

Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chambers, Craig take 'Outstanding Track & Field Athlete' honors at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN, N.C.—Carissa Chambers, 28, an optometrist in Johnson City, Tenn., was named the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games' Outstanding Women's Athlete of the Games for the second straight year.

Chambers won the 100- and 220-yard dash races, finished second in the 440 and placed third in the triple and long jumps to edge out Sophia Randolph of San Francisco and Mary Chesnut Smith of New York City in a tight race for the title.

Chambers runs with the State of Franklin Track Club to stay in shape for her competition events, which include 5Ks, triathlon and Half Ironman. She will complete a full Ironman this fall.

Randolph won the triple and long jumps and placed third in the mile run and 100-yard dash. Smith won the mile run and finished second in the 880-yard dash, the triple jump and the long jump.

Samuel Craig, 16, of Granite Falls, N.C., won the men's division. The quick, rising junior at South Caldwell High School won the 100-, 220- and 440- yard dash races, and he finished second in the long jump.

Aaron Hale from Raleigh finished second with a victory in the two-mile run and second in the 440- and 880-dash races. He placed third in the mile run. Landon Hunt easily won the long jump and pole vault to place third.

Craig is a star on his high school track team, with victories in the 100-, 220- and 440-yard dashes. He is part of a 4x100-yard relay team that set his school and conference record. Craig also plays strong safety on his football team. His dream is to run track and play football in college.

Last year, he broke his tibia in his right leg, and he now runs with a titanium rod inserted in his leg.

WOMEN'S EVENTS

100-Yard Dash

Carissa Chambers, Johnson City, Tenn. – 13.9 seconds

Caitlin Mason, Iron Station, N.C. – 14.6

220-Yard Dash

Carissa Chambers – 31.4

Elliott Bradley, Charlotte, N.C. – 32.5

440-Yard Dash

Elliott Bradley – 1:13 minute/seconds

Carissa Chambers – 1:21

880-Yard Dash

Sarah Bigelow, Cary, N.C. – 2:49

Mary Chesnut Smith, New York City – 3:03

Mile Run

Mary Chesnut Smith – 6:45

Caitlin Mason – 8:48

Long Jump

Sophia Randolph, San Francisco – 12' 9.5"

Mary Chesnut Smith – 11' 10"

Triple Jump

Sophia Randolph – 28' 6.25"

Mary Chesnut Smith – 27' 4"

MEN'S EVENTS

100-Yard Dash

Samuel Craig, Granite Falls, N.C. – 11.3 seconds

Craig Edney, Waxhaw, N.C. – 12.2

220-Yard Dash

Samuel Craig – 27

Craig Edney – 28

440-Yard Dash

Samuel Craig – 1:03 minutes/seconds

Aaron Hale, Raleigh, N.C. – 1:06

880-Yard Dash

Sean Nicol, Raleigh – 2:32

Aaron Hale -2:39

Mile Run

Douglas Kirkpatrick, Birmingham, Ala. – 4:55

Sean Nicol – 5:14

2-Mile Run

Aaron Hale – 11:10

Colin Hockman, Wilmington, N.C. – 12:09

Long Jump

Landon Hunt, Bryson City, N.C. – 18' 6"

Samuel Craig – 15' 7"

Triple Jump

Tom Randolph, Richmond, Mass. – 33' 5"

Lee Bradley, Charlotte – 28' 2"

Pole Vault

Landon Hunt – 14' 6"

For more information about the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, visit www.gmhg.org, or call (828) 733-1333.

The not-for-profit Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation strives to inspire conservation of the natural world by helping guests explore, understand and value the wonders of Grandfather Mountain. For more information, call (800) 468-7325, or visit www.grandfather.com to plan a trip.

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ATTACHMENTS:

070817_GFM_gmhg_track_chambers_SS: Carissa Chambers is named the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games' Outstanding Women's Athlete of the Games for the second

straight year. Chambers won the 100- and 220-yard dash races, finished second in the 440 and placed third in the triple and long jumps, as part of the Games' track and field competition. The Games took place July 6-9 at Grandfather Mountain in Linville, N.C. Photo by Skip Sickler | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

070817_GFM_gmhg_track_craig_SS: Samuel Craig is named the overall winner in the men's division track and field competition at the 62nd Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. The 16-year-old athlete won the 100-, 220- and 440- yard dash races, and he finished second in the long jump. Photo by Skip Sickler | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation

070817_GFM_gmhg_track_hunt_SS: Landon Hunt, of Bryson City, N.C., competes in the pole vault at the 62nd Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, scoring a height of 14' 6". Photo by Skip Sickler | Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation