

2008 ACGA Immersion/Grandfather Mountain Combined!

Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week / Immersion Week

July 6 - 11, 2008

Come to the beautiful mountains of North Carolina, a state rich in Gaelic heritage. Enjoy Scottish Gaelic language classes for beginner, intermediate, and advanced speakers and singing classes covering a range of traditional Gaelic song forms, including waulking, or milling, songs and mouth music.

This year's Grandfather Mountain Gaelic Song and Language Week (once again combined with the Immersion Week) will run from July 6th through the 11th. The course will consist of language and song classes at graduated levels. Other activities include special interest sessions in the afternoon, an evening cèilidh, Gaelic videos, a silent auction, hikes in the beautiful surrounding mountains and the North Carolina Gaelic Mòd which is held during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games the weekend following.

The workshop is housed at Lees-MacRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. Information about the cost of tuition, room, and board is available on the Registration Form.

We are pleased to announce the following instructors for 2008:

	<div data-bbox="857 1711 1468 1785" style="border: 1px dotted black; height: 35px;"></div> <p data-bbox="857 1879 1468 1953">Mary Ann Kennedy is a Glasgow Gael, now living in Lochaber where she and her husband,</p>
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Nick Turner, run Watercolour Music Studios in the idyllic West Highlands. A trad music background and a classical training coupled with fifteen years experience working with the BBC has established her as a major figure in the Scottish music scene, equally respected as a performer and as an authoritative commentator on world, classical, traditional and folk music.

Mary Ann's musical career covers several roles as performer, producer, writer and teacher. She has won several major awards, including the Concours Internationale de l'Harpe Celtique and both National Mod Gold Medals. Her band, Ciar, won the all-time Best Album accolade at the inaugural Scots Trad Music Awards, and earned her a Saltire Award.

Her broadcast credits include radio work for BBC Radio Scotland , BBC Radio 3, RTE and BBC Radio nan Gaidheal, and presentation and performance on BBC Scotland, BBC2, TG4 and BBC4, fronting major series and specials on world and traditional Scottish and Irish music. Her production credits include several albums of Gaelic song and the soundtrack of the award-winning BBC series, 'Aig Cridhe ar Cìùil'. Mary Ann's current passion is for the Gaelic song powerhouse, Mary Ann Kennedy & Na Seòid, whose debut album was released at this year's Celtic Connections festival. See also www.maryannkennedy.co.uk and www.myspace.com/maknaseoid .



Maureen Lyon is a native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, now residing in Surrey, BC. Her dedication to promoting Gaelic Culture in its various forms has been a life long interest that has brought her great satisfaction and many friends. Gaelic was a main subject in her schooling at both elementary and secondary school levels. After graduating as a teacher of Physical Education in Aberdeen, she studied Gaelic with a view towards teaching proficiency in the language.

Since 1985 she has been Gaelic Tutor to the Vancouver Gaelic Choir, and has taught various class levels in the city for many years. Other Gaelic teaching venues have been:

North Idaho School of Scottish Studies, Winnipeg School of Scottish Studies, and Slighe nan Gaidheal in Seattle.

Her ability to present Gaelic songs in class, adds considerably to her students' complete understanding of the language and culture. She views her association with Gaelic Culture as a delightful opportunity to promote a rich heritage and to enjoy the valuable interchange of all cultures.

Dr. Jamie MacDonald is a native of North Carolina and has spent many years studying Gaelic language and song. He was the first American to compete and win a prize at the National Mòd in Scotland in Gaelic singing. Jamie has won medals at the Vancouver Mòd and at the U.S. Mòd, where he has won the men's Gold Medal four times. He earned his Ph.D. in Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh and has taught Gaelic and Gaelic song in Scotland and in the U.S.



Gillebride MacMillan was brought up in the rich Gaelic culture of Gearraidh Bhailteas in South Uist where Gaelic was his first language. He has been singing since childhood and he is one of the only people to win all the major competitions at the Royal National Mòd in the child and adult competitions. He won both gold medals for solo singing at the Royal National Mòd, the traditional in 2000 and the regular in 2004. He also won the Puirt a Beul competitions four times. In late 2006, he released his first solo CD, Thogainn Ort Fonn. He also has a degree in Celtic Studies from Glasgow University and he currently works as a Gaelic translator, Gaelic distance learning teacher and writer.

Calum Martin is a musician and native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Lewis. A skilled presenter of Gaelic Psalms, Calum is probably best known for his Gaelic Psalm recordings with the Free Church congregation in Back, Isle of Lewis. As a singer / guitarist / songwriter, he fronted the local Lewis band Island Express. Island Express was undoubtedly the band from the grass roots that were closest to Runrig in both the style of song and in actual sound. He is currently



working as a music singing specialist in schools in Lewis. He recently put together a program called *The Megantic Outlaw* for the Celtic Connections Festival in Glasgow. *The Megantic Outlaw* takes its name from that popularly bestowed on Donald Morrison (1858-1894), a once-celebrated outlaw figure in the frontier folklore of Quebec, where his parents settled after being cleared from Lewis.

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 family members not attending classes as well.

Both single and double rooms are available and anyone wishing one can have a single room at the same price as a double. 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.

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 Tèicneolach [IT]

Those wishing to bring laptops, the wireless network at Lees-MacRae College will be available; however, in order to connect to it, one must have already downloaded or be willing to download from Lees-MacRae the current version of Microsoft Live Update and an active anti-virus program. We are told that if you do not have either of these that you may download them from Lees-MacRae College. They provide a free download of AVG Anti-virus, by Grisoft.

For people using Macintosh computers, you will no longer have to go to LMC's Tech Services; you will be prompted to download them as well, if you don't have the required software and updates. Vista will also work, we are told.

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

For those arriving at the Charlotte Airport Sunday July 6th.

If you are interested in trying to join a car-pool from the Airport to Banner Elk and back to the Charlotte Airport, please contact Rachell Blessing on r_blessing@woodburycorp.com and she will try and put you in contact with others arriving and departing somewhat close to your times. You will need to send your arrival and return times A.S.A.P. so you can be grouped, if possible.

Each group needs a **lead person**. That lead person will be responsible for scheduling the pickups with Air Haven Limo and securing the scheduled car with a deposit. [Charge Card]. The lead person needs to make these appointments as soon as possible and **at least two weeks prior**. It is on a first come, first served basis, so the sooner the better.

Vehicle options:

* Sedan that can accommodate up to 3 passengers at a cost of \$175.00 per trip. If arrangements can be made for three people per car the cost would be \$59.00 per person.

* Van that can seat up to 6 passengers is \$250.00 per trip. If arrangements can be made for six people per van the cost would be \$42 per person.

WARNING: The car/van rates will not change if you have less people show up. If someone in your group doesn't show up in time, you are still going to pay the FULL rate. It is based on an hour charge, NOT a passenger count.

Rachell Blessing will **not** be making appointments for groups or paying for groups. She will serve as a contact person and will merely be putting those who contact her in touch with one another for the purpose of making their own arrangements. Contact her at r_blessing@woodburycorp.com

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. A block up the road you will see a large parking lot on the right. When you are almost past the parking lot, turn left into the college and drive up the road to the stop sign. Turn left at the stop sign and you will see Virginia Hall on your right.

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.

* * *Banner Elk is a small town and you should have no trouble finding the college and the dorm. For those who feel more comfortable with explicit directions, these are step-by-step directions for finding your way. Pass the Student Commons, then Hayes Auditorium, and then a small parking lot--all on the left. (There's a larger parking lot on the right also.) Take the next left and go up a small hill to the stop sign (the Historic Rock House will be on your right.) Take a left. Virginia Hall is on your right. It is an old stone building with a porch between the two arms of the dorm. It is next to the Tufts Chimes Tower and across the street from the campus store. After you unload your belongings, you will need to return to one of the parking lots that you passed on your way in. You may not park either behind the dorm or beside it unless you have a handicapped sticker.

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. \$25.00 will be due upon arrival at college. Do not add to fees.)
- Blanket for your bed
- Towels and washcloths
- Fan for your dorm room
- Desk lamp

Personal Items:

- Laptop computer. The College tells us they expect to have the campus on a completely wireless network by July. Dial-up service won't be available.

- 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)
- Phone for your room and a long distance telephone card. You will have your own private line, but you must provide your own phone.
- Lap top computer, if you wish to use one during the week. College provides a modem line in every room. You must provide your own cables/cords/apparati for connection to the Internet.

Classroom items:

- Gaelic reference books
- Tape recorder or 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 \$5.00 per night.
- Gaelic Language videos to share with the group at night (examples of videos watched in the past are An Ceasnachadh & The Blood is Strong)

The workshop ends just as the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (July 11 - 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, 2008. If you would like to stay over for the Games and for the Gaelic Mod on Saturday of the Games, contact Kris Stewart with Lees-McRae College at 828-898-3311 to make a reservation for Friday and/or Saturday. If you don't reach him, leave a message and some way for him to get back with you. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Gaelic workshop the week before.