

Catching Fireflies

32-bar reel for 3 couples

by Kim Jorgensen and Kathy Wendell

Bars 1–8

1st and 2nd couples dance right hands across halfway and set. 1st and 3rd couples dance left hands across halfway and set.

Bars 9–16

1st couple cast up around 3rd couple, dance in and up to the top, cast down around 2nd couple, and petronella to lines of three across the dance, 1st lady between 2nd couple and 1st man between 3rd couple. 3rd couple step down on bars 11–12.

Bars 17–24

All advance and retire, taking hands on the side. Dance half a reel of three across the set, 1st couple giving right shoulder to the person on the right. 1st couple end in second place on own sides (or in the middle of the set if dancing the option below).

Bars 25–32

2nd, 1st, and 3rd couples dance six hands round and back.

OPTION: The first time through the dance, 1st lady is “caught” in the middle and can set, clog, or step dance for six bars as the others circle around her, and she dances to second place on own side on bars 31–32. 1st man is “caught” the second time through and dances likewise. Circling dancers let go of hands in time to let the center dancer reach second place on the side line.

Repeat from second place.

Note on title: This dance is a thank-you to Vicky Goodloe, Paul Vice, and the Kentucky dancers who gifted us with an unscheduled class when we came to town. Vicky, also playing tour guide, introduced us to catching fireflies. The second figure represents their wiggly flight up from the grass, and the last figure reflects the fun of catching fireflies and letting them go.

Note on music: This dance was written to “Turkey in the Straw,” as the Kentucky classes like to dance to regional American music with a strong Scottish influence.

Attached is a dance we wrote just for you on our way home. Let me know if anything needs further clarification.

A couple of notes:

The stepping down in the second figure could happen on bars 9-10. This would open up the space for 1st couple to dance through and allows 3rd couple to finish their moving after the setting on 7-8 without having to remember to do something 2 bars later. It works quite well for 3rd lady, who has just set and has the correct foot free. It's awkward for 3rd man, however, who has the wrong foot free.

* The only recording of "Turkey in the Straw" we have is on the quicktime half of "1314." While it worked well to that, it's only twice through and difficult to cue up after the strathspey half. We also tried it to our recording for "Rest and Be Thankful," which uses "Camptown Races" as one of the secondary tunes. It worked okay to our recording when slowed down a hair. If you have a recording that includes "Turkey in the Straw" and that is all quicktime, please let me know.

Please extend our thanks and appreciation to the rest of the dancers,

Kim & Kathy