

Seafood Festival in October

By Janie Price

The 32nd Annual NC Seafood Festival will welcome attendees to the Morehead City waterfront on the weekend of October 5-7. The Seafood Festival is a highly acclaimed top free festival in the United States, and a fun destination to enjoy some of the finest seafood available in our area. Festival hours are Friday, noon-11 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Entertainment is free for all festival events.

The Seafood Festival, sponsored by the NC Department of Agriculture—Seafood Division, is a perfect partner for the “Got to be NC” promotions that champion products grown, raised, caught and made in North Carolina. Funds raised by the festival benefit North Carolina nonprofit and educational organizations, as well as support pursuits relative to the seafood industry.

The Sound, located in Jaycee Park, will feature premier entertainers and will be filled with a variety of music. Friday night will showcase popular bands from 5 to 10 p.m., including Spare Change and The Green Room. The Sound will come alive on Saturday night from 7 to 10 p.m. with the sounds of popular country musician Bryan Mayer. On Sunday, from 1 to 3 p.m., Strung Together will perform. In addition to top-notch musical entertainment, a Budweiser Beer Bar will be available all weekend, and Port of Pours will return on Saturday, featuring craft breweries offering tasting samples at a ticketed event. On Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., visitors can enjoy a Muffins and Mimosas breakfast for a minimum fee.

The Cove, located in Katherine Davis Park, will provide tables and shade for visitors to take a break and recoup for more fun. On Saturday evening from 5 to 10 p.m., local artists will perform at The Cove, including singer/songwriter Will Stovall (acoustic pop and rock) and country artist Bryan McCoury. On Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., bluegrass band Calico Creek and Beaufort Blues Project will perform. All weekend visitors may enjoy lawn games while taking advantage of a Budweiser Beer Bar and sampling local vodka from Bogue Sound Distillery and bourbon from Southern Distilling Company.

The Cooking with the Chefs Tent, located in Katherine Davis Park parking lot adjacent to The Cove, will host renowned chefs staging exhibitions on seafood preparation and cooking and offering free samples to lucky seated guests. Cooking demonstrations are scheduled every hour on the hour on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. On Sunday the Cooking Challenge will feature eight chefs vying for the coveted Chefs Hat award.

The Caye at Big Rock Landing will feature the Challenge Butter tent, where attendees can sample local NC seafood and other side dishes cooked in Challenge Butter. A signature steam bar will feature local steamed oysters and clams, accompanied by Blue Point Craft beer. There will be an oyster shucking contest on Saturday.

SasSea’s Island Playground, located at Martin Luther King Park (near the train station) will feature a hay maze, corn pit, and a fossil dig to delight younger visitors. On Friday night, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., Strung Together will perform, and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., a variety of entertainment will be available, including cheer teams from Carteret and Craven counties, elementary school choirs, dance companies, and Saturday Night Life Church. Brand new this year, also at Martin Luther King Park, is Pop-Up in the Park, featuring local boutiques and artisans. Vendors will be available all weekend and wares will include sea glass art, handmade napkins, soap, jewelry and more.

The Blessing of the Fleet ceremony on Sunday at 10 a.m. pays tribute to those who bring seafood to the nation’s tables and to those watermen who have lost their lives on the water making their living. The NC State Port hosts the ceremony, with participating boats gathered to honor the watermen and the sea.

Returning events that complement the festival include arts and crafts, a popular flounder fling, games, fireworks, sailing regatta, educational exhibits, hands-on programs for kids, rides, games and a pier fishing contest all weekend.

The Southern Outer Banks In-Water Boat Show will be located at The Sound at Shepard and 9th streets. This location will also include on-land viewing of some of the coast’s best boats.

The 2018 Twin Bridges 8K run is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, at 8 a.m. Lace up to begin at the Beaufort drawbridge for a fun run to the Atlantic Beach Causeway. The Sailing Regatta will be held Sunday on Bogue Sound.

Capping off the Saturday evening entertainment will be a fireworks display from Sugarloaf Island, creating a spectacular sight reflecting off Bogue Sound. It promises to be the best fireworks display in North Carolina.

Free parking is offered at the NC State Port, located on Highway 70 E, and will be available on Saturday from 9 a.m. to midnight, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free shuttles provided by the Carteret County Area Transportation System (CCATS) will take attendees to and from the port and festival. Handicap parking spaces are available at the port during parking hours, with a handicapped accessible shuttle to bring visitors to the festival.

In addition to parking at the port, some community groups offer parking for a fee in lots surrounding the festival grounds. Handicap parking spaces are available on the north side of Arendell Street between 7th and 8th streets.

Detailed information is available at ncseafoodfestival.org and on all social media platforms (#NCSeafoodFest).

Plan a visit to this award-winning event to enjoy some seafood, buy a souvenir, take a picture with festival mascot SasSea and take home a memory. The North Carolina Seafood Festival—where seafood and sea fun meet.

PIKSCO Happenings

By Buz Jenkins

At the PIKSCO Annual Meeting in July, we had a lot of discussion and interest in scheduling more recreational and social activities. We have scheduled a Standup Paddleboard event with Pine Knoll Association, and there was a desire to have the two HOAs begin working more closely together. Faced with an ever-dwindling full-time population, this makes sense for fall, winter and spring activities.

Our third Saturday social event is beginning to get some traction, and we may begin expanding this activity to include things like corn hole contests. We are looking for ideas and volunteers to help make this a more exciting event.

HOA members are always welcome at the monthly board meetings, held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Monday of the month at town hall. Please attend and bring your ideas. Let’s continue the discussions we began at the annual meeting.

For many of us, this is our favorite time of year. The weather and water are still warm, but the summer crowds are gone. Many of us like to attend events like the annual Seafood Festival in Morehead City. Get out and enjoy this beautiful place we call home.

We are always looking for residents who would like to serve and are willing to volunteer a few hours of their time and expertise. We need your help to keep PIKSCO parks looking good and to suggest changes that we can make to improve our life here in paradise.

PIKSCO contact. For questions, concerns, to express a willingness to volunteer or to provide feedback, contact Erica Reed at 247-4818, pikSCO@ec.rr.com, through the website at pikSCO.com or by mail at P.O. Box 366, Atlantic Beach, NC 28512. In addition, members may contact Buz Jenkins at 622-4554.

In Memoriam

May Mead

Anne Reeves