

Luck of the IRISH



March 2016

Natchitoches, LA

Not any of us that attended the March “Luck of the Irish” campout were full blood Irish, but we didn’t care, we had our “GREEN” on and we were having a wonderful time in Natchitoches, Louisiana and that’s all that mattered!

What a FUN, FUN weekend our hostess Phyllis Eyre planned for us, along with her co-host Kathryn Sergeant and her decorator friend & guest, Roychelle Williams. And speaking of decorator, OMGosh, what a beautiful job Roychelle did on the tables, windows and walls.



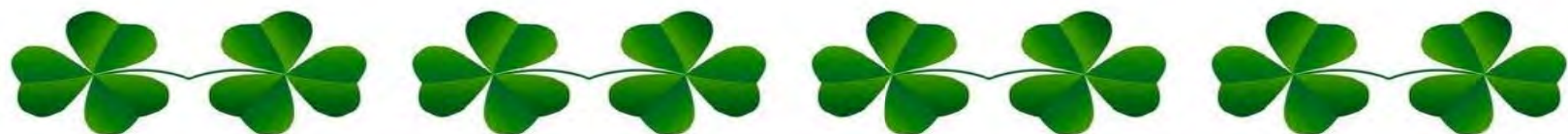
In the center of the tables, which were dressed in green table cloths, Roychelle placed green metal buckets turned upside down to look like a Leprechaun hat. Around the bottom of the bucket was a wide black ribbon with sparkly four leaf clovers attached to it and in front of the hat, attached to the ribbon, was a very small gold picture Frame (empty) to look like a belt buckle. On top of this hat was a gorgeous arrangement of yellow & white ribbons and flowers and a sparkly green sign that read “Happy St. Patrick’s Day.” It’s very hard to describe how truly

beautiful they were. Placed around the hats were small jars of white grape jelly that Kathryn had made for all the attendees. Although she used white grapes to make the jelly, the jelly was actually green due to using green food coloring and it taste sooooo good! On the lids she had green fabric to dress up the jars. Also on the tables were two felt Leprechauns.

The “photo prop” was outstanding. It was ordered from a company and made of heavy cardboard and really pretty. It was a tall entrance wall with gate doors that opened. Across the top was printed Get’away Gals and below that, “Luck of the Irish”.

On Thursday, after everyone got checked in, we gathered at the clubhouse for a meal of Jambalaya that was prepared by Phyllis and side dishes and desserts prepared by the attendees. Before calling it a night we played two games of LCR with Phyllis winning the first game and me (Dixie) winning the second game.

On Friday morning I took everyone on the “Steel Magnolia” movie tour, first showing them the cemetery used in the movie. Parking behind the house I lived in, we walked five houses down to the Steel Magnolia house and took pictures. I then took them down Williams Ave. where we drove under the umbrella of huge tree limbs (first scene in “Steel Magnolias”). One street over, I took them to see the “real” beauty shop and from there took them by the “movie” beauty shop. The movie is a true story about Susan Harling (Julia Roberts in the





movie). Susan was raised in Natchitoches and lived (when she was a young girl) in the home that I purchased. I didn't know that when I purchased it. From there we drove out into the countryside to see the Plantation's.

The first one we saw was where the movie, "Man in the Moon" was filmed. This was Reese Witherspoon's first movie. She was around 12 or 13 years old.

Just down the road at the next plantation is where the movie "Horse Soldiers" was filmed, starring John Wayne & William Holden. It is now the home of Susan Harling's brother, Robert, who wrote "Steel Magnolias" and other screenplays.

At the next plantation we stopped and made ourselves at home. No one lives in it and only the caretakers are on the grounds. They know me by now because I have taken so many people there through the years. It's my favorite. The drive up to the house is breathtaking! We couldn't go inside the house but we went up the tall steps to sit on the big porch in the rockers and looked in all the windows. It is still beautifully furnished. The lady who owns it lives at another plantation in Gulf Port, Mississippi, if she is still living. A few years back she was in her 90's.

So, moving on, we are almost 30 miles from Natchitoches and about to tour the church where the wedding took place in "Steel Magnolias". It's a Catholic church and the first church in the United States that was built by and for black people only and the second oldest church in the United States. Leaving there, it's back to Natchitoches for lunch at "The Landing" on the River Front.

That evening we meet again for a Cajun meal of Crawfish Etouffee, White Rice & a Spring Salad with "yummy" sweet dressing. Several games of Bingo were played and prizes were given to TWO time winner Barbara Haverin. D'Nette Kelley and Dixie Taylor also won at Bingo. More LCR was played, with winners being Jill Isaacson & Susan Sulser. Susan won the jackpot TWICE!

Saturday was a free day & night but those who wanted to could go to the clubhouse and make scrapbook pages for their scrapbooks. We had a good turnout for that, with Jacque Dennis winning 1st, Jill Isaacson 2nd & D'Nette Kelley winning 3rd. Later that night everyone enjoyed gathering around a campfire at D'Nette's trailer, who by the way, won "Best Decorated Trailer".

"THANK YOU" Phyllis, Kathryn & Roychelle for a wonderful weekend. It was truly AWESOME! To the GG's who couldn't make it, we'll do it again.

Much Love, Dixie

We live, laugh and love
to get away



Creamed Cabbage "Irish Side Dish"

4 slices bacon
1/4 cup butter
1 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. salt
1 head cabbage (cored & shredded)
1/2 cup sour cream

Place bacon in large, deep skillet.

Cook over med/high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned.

Remove bacon slices to cool.

Whisk the butter, flour & salt into the drippings in the same pan.

Stir in cabbage, and cook, stirring occasionally over medium heat until cabbage is tender, about 15 mins.

Crumble the bacon and stir the bacon pieces & sour cream into the cabbage mixture.

Enjoy!

