

South Brunswick Islands Prepared For North Carolina Oyster Festival

Good food, family entertainment and a variety of arts and crafts are promised at the 7th Annual North Carolina Oyster Festival to be held Oct. 10 and 11 at the Seaside Community Market on N.C. 904.

Sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, this year's event is chaired by Allan Dameron.

Saturday's festival highlight's include an 8:30 a.m. run at Holden Beach, the state Oyster Shucking Championship at 5:30 p.m. and oyster-lover specialties served all afternoon.

Applications for the road race and shucking contest may be picked up at the chamber office on U.S. 17 in Shallotte.

Plenty of seafood will be available during both days of the festival, with oysters the main attraction.

Seafood dishes served Saturday will include steamed, fried and raw oysters, as well as oyster cocktails, oyster sandwiches and fried baby flounder.

Sunday's menu will consist of flounder filet sandwiches, along with oyster sandwiches and cocktails. Clam chowder and hot dogs will be served both days.

Food will be served between the hours of 12 noon and 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Dameron has ordered 250 bushels of oysters for the festival in addition to 1,500 pounds of flounder, 50 gallons of raw oysters, 20,000 hush puppies and several large drums of cole slaw. Plenty of cold beverages have been ordered as well.

Entertainment at this year's festival will get underway with the annual festival runs of one mile, five and ten kilometers at Holden Beach.

This year's race is sponsored by WPGO Radio Station of Shallotte and will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The official welcome to the South Brunswick Islands will be held at noon at the festival site and hosted by chamber President Don Evans, Dameron and Miss Brunswick County Lori Bowling.

The Brunswick County Veterans Bullshooting Contest will follow at 12:30 p.m. Tall-tale tellers will compete; their stories suitable for family audiences.

A Columbus County dance group known as the Old Dock Cloggers will then take the stage for 1½ hours beginning at 2 p.m. Under the direction of Leland resident Jimmy Watson, dancers of all ages will clog to a number of foot-stomping selections.

Festival crowds will then be treated to an hour of contemporary rock and roll music when "Tina Smith and Crossroads" hit the stage

at 4:30 p.m.

This local band has played at previous oyster festivals, but will feature Ash native Tina Smith as lead singer for the first time.

Saturday's festival excitement should peak at 5:30 p.m. when national oyster shucking champion Cathy Carlisle returns to defend her state title earned at last year's oyster festival.

Approximately 70 arts and crafts booths will be set up at the festival for those interested in buying or browsing.

Booths will display many homemade arts including woodworking, shell crafting, ceramics and more.

Chamber Executive Director Anne Marie Schettini said she expects a festival sales record this year of about 3,500 Oyster Festival shirts.

She said the chamber started selling T-shirts and sweatshirts shortly after Easter this year and has already sold about 1,500.

About 800 shirts were sold during the 1986 festival, she said, but they were not marketed until after Labor Day.

These official, state festival shirts will be on sale at the festival site throughout the weekend during this year's event.

Here's The Oyster Festival Scoop

Saturday, Oct. 10

SEVENTH ANNUAL OYSTER FESTIVAL RUNS, sponsored by WPGO Radio Station, at Holden Beach Surfside Pavilion. Register in advance at WPGO or the Chamber of Commerce office, Shallotte. Race day entries accepted an hour before race time at the pavilion. Entry fee charged.

FESTIVAL OPENS at noon with welcome at Seaside site on N.C. 904, just north of N.C. 179, with oysters, flounder, hot dogs, clam chowder, etc. served until 7 p.m.

MORE THAN 70 arts and crafts booths open will be open from noon until 7 p.m.

THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY VETERANS BULLSHOOTING CONTEST features tellers of tall tales competing for prizes. Entertainment suitable for the entire family, At the stage on the festival grounds, Seaside, 12:30 p.m.

OLD DOCK CLOGGERS clog to a number of foot-stomping selections under the direction of Jimmy Watson of Leland, 2 p.m.-3:30 p.m., at the stage.

MORE STORYTELLING by entrants in the Bullshooting Contest, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

TINA SMITH & CROSSROADS perform country-pop hits and original selections, on the stage, 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

THE N.C. OYSTER SHUCKING CONTEST features top shuckers working against the clock to prepare an appealing tray of oysters and win a chance for national competition, with U.S. Champion Cathy Carlisle defending her state title, 5:30 p.m., on the stage. Applications available from chamber office or on site.

TINA SMITH & CROSSROADS return with more music, 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 11

ARTS AND CRAFTS BOOTHS are open for browsing, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

LIGHT MENU of seafood sandwiches, hotdogs, clam chowder and oyster cocktails will be served, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT will feature groups such as the "Kingsway," at 2 p.m., and "NewLife" at 3:30 p.m.

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