



Rural Hill
Where History Springs Alive

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Facilitated in cooperation with
Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation

Rural Hill Piper

Winter Newsletter 2010



A Note From Ed...

Albannach
HERE FOR THE SECOND TIME,
STRAIGHT FROM SCOTLAND.



"Outlawed tunes on Outlawed pipes"
albannachmusic.com
PLAYING SATURDAY APRIL 17TH
AND SUNDAY APRIL 18TH ONLY AT
THE RURAL HILL SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
AND LOCH NORMAN HIGHLAND GAMES
RURALHILLSCOTTISHFESTIVALS.NET

The 17th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games are ahead of us and we are getting ready! With record attendance at our fall events, we expect to be busy with fellowship and fun!

NEW this year – online ticket purchasing! The ability to purchase directly will continue to improve our customer service and coordination of sales. Also we are expanding our "Kids Zone," adding a grandstand on the field and will have Celtic Rock performances. Watch for our *Special Bulletin*.

We are also partnering with the Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce for The Kilted Clay Shoot to be held April 10 at Meadow Wood Farm. Proceeds will benefit the Major Davidson Clock Fund and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mecklenburg County. Visit our website for full details and registration information.

As we continue to grow and welcome more visitors to Rural Hill and its programs, we continue to need your support both financially and in volunteer hours. For financial support, please consider the Rural Hill Living History Fund. The Fund helps make it possible for thousands of families and school children to experience Rural Hill each year. Forms are available on our website, or can be mailed.

Please contact me with any questions or to find out how you can get involved. I sincerely appreciate your continued support of the Catawba Valley Scottish Society and Rural Hill.

Ed McLean, Executive Director
ed@ruralhill.net or 704-875-3113



Presented by:
Catawba Valley
Scottish Society
Lake Norman
Chamber of
Commerce
Major Davidson
Clock Fund
Big Brothers
Big Sisters of
Mecklenburg
County
April 10, 2010

THE KILTED CLAY SHOOT

 LAKE NORMAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Official Welcome to Zac, Kelly and Freddie

After their great management efforts last fall, Rural Hill is proud to announce that Zac Vinson and Kelly Franklin joined the staff in December. In addition, Freddie Brown has recently joined. We welcome them each to Rural Hill!

Educational Programs Manager, **Zac Vinson**, lives near Crouse, NC with his wife Kathy and two sons, Avett Alexander (3), and Liam Lewis (10 mos.) Zac has an Associate's Degree in Fine Art from Gaston College, a Bachelor's Degree in Sculpture from Winthrop University, and is currently a senior in Winthrop University's Graduate School for Arts Administration. Zac's interests lie with the early history and culture of Southern America, particularly in regards the methods and practices of daily life. Zac is hard at work developing new educational programs. Please watch our website for what's new.

Currently writing his thesis on the practice of experiential education within settings of living history, Zac hopes to build an impressive slate of educational programming that combines and bridges the rich history of Rural Hill with the arts, agriculture, and natural science.

Growing up in the foothills of western North Carolina, **Kelly Franklin** developed an appreciation for history, geography and farming. He learned about life on a farm from his grandparent's eighteen acre hobby farm in Burke County. After graduating high school Kelly attended Western Piedmont Community College in Morganton, NC and then transferred to UNC Chapel Hill where he received his degree in Geography. Kelly has volunteered the last three years at Rural Hill and he is Rural Hill's resident beekeeper. Kelly's former career was in sales with the NASCAR related company Motorsports-Authentic.

We also welcome **Freddie Brown** to our staff. Many of our CVSS members and friends remember Freddie from his many years of working at Rural Hill during our events and also helping to restore Rural Hill.

Freddie is a life-long resident of Mecklenburg County, having grown up in Huntersville on Fred Brown Rd. He spent most of his working career at the GMC Truck Center as a painter and body person, and at Freightliner LLC as a painter. Freddie and his wife, Tina, have volunteered for CVSS and Rural Hill since 1996 and also sponsor a tent for the Olde Mecklenburg Genealogical Society, Hopewell Branch. He is a volunteer for Habitat for Humanities Critical Home Repair and is active in his church, Hopewell Presbyterian Church.



First Footin' Started the New Year Right

Rural Hill's annual First Footin' event on January 1 was a success with more than 100 in attendance to step off into 2010. A good time was had by all as they joined the celebration of Hogmanay and shared the story of "Stone Soup" as presented by John Taggart with the soup served by Eddie Ferguson and friends.

Everyone here at Rural Hill wish your family and friends "good will and good fortune in the New Year."





Planning for the Future

At a meeting of the Board of Directors meeting in early November, a Vision Committee was formed for the strategic planning for 3, 5 and 10 year milestones. The committee will be comprised of Sarah McAulay, Pat Wheeler, Maurice McIntosh and L.D. Bass.

The process will include a fresh look at the first "Master Plan" for Rural Hill that was developed over a three year period. 1998 – 2001. That Master Plan had been reviewed and approved by Mecklenburg County and several agencies that have an interest in the preservation of Rural Hill and its surrounds.

The CVSS and staff at Rural Hill will work with Mecklenburg County and Huntersville during the next 18 months to prepare a revised or new Master Plan for the next 10 years.

Members and friends of Rural Hill are invited to please share your ideas and suggestions! Email your thoughts to ed@ruralhill.net.

First Year of Hay Sales

Our first year of baling and selling hay is complete and we are hard at work preparing for the year ahead.

2009 was the first year that we ventured into "hay" production. We found out that we can grow and harvest hay! We also found out that we can sell hay! The barn is empty!!! We have sold our complete inventory except for what we need for our own animals.

The sale of hay to the Latta Equestrian Center and several other local horse owners directly supports the CVSS and Rural Hill. We hope to increase our production and sales for 2010. Please send your information to office@ruralhill.net if you want to be added to our contact list for potential hay purchases in 2010.

Mark Your Calendars!

National Tartan Day

April 6

The Kilted Clay Shoot

April 10

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games

April 16 - 18

County Celebrates Purchase of Holly Bend

On December 2, 2009, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department held a special ceremony at the colonial era "Holly Bend" house, which is on the 211-acre property at 3710 Neck Road, Huntersville, just west of Rural Hill.



Bob McIntosh, CVSS Chairman, plus several board members and the Rural Hill staff attended the ceremony. Holly Bend will be a place where additional historic interpretation of the Major John Davidson family can be expanded.

Because of its location, this land presents an important opportunity to protect Mountain Island Lake, which provides more than 80% of public drinking water in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. The County designated the land a Park and Recreation nature preserve. Keeping the land in natural condition protects the lake from pollution and development, as well as from chemical and sediment runoff.

Purchase of the land cost \$6.6 million, paid for by County land bonds approved by voters. The site includes the historic Holly Bend house, built in 1800 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house was built by Robert Davidson, son of John and Violet Davidson, and was once center of a 2800 acre plantation. Park and Recreation plans to restore the house in partnership with preservation groups and eventually open it for public tours and events.

Cook Book Project- 2010

It has been decided - we need a Rural Hill Cook Book. Now we need your help - especially your favorite recipes!

There will be helpful hints, photos from our activities, detailed historic information and pictures about the Davidson family and their generations at Rural Hill, and much more.

The committee needs everyone's help to see this Rural Hill fundraiser project come to completion. We need more than 700 recipes!



Please send your recipes to kelly@ruralhill.net, snail mail them to Rural Hill, or give us a call and we will help you make copies of handwritten recipes.

And...many thanks to those who have already submitted their recipes.

Thank you, The Cookbook Committee

Catawba Valley Scottish Society

Board of Directors

Robert G. McIntosh, *Chair*

Jim Puckett, *Vice Chair*

R. Gary Keith, *Secretary*

Maurice D. McIntosh, *Treasurer*

L.D. Bass, Jr.

Sarah Belk Gambrell

Sarah McAulay

Trey Barnette III

John L. Taggart

Pat Wheeler

Royce Hagaman

Sam Fuller

Staff

Ed McLean, *Executive Director*

Mark Vandivier, *Office Manager*

Zac Vinson, *Education
Programs Manager*

Kelly Franklin, *Event Manager*

Freddie Brown, *Operations*

Mission

The mission is to educate people about the culture, heritage and contributions of the Scots and Scot-Irish and to provide venues for recognizing and celebrating their rich legacy.



Join the Catawba Valley Scottish Society

We invite you to either join the Catawba Valley Scottish Society or renew your membership, and help support the rich heritage of Rural Hill as we seek to preserve and sustain the 265 acres which was the original homestead of Major John and Violet Wilson Davidson and dates back to 1760.

The Catawba Valley Scottish Society, Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. Individual memberships are \$30, Couples Memberships are \$55 and Family Memberships are \$65 annually. Membership fees support the restoration and maintenance of Historic Rural Hill, its education programs and annual events.

Find details at www.ruralhill.net.

Membership provisions include:

- 10% Discount on all merchandise
- The Rural Hill Piper Newsletter
- Invitations to Members socials and special receptions