

Snowmass gears up for St. Paddy's Day with libations, bands, and Irish fun.

Snowmass Village, Colorado. March 14, 2005. St. Paddy's Day got an early kick-off this past weekend when the Bartenders Brawl pitched five local Snowmass bartenders against each other for the honor of concocting the best St. Paddy's Day libation. The tallest leprechaun, Matthew Moerdyk of Il Poggio, won in what event director Josh Behrman called "an extremely wacky competition." Bartenders dressed up in costumes and performed everything from a *Flash* (and splash) *Dance -esque* bar dance by the Zane's Tavern bartender to the Mountain Dragon bartender who confused Christmas with St. Paddy's Day and arrived in a "ho ho" bikini, to the Hornitoads of Tasters. Sage's bartender mesmerized Brawl watchers with a gravity-defying display of spinning bottles and fancy pouring techniques.

"It was great," says Behrman. "We had good crowds, great judges, unbelievably delicious drink entries, and big, funny performances by the bartenders."

The winning drink was called The Paddy Dropper and was made from Stoli Raspberry, orange, citrus, Creme de Cacao, Irish cream, Amaretto Crème, a little fresh cream and a whole "lot of tlc." Il Poggio will be serving the drink all week long leading up to St. Paddy's Day on March 17.

On the big day itself, green dye will be used to paint Fanny Hill with a an enormous Shamrock. Events on that day kick off with a Lucky Leprechaun Scavenger Hunt at 10 a.m. and the chance to win a Burton Snowboard donated by Christy Sports or a raft trip for two from Blazing Adventures. Kids Krafts at noon will help clothe wee ones with Irish flair to participate in the pipe and drum parade at 2 p.m. Throughout the course of the afternoon, events range from



the Bud Light Big Air competition (Costumes are strongly encouraged) on Fanny Hill to Celtic dancers and Irish musicians, and free concerts on the Mall.

Called “the best Irish trad-rock band” by The Village Voice, the Prodigals hit the stage at 3 p.m. as part of the free Budweiser Hi Fi Concert. Other entertainment includes the Colorado West Celtic Dancers performing Irish Step and Highlands Dances, the Roaring Jelly Celtic Trio performing contra dance music, and The Motet, who will deliver a grooving, unique blend of Afro-Beat, Afro-Cuban, Latin, Funk and Jazz.

The night concludes with a Blarney Bash celebration in local Snowmass bars and restaurants. St. Paddy’s Day buttons are available at Roaring Fork Valley businesses and provide discounts in participating Snowmass stores, restaurants, and bars leading up to the everyone-is-Irish holiday. The Cirque offers live music, \$2 green beer, and giveaways. The Motet plays The Blue Door at 9 p.m. Mountain Dragon offers \$3.50 Guinness, a Snowboard giveaway, and music by hip hop band DCP. Zane’s offers happy hour and drink specials.

For a detailed schedule of St. Paddy’s Day events, visit www.snowmasspress.com/stpat. For Snowmass lodging and event information, please visit www.snowmassvillage.com or call 1-800-SNOWMASS. For media and photo inquiries only, please contact Allison Johnson at (970) 704-9988 or aj@snowmasspress.com.

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