

KSFA March Newsletter



Hope your March is off to a great start! We are excited to bring you several updates about the KSFA in this month's newsletter. As always, if you have any suggestions for us, feel free to send us an email:

info@KalamazooScottishFest.org

(Photo: Lamb in Daffodils, Winton House, Scotland)



Highland Athletics Open Practices

If you are looking for a practicing group of Highland Athletes near you, please contact Josh at: 808.364.2324, or Kate at: 616.610.7671. They lead practices in the Kalamazoo and Holland areas respectively, and can connect you to other throwers in your area.

Athletics Page



KSCD Practices

The KSFA is proud to sponsor the Kalamazoo Scottish Country Dancers. They meet Mondays from 7-9pm at Grange Hall in Kalamazoo. No experience or partner required.(but soft soled shoes are recommended)

Grange Hall Address:
3234 N 3rd St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Make sure to like and follow the Kalamazoo Scottish Country Dancers on Facebook!

See our site for more details:

Kzoo Scottish Country Dancers

Some of our Kalamazoo Scottish Country Dancers will be leading a Beginners Class in Holland. There will be six classes, Tuesday Evenings from 7-8:30 starting March 21 and ending April 25th. These will be held at Innoacademy 2nd Level, 8485 Homestead Dr. Zeeland, MI 49464 For more info follow the below link or send a message to the KSCD Facebook page.

Scottish Country Dance in Holland

Local Grandfather Becomes Highland Athlete



This month we want to take a look at a new Masters thrower, Cal Kortman, who took up the Highland Games last year at the age of 62. Cal heard about the games in Holland and Kalamazoo, and began coming to the open practices in April of 2022. He wanted to develop new skills, throw heavy things, and have another reason to stay in shape. What kept his interest was the very welcoming group of new and seasoned athletes in the area; and he saw that the goal of all was to enjoy and support the games and each other.

Cal started by making some of his own throwing implements out of kettlebells, cables, and maul handles to be able practice at home between the weekly summer group practices. After several weeks he enjoyed the sport so much that he purchased his own professionally made implements. He finished second in the Holland and Kalamazoo Highland Games in the Masters divisions and improved each game!

Looking forward, Cal hopes to compete in 5 or 6 games this year; including our local West Michigan games, and Masters Tournament in St. Augustine Florida this month. He also hopes to play in the Salt Lake games in Utah, so that his grandchildren can cheer on their Grandpa!



The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations(COSCA), is an organization made up of a multitude of Scottish cultural groups across the country, and the KSFA is proud to be a member.

Are you looking for more info about your clan? Or possibly looking to hit some games on future travels? Well COSCA is the place to look.

For more info click the below link:

COSCA



April 6th is National Tartan Day, a Federal holiday to celebrate tartan and all who wear it. For the occasion, the KSFA and Grand Rapids Scottish Society has planned an informal Tartan Day Luncheon, where members from both our groups can mingle and celebrate the day. This will be on Saturday, April 1 @ Salvino's Restaurant in Wayland. Lunch is at Noon, please RSVP to info@kalamazooscottishfest.org as spots are limited.

We are also planning a fundraiser to take place 4/29 @ Valhalla Meadery in Kalamazoo. More details soon!

For info on these and our other planned events please see our 2023 calendar.

Events Page

Info for Clans, Athletes, Exhibitors, & Vendors

We're back! 9/9/23 will be the 31st Annual Kalamazoo Scottish Festival & Highland Games. As always admission is free and we plan to offer a full range of activities as usual. We have opened registration for Clans, Athletes, Exhibitors, and Vendors for this year, all forms for which can be found online or below.

Our goal is to increase our Clan and Exhibitor numbers this year and we are already on track to do this! Improvements to both Clan Row and the Exhibitor Areas are underway so that you and your members may better access the Festival as a whole.

We are also hoping to have more local Exhibitors who can add more culture and education to the Festival this year as well. If you are a member of a local organization that deals in history, genealogy, or another educational field please consider joining us!

As always if you have any questions please don't hesitate to reach out via email or Facebook.

2023 Festival Page & Forms



To assist in fundraising for our Annual Festival and other events, the KSFA has opened a Shop via Redbubble, which offers customizable products shipped directly to you!

To see our full offering of Shirts, Hoodies, Bags, Mugs, Stickers & more please visit our shop via the button:

[KSFA Shop](#)

As always we are working hard preparing for our Annual Festival in September, as well as our normal programming. To learn more about the KSFA, its history, and operation, visit the Association Page on our website and subscribe for more updates.

[Association Page](#)

Kalamazoo Scottish Festival
 Association, PO Box 511
 Oshtemo MI 49077-0511

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