



Rural Hill Piper

Fall Newsletter 2011

Rural Hill
Where History Springs Alive

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Facilitated in cooperation with
Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation



Jeff's Corner

Greetings! It is hard to believe that our fall events have come to a close and we are now planning for the holidays and the New Year.

Fall was an exciting time here at Rural Hill. We had thousands of guests – many returning to tackle another Amazing Maze Maize and watch the competition and fun of the Sheepdog Trials, as well as all of the new friends that were introduced to Rural Hill through our annual events and new ones like the Warrior Dash.

Our many volunteers and friends, along with dedicated staff, make it all happen. With enormous gratitude, we extend our thanks and appreciation to all of you!



With 2012 right around the bend, we look forward to starting the New Year right with our First Footin' on New Year's Day (see page 6 for details.) This will set the stage for all the fun that is to come as we prepare for a busy spring season.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours from all of here at Rural Hill!

Mark Your Calendars!

First Footin'

January 1

Rural Hill Egg Hunt

Date TBD - Stay Tuned!

Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games

April 20, 21 & 22

Bark in the Park

April 28

North Carolina Brewers and Music Festival

May 14

Warrior Dash

May 19 & 20



Thank you to everyone that took so much time to create such an awesome place for everyone to enjoy! - Tuckaseege Baptist Journey Youth Group



2011 Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze & 17th Annual Sheepdog Trials and Dog Festival

Fall at Historic Rural Hill was a great success with thousands of visitors experiencing our events and programs!

THANK YOU

to our volunteers, friends and devoted staff who make it all possible.



Some Sheepdog Trials photos courtesy of Pk Donson, and others taken from Rural Hill Face Book postings. Thank you!

WARRIOR DASH

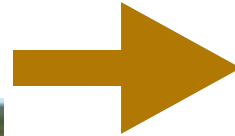
The World's Most Extreme and Fun Running Event

The ultimate event for thrill-seeking athletes and party-goers was held at Historic Rural Hill in late August and found more than 15,000 runners taking on grueling obstacles over three miles of extreme terrain. After completing the race, they celebrated with friends, family, and fellow racers during the all day festival with live music, food and beer.

A resounding success, WARRIOR DASH is returning to Rural Hill on May 19 & 20, 2012. Start your training now!!



Rural Hill's Own Zac Vinson!



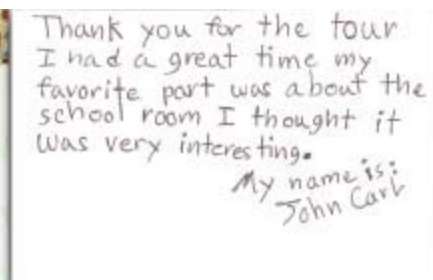
Fall Education at Historic Rural Hill

This season Rural Hill's educational programs have seen a large increase in interest and activity. We provided educational programming to more than 200 students, many of whom are members of area homeschool groups. When combined with the vast number of school groups and students who participated in education programming and components of the Amazing Maize Maze, our education efforts are soaring. Recognition is increasing within the community not only for our excellent events, but also our educational programming. Looking into 2012, we will grow these numbers more, as well as continue to offer family historical events during some weekends. For more information regarding Rural Hill's Education Programs, please contact Zac Vinson at zac@ruralhill.net.

The kids LOVED it! We did the Light and Heat program and Fence Building Workshop at the Davidson Schoolhouse. Our host Zac Vinson was so helpful; he fielded LOTS of the kids' questions and they learned a lot.

- Kirsten Noblin, in a note to Charlotte area homeschool families





Dear Zac,

Thank you so much for the fine experience you offered our home school group. You engaged our children and encouraged them to think, by not handing them the answers to your questioning. The calm, enthralling, yet purposeful presentation captivated both student and parent. An all inclusive bestowal of interesting facts of the culture of farm life in these parts of NC, was thought-provoking and interesting. Thank you for making our day enjoyable and exceptional.

Sincerely,
Anne Harkness



Thank you for the tour. It was very interesting. My favorite part was when we got to pet the cows. My name is; Michael



2012 First Footin'

Start the New Year with Fellowship and Fun

Come out and start 2012 off right with First Footin', our annual hike and celebration of Hogmanay, or Scottish New Years!

Schedule

11:00 The First Footin' Hike
12:30 Presentation of Stone Soup

The Scottish New Year, Hogmanay (pronounced Hog-muh-nay), is a celebration of good will and good fortune. A first-footer who arrived empty handed was seen as a terrible omen of poverty and loss in the New Year. Several towns throughout the hillsides of Scotland continue an age old annual ritual of a walking the town limits to restate or reclaim the boundaries of the township.

These traditions have been adopted as part of the Rural Hill Hogmanay celebration, known simply as "First Footin'." Traditionally, the fulfillments of Hogmanay's rituals and folklore have assured good crops, good health, and good fortune in the coming year.

Wear good walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the season. This will be a fairly vigorous hike around the farm's 5k trail network, stopping along the way to discuss history and folklore. If you do not think you are physically able to do the walk, please come anyway. It's a great time for fellowship around the farm yard, and we're always looking for new talent to help with the reading of the parable of "Stone Soup."



This event is FREE and open all, but we do encourage everyone to bring something for the luncheon. (Remember, its bad luck to show up empty handed!) Items needed include fresh or canned vegetables for the soup, bread, dessert, soft drinks, tea, or your favorite beverage, and bowls, plates, napkins, and eating utensils.

Happy New Year!

New this year! Need a quicker pace? In addition to our annual hike, Rural Hill is hosting a five mile race presented by McIntosh Law Firm. The course of 5 miles is relatively easy, perfect for getting back on track after the holidays. The race will start at 11 AM. Race registration is \$30 and details are available at www.ruralhill.net/FirstFootinFive.asp.

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Mission

An educational organization that provides for recognizing, celebrating and preserving the rich heritage of Rural Hill.

Please consider us for your year-end giving. With your support we can maintain and expand the incredible offerings Rural Hill provides. Our annual events and educational programs will continue to educate and entertain the greater community for years to come, but only with your continued support!



Visit us at www.ruralhill.net for easy, secure online giving. While all donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible, becoming a part of the Rural Hill Living History Fund has a variety of exclusive benefits associated with your generous gift!



Join Rural Hill

We invite you to support Rural Hill by joining or renewing your membership. Help preserve and sustain the rich heritage of Rural Hill and its 265 acres which was the original homestead of Major John and Violet Wilson Davidson and dates back to 1760.

Historic Rural Hill, Inc. is a volunteer, non-profit 501(c)3 corporation. Individual memberships, Couples Memberships and Family Memberships are available. Memberships support the restoration and maintenance of Historic Rural Hill, its education programs and annual events.

Visit
www.ruralhill.net
for details.

