



THE CLAIBORNE CLARION

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CLAIBORNE COMMUNITY

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March Birthdays

Ted Jones.....	9
Suzanne Todd.....	9
Kevin Garber	12
Mike Kabler	13
Rebecca Cockey Parks	14
Penny Rhine	14
Baba Groom.....	15

Did we forget to your birthday?

If you want to add your name to the list please contact Pat Flory at patflory@gmail.com



Wednesday March 17th

Hello Clarion friends and neighbors!What's the craic?

Longer days, chirpier birds, warmer temperatures, a cardinal in the crepe myrtle tree. Deep breath! As we all know, we can't be fooled by these teasers. It is after all March, and we've been known to have the occasional storm or freeze or both before we're really in the clear and the daffodils turn their sunny faces up to greet us.

But in March we also enjoy a bit of blarney and a nip of _____ (your choice of libation here) as we approach my personal high holiday, St. Patrick's Day. Everyone is a little bit Irish on St. Patrick's day, but some of us are a little bit more Irish than others. You may know me as Gregorio, but I come from a long line of O'Connells and O'Donnells. Perhaps the most famous O'Connell was Daniel. Known as "the liberator", he won the right to vote for Catholics. And then there's cousin Mick who is regarded as one of the finest Gaelic footballers of his generation!

As for the O'Donnell side, the most famous were those associated with Tirconnail (Donegal) the habitat of the largest and best-known O'Donnell sept. They were part of the great Ui Neill tribal grouping, who claimed descent from the 5th century monarch, Niall of the Nine Hostages, who is reputed to have brought St Patrick to Ireland. Hence my personal connection to St. Patrick via cousin Niall of the Nine Hostages! Cheers!

In other good news, COVID vaccine appointment are becoming more available! Stay vigilant please – we're not out of the COVID woods yet.

And if someone asks you "what's the craic?" you could say, "oh not much", or "good, and you?" or you could say "divil a bit!" And on St. Patrick's day when someone offers "top o' the morning to you", tell them "and the rest of the day to you!" - **Mary**

Gift at the End of a Winter Walk



Photo: Sarah Sayre

Claiborne Gallery Walk?

Hi! Every arty town has it's Gallery Walk - open art galleries and strolling art appreciators. That got us thinking about what a Claiborne (in a time of Covid) version of that would look like. So, we propose an April Saturday tour of Claiborne's finest creations.

Have you been quilting this past year? Painting? Building ships in a bottle? Writing songs? Growing fabulous orchids? Baking beautiful cakes? Whatever has floated your boat recently that can be carried out to (or performed on) your front porch or in your yard is worthy and will be fun to see. We'll be on the lookout for guaranteed fine weather and send out a notice sometime next month.

Remember - sometimes it's good to be a show off!

Traditional Irish Soda Bread

Traditional Irish soda bread made with just a few simple ingredients. Raisins and dried currants are sometimes added.

Prep Time 10 minutes; **Cook Time** 35 minutes

Ingredients

- 4 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 3/4 cups buttermilk



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Grease and flour a 9-inch round cake pan.
2. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking soda and salt. Gradually stir in the buttermilk until the dough comes together in a slightly sticky ball.
3. Turn dough onto a floured surface and knead gently a few times. Form the dough into a ball and then press into the prepared pan so that the dough resembles a large disk. The dough should reach the edges of the pan, but may spring back slightly.
4. Cut an X into the dough with a sharp knife, about 1/4 of an inch deep. Cover the pan of dough with another round cake pan turned upside down.
5. Bake for 25-30 minutes, covered, then remove the top pan and bake uncovered for about 10 minutes more or until the crust is dark golden brown.

Claiborne Book Exchange (*Covid Style*)



It's still chilly, it's still wet, and we're still stuck at home..... But there are books waiting that can take you adventuring in warm and exotic locales! Take a look at your neighbors' book overflow lists posted at the Hall and make arrangements to pick up your next favorite book.



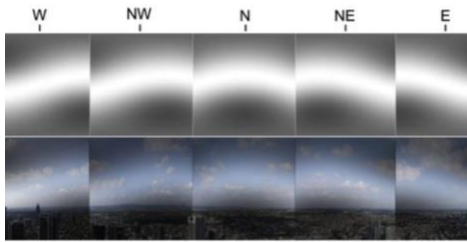
As one of the Corona-fearing Claibornians who has found walking to be a safer alternative to the gym or pool this year, I have had plenty of time to make observations of the same roadside areas as the seasons pass. I have seen deer trails, Canada Geese galore, dogs on their walks, and the seasonal changes in plant life.

I recently spoke to our resident wildlife expert Cap'n Norman Haddaway about the Canada Geese. He says they will be heading north soon. Because the winters have lately been extremely mild, the planting of corn has been able to be done farther north, providing winter habitat for the geese to feed and rest, so a lot of them don't come this far south anymore.

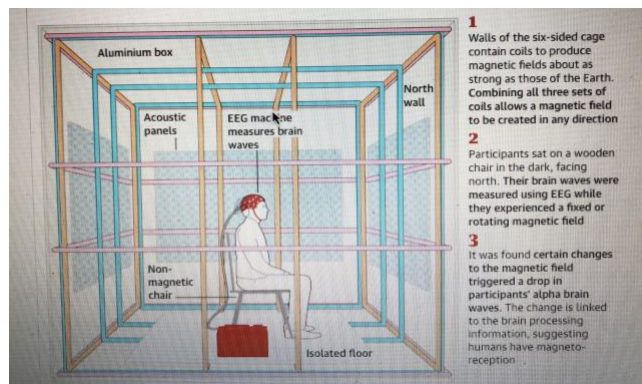
He says that when the geese do go north to return to Hudson Bay they fly so high that you can't see them, riding the strong jet stream winds and traveling more than 1500 miles in 24 hours.

Science Corner – Reported by Sarah Sayre

So are people sensitive to the Earth's magnetic field?



At Caltech, neuroscientists sat volunteers in a large cube that shielded unwanted magnetic radiation. The subjects sat alone in the darkness, wired to measure brainwaves. The scientists manipulated the magnetic field in the cube. They watched the brain's alpha waves, the ones that indicate that the area of the brain is engaged in a task. There was a dip in these waves under certain new pattern of magnetic field.



Now for the big question: Are dogs sensitive to the Earth's magnetic fields?

Some research suggests that dogs may manifest this when pooping. Many dogs do a little circling in preparation, as if to find the right spot. But it may be that they are finding the right direction! They tend to prefer lining up north-south.

So, a challenge to dog walkers!!! Let me know if Claiborne dogs exhibit this behavior.

Maggie, shown here, is a bit contrarian with regard to magnetic fields How about your dog?



Please let Sarah know about your dog at spartinasails@gmail.com

References available on request.

<https://www.sciencealert.com/dogs-prefer-to-poo-along-a-north-south-axis>