; National Scottish fiddle and Celtic harp champions Bonnie Rideout and Sue Richards and Maggie Sansone. Celebrate the sound and essence of the Celtic spirit – the driving energy of jigs and reels; lilting melodies, haunting traditional and contemporary songs from artists bringing their own spirit to the genre.

Editor's note: Amazon provides this product description... "A definitive collection of Celtic music. Both a primer for Celtic music neophytes and a must-have for devout fans. Artists play new interpretations of ancient melodies using an array of traditional instruments such as the fiddle, Celtic harp, Irish button accordion, Scottish and Irish bagpipes, pipes, Irish flute, pennywhistle, and bodhran as well as bouzouki, viola de gamba, recorder, and hammered dulcimer."

#### GWCC Officers and Board

Tom Scullen – President

Dixie Baker - Vice-President

Ed O'Connor – Treasurer

Paul O'Donnell - Secretary

#### Board Members:

Susan Boon, Linda Fitzpatrick, Dick De Freyre, Don Kaliher, Betty McCarthy, Frank McCarthy, Emmett Murphy, Joan O'Connor, Edie O'Donnell, Bev Ricks, Anne Marie Russell, Jane Twomey, Pat Twomey

#### Committees (Chair):

Ceili (Dixie Baker and Dick DeFreyre)

Membership (Frank and Betty McCarthy)

Outreach (Edie O'Donnell and Dixie Baker)

Newsletter (Anne Marie Russell)

Scholarship (Linda Fitzpatrick)

Cape May (Linda Fitzpatrick)

Spring Fling (Joan O'Connor)





## SOUTHERN MARYLAND CELTIC FESTIVAL

by Dixie Baker

Mark your calendars for April 28th. One of the best festivals around will take place at Jefferson Patterson Park near St. Leonard, MD. About an hour and a half drive from the Washington, DC area, the festival is always a lot of fun.

As we have for many years, the GWCC will participate with an hour long demonstration and audience participation performance. If you would like to participate in the dancing, contact Dixie Baker at 301-294-35-68 or DixieMB@aol.com as dancers receive free entrance to the grounds. We will practice for the performance the Thursday night before the festival at the Frost Center in Rockville. If you would just like to spend the day cruising the grounds, watching the demonstrations, and shopping the Celtic vendors, you are more than welcome to do that. We perform late in the afternoon and are planning to go out to dinner in Solomons and party later. This year several dancers will spend the night at accommodations in Solomons, so the more, the merrier.

Editor's note: For festival info <http://cssm.org/festival/>



## UPPER POTOMAC SPRING MUSIC WEEKEND

from Jesse Winch

Upper Potomac Spring Music Weekend presents Harp & Fiddle Classes with Shetland duo Catriona McKay and Chris Stout, Saturday March 24-25, in Harpers Ferry, WV

Harper Catriona McKay and fiddler Chris Stout have been working together for more than 10 years, during which they have developed individually and as a duo to the extent that, with McKay's nimble elegance and Stout's stirring tone and masterful touch, they are operating at a rarefied level of expertise.

The pair sustain the invention and sense of enquiry that can completely reinvigorate old tunes and personalize newer ones, creating in the former case s mini-epic that blends craggy, elemental intensity with graceful eloquence while never losing sight of the music's origins.

To sign up for the workshops, or order concert tickets: email [updf@earthlink.net](mailto:updf@earthlink.net) or call (304) 263-2531.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 15** Timmy McCarthy from Co. Cork teaches a Cork/Kerry Set Dance Workshop 8PM followed by a 9PM live music ceili at the Frost Center. Also bodhran workshop 7PM.
- March 17**, Blackthorn ceili McCathran Hall Washington Grove, MD Dan Moore 301-990-0184
- March 18**, GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill 5PM  
Set Workshop starts at 4:00 PM  
Bogwanderers Ceili Band  
Cherry Hill Park Convention Center  
College Park, MD  
Information 301-294-3568 [rdefreyre@aol.com](mailto:rdefreyre@aol.com)
- March 21** Reunion/Final ceili Glen Echo 7PM  
Bumpercar Pavillion Glen Echo Park,  
Bethesda, MD  
Information 301-294-3568 [rdefreyre@aol.com](mailto:rdefreyre@aol.com)
- March 25** JPat's ceili 4:30PM  
1371 Andre Street Baltimore, MD
- March 28**, Lunasa Weinberg Center  
Frederick, MD Info: 301-228-2828
- March 29**, Lunasa Center Stage,  
Reston, VA info: 703-476-4500
- April 6**, Lunasa The Birchmere  
info: [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com)
- April 12-15**, CCE Convention  
Atlanta, Georgia Westin Airport Hotel  
info & registration: [www.irelandindixie.com](http://www.irelandindixie.com)
- April 22**, GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill 5PM  
Set Workshop starts at 4:00 PM  
Cherry Hill Park Convention Center  
College Park, MD  
Information 301-294-3568 [rdefreyre@aol.com](mailto:rdefreyre@aol.com)
- April 28**, CCE Spotlight on the Arts 7:30PM  
Old Town Hall, Fairfax, VA  
info: [KendraR179@aol.com](mailto:KendraR179@aol.com)
- April 28**, Southern Maryland Celtic Festival  
info: <http://cssm.org/festival/>
- May 12**, CCE's End of Season Ceili  
Green Acres School, Fairfax, VA  
info: [KendraR179@aol.com](mailto:KendraR179@aol.com)
- May 20**, GWCC Ceili at Cherry Hill 5PM  
Set Workshop starts at 4:00 PM  
Matt Cunningham Band  
Cherry Hill Park Convention Center  
College Park, MD  
Information 301-294-3568 [rdefreyre@aol.com](mailto:rdefreyre@aol.com)
- Sept 18-27**, Irish Charter Cruise Rome, Italy  
Info: [byrne\\_g@yahoo.com](mailto:byrne_g@yahoo.com)
- Sept 28-30**, Cape May Dance Weekend Cape May, NJ  
Info: [sousane@comcast.net](mailto:sousane@comcast.net)

## DANCE CLASSES

Mondays

Waterloo Elementary School, Columbia, MD  
set dancing 7-8:30 beginners, starting April 16<sup>th</sup>  
Instructors: Jan McVey and Don Kaliher  
Info: 410 313-7275. [www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP)

Tuesdays

Ring of Kerry, Gaithersburg, MD  
ceili & set dancing 7:00 beginners, 8:00 advanced  
info: KBWall@comcast.net

Wednesdays

J Patrick's Pub  
ceili & set dancing 7PM  
1371 Andre St Locust Point Baltimore, MD  
Instructor: Dan Stanton info: 410-276-2766

Wednesdays

Glen Echo Park, Bethesda, MD  
ceili & set dancing 7:30 beginners, 8:30 advanced  
Instructors: Dick DeFreyer, Ann Marie Breheny and  
Jim Keenan  
info: rdefreyre@aol.com

Thursdays

GWCC Frost Center, Rockville, MD  
set dancing 7:30 beginners, 8:00 advanced  
Instructor: the Paul O'Donnell IrishGWCC@aol.com

Saturdays

Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Rd Fairfax, VA  
ceili & set dancing 10:30 beginner friendly  
Instructor: Marilyn Moore  
info: Larry 703-281-0910 lfrank2@earthlink.net

Join the club! Get our monthly newsletter and save on monthly ceilis, all for just \$15. To sign up or renew today, send this membership form and your check to Frank McCarthy 78 Milshire Ct Silver Spring, MD 20905

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## CEILIS

First Saturday,

Emerald Isle Club Ceili 7-11 p.m. Sept – May  
ceili dances, some set dances, all called  
American Legion #22, York Road, Towson, MD,  
info: 410-263-5544

Second Saturday,

CCE Ceili, 7:30 Sept-May  
ceili dances, some set dances, all called  
Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Rd Fairfax, VA  
7:00 workshop  
info: KendraR179@aol.com

Second Sunday,

J Patrick's Pub, 4:30-8:30 all year  
set dances, some ceili dances, all called  
1371 Andre St Locust Point, Baltimore, MD  
info: 410-244-8613

Fourth Sunday,

GWCC Ceili 5-9:00PM Sept – May  
set dances, some ceili dances, some called  
Cherry Hill Park Convention Center  
College Park, MD  
4:00 workshop  
info: rdefreyre@aol.com

## LOCAL SEISIUNS

J Patrick's Pub, Locust Point, MD

Monday – Beginners Seisiun  
Tuesday w/Laura Byrne & Jim Eagan  
Thursday w/Peter Fitzgerald  
Kids Sesiun w/Donna Long  
info: 410-244-8613

Royal Mile Pub, Wheaton, MD

Kids' seisiun, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 5-6:30  
info: jmitchellf@yahoo.com  
Adults' seisiun, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 7-10:30  
info: 301-946-4511

McGinty's Publick House, Silver Spring, MD

Kids' 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday info: jmitchellf@yahoo.com  
Adults' Tuesdays, 8:00 info: Doc Botzer

RiRa Pub, Bethesda, MD

Wednesdays, 7-11 and Sundays, 3-7 p.m.  
info: philvar@erols.com

Auld Shebeen, Fairfax, VA

Saturdays, 12-2:00, kids once a month 11:00  
info: 703-293-9600  
Kids' info: <http://www.novasession.org/kids>

O'Faolain's Irish Pub, Sterling, VA

Sundays, 6-9:30 info: 703-444-9796

Ri-Ra, on Wilson Boulevard, Arlington  
Sundays, 2-5 p.m.



greater washington CÉILÍ club

PRESENTS

# ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

w/Timmy McCarthy from  
Sliabh Luachra

**Thursday, March 15, at the Frost Center**  
**4915 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, MD**  
(see map on back)

<b>7:00 – 8:00</b>	<b>Bodhran Workshop</b> (separate \$5 admission)
<b>8:00 – 9:30</b>	<b>Set Dance Workshop</b>
<b>9:30 – 10:30</b>	<b>Ceili w/music by</b> <b>Timmy &amp; Jim Morrison</b>

**Admission \$10**

The workshop and ceili will feature sets from the Cork/Kerry border, taught in Timmy's own inimitable style.

The bodhran workshop is for all levels. If you don't own a bodhran bring a pizza box and a stick. The workshop is fun & helpful for anyone interested in learning the strumming patterns and rhythms of Irish music.

For information: 301-649-6410, 301-294-3568 or [www.gwcc-online.org](http://www.gwcc-online.org)

# March Ceili

dance, live music and potluck supper



**Sunday, March 18, 2007**  
**Cherry Hill Park Conference Center**  
**College Park, MD**  
(entrance code 76000)

**Set dance workshop 4PM**  
(Kildownet Half Set)

**Ceili 5-9PM**

## Dance Program

**tosach (beginning)**  
Siege of Ennis  
North Kerry Set  
Clare Plain Set  
(break for supper)

**lár (middle)**  
Connemara Reel Set  
Waltz  
Kildownet Half Set (called)  
Haymaker's Jig  
(break)

**ceann (end)**  
Claddagh Set  
Ballyvourney Jig  
Waltz  
Clare Lancers

## Bogwanderers Ceili Band

with

Danny Flynn on accordion  
Joe Dezarn on fiddle  
John Ready on banjo  
Tabby Finch on keyboard  
Jesse Winch on drums

Admission: \$15 (\$12 members; \$8 students 11 to 20; free under 11)  
For information: 301-294-3568 or [www.gwcc-online.org](http://www.gwcc-online.org)

**greater washington céili club**





**Glen Echo Irish Dance Class**

# **Reunion and Final Ceili**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2007**

**Spanish Ballroom**

**Glen Echo Park**

**7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, MD**

**7:15 to 9:30 PM**

**All are welcome! We'd love to see all the Irish dancers who have taken classes at Glen Echo over the years.**

**Live Music by  
Tina Eck, Dennis Botzer & Patrick Cavanagh**

**Tentative Program**

**Siege of Ennis  
Cashel Set**

**North Kerry  
Lancers Set**

**Mazurka Set  
Ballyvourney Jig**

**All dances will be called**

**Information: Call 301-294-3568**

**In cooperation with the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture Inc., the National Park Service and Montgomery County**