



# The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Newsletter

*Spring 2006*

## The President Speaks



The rehabilitation after my knee replacement has gone very well. I believe I am as good as new, and me and my knee are ready for the 2006 games

schedule. General manager Frank Vance tells me that despite the icy winter weather MacRae Meadows will be in top-notch shape for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary games July 6-9, 2006.

Board member Royce McNeill just returned from Siberia, looking for the proverbial "big bear". This was the year that he finally caught the big one, and he is currently at home working on his bear skin.

I am sure that board member Sandy Jones is preparing for his North American Piping Academy held before and after games. I understand that he and his wife Dorcas are happy in their new home in Brevard, NC.

The new GMHG headquarters building in Linville, NC is nearing completion. I am sure that the office staff cannot wait to get into the new building and get organized before games. I want to thank each of you who has made a contribution toward this building. As we put on the final touches, we are hoping to receive enough donations to make this office building truly special. The building has thus far been constructed from donations, without dipping into our reserve rain-out funds. I encourage games attendees to continue to offer support so that we can make this a landmark that we can all be proud of. I hope that you will stop in to see the new facilities during your time at Linville.

Enclosed you will find a survey regarding our Patron & Sponsor Reception. We would like to be able to move the reception back to Linville. Eseeola has renovated their facilities at the old Boy's Camp, which would make a wonderful reception site, with Grandfather Mountain in the background. We would very much like your input on this, and hope for a large response.

You may e-mail me at [highlandgames@vol.com](mailto:highlandgames@vol.com) regarding any new events you might suggest for our family-friendly Scottish games.

Ceud Mile Failte to you in 2006 at any and all Scottish games!

Sincerely,

*Ross Morrison,  
Jr.*

Ross Morrison, Jr.  
GMHG President



*"A Wee Bit of the Scottish Highlands in North Carolina!"*

## General Manager's Perspective



The games are just around the corner now. It seems like only a few weeks ago that closing ceremonies ended and tents were taken down. Now we are

quickly approaching the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As you can tell, we are gearing up for an exciting games this year, with many musical guests and special events.

To update you on the status of operations, we are beginning to move bits and pieces from our warehouse to the new office building. I know our staff is ready to make the move and is very excited about our new facilities.

I am looking forward to building the Cairn also, as I think it is very important to show visitors who it was that made our building possible. I would like to extend a special thank you to all those who have

made a contribution to our building fund, and hope that your generosity will continue as we put the finishing touches on things.

I would like to end on a very positive note. I am so proud to be part of an organization that gives back to the community. The 2006 scholarship recipients are wonderful students who I am sure will make the games proud. Health occupations scholarships were awarded to Courtney Henderson for Physical Therapy and April Barrier for Dental Hygiene. Mr. Morton's scholarship was given to Hope Jennings for Pre-Med. Three academic scholarships were awarded to Joshua Costner for Business, Kate Taylor for Business/Criminal Justice, and Holly Mottern for Political Science. I am proud of these young people, and know they will do well in their efforts.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon. Until then, I wish you all the best. Sincerely,

*Frank Vance*

General Manager and Vice President of Operations

## News from the Celtic Groves

2006 will see both familiar and new faces entertaining in the Celtic Groves. Since the inception, the Celtic Groves have been known for bringing the best in traditional and modern Celtic music to the Games. This year's mixture proves to be some of the best that Grandfather has offered.

**ALBANNACH**, familiar faces with a new name. These six former members of Clann an Drumma from Glasgow, Scotland will deliver the same foot stomping, heart pounding, dance inspiring, tribal sounds that have gained so much attention for the last three years at Grandfather. With the sound of drums and pipes you will be **TRIBALIZED**.

Also returning this year will be **HUNTING MCLEOD** from Canada, with their high energy, high bouncing performances. Games alumni, **ED MILLER**, will be back along with **SCOOTER MUSE** and **JIL CHAMBLISS** (Henri's Notion) to perform as a trio.

**Gael Warning** from Charlotte will return to the groves this year with a slightly different line up and new tunes. The **RIC BLAIR BAND** from Nashville will also return after wonderful crowd response in 2005 to their music, dance and humor. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, **JAMIE LAVAL**, will once again dazzle the audiences with his stirring tunes and energetic persona (minus the toothache).

The new kids this year are set to deliver show stopping performances and hail from across the US. **THE KILLDARES** from Texas will bring their hard driving sound and **MACTALLA MOR** out of New England will deliver their special brand of Celtic fusion to the mix. **HOOLY** from Birmingham, AL is the final freshman in the GMHG class of 2006 specializing in traditional tunes on numerous instruments.

## A New Date to Add to Your Calendar!

The **West Virginia Celtic Festival and Games** will be presented in Beckley, WV the weekend of **August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006**. This is being held at the YMCA Sports Complex and will offer a wide variety of activities for the whole family. Athletics, piping, dancing,

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clans & societies, herding demonstrations, great food, merchants' village, British cars and motorcycles, soccer demonstrations, re-enactors, artist demonstrations, children's activities, story telling and world class entertainment are all part of the fun. For more information please visit the host site for the games [www.visitwv.com](http://www.visitwv.com) or call **800-VISIT-WV (800-847-4898)** DON'T MISS IT, SEE YOU THERE!

## [Update on Celtic Grove Director Gary Morrison](#)

As many of you know that attended the 2005 games, it was reported that Gary Morrison, Director of the Celtic Groves, had been hospitalized. At the time we had few details other than the fact that he had required emergency surgery. We have learned since that the surgery uncovered stage four colon cancer. Gary has been receiving radiation treatments and should finish this phase of therapy in mid-February. Fortunately, doctors have found a reduction of the spots on his liver.

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, Linda was involved in an automobile accident after dropping Gary off for treatments and she received a neck injury along with other pains. They are both

working through their ailments while keeping positive attitudes.

Gary has stated that one of his goals this year will be to make it back to Grandfather to see his many friends, God willing. Please take a moment to remember the Morrison's in your thoughts and prayers.

**Gary & Linda Morrison**  
**616 Back River Neck Road**  
**Baltimore, MD 21221**  
**Cell: (410) 404-4783**

## [News on a Long-Time GMHG Merchant](#)

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Matt McConnell, a long-time merchant at our Games, of a heart attack. Mr. McConnell was the owner of Highland Heritage, Ltd. based out of Wilmington, Delaware. Although we are not aware of

arrangements at this time, we extend our deepest sympathies to the McConnell family and all those who knew Matt.

## [From Culloden to the Carolinas](#)

Miss Cornelia Bush, Certified Genealogist and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, will demonstrate how a person of Scottish-American ancestry can use military records, census records, land records, parish registers and the National Archives to trace back across the water to his/her roots in Scotland.

She will review the religious connections which pertain to Scots of Colonial American ancestry and recommend specific research tools for this important aspect of Scottish-American genealogical research. She will provide handouts recommending various books and websites of interest to Scottish-Americans, as well as sample forms for use while researching.

## [Contributors to the Building Fund](#)

Below is a list of those who have contributed to the GMHG Building Fund, and will therefore be recognized on our "Càrn Nan Càirdean" that will be erected adjacent to our new office in Linville, NC. If you would like to become a part of this prestigious group who have honored the GMHG with their support, visit our website ([www.gmhg.org](http://www.gmhg.org)) for details.

### **Flowers of the Forest Plaque (\$50.00 and up)**

Mr. William Macilwain in honor of Ruth Bradley Macilwain  
Mrs. Lillian Magruder in memory of Abbie Magruder  
Mrs. Marian Smith in memory of Julius C. Smith III  
Mr. John W. Murray in honor of Horace D. Murray, Lt. Chief of Clan Murray  
Clan MacNeill Association, Inc. in loving memory of Dr. Herbert P. & Ethel K. MacNeal  
Capt. & Mrs. O.W. Hamilton, Jr. in memory of Ashley Nicole Hamilton  
Sandy & Gloria Ross in memory of Donald Roy MacDonald of the '45  
House of Gordon in memory of Charles O. Gordon, Sr.  
Mrs. Richard Campbell in memory of Richard A. Campbell  
Marsha Glenn Stafford in honor of Kenneth E. Stafford  
Mr. Donald F. MacDonald in memory of Maritta MacLeod (Mrs. D.F.) MacDonald  
Royce Neil McNeill In loving memory of Doris Byrd McNeill, FSA Scot  
Clan Forrester Society, Inc. In Loving Memory of Edwin Jerald Forrester  
Anne & C. Herbert Magruder in memory of Lillian Magruder  
Laura Belle Macrae in memory of Bruce Farquhar Macrae  
Chris Snyder in memory of Daniel R. Potter, Clan Colquhoun  
A.T. (Tom) Skeen in memory of Flora McAndrew Skeen  
Frances Hunter in memory of James Monroe Buchan

William Hunter in memory of John Gray Hunter  
Duard & Elizabeth Barnes in memory of Nestor J. & Helen MacDonald  
Marilyn Creech in memory of Ruth Morrison  
Nancy Jeffries in memory of Matthew Skene Family  
Roger G. Ferguson in memory of Elizabeth McNeill Ferguson  
Clan MacNeil Assoc., Inc. In loving memory of Dr. Herbert P. & Ethel K. MacNeal  
Patricia Hutchens in memory of Robert H. McKinnon  
Mrs. Mary J. McEachern in Loving Memory of Mr. Sandy McEachern  
Judi McFadyen Smith In memory of C. Douglas McFadyen  
Douglas C. Henderson & Family In memory of Chieftain Claude A. Henderson of Manassas, VA  
R. Alice Cooper In Memory of Devan MacKenzie Gilliland  
Ron & Libby McGowan In Memory of Doris McNeill  
Gayle Sutherland In Memory of George William Sutherland  
Virginia & son Garner Stewart In Memory of Larry Keith Stewart  
Phillip R. Knight In Memory of Mary R. & Oliver M. Knight  
The Groves Family in memory of Robert W. Groves, Jr.  
The Groves Family in memory of Agnes MacRae Morton  
The Groves Family in memory of Rev. Dougal L. & Mary MacLean

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**Patrons Plaque (\$150,000.00 - \$50.00)**

Mr. Ellice MacDonald	Agnes M. Woodruff	Joseph Duncan	Phillip R. Knight
Mrs. Rosa MacDonald	Tom Price	Laura L. Buchanan	Rita & Oliver Hamilton
Mr. Petro Kulynych	Edward Mills	Robert Tate, Jr.	Pat & Joe Underwood
Ms. Helen Carr	Richard Taylor, Jr.	Sam & Kate Holbrooks	Mrs. Frank A. Swift, Jr.
Mr. Ross Morrison, Jr.	Donald Cameron	I. Neil MacInnis	Sandy & Dorcas Jones
Mr. Charles O. Gordon	Ken Buchanan	Kevin McGee	Dan, Holly, & Morgan Magargee
Mr. Alexander R. Hamilton	Vivian McFadyen	Dr. Ben Stone	Mae Wallace Bryson
Helen McLendon	William & Frances Hunter	Ted & Deanna Kaplan	KD Kennedy
John Monroe	Marc McCook	Lucille Payette	William & Elizabeth Keith
Ruth Johnston	K.D. Kennedy, Jr.	Aldor Pyatte	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Taylor
Marsha Glenn Stafford	Bernard Kaiman	Kevin McGee	Mike & Anna Seden
Dr. Ronald L. McGowan	John Williams	Michael Scott Fugate	Donald MacDonald
Arthur & Betty Wilson	R.H. Allen, M.D., FSA Scot	Alison & Kent Atkins,	James & Judy Allison
Royce & Doris McNeill	Patrick A. McCabe	Curtis & Pamela Stewart Mitchell	

**Sponsoring Clans & Societies Plaque (\$500.00 and up)**

Clan Buchanan Society International	Macfie Society of America
Clan Currie Society	International Association of Clan MacInnes
Donnachaidh of the Carolinas	Clan MacLachlan Association of North America
Donnachaidh Mid-Atlantic Branch	I Clan MacLaren Society of North America
American Clan Gregor Society	ClanClan MacRae Society of North America
House of Gordon	Montreat Scottish Society
Clan Grant Society USA	ClanClan Morrison/Gilmore
Hamilton Society	St. Andrew's Society of the City of Savannah
Clan Keith Society USA	
MacDuffee/Macfie Clan Society of America	

**Friends of the Games Plaque (\$25,000.00 - \$50.00)**

Gordon & Mary Cain Foundation	St. Andrew's Society of the City of Atlanta	Doris Byrd McNeill Family
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin L. Jones	Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Griggs	Margaret Patterson-McElwain
Grandfather Mountain Marathon	David W. Schultz	Gary McDougald Short
Buck Stove Corporation, Inc.	The Hon. Earl of Dalhousie	James E. Fargo
Linville Falls Community Church	Tommy Webster	Edward B. Fargo
Broyhill Family Foundation	Beth Johnston	Andrew J. Fargo
First Presbyterian Church of Johnson City	Laura Glasscock	North American Academy of Piping
Hugh Fields	David Glasscock	The Wesley Family
Martha Ann Moore	Tonya Mills	Clan MacNab
Grandfather Mtn. Branch of Clan Cameron	Barbara Patterson	Kennedy Society of North America
Volunteer Flooring (Roan Mtn., TN)	George & Jane Liles	Clan MacLeod Society USA
Skene Family	R. Hunter Tate III	John & Jean Wiarda
Ben Stone	Mrs. David Mettetal, Sr.	Robert S. & Rosemary B. Pollock
Margaret Blackmer	Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Haigler	Debra McNeill Deaton
Paul Bell	Mae Bryson	James Neil McNeill
Clan MacRae	Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Griggs	Teresa McNeill Richardson
Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Ctr.	Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie Haigler	Bonnie McNeill Richardson
The Honorable Earl of Dalhousie	William & Elizabeth Bailey	Lisa (Hay) M. Loy
Clan Donald	Tyrone & Jan Cosson	
Clan MacCallum/Malcolm	Mrs. Frank A. Swift, Jr.	

**Grandfather Mountain Highland Games  
& Gathering of Scottish Clans**  
P.O. Box 1095  
Linville, NC 28646-1095



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