

SPRING 2012

LOUISIANA FOLK

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA FOLKLIFE CENTER

THE 33rd ANNUAL NATCHITOCHE-SNSU FOLK FESTIVAL

The 2012 Festival theme is “Celebrating Louisiana’s Folk Music.” The traditional musical genres that will be performed at the 2012 Festival comprise a diverse landscape with musicians coming from throughout the state to perform. Breaux Bridge resident Yvette Landry will play country and honky tonk music. Cajun musicians will include Cajun on Demand, the legendary Ray Abshire, the recently Grammy nominated Feufollet, and Briggs Brown and the Bayou Cajuns. Bluegrass performers will be the Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band and Reasonable Facsimile. Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La-Mystics and Reverend Charley’s Patent Medicine Show will perform a variety of country, honky tonk, bluegrass, and roots music. Master musicians Henry Gray and the Cats and saxophonist Hardrick Rivers and his group the Rivers Revue Band will play the jazz and blues. French Creole la la music will be performed by Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys, and the LaCour Trio will play Zydeco. Jesus Rhythm will perform gospel songs. Finger picking virtuoso Richard Smith, who Chet Atkins described as “The most amazing guy I know on guitar,” will be accompanied by cellist Julie Adams. Longtime Festival favorites the Back Porch Band will play a variety of traditional musical genres, including gospel, Civil War era music, American pioneer music, and Irish and Scottish music. Coming to us from East Texas, a place that shares much of Louisiana’s musical roots, will be the Caddo Creek Band playing western swing. This year also sees the return of Max and Marcy and Friends, who will lead some bluegrass and country open jams. Bring your guitar or banjo and join in the tune!

Many of the performers at the 2012 Festival will participate in informances which combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists. The Festival will also include the folk crafts people and traditional foods that will have you coming back for more. In honor of this year’s theme, Ron Yule and the Medicare String Band will perform “A History of Louisiana Fiddling Genres and Styles” on the stage of Magale Recital Hall directly before this year’s highly anticipated Louisiana State Fiddle Championship. Join us for a rousing celebration of Louisiana’s musical heritage, past and present!

HONORARY CHAIR



Ray Abshire was mentored by Cajun musicians in the 50’s and 60’s “Dance Hall Era” of South Louisiana. Abshire played accordion with the legendary Balfa Brothers Band, even performing with them at the very first Cajun music festival in 1974. Absent from the stage except for rare appearances since the mid 70’s, Abshire returned to performing in the early 1990’s. Like his early mentors, Abshire has the rhythmic style and classic vocals reminiscent of the pre-amplification period. Dan Willging of New Orleans’ *offBeat Magazine* has written that Ray Abshire is “one of the reasons Cajun music continues its roots resurgence. Abshire is one of the most awe inspiring accordionists you’ll ever hear—the real deal in the old school tradition.” He has played at the Festivals Acadians, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Denmark’s International Cajun Festival, and the Cajun Music Festival. Ray Abshire and his band will perform Cajun music at the Festival.

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2013 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

The 2013 Festival theme will be “Celebrating Louisiana’s Horse and Cattle Culture.” There is no period of Louisiana history when cattle and horses have not played a role in the culture of the region. All of the peoples of this diverse region have been participants in cattle raising: American Indians, Frenchmen, Spaniards, Afro-Americans, Creoles, and Anglo-Americans have all taken a hand at “running livestock.” This is still a land of men and horses, cows and cowboys, and their influence is deeply rooted in the folkways of today’s Louisianans. Many Cajun cowboys such as those in Eunice and Mamou still run the traditional rural *Courir de Mardi Gras* on horseback from house to house, begging for chickens for the communal gumbo. Cowboy poetry and western ballads describe the rugged independence and frequent loneliness of the cowboy (and cowgirl!) life, as well as its closeness with the natural world. Amateur and professional rodeos, riding club trail rides, and horse racing are all popular, especially in North Louisiana. Much of Louisiana’s folk music genres are closely tied to agrarian culture, including Cajun, Zydeco, and country and western. Musicians at the 2013 Festival will include Geno Delafosse and French Rockin’ Boogie, Hadley Castille and the Sharecroppers Band with Sarah Jayde Williams, Kerry Grombacher, Maggie Warwick and the Louisiana Hayride Band, the Hugh Harris Band, Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue, Knight Train, the Jambalaya Cajun Band, and D.L. Menard. The crafts associated with horse and cattle culture will also be exhibited, along with day long demonstrations by the craft persons working on site. Rounded out by the prestigious Louisiana State Fiddle Championship and the traditional foods that the Festival is renowned for, this will be a Festival to remember!

Hall of Master Folk Artists

Henry Gray

Born in 1925 in Kenner, Louisiana, Henry Gray began playing the piano at age 14 and is one of the most celebrated blues pianists in American History. Howlin’ Wolf’s pianist for twelve years, Gray has also played with Jimmy Reed, Elmore James, the Rolling Stones, and Muddy Waters. Gray is one of the key contributors to Louisiana’s Unique “Swamp Blues,” and has performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival for the past thirty years. He has recorded over 58 albums. In 1985 he appeared in the public television documentary *Rainin’ in my Heart*. A 1998 Grammy nominee, in 2006 Gray was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship Award by the National Endowment for the Arts. Gray was featured in the 25th anniversary of the NEA’s NCTA Blues Master’s Series in 2008. Henry Gray and The Cats will perform blues music at the Festival.

Ray Abshire

(see Honorary Chair)

Goldman Thibodeaux

As the son of a sharecropper, Thibodeaux began working the fields when he was eight or nine years old. As he worked he always whistled and sang. Amede Ardoin, an accordionist, was a big musical influence while Thibodeaux was growing up. When he was fourteen years old Thibodeaux began playing the triangle, scrub-board and vocals with his brother-in-law. Thibodeaux also sat in with a group called the Lawtell Playboys, who encouraged him to take up the accordion. In his fifties he bought his first accordion. Calvin Carriere of the Lawtell Playboys taught him. Before Carriere died, he asked Thibodeaux to continue the Lawtell Playboys. Within less than two years, four band members had died. Despite this tragedy he continued to play. Currently Thibodeaux plays old time, la-la Creole dance music. He has written 30-35 songs, mostly waltzes and two-steps. He has also been the recipient of many awards including the 2009 Creole People’s award, the 2004 Appreciation for Promoting Music and Culture, Council for the Development of French in Louisiana and many others. Thibodeaux was a 2007 Grammy nominee.

Narrative/ Informance Sessions– N-Club Room

July 21, 2012

Informances combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists.

9:00-9:45 Bluegrass with Reasonable Facsimile	10:00-10:45 Feufollet	11:00-11:45 Henry Gray and the Cats	12:00-12:45 Caddo Creek Band	1:00-1:45 Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band
2:00-2:45 Storytelling through Song	3:00-3:45 Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys	4:00-4:45 Ray Abshire	5:00-5:45 Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La- Mystics	6:00-6:45 Ron Yule: A Com- parison of 20th Century Fiddle Music Styles in Louisiana
10:00-10:45 Instrument Making Session (Basketball Room)				

Ray Abshire Workshop to be held at 2012 Festival

Ray Abshire, renowned Cajun accordionist and master musician, will perform at the 2012 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival on Saturday, July 21st. He will also participate in a narrative session in the N-Club Room from 4:00pm to 4:45pm and conduct a workshop from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at Prather Coliseum.

In honor of this year's Festival theme "Celebrating Louisiana's Folk Music," Festival attendees may sign up for a special workshop to be directed by Ray Abshire. This accordion, fiddle, and guitar workshop will be taught by Ray Abshire (accordion), Brandon Moreau (fiddle), and Brent Abshire (rhythm guitar). The cost is \$50 per student and cash or checks are accepted, but not credit cards. Payment will be made at the door and a maximum of 30-35 students will be accepted. Accordion students are asked to bring a C accordion. The workshop is open to beginning, intermediate, and advanced players of all ages. There will be a one hour teaching session followed by a 30 minute jam session. Festival visitors may attend the jam session free of charge. For more information, email Ray Abshire at ray@rayabshire.com.

Traditional Crafts Saturday Only 8:00am-5:00pm

<p>Jerry LaCaze-Wood Carving and Jewelry R.V. Couch- Instrument Making Frieda Tuma & Nicole Holcomb- Pysanky Eggs Lora Ann Chaisson- Alligator Jewelry and Palmetto Baskets Billy Anderson- Bull Whips Chris Moore- Iron Working Los Adaes Foundation- Quilts and Bonnets Kenneth and Mary Royston- Whittling and Needlework Roy Parfait- Wood Carving</p>	<p>Elvin Shields- Plantation Toys Gena Wagley- Dolls Juanita Leonard- Paintings, Sculptures, and Other Crafts Roy Burst- Choctaw Silver-smith Jewelry Tom Colvin- Choctaw Palmetto and Cane Baskets Myrna Wilson- Koasati (Coushatta) Pinestraw Baskets Alice Tyler- Clifton-Choctaw Beadwork Becky Walsh- Clifton-Choctaw Baskets Betty Hatcher- Needlework</p>	<p>Geraldine Robertson- Dolls and Baskets Clifton Rambin- Gourd Art and Walking Sticks Charlene Quinilty- Spinning and Weaving Wool Billy Phillips- Wood Carving Edward Procell- Bees/Hives/Honey Doris Perkins- Lye Soap, Quilling, and Wood Burning Jo O'Quinn & Shelaghley Woods- Wood Turning W.D. Norton- Baskets Shelton Meacham- Banjo</p>	<p>Making John Colson- Filé Making Ann Luster- Spanish Moss Dolls and other Houma Crafts Janie Luster-Houma Indian Palmetto Baskets and other Houma Crafts Furman Harris- Cigar Box Guitars Daniel Goodman- Fiddle /Violin Making Rick Felkel- Instrument Making Bill Ellzey -Wood carving Tommy Gandy- Woodwork</p>
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2012 Music Schedule

Friday July 20, 2012

East Stage	Main Stage	West Stage
	4:30 Doors Open	
	5:00-5:45 Cajun Dance Lessons with Champ Crossno	
6:30 –7:15 Jesus Rhythm	6:00-7:15 Briggs Brown and the Bayou Cajuns	7:00-9:00 Open Bluegrass and Country Jam with Max and Marcy
8:00-9:00 Briggs Brown and the Bayou Cajuns	7:30-8:45 Yvette Landry Band	
	9:00-11:00 Cajun on Demand	

Louisiana State Fiddle Championship

On Saturday, July 21, 2012, the Folk Festival will host the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship from 12:00pm to 4:00pm in Magale Recital Hall. Fiddlers from around the state will compete for cash prizes and ribbons in two main categories—Non-Championship Division and Championship Division. Fiddlers are welcome to enter in either division but not both. Those who enter the Championship Division will compete for the Grand Champion title. Alternatively, the Non-Championship Division is not competitive for the state championship. The two top fiddlers from each group in the Championship Division— ages 0-21, 22-59, 60 and above will compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to be recognized as the state’s best fiddler. At 5:45pm on Saturday, the winner will perform on the Festival’s main stage in Prather Coliseum

Fiddle Championship Late Registration
2nd Floor Recital Hall Foyer
12:00-1:00

Ron Yule and the Medicare String Band perform
“A History of Louisiana Fiddling: Genres and Styles”
Recital Hall
11:30-12:45

For more information visit our website at <http://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu>



Lauren Ford
Grand Champion
2011

2012 Music Schedule

Saturday July 21, 2012

East Stage	Main Stage	West Stage
9:00-10:15 The LaCour Trio	9:00-10:15 Richard Smith and Julie Adams	9:00-10:15 Reverend Charley's Patent Medicine Show
10:30-11:45 Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys	10:30-11:15 Cajun Dance Lessons with Champ Crossno	10:30-11:45 Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band
12:00-1:30 Reverend Charley's Patent Medicine Show	11:30-12:45 Feufollet	12:00-12:45 Henry Gray and the Cats
	1:00-1:30 Welcome Ceremony Festival Honorary Chair: Ray Abshire Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductees: Ray Abshire, Henry Gray, and Goldman Thibodeaux	
1:45-3:00 Ray Abshire	1:45- 2:45 Henry Gray and the Cats	1:00-2:15 Back Porch Band
	3:00-4:15 The LaCour Trio	2:30-3:45 Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La-Mystics
3:15-4:45 Caddo Creek Band	4:30-5:30 Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band	4:00-5:15 Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys
5:00-6:15 Feufollet	5:45-6:15 Louisiana State Fiddle Champion	5:30-6:45 Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band
6:30-7:45 Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La-Mystics	6:30-7:45 Caddo Creek Band	7:00-8:15 Reasonable Facsimile
	8:00-9:30 Ray Abshire	
8:45-10:00 Open Bluegrass and Country Jam with Max, Marcy and Friends	9:45-11:00 Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band	

Thanks For Your Support

Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Contributors

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Supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council, and Shreveport Regional Arts Council.



Supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council, and the National Endowment of the Arts, a federal agency.



This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.



This project received support through a Cane River National Heritage Area Commission grant.



What to know before you go

Dates: July 20th and July 21st, 2012

Friday: 4:30 pm to 11:00 pm

Box Office opens at 4:30 pm; no on site tickets will be sold before 4:30 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am to 11:00 pm

Box Office opens at 8:00 am; no on site tickets will be sold before 8:00 am

Ticket Information

\$8.00 all day pass

\$5.00 evening only

FREE kids 12 and under

\$11.00 two day pass available in advance only

Discounted all-event passes must be purchased by **6 pm** on **Thursday July 19, 2012** at the Louisiana Folklife Center, Room 213 Kyser Hall; no discounted all-event passes will be sold at the Festival.

Directions

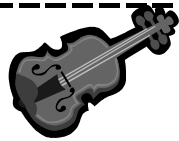
The Festival is held in comfortable, air-conditioned Prather Coliseum, on the campus of Northwestern State University in historic Natchitoches. The site provides ample, nearby parking and is handicap accessible. No alcohol is allowed or sold on the site. To reach the Coliseum, take the Natchitoches exit from I-49. From Shreveport, turn left; from Alexandria, turn right onto Hwy. 6 /

University Parkway and turn right onto South Jefferson. Prather Coliseum is on the right, just past the President's house and the tennis courts.

Contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332 or Folklife@nsula.edu <http://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu>

for information.

Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau
800-259-1714



The Fiddle Championship needs your support to remain an ongoing event!

_____ \$50 Supporter—2 passes (all events)

_____ \$100 Friend—4 passes (all events)

_____ \$200 Patron—8 passes (all events) &
Stage Signage

_____ Other Amount

In addition, you will receive recognition from the stage, listing in the Festival Program and on the website, and the opportunity to present a prize.

Make checks payable to:

NSU Foundation

Mail to:

Louisiana Folklife Center

NSU Box 3663

Natchitoches, LA 71497

KIDFEST

Kidfest is an area dedicated to child-friendly activities and is a fun way for children to examine their own cultural and family traditions as well as those from around the state.

Kidfest will be available on Saturday **ONLY** from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Activities will include handmade crafts and a cakewalk directed by Friends of The Rebel State Park.

EXHIBITS

Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site:

Bicentennial Exhibit

Rebel State Park: Instruments

Delta Music Museum: Memorabilia

Cammie G. Henry Research Center

Elvin Shields: Plantation Toys

The Louisiana Folklife Center
NSU Box 3663
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0014
(318)357-4332

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2012 Natchitoches -NSU Folk Festival
"Celebrating Louisiana's Folk Music"

Please check your donation preference:

*Make checks payable to the **NATCHITOCHES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL** *

Mail to: **Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497**

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| <u> </u> Friend of the Festival (\$25)
Receives: 1 pass (all events) | <u> </u> Member (\$50)
Receives: 2 passes (all events) | <u> </u> Sponsor (\$100)
Receives: 4 passes (all events)
1 T-shirt (size __) |
| <u> </u> Patron (\$250)
Receives: 10 passes (all events)
2 T-shirts (sizes __, __) | <u> </u> Grand Patron (\$500)
Receives: 20 passes (all events)
3 T-shirts (Sizes __, __, __) | <u> </u> Benefactor (\$1000)
Receives: 40 passes (all events)
Logo on Stage and mentioned in news releases |
| <u> </u> Grand Benefactor (\$2500)
Receives: 60 Passes (all events)
5 T-shirts (Sizes: __, __, __, __, __)
Logo on stage and mentioned in news releases and advertising | | |

In addition, all donors will receive listing in the Festival Program and on the website.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____