

Treadwell's got a soft sole for clogging

Publication: Wilson Daily Times

Date: October 01, 2007

Section(s): Local News

By: Laura Keeter

Daily Times Staff Writer

She stomped, slid, turned her ankles to the side, and overall had some happy feet.

The feet matched the big smile on her face as the 5-foot 8-inch tall and slim Jayne Treadwell showed off some freestyle clogging on the wood floor of Dance Studio "B."

Treadwell's accomplished moves looked fun to perform, and the Bluegrass tune she danced was upbeat, so the energy was somewhat contagious. Onlookers couldn't help but do some toe-tapping or head-bobbing themselves as they watched her.

Treadwell makes it clear she doesn't teach any of the dance studio's tap or ballet lessons.

"I don't do any of that refined stuff. I'm a hillbilly redneck!" she says with a big laugh.

Treadwell learned clogging in 1980 from her grandfather in a barn.

But before you picture a small child, here's the rest of the story: She was in college, and her grandfather had just learned the art of clogging at age 65. Formerly, he'd been a square dancer.

That's part of the reason Treadwell loves clogging -- it's a dance for all generations, from toddlers to old-timers.

And it's the only dance native to North Carolina, having started some 200 years ago.

"They lived in the hills. They didn't have the movies and entertainment. They had ho-downs. After the work was done for the week, you would put your hoe down and go celebrate."

Clogging became a passion for Treadwell. She's been full-throttle in clogging since she learned how, and she's competed across the country and has a long list of awards and recognition, available for view on her Web site, www.EastCountryHoedowners.clogdancing.com.

She's also taught nationwide at dance camps and clogging workshops. In June, she made a big jump on her resume and became an "international teacher."

Known for her freestyling and knowledge of teaching children, she was asked to teach in June at the Dragon Rock Cloggers workshop in Bonn, Germany, and at a dance convention in Darmstadt, Germany.

Traditionally a more rigid and stern people, Germans excel at the choreographed dance. It was Treadwell's job to teach them to loosen up and do the southern Appalachian mountain traditional freestyling, using the traditional clogging steps and movements.

"I had to get them out of their box without them knowing it," she said.

Treadwell grew up on a farm in Craven County. She met her husband, Bob, in college at N.C. State University, and they married in 1984. A couple years later, they moved to Wilson to be centrally located in her husband's pharmaceutical sales territory.

Treadwell worked until 1991, when she had her second child. She ran across the article, "What is it costing you to work?" She completed the formula that figured in dynamics such as her income, the couples' higher tax bracket, the cost of child care, and calculated she was actually making only \$1.72 an hour.

About the same time Treadwell became a stay-at-home mom, she formed the East Country Hoedowners clogging team. Later, she became a Mary Kay cosmetic consultant, which remains another passion.

Treadwell is invaluable as one of the instructors at Dance Studio "B," said Patricia Bradshaw, owner and director of the studio that's moving to Wilson Mall later this month.

"She takes the kids to Pennsylvania, festivals in the area, and they perform at the (Cystic Fibrosis) telethon," Bradshaw said. "She goes above and beyond. Her kids get a full experience, and I feel very fortunate to have her working with us."

Lindsay Holt, now a student at East Carolina University, started clogging with Treadwell when she was 10 years old.

"It was great doing different shows," Holt said. "We did parades; we traveled everywhere."

Treadwell eventually trained Holt to assist in class to develop her teaching skills in case she ever becomes a clogging instructor herself.

At the studio in September, Treadwell pulled out her favorite clogging shoes -- a black pair of Staccatos, which are indoor clogging shoes with aluminum plates that give a clean, crisp sound. She also had on hand a pair of the popular white Steven's Stompers with steel plates for outdoor clogging.

Treadwell seemed surprised herself by her love to perform and talk to large crowds when it comes to clogging. In high school, she would get stage fright if she had to give a report.

"I guess my love and passion for (clogging) overcame that," Treadwell said. "I just feel such a joy when I'm up dancing, and I have so much fun."

Born: Nov. 7, 1960, in Craven County

Family: Married to Bob Treadwell, and they have two teenagers, Richard and Sara. She also has two sisters, a brother and a grandmother, Helen Hubbard, who lives in New Bern.

Education: She is a 1979 graduate of West Craven High School, attended N.C. State University, and since then has done clogging workshops.

Career: Began her career as a retail clothing store manager in Raleigh and then Wilson at Maurice's, 1982-1987; patient account representative and then manager at Carolina Clinic and Wilson Clinic from 1987-1991, and then started teaching clogging and became a Mary Kay consultant. She's taught at Dance Studio "B" since 1995.

Hobbies: Clogging and going to her children's events

Personal hero: Her children Keeter@wilsontimes.com | 252-265-7817