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Grandfather Mountain 2014



Interested in Scottish Gaelic, the ancient and revered tongue of Scotland that's spoken and sung today? Please join us for the 16th Annual Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week, July 6-11, 2014, at Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC.

An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach (The American Scottish Gaelic Society, ACGA) brings you three distinguished Gaelic Instructors for a week of educational and fun-filled classes at Beinn Seanair (Grandfather Mountain, in Gaelic). Christine Primrose is a Scottish Royal National Mòd gold medal winner for Gaelic song. Angus MacLeod is a revered story-teller and has worked in short Gaelic films. They will be teaching the intermediate and advanced classes. Nicholas (Neacal) Freer, a Gaelic learner and experienced teacher, will conduct the beginners' classes.

This year's instructors



Christine Primrose is a native of Carloway, Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides. As part of growing up in a traditional Gaelic community, she began singing at a young age. Christine is a Gold Medal winner for Gaelic singing at the Scottish Royal National Mòd for 1974 and her recent accolades include "Gaelic Singer of the Year" at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards in 2009. Her tours have taken her worldwide, including Europe, North America, Australia, and New Zealand, taking her distinctive voice and the Gaelic language to a wide audience. She is also in demand as a tutor: she currently tutors on the (BA) Gaelic and Traditional Music Course at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig. We are delighted to have her join us at Beinn Seanair.

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Here's a fun clip of Christine in "Kitchen Music"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkpvDIXovt8> where she not only makes the meal, but sings for it, too!

Another clip of Christine performing Mo Cheist Am Fear Ban' / My Darling Is the Fair One

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ne4UIEWjXE&list=PL280DBF3DE164A29F>

Here's an interesting article about Christine: <http://www.folkmusic.net/htmlfiles/inart663.htm>



Angus MacLeod is a Gaelic speaker, singer, storyteller, artist, writer and actor. He was born to Gaelic speaking parents in a Cape Breton Gaidhealtachd. He learned Gaelic on his own through song and by speaking with local elders, augmented by classes at various institutions in Nova Scotia. Angus began teaching in 1998. Since then he has taught Gaelic language and song at the Gaelic College of Arts and Crafts, St. Francis Xavier University, and Cape Breton University and at many venues throughout Canada and the U.S. Along with being a performer for Celtic Colours Festival for many years, Angus has appeared as an actor in three Gaelic short films. Angus was the first instructor in North America to use the Total Immersion Plus methodology for teaching Gaelic. He is presently Vice-President of, and a teacher with, the Atlantic Gaelic Academy as well as teaching in-person classes in Cape Breton, online classes as a private instructor and writing a bi-weekly Gaelic / English blog for Celticheart.ca.

He is a renowned story-teller and also an accomplished Gaelic singer who conducts Gaelic song workshops in Nova Scotia. We offer him the heartiest of welcomes to Beinn Seanair.

Click here to see Angus in the first Gaelic language short film made in North America, Faire Chaluim MhicLeoid / The Wake of Calum MacLeod <http://vimeo.com/7221607>

Here's Angus in a excerpt from the 2012 Gaelic rendition of Edgar Allen Poe's The Tell-Tale Heart / An Cridhe Cabaireach http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqU51d_ZTIA



Nicholas (Neacal) Freer has been a student of Gaelic since 1988 and began teaching beginner and intermediate level students in 1995. A keen student himself, Neacal has attended the Gaelic College in St. Ann's (Nova Scotia), Sabhal Mor Ostaig (Skye), as well as studying with Morag Craig at Cothrom Na Feinne. He served as US National Gaelic Mòd Chair from 2004 to 2010. He has won multiple gold medals in story-telling and been interviewed on Reidio nan Gaidheal. Several of Neacal's students have gone on to compete at the Scottish Royal National Mòd and in the US

- February 2013
- December 2012
- October 2012
- September 2012
- August 2012
- July 2012
- June 2012
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National Mòd. Known as an energetic teacher who adds humor and merriment to the learning experience, we are pleased to have Neacal join us this summer.

Gaelic song and language classes will range from absolute beginners to advanced, so everyone can join in the fun. Every afternoon there will be additional activities, such as special topic workshops and hikes along the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain Trails.

For those who choose to stay on for the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games the following weekend, there will be plenty of Gaelic heard at the Gaelic Tent, including the Gaelic sing-alongs. The 18th Annual North Carolina Provincial Gaelic Mòd will be held Saturday afternoon. The Mod is a Gaelic song competition that is open for anyone who wishes to take part.

Cìsean [[Fees]]

All instruction, lodging for 5 nights and 3 meals a day from Sunday evening dinner to Friday lunch are included. There are options for tuition only, for those not staying at the college and for family members not attending classes as well.

Cafeteria meals are quite good and provide a good selection to cater to most diets. A salad bar is offered at almost every meal and an ice cream bar is always available as well. Further meals and additional dorm room nights are available for a reasonable charge from the college for those staying for the Highland Games.

Please note that all fees are required to be paid by mail or by PayPal prior to the event. Except in extreme circumstances, we do not intend to receive payments at the event itself.

Tiolacan [[Donations]]

To keep the fees low, we ask for your support in donations. Cash donations (go [here](#) for information) are always welcome and items for the Silent Auction are a great help also! Bring down stuff and then you'll have room in your luggage for the wonderful things you pick up at the Book Sale and the Silent Auction!

If you can't make it to Grandfather this year, perhaps you have some items you could send down for the Silent Auction. Perhaps you can persuade a friend who can attend to sign up!

Thank you!

Clàr-Ùine [[Schedule]]

Check in will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 on Sunday afternoon. Dinner will be available for those who arrive before 6 pm. Classes will begin Monday and run through noon on Friday. There are a variety of special interest sessions being planned for the afternoon and opportunities for fellowship with other Gaelic learners in the evening.

Fiosrachadh Teicneolach [[IT]]

For those wishing to bring laptops, etc., the wireless network at Lees-McRae College will be available. Here's a link to the Lees-McRae College FAQ on IT: http://www.lmc.edu/student_life/technology_services/faq.htm

Siubhal [[Travel]]

If you will be flying, the nearest airports are Tri-Cities, Tennessee, and Charlotte, North Carolina. Take a look at the Town of Banner Elk Web site.

Van Service from Charlotte Airport to Lees-McRae College Banner Elk

Contact Dan with Air Haven Limo

Dana@airhavenlimo.com

828-265-2504

828-265-2504

Directions to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, NC, from Johnson City, TN, and the Tri-Cities Airport area:

Take 321 northeast from Johnson City to Elizabethton. From Elizabethton continue east on 19E across the state line to Elk Park, NC. At Elk Park go left on 194 to Banner Elk. As you come to the top of the hill and enter Banner Elk, Lees-McRae College is on your right. Total driving time from Johnson City is about one hour. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

Directions to Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina, from Charlotte, North Carolina, and the Charlotte Douglas International airport:

NOTE: These directions are not the same as Mapquest or Yahoo! but are better suited to those not familiar with mountain driving.

Directions to Lees-McRae College from Charlotte airport:

When you come out of the airport, head for Interstate 85 NORTH. Interstate 85 N will soon junction with Interstate 77.

- Take Interstate 77 north. Follow this until the junction with US Highway 421.
- Then take US Highway 421 West until you reach Boone, NC. You are almost there now.
- Simply take Highway 105 south in Boone until you get to the Scottish Shopping Village of Tynecastle where you will see a big sign for Grandfather Mountain.
- There will also be signs there telling you to turn right on Highway 184 to get to Banner Elk. Banner Elk is only a few miles from there and the town is so small you cannot miss the college. When you come to the T-junction at the traffic light (the only one in Banner Elk), turn left and the college will be on your left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

Scenic directions:

From Charlotte Douglas International Airport, take I-485 to I-85 West. Take I-85 to 321 North, at Exit 17. Follow 321 through Hickory and Lenoir to Boone. At Boone, turn left onto Rte 105 at large intersection. Take Rte 105 approximately 15 miles and turn right at the traffic light onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy). Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194 in Banner Elk. Turn left. Lees-McRae College is on the left.

From Rte. 421 in Boone, NC:

Take Rte 105 South approximately 15 miles and turn right at the stoplight onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy.) Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194. Take a left. Lees McRae College is on the left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

From Rte. 221 in Linville, NC:

Take Rte 105 North and turn left at the stoplight onto Rte 184 (Tynecastle Hwy.) Stay on Rte 184 until it ends at Rte 194. Take a left. Lees McRae College is on the left. See *** below for directions to help with finding the dorm.

Directions to our lodging

Detailed directions to our lodgings will be posted here when confirmed.

An Aimsir [[The Weather]]

Temperatures usually range in the low 60's to mid 80's during July. The weather is normally beautiful and cool. However, it can be hot, and it can be cold. It is advisable to bring both a fan for your room and a blanket for your bed. Shorts and lightweight long pants are both appropriate as are short sleeved t-shirts and light weight sweaters. A raincoat or umbrella is also advised just in case the weather doesn't cooperate.

Rudan Feumail [[Useful Things]]

Dorm Room Items:

- Bed linens and pillow (Those who drive are encouraged to bring their own. If you wish to rent these, \$25.00 will be due upon arrival at college. Rentals should be requested in advance. Do not add to fees.)
- Blanket for your bed
- Towels and washcloths
- Fan for your dorm room
- Desk lamp

Personal Items:

- Laptop computer, if you wish to use one during the week. Service is wireless. Have your computer updated with all Windows Updates and be sure that all programs are legal. See IT section above for further information.
- Casual clothing for both cool weather and warm (see the weather section)
- Walking or hiking shoes
- Swimsuit or fishing equipment
- Raincoat
- Camera
- Flash light (needed for the Opening Ceremonies of the Games)
- Cell phone if you want to make a call. Pay phones are not available on campus.

Classroom items:

- Gaelic reference books
- Voice recorder and pen and paper for taking notes

Other items:

- Props for cèilidh
- Musical instruments
- Items to donate for Silent Auction
- Cash or checkbook for Silent auction—great bargains!
- Dancing shoes if you are a dancer and would like to attend any of the evenings of social dancing at the Thistle School of Scottish Country Dance.
- Gaelic Language videos to share with the group at night (examples of videos watched in the past are An Ceasnachadh & Faire Chalum MhicLeòid)

The workshop ends just as the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (July 10-13) are getting underway down the road in MacRae Meadow on Grandfather Mountain. As usual there will be a Gaelic tent at the games, and the North Carolina Gaelic Mòd will take place at the games on Saturday, July 12, 2014. If you would like to stay over for the Games and for the NC Gaelic Mòd (Friday – Saturday, 11 – 12 July) please email John Grimaldi: jainmartainn@aol.com. You may pay by cash, check, or Lees-McRae College online (payment link will be provided). Registration for the extra night(s) will be open from June 23rd through June 30th. Each additional night is \$35.

Claradh [[Registration]]

To register, click on your preferred option:

- [Register by email, paying by PayPal or credit card](#)
- [Register by ordinary mail, paying by check](#)

To find out more about the Gaelic Week, you can contact Dr. Jamie MacDonald at 910-703-3990 or John Grimaldi at 917-756-3643. You may also contact us by email at gaelteach@gmail.com or jainmartainn@aol.com

Please join us!

A' cumail na Gàidhlig Beò – Keeping Gaelic Alive!



An Comunn Gàidhealach Ameireaganach
The American Scottish Gaelic Society

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