

RSCDS John Muir Branch (Wisconsin, USA)

Number of years established as a branch: 8

Annual Report (May 2010-May 2011)

Respectfully Submitted by Nancy McClements, Secretary

The Muir Branch concentrated its energies on three major projects this year: preparing two teacher candidates for their final RSCDS certificate exams, hosting our 34th annual ball, and co-sponsoring a new annual [Midwest Scottish Weekend](#) workshop with the Chicago and Milwaukee groups at Beloit College, Wisconsin. In an effort to ensure the next generation of Scottish country dancers, we sponsored a children's class and included them in a demonstration at the Madison Farmers' Market. Our "Spring, a Time to Dance" ball also catered to our newer dancers, and attracted people from throughout the Midwest. The band was our local O'er the Border, with special guest John Chambers. A holiday dance party gave us a chance to try out a new dance studio and provided a time to socialize, despite an ice storm. An ice cream social, Robert Burns toast, and royal wedding "hat night" provided special fun to our weekly dance classes. Fundraising through silent auctions, t-shirt sales, and dance book profits kept the group solvent and supported our candidates' teacher training costs. We increased our marketing this year with a new color [brochure](#) and more vigilant distribution and advertising efforts. A "Bring a Friend" night, a University of Wisconsin-Madison mini-course, and open workshops at an international folk ball gained some added exposure (and new dancers!) for our branch. To restore and maintain membership, a committee was formed to survey the needs and preferences of both lapsed and current dancers. We are happy to see some previous members returning to classes, and we hope to reap even more rewards with our efforts next year.

