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# THE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER

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## Manager's Message

*Geri Stuart*

Hello Everyone!

We had a great time at the Just Faux Fun! Dinner/Dance. Thank you to all who helped, and to Valerie for the beautiful centerpieces! And the next time you see Lisa - Thank her for the music and instructions, she does a great job! Now mark your calendars for the Spring Into Space April dance with live music! There's lots of space on the dance floor for all. See if you can bring someone new with you!

Speaking of new .... what can we do to get more new *members* - not just dancers??!?

We need your ideas, for YOU are the people who make this all work! I can be reached at **gstuart@ipns.com** for any questions, problems, ideas, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you on the dance floor!



## JUST "FAUX" FUN DANCE

*Lora Allred*

"AND IT WAS...JUST FOR FUN!" Scottish Country Dancers really enjoyed themselves Saturday Night, February 20 at the Rudy Luepke Center in Vancouver. Approximately 60 people registered and dined, and later danced to the music of Lisa Scott and Linda Danielson. Jennifer Pratt-Walter offered her beautiful Irish Harp music at dinner and at intermission. Her plaintive pieces have a soothing effect on her listeners, lasting long after her music ends.

Success of the evening must surely be credited to Lisa who ably taught many of the dances and then sat at the piano to play the music. Moreover, our Vancouver group learned well all our dances by Lisa's conscientious teaching -- she even arranged to come over four extra teaching nights. Thanks for that, Lisa, it made the evening go so much more smoothly.

Geri did a terrific job of pulling it all together; thanks go to all the behind-the-scenes people too. Eight people took home one of the beautiful candle centerpieces, uniquely created by multi-talented Valerie Moore. Seeing such attention to detail leads me to comment on attention to dress among the participants. You were beautiful, you entered in to the theme, you put your hearts into the evening, you entertained our guests and you made the evening the success that it was.

## *Calendar of Events*

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|-----------|---|
| Mar 13    | <b>Portland RSCDS 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Workshop and Ball</b> ; workshop in Tigard, banquet and ball at Smith Ballroom, Portland State University; for info call Don Gertz 503-692-5963 or Keith Swingruber 360-887-4479  |
| Mar 17    | <b>St. Patrick's Day Concert</b> by the <b>Celtic Muse</b> at Huckleberry Books, 809 Washington St. in Vancouver, at 7PM; tickets are \$5.00 (advance purchase is recommended, as seating is limited); program will feature music for 2 harps, as well as for recorder and flute. |
| Apr 6     | <b>National Tartan Day</b> , recognizing the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States.  |
| Apr 17    | <b>Vancouver USA SCD Spring Dance</b> , 8-11PM, Marshall Community Center, Oak/Elm Rooms, 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver. For info, call Van at 360-699-2174 or John at 360-576-5678.  |
| May 14-16 | <b>Vancouver BC Annual Workshop and Ball</b> , at the Whistler Convention Center, Whistler, British Columbia. For information contact Ken Bennett at 604-435-2834, or email at <a href="mailto:kbennett@istar.ca">kbennett@istar.ca</a> .   |

## Caulking the Wiley Ghillie

*John Shaw*

Have you ever encountered a slick spot on the dance floor, a spot where your suede-soled ghillies just didn't have the traction for that quick pas-de-basque or flirtatious cast?

At times, I have gained temporary relief by wetting the soles of my ghillies on a damp towel. Usually, though, this is *very* temporary -- lasting about 8 bars, just long enough for me to gain some measure of false confidence.

What follows here is a treatment you can apply to your ghillies which dramatically increases their traction. This technique comes to us from Tom Webb of the Portland RSCDS branch.

The method uses a material called GE-RTV 118. It is a form of silicone caulking, like the clear household caulking you buy at the hardware store, but thinner (that is, more liquid). It is available in 2.8 oz tubes from RS Hughes Co. 902 N. Hayden Meadows Dr., Portland, OR 97217. Their phone number is 1-800-336-7744.

Clean and roughen the surface of the sole with 36 grit sandpaper, then clean off the dust with a vacuum cleaner. The cleaned surface should be suede-like.

Squeeze out a bead of the RTV-118 along the center of the ghillie sole, then spread to cover the entire surface with a table knife. Scrape and spread the material so as to work it into the fibers of the sole. Three or four minutes per shoe may be required.

After the second shoe has been treated, apply a small amount again to the first shoe and spread it out to cover the sole. Do the same to the other shoe.

Do not use the shoes for at least 48 hours to allow the RTV-118 to cure properly. The cured soles have the feel of soft rubber; except for the traction, I noticed little difference between the treated and untreated soles.

Notes and cautions:

- BEWARE OF PUDDLES OF WATER ON HARD, SMOOTH FLOORS -- the treated soles can be very slippery in such situations. Dancing on wet grass, however, apparently presents no problems; plus, your soles are waterproof!
- As with other caulking, you should allow adequate ventilation when you are working with RTV-118.



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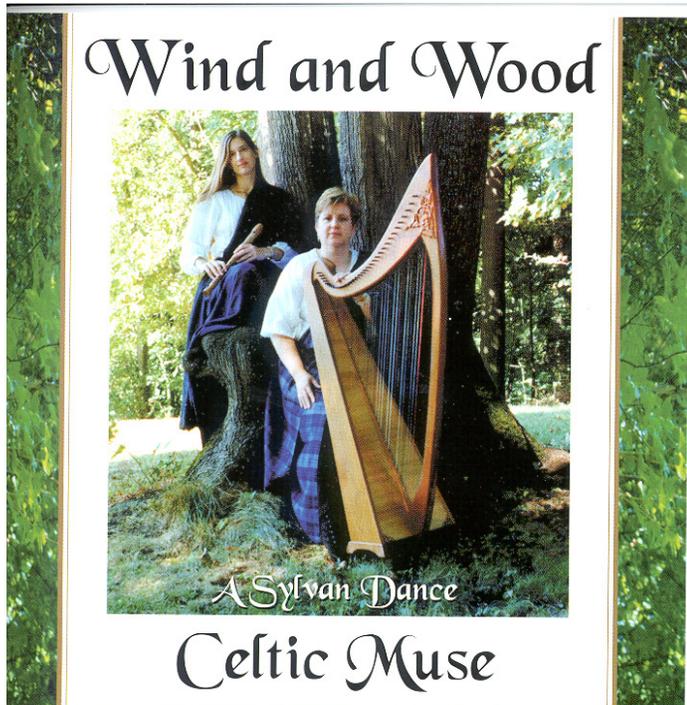
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Once the RTV-118 has cured, there are no health concerns with the material.

- One tube of RTV-118 runs about \$18, and should treat about eight to ten pairs of ghillies.



Jennifer Pratt-Walter and Valerie Blessley welcome you into the magical realms of the Celtic forests and seas with "Wind and Wood: A Sylvan Dance."

Experience the myriad moods of traditional Celtic, Early, and contemporary music, artfully arranged for two Celtic harps, flute, and recorder, on the premiere CD release by your friendly local dancers and musicians Jennifer and Val, known as "Celtic Muse."

According to ancient legend, Celtic bards had to demonstrate complete mastery of The Three Strains, or types, of song. First was "geantraí," music of laughter and joy. Next was "goltraí," the song of weeping. Last came the "suantraí," the lullaby-strain to induce sleep. Wind and Wood explores these strains with pieces both familiar and unusual.

For all you "Scot-o-philes," you will particularly enjoy the work song "Kilbarchan Weaver," a lilting version of "Flowers of Edinburgh," and the hauntingly lyrical "Arran Boat Song" and "Fear A' Bhata."

We dance you through the Old English meadows with "Sumer Is Icumen In" and the familiar "Scarborough Fair."

Irish folk song in all its poignancy and spirit is explored with "Man from Dunmoore/Brian Boru," "March of King Laois," a sprightly version of "Butterfly Jig," and "She

Moved Through the Fair" in all its mysterious and tragic beauty. And no Irish music list is complete without a tune by the famed 16th century harper and composer, Turlough O'Carolan -- we offer his song of tribute "Planxty George Brabazon," played on two harps.

Jennifer shares with you her solo arrangement of "The Water Is Wide," recalling a longing for a loved one far away over the sea. Valerie's solo is her original piece "Babers' Waltz," written for her husband, Mark Blessley.

Welcome spring with "The Delightful Spring Day," for we could all benefit by a wee touch of spring about now!

Last but not least, we introduce the title piece for the album, "Wind and Wood," by Jennifer Pratt-Walter. This tune suggests the delightful interplay of wind through tree branches. Various Elementals call out to all beings to join in this joyous woodland dance, and whirl off into the evening sky. Won't you join the dance?

"Wind and Wood" was recorded in Battle Ground at Soundtracks studio in 1998. Both Jennifer's and Valerie's harps were made by Valerie's husband, Mark. Val's harp is a 36-string cherry square soundbox model, and Jennifer's is a 36-string stoveback model in mahogany. Both are works of art.

Jennifer and Valerie perform throughout the region, and are available for your special occasion! Jennifer's solo release "Ancient Realms" is also currently in stock and available -- call Jennifer to order.

For more information, or to order a CD (\$14.95 plus p&h), call Valerie at (360)576-8111, or Jennifer at (360)693-4715.

*Do you have an item of Celtic interest you would like to see in print?*

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