



SHRINERS James Watson and Kermit Finchum scoop another bucketful of fresh steamed oysters to be enjoyed by a lucky festival-goer.



FINGERS FLY as contestants attempt to shuck two dozen raw oysters as quickly and perfectly as possible.

Fun Folks Feast On Bountiful Bivalves (And More)

PHOTOS BY ERIC CARLSON

The clouds parted and the good times rolled as thousands slurped, shopped and shagged their way through the 14th annual North Carolina Oyster Festival sponsored this past weekend by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

A six-inch downpour on the eve of the festival had organizers a bit nervous, but skies over Friday's opening ceremonies were dry, if a little on the gray side. Saturday dawned breezy and crystal blue—perfect weather for enjoying roasted oysters in a festive outdoor atmosphere, as long as you held onto your hat.

For the kids, there were carnival rides and plenty of "just-for-fun foods" like cotton candy. For adults, there were unique and varied crafts, fresh local seafood and ethnic delights from all corners of the globe. For the nimble-fingered, there was the North Carolina Oyster Shucking Championship, with the gold going to Lofton James, who'll represent the state in national competition next October at Leonardstown, Md.

For everyone, there was music—shagging style from the Fabulous Kays and contemporary country style from the Southern Rangers. There was a chance to make new friends and visit with old ones, to stroll in the soft autumn sunshine and enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the best season in the South Brunswick Islands. There was time to reflect on the humble oyster, to wonder about that first brave slurper, to ponder the importance of the tasty bivalve to local history, and to worry about its future in the local food chain.

For South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce leaders and dozens of good-hearted volunteers, there was the relief of putting another big event behind them and the satisfaction of a job...well, fun.



"BIG NELL" Harrelson checks a competitor's offering for bits of shell.



COTTON CANDY makes better kid food, says Danielle Kurtz of Supply.

Fall Festival To Highlight Anniversary Week At BCC

Children's games, a costume contest and a magic show will be part of the fun during Fall Festival at Brunswick Community College Friday, Nov. 4, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sponsored by the Student Government Association, the festival is the finale of the college's Oct. 31-Nov. 4 15th anniversary celebration and campus fund drive to raise money for the BCC Foundation.

The foundation supports the enhancement of the college through programs that include scholarships, a work-study program and emergency loan fund for students, faculty awards and mini-grants, and serves as a channel for donations of cash and in-kind gifts.

Admission to the festival is free and includes the magic show and costume contest, said BCC spokesman Anne Marie Bellamy.

Festival-goers can also participate in a variety of

games such as ring toss, duck pond, dart throw and a basketball toss, for 25 cents each. Hotdogs and soft drinks will be available.

Special activities are planned on campus throughout the week celebrating BCC's 15th anniversary. These include a fund drive kick-off breakfast, a display of childhood photos of staff and faculty and related identification game, a birthday party with cake, ice cream and 1979 music, and a circa 1979 trivia contest.

On Wednesday, Oct. 26, an auto show of cars 15 years or older will be held on campus near the automotive shop. That same day a scavenger hunt for 15 special items and a rare collections display are planned.

BCC employees and students are submitting predictions for BCC's next 15 years that will be placed in a sealed "time capsule" to be opened in the year 2009.

Auditorium Offers Discount On Season Tickets

Group discounts on season tickets to the first subscription season at the Odell Williamson Auditorium are still available.

Groups of 25 or more qualify for a flat \$10 discount per person off the individual season ticket prices of \$70 for adults and \$60 for students and senior citizens, said Mike Sapp, auditorium manager.

Subscribers choose their seats when ordering tickets and will receive all tickets at once.

The series opens Nov. 11 with The Winter Solstice Concert featuring Windham Hill recording artists. Other events on the schedule include a variety show, "A

Winter's Eve Distractions," on Jan. 21, The Platters on Feb. 9, a touring show of "Anything Goes," March 3, The Lettermen on March 28, and the N.C. Symphony's annual pops concert, with this year's theme "The Wild West."

The Odell Williamson Auditorium is on the Brunswick Community College main campus on U.S. 17 north of Supply. Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. Tickets may also be ordered by telephone and charged to either of two major credit cards. Call 754-3133, or Ext. 406 using any of BCC's other numbers, 754-6900, 457-6329 or 343-0203.

Have An Idea?

Do you know a person, place or organization that might be an interesting "under the sun" feature story topic? Share your idea with us. Call Editor Lynn Carlson at 754-6890, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

State To Report On Waccamaw River Study At Meeting Tuesday

Local residents interested in finding out the status of a state study of ways to improve the Waccamaw River Basin can attend a meeting next Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. at Waccamaw Elementary School.

The meeting is being called by Rep. David Redwine in conjunction with the seven state and federal agencies involved in the basin study.

In the first phase now nearing completion, the agencies are reviewing existing data and compiling summaries of information relating to

public concerns raised about water levels, sediment and blockages, the fishery, water quality and land uses within the basin.

Their next step is to determine what new studies and information are needed. From their research the agencies will draft recommendations to improve management of the basin and its resources.

Then, starting in 1996, they will try to obtain the resources needed to follow through on their plan of action.



MILKWEED SEED PODS release small brown seed with a fluffy white sail to carry them on the wind.

Traveling In The Fall

BY BILL FAVER

The fall season is the time of year when many plants release their seeds to drop to the ground. Some of these plants have unique ways of ensuring that their seeds will be distributed to soil where they will have a chance of germinating and growing when spring comes. Some even travel in the fall to new locations with the aid of the wind or with the help of birds and other animals.

The milkweeds are some of the plants that depend upon the wind to disperse their seeds. The seedpod of this host plant for the monarch butterfly larvae breaks open to release small brown seeds attached to a downy fluff of white which easily sails along on the breeze. In this way seeds can travel a great distance when the wind is right.

Our common dune pea or beach pea (probably one of the vetches) releases its seed with a twist. When the

hot sun ripens the green pod to dark brown, the sides of the pod snap and twist open, throwing the small, dark seeds in several directions. Sometimes you can hear the crack of the pods in the dunes when you are spending a quiet moment on the deck or walkway over the dunes.

Some birds and small animals distribute seeds in their droppings. Ever wonder why there are so many cedars under utility lines or along fences? Maybe birds along wires have "planted" them. In the upcountry, persimmon-eating raccoons are often responsible for new trees as the seeds pass through their bodies undigested.

Hunters can surely attest to the way cockleburrs and beggar lice hitch a ride on clothing and dogs. All of us have experienced sandspurs in the same manner.

These are just a few of the ways seeds travel in the fall. We can see from this how species proliferate and how pest plants can take over an area. But maybe we can learn to appreciate the uniqueness of many plants and their abilities to continue their survival in an often hostile environment.



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