

# Calabash Pride Is Festival's Theme

BY DOUG RUTTER

There's a new festival on the local scene.

Calabash, the waterfront community known for its scrumptious seafood, will host a summer fling the third weekend in August.

The festival will be held in conjunction with a U.S. Power Squadron "Rendezvous" at Calabash.

Live music, boat rides and art and quilt shows are among the planned activities, said Warren "Bud" Knapp, chairman of the festival committee.

Gov. Jim Martin has even been invited to a special dinner being held to recognize the selection of Calabash for the N.C. Coastal Initiative program.

According to Knapp, the Calabash Festival won't be like any other in the area. Although outsiders will be welcome, it's primarily for the townspeople.

"We want to demonstrate the pride in Calabash," he said. "We've got a wonderful town. We've got the beautiful Calabash River."

Most of the activities will be held at the waterfront and on property across the street and adjacent to Marsh Harbour Marina.

Doe Creek Art Gallery of Supply will coordinate an art show the first day of the festival, Friday, Aug. 14.

*"The river is our heritage and we are recognizing how fortunate and proud we are of our town."*

—Warren "Bud" Knapp, Chairman Calabash Festival Committee

Calabash residents will be asked to submit entries for the amateur show, and professional works also will be displayed.

Saturday's activities will include a quilt show during the afternoon and a Governor's Recognition and Awards Dinner at night.

Both events will take place at the Riverside Restaurant on the Calabash River. Knapp said Gov. Martin has been asked to attend the dinner, which will be for invited guests only.

"It's not going to be an elaborate affair," Knapp said. "Everybody will pay their own way except the governor and his wife."

Other festival activities will include band entertainment and boat rides on the Calabash River out to Little River jetty.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

**THE CALABASH WATERFRONT offers a constant reminder of the town's river heritage, which will be the focus of a town festival in August.**

"The river is our heritage and we are recognizing how fortunate and proud we are of our town," Knapp said. "There's a lot of people here in Carolina Shores who have probably never been out on the river."

The Carolina Shores Garden Club will be dressing up the community, and merchants will be asked to decorate their buildings.

Some of the leading business women in town will act as hostesses during the festival, Knapp said.

The festival committee doesn't want craft booths or food stands. Any money to be made should be made by the merchants.

"We're not looking for hot dog

stands," he said. "This is our town. We want it to be just like you see it every day."

Knapp said the whole idea of a town festival started last fall when the Power Squadron asked about using Calabash for its rendezvous.

The boating organization decided to hold its affair in Calabash earlier this year and the festival developed from there. About 300 people from the Power Squadron are expected in town during the weekend.

"The more we talked about it the more we thought this would be a good time for Calabash to pull together," Knapp said.

Various organizations in town like the VFW, Elks and Calabash

Volunteer Fire Department are represented on the festival committee.

Knapp said the committee is only temporary. The town plans to form a Calabash Festival Association to plan future festivals.

The committee's goal for this year's event is to raise about \$6,000, mainly through the sale of sweatshirts, key rings and other items bearing a special logo.

Knapp said the committee is also preparing a souvenir program booklet telling the history of Calabash and containing a message from the governor.

"Hopefully in 50 years from now we'll look back and see this as a great start," Knapp said.

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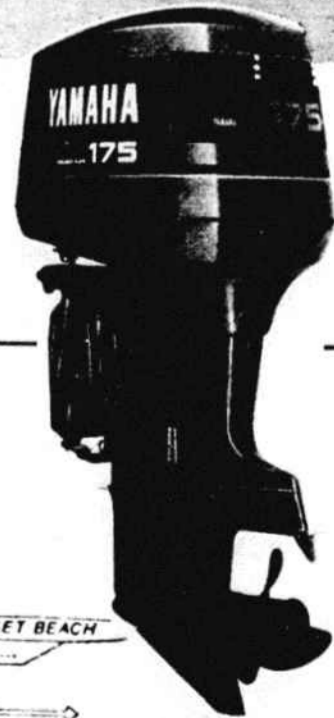
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