

# Like Food, Fun And Games? Festival Season Is For You!

BY SUSAN USHER

**B**eachlovers bent on fun, games and good eating gravitate in autumn to two South Brunswick Islands festivals with distinct personalities.

The N.C. Oyster Festival, sponsored Oct. 15-16 by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, and the N.C. Festival By The Sea, held Oct. 29-31 by the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association, highlight the fall season on the coast.

This year's Oyster Festival will feature a new look at an old location. Staged again at the Seaside intersection of N.C. 179 and N.C. 904 at Sunset Beach, the festival will be minus the three buildings that previously stood on the site. This year food service, arts and crafts and entertainment will each have their own area, said festival co-chairman Sally Nord, which should help traffic flow and also allow for greater enjoyment of each activity.

The Brunswick County Shrine Club will be serving seafood, with oysters expected to be available both days. More outside food ven-

dors are also planned, offering traditional "festival foods" from funnel cakes to gyros.

The arts and crafts exhibition is expected to be the largest yet for the festival, with awards presented in both fine arts and crafts.

Saturday gets off to an early start with a road race at Holden Beach. A new state oyster shucking champion will be crowned Saturday evening, while earlier that afternoon storytellers of all ages and persuasions will spin yarns from the stage in the annual Bullshooting Contest held with the cooperation of the Coast Toastmasters Club of Shallotte.

Saturday's featured performer is Clifford Curry, with back-up by Flip Side Band, playing top 40, country and beach music, said Anne Laughinghouse, entertainment coordinator.

A member of the Beach Music Hall of Fame, Curry has developed an enthusiastic local following singing hits of his own, such as "She Shot A Hole In My Soul," as well as his popular "Animal House" and "Otis Day and The Knights Medley".

## Mark Your Calendar:

**North Carolina Oyster Festival**  
Oct. 15-16  
N.C. 179 & 904  
Seaside

**North Carolina Festival By The Sea**  
Oct. 29-31  
Holden Beach



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**CLIFFORD CURRY, whose music is popular with area residents, will entertain a larger audience at the N.C. Oyster Festival with beach music sounds such as his own, "Baby Won't You Shag With Me."**

Also entertaining will be Junior Fields, a local businessman who performed with the legendary Bill Haley and the Comets. Fields will sing a mixture of rock and roll and

country oldies.

Entertainment by the 2nd Marine Division Band from Camp Lejeune, near Jacksonville, will highlight opening ceremonies of the Oyster

Festival at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 15. The band will also present a mid-day concert.

At The N.C. Festival By The Sea at Holden Beach, everyone's a winner—well, almost everyone.

According to Co-chairman Gay Atkins, one of the festival's draws is its array of games for individuals and teams/families. Sand sculpture and horseshoe pitching draw competitors back year after year, and two newer events, volleyball and kite flying are beginning to establish their own traditions as well.

The fun begins Friday night with a costume contest as part of the haunted house and Halloween Carnival at Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department. It continues through the day Saturday and Sunday afternoon with a parade along the Holden Beach causeway, local entertainers on stage, and games, games, games.

While its food vendors and road race are popular, the fest's arts and crafts show is perhaps the biggest draw, with its reputation among crafters as drawing serious shoppers, not just lookers, and its reputation among shoppers for offering good quality handmade items at affordable prices.

This year more than 200 handcrafters and artists from all points on the map want spots at Jordan Avenue.

"We may have to turn people away," said Jim Lowell, show coordinator.

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