



The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Newsletter

Fall 2010



The President Speaks

We are still in the clean up mode that was caused by the horrific snow and wind storm that tore through the high country this past winter. The wind and ice was especially devastating to the tree tops at MacRae Meadows. We had to hire units that had four wheel drive “cherry pickers” in order to get the many broken limbs from being a potential death trap to those working the areas near the limbs that had broken high in the trees.

Needless to say we have used up funds that were set aside for such unusual “acts of nature.” We are still cleaning up and donations are most welcome. We sincerely thank Ellice MacDonald for his generous donation which helped cover over 40% of the cleanup cost.

The Games were held without any unusual problems. Due to our wonderful GMHG staff we had everything ready to go for a wonderful 2010 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. We have added a new Director to our Board, Dr. Jim Deni of Appalachian State University and director of the “Bear” hill climb, Grandfather Mountain Marathon and the Grizzly Bike Race. He is a great addition to our board Welcome Jim!!!

Pat Johnston, along with her husband Steve and their great staff of experienced highland dance instructors, has brought great life into the Scottish Arts portion of the GMHG. I thank all Event Directors and their respective staffs. Without their expertise and dedication the GMHG would not be the world class event it is today.

We also wish to thank all of our Honored and Distinguished Guests for their attendance. We especially thank Executive Director Penn Dameron of the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation for allowing us to use MacRae Meadows. We also appreciate his active participation in the GMHG festivities. He is a true Scot!

Sincerely,

Ross Morrison, Jr.

Ross Morrison, Jr.
GMHG President
(Photos by James Shaffer)

Highland Dance Trophy Winners



Dr. Jim Deni



Penn Dameron



“A Wee Bit of the Scottish Highlands in North Carolina!”



General Manager's Perspective

As I sit at the window of my office in the Ellice & Rosa McDonald Scottish Heritage Center in Linville, I am looking out on a wonderful crisp fall afternoon. It seems like just yesterday the area was slammed with one of the worst winter storms that I have been privy to in my lifetime. Hopefully this next winter will be a mild one. We can only hope.

As I look back at the games in July I cannot help but appreciate those patrons as well as the clans who helped us offset much of the storm damage costs. Specifically I would like to thank the following for their donations: Clan MacAlister Society, Bill Dellinger, Stephen Quillin, Clan MacLaren in honor of Houston Lowry, Elizabeth Barnes (director of the Thistle School), Laurence M. Long, Joseph L. McLaurin, Alison and Kent Hay Atkins, Marsha Glenn Staffard, Ross Morrison, Jr., William T. Ballard, Holly Magargee, Ellis Aycock, St. Andrews Society of MacRae Meadows, W. McNair Tornow, and Lillian L. Magruder.

One of the highlights of this year's games had to be the Chelsea House Orchestra out of Michigan. What a great talented bunch of young people. Their director Jed Fritzeimer and I have been in contact about their returning to next year's games. If you missed them you missed a treat. Look for them when you return to Grandfather in 2011. You can also find them online. Purchase a CD from them to help insure their return to the 2011 GMHG. Also, this year we received glowing reviews from the public for the bands Brother (Australia), Albannach (Scotland), Clandestine (Texas), and Blessed Blend. I am sure that our concert production manager Donovan Murray will have a great lineup of bands and individuals again for next year.

Clan Kennedy has already contacted us and we plan on receiving their chief as one of our distinguished guests next year. If your clan is planning on bringing someone of note let us know so we can make arrangements for them. Also, local celebrity Tommy Burleson will be back again for next year's games as an ambassador for the GMHG.

We also plan on having Orville Hicks, a prominent local storyteller, return to tell Jack Tales to the children of all ages. It was a big hit with the kids this past July and we are diligently working to get him to return. If you did not pick up a copy of the Jack Tales book then you will want to look for one next July. One of our special authors, Julie Ebel, has rewritten the Jack Tales as told by Orville. These ancient teaching stories were brought over from the British Isles and passed down orally. Grandfather Mountain's neighbor, Beech Mountain, is one of the last places that these stories are told.

Due to the dire economic times the Board of Directors of the Games had to make some hard decisions for the Games to survive. Last year they decided to discontinue several of the satellite events that take place in Banner Elk and Boone. Attendance at the satellite events has continued to decrease while attendance on the mountain has been consistent through the years. Unfortunately this year we will not be able to have the Friday and Saturday Ceilidhs, Golf Tournament, Piping Concert, or Alex Beaton Concert.

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games continue to be the largest clan gathering in the world due to your participation and support. A survey of our advanced orders revealed that we had attendees from 36 states, 5 provinces in Canada and 3 foreign countries. The GMHG Board of Directors wants to thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at the 56th Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 7th - 10th, 2011.

Sincerely,

Frank Vance

Frank Vance
GMHG General Manager

Be a part of the Gathering!
Order tickets, camping, and patron
sponsorships online at www.gmhg.org

The 56th Annual Games Will Be Held July 7th - 10th, 2011

In Appreciation

Father Christopher Shares his Light Through His Lamps for the Offices of GMHG

We wanted to give special thanks to Father Christopher for donating lamps he hand constructed to be used in our offices in Linville. Here is a little background in his own words:

“When the old GMHG office was “purpose burned” and went down in a bit of fire and smoke, accompanied by appropriately melancholy tunes piped by Rebecca Witt, I was interested in hearing Frank Vance describe his vision for the new building which would soon be rising like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes. As the building took shape I began to realize that the GMHG offices would have the lighting most offices have, leaving huge room for adding decorative and task lighting. I thought to myself that lamps with Scottish overtones and flair ought to be part of the atmosphere in the executive and business offices of what is, after all, the Grandfather of Highland Games in America.

“Thus I began to build Scottish looking lamps. As tartan mad as I am, I realize that thistles are an equally strong and evocative Scottish motif, and several of the lamps I built for GMHG offices feature thistles. A favorite lamp features a hand carved wooden thistle which came from MacKenzie-Childs in Aurora, NY. Another features a combination of the official Grandfather Mountain tartan, shiny brass, and a silk shade bordered with hand-strung glass bead fringe in the pattern of thistles. The fringe was another nice find.

“It’s been fun for me to visualize a lamp and then build it—and besides that, it keeps me home at nights, for which my three kids [my dogs] are happy. Having set myself the assignment of providing accent lighting with a Scottish theme resulted in hours of fun for me, one of those proverbial ‘labors of love.’ I hope I’ve managed to make a handsome and appropriately themed contribution to the offices of Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.”

You have and we appreciate it greatly!

(Photos by Thomas Taylor, Sr.)



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Blue Ridge Brass & The Montreat Scottish Pipes and Drums Releases New CD

The Blue Ridge Brass and The Montreat Scottish Pipes and Drums would like to announce the release of their new CD, "Butterfly & Thistles". The CD contains 13 songs including "Killworth Hills", "Mull of Kintyre-Wooden Heart", and "The Gael-Last of the Mohicans".

Two of the songs feature Annie Joe Buchanan on vocals. The CD was recorded in Rosen Concert Hall, Hayes School of Music, on the campus of Appalachian State University, Boone, NC.

The CD is available online with a secure order form at www.gmhg.org.



(Photos by Helen Moss Hopper)



Chelsea House Orchestra



Young Piper



Children's Race

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