

C.L.O.G. Today™

Official Newsletter of the National Clogging Leaders Organization



JEFF DRIGGS LEADER OF OUR CLOG DYNASTY By: Barbara Elko

A Dynasty is a secession of leaders from the same family or group. Jeff Driggs beyond a shadow of a doubt is currently the powerful, yet gentle leader of our clog dynasty.

He has protected the knowledge and skills passed on from previous generations of leaders, yet he continues to grow with the ever changing styles of clog dancing. His amiable method of teaching promotes laughter, as dancers attempt to master his outlandish routines, that always seem to include hand movements. Jeff's love of dance is superseded only by his love for mankind.

Hanna Healy decided it was time we express our gratitude to a guy we all love and respect. She organized a tribute to Jeff, which took place at the 25th World Of Clogging Workshop, held Memorial Weekend.

HANNA'S MISSION IMPOSSIBLE...KEEP IT A SURPRISE cause Jeff being a humble person would never allow such a tribute.

Not an easy feat! As would any great leader, Jeff knows all that is occurring in the clog dynasty. Poor Hanna there were so many individuals and groups involved, speakers and demos to arrange, social media had to be contained, the hotel staff had to be hushed ect... Only Hanna would attempt a surprise of this magnitude, and make it happen!

Now Naomi had her own mission she needed to get the fat suits from Jeff. If you are not familiar with the fat suits Jeff and company use them for demos. They are comical to say the least. Naomi told Jeff she wanted to borrow the suits for a routine her group would be doing at their fair. She said the fat suits would send the routine over the top. She asked him to bring them to World Of Clogging. Jeff being kind hearted and considerate said I will bring them to Lake Cumberland a workshop they were both teaching at in April. This way they would have more time to practice wearing them. I do not know how Naomi held a straight face as she thanked him.

Mission Impossible accomplished Jeff had no clue so many were gathering to thank him.

Saturday evening prior to the fun dance Naomi Pyle and Scott Dobson with microphones in hand started a tribute to a man who stands alone. Naomi described Jeff as a kind, generous, wonderful friend, who remains so even when she wakes him at three in the morning. Scott talked fondly of their shared travels and Jeff's story telling. Scott asked Naomi what she most admired about Jeff. She responded "How much time to you got?" It is impossible so sum up Jeff Driggs, but I wanted to share a bit of the tribute to an amazing man!



Scott, Naomi, Jeff & Hanna



Matt & Paul

To condense his thoughts Matt Koziuk used the noun inspiration. Jeff is a person who causes stimulation and excitement of the mind and or feelings. He pushes one to want to be creative, active, and to do great things. "We are all just a little bit better off to have had Driggs in our lives."

Paul Melville "If Bill Nichols is the grandfather of clogging, then Jeff must be the father of clogging."

A tearful, Judy Waymouth, who has know Jeff since 1985 began by saying what a wonderful mentor Jeff has been to her two sons. "I honestly can not think of another person that has given more to this dance form."

(Continued on page 3)

CLOG Today

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CLOG Today Staff

CLOG encourages all cloggers and clogging

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enthusiasts to contribute to the content of the newsletter. Please send news items, advertising, comments, and/or suggestions to the editor.

High-quality images and documents in Microsoft Word (attached to e-mail) are preferred. Original photos and documents sent via postal mail are also accepted (please send SASE for materials you wish to be returned).

Advertising rates are available online or by

Issue:	Deadline:
January-February	December 15
March-April	February 15
May-June	April 15
July-August	June 15
September-October	August 15
November-December	October 15

contacting the editor.

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CCI in Baltimore!



*"Many can teach,
but only a precious few can
reach"*

Enroll today to experience the education of the Certified Clogging Instructor Program and the teaching tips from more than 50 established clogging instructors.

When you apply for CCI you'll be on your way to improving your instructional skills. You'll join a select group of men and women who have made the ultimate commitment to excellence in clogging instruction, career advancement and the on-going pursuit of knowledge.

FAQs

Do I have to be a clogging instructor to participate in the seminars and become a certified instructor?

- No

I have been a clogging instructor for many years, how will becoming certified help me?

- The benefits of networking with other instructors who have completed their certification and those you meet during and after you have completed the program
- Information obtained from the CCI staff and other instructors are priceless for continued success in teaching

What does the CCI program consist of?

- Class Work – 3 Day Seminar.
 - ◊ A Certificate of Education is given after completion of seminars
- Course Work – Completion of mandatory and elective points
 - ◊ Course work is only mandatory to become certified

What do I do first?

- Register for, pay associated fees, and complete the CCI Seminars.
 - ◊ These are held yearly at the National Clogging Convention and some other state clogging organizations also host CCI Seminars. Check the CLOG website and local organizations for Seminar locations
- Candidates must be 16 years or older
- Once Seminars are completed, a mentor will be assigned to help the CCI candidates through the completion of the program
- Candidates will have three years in which to complete certification
 - ◊ Completion consists of gathering a total of 1000 points

What do I do when I have completed my points and my mentor signs off for me to test?

- Fill out and pay fee for Intent to test and test out
 - ◊ The test consists of:
 - Written Exam
 - Practical Exam
 - ◊ Once tests are passed, candidates are awarded their certification

On the beat.....

(Continued from page 1)

Nathan Ballard from Australia met Jeff in 2004. He frequently reaches out to Jeff for advise. The experience of traveling last year with Jeff was invaluable. Nathan asked all those attending the tribute to do him a favor. Repeat these words "Jeff Driggs is everything, 1 2 ready go" Jeff Driggs is everything was repeated so loudly it was probably heard outside the building.

Delohn Collins, member of All That, has known Jeff for 28 years, he was 7 years old when they first met. He said as a child his hero was he-man. As an adult his heroes were his grandparents and parents. He believes a hero is somebody you aspire to be. "In the world of clogging Jeff Driggs is my hero. I love him with all my heart."

Several groups demonstrated during the tribute. Every demo was a routine that Jeff had choreographed. The Fancy Free Cloggers performed the first demo of the evening to Drivin' Nails. Earlier, Jeff was a bit puzzled why this group came to the fun dance dressed alike. Fooling this man was not easy.

Jim Kimmerly, a member of the Fancy Free Cloggers, was introduced. He is 93 years old, and a survivor of Pearl Harbor. Jim wanted to give Jeff something... 20 push-ups. The audience cheered and counted each push up. When he passed 20 and continued doing push ups everyone was a bit worried. He actually gave Jeff 30. This incredible man earned a long standing ovation. What a wonderful way to pay tribute to Jeff!



Next, the Buckeye Country Cloggers danced to Casey Jones. It was apparent this one took Jeff back in time.

The Hills of Kentucky Cloggers filled the dance floor for a demo of Real Time.

Judy's School of Dance picked Bang On The Drums a lively demo.

Studio One, chose Everyone as their routine. It was an impressive demo.

Capital City Dance Shack, Tenacious Sole Patrol and Tap This hit the dance floor for Party Rock Anthem and Born This Way. If you were not present you missed two very memorable things. One, the huge smile on Jeff's face as the dancers did the running man step in Party Rock Anthem. Two the return of the fat suits during Born This Way!

The instructors gather on the dance floor for Mama Mia. Then a huge cake was wheeled in. Jeff blew out the candle making a wish. The tribute ended with all the attendants grabbing a spot on the floor and dancing Ida Red a routine Jeff wrote in 1984.

The World Of Clogging, is filled with crossroads. Many perplexed choices and risks present themselves. When searching for an answer ask yourselfWHAT WOULD JEFF DRIGGS DO?



Rosenberry: Dancing with Lakeside Country Cloggers by Missy Rosenberry, reprinted from Democrat&Chronicle



Photo by: M. Spallina

Cloggers don't wear wooden shoes — and they never have.

The Lakeside Country Cloggers is a performance dance team established in 1989. The dancers entertain at nursing homes, festivals and special events, including annual appearances at the New York State Fair. I learned that recently when I stopped by a [Lakeside Country Cloggers](#) class. Always up for a challenge, I invited myself to one of their regular Monday evening classes, hoping to have a little fun and learn something new.

The group meets at Bay Trail Middle School in Penfield. Its dancers are as young as 12 and as old as the mid-70s, and they hail from a four-county area.

When I visited with team director Mary Jo Spallina after the class, she put to rest the myth about hard shoes.

"It's a common thing people will ask you," she said. "Clogging is percussive, so back when they just did it with the hard-soled shoes, you could hear their feet on a hardwood floor," making the shoes sound wooden.

These days, cloggers use "staccato," or "floating" taps, loosely attached to their toes and heels, which jingle, and which make the wooden "clacking"

sound when they strike the floor.

Mary Jo then gave me a lesson on the history of clogging.

"Basically, clogging is an American folk dance," she explained, although it reflects influences from Irish, Scottish, English, American Indian and African-American cultures. It began in the 1700s in the Appalachian Mountains, spreading to the Southeast, then across the country and to Canada.

Dancers would "clear out the barn or living room where there would be a hardwood floor," she continued. "Someone would have a fiddle or some sort of string instrument. ... It's based on bluegrass music, but we can dance to anything with a downbeat," including pop music and even rap.

While original cloggers usually danced solo, or freestyle, most modern practitioners are precision cloggers, meaning everyone on the team dances the same choreographed routine.

After my history lesson, Mary Jo handed me over to Mae Church, who taught me the basic tap-shuffle-tap clogging step. After just five minutes, I knew enough to join her and several of her classmates, who very patiently helped me stumble my way through *Cotton-Eyed Joe*.

I managed well enough, but there were several missteps and much laughter and good-natured ribbing. It was easy to see why so many people love clogging.

To help spread the love, the Lakeside Country Cloggers are holding an open house May 14.

Mary Jo described the event as a "get-together for cloggers, whether they're on our team or just cloggers in the area who want to come and dance," she said. But it's also an opportunity for people to see what clogging is and learn some basic steps.

Participants "don't have to have tap shoes to do it," Mary Jo added. "You could even learn clogging with a pair of sneakers on."

Since that is exactly what I did, I can guarantee you'll have a good time.

Visit the [Our Towns East Extra Facebook page](#) for more eastside news, and email Missy at dandceastextra@gmail.com with news tips and story ideas.



Photo by M. Rosenberry

On the beat.....**Mountain City, TN****Shea Huyard doesn't play musical instruments ~ she plays her feet**By: Paula Walter Assistant Editor Reprinted from *The Tomahawk*

Fifteen-year old Shea Huyard has been clogging since she was five years old. Her dancing team has won four overall grand champion awards at Dollywood. They have secured their spot to clog for a national title at Opryland Hotel this September.

Shea, the daughter of Tanya and Eric, dances with members of the High Country Dance Studio, located in Boone.

Clogging is a folk dance where the music is made from the strike of the dancer's shoe, whether it's the heel, toe or sometimes both that create its own sound and rhythm.

The dancing styles and the shoes have changed over the years. American clogging has its roots in England, Ireland, Germany, Native American dances, along with music and dance movements from Africa.

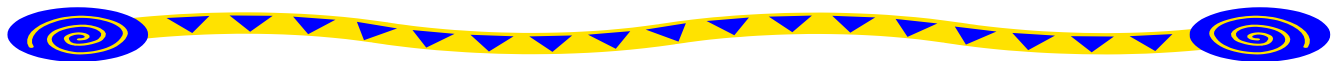
This particular style of dance has become a competitive event. High Country Dance Studio gives back to the community in many ways. They have donated money earned from shows to several different charities and organization around Watauga County. Shea and her family are members of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. Giving of her time and talents is very important to Shea.

Clogging is the official state dance of both Kentucky and North Carolina.

In the 18th century, clogging was named the social dance of the Appalachian Mountains. In the United States, it is associated with blue grass music that is based on Irish and Scot-Irish songs played on the fiddle.

"She knew how to clog before going to her first class," said Tanya, also a clogger who shared her love of the dance with her daughter. Shea's dancing skills extend beyond clogging as she dances to modern music, hip-hop, traditional and even ballroom music. According to Tanya, Shea looks upon her dancing as a stress reliever. When asked if she plays any musical instruments, Shea's reply is "I play my feet."

To read the entire article, pick up a copy of this week's Tomahawk.



- **USA National Championships - September 3-4, 2016 -Opryland Hotel**



You are invited to come to Nashville to Watch the Best Competitive Cloggers. The event is held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. Cut-off to receive discounted room rates is 8/9/2016. Please contact the hotel to make your reservation today.

Reservation Link: [On Line Hotel Reservations](#)

On the beat.....

Chip Futrell produces *Clogging Music!*



Rags Reels Breakups and Breakdowns

First Bluegrass Clogging Album in Decades Available Now

Greenville, SC -- Pinecastle Records is proud to announce a new release specifically produced for cloggers, square dancers and other American traditional dance, *Rags Reels Breakups and Breakdowns*. The album features nine 7 to 12 minute mashups hand picked from the label's large library of acclaimed instrumental tracks. Producer Chip Futrell, faculty adviser of the North Carolina State University Wolfpack Clogging Team, felt there was a need for fresh material in the clogging world since no new material had been produced in decades.

The album has already been utilized in several clogging competitions, garnering a very enthusiastic response from both dancers and competition organizers. Bill Nichols, the so called "Grandfather of Clogging" recently reviewed a copy saying, "The CD from Pinecastle records is an excellent product for the traditional clogger as well as for calling traditional square dances. I will use this CD in all my upcoming events. Thank you for all the hard work you did to make this project a reality."

Futrell had this to say about the project: "For many years, clogging and square dancing have needed new, fresh instrumental bluegrass music for dancing. Chip Futrell "It has been years since any record company has released a collection of long-play bluegrass tracks. This music is needed not only for recreational dancers but also for competition. Pinecastle Records gave me the opportunity to "open their vaults" and review a vast collection of tracks that are the best instrumental mixes that have been released in years. The result is a collection of nine medleys/remixes that will

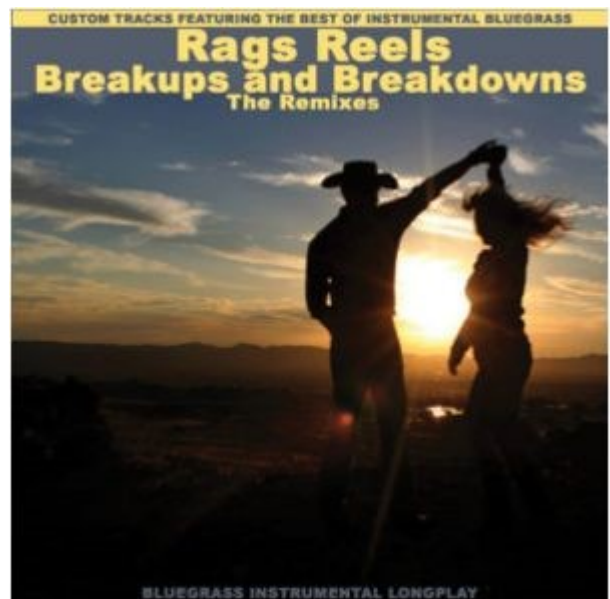
be used by cloggers and square dancers around the world."

The tracks have been re-mastered to accentuate the bass and rhythm to give the music the drive needed for dance competition. The Wolfpack Clogging Team debuted the first song from the album in competition on January 30, 2016 at the NC State Clogging Challenge with great success. Futrell remarked "This is the first time that I've heard our music on high-grade sound equipment like this in an auditorium and it's awesome! I received very positive feedback."

Chip Futrell is a life-long clogger who learned clogging while growing up in Denton, NC. He now resides in Wilson, NC and is the Director of Continuing and Professional Education at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC.

Pinecastle Records has been producing modern and traditional bluegrass and Americana music since 1989 with a catalog of over 275 releases. It is home to some of the best and brightest of upcoming talent as well as long time veterans of the industry. Notable artists who have recorded on the label include The Osborne Brothers, Charlie Waller and The Country Gentlemen, Jesse McReynolds, Dale Ann Bradley and many more.

You can buy the album online by [Clicking Here](#).





Upcoming Events

September 9-10, 2016

37th Annual Clogging & Folk Festival
Mountain View, AR
870-269-3851 ozarkfolkcenter.com

September 9-10, 2016

Florida Clogging Council State Convention
Eau Gallie Civic Center
Melbourne, FL

<http://floridacloggingcouncil.weebly.com/>

September 23-24, 2016

Fontana Clogging Jamboree
Fontana Village Resort
Fontana Village, NC
Jeff Driggs 304-776-9571

ccajeff@aol.com

Naomi Pyle 812-579-6979

Naomi_p@sbcglobal.net

fontanaworkshop.com

October 1, 2016

Monster Mash Clogging Workshop
Bucyrus Conservation League
Bucyrus, OH

Donna Neer dn45rn@gmail.com

October 15, 2016

Harvest Stomp Faith
Discovery Church
Washington, NJ
Elizabeth Manner

elizabethmanner@gmail.com

lehighvalleycloggers.com

October 15, 2016

OktoberCLOGfest
Donner Center
Columbus, IN

Naomi Pyle 812-343-3285

naomi_p@sbcglobal.net

oktoberclogfest.com

November 5, 2016

Appalachian Stomp
Carver Community Center
Purcellville, VA

info@BRTC.us

appalachianstomp.com

November 18-20, 2016

Hickory Hoedown Clogging Festival
Hickory, NC

AJ & Jill Kirby 828-612-0766

simscountrycloggers@yahoo.com

www.hickoryhoedown.com

November 23-26, 2016

30th Annual C.L.O.G. National Clogging Convention

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

Thanksgiving Weekend

David & Susan Phillips 678-889-4355

clog@clog.org

clog.org

Competitions

September 3-4, 2016

USA National Championships (NCHC)
Gaylord Opryland Hotel

David & Susan Phillips 678-889-4355

clog@clog.org

clog.org

September 9-10, 2016

North Carolina Mountain State Fair
Clogging Competition (ACHF)

WNC Ag Center

Fletcher, NC

Dianne Loftin 864-277-0553

dloftin01@gmail.com

September 17, 2016

Magic Feet Ultimate Challenge (ACHF)
Kody Shaw 336-431-0628

or 336-954-9001

magicfeetdanceco@gmail.com

September 24, 2016

Dance Matrix (CCA)

Paramount Center for the Arts
Bristol, TN

Lynne Ogle 865-675-1185

ccalynne@aol.com

Matt & Kelly Sexton 423-282-5065

423-676-1305

DancExpCloggers@aol.com

October 2, 2016

Salt City Clogging Competition (CCA)
Holiday Inn Liverpool

Liverpool, NY

Hanna Healy (716) 725-8415

WNYCA.pres@gmail.com

October 8, 2016

Deep South Dance Off (CCA)
U of GA Fine Arts Center

Athens, GA

Heather Kohberger 770-736-3600

dance@cloggingconnection.com

October 21-23, 2016

ACHF Annual World Championships (ACHF)

Jimmy Loveless 301-884-5830

Ellis Perry 919-484-0623

Dianne Loftin 864-277-0553

Henry Jones 864-245-6648

achfclog.com

Have an event you want listed here?

Send the information to:

CLOGToday@clog.org

CLOG Welcomes New Members

Rebecca Johnson, TN

Sydney Hansen, WA

Roy Gotta, NJ

Elizabeth Gotta, NJ

James Martin, ID

Bobbie Mosteller, SC

Dan Bickerstaff, IN

For information on joining CLOG visit our website at ww.clog.org, or contact us at 678-889-4355 or clog@clog.org.



www.clog.org

(678) 889-4355 clog@clog.org

Join the CLOG team

One-year CLOG Membership

Gold (instructors) \$30.00

Silver (dancer) \$25.00

Send the following info & check

Name Home Phone

Address Work Phone

City, State, Zip E-mail address

Clogging Group Membership

List membership in area, state, and/or national clogging associations

To: **CLOG, Inc.**

2986 Mill Park Court

Dacula, GA 30019

Check with event coordinators to confirm event details!



David and Susan Phillips, Executive Directors
2986 Mill Park Court
Dacula, GA USA 30019

33rd Annual CLOG National Convention ~ Nashville, TN ~

November 24-26, 2016
Make Your Plans Now!

Auxiliary Events:

Certified Clogging Instructor Training Session
~ Monday ~ Wednesday
Judges Training ~ Thursday
CCI Testing ~ Thursday

Pre-Convention Events:

Evening Dance ~ Wednesday
Open Teach Halls ~ Wednesday & Thursday
Dance Expose' ~ Thursday

Convention Events:

Parade of Colors ~ Thursday Evening
Evening Dancing ~ Thursday - Saturday
Workshops ~ Friday & Saturday
Seminars ~ Friday & Saturday
Exhibitions ~ Friday Evening
Showcase ~ Saturday Evening

Featuring:

Premier Clogging Instructors
Early Registration & Member Discounts

Schedule tentative and subject to Change



Hotel Info:

Gaylord Opryland Hotel

2800 Opryland Drive • Nashville, TN 37214-1297

Reservation Number:

1-866-972-6779

Register online - <https://aws.passkey.com/q/54603954>

GROUP ROOM RATES

Rate: \$118 1-4 ppl per room + tax

In addition \$15 per day per room Resort Fee is charged

Guaranteed Rate until 10/17/2016

Rooms will Sell Out—Reserve Yours Today!!

Register Online at www.clog.org/convention

INFO: www.Clog.org

678-889-4355

convention@clog.org

