



## upcoming events

**JULY 13**

*3RD ANNUAL BAGS TOURNEY  
NOON @ SULLY'S PUB*

**AUG. 2-4**

*IOWA IRISH FEST  
@ DOWNTOWN WATERLOO  
3-DAY FEST PASS, \$15  
IOWAIRISHFEST.COM*

**AUG. 15-18**

*MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST  
@ HENRY MAIER FESTIVAL PARK  
\$21 GEN. ADMISSION, \$40 FOUR-DAY PASS  
IRISHFEST.COM*

**AUG. 24**

*IRISH HOOLEY MUSIC FESTIVAL  
@ DUBUQUE STAR BREWERY, PORT OF DUBUQUE  
\$12 GEN. ADMISSION  
IRISHHOOLEY.ORG*

**MONTHLY IRISH "SESSION" JAMS / 7ISH-9:30 P.M.**  
*1ST TUESDAY @ FIDDLE & WHISTLE, MARSHALLTOWN  
2ND TUESDAY @ JAVA JOE'S, DES MOINES  
3RD TUESDAY @ COONEY'S, DES MOINES  
4TH TUESDAY @ DUBLIN BAY, AMES*



# The Blarney

## upcoming:

**Monthly Meeting**  
July 8, 6:30 p.m.

*Menu:*  
BBQ Pulled Pork/  
Smoked Brisket/  
Baked Beans / Potato Salad

**Annual Iowa Irish Fest**  
Aug. 2-4

**Next Meeting**  
August 12  
"Friends of the Friends"

july (icuil) 2019

## a fistful of fests are on tap this summer



First up is our homegrown **Iowa Irish Fest, Aug. 2-4** in Waterloo. It is dedicated to celebrating Irish culture in Iowa, takes place in the Lincoln Park area of downtown Waterloo, and is held annually during the first full weekend of August.

This year there will be 55 performances from 22 different groups. When these individuals and groups are not on stage, they are often found among the crowd, interacting with fest-goers, leading educational sessions, and enjoying the talent of their fellow artists.

In addition to music performances, you'll enjoy other events designed to immerse fest-goers in Irish culture and history. Interactive activities include dancing, language instruction, playing Irish instruments, and learning about the rich history of the Irish. Add in rides, races, rallies, sports, and...whiskey classes! A 3-day pass is \$16. 🍀



Anyone up for carpooling to the **Milwaukee Irish Fest, Aug. 15-18** at the Henry Maier Festival Park?

This is North America's largest celebration of Celtic music and culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainment acts on 17 stages.

You'll find Irish Traditional, Irish Folk, Celtic Rock, Contemporary Folk, Irish-Bluegrass, Americana . . . a variety of genres so you can discover new music and hear the music you love. Acclaimed performers will include Red Hot Chilli Peppers, 3 Pints Gone, Connla, Finbar MacCarthy, Gaelic Storm, High Kings, Leahys Luck, Socks in the Frying Pan, We Banjo 3, as well as appearances by a dozen Irish dance schools and academies. A single day senior pass is \$15.

Throw in a passel of restaurants & pubs and it's a great weekend getaway! 🍀



Finally, eastern Iowa beckons all who are Irish.

Look for more shenanigans near the end of summer and just a short drive away at the **Irish Hooley Music Festival, Aug. 24** at the Dubuque Star Brewery, Port of Dubuque.

The mission of the Irish Hooley is to promote Irish/Celtic music and culture in Dubuque. For generations, the highlight of Irish social life was the Hooley, where music, dance, song, and good conversation all flow freely.

→ *The schedule: 11:30 Gates open / 11:35 Opening March / 11:45 Salute to Armed Forces Veterans / 12:00 Dubuque Fire Pipes and Drums / 12:30 McNulty School of Irish Dance / 1:15 Ballyheigue / 2:45 The Lads / 4:15 Connla / 6:00 Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones / 8:30 Skerryvore.* ←

All that for a mere \$12.

Catch it! 🍀



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## thanks to all those who turned out for the 2019 leprechaun open



## WEARIN' OF THE GRIN

### HOW TO FRESHEN UP THE CAT

1. Put up both parts of the toilet lid and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and close the lid. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. The cat will self-agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet; the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a "power-wash & rinse."
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift the lid.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom, and run outside where he will dry himself off.
9. Both the commode and the cat will be sparkling clean.

Yours Sincerely,  
The Dog



The pastor asked if anyone in the congregation would like to express praise for answered prayers.

Suzie Smith stood and walked to the podium.

She said, "I have a praise. Two months ago, my husband, Tom, had a terrible bicycle wreck and his scrotum was completely crushed. The pain was excruciating and the doctors didn't know if they could help him."

*(You could hear a muffled gasp from the men in the congregation as they imagined the pain that poor Tom must have experienced.)*

"Tom was unable to hold me or the children," she went on, "and every move caused him terrible pain. We prayed as the doctors performed a delicate operation, and it turned out they were able to piece together the crushed remnants of Tom's scrotum and wrap wire around it to hold it in place."

*(Again, the men in the congregation cringed and squirmed uncomfortably as they imagined the horrible surgery performed on Tom.)*

"Now," she announced in a quivering voice, "Thank the Lord! Tom is out of the hospital and the doctors say that with time his scrotum should recover completely."

*(All the men sighed with unfeigned relief.)*

The pastor rose and tentatively asked if anyone else had something to say. A man slowly stood up and walked just as slowly to the podium.

He said, "I'm Tom Smith."

The entire congregation held its breath. "I just want to tell my wife -- the word is sternum."

## BOARD NEWS

Set your ya-ya's out for the **2019 Bags Tournament** coming up **July 13 at Sully's Pub.**

Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the beat-down will start at 12:30. There is a 32 team limit, so get on it if you want to be in the mix.

Two-person teams can register at Sully's for \$20 now, then for \$25 on the 13th.

A cash first place prize is planned, with gift cards for 2nd & 3rd. Of course, expect drink specials.

Players can also win a set of bag boards and a 50/50 raffle.

The bag chair torch will be passed next year and whoever takes on the event will strive to match up to the sterling work of our current coordinator, **Mike O'Connell**. Slainte, Mike!



The contract is inked for **next year's parade** (on a Tuesday) and an effort will be made this fall to reach out to Greg Edwards and the city to ask for help with our costs.

Too, an idea being floated is to see if food trucks would fit into that crazy day's brew. What do you think?



All elements of the **Sept. 21 Halfway to St. Pat's Bike Ride** are coming together nicely.

Raffle tickets and posters are being printed and, once again, T-Bone has re-ordered those cool leather bike bags to be given to all paying participants.

A bike committee is needed to help **Jeff DeMoss** and **T-Bone** make it a success. Sign up at this month's meeting!



Hello fellow Irishmen,  
It appears that the summer heat is upon us again and that means summertime fundraisers are in full swing.

I want to talk about how extremely privileged I felt to be invited to participate in this year's O'Donnell and Friends Open. After attending, I realized it mirrors a lot of the things our club stands for, such as donating time/funds to charity and having fun while doing that.

I knew that the Sons have worked closely with the O'Donnell family for many years, but I hadn't seen first-hand just how much this yearly event actually does for our community. I just want to tip my hat and say WOW! what a spectacular event! They go above and beyond and I hope that we can use their example to reach the same kind of goals.

I'm so proud to say that in my 20+ years with the FSOSP I have seen many O'Donnell family members become volunteers, parade participants, parade queens, benefactors, board members, and Irishmen of the Year. To cap it off, the late Dan O'Donnell was winner of our coveted FSOSP Lifetime Achievement Award.

To sum it up, I feel like I picked up a lot of pointers this weekend that could help put our club in a better position in the future and I want to thank O'Donnell and Friends for all they do!

*Your honored president, Tony "T-Bone" Schmid*

## b LARNEY b ITS

before the days of Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs), surprisingly difficult exams were used to determine readiness for high school. In June 1885, 8th-graders at Jersey City High School were given these non-multiple-choice questions:

- Find the prime factors of  $x^4 - b^4$  and  $x^{3-1}$ .
- Write a homogeneous quadranomial of the third degree.
- Find the sum of the square roots of 16.7281 and .7225.
- Name the countries that border Russia.
- Name 3 principal mountain ranges of Asia, Europe & Africa.
- Write a declarative sentence and change it to an imperative, to an interrogative, and to an exclamatory one, and punctuate them properly.
- Write a sentence containing a noun used as an attribute, a verb in the perfect tense potential mood, and a proper adjective.
- What events are associated with the years: 1565, 1607, 1664 and 1775?
- Name three events of 1777. Which was the most important, and why?
- In America's Civil War, who captured Fort Donelson?
- Name the states on the west bank of the Mississippi.