

# 2014 Irish Spring Festival

## Schedule of Events

### Sunday March 8

- 12:15pm **Flag Raising Ceremony**
- 1:00pm **Pot o'Luck Dinner**
- 2:30pm **Psalms of Ireland**  
(Gospel Sing - Ireland U.M. Church)

### Thursday March 12

- 7:00pm **Opening Ceremonies**
- 7:15pm **King and Queen Reception**
- Entertainment by Dustin McCray**

### Friday March 13

- 7:00pm **Irish Jig** (Square Dance)
- 7:00pm **Costume Contest**
- 8:00pm **House Decoration**  
(winners announced)
- 8:30pm **Costume Contest**  
(winners announced)
- 9:00pm **King and Queen Coronation**

### Saturday March 14

Arts & Crafts, harp music, an Ireland postal station with the 2015 St. Patrick's Day collector's cancellation stamp and appropriate gift items are features from 9am to 4pm.

Health Screening by Tri-County Health Clinic.  
Irish themed foods and drinks will be available.

- 9:00am **Scavenger Hunt**
- 9:30am **Kite Fly**
- 10:00am **Lucky Charm Pitch**  
(Horseshoes)
- 10:00am **Hounds Demonstration**  
(Central WV Hunting Dog Association)
- 10:30am **Intermediate Harp Workshop**  
Extra Harps available at the Church
- 10:30am **Tour de Shamrock**

- (10.5 mile bike tour)
- 11:00am **Foul Shooting Contest**
- 11:30am **Harp Concert Rehearsal**  
(Ireland U.M. Church)
- 1:00pm **The March "March"** (Parade)
- 2:00pm **Harp Concert**  
(Ireland U.M. Church)
- 2:00pm **Fuzzy & Stubbles**
- 2:30pm **Road Bowling**
- 3:00pm **Beginners Harp Workshop**  
(Ireland U.M. Church)
- 4:00pm **Just Ducky Sweepstakes**  
(Duck Race)
- 4:30pm **Budding Shamrocks**  
(Talent Contest)
- 6:30pm **Luck o' the Irish** (Bingo)

### Sunday March 15

- Noon-4:00pm **"Open Microphone"**  
**Featuring "The Gregory Family"**
- Noon-4:00pm **Shamrock CEOS Craft Tables**
- 1:00pm **Snake Chase** (10K Walk-Run)
- 1:30pm **Road Bowling**
- 4:30pm **Fried Potato Contest**

### Monday March 16

- 6:00pm **Unicorns, Gremlins & Shmoos** (Pet Show)

### Tuesday March 17

- 9:00am **Local Elves & Urchins**  
(Local Schoolchildren Visit)

### Wednesday March 18

- 6:00pm **Corn Hole & Stone Soup**

### Thursday March 19

- 6:30pm **Luck o' the Irish** (Bingo)

### Friday March 20

- 6:15pm **Ascent to Blarney Rock**
- 6:45pm **Vernal Equinox & Declaration of Spring**



## 23rd Harping Workshop

The harp is a symbol of Ireland, but it is also much more. It is a very ancient instrument which started with the archer's bow. Angels in heaven carry harps. The Old Testament tells how David's harp music calmed the anger of King Saul. The harp is symbolic of peace and goodwill throughout creation.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, *Harping for Harmony* will hold the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Harping for Harmony Workshop for the Ancient Harp at the Ireland U.M. Church featuring Leah Trent.

[www.liveharpmusic.com](http://www.liveharpmusic.com)

# 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Spring Festival



Irish Blessings  
March 8, 12-20, 2015

Ireland, West Virginia  
26376

<http://www.angelfire.com/wv/irishspringfestival>

# Irish Spring Festival History

The community of Ireland is located in the southern end of Lewis County. There you will find many people with Irish names, an organization called SHAMROCK COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH SERVICES CLUB, and an annual deluge of cards and letters to be postmarked "Ireland" for St. Patrick's Day. And so it has been for several decades. But it was not until the winter of 1981 that some community members were finally overcome by their curiosity as to the origin of the small hamlet's name.

A research effort by the SHAMROCK E.H. CLUB, now the Shamrock CEOS club, was launched to discover more about community roots. Their research confirmed information already discovered by former resident Cly Reger about the village's history.

It was found that the area had been settled by an Irishman named Andrew Wilson. In later years, the man became affectionately known as "Old Ireland" to the settlers of that area. More in depth research led to the discovery that "Old Ireland" had lived to enjoy 114 spring times. The average life-span at that time was approximately 38 years.

When community members heard of the discovery, they were convinced there was something unique about the quality of life in Ireland, West Virginia that was conducive to long life spans. A coupling of this newfound reason for excitement, along with the already established perennial desire to celebrate the vernal equinox led to the first planned **IRISH SPRING FESTIVAL**.

For obvious reasons, it was decided to wear the green and celebrate spring, including March 17<sup>th</sup>, and the first day of spring. The SHAMROCK CEOS CLUB organizes the annual event.

## For further information contact:

Lewis County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.  
499 U.S. Hwy 33E, Weston, WV. 26452  
(304) 269-7328 or (304) 452-8962  
<http://www.angelfire.com/wv/irishspringfestival>



## The Community of Ireland

I pledge allegiance to the flag  
Of the Irish Spring Festival.  
I will attend all the events  
Regardless of the weather,  
Rain or shine, snow or fine.  
May we all be Irish for the time,  
And Spring be in our hearts  
Forever.

## Irish Blessings

## The Theme for the 2015 Irish Spring Festival

Nothing says Irish Blessings more beautifully than the happy, smiling faces of our children.

