



Times-News

Marvelous Malarkey—An ECO Spring Fling

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ECO NOTES

Somewhere between Saint Patrick's Day (March 17th) with its mischievous leprechauns, and April Fool's Day (April 1st) with its teasing tricksters, falls the first day of Spring, March 21st. Having fallen a victim to Spring fever myself, I know well the mysterious drive that makes me want to kick up my heels and play. Wickopedia calls Spring fever: a common psychological symptom occurring in the Spring season when feelings of restlessness, excitement, or laziness are brought on by the coming of warm weather.

It can happen to you, perhaps with a raging case of the sillies. If so, please consider playing well with others! Your local Environmental and Conservation Organization (ECO) invites you to frolic with them on Saturday, March 21st at the Blue Ridge Performing Art's Center in downtown Hendersonville.

The Marvelous Malarkey fun-raiser is brought to you by a gaggle of green goddesses (green goddess is not just a salad dressing anymore)! Holding true to their purpose, the goddesses wish to invite contributors, who will fall under one of the dandy donor levels of Extra Big Cheese, Dedicated Do-Gooder, or Salt of the Earth. Of course, at each donor level comes a bunch of cool stuff. For example, if you give at the Extra Big Cheese level you get Al Gore's private phone number, and who wouldn't want that!

When good weather brings wild behavior don't hold back, go straight to ECO's web site www.eco-wnc.org and make your reservation. If you're still on the fence, keep reading. Of course attendees will be wined and dined when they arrive at Marvelous Malarkey. The goddesses are providing a plethora of fabulous food and drink donated by local restaurants.

Those of a more serious nature may be concerned about the quality of Malarkey's raffle prizes. Get this: You could win a drinking tour for 8 at the Highland Brewery, a series of tap dancing lessons, or personal worm ranching instruction.

Think you'll be bored? I doubt it. The musical group Hot Duck Soup, www.hotducksoup.net, is flying in from Burnsville to provide you with happy, snappy, old, favorite tunes like Ain't Misbehavin', Lulu's Back in Town, and Sunny Side of the Street. Hot Duck Soup has musical instruments to amaze: slide whistles, banjos, guitars, ukes, an antique cornet, a washtub bass, cacophonium, and one guy even plays the saw!

If the music doesn't float your boat, then Gag Order will, www.gagorder.org. Hooterville's one and only improvisational comedy group will tickle your funny bone. And, some of those green goddesses I was telling you about are well known locally for their sweet a cappella harmonies - The Atomic Sisterhood.

Worried about what to wear? ECO parties are never fancy, but we would like you to polish your hiking boots for the occasion. And, please knock the mud off before dancing. Mud on the dance floor at the Blue Ridge Performing Arts Center may lead to spontaneous mud-wrestling, which the goddesses frown upon.

Let's talk trash! Are you bothered by the wastefulness of parties? ECO's Recycling Committee will make sure Marvelous Malarkey is a low-waste event. They won't miss this opportunity to wash the real plates, recycle all of the beverage containers, and compost the organics and used paper products.

Think you're too old to stay up late? We'll have you home with your stocking cap on before your coach turns into a pumpkin. Dinner's at 6:30, and the entertainment runs from 6:30 to 9:30.

Grab a fun friend, the tickets are more economical for two, the cost is \$90 per couple or \$50 for one.

Granted, this is not your run-of-the-mill fundraiser, we wanted to take time-out to celebrate. Protecting the environment is serious business, and the staff and volunteers at ECO work really hard all year long at keeping our precious mountains from being completely built over, keeping our water clean, our energy renewable, and recycling convenient.

As Kermit the Frog says, "It's not easy being green." But, on Saturday March 21st at 6:30, we're taking a break from the weightiness of our work for a little fun. We need your help and support. Reservations and donations can be made by visiting the website at www.eco-wnc.org or by calling the ECO office at 692-0385. Space is limited, so please reserve by Monday, March 16th.

Katie Breckheimer is president of the ECO Board of Directors, and chair of the Event Committee for ECO.
