

The Pippings

Clan MacLean Association in the United States Quarterly Newsletter

Sir Lachlan Hector Charles Maclean

CVO, 28th Chief and 12th Baronet of Duart and Morvern



Flooding at the Pineola Lodge and Campground following Hurricane Helene, September 2024.

Hurricanes Wreak Havoc in Southeast

By Jennifer McLean, CMAUS Secretary

The Clan MacLean Association in the U.S. Executive Board extends our thoughts and prayers to all our members affected by both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. The loss and devastation are shocking. Many of our members live in the communities hit by these hurricanes.

In late September, Hurricane Helene came in at the Gulf of Mexico and caused lots of destruction and loss of life through Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and western North Carolina. The towns in and around the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games near Linville, NC, were under water with many homes and infrastructure destroyed.

We all learned quickly on social media about how bad it really was. Volunteers were seen helping people get out of harms way, providing necessities and helping to clear debris. Roads were washed away which made rescue even difficult. This hurricane was catastrophic.

The Pineola Lodge and Campground was completely underwater. This location is where many MacLeans camp during the games and where our last annual general meeting in July was held. As of October 9, the Tap Room at the Pineola re-opened.

The staff at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games has partnered with Avery County Chamber of Commerce to Build Avery Back (county in which Grandfather Mountain is located). It will take months if not years to bring the locations around the games back to the way they were.



Please consider donating to recovery efforts:

North Carolina: Build Back Avery
averycounty.com/helene-give-help/

Florida Disaster Fund
www.volunteerflorida.org/donatefdf/

East Tennessee Foundation
etf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/

One SC Fund:
www.yourfoundation.org/impact-initiatives/one-sc-fund/

Community Foundation of Central Georgia
cfcg.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/

United Way of Southwest Virginia
unitedwayswva.charityproud.org/donate

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MacLean Holiday Wreath

By *Connie McLean Sutton, CMAUS Treasurer*

Materials Used:

- Artificial Christmas greenery wreath
- Artificial thistles
- Artificial Christmas holly (holly is a badge of Clan MacLean)
- Childs toy bagpipe (replace bag cover with MacLean tartan)

Instructions:

Inexpensive artificial greenery wreaths are usually sparse, so I use florist wire to attach two together for a fuller look. Then fluff the greenery for that lush look.

Attach your toy bagpipe covered in MacLean tartan to your wreath with florist wire. You will have to secure it in several places to make it stable.

Attach thistles and holly with either florist wire or hot glue. Arrange thistles and holly evenly around the bagpipe and wreath for a pleasing look.



Clan MacLean Announcements & Events

• UPCOMING GAMES & EVENTS:

Jan 11-12, 2025* — Florida Keys Celtic Festival, Marathon, FL (floridakeyscltcfestival.com)

Jan 18-19, 2025 — Central Florida Scottish Highland Games, Winter Springs, FL (www.flascot.com)

Feb 1, 2025 — Suncoast Scots, Sarasota, FL (www.suncoastscots.com)

Feb 14-16, 2025* — Phoenix Scottish Games, Glendale, AZ (phoenixscottishgames.com/)

Feb 22, 2025 — Northeast Florida Scottish Games & Festival, Green Cove Springs, FL (www.neflgames.com)

Feb 28-Mar 1, 2025* — Panama City Beach Scottish Festival, Panama City Beach, FL (pcbscottishfestival.com)

Mar 1, 2025* — Southeast Florida Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Plantation, FL (sassf.org/festival)

Mar 8-9, 2025 — St. Augustine Celtic Music & Heritage Festival, St. Augustine, FL (www.celticstaugustine.com/)

Apr 5, 2025 — Dunedin Highland Games, Dunedin, FL (www.dunedinsafoundation.com/highland-games/)

**Needs conveners. Contact Lead Convenor Mary Sue Wyatt (bummerms56@gmail.com) for more information.*

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Presidential Ponderings

By Dr. Les McLean, CMAUS President

Because this is my final newsletter message after six years, I have procrastinated as long as I could. I have loved serving our clan as President more than you can know. It has been both an honor and a privilege. More so, I have worked with some phenomenal MacLeans: Jason Wamsley, Connie McLean Sutton, Jennifer McLean, Anne Redding, Patrick Maclean, Mary Sue Wyatt and family, Kane McLean and the many generous convenors. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I have cherished the wisdom I received from our preceding presidents: Clarence Greek, Kirk Lane, Bob McLean, and Patrick Maclean

(again); and I feel grateful knowing our next torch carriers will continue the MacLean tradition of fellowship, courage, and service.

Of course, you are not totally rid of me, and I look forward to seeing you, as I will continue as President of the Fairhill Games in Maryland and convening Clan MacLean tents at several other games. Just remember, we are noble, we are warriors, we are poets, we are MacLeans. Thank God.

May the peace of God and the pride of MacLean be always with you.

-Doc/Les McLean

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MacLean Weapons Collection: The Bastard Sword

By Van Shoemaker, CMAUS Weapons Master

The bastard sword (also referred to as a hand and a half sword), earned its nickname because it had no family, being neither a one-hand nor a two-hand sword, but rather, combined both features into one successful blade.

Even against less armored opponents, the bastard sword was a great innovation. Its length would give the wielder a reach advantage over a single-handed sword, a mace, or a hammer. The controllable, well-balanced tip would give an accurate advantage digging into plate or maneuvering around a shield. The bastard sword was made to be long and light for maneuverability and is effective for slashing but was built to thrust.

The bastard sword is at least 4 feet, 7 inches long and weighs between 3-3 1/2 pounds. It comes in two types. The regular version, which is tampered, hardened and features traditional shaping. The lighter combat version is tempered and hardened with thick edges and a round tip making it suitable for light use in sparring.

The blade is crafted from quality steel and left entirely unsharpened. The simple guard features numerous cut-outs for decoration,

while the wheel-shaped pommel helps to balance the blades weight.

Included with the sword is a wood scabbard that is wrapped in leather and fitted with steel furnishings and rings for attaching the sword to a warrior's belt.

Knights and noble warriors valued the bastard sword for its versatility. It's long, but light weight making it a very effective weapon that could be easily handled with one hand, and yet the leather and wire-wrapped guard is sized to accommodate two. This feature enabled them to quickly adapt to and from different combat situations using one hand for reach and speed or two for more power. It could be used from horseback or afoot, in duels or on the battlefield.

The ability to wield a bastard sword effectively was considered a sign of outstanding swordsmanship and physical agility. The medieval knight's bastard sword is a classic example of the medieval swords found during the later part of the 14th century. This battle-ready sword, along with their historical counterparts were commonly used by nobility during the 100 years' war,



The Bastard Sword, part of the Clan MacLean Weapons Collection maintained by Weapons Master Van Shoemaker.

between England and France (1337-1453). Knights, warriors, and men-at-arms continued to use bastard swords well into the 1500's. It was replaced by the arming sword, side sword, and European longsword.

Traditional Scottish Cranachan

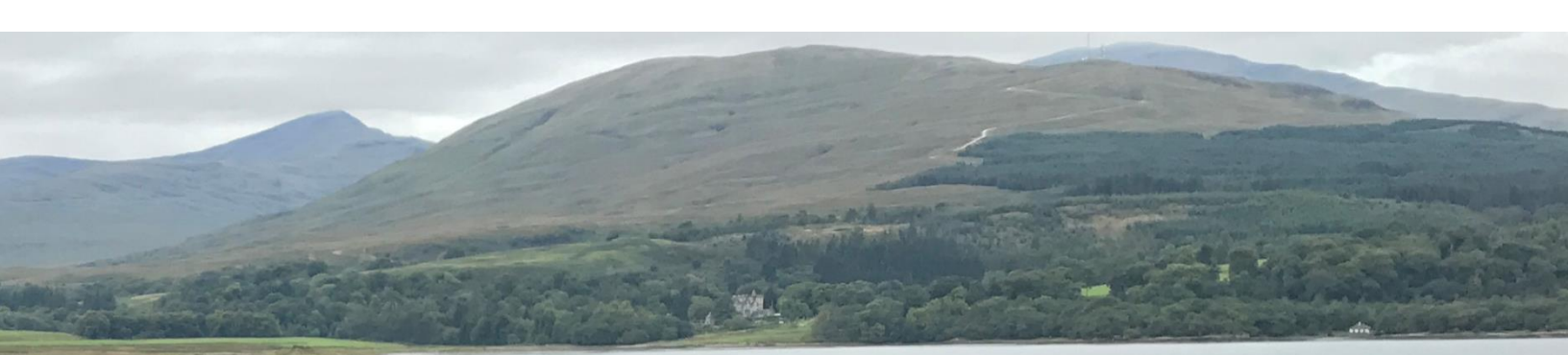
by Heather Wamsley

Ingredients:

- 75g Oats (3/4 cup)
- 2 Tbsp Honey
- 2 Tbsp Whisky
- 250g Raspberries (about 2 cups)
- 350ml Double Cream (about 1.5 cups)

Instructions:

Toast the oats. Whip the cream to stiff peaks using an electric hand beater. Add the whisky and the honey. In a bowl, layer with oats, cream mixture, and raspberries.



A Convener’s Adventure: Stone Mountain Highland Games

By Connie McLean Sutton, CMAUS Treasurer

Earlier this year, I accepted a request from our Lead Convener, Mary Sue Norman Wyatt, to convene the Stone Mountain Highland Games for her as she had a conflict and could not attend. I had previously convened at Stone Mountain, so I knew the ropes. After talking with my husband, we decided it was a grand opportunity to take our camper out for an adventure. I was already going to be convening the Scotland County Highland Games in Laurinburg, N.C., so why not take the camper and do two games in one trip. On October 2nd, we left our home in Raleigh, N.C. for a 3 ½ week camping trip at 5 different campgrounds.

I have been participating in the Scotland County Games for CMAUS since their beginning in 2008. These games have grown from a sweet one-day game to an extravagant weekend. The heavy athletics, highland dance and pipe band competitions

have become prestigious and draw participants from around the country. The clan tent area has grown to 58 spaces. Scotland County N.C. is in the heart of the Scottish immigration in southeastern N.C. At the calling of the clans, I said: “To honor our ancestors that came into the Port of Wilmington, then travelled up the Cape Fear River, Clan MacLean is proud to be here”. Thank you to all the MacLeans came by the tent. Thank you to Betsy McLean and Jennifer McLean for your help with hosting our tent.

After the Scotland County Games, we worked our way south to the Atlanta Georgia area to convene the Stone Mountain Highland Games. The Stone Mountain Games are huge! We were lucky enough to camp at the Stone Mountain Campground across the lake

from the Games field. The campground was alive with bagpipes and tartans. The games area is wonderful with all the athletics, dancing, piping, food and souvenir vendors. The clan tents are set up in the pine groves which makes for a beautiful setting.

Saturday, John Nuttall brought homemade shortbread, Many MacLean friends came by the tent. Our past dancers who received scholarships from CMAUS to continue their dance training were competing at the games—Nadia, Sophia, and Brynn. Seeing everyone and convening made it a great weekend!

Consider convening a tent at a game for Clan MacLean. It is always a fun adventure and a great way to share Clan MacLean with others.



Left: Connie McLean Sutton, Margaret and Neil McLean at Stone Mountain Highland Games, 2024.

Above Right: Highland dancers Nadia and Sophia DeMaagd, and Brynn Brown, 2024.



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Visit us on the web: [https:// maclean.us.org](https://maclean.us.org) • www.facebook.com/groups/clanmaclean/

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Donor Levels:

Guardians: £200 GBP (\$244 USD) & above will receive a Duart Castle Guardian badge and certificate.

Life Guardians: £1,000 GBP (\$1,219 USD) & above will receive Guardians' gifts, a signed photograph of the chief and be granted lifetime access to the public areas of the Castle during opening hours.

Patrons: £5,000 GBP (\$6,096 USD) & above will receive all of the recognition of Life Guardians and a Clan MacLean Crest.

Chief's Circle: £25,000 GBP (\$30,480 USD) & above will receive all of the recognition of Life Guardians and an engraved Quaich.

Another for Hector!

Do you know a family member interested in joining the Clan? Invite them to visit:
<https://maclean.us.org/membership/application>

Need to renew your membership? Visit:
<https://maclean.us.org/membership/renew>

Thank you for your continued membership and commitment to keeping our Clan active!

The Duart Appeal

The first nine phases of the restoration have been completed at a cost of £2.67 million with contributions coming from the Appeal but also from Historic Environment Scotland and my family. The focus is now on completing Phase 10 which includes the state bedroom, dressing room and walls containing the front door.

The final phase (11) will begin in April 2024 and mainly covers the embattlement walkways. To finish the project in 2025, the Appeal needs to raise an additional £300,000. Please continue your financial support to allow us to complete the restoration of Duart Castle for the Clan.

How to Donate:

Visit duartappeal.org for details on donation and sponsorship levels. U.S. donors may make **tax-deductible donations** online using PayPal via the website or by check made payable to **Clan Maclean Association** (mail to: P.O. Box 112, Monument, CO, 80132), which is a non-profit Section 501 (c)(3) corporation supporting Scottish cultural outreach. Note the updated mailing address. On the check memo line note "CMAUS Member - Duart Appeal".



Chief Sir Lachlan Maclean, Clan MacLean

