

STAFF PHOTO BY EDDIE SWEATT

USING TWO COOKERS THIS YEAR, volunteers cooked and served 201 bushels of oysters for the crowds attending the fifth annual N.C. Oyster Festival.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

DELIGHTING OYSTER FESTIVAL CROWDS Saturday afternoon at the Ocean Isle Beach Airport was a popular local group, Crossroads.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

DALE POOLE of Calabash was thoroughly enjoying the main attraction Saturday at the N.C. Oyster Festival, as was her companion on the right, Audrey Hewett.

Thousands Attend Oyster Festival

BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD
Oysters were in the spotlight this weekend during the N.C. Oyster Festival.

Despite rainy weather, South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce Co-Director Anne Marie Schettini called this year's festival "the most successful ever."

According to Schettini, between 3,000 and 5,000 people attended the festival.

Hungry festival-goers ate 201 bushels of oysters and 375 pounds of fish.

Carry-out fish plates did such a big business this year that next year the chamber also plans to offer carry-out oysters.

Even though rain kept away the majority of craftsmen, 20 of the 65 people who had signed up for the arts

and crafts show came to the festival. "The ones that stayed said they did very well," said Schettini.

Saturday morning 89 runners took part in the foot races at Holden Beach.

At the heavily-attended dog show at the Ocean Isle Beach Airport Saturday afternoon, Thunder, a black and white Great Dane belonging to Rena Griffith, won the best of show blue ribbon.

Milton Williams of Seaside shucked his way to fame for the second year in the oyster shucking competition with a time of two minutes and 51 seconds.

Bobby G. Inman of Longwood won the raffle drawing for the lot in Sandy Shoals subdivision near Holden Beach.

At Shallotte Middle School Satur-

day night, N.C. Oyster Festival queen Natalyn Shipp relinquished her crown to Tamala Grissett of Shallotte.

Dawn Baldwin of Leland was awarded the first N.C. Oyster Festival princess title.

Except for three minor fights in which no one was arrested, the WDZD street dance at Calabash ran smoothly, according to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Lindsay Walton.

Gary Branson, general manager of WDZD, said, "It was fantastic—the biggest and best ever."

The nationally known country band The Coulters played at the dance.

During and before the festival, the chamber sold 1,008 sweatshirts and tee shirts that featured the festival logo.

Schettini said the shirts were in such demand the chamber has ordered 144 more. Some will be given to participants in the foot races; the rest will be for sale to the general public.

Schettini and fellow director Karen Moshoures both stressed that the chamber is very appreciative to all the volunteers that made the N.C. Oyster Festival so successful.

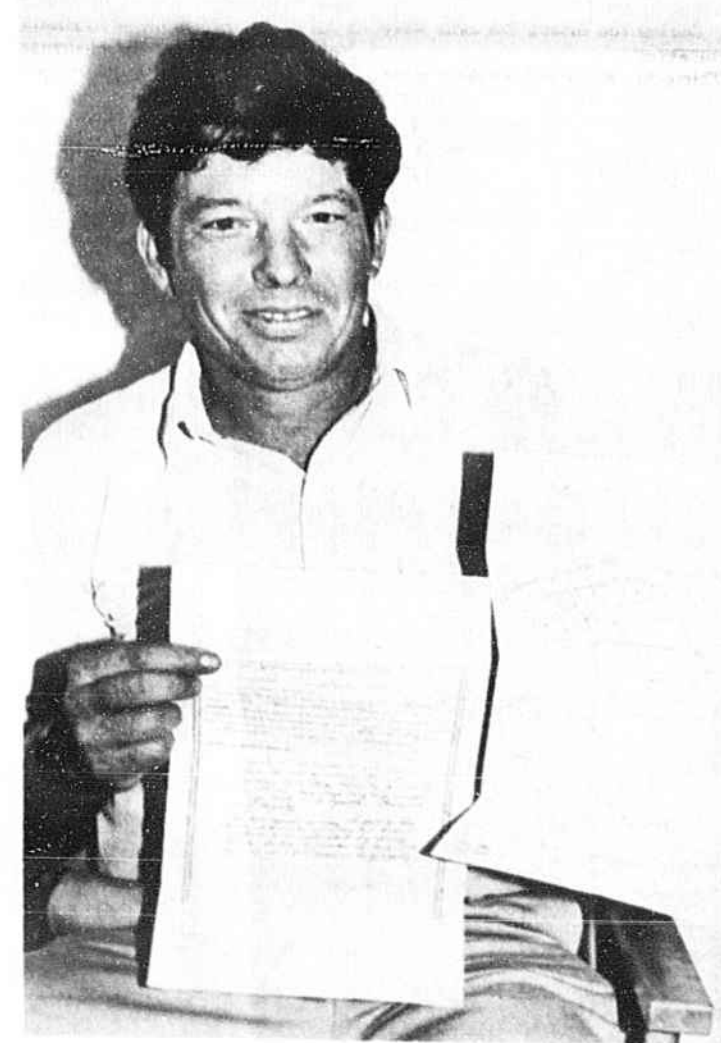
Many individuals volunteered time, and Boy Scout Troop 287 worked the entire day, loading oysters and keeping the festival site clean and returned Sunday to clean some more.

Schettini said, "Our volunteers hung in there for a long day in severe weather. It didn't dampen their spirits. Everyone worked harder than ever."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

OYSTERS AREN'T for eating only. Ocean Isle Beach resident Carolyn Newton was sorting recycling discarded shells at the N.C. Oyster Festival Saturday, looking for "nice formations" suitable for craft work. At Christmas, for instance, she makes miniature nativity scenes inside the curve of a half shell.



STAFF PHOTO BY DAWN ELLEN BOYD

Inman Wins Land

Bobby G. Inman of Longwood was the lucky winner in the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce's drawing for a lot in the Sandy Shoals subdivision near Holden Beach. Inman's ticket was drawn from over 400 entries in the N.C. Oyster Festival event. He laughed, "That was the best five dollars I've spent in a long time!" Inman eventually plans to build on the lot.



THIS OYSTER-LOVING chocolate lab named "Josh's Leaping Lucy," and her owner, Josh and Harriet Tharrington of Raleigh, could take a blue ribbon in the 1986 N.C. Oyster Festival dog show winner next fall with a trick like this. Never taking her eyes off the prize, she leaped for every oyster Josh offered last Saturday afternoon.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Concerned Citizens of Brunswick County are planning a bake sale and yard sale for their next meeting—

Saturday, Oct. 26, 8 AM Until

at the old Faircloth Service Station at Holden Beach.

Anyone who opposes the closing of the west end of Holden Beach and would like to make a donation of items for the sale, please call Georgia at 842-3779 or Mabel at 842-3533.