



**milwaukee
irish fest**

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Irish Fest's Cultural Village hosts Celtic experiences for all ages
Exhibits, lectures and demonstrations showcase the heritage of all things Irish

MILWAUKEE – August 3, 2009 – From sporting demonstrations and theatre performances to Celtic shopping and researching your heritage, Milwaukee Irish Fest's Cultural Village has myriad activities to appeal to all ages.

Cultural Village highlights to experience at this year's Irish Fest include activities from the following areas:

Moore Street Market

Visitors looking for a unique Irish treasure will find it at the Moore Street Market, offering handmade items by artisans and craftspeople from Ireland and Celtic regions around the world.

- Basket maker Vincent McCarron from the Aran Islands, and Aran knitter Rosaleen Hegarty will feature their wares.
- A group of artisans from Nova Scotia and Tipperary Arts will present demonstrations throughout the weekend.

Cultural Exhibits Pavilion

The Cultural Exhibits Pavilion houses exhibits and displays from different organizations around the world.

- The 125th Anniversary of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) is a focal display in the Cultural Exhibits Pavilion this year including: information about Croke Park Stadium, the headquarters of the GAA; The Michael Cusack Centre in Carron, County Clare, which honors the founding of the GAA; and the 1947 Clare football (American soccer) final victory and the Polo Grounds – the only football finals ever played on U.S. soil.
- The Cultural Exhibits Pavilion will also present an exact replica of the Our Lady of Knock shrine.
- Artist and musician Mazz O'Flaherty, from Dingle, Ireland returns with her landscape interpretations.

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Ward Archives Gallery

An annual exhibit from the Ward Irish Music Archives, the largest collection of Irish and Irish-American music paraphernalia in the U.S., is featured in the Cultural Village.

- This year the Gallery features *Come Back to Erin – Irish Travel Posters of the 20th Century*, an exciting new exhibition featuring a selection of vintage travel and tourism posters presented by the Ward Irish Music Archives.

Hedge School

The Hedge School enhances the education of Irish culture with lectures by academic speakers.

- Dr. Sean Crosson from the National University of Ireland will be speaking throughout the festival.

Other featured areas of the Cultural Village to experience include: the **Gaeltacht**, where you can listen to and learn the Gaelic language; the **Genealogy Pavilion**, which provides various resources to research your Irish roots; the **Harp Tent**, where you can take in music played on Ireland's national instrument; **Currach races**; **Tug-of-War** matches; **Hurling** demonstrations; the **Walton's Shop**, where you can learn how to play the bodhran (Irish drum) and purchase instruments; the **Literary Corner**, where you can have your favorite Irish novel autographed by its author; and the **Dance Tent**.

New to the Cultural Village this year, **The Pub** hosts the 2009 Trivia Contest. Contest participants have two chances to compete for the coveted Irish Fest Trivia Champion T-shirt. The contest begins at 1:45 p.m. Saturday, August 15, and 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 16.

Milwaukee Irish Fest takes place August 13 – 16 at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. General admission tickets to the festival are \$15 for adults; \$10 for senior citizens 60+ (gate only); and kids 12 and under are free. For more information, visit irishfest.com.

About Milwaukee Irish Fest

Milwaukee Irish Fest is the world's largest celebration of Irish music and culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainment acts annually at the four-day, 16-stage event at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Lake Michigan. Passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people, Irish Fest teaches Ireland's music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children's activities, and genealogy at the festival and through year-long programming. For more information, visit irishfest.com.

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