



# CLAN DONALD MID-EAST



Spring 2011

## Changes Galore for the Clan in 2011

I first met Dave Rankin at a Scottish games in Maryland (probably in 1993) at Fairhill where Henry MacDonald was Maryland commissioner. I got my start in Clan Donald beginning in 1993 as a convenor for Ed Weary who was then Mid-East Regional Commissioner. Henry and Ed had an agreement that each would cover their side of the river and the region ran pretty much on even keel while the two were in charge. By and large that is how the region has run since 1995. For most of this time Dave Rankin and myself have been moving up the chain of command as convenor's, then State Commissioners and now both have or will have a chance at Mid-East Regional Commissioner.

I'm literally filling some pretty big shoes, taking on the job after Dave Rankin. Dave joined the clan in 1987 and became Maryland Commissioner in 2003. He took over as Deputy Regional Commissioner in 2007 and was subsequently raised to Regional Commissioner in the Fall of 2007. As a leader, Dave had many firsts: Movie Night in the Region, the Dutch Treat Dinner, and Ellice McDonald's birthday party. Another first for the region and Clan Donald national was when we supported Scottish events in Radford, Williamsburg and Eastern Shore simultaneously. Our region was also recognized with back to back best clan tent awards at Fredericksburg and also awarded honor clan at Bridgeport, WV during the first year we attended in 2008. We also had some instances of notoriety when Dave led the Clan in twice gaining an unprecedented award of the "Golden Sporrán" for an adventure involving a giant beaver and another encounter with "friendly" law enforcement enroute to Bridgeport. Dave's leadership in this respect is in keeping with his McDonald of Keppoch, Slate and Glencoe cattle thieving ancestors.

I would also like to bid farewell to a number of our Clan representatives from several states. In West Virginia both Dale Fields and Jacob Purcell have moved out of the state and left the WV State Commissioner and Deputy WV State Commissioner positions vacant. In Virginia we have a new commissioner named Bill Yoder who will be seeing you around the commonwealth this year. In Virginia we are still looking for his deputy. We also have vacancies in the DC commissioner spot and the Deputy Regional Commissioner position. In Maryland, I'm working to contact some of our stalwarts to identify a State Commissioner and Deputy, as of press time. We also need to farewell Fred Greenwood who served most recently as Maryland State commissioner but also as the Region's treasurer. Fred retired from the government and moved back to his home state of California.

(story continued on page 2)

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### Regional Events 2011:

- April 23 — Laurel Hill Scottish Highland Games and Festival, Ararat, VA
- April 30 — Southern Maryland Celtic Festival, Saint Leonard, MD
- May 7 — Scottish Festival and Celtic Gathering, Bridgeport, WV
- May 21 — Colonial Highland Gathering, Fair Hill, MD
- June 18 — Front Royal Celtic Festival, Front Royal, VA



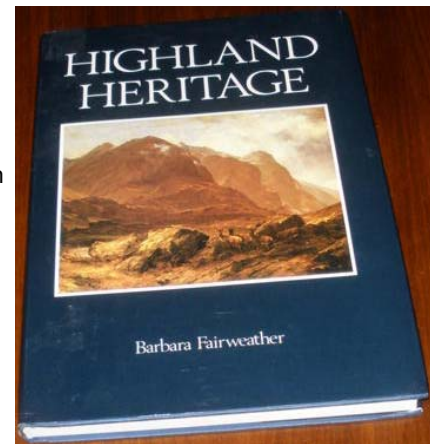
## Changes Galore for the Clan in 2011—Cont'd

The first games this year will be at Lexington Virginia on 9 April, Laurel Hill Games at Ararat Virginia on 23 April and Southern Maryland at St. Leonard Maryland on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. I hope to see all of you around the region at our spring line up and look forward to serving you as your Commissioner.

### Clan Donald Mid-East Greats

Many in Clan Donald do not realize that a Clan Donald great still resides in the region. Clan Donald's greatest benefactor may be Ellice McDonald, Jr., CBE, Hon., FSA Scot. who still resides in Delaware. His state of health is not good, but his memory and words still live on in Clan Donald. Ellice McDonald traces his line back so some of the Glencoe McDonalds who escaped the slaughter on the bitterly cold, stormy morning of 13 February 1692. The ancestor of this survivor eventually helped found the Clan Donald Glencoe Foundation and has had an abiding love for the lands of his ancestors. Part of Ellice's legacy to the Mid-East region was his donation of 50 beautiful volumes of Barbara Fairweather's book... Highland Heritage... which was published in 1984.

Amazon.com carried this book at \$161.00 and we would consider offering to Clan Donald Mid-East members for \$75.00. Please give me a call if you have an interest. The book is 244 pages with photos and illustrations. Chapters include Glencoe: A short History; Lismore, Duror and Strath of Appin; Eilean Munda; Ballachulish Slate Quarry; Living in old Glencoe; Pictures of the Past; The folklore of Glencoe and North Lorn; Highland Calendar and social life; Highland livestock; Highland wildlife; Highland farming; Highland Plant lore; Travels around Glencoe; Travellers tales from the Highland; Highland way of life; the view of the traveller; Highland Journeys and the 45 Jacobite rising. My email and phone are on the web site but for those without internet the phone is (703) 768-1526. We are also trying to sell these online, so send in your orders now before we run out. ■



By New Clan Donald Mid-East Regional Commissioner Stan Darroch

## Let the Games Begin...

We had plenty of mist for the Lexington Scottish festival last weekend. One new member we met was Lloyd and Margaret Craighill, who jumped into the parade with us and joined us for a short visit. They reminded me that the Chiefs Tours is coming up again this June. The tour starts in Edinburgh on Monday, 13 June where all will be staying in the Macdonald Holyrood Hotel and later the Welcome Dinner. The tour then heads Tue-Thr to Tarbert where all will ride the ferry to Islay. At Islay everyone will visit Finlaggan, the cultural center of the Lordship of the Isle. Although the halls of Finlaggan no longer sound to the joyous feast and dances, the Chiefs and Chieftains of the Isles and West will again be seen at great MacDonald's court. The group will then visit Bowmore and Port Charlotte and may involve some sampling activity. Friday thru Sunday the group travels to the Isle of Mull, then Iona, Staffa and the castles Duart and Torosay. The group stays overnight on Mull at the Isle of Mull Hotel. Except for the perilous bus trip through Clan Campbell territory, the entire trip should be a breeze. The group ends up back at Edinburgh on Monday, 20 June. If you're wavering on whether to go or not call Lloyd.... he is very persuasive.



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## Clan Donald Mid-East Officer Information

### Clan Donald Regional Officers

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West Virginia Commissioner: Vacant

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“12 Highlanders and a bagpipe make a rebellion.”

-- Scottish Proverb

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### Name this Newsletter!

We need your assistance. This newsletter needs a proper name, in Gaelic or English, befitting Clan Donald Mid-East. Please send me your nominations. You can send them to me at: [james@clemenko.net](mailto:james@clemenko.net)

One will be chosen to adorn the top of this newsletter in future issues. The nominations will be chosen based on their relevance and honor of Clan Donald Mid-East.

## Clan Donald Mid-East Website

Rick Keller does a fantastic job maintaining this great resource — the Clan Donald Mid-East website. I encourage you all to visit it often. You will find much more updated information regarding future events, past events, photos, the Cookbook Family Recipe Submission Form, officer information, and much more.

And coming soon to the website: advertising! Please go to the website for more information.

To visit the website, go to: <http://www.mid-east.clan-donald-usa.org>.

## Clan Donald Mid-East

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**Check out the Clan Donald Mid-East Website**

**<http://mid-east.clan-donald-usa.org/index.html>**

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