

## President's Pint of View



As Prez of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, I proclaim “let summer begin!”

Nothing like sitting around your own private Idaho plotting and planning how your garden’s going to grow and blossom throughout the season. I think we are all ready for our first homegrown BLT.

Maybe you’re planning your route to meet up with RAGBRAI and figuring out where the shortcuts and reroutes are. You might be sitting around cleaning your golf sticks figuring out how many hooky days you can fit into your work weeks.

Maybe your own private Idaho isn’t all that private. Maybe you like spending your time on a boat in the marina or in some party cove. Maybe you like spending your time RVing at county, state or national parks, or better yet, camping with 25,000 of your closest friends at the state fair.

No matter what your idea is of what summer has to offer, I hope you can find enough time to enjoy the pleasures of summer.

Speaking of time and pleasure, I hope to see you at the next meeting.

*President Mike O’Connell*

## Wearin’ of the Grin

From Genesis: “And God promised men that good & obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth.”

Then He made the earth round...  
and He laughed & laughed & laughed!



Chuck sat in the barber’s chair and said, “I’ll have a shave and a shoe shine,” and while the barber began to lather and blade his face, a woman with the most beautiful body that he had ever seen knelt down and began to shine his shoes.

Chuck said, “Young lady, you and I should go and spend some time in a hotel room.”

She replied, “I’m married and my husband wouldn’t like that.”

The man said, “Tell him you’re working overtime and I’ll pay you the difference.”

She said, “You tell him; you’re closer.”

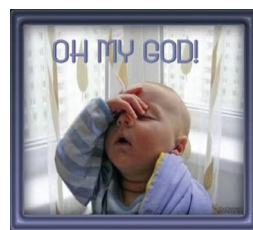


Paddy says to Mick, “I’m getting circumcised tomorrow morning.”

Mick says, “I had that done when I was a few days old.”

Paddy asks, “Does it hurt?”

Mick says, “Well I couldn’t walk for about a year.”



Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick  
The Mickie Center #241  
1620 Pleasant  
Des Moines, IA 50314



# The Blarney

## Upcoming:

### Monthly Meeting

June 13, 6:30 p.m.

“Best Hawaiian Outfit Prize”

*“Luau” Menu:*

Pork Chops

Potato Salad / Cole Slaw

Baked Beans / Bread

### 23rd Annual O’Donnell

& Friends Open

June 24

### Next Meeting

July 11



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JUNE [MEITHEAMH] 2016

## Leprechaun Open tees off this Saturday

As you read this, many hopeful golfers in the club, including perhaps you, are itching to get out to Copper Creek’s course for this Saturday’s annual Leprechaun Open. *[Expect a recap and summary in next month’s Blarney.]*

It’s a first-time move to these holes in Pleasant Hill and all will seem fresh, but the skills on display will, alas, probably be just as “hackey.”

But those of us cursed with, let us say, “inconsistent play” keep coming back for more because the game is so fascinating. Especially captivating are the historical facts behind this classic game of golf. It’s origins, for example...

### THE SCOTCH, ROMANS & DUTCH

In May of 1754, twenty-two “Noblemen and Gentlemen” contributed to a Silver Club trophy to be played for annually at St. Andrew’s in Scotland. The competition was initially open to all, as it had been in 1744 for the golfers of Leith, whose rules St. Andrew’s golfers adopted with only minor changes. So began the golfing tradition at this famous Scottish institution.

But the earliest records of golf in Scotland actually date from 1457, when King James II proclaimed that the game must be “utterley cryed down” because it interfered with his troops’ practicing of archery.


Forerunners of golf probably date back to Roman “pagenica,” in which leather balls were hit into holes with curved wooden sticks.

“Kolf” was played in Holland in the town of Loenen aan de Vecht in 1297, according to one written record. In this one-hole affair, the winner was whoever could hit a leather ball into a hole a hundred yards away with the fewest strokes. Another Dutch contest about that time involved hitting a ball into a hole in a frozen lake.

Nevertheless, it is generally accepted that modern golf & its rules are a Scottish invention. A spokesman for the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, one of the oldest Scottish golf organizations, said, *“Stick and ball games have been around for many centuries, but golf as we know it today, played over 18 holes, clearly originated in Scotland.”*

The word golf, or in Scots, “gowf,” is usually thought to be a Scots alteration of Dutch “colf” or “colve” meaning “stick, club, bat,” itself related to a German word meaning “mace or club.”

Evidence of early golf in what is now the United States includes a 1739 record for a shipment of golf equipment to a William Wallace in Charleston, South Carolina, and the establishment of the South Carolina Golf Club in 1787 in Charleston.

However, as in England, it was not until the late 19th century that golf started to become firmly established. 



Last month's Irish Open disc day was flippin' fabulous

Once again, in the capable hands of Jerry Grady, Mike O'Connell and their friends, the FSOSP's 7th annual charity disc golf outing enjoyed success.

Weather was a mite chilly the morning of May 14, especially in the shady areas of Grandview Park's course, but spirits were sunny and warm as volunteers handled the morning registration and later fed all comers.

A \$200 first place prize drew many fine flingers, although many women in the local disc golf community apparently chose to attend a disc event in Kansas City and their numbers were missed. Even so, over 45 players showed up for the 11 a.m. shotgun start.

Did you miss it? The 2017 open is proposed for May 13.

Congrats to these winners (all of whom were photo-bombed by two publicity-starved park vagrants):



Jimmie Stroud  
1st Place



Dave Beery  
2nd Place



Dan Furch  
3rd Place



Amanda Jones  
Women's Winner



Christopher Marshall  
Youth Winner

Save the date: Iowa Irish Fest/ August 5-7

The annual Iowa Irish Fest is fast approaching and you'll want to put this trip to Waterloo's Lincoln Park on your summer road trip option list.

It's entertainment for the whole family where you can experience a 5K run, rugby tournament, whiskey tasting, and contests for coloring, photography, soda bread and Irish stew, as well as much, much more.

You'll find a plethora of food and merchandise vendors and, of course, a highlight is the music to be heard all three days. The Elders, High Kings, and Gaelic Storm are standouts from over 20 music and dancing acts.

Lots of info is available on the [iowairishfest.com](http://iowairishfest.com) website, including this mission statement from the Cedar Valley Irish Cultural Association, the sponsoring organization. The group works "to foster and develop Irish fellowship and outreach into the community with Irish cultural events and programs."

The fest is a centerpiece of the year's activities. Association President, Jim Walsh, said, "The Irish in Iowa have done such a fine job of melding into their communities that we felt it was time to draw them back out a bit and show them off to their neighbors and as many visitors as we could."

A three-day wrist band to the festival is \$20. There are no single day passes. Credit cards are accepted at all gates and the Official Iowa Irish Fest merchandise booth. Children 12 and under are free. Multiple drink promos and veteran discounts are also available.



Board News

At press time, the board had not met, having delayed the monthly meeting due to the holiday.

News and updates from the gathering, rescheduled for June 6, will be in next month's Blarney.

Though we're in the midst of our annual fine spring frolics, the charity disc golf Irish Open and the Leprechaun Open, we were dismayed to lose two of our valued own last month.

Requiescat in pace

We received a double blow in recent weeks when we heard of the deaths of two people close to the FSOSP.

Rev. James Kiernan passed away May 15, and we send our sincere condolences to his brother, sister and extended family.

Ordained in 1962, he held positions at many schools and churches in the Central Iowa area and, after retiring in 2005, was active in his ministry until the day of his death.

He was an honorary member of the Friendly Sons and loved all things Irish, especially his home parish of St. Patrick's, The Irish Settlement, near Cumming.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Family School Foundation or the Priest's Pension Fund.



And we lost a "son of Melrose" on May 20, Donald "Tony" Sullivan.

A long-time member of the Friendly Sons and Irishman of the Year in 2008, he was a giving and spirited member of our group and many of us remember how robust and involved he was on St. Patrick's Day and even in recent weeks.

He was an Army veteran and was employed as a contract carrier for John Deere with Standard Forwarding for over 30 years. He was also an owner and franchise chairperson for International Dairy Queen.

His empty seat at the euchre table will be a sad sight in coming months as we absorb the loss of our friend.

We send our sympathies to his wife, Mary-Anne, and family. Memorials to the John Stodard Cancer Center are encouraged.

BLARNEY BITS

Sully's is again sponsoring a "Dog Days of Summer Party & Hog Roast" on Saturday, June 11 at 6 p.m.

The roast will be prepared by Q Pits and is FREE, requiring only a donation to the Furry Friends Refuge and a side dish.

Choose specials from their new summer drink menu, including Moscow Mules.

Go ahead and bring Bowser, too. As always, the patio is dog-friendly.

Furry Friends Refuge, the first no-kill community in Iowa, is a nonprofit humane organization serving the animals of West Des Moines, Urbandale, and Clive.

They seek to assist all area animals in need through a variety of programs including adoptions, spay and neuter, community outreach, and humane education.

FFR is managed by volunteers and all donations go directly to the programs that serve the animals. Unlike local traditional shelters, Furry Friends receives no assistance through government contracts.

"We are compassionate people who care about animals and promote animal welfare through education and celebration of the human/animal bond. We work to combat animal mistreatment and insist on humane treatment for all animals," says the director.

Learn more at [furryfriends.org](http://furryfriends.org).

On that site, find "how to help/things we need" to get ideas for what to bring to Sully's.

Trad music group appears to be showing up to jam at Cooney's on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Check it out if they show on the 21st.

Upcoming events

JUNE 15  
STU RYAN O'BRIEN IRISH PUB SING-ALONG  
7-9 P.M. @ SULLY'S

JUNE 24  
23RD ANNUAL O'DONNELL & FRIENDS OPEN  
CHARITY DONEE IS MENTOR IOWA.  
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED, CALL 971-0781)

AUG. 5-7  
10TH ANNUAL IOWA IRISH FEST / WATERLOO  
AUG. 26-27  
IRISH HOOLEY MUSIC FEST/DUBUQUE STAR BREWERY