



HAVE AN OYSTER! James Watson and Kermit Fincham pour out the bivalves by the thousands, launching last year's N.C. Oyster Festival.



THE FABULOUS KAYS return to this year's Oyster Festival with their popular mix of contemporary and classic hits.

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Shuckin' And Scarfin': Oysters Feted Again!

The king of Carolina waters, the ever-popular oyster, will once again get special recognition in Brunswick County, just before being shucked and scarfed by eager eaters.

The oyster's short-lived fame comes through the annual North Carolina Oyster Festival, being held this year Oct. 14 and 15 at its customary location at the intersection of N.C. 904 and N.C. 179, opposite Food Lion Plaza.

According to festival coordinator Lisa Anglin, of the sponsoring South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce, there are plenty of diversions in the offing.

"The Fabulous Kays will be back," she said, referring to the band that entertained last year's crowd. "They'll play Oct. 14 from 7 until 9 p.m. and on Oct. 15 from 1 p.m. till closing."

"The Southern Rangers," a local band headed by Gary Pope, will also play on Saturday.

food, and Anglin said a full dozen ethnic food booths will feed the hungry, ranging from Greek and Chinese to American hot dogs, courtesy of Boy Scouts, and Carolina seafood offered by the Shriners.

Other entertainment, which is continuous from 9:30 a.m. till 9:30 p.m. Oct. 15, includes performances by a variety of area beauty queens. Anglin said a half-dozen of these royal figures are expected.

Amusement rides and face-painting are part of the fun planned for children.

Those who insist on heavy physical involvement can enter one of three road races, moved this year from Holden Beach to the festival site. "There will be a 5K, 10K and one-mile race through Seatrail Plantation," Anglin explained. Details are available from Johnny Craig, 842-2777.

Arts and crafts, always part of a festival lineup, will be available for viewing and for sale. Some will win cash prizes; in a juried show, best-of-show will take home \$300, while the best art and craft will win \$100 each; second place will bring prizes of \$50 each.

Of course, the centerpiece of every Oyster Festival has to be the oyster-shucking contest, whose winner goes to Leonardtown, Maryland, the following October for national competition. "There will probably be about six competitors," Anglin estimated. "Anyone can enter right up to 5 p.m. on the 15th." Last year's champion, Karen McNeil, will compete Oct. 15 and 16 in Maryland and, if victorious, will proceed to international shucking.

Evidence of this big event can be seen all over the county well in advance through the colorful T-shirts now on sale. White shirts bear a logo created by Jim Stein of Southport, winner of the annual logo contest. This winning art work involves an oyster surrounded by sea oats, a pelican perched on pilings, water beneath, a bright sun above.

Shirts are \$12, \$15 for gray baseball jerseys and \$17 for long-sleeved shirts. They are on sale at shops and banks throughout the South Brunswick Islands.

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