

Don't miss out!



Do your part to support Irish American cultural activities in Tallahassee!— pay your dues by St. Patrick's Day on March 17, 2003. There are many wonderful events planned for this year and we need your support!

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The Shamrock

News & Information from the Emerald Isle Society

Winter 2003

Join the Parade! *by Jack Madden*

The marines, the pipers, the bands and the fiddlers are back. The horses, the motorcycles and the fire engines are back. The decorated cars vans and pickup trucks are back. The celtic organizations, the politicians and the Irish families are back. Lake Ella has been restored. The Red Hat ladies are going to join us again this year along with drill teams, clowns and dancers. So make plans to join us on Sunday, March 16th for our 4th Annual Emerald Isle Society's St. Patrick's Parade.

WHERE: Lake Ella
WHEN: Sunday, March 16
3 pm to 4 pm

Stroll over to Tharpe Street between Monroe and Meridian around 2 pm to line up for the 3 pm parade. Wind all the way around Lake Ella to the cheers of an even greater crowd than came last year. Let's make this a grand occasion by inviting all your relatives, friends, clansmen and neighbors decked out in their finest greens to be spectators or join in at the end of the parade with the Irish families (or as my father used to say "families that wished they were Irish"). Bring your family flag or a placard with your family name on it to display as you march. The route is not that long and it is a whole lot of fun.

After the parade, join us on the walk up to Chez O' Pierre for a great celebration with more fun and music. If you would like to put a unit or a vehicle in the parade please call Jack Madden 385-3696 for permission and further details. We also need parade marshals to help get the parade started; contact Jim Varnado at 906-0302 if you are interested in volunteering. We also need volunteers to staff the membership tables; contact Agnes McMurray at 877-0256 if you want to help out. Put the date on your calendar, get out your green and help us have a great turn out for this event!

Come to the Festival! *by Karen Cooley*

On Sunday, March 16th, The Emerald Isle Society will sponsor it's fourth Annual St. Patrick's Parade. Parade organizer Jack Madden says that this promises to be the best parade yet. Immediately following the parade, Chez Pierre begins its St. Patrick's day festival on the lawn. The Tallahassee Pipe Band will lead folks from the parade area at Lake Ella to Chez Pierre. Guinness and Harps will be available as well as delicious traditional Irish fare. Entertainment will include many crowd favorites such as Barley Thar, Paddy Go Easy, Sean McGlynn (one of Tallahassee's best bagpipers) and the Wild Rovers. The Tallahassee Irish Step Dancers and the Tallahassee Irish Fiddlers are also expected to perform.

WHERE: Chez Pierre
WHEN: Sunday, March 16
4 pm to mid-evening

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Admission is only \$10 (\$6 for children under 12) with a portion of the proceeds going to The Emerald Isle Society. The festival begins immediately after the parade (around 3:30) and will continue until mid-evening. Join us for a rousing celebration of Irish culture, including food, music, dance, whiskey and beer!

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, Chez Pierre will host a more intimate "pub sing," featuring bands such as the Wild Rovers and Paddy Go Easy. Join us on both days as we celebrate the "wearing of the green."



Meet EIS Member Jim Vernado



James Donohue Varnado (Jimmy) has lived in Tallahassee for almost 8 years. He and his wife, Debbie Donlan Varnado, have three young sons, James Donohue, Jr., Thomas Patrick and John Paul. Jimmy is an attorney who has spent most of his career in prosecution and investigation.

Jimmy's mother, Mary Donohue Varnado (who is "FBI," Full Blooded Irish) reared him to love his Irish heritage and history. Her father, James Donohue, rose from poverty on the lower east side to become the Chief Financial Officer/Senior Auditor for the largest Irish owned bank in Manhattan. His lifelong friend was Governor Al Smith.

Jimmy says "I would love to see Tallahassee become a focus in the state for the celebration of Irish culture and heritage!" Jimmie is the Parade Marshall for our St. Patrick's Parade.

Cultural Night — An Inspiring Success By Michael Sheridan

EIS held a cultural night at the Killearn Country Club on November 20, 2002. Members and their guests enjoyed the cash bar with Irish libations. The event's theme was Irish poetry and plays and featured the works of the four Irish Nobel literature laureates Yeats, Joyce, Beckett and Heaney. These four Irish literature winners exceed the totals from any other country, affirming the rich tradition of the writer's art in Ireland.

Dick Rixie gave a stirring rendition of Padraic Pearse's poetry and leadership of the 1916 revolution. Local actress **Charlenne Cappellini** made a moving reading of Yeat's poetry. **Jack Madden**, wearing his kilt of course, performed a humorous Irish poem "O' Be Dad, How I Envy McGinty." **Pat McCaffrey** read a humorous piece by James Joyce. **Pat Fowler** brought us up to date on his observation of the current "troubles." **Paul Lambert** again read from Heaney's works, exciting us with his marvelous baritone voice. Retired FSU Professor of Theater **Chuck Olsen** read from works of Sean T. O'Casey. **John Bower** and **Mike Sheridan** performed an excerpt from Beckett's "Waiting for Godot." It was a very full and enriching night with wonderful presentations from some of Tallahassee's finest and most experienced performers. We strongly recommend that you attend these once or twice a year events!

Whiskey Tasting was a Hit! By Karen Cooley

Despite the inclement weather, which Pat McCaffrey described as "a lovely and typical Irish mist," folks began arriving at Eric and Karen's home on Lake Bradford around 4:00pm on Sunday. Most had a favorite bottle of Irish or Scotch whiskey tucked under their arm to share with the group. A few brought instruments to play later in the evening as we all gathered for an informal "pub sing."

Big pots of soup, hot coffee, and whiskey chased the chill away. In between rain showers, we gathered on the beach for a memorable bonfire. Jay Boynton shared his delicious venison appetizers with a very appreciative audience. Old Christmas trees and limbs brought down by the winter's windy days kept the fire roaring throughout the night. Cindy King, our newly appointed goddess of the fire, kept the fire burning brightly as she danced around the fire with delight. People came from as far away as Gainesville, including Eileen Sullivan, who is one of the founding members of EIS. Guests included Dianne Nagle and Bill Pickron, Mike Sheridan, Jack Madden, Cindy King and other Shenanigans's folks, Wally Womble and Cindy Roberts, Susan Peacock and Jay Boynton, Dick Rixie, Agnes McMurray and Pat McCaffrey. Pat, Dick and Mike regaled us with many old favorite songs, including Dunmore Lassies, O'Carolan Draft, Barrett's Privateers and Minstrel Boy. Pat's hammered dulcimer was a big hit.



As the night drew to a close, Eric and Karen said good night to the last guests and settled down by the dying fire for one last quiet drink and vowed to make this an annual event. Save your Christmas tree next year for this fun and intimate gathering!

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 16 St. Patrick's Parade and Festival
3:00 parade
4:00 festival
- May Family Picnic
- July Concert at Lake Ella
- Oct. Celtic Festival and Games
- Nov. Cultural Night

Thank You Parade Sponsors!

As of February 24th the following organizations have generously sponsored our St. Patrick's Parade. Thank you for bringing Tallahassee a wonderful cultural event for the entire family!

- Emerald Isle Society
- Advantis Real Estate Services · BB&T
- Carroll and Company · Chez Pierre
- Fringe Benefits Management
- Lithohaus Printers, Inc. · Dr. Terry McCoy
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