

Appreciating St. Patrick

Dear Tim:

There must be more to St. Patrick's Day than just putting away a pint at your favorite pub. What's the real story?

-Pub Crawler on Palmer

Dear Pub Crawler:

Here's what I know (or can remember – I've celebrated quite a few St. Patty's Days in the manner described in your question). First off, St. Patrick wasn't even Irish. He was a Christian missionary who lived and worked in Ireland in the fifth century. The date of his death is what is now celebrated as the feast of St. Patrick or St. Patrick's Day. The popular legend has it that St. Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland, which has been disputed by some who claim there were never any snakes in Ireland to begin with. Anyway, he clearly brought many people closer to God and did a fair amount



DEAR TIM

of good along the way. Celebrating his legacy with a brew may seem odd, but if you had to endure the murky Irish weather in the fifth century like he did, a pint seems like a downright appropriate tribute. Anyway, Happy St. Patrick's Day. And if you need any tools to toast St. Patrick next week, you'll find beer in aisle 1 and Irish whiskey in aisle 4.

Dear Tim:

I can't believe next week is the start of spring. This winter seems like it's lasted forever. I mean, we didn't necessarily have all that much snow, but it was cold almost continuously since December. Got anything to help me start thinking spring?

-Cabin Feverish on Camborne

Dear Feverish:

I'm with you. This bitter winter left me colder than Lindsay Lohan's film career. I've actually found myself questioning the whole idea of global warming. But with spring upon us, I've decided to ditch the wintery outlook and embrace the change. Since you're of a like mind, why not stock up on spring cleaning supplies in aisle 5? Or a few lawn and leaf bags to beat the rush? And before you know it you'll be shopping in shorts.

Dear Tim is presented as a public service by Tim Huffman, owner of Huffman's Market. Write to him in care of Huffman's Market, 2140 Tremont Center, Upper Arlington, Ohio, 43221, stop by and say hi, or visit www.huffmansmarket.com.