

For further information, call 708/699-7915 or 312/728-7409

THE RAVENSWOOD MORRIS DANCERS OF CHICAGO will host THE 1993 MIDWEST MORRIS ALE, a festival of traditional English morris dancing, on Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30. Free performances of this vigorous and exciting dance form will be presented at various locations in Chicago and the suburbs (see schedule, below). Dance teams from the states of Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Kentucky, Tennessee and New York, and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba, will join Ravenswood in the fun of this exuberant springtime event.

Morris dancing originated in the rural Cotswolds of England - Shakespeare's country - and dates back to at least the 15th Century. Contemporary morris dancing has been performed by hundreds of teams around the world since the dance form was rediscovered during the English Folk Revival of the early 20th Century. The dancers face each other in two lines, rhythmically waving handkerchieves or clashing sticks together. They wear bright costumes, and the bells tied to their legs add cheerful percussion to their steps and jumps. Morris dances are typically accompanied by fiddles, accordions, drums and whistles. Many teams embellish their performances with the antics of traditional clown characters, such as Fools and Hobbyhorses, who try to distract the dancers and audience with their tricks and prancing.

The Ravenswood Morris Dancers have performed throughout the Midwest and parts of Canada, and have been featured on "Wild Chicago." This is the first time in the 13-year history of the Midwest Morris Ale that the festival will take place in Chicago.

Saturday, May 29

11 am      Tour Group A: Shedd Aquarium  
              Tour Group B: Old Water Tower  
              Tour Group C: Brauer Cafe and Seal Pond at  
                                Lincoln Park Zoo  
              Tour Group D: Scoville Park, Oak Park (Oak Park  
                                Ave. and Lake St.)

1 pm        Tour Group A: Art Institute of Chicago  
              Tour Group B: Rush Street Area  
              Tour Group C: Lincoln Park Conservatory  
              Tour Group D: Oak Park Historic District (Chicago  
                                Ave./Forest Ave./Marion St.)

4 pm        ALL TEAMS AT THE LINCOLN PARK CONSERVATORY FOR  
              MASSED DANCING SPECTACULAR !!

Sunday, May 30

10:30 am    Tour Group A: Grace Lutheran and St. Mark's  
                                Episcopal Churches, Geneva 2 (3rd  
                                and Franklin Sts.)  
              Tour Group B: St. Charles Episcopal Church, St.  
                                Charles (Route 25)  
              Tour Group C: St. Lawrence's Episcopal Church,  
                                Libertyville (Church St.)

11:30 am    Tour Group D: Town Square, Woodstock

1 pm        Tour Group A: Third Street Shopping District,  
                                Geneva  
              Tour Group B: Lincoln Park and City Hall, St.  
                                Charles  
              Tour Group C: Libertyville Historical Society

3 pm        ALL TEAMS AT ISLAND PARK, GENEVA, FOR MASSED  
              DANCING SPECTACULAR !!