

Strictly Swing.....American dance ([www.bgdance.net](http://www.bgdance.net))

Bill Goschen entered the dance scene in 1977 with Disco/New York Sling Hustle. He was trained by professional Cabaret/Ballroom dancers Charles Zara and Joyce and Janice Bova. Before long, Bill was teaching others the Hustle and immediately knew he found his passion.

In the mid/late 1980s, Bill sought out new dances and found The Baltimore Bop Shop and learned swing from David Olton. Again, it wasn't long before Bill began teaching beginner Swing classes once a week for years and served the club as a member on the Board of Directors. Bill's efforts increased membership to 150 members and weekly class sizes soared to 50. During this time, Bill also opened his own private dance studio and conducted over 300 group and private lessons a year for clients to include but not limited to Baltimore County Community College Continuing Education Program, Steel Workers Union Hall, Fleet Reserve in Annapolis, and other venues throughout Maryland. Continually seeking to broaden his horizons in dance, Bill learned of and took West Coast Swing (WCS) lessons with Craig Hutchinson who was a popular instructor at Cherry Hill when it first opened. Craig was inducted into the Swing Dance Hall of Fame and founded the first Virginia State Open Swing Dance Championship competition. In addition to WSC, Bill also ventured into Jazz theatre.

The dance scene continued to explode when Frankie Manning, the last living member of the elite Whitey's Lindy Hoppers came out of retirement. Frankie Manning, a major force behind the development of the original swing dance the Lindy, is credited with creating not only the first aerial dance step, but also the first ensemble Lindy routine. He performed in several films including Everybody Sing with Judy Garland and Hellzapoppin' and went on to travel the world with jazz greats Ethel Waters, Ella Fitzgerald, the Nat King Cole Trio, and Duke Ellington to name a few. Bill, who is an avid fan of Frankie Manning, followed him and took Lindy lessons/workshops as often as possible. After time, Bill discovered Leslie Coombs, a local dance instructor, who founded Swing Baltimore. Leslie, a professional Movement Therapist with a degree in African dance studied Lindy

exclusively under Frankie Manning. For more than a year, Bill took private lessons and studied Lindy under the tutelage of Leslie. To increase his understanding of music and dance, Bill took private lessons with professional music teacher Grahm Nash. With the resurgence of Hustle in the last 10 years, Bill sought out his original teacher Charles Zara for advancements with the dance.

Today, with over 30 years of experience and still counting, Bill teaches Jitterbug, West Coast Swing, Lindy, Charleston, Shag, American Cha-Cha, and Hustle. Bill has shared his passion for dance with DELMARVA for many years by teaching at Cadillac Jacks on the boardwalk in Ocean City (article written in the Beachcomber Newspaper, dated Aug 9, 1991), performing for the show band the Whitewalls as the Whitewalls' dancers in Salisbury, and showcasing Swing, Hustle, and Charleston on stage at Sunfest in 2007 and again in 2009.

Bill purchased his first home in the Ocean Pines area in 1985 and registered to conduct business in Worcester County in 1987. During this time, Bill owned and operated Ocean City Charters Sport Fishing Company and Fishing and Archery Outfitters; in addition to, providing weekly fishing reports on WCAO radio station and serving as an outdoor writer for Woods and Water magazine.

Bill is in the process of building his new home with a dance studio in the Berlin District and hopes to continue to promote American dance on DELMARVA.