



The Clishmaclaver



Newsletter of the Clan Donnachaidh Society, UpperMidwest

June 2010 Issue

Big Turnout Expected for 24th Annual Scottish Festival & Highland Games at Oak Brook

By Jim Robertson Ward, Editor, *The Clishmaclaver*

“The Midwest’s largest and best Scottish Festival” is the immodest statement of this year’s President of the Illinois St. Andrew Society, Gus Noble. On June 18th and 19th, the extensive collection of events and activities will spread out over the massive Oak Brook Polo Fields surrounded by the giant trees that give the fields its name.

Some Clan members will be arriving early for the events of Friday the 18th when many of the Vendors will be setting up their tents, with official hours between 4 and 8 p.m. The main attraction on Friday will be the Ceilidh (pronounced Kay-Lee) kicking off at 7 and lasting until 10 p.m. on the Celtic Rock stage. Other Friday events will be the crowning of the Heather Queen and her Court, plus Whiskey tastings and seminars. The Highland Dance competition will begin, as well as the Heavy Athletics Friday Night Fling.

The following day, Saturday, June 19th, the Games begin in earnest, with the grounds opening at 8 a.m. with a crowded schedule. Your Clan Donnachaid hosts will be on hand early to erect the Clan Tests and assemble the display, banners and other exhibits. The Clan area, located adjacent to the parade grounds and Rugby area, will be bustling with activity.

Meanwhile, the Champion Supreme Piping and Drumming competition will get started in the performance area while in the Athletic competition area the U. S. Open Championships will take place in various traditional events. (continued on next page)

OAK BROOK GAMES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The highlight of the Clan Members' day will be the participation in the "Parade of the Tartans" mid-day. The Clan Flag and various banners will be removed from the Tent and carried to the assemblage point for the "review" before the visiting dignitaries and Parade Committee. So if you are watching one of the competitions, be sure to plan to make the Parade. Assembly is scheduled for 12:30p.m., at the north end of the field. If you are able to assist by carrying one of our banners, please report to the Tent earlier to obtain your assignment.

To assist you in understanding and enjoying the Athletic Championships, here are the various events and what they entail:

Event Title	What it Involves
CABER TOSS	Flipping at 20 foot, 140 pound tree trunk so that it lands nose down and falls forward.
HAMMER THROW	Heaving a 22 pound ball the furthest distance
SHEAF TOSS	Flipping a bale of hay over a very high bar using a pitchfork.
THE CLACHNERT	Tossing a 16 pound river stone for distance

The Highland Dance Competition continues from the previous day and has a variety of style classifications and age brackets. Rugby Sevens will occupy the playing field during a good party of the day.

Children's activities include min-golf, crafts and carnival attractions. Traditional Displays, such as the British Car Show and Dogs of Scotland Presentation continue throughout the day.

Out of the Ordinary events will take place, such as the Knobbly Knees contest for Men, the Haggis Hurling Contest for Women, the Haggis Eating Contest, and the Shortbread Competition.

Whiskey tasting and seminars will be held, as well as the Kilted Mile Fun Walk. Visitors will also be treated to Musical Performances on the Celtic Rock Stage and the Arts and Culture Stage. Of course, shopping in the Celtic Marketplace will be sure to draw large crowds of shoppers for many kinds of merchandise from jewelry to apparel.

Closing ceremonies and Massed Bands end the day in a breath-taking spectacle of 1,000 bagpipes and drummers, joined in performing musical selections, including *Amazing Grace*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where does the time go?

The game season is underway and I've managed to miss the first three games due to my lovely bride's recovery from hip surgery. But we should be able to get back on the road in time for the Milwaukee Games on June 5th. I can hardly wait!

The kilt is cleaned. A new shirt replaces the old. The quaichs are ready. The Scotch is to hand. The comfy shoes are poised and polished. I'll be looking for some new hose.

And I'm getting excited to be going to the Games again. I want to greet old friends and meet new ones. I want to see who's back and who's missing. I want to hear the skirt of the pipes and the tattoo of the drums. I want to hear the coo's lowing and grunting in the background – or was that the heavy athletes?

I want to smell the bridies and scotch eggs cooking and tea brewing. I want to taste a scone or dod o' shortbread. I want to see what interesting treasures are available from the Vendors this year. I also want to hear people's family stories and tell a few of the Clan's stories, too. I want to see the pendants and banners and flags and tents. I want to admire the weapons displays and demonstrations.

Around the grounds I want to watch the various athletes running or throwing or tossing. I want to see the dancers fling themselves into the air to the accompaniment of the pipes. I want to hear a wee tune and join in a singsong. I want to see the wee'uns playing and the young folks cavorting and mature folk ambling along. I want to share a tippie with like minded folk and compare the flavors of the day.

It's time. Are you ready? Are you coming? I certainly hope so. See you there, for auld lang syne.

Slainte,

Russ Read, President, CDSUM

CLAN COUNCIL SETS TENTATIVE DATE FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A last-minute consensus of the Council has been reached. The Council plans call for holding the Clan Society's Annual General Meeting in connection with the Quad Cities Games, on Sunday morning 19/September.

As usual, this date conflicts with some members' already-established plans. However, it seems to be the date most favored by the group. Final plans for venue and time will be announced later, but is expected to follow the same scheme as adopted for the past few years.

All members of the Clan Society are cordially invited and encouraged to attend. This is the time when Society business is conducted, Council members are elected and Society leader positions are elected. It is also the opportunity to get as many of the Clan Society members together as possible.

Please mark this date on your calendar so we can enjoy your participation.

ILLINOIS SAINT ANDREW SOCIETY, ***24th ANNUAL SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES*** **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: JUNE 18-19, 2010**

GENERAL SCHEDULE

Friday, June 18

4:00-8:00 pm Tents open

Saturday, June 19

8:00am-3:00 pm Soccer 3v3 Youth Tournament (Soccer Field)
9:00 am-5:30 pm Tents open
12:30-12:50 pm Parade of Clan Tartans (Athletics Field)
12:50-1:00 pm Falconry and Hunting Dog demonstration (Athletics Field)
2:30 pm Shortbread Contest judging
4:00-4:30 pm Haggis Hurling Contest (Athletics Field)
4:30-5:00 pm Haggis Eating Contest (Athletics Field)
6:00-6:45 pm Closing Ceremonies/Massed Bands (Athletics Field)

CELTIC ROCK STAGE

Friday, June 18

6:30-7:00 pm Heather Queen Contest
7:00-8:15 pm Celtic rock by *Searson*
8:15-8:45 pm *MidNight Tribe Belly Dancers*
8:45-10:00 pm Celtic rock by *The Killdares*

Saturday, June 19

10:30-11:45 am	Celtic rock by <i>Reilly</i>
12:00-1:00 pm	Radio Disney AM 1300 Road Crew
1:15-2:30 pm	Celtic rock by <i>Searson</i>
2:30-3:00 pm	Knobbly Knees Contest
3:00-4:15 pm	Celtic rock by <i>The Killdares</i>
4:30-5:45 pm	Celtic rock by <i>Reilly</i>
6:45-7:00 pm	Winning Pipe Band
7:00-7:45 pm	Celtic rock by <i>Searson</i>
7:45-8:00 pm	<i>MidNight Tribe Belly Dancers</i>
8:00-9:00 pm	Celtic rock by <i>The Killdares</i>

ARTS & CULTURE TENT**Friday, June 18**

5:15-5:45 pm	Presentation by <i>University of Stirling</i>
6:00-6:45 pm	Harp demonstration & performance by <i>Lynne Ostfeld</i>
7:00-8:00 pm	University of Stirling Alumni meeting

Saturday, June 19

9:15-10:00 am	Highland Piping & Celtic Fiddling performance by <i>David and Maggie Danaher</i>
10:00-10:45 am	Presentation on "Growing up in Medieval Scotland" by <i>Mike McClellan</i>
11:00-11:45 am	Harp demonstration & performance by <i>Lynne Ostfeld</i>
12:00-12:30 pm	Presentation on "The History of Scottish Automobiles" by <i>Darrel Babuk</i>
1:00-1:45 pm	Performance by <i>Evanston Scottish Country Dancers</i>
2:00-2:30 pm	Presentation on "The Value of Traditional Highland Games and Their Importance in Society" by <i>Professor Grant Jarvie</i>
2:30-3:00 pm	Presentation on "History of a Burns Supper featuring Scottish Toasts" by <i>David and Jane Fleming</i>
3:00-3:45 pm	Performance by <i>Royal Scottish Country Dancers</i>
4:00-4:30 pm	Presentation by Scottish author, <i>Audrey McClellan</i>
4:30-5:00 pm	Presentation by <i>University of Stirling</i>

CLAN DEMONSTRATION AREA**Saturday, June 19**

10:30-11:00am	Falconry seminar by <i>Northern Illinois Raptor Center</i>
11:00-11:30am	Demonstration by <i>Chicago Swordplay Guild</i>
11:30-Noon	Falconry seminar by <i>Northern Illinois Raptor Center</i>
Noon-12:30 pm	Color Guard Inspections by <i>Chicago Highland Rifles</i>
1:00-1:30 pm	Falconry seminar by <i>Northern Illinois Raptor Center</i>
1:30-2:00 pm	Genealogy presentation by <i>Scottish Genealogy Group</i>
2:00-2:30 pm	Color Guard inspections by <i>Chicago Highland Rifles</i>
2:30-3:00 pm	Demonstration by <i>Chicago Swordplay Guild</i>
3:00-3:30 pm	Genealogy presentation by <i>Scottish Genealogy Group</i>
3:30-4:00 pm	Color Guard inspections by <i>Chicago Highland Rifles</i>
4:00-4:30 pm	Demonstration by <i>Chicago Swordplay Guild</i>

HEAVY ATHLETICS COMPETITION**Friday, June 18**

4:00 pm Braemar Stone, Clachneart Stone, Weight Throw, Hammer, Caber Toss and Sheaf Toss

Saturday, June 19

9:00-9:45 am	28 lb. Braemar Stone
9:45-10:30 am	16 lb. Clachneart Stone
10:30-11:15 am	56 lb. Weight Throw for Distance
11:15-12:00 pm	28 lb. Weight Throw for Distance
12:00-12:30 pm	22 lb. Hammer
1:30-2:30 pm	Caber Toss
2:30-3:15 pm	20 lb. Sheaf Toss
3:15-4:00 pm	56 lb. Weight Throw for Height

RUGBY COMPETITION**Friday, June 18**

6:30 pm	15-side Exhibition Game
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Saturday, June 19

9:00am-12:30 pm	Competitions
12:30-1:30 pm	15-Side Exhibition Game
1:30-3:30 pm	Semi-Finals
3:30-5:30 pm	Finals

HIGHLAND DANCE COMPETITION**Friday, June 18**

4:00 pm	Register at the Admission Gate
4:30 pm	Nationals Registration at Dance Tent
5:00 pm	Nationals Competition at Dance Tent

Saturday, June 19

7:30 am	Register at the Admission Gate
8:00 am	Pre-Premier Registration at Dance Tent
8:30 am	Pre-Premier Competition
11:00 am	Intermediate, Premier, Registration
1:00 pm	Intermediate, Premier Competition

MIDWEST PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP**Saturday, June 19**

7:00 am	Register at the Admission Gate
8:00 am	Solo Contests begin
10:00 am	Band Reps meeting at Piping Tent
1:00 pm	Pipe Band Competition
6:00-6:45 pm	Closing Ceremonies/Massed Bands

CHILDREN'S AREA**Friday, June 18**

4:00-8:00 pm	Mini-golf, tattoos, balloons, mini-athletics and crafts
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Saturday, June 19

9:00am-5:30 pm	Mini-golf, tattoos, balloons, mini-athletics, sand art and crafts
11:00 am	Tug o War (Adults 13+)
11:30 am	Tug o War (Children 12 & Under)
11:30-4:30 pm	Face Painting
Noon -3:30 pm	Train
12:00-4:00 pm	Petting Zoo
2:00 pm	Tug o War (Adults 13+)
2:30 pm	Tug o War (Children 12 & Under)

Minnesota Scottish Fair and Highland Games

Suffer Though Difficult Weather Day

By Sherrill Carlson

Jon and I set up the Clan tent on Friday afternoon, with canvas tied down strongly. On arrival early at 7 a.m. at the Dakota Fair Grounds fog was in the air and the grass was wet. After our setup we stopped and visited Dan and Marian Robertson's Tea House layout and found the day's Program.

Early visitors arrived and so did dark and ominous skies, followed by rain. This was in contrast to a warm and sunny day forecast. Jon carried the tartan flag in the Calling of the Clans at 10 a.m. Then the rain began in earnest. By noon it looked as if things would stop—only temporarily, but the Parade of the Tartans continued. I was concerned about Jon's returning, or if he might end up crispy-crittered from a lightning strike. The tartan flag has a metal pole and that thought crossed my mind; it might have proven to be a lightning rod! Thankfully, he was safe.

As the day moved on the traffic in the tent improved and visitors admired Jon's buckled crest carving and a "thistle-within-a-knotwork" ring puzzle. Jon received several orders for his craft items and Clan décor. Notable tent guest was a Scottish gentleman with his two American granddaughters.

A new problem for fairgoers—the rain stopped, but 40 mph wind gusts came up; tent canopies billowed and their frames swayed! Looking up at our canopy I saw that the stitching had become undone and that the framework had gone through the hole. We grabbed the canvas and clamped it down—but by 4:30 banners turned into sails and we "packed it in"—securing everything in boxes—fighting the wind as we hoped we wouldn't become a human kite.

Our shutdown preceded the closing cannon sounding by a few minutes. We recovered the car from the lot, headed down Clan Row and stowed away the soggy boxes and damaged tent.

The next day we awoke with aching muscles and joints. The car was unpacked, and the boxes carefully repacked. No official snow or tornado rating—but everything else plagued this year's event. Thankfully some "hardy Scots" withstood the impact of the weather to make for passable attendance records.

CLAN NEWSLETTER EDITOR REPORTS ON NEW POLYCOTTON TARTAN FABRIC

By Stephanie Robertson, Editor – Clan Newsletter

I can now report on the results of the consultation of members on a new Robertson Hunting Tartan Polycotton. A significant majority of the people who responded to the consultation preferred the largest pattern shown.

It also turned out that we had to choose the exact colours. Two ladies on the Clan Society Council chose the colours from those provided.

Janet Washington of Claire Charles Designs in Pitlochry, who is commissioning the polycotton, agreed that the size and colours were a good choice. She has put in an order for the polycotton to be made up; it will arrive on June 28th.

If people would like to receive samples of the polycotton, they can send an e-mail to Janet Washinton, giving their name and postal address, just before the 28th of June. If there are several people in the same area who would like to receive samples, it would be possible to send the requisite number of samples to one address for local distribution.

E-mails requesting samples can be sent to: janet@clairecharlesdesigns.co.uk

Here is Janet Washington at Claire Charles Designs' website:

<http://www.clairecharlesdesigns.co.uk>

There is hope for commissioning other Clan Donnachaidh tartans in polycotton. Janet Washington asks for a least 18 people to express an interest and for a sample of the tartan to be provided. Presumably it would also be possible to request a different size of sett or variations in the colours for the same tartan (e.g. Ancient, Modern) if it could be shown that at least 18 people would be interested.



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