

NANCY DRESSES AT BLUE MOON

Contributed by Mark Mohon

If you have been dancing for at least 5 or 10 years I am sure you know what Nancy dresses are. If not, you may have noticed them. Nancy used to come to dance weekends selling her dresses made with a unique style that twirled well and were made of fun, rich fabrics. Nancy had stopped traveling to dance weekends in the last several years and has recently sold her business (and patterns, etc.)

Why am I mentioning this? The Nancy dresses (with the new seamstress) will be at this year's Blue Moon weekend. The dresses, skirts, and pants will return so that you can peruse for your shopping pleasure. Many dancers have found that searching through the racks and racks of dresses and trying them on was a pleasant diversion in the middle of the weekend. If you are lucky you will find the right one before the Saturday night dance!

As if the bands and callers and the other dancers were not enough reason to come to Blue Moon!



DANCE COLECTIVE

On April 3 and 4 The Dance COLEctive from Chicago performed under a grant from The National Endowment for the Arts at The Flying Monkey.

The Dance COLEctive (TDC) is a Chicago, Illinois based, modern dance company, created to preserve, advance and strengthen the art of contemporary dance in Chicago, Illinois and beyond. Over the past 11 years TDC has contributed to the support of more than 13 choreographers, 43 dancers and 50 collaborators, many of them Illinois artists. The success of the company is largely attributed to Artistic Director, Margi Cole and her company.

Margi and some of the dancers have history with contra dance and Seth Tepfer. Several years ago he worked with them during a residency at Gorhams Bluff and Margi set a piece for the dancers called "Improper Contra." They performed this fun piece while in Huntsville.

They also attended our dance Saturday night. For a few of the dancers, it was their first contra dance. It was exciting to see the Dance Colective perform at the Flying Monkey, and the dancers brought a lot of fun and energy to our contra dance Saturday night.

If you're curious to learn more, check out their website at dancecolective.com.



HUNTSVILLE CALENDAR

• Huntsville dances are the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month in the gym at Faith Presbyterian Church, 5003 Whitesburg Dr., (corner of Whitesburg Dr. & Airport Rd.). Beginners Workshop is at 7:00 PM, then the regular dance is from 7:30 – 10:30 PM.

• Admission is \$7 (\$6 for members), \$4 for teens, free for ages 12 & under.

Remember to bring comfortable, **non-scuffing shoes** for dancing. Bring someone new to a dance this month!

• For more info Contact Bryan Walls (256) 837-0656 or email: bwalls@pobox.com or visit <http://secontra.com.NACDS.html>

MAY 3 : HUNTSVILLE

CALLER — ED DOSS

BAND — WOLVES A HOWLIN'

MAY 16-18 : HUNTSVILLE BLUE MOON 11

CALLERS — JOSEPH PIMENTEL, CIS HINKEL

BANDS — HOTPOINT STRINGBAND, ED & ELSIE

AREA DANCE GYPSY CALENDAR

MAY 2 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — NASHVILLE WEATHER

MAY 9 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — EDDIE DOSS

BAND — THE CONTRARIAN ENSEMBLE

MAY 10 : BIRMINGHAM

CALLER — SUSAN DAVIS

BAND — FOOTCAPE

MAY 10 : CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — DAVID GLICK

BAND — FLETCHER BRIGHT FIDDLE BAND

MAY 11 : NASHVILLE COUNTRY DANCERS

4-6:30 PM AT FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE; FOR DIRECTIONS

GO TO DANCENASHVILLE.ORG

CALLER — KENDAL BROADIE

BAND — CALLIOPE

MAY 13 : FLAT CREEK

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY

MAY 16 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — SUSAN KEVRA

BAND — CHRISTIANSON, COMBS, BRYAN, & CUNNINGHAM

MAY 22 : FLAT CREEK

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY

MAY 23 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — ED WILKINSON

BAND — THE CUMBERLAND TENDERFOOTS

MAY 23 : SEWANEE

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — ED BAGGOTT & ELSIE PETERSON

MAY 24 : CHATTANOOGA

CALLER — GEORGE SNYDER

BAND — ED BAGGOTT & ELSIE PETERSON

MAY 27 : FLAT CREEK

CALLER — CHRISSY DAVIS-CAMP

BAND — JIM & INGE WOOD WITH VARIOUS & SUNDRY

MAY 30 : NASHVILLE

CALLER — DOUG SINGLETON

BAND — WHISTLIN' RUFUS

FoOTMaD (Birmingham) dances 2nd Saturdays and 4th Sundays at the YMCA, 3rd Ave & 23rd St, 7:30 PM.
<http://www.bamalong.com/bcds.htm>.

CTDS (Chattanooga) dances 2nd & 4th Saturdays at All Saints Academy, 310 E. 8th St., downtown, 8:00 PM.

Contact Steve at (706) 937-4991, Claire & Bryant at (423)876-7359 or <http://conranooga.org>

Misty Mountain Dancers (Sewanee, TN) dances at the Legion Hall in Sewanee, TN, 8:00 PM. For details, call (931) 598-0814 or check <http://mistycontra.zoomshare.com/>

NCD (Nashville) dances almost every Friday at 8:00 PM at Second Presbyterian Church on Belmont Blvd one block south of Woodmont – on the corner of Graybar.

Contact Chrissy at (615) 210-6808 or John, email: DanceFools@aol.com or <http://dancenashville.org/>

Flat Creek dances – 2 & 4th Tues, Flat Creek Community Center – seven miles south of Shelbyville, TN.
http://www.nashvilleoldtime.org/Dances/flatcreekcontra_dances.htm

BLUE MOON PREPAREDNESS

Just in time to brush up on our manners and technique before we host visiting gypsies, a straight-talking, helpful colleague forwarded these tips on good dancing for me to include in the newsletters. What makes a good dancer? Here are some tips...

GOOD DANCERS...

... Are on time. Dance with the music, on the beat and with the phrases. Flourishes can be fun, but only if there's time to complete them. It's better to spend a few seconds holding hands with your partner than to make the set wait for you to finish twirling behind the beat.

... Dance at the levels of their partners. Adjust your dancing to match the skill and style of each partner. Notice and respond to whether or not your partner wants to spin, flirt, cuddle, go fast, or go slow.

... Have smooth swings. Swings go round and round, not up and down. Whether you use a walking swing or a buzz step, make sure it is smooth. Imagine there's a glass of water on the top of your head. Hold your back straight with your arms up, your shoulders parallel to your partner's and your weight over your own feet. Don't hang on your partner, the support you give one another is just what is needed to keep the centrifugal force of the swing from throwing you apart.

... Move gracefully through all figures. Remember, we're dancing. Avoid trudging, marching, running or hopping.

... Give lots of eye contact. On all figures, look at the people you're dancing with. This goes for circles and same-sex allemandes as much as for gypsies and swings. If you feel like it, flirt with the people you meet, it's fun and non-fattening.

... Dance with the entire set and not just as individuals or couples. It is possible to concentrate so much on your own dancing pleasure that you annoy or disrupt the other people in the set.

... Can recover if the set gets messed up. If you get lost or your minor set breaks down you should know where you need to go next. Skip the next figure or figures, walk to the progressed position or to the next partner swing, and get ready to pick up when the music comes around again.

... Give weight on all figures where they contact other dancers. Hold your arms firm, but springy, so the other person knows they are dancing with someone. Give them your support. Adjust the amount of weight you give depending on the figure and who you are dancing it with.

...Are gentle with their partners. Never force unnecessary physical stress or movement on another dancer. Always make sure your partner is in control of their own movement before letting go after a swing or a twirl. Don't squeeze or twist other dancers' hands on allemandes or balances; make your hands like hooks and hook the other person's hand such that you have a firm connection, but so that they can be released easily.

... Always make sure their partners have a good time. Have fun, it's what we're there for, but make sure that everyone else does as well.

... Can dance well with newcomers. Make them feel welcome and help them learn.

... Anticipate the next figure. Transitions between figures can be as important (and enjoyable) as the figures themselves. Be aware of where you are going next, what you will be doing and with whom. Make getting there smoothly, and on time, part of the dance.

... Excel at dancing the inactive part as well as the active part. Dance proactively rather than inactively. For example, while dancing the inactive part during contra corners don't just stand there with your left hand out waiting for someone to come and take it, instead identify your 1st and 2nd corners and move towards them, meeting them halfway and then turning them by the left hand. This helps less experienced actives dance this figure better and makes your part more challenging and interesting.

... Avoid making any reckless movements. Remember there are other dancers on the floor. Dance in your own space and don't allow yourself or your partner to intrude on that of the other dancers.

... Are always courteous to the other dancers. Always listen politely to the caller during the walk-through. You may know this dance by heart, but the people around you may not. Also listen quietly to the announcements when they are given. You may not be interested in upcoming events, but others around you are. The people who put on these events, and who are making the announcements, are volunteers who put in a lot of hard work to make sure you have a place to dance. The least you can do is show them some respect and be quiet, if not actually attentive, during the announcements.

GET CONNECTED, STAY CONNECTED

Visit the NACDS web site:

<http://secontra.com/NACDS.html>

There is an announcement list for everyone and a Yahoo Group discussion list for those more involved. E-mail nacds@pobox.com if you'd like to be on either.

Yahoo group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NACDScontraCommunity/>



**North Alabama Country Dance Society
162 White Elephant Road Grant AL 35747**

Address Correction Requested



*Send just \$10 for one, or
\$15 per family, to the address above.*

*Make checks payable to NACDS.
(mailing label shows renewal date)*

*Members receive monthly newsletter,
2 guest passes, and a \$1 DISCOUNT to
each regular dance!*