

18th McHenry Highland Festival

Strong men in kilts will toss cabers that look like telephone poles in the amateur athletic games at the McHenry Highland Festival June 4th. Sheepdogs go through their paces on the field and military re-enactors offer glimpses of military life and actions during different periods in Scottish history.

Two stages will be in full swing this year at Garrett County's major spring celebration. Celtic rock band "Enter the Haggis" will join internationally known fiddler Bonnie Rideout, rollicking Celtic band Coyote Run, harpist Lynne Barnes, Wolf Creek Session, Scottish folksinger Carl Peterson, and other musical entertainers.

Clan booths help those searching for their roots or just wanting to learn more. Livestock exhibits, highland country dancing, and a falconry demonstration are just some of the activities designed to entertain and educate. The day features plenty of food and displays by Celtic and craft vendors, dance and piping competitions, storytelling, face painting and other activities.

The festival gates at the Garrett County Fairgrounds open Saturday at 8 am. The fun continues until 5 pm. There is something for everyone at this highland celebration in Mountain Maryland.

In its 18th year, the McHenry Highland Festival is held rain or shine. Most activities can be moved inside if necessary, stresses Jerry McGee, festival coordinator. This is a time to have fun after a long Garrett County winter.

For some, the festival weekend will begin with the St. Andrews at Wisp Golf Tournament, Friday, June 3, at 1 pm. A concert evening with Bonnie Rideout and Coyote Run begins at 7:30 pm at the Lodge at Wisp.

Beginning at 7 pm Saturday, a Ceilidh, will be held at the German Village. The rollicking Celtic party will feature Scottish music, food and drink.



Photography by: Lance Bell

Sunday morning offers the Kirkin' of the Tartans at St. John's Episcopal Church in Deer Park at 9 am. This church service has become a tradition for many attending the festival.

The McHenry Highland Festival is one of only four such festivals in the state of Maryland and one of only 120 in the USA.

Find more information on these events at www.highlandfest.info or call McGee at 301-387-3093.

