

43rd ANNUAL

Natchitoches - NSU

FOLK FESTIVAL

20

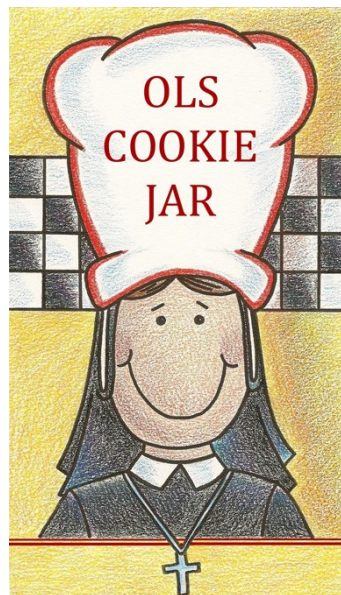
23



CELEBRATING LOUISIANA'S

CULTURAL
GUMBO

Thanks to Our In-Kind Supporters!



NORTHWESTERN STATE

Office of the President

July 22, 2023

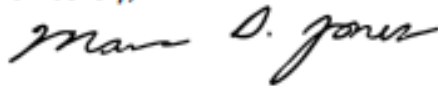
Dear Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Guest:

On behalf of Northwestern State University of Louisiana and the city of Natchitoches, I take great pleasure in welcoming each of you to the 43rd Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Since 1980, when Northwestern was officially incorporated into the Festival name, Northwestern has been both the physical and spiritual home of this very important celebration of Louisiana's people and their unique cultural expressions.

This year the Festival theme is "Celebrating Louisiana's Cultural Gumbo" which celebrates the resilience of the people of Louisiana and their folk traditions. An exciting component to the Festival that I am sure you will enjoy is the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship. Some of the world's greatest fiddlers have played on our Festival stage. The Festival staff has worked hard to plan and to produce an entertaining and educational Festival. I am confident that you will find this year's festival to be an enjoyable and edifying experience.

Thank you for coming to Natchitoches, and we invite you to spend some of your day touring other parts of the campus and our beautiful city. We take great pride in what we think is the prettiest campus and city in Louisiana, and we hope you enjoy your time here. Again, thank you for attending the Festival and for visiting Northwestern State University.

Sincerely,



Dr. Marcus D. Jones
President, Northwestern State University

est. 1884

Welcome back! In honor of this year's theme, Celebrating Louisiana's Cultural Gumbo, the festival features the long-awaited return of the Gumbo Cookoff, in which professionals and hobbyists alike will compete. Bon Appetit!

To help celebrate Louisiana's rich and living folk legacy are some of the state's finest musicians, crafts people, and cultural authorities. We are pleased to welcome back past favorites the Jambalaya Cajun Band, Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue, and Hugh Harris and the Drifting Cowboys. Also exciting will be a harmonica workshop by Ed Huey, and performances by the Russell Welch Hot Quartet with special guest Aurora Nealand, the Rising Sun Youth Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb Dance Group, Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, and Rusty Metoyer and the Zydeco Krush.



Without the support of our many loyal Festival patrons and Northwestern State University, we would not be able to bring you this event. We want to thank Bank of Montgomery, C and H Precision Machining, City Bank, the City of Natchitoches, Clearwater Pools & Spas, Cleco, Exchange Bank, Georgia's Gift Shop, the Harrington Law Firm, Jeanne's Country Garden, the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission, Natchitoches Wood Preserving, Waste Connections, Weaver Brothers Land and Timber Company, and many others for their generous donations. Having financial support for the Festival has allowed us to focus upon many narrative and folk elements within Louisiana's culture. Additionally, the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the Louisiana Division of the Arts Decentralized Arts Fund Program, the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, and the State of Louisiana have each generously awarded grants to support the Folk Festival. We appreciate the support of these groups more than words can express.

We cannot express enough thanks to those who have supported the Festival through the donation of their time. The Folk Festival Steering Committee and general volunteers participate in the Festival without pay although their efforts are priceless. Without our volunteers, this Festival could not be held.

Please be sure to fill out the Festival survey forms so that we can know the ways in which the Festival can be improved and the ways in which it is succeeding. And don't forget to come back in 2024 which will feature blues by D.K. Harrell, Cajun music by the Forest Huval Band, Rockin' Dopsie, Jr. & The Zydeco Twisters, the Zion Harmonizers, and square dance lessons led by the Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Group. See you next year!

-Shane Rasmussen

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In Memoriam

John Oswald Colson

John Oswald Colson, age 84, was called home on October 5, 2022 in Natchitoches, LA. In his early years he traveled between Natchitoches, Chicago and Los Angeles, eventually marrying the love of his life, his late wife Janet Ravare Colson. Together, they made enormous strides in the promotion and preservation of the Creole culture.

The epitome of a community gatekeeper, Oswald was responsible for bringing national attention to the Cane River culture which he so cherished. Oswald, in his many special ways, reached hundreds of students, scholars, and working people of Natchitoches Parish and beyond.

His life's work has been a significant influence on the heritage tourism economy. His mentorship has nurtured research and inspired careers. Numerous reports and studies on local cultural resources and folk traditions bear contributions in his name, and the internet is strewn with pictures, videos, and articles dedicated to John Oswald Colson AKA the Filé Man.



Oswald's sincerity to preservation and revitalization was contagious and anyone who was fortunate to spend time with him could soon find themselves inside a historic structure, on a cultural landscape, or at the stool of any given riverside establishment. Known for his rides "down the river," Os had a way of sharing his knowledge with you while he "made his rounds" which we'll never forget.

Any given day hanging out with Os, you might accidentally learn an antique Creole language term or stumble upon the ruins of a long lost bousillage Maison. And yes, you may have heard that story two or three times before, but you better bet this time there will be some new part that'll keep you on the edge of your seat.

Those of us blessed to spend any time with Oswald Colson are better people because of it. One thing that separated Oswald's friendship from others is the sincerity in which he invested in the relationship. He had a way of finding something in common with absolutely anyone. Rarely did he not "know someone you know," and he could find a relative anywhere, with his patented way of explaining degrees of separation and how y'all are related! Oswald was tenacious in the maintenance of friendships and the way he valued people above all is a model we should all consider.

John Oswald Colson was a renowned filé maker, tour guide, and oral historian and every day wore the Cane River Creole moniker like an ambassador’s badge of honor. His mother and generations before carried the tradition through the years to provide filé for the Cane River community, and he followed to make filé for over 60 years. He was a returning participant of the Natchitoches-NSU Folklife Festival for years, demonstrating aspects of filé making for festival patrons.

Much of the legacy of John Oswald Colson is thankfully preserved and his contributions are well-documented. Colson’s namesake filé work is featured at the LA Sports Hall of Fame NW History Museum in Natchitoches; his recollections of Cane River life in the early 20th century, landmark structures like the Badin-Roque House, and happenings at legendary juke joints and dance halls have been documented in videos available via the National Park Service; he was featured in 64 Parishes Magazine, the Bitter Southerner, Gastro Obscura; and was highlighted by celebrity chef Lidia Bastianich.

Colson also contributed to projects and events for the Cane River Creole National Historical Park, Cane River National Heritage Area, Creole Heritage Center, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Smithsonian Institution, St. Augustine Historical Society, Louisiana State Parks, the Experience Louisiana Festival in Eunice, Creole Culture Day at Vermilionville, Kent House Sugar Day in Alexandria, the Sassafras Festival in Texas, and summer workshops for the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of LA in Marksville. Colson was named a Louisiana Tradition Bearer in October of 2018. He is survived by his daughters; Teresa Colson Burns and husband Cody, Tracey Colson Antee and husband, Richie; his protégé and honorary son Dustin Fuqua; 6 grandchildren, Hope Kelly, Colson Fontenot, Madison Burns, Bailey Burns, Landon Fontenot, and Reese Burns. He was eagerly awaiting the arrival of his first great-granddaughter Kennedy Kelly.

He is preceded in death by his wife of nearly 50 years, Janet Ravare Colson; parents, Milton Colson and Veronica Metoyer Colson; his sister, Mary Veronica Aaron and beloved cousins and friends.

2023 Honorary Festival Chair

Rhonda Gauthier

An Adeasonos and member of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, Louisiana and President of the Ho Minti Society, Inc., Rhonda Gauthier grew up outside of Zwolle. As a young girl she began learning from the women in her immediate and extended families traditional arts such as crochet, embroidery, hand sewing, quilting, cooking, baking, and animal tending. Her grandmother taught her midwifery, the use of natural herbs to treat common ailments, and herb gardening.



Everything she learned as a young girl followed her through to adulthood. After earning a BA in Anthropology and History from Northwestern State University, she worked in the fields of research, genealogy and history, first part-time as a cultural interpreter at Fort St. Jean Baptiste, and later as a full-time interpretive ranger at Nuestra Senora de Pilar de Los Adaes and Fort Jesup State Historic Site. Since 2000 she has worked in the Louisiana Regional Folklife program as an assistant to Dr. Dayna Lee, as an assistant to historical archaeologist Dr. George Avery in the Los Adaes Program, and as Community Coordinator for the Creole Heritage Center. She served as the liaison for the Creole Center to the St. Augustine Historical Society, the Cane River Creole community, and Creole communities across Louisiana. Her work during these years included grant writing, research, Creole genealogy, coordinating conferences, and maintaining the Badin-Roque Historic structure on Cane River Lake.

In 2005, she produced the film *Maize to Masa*, which documents the Choctaw-Apache process of nixtamalization, a traditional maize preparation process in which dried kernels are cooked and steeped in an alkaline solution, usually water and food-grade lime, to make hominy. The Choctaw-Apache community still uses this process to make tamale dough. In 2008, Gauthier returned to Louisiana State Parks as an Interpretive Ranger until retiring in 2018. In 2021, Gauthier worked with the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission and Zwolle Depot Museum Board doing research and volunteer work to ready the Depot Museum. Research, genealogy, and cultural studies have been never-ending passions. Since 1994, she has worked closely with the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, consulting, researching genealogy, grant writing, working with the Rising Sun Youth, and serving on powwow and tribal recognition committees.

Rhonda Gauthier will be among those inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists at 11:15 AM on the Main Stage.

2023 Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee



Hugh Harris

Hugh Harris was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1972. By his early school years, he had discovered early country music in general—and the works of Hank Williams in particular—and was singing and performing in church and at local gatherings. After graduating high school, he appeared at writers’ nights and gave other performances at clubs in Nashville, Tennessee, eventually becoming recognized as a songwriter with appearance credentials at the world famous Blue Bird Café.

He attended Northeast Mississippi Community College, graduating with an Associate’s Degree in Country Music. While there, he was a member of NEMCC’s traveling band, Campus Country, and

appeared with such artists as Michael Martin Murphy and Dan Seals.

He has performed his music as well as that of Hank Williams and other historical country artists at festivals and other venues in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and California.

In 1998, he made the acquaintance of Terry Huval and other members of the Jambalaya Cajun Band, and together they have performed at other venues and festivals, delivering music distinctly reminiscent of the early days of country, honky-tonk, and western swing music. The collaboration also led to the writing and production of a stage play based on the life of Hank Williams, that has been performed in multiple theaters around the state.

Hugh has appeared with such Louisiana musical legends as D.L. Menard, and Jo-el Sonier; performed with Don Helms, Hank Williams’ legendary steel guitar player, as well as other musicians who had previously traveled and played as members of Hank’s bands; and done shows with the likes of Gene Watson, Don Williams, John Anderson, Loretta Lynn, and George Jones.

Post-Covid, Hugh continues to travel and play at each opportunity, following a motto he established a long time ago to “Keep it country.” He takes any chance to further the enjoyment and appreciation of traditional country music.

2023 Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee



Broussard Family Juré

The Broussard Sisters are performers of African American juré, a folk music genre described by ethnographer Alan Lomax as "the most African sound I found in America." The Sisters perform juré as a way of expressing their connection to their families and culture.

Sandra Broussard Davis, the head of the group, is a former teacher with extensive experience teaching dance. Davis learned juré from her mother and aunts through observation and, later, participation in the family's traditions. She has been practicing juré since she was a young child and has continued to perform for over 45 years.

The Broussard Sisters make a point to go to as many folk festivals as possible in an effort to keep the tradition of classic zydeco and juré dancing alive. In 2018, The Broussard Sisters performed in the Acadiana Center for the Arts theater for International Women's Day. The group was recognized by the Louisiana Folklife Commission as tradition bearers carrying on a Creole art form that is now only performed by a few people.

Folklife Angel Award

Lisa Abney

Dr. Lisa Abney, faculty facilitator for Academic Research and Community College Outreach and professor of English, will retire from NSU June 30. Abney arrived at NSU in 1997 to teach and conduct research in linguistics, folklife and southern literature, making a significant impact in the Department of English, Languages and Cultural Studies during 25 years of service, research and teaching.



Abney served NSU in a variety of leadership positions, including as provost and vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, head of the Department of Language and Communication, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and director of the NSU Writing Project. In her work with the Louisiana Folklife Center, Abney edited the *Louisiana Folklife Journal* and organized the Natchitoches/NSU Folk Festival. She later co-founded the Louisiana Studies Conference with current director Dr. Shane Rasmussen.

As a researcher, Abney is at heart a fieldworker, interested in understanding and documenting the cultural and linguistic richness of the people of Texas and north Louisiana. She is project director and fieldworker for the Linguistic Survey of North Louisiana, through which she catalogues and analyzes linguistic variety in the region. Author of numerous scholarly and popular pieces, Abney has edited four books, three focused on the American south, and has been a successful grant writer in support of the Folklife Center and Writing Project. In 2007, Abney was awarded the Mildred Hart Bailey Award for faculty research, and in 2022 she was awarded the Dr. Marietta Lebreton Louisiana Studies Award in recognition of her sustained record of research on Louisiana topics.

Her most significant contributions to the NSU community have taken place in the classroom. From developmental learners to graduate students, those enrolled in Abney’s classes encountered a professor whose primary goal was to help them be successful.

“She is kind, patient, and flexible, and her students continue to express appreciation for her assistance and guidance,” said Dr. Thomas Reynolds, department head. “In her time at NSU, Dr. Abney developed courses in sociolinguistics, narrative and discourse analysis, and folklore that will continue to be taught in years to come.”

Dr. Abney has had a large hand in the success of the Natchitoches-NSU Louisiana Folklife Festival, consistently providing support and ensuring the annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship goes well. She has been an integral part of the Louisiana Folklife Center family. We are proud to grant her the Folklife Angel Award at this year’s festival.



Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University *Celebrating Our Silver Jubilee in 2023*

From the Director

Very shortly after becoming the Director of the Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University last July, I attended my first Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. As all my senses took in the scenes around me, I was particularly taken by the eagerness, the smiles, and the sense of pride emanating throughout the building as attendees, performers, and makers alike shared in this opportunity to not just preserve the diverse folk traditions of the peoples of Louisiana, but to keep them vibrant and alive.



The Creole Heritage Center shares with the Louisiana Folklife Center and its festival a mission of preservation and education, with the Center highlighting one group of people who have continuously made significant contributions to not just Louisiana, but the nation: Creoles. In fact, we can thank them for much of what has become synonymous with Louisiana today, from gumbo, jambalaya, and red beans and rice to la la and zydeco music. Over time, additional peoples settled alongside and often intertwined with Creoles in Louisiana, producing new, but also continuing existing, customs. The result was the “Cultural Gumbo” at the heart of this year’s festival – a complex, rich, and endlessly satisfying culture that makes Louisiana unique in the nation and our world.

The Creole Heritage Center is proud to continue to be a part of the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival and its commitment to celebrating the strong and living folk legacy of Louisiana. In fact, 25 years ago, Creoles took center stage at the Festival, a precursor to the opening of the Center at NSU that fall. As you experience all the Festival offers, I invite you to visit us at our tables to learn about “everything Creole,” the Center’s past 25 years, and our plans for the next 25. I also encourage you to attend the 11am narrative session, “Cane River Creoles: Coffee, Tea Cakes, & Quilting,” to engage with members of a local Creole community on how they have kept traditional crafts and their community alive. Lastly, use the QR code (at the end) to visit our website and follow us on social media to discover more about Creoles, to donate to the Center, and to learn about Creole-related events around the state and at the Center – including events this fall to kick off our celebrations of the Center’s 25th anniversary!



- Dr. Kent W. Peacock, Director, Creole Heritage Center & Assistant Professor of History



Who Is Creole?

Ask five people to define who is “Creole” and you’ll get at least five different answers, reflecting the term’s connection to personal identity, how its meaning has changed over time, and that who said the word matters. The term “creole” originated in Portuguese and Spanish in the sixteenth century as a noun and adjective Europeans used to sort people and things from their “Old World” and the “New” worlds, such as the Americas, where they were establishing settlements. The term itself did not have an explicit racial connotation. Instead, it reflected how the different physical and social environments of the “new” worlds might produce persons or things with behaviors or appearances distinctive from those in Europe. For example, Louisiana’s now famous creole architecture was the result of the combination of African, European, and Native styles and skills and their adaptations to American materials and environment.

Creole (with a capital “C”) came to signify any and all peoples born in these “New” worlds (beyond those with only Native American



parentage). In *La Louisiane*, the 17th and 18th-century French colony that stretched from the Gulf Coast of today’s Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana up northward on both sides of the Mississippi River to the *Pays des Illinois* (Illinois Country), Creoles and their culture had a distinctive French, and sometimes Spanish, tinge that frequently, but not always (nor always with open acceptance or recognition), blended with the area’s numerous Native polities and imported enslaved Africans. Lineage, law, and chance all influenced the opportunities available to Creoles. Some Creoles became leaders and founders of settlements throughout the colony, attaining high levels of economic and social capital (often by participating in the growing

institution of chattel slavery). Others, even of the same family, found their rights and opportunities limited by the hardening legal and social boundaries of race and freedom that began almost as soon as the colony began. As time marched on, some descendants of early Creoles mixed with new arrivals (such as Chinese, Filipino, or new European groups), but all adapted in diverse ways to the changing geography, law, and peoples around them. In many communities, Creoles’ bonds with one another and their sense of a distinctive identity only grew stronger because of their need to be self-sufficient and resilient in retaining their culture due to the growing dominance of (Anglo-) American culture and its emphasis on racial purity and segregation, the English language, and Protestant Christianity.



Louisiana Creoles today, just as in the past, come in all colors and appearances, and, due to migration during the 20th century, can be found throughout the United States. Their family lineages and experiences throughout history are vastly diverse. What they all share is a heritage traced back to the peoples born during the French and Spanish colonial periods in the lands once named *La Louisiane*. Culturally, Louisiana Creoles typically share traits of faith, family, food, language, music and more that also harken back to the colonial time before (Anglo-) American authority and culture came to Louisiana. The very diversity of the Creole experience can make it hard to define Creole, but without remembering their history, culture, and resiliency, significant parts of the American experience would be lost.

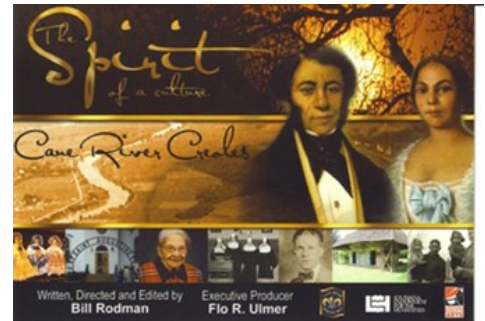
A Brief History of the Creole Heritage Center at NSU

In 1979, residents of the Isle Brevelle community of Natchitoches Parish established the St. Augustine Historical Society (SAHS) to preserve, interpret, and uphold the cultural heritage of the people of their community, commonly referred to as the Cane River Creoles. By the 1990s, those with ties to Isle Brevelle and others around the state of Louisiana and nation had begun to (re)connect and more openly self-identify as Creole in part because of changing realities around race and multiculturalism in United States law and society that began with the civil rights movement. Terrel Delphin, Jr., a respected leader in this movement and President of the SAHS, was one of many who envisioned how the growing movement needed an entity that represented and empowered all Louisiana Creole communities and diaspora, could serve as a trusted source of information about Louisiana Creoles and their culture for others, and had a permanent home and staff.



The result was the Louisiana Creole Heritage Center (as it was originally named). After approval from the Louisiana Board of Regents and the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors, the Center officially opened its doors on the campus of NSU in the fall of 1998 and continues to receive general operating and salary funding from NSU's School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs and Division of Academic Affairs.

Over the past 25 years the Center has served Creoles throughout Louisiana and beyond, as well as academics and the general public. Of particular note has been a yearly Creole celebration in Natchitoches held until 2019, a 2003 Creole Heritage Conference in New Orleans, and similar events in California, Las Vegas, and Chicago. A series of *Creole Chronicles* books on Creole communities and traditions, documentaries such as *The Spirit of a Culture* (still shown on LPB), and recorded oral histories have enabled Creoles themselves to tell and preserve their heritage. The Center has also established a Resource Library and National Creole Family Database to document the family histories of Creoles and encourage education and research on them.



Throughout the Center's history it has partnered with and been supported by several local heritage entities, including (but not limited to) the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, The Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Cane River National Historic Area, Cane River Creole National Historic Park, Louisiana Folklife Center, Louisiana Regional Folklife Program (no longer in existence), and St. Augustine Historical Society. It has also joined with Creole-specific organizations, such as the Louisiana Creole Research Association (LA Creole), Louisiana C.R.E.O.L.E., Inc., and the Mobile Creole Cultural and Historical Preservation Society to empower Creoles and expand awareness about them.



What's next for the Center?

We hope to see you back in Natchitoches this fall as we kick-off our 25th anniversary year with three exciting events!



Sept 9 – Oct 29: Art Exhibition featuring the work of Angelbert Metoyer, Annie Moran, & Ayo Scott (Hanchey Gallery at NSU)

October 12: Cheers to 25 Years!: 25th Anniversary Kickoff Reception (Hanchey Gallery at NSU)

October 13: Creole Heritage Center Open House



Our kickoff reception and open house coincide with events at two friends of the Center: St. Augustine Catholic Church's (Isle Brevelle) Creole Festival (Oct 13-15) and the Melrose Fall Festival (Oct 14). Make it a full weekend in Natchitoches celebrating the hospitality, resiliency, and creativity of Louisiana Creoles!

By the fall, the Center will have completed a strategic planning process recommitting itself to a vision and mission and guiding its future programmatic and engagement efforts. We are very excited to share this plan with everyone! But it will only be because of donations from individuals like you and sponsorships from your business or organization that the Center will be able to meet the goals of this new plan and its vision and mission. Use the QR Code (above) to remain in contact with the Center and to provide your financial support for our mission to promote knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Louisiana Creoles and their culture.

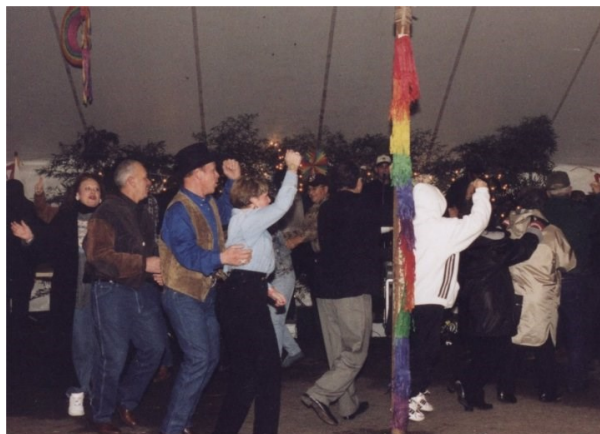


Image Credits from beginning to end, all images held by the Creole Heritage Center at NSU: John Wilson performing at the 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; Program cover for 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; Vic Jeanminette and others making gumbo at the 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; Needle crafter Isabelle LaCour at the 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; Processing filé at the 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; Attendees of the Creole Family History Convention in July, 2000 behind St. Augustine Catholic Church (Isle Brevelle, LA), photographed by Phillip Gould; still from *A Common Pot* film, 2003; Folk art on wood created by Terrel Delphin, Jr. for the 1998 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival; Visit by the French Consulate to CHC Offices ca. 2009, with staff members Janet Ravare Colson (speaking) and Markita Small (seated); Advertisement postcard for *The Spirit of a Culture*, 2005; Attendees at the Family History Convention (Montebello, CA), 2002; Participants at the Creole Heritage Day Celebration (Isle Brevelle, LA), 2001.



Outside Demonstrations

Festival Schedule

Gumbo Cook-Off

Gumbo Cook-Off will be held outside of Prather Coliseum between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. during the folk festival. Professional and novice chefs are invited to participate in any of our three categories: seafood, poultry plus (chicken, duck, turkey, wild game, sausage, etc.), and people’s choice. Participants may enter any or all of the three categories of the competition. Gumbo must be cooked on-site. Only rice, stock, and meat/seafood may be prepared in advance. Entries must be cooked using propane gas or open cookfire outside of Prather Coliseum. Running water and assigned cooking spaces will be available for each participant.

Each Head Cook is responsible for preparing a minimum of 2 GALLONS of gumbo to be judged in a specific category and for preparing 16 ounces for judging from that same 2 gallons. Each entry requires a separate registration form. After one p.m., gumbo may be sold to festival patrons at “a buck a cup.”

Gumbo Cook-Off Schedule

8:00 a.m. registration and Cooks’ meeting, N-Club Room, Prather
8:45 a.m. cooking officially begins
12:30 p.m. judging begins by contest judges
1:00 p.m. sales to public (“Buck-a-Cup”) open
2:30 p.m. announcement of winners, Main Stage



Louisiana State Fiddle Championship

The Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held in Magale Recital Hall which is housed in the CAPA Annex located at 140 Central Avenue, 1-4 p.m., during the Folk Festival. Fiddlers from around the state will compete for cash prizes and ribbons in two general divisions of play: Non-Championship Division and Championship Division. Participants may play in either the Non-Championship or Championship Division (not both). All Fiddlers may also enter the Twin Fiddles category. Pre-registration is open now through July 11 at www.nsula.edu/folklife.

Those who enter the Championship Division will compete for the Grand Champion title. 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.



Clancey Stewart, 2018 LA State Fiddle Champion
Photo by Chris Reich NSU Photographic Services

Fiddle Championship Schedule

12:00-1:00 pm Magale Recital Hall, 1st floor, CAPA Annex Late Registration
12:00-1:00 pm James Linden Hogg
1:00-4:00 pm LA. State Fiddle Championship, Magale Recital Hall

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

Contact us at: folklife@nsula.edu or 318-357-4332

Find us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/NSULAFOLKLIFECENTER>

Narrative Sessions

Narrative/ Informance Sessions, Prather Coliseum

Informances combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists.

N-Club Room

- 10:00-10:45 Traditional Blacksmithing with Marty Young of the Red River Smiths
- 11:00-11:45 Cane River Creoles: Coffee, Tea Cakes, & Quilting
- 12:00-12:45 The Cajun Dance Tradition with the Cajun French Music Association Dance Troupe
- 1:00-1:45 Juke Joints and Dance Halls
- 2:00-2:45 Blues Music Informance with Jimmy “Duck” Holmes
- 3:00-3:45 The Choctaw-Apache Rising Sun Youth Dance Group
- 4:00-4:45 Folk Foods and Cookery in Louisiana

Exhibits

Cane River National Heritage Center
Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library
Cane River Creole National Historical Park
Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site
NCPTT
Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers
Mr. Danny’s Magic
Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
Creole Heritage Center
Robert Bennett
Scott DeBose

Live Music Schedule

West Stage	Main Stage	East Stage
10:00-11:00 Zydeco Dance Lessons	10:00-10:30 Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers	10:15-11:00 The Broussard Family Juré
	10:45-11:15 The Rick Adams Band	
11:15-12:30 Rusty Metoyer & the Zydeco Krush	11:15-11:45 Welcome Ceremony	11:15-12:15 Jimmy “Duck” Holmes
12:45-1:30 Rising Sun Youth Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb Dance Group	12:00-1:15 Hugh Harris & the Drifting Cowboys	12:30-1:15 Harmonica Workshop with Ed Huey
1:45-2:30 Cajun Dance Lessons	1:30-2:30 The Russell Welch Hot Quartet with special guest Aurora Nealand	1:30-2:30 Los Rancheritos de la Sierra
2:45-4:00 The Cajun Stompers	2:45-4:00 Rusty Metoyer & the Zydeco Krush	2:45-3:30 The Broussard Family Juré
4:15-5:15 Delta Blues by Jimmy “Duck” Holmes!	4:15-5:00 Cajun Dance Lessons	3:45-4:30 The Russell Welch Hot Quartet with special guest Aurora Nealand
5:30-6:00 Rising Sun Youth Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb Dance Group	5:00-5:30 Louisiana State Fiddle Champion	4:45-5:45 Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue
6:15-7:00 Los Rancheritos de la Sierra	5:45-7:15 Jambalaya Cajun Band	6:00-7:00 Americana music by James Linden Hogg
7:15-8:30 Open Jam Session led by The Cajun Stompers!	7:30-9:30 Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue	7:15-8:30 Home Grown Tomaters

Outdoor Demonstrations

Red River Smiths



The Red River Smiths located in Shreveport, Louisiana is a blacksmithing club that meets on the last Saturday of every month at LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center. They welcome all who are or might be interested in blacksmithing. All skill levels are welcomed to attend. They ask that you wear leather shoes or boots, jeans and cotton shirt to the meeting (for safety reasons).



Photos by Gary Hardamon

Outdoor Demonstrations

Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers



Photos by: Heather Lockwood

The Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers
will be demonstrating their traditional Louisiana cooking
from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Stop by their demonstration area outside of
Prather Coliseum to learn how these award-winning
Dutch oven chefs prepare their signature recipes.

You may even score a tasty treat!

Interested in Dutch oven cooking?

Join the Facebook group by searching
"Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers."

Outdoor Demonstrations

West Baton Rouge Museum



Images source: www.pixabay.com

Children will experience “Wash Day” as it was in the 1800s!

West Baton Rouge Museum will provide a child friendly “hands-on” demonstration. A museum representative, dressed in period costume, will demonstrate and lead children through the activity which includes using a washboard, portable wringer, and small clothesline to “hang the clothes out to dry.”

**The demonstration will be held outside Prather Coliseum
Saturday, July 22th from 8 am till 5 pm.**

◆ KidFest Activities, 9:00 am till 5:00 pm ◆

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 during the festival, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in the main exhibit area.

Admission to KidFest is free for children attending the festival.

Mr. Danny's Magic

Mr. Danny Barton got into magic late in life by accident but has been doing it for over 10 years. He received an old book on magic as a gift, glanced through it, and thought, "I think I could do this". He soon found that he really loved people's reactions to magic, and that is how he got started performing Street Magic! "Who taught me? The people I perform for, I guess. When performing on the street, people are inches away from the magic, and are quick to point out mistakes. You learn as you go. How to stay calm with a large crowd focusing on your every move, I don't think that can be taught, It must be learned the hard way".

<https://www.facebook.com/Mr.Dannys.Magic/>



Live Music

The Broussard Family Juré

The Broussard Sisters are performers of African American juré, a folk music genre described by ethnographer Alan Lomax as "the most African sound I found in America." The Sisters perform juré as a way of expressing their connection to their families and culture. Sandra Broussard Davis, the head of the group, is a former teacher with extensive experience teaching dance. Davis learned juré from her mother and aunts through observation and, later, participation in the family's traditions. She has been practicing juré since she was a young child and has continued to perform for over 45 years. The Broussard Sisters make a point to go to as many folk festivals as possible in an effort to keep the tradition of classic zydeco and juré dancing alive. In 2018, The Broussard Sisters performed in the Acadiana Center for the Arts theater for International Women's Day. The group was recognized by the Louisiana Folklife Commission as tradition bearers carrying on a Creole art form that is now only performed by a few people.



Rusty Metoyer and the Zydeco Krush



Rusty Metoyer and The Zydeco Krush is a young, energetic Zydeco band from Lake Charles, LA. Their range extends from traditional Creole French songs to nouveau Zydeco music. They have released two albums, "Take My Hand" in 2013 and "In Due Time" in 2016, as well as two singles, "Riverbank" in 2019 and "Hurricane Proof" in 2020. Rusty Metoyer and The Zydeco Krush were selected to the 2013-2015 Louisiana Musicians Roster, through the Louisiana Division of Arts, Department of Cultural Development. They were the recipients of the "Best New Artist Award" at the 5th Zydeco Music and Creole Heritage Awards Ceremony in 2017, and the "Lasting Impression Award" from the Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau at the 2016 National Tourism Week Awards Ceremony. Metoyer was voted "People's Choice of SWLA - Best local musician" by American Press in 2021. The band has performed in folk festivals in the US, France, and Holland.

Jimmy "Duck" Holmes

Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, the son of sharecroppers in the Mississippi Delta, is one of the last remaining blues musicians who plays in the classic Bentonia School style. Holmes is the proprietor of the oldest juke joint in Mississippi, the Blue Front Café. He has played guitar informally since the 60s but didn't start releasing his music until the mid-2000s. Holmes' nine official albums have met with considerable acclaim, with his 2019 album "Cypress Grove" being selected as a "Favorite Blues Album" by AllMusic and later nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Blues Album in the 2021 Grammy presentation. He has been in multiple documentaries and participated in folk and music festivals over the course of his career, including the Bentonia Blues Festival, which his mother founded in the 80s, the Chicago Blues Festival, and the Muddy Roots Music Festival. Holmes enjoys using his skills and his background in education to teach others about his style of blues and share the story of Mississippi's musical heritage.



Live Music



Hugh Harris & the Drifting Cowboys

Hugh Harris plays the lead role in the musical biography of Hank Williams held annually at the Library Theater in Eunice, in which he is backed up by his band, "The Drifting Cowboys." They play over 30 of Hank Williams' most memorable songs, starting from his first recording at 23 and moving up to his untimely death at 29. His band includes Terry Huval of the Jambalaya Cajun Band and New Orleans fiddler and guitarist, Gina Forsyth.

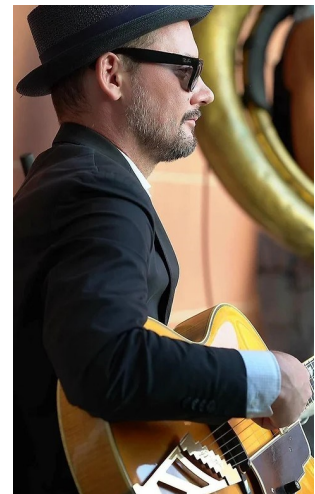
Los Rancheritos de la Sierra

Los Rancheritos de la Sierra will be performing at the Folklife Festival this year. We are excited to have them!



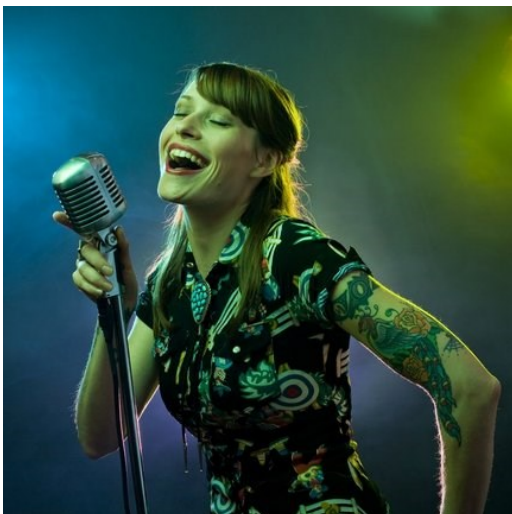
The Russell Welch Hot Quartet

Russell Welch is a New Orleans guitarist who works with several bands, including the Russell Welch Hot Quartet, the Jumbo Shrimp Jazz Band, and the Champagniacs. Welch got his Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and learned under jazz guitarists Barry Leach and Fapy Lafertin. He has performed with the Russell Welch Hot Quartet in over twelve countries. He received nominations for Offbeat Magazine's "Best Traditional Jazz Artist" and "Best Traditional Jazz Album" in 2019 and was a "Best Guitarist" nominee in 2016. Welch's album "Showarama Hot Trio" was nominated for "Best Traditional Jazz Album" in 2012. His work portfolio includes gypsy jazz, jazz ballet, and indie rock music. He has experience performing at folk festivals, having taught and performed at Django A Gogo in New Jersey and New York, as well as festivals in Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. Welch is a young, popular artist who values both tradition and new ideas in his music.



Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue

When the band formed in 2004, Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue were at the vanguard of New Orleans' now-thriving country scene, and they've remained in a league of their own ever since. Combining evocative songwriting and impeccable musicianship, their dance hall show and infectious energy on stage have earned them their place in the upper echelon of local favorites and helped grow an avid fanbase of two-steppers around the world. These multi-time Big Easy and Best of the Beat Award recipients have shared the stage with Willie Nelson, Marcia Ball, Blind Boys of Alabama, and countless others. 2018 was their eleventh year appearing at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, packing the Gentilly Stage where Lyle Lovett would perform later that day. Their albums have reached as high as third on the FAR Charts (Freeform American Roots Music) and the top 100 on the AMA Charts (Americana Airplay, Americana Music Association.)



Live Music

The Rick Adams Band

Rick Adams is a singer/songwriter from the Central Louisiana area who performs at venues and festivals throughout the Louisiana/Mississippi region. He has three solo albums of original songs; “Lucky Turnaround” was released in April of 2022 and has been well received. Rick received the 2020 Louisiana Tradition Bearer Award for songwriting. His music crosses several Americana genres, but includes lots of uptempo, fun tunes. Band history includes Barely Texas, American Tune Factory, Reverend Charley’s Patent Medicine Show (previously), and Rick Adams Band. Rick Adams Band is composed of all star acoustic musicians who come together to assist Rick at special events, festivals and recording sessions. Tony Murphy is an in-demand mandolin player from Grant Parish. He played with the iconic Louisiana group Southland and currently performs across the region with Mountain View Connection, Lonesome Ridge, and Lisa K and Timberidge. John Evers is upright bass player from Dry Prong, Louisiana. He plays in Lonesome Ridge and Lisa K/Timberidge and is sought out to assist anywhere a solid bass rhythm is needed. He also plays acoustic guitar and contributes stellar vocals. Josh Evers is from Dry Prong, Louisiana and is an up and coming multi-instrumentalist. He is rapidly becoming known for his prowess on the dobro.



Ed Huey

Teacher and performer of American roots music Ed Huey specializes in early blues guitar and harmonica styles. He studied blues guitar and harmonica at the Augusta Heritage Center. Mr. Huey received a Lyndhurst Foundation Grant and gathered field recordings of Mississippi Delta bluesmen. In 2017 he was honored by the Lt. Governor of Louisiana and the Louisiana Folklife Commission as a Louisiana Tradition Bearer sustaining the distinct culture and contributing to the rich diversity of living traditions. Mr. Huey continues to learn, teach harmonica and perform. He plays harmonica and sings with the Snake Doctors blues duo and harmonica with the Hardrick Rivers Revue. Adera Causey, Curator of Education for the Hunter Museum of American Art states that “Ed Huey is a phenomenal performer and perfectly reflects American Art in its musical form.”



Photo submitted by Ed Huey

Home Grown Tomaters

Home Grown Tomaters is a group of Christian friends who have been led by the Good Lord to bring bluegrass/gospel music to small country churches in Natchitoches and surrounding parishes. They play a mix of old-time gospel out of the *Heavenly Highways* hymnal along with more contemporary Christian songs. The band has also performed around town in Natchitoches for civic groups, VFW, Christmas Tour of Homes, downtown Farmer’s Market, backyard bar-b-ques, and other get-togethers. They lean their music into the *Americana/Folk* genre on these occasions.

Tomaters band members are Geo Darfus, banjo; Jan Darfus, guitar; Dave Clark, guitar; Keith Shirley, bass; and Julia Brown, vocals/rhythm. They are joined at times by other sundry vegetables on mandolin, fiddle, harmonica and vocals for their genial music.

Live Music

Jambalaya Cajun Band



The very popular Jambalaya Cajun Band has been a favorite among dancers in Louisiana and other states for over two decades. The band plays at festivals and clubs throughout the United States as well as at home. Fiddler Terry Huval, leader of the band, is one of Cajun music's finest fiddlers and songwriters. He is the composer of well-known tunes such as "Huval's Reel" and "Oh Ma Belle." In addition to the fiddle, he plays the guitar, mandolin, dobro, steel guitar, and bass guitar. Terry and his brother, drummer Tony Huval, formed the Jambalaya Cajun band. The band has been joined by accordionist Reggie Matte, Bobby Dumaitrait, and Rick Benoit. Cajun music enthusiasts flock to hear them because of their high energy performances and recordings.

James Linden Hogg

James Linden Hogg is a Celtic, Americana, and folk musician who has recorded four albums, both solo and in collaboration with other artists. He uses his music to tell stories and share his love of history to those who listen. He has been playing music for eleven years, having started at only ten years old. He has played at the Shaw Center for the Arts and the Acadiana Center for the Arts. He plays several instruments, including fiddle, banjo, guitar, bagpipes, fife, and accordion. Hogg was awarded a 2012 National History Day Championship finalist and the 2015 Northwestern State University Fiddle Grand Champion. He performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in 2014, and again in 2022. Hogg has gained significant notoriety in Louisiana due to his mastery of his craft despite his young age. He has released four albums containing both traditional music and his own compositions, performing both on his own and in collaboration with artists such as Ricky Skaggs and Rhonda Vincent.



The Cajun Stompers

The Cajun Stompers is a traditional Cajun band formed over 25 years ago by front man and accordionist/vocalist, Pat Thibodeaux. The band suffered a great loss when Pat passed away in December 2013. His love for people and making them smile through his music was admirable. In his memory, they are going to continue to keep his band name and his music alive. They perform mostly traditional Cajun music, but they mix in a little Swamp Pop and Classic Country. Ken Stewart, the accordionist, had a song he wrote, "La Promesse," nominated for Song of the Year by the CMFA, and Michael Meche, the guitarist and vocalist, has played in several styles and alongside several artists, such as Walter Mouton and Leroy Broussard.



Dance Demonstrations

Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers

Incorporated in 1984, the Louisiana Czech Heritage Association, Inc. held its first Czech Festival in March 1985 to honor and preserve their traditions. Although there was a Czech language singing group, the Czechmates, there was no folk dance group until 1987. That year, members from the Beseda Dancers of Dallas came to Libuse to teach the Czech Beseda to interested community members. Among that group were Dr. David and Nicole Holcombe of Alexandria. At its peak, the Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers had more than 20 dancers ranging in age from 10 to 90. They performed regularly at the Czech Festival, nursing homes, local folk festivals all over Louisiana, the Folk Festival in Natchitoches and at events in Texas.

Catch the Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers live on the Main Stage at 10 a.m.



Photo courtesy David Holcombe

Rising Sun Youth Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb Dance Group



The Rising Sun Youth Group of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb is a group of Native American children between the ages of five and nineteen who work closely with the Ho Minti group. The youth group is advised by Jason "Jake" Rivers, Vice-Chairman of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb. Rising Sun Youth Group aims to spread awareness of their culture and pass down their traditions through their dance performances. The members of the youth group are taught traditional Choctaw-Apache dances by older members of the tribe to keep the practices and history of their culture alive. The Rising Sun Youth Group performed in the Zwolle Tamale Fiesta in 2016, as well as the annual Choctaw-Apache Pow Wows organized by Rivers in which they celebrate their culture through the use of traditional Native American ceremonial clothing and dance.

Festival Crafts

Bearberry Farm



Photo Provided by Sarah Bearden

In 1978, Mike and JoAnn Bearden purchased the 23 acres that would later become Bearberry farm. In the early years, they only had a garden to grow their own fruits and vegetables. Their parents and grandparents had always canned their produce for the coming year; so they felt it was only natural for them to do the same. One year, Mike was given 6 Mayhaw trees for his birthday and in just a few years, these trees grew into an orchard of about 300. Their farm became a family business once their daughter, Sarah, joined them. They sell their jellies, jams, pickles, and salsa at markets and festivals. In addition to the Mayhaws, they grow blackberries, blueberries, muscadines, pears, peaches, plums, figs, pomegranates, persimmons, crab apples, and loquats. Our vegetable garden includes tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, okra, and purple hull peas. Mike and their Mayhaw orchard were featured in the Shreveport Times and their Mayhaw jelly is a certified Louisiana product.

Native Ties

Edgar Bush

Mr. Bush became interested in his native heritage after his military career. Mr. Bush is currently a member of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana (NTL). Formerly he served as a tribal member, an Elder, and has participated in several ceremonies/powwows. Mr. Bush has also participated as the Head Gourd Dancer. He is a former member of the Canneci N'de Band of Lipan Apache. Mr. Bush has moved on and started a business as a stand-alone entity, “Native Ties,” in partnership with Alfreda Mathieu. Mr. Bush has been creating his own line of crafts and jewelry since 2014.

Alfreda Mathieu

Ms. Mathieu is currently a member of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana (NTL). She is formerly a tribal member and secretary of the Canneci N'de Band of Lipan Apache in Lafayette, Louisiana. When she was enrolled as a tribal member, Ms. Mathieu and other members performed traditions such as drumming, singing, and dancing at various Native American events. She currently co-owns Native Ties, an arts and crafts business that also provides demonstrations and performances pertaining to their Native American culture and traditions.



Photo submitted by Alfreda Mathieu

Brandon Cagle/Natureware



Harrisonburg native Brandon Cagle sells his “Natureware” pottery in Catahoula and Natchitoches. While pursuing his master’s in art, Cagle is planning to launch a series of pottery classes in the Harrisonburg/Jonesville area. Cagle has recently begun to specialize in large bowls, planters and vessels. He has previously sold his work at the Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival.

Follow Brandon’s business on Instagram at @b.c.natureware.

Festival Crafts

Laura Glen Carlson

Laura Glen Carlson, of Ruston, is a creative jewelry maker whose love of nature’s graceful beauty is expressed through the art of sculpting precious metals into unique pieces of jewelry. Her goals as a fine craft artist are clear when she says, “I want the people who wear my jewelry to feel a connection to the jewelry and know the piece was handmade with love and care. I believe this sense of connectivity is achieved through the synergy of seeking balance and harmony between metal and stone in a fluid, organic style.” Her pieces give the wearer an opportunity to express their own individual style and taste.

Visit Laura Glen’s website at www.lauraglenjewelry.com or follow @carlsonfineart on Twitter.



Christy Benoit Castille



Photo submitted by Christy Castille

Mrs. Castille is currently a member of Louisiana crafts guild, International Organization of Lace, and Tatters across Time. She has also demonstrated her craft at the LSU Rural Life Museum- Harvest Days 2016 and at the Experience Louisiana Festival. Castille developed an interest in tatting through admiring her great grandmothers tatting shuttle and pieces. This then led to Castille attending a workshop in her early teens which taught the basics of tatting. Christy says, “The beauty, love and history that is shared through each piece is unique and cannot be duplicated.” This is why she has such a strong belief in passing on heritage from generation to generation.

Rex Childress

During the last several years, Rex and Patricia Childress have been house Mom and Pop to children taken in by the Cherokee Children’s home. Rex grew up with a pocket knife in his hand, first as a whittler and for the last twenty years as a carver. What does Rex carve? Anything you possibly might need. For several years, Rex taught carving workshops for kids. Kids with whom Patricia and Rex form a strong bond are given an item or items Rex carved with and for them. When Rex meets a former student, he will always ask about objects they carved together. Both Rex and Patricia are well aware that a carved object can and frequently does represent a positive relationship that one of his “kids” can hold for the rest of their lives.



Festival Crafts

R.V. Couch

R.V. Couch is self taught and has been building musical instruments and hand-carving fiddles for a decade. He sometimes cuts his own trees and saws the wood for the instrument in his circle saw mill. His designs come from a variety of places, from blueprints to ideas from other instrument makers to his own imagination. He builds travel guitars (acoustic or electric), pik-a-sticks (acoustic or electric), violins and teardrop violins. When he finds time he works at building mandolins, regular guitars and dulcimers.

Photo submitted by R.V. Couch



Kirk E. Dupre

Kirk Dupre of Ville Platte will be on-hand selling and displaying his custom-built, three-string, fretless cigar box guitars. Mr. Dupre, who only began building cigar box guitars a few years ago, looks forward to showcasing his hand-crafted instruments for anyone who is interested.



Bill Ellzey

Orvis William “Bill” grew up on a hill farm near Marthaville, LA and has been fashioning wooden canes & staffs most of his adult life. The old farm place has been the major source of the “sticks” he has displayed & sold at crafts fairs over some 35 years. He finds saplings & limbs with interesting shapes then cuts & trims them, then stores them indoors to cure. Almost any tree variety can be turned into a cane. Other sources of raw materials include trimmings from trees in his own yard or those of friends & neighbors, or from specimens found during extensive vacation trips. Most would be considered worthless trash by anyone without an “eye” for the features to look for. Bill will be displaying and selling his wooden canes & staffs this year.



Photo provided by Bill Ellzey

Extreme Cypress

John and Roxanne Grubb create whimsical, one of a kind trinket boxes, wood puzzles and more from cypress barnyard and logs from the Atchafalaya basin. They have been woodworkers and artisans for over 25 years and started making boxes out of wood logs after purchasing a wood box at a festival. The whimsical shaped boxes were inspired by a New Orleans artist who paints crooked houses. Every box has its’ own personality. The beautiful wood grain and hundreds of growth rings can be seen in each piece. The puzzles they create are enjoyed by all ages. They enjoy the creative process of designing the piece and see it come to life once a clear finish is painted on the beautiful cypress wood.

Festival Crafts

Vernon Johnson

Vernon Johnson of Pollock will be attending this year’s festival to display and sell hand-crafted jewelry boxes, wooden piggy banks, and more. Mr. Johnson creates many of his works using a bandsaw. These creations, called “bandsaw boxes,” are genuinely unique and must be seen to be believed.



Rick Kom

Lafayette-based artist Rick Kom will be displaying and selling his wildlife paintings and pet portraits at this year’s festival. His subjects frequently include birds of Louisiana, as well as bears, chickens, dogs, and other animal life. Check out Rick’s work on Facebook by searching for “Rick Kom Fine Art.”

Juanita Leonard

Juanita Leonard’s paintings and sculptures often resonate with the joy she finds in her deep Christian faith. A self-taught artist living outside of Montgomery, Louisiana, Leonard constructs hand painted sculptures out of a variety of materials, such as plaster of Paris, clay, wood, and metal, as well as discarded materials. While some of her art shows the influence of Clementine Hunter, one of her inspirations, much of Leonard’s art displays her unique stamp, such as her “Chicken Tree of Life” motif. Leonard is also a memory painter, with many of her pieces highlighting incidents from throughout her life.



LFC Staff Photo



Photo by Shella Lindner

Kenneth Lindner

A self-taught wood turner, Kenneth Lindner has won Blue Ribbons for his wood working and for the past 2 years has taken best in show for wood craft. He loves a challenge which is evident in the details of his wood works. Lindner works with foreign and domestic wood.

Festival Crafts

Brenda Lofton, Riverside Pecan Company

The Riverside Pecan Company has been involved in the pecan industry through three generations. What began as a small family business selling their whole pecans in brown paper bags expanded over the years to include custom cracking and shelling. Three years ago, they realized their dream of adding pies, pralines, and candies homemade with family recipes and techniques. They are proud to say that their business, like their orchards, has deep roots in their community. Everything is done by hand, by family, friends and neighbors. Learn more at www.riversidepecanco.com.



Millard Mangrum

Millard Mangrum earned a BS and MS at Northwestern State University and is currently an Assistant Professor of Biology at Northwestern State University. His interests are based in biology and expressions of natural flora in clay and ceramic works. Mangrum credits his interests in clay and the ceramics art to professor Matt DeFord, Head of the Art Department at Northwestern State University. In January of 2012, he started the journey into the ceramics arena enrolling in a non-credit ceramics class. From that time on he has been drawn to the allure of mud. Mangrum's spare time centers on creating and fabricating new forms of clay techniques which incorporate material additions to clay bodies such as oatmeal, rice, grits, and various seeds.

Kelsey Mardin

Kelsey Mardis believes that "style and luxury should be intertwined with treading lightly upon our planet, using creative solutions and hard work to curb our consumption and waste." The intention for her fur and leather work is "to represent her Sportsman's Paradise community, a people with an inextricable link to nature and conservation, with the luxury they deserve through the preservation and transformation of abundant and ethically harvested fur."

Check out Mardis's work on the Culturalyst website at culturalyst.com/grandfelin.



Chris Moore

Chris Moore and his wife began a gift business about 10 years ago. They strive to create and build something different with their bird houses, ironwork, wreaths, and yard decor. They consider it a blessing to be able to create items that give happiness to others. Chris considers his wife the more creative one; he just follows her lead. Mr. Moore's background is in business, so the transition to the gift business endeavor was quite a change for him. They enjoy creating new items and meeting new people when they sell their homemade products.



Festival Crafts

Roy Parfait

Roy Parfait is a woodcarver and member of the Houma Indian tribe. He was born & raised in Dulac, LA. along Grand Caillou Bayou, in Terrebonne Parish. Roy grew up around the tradition of carving wood. His grandfather was a carver. Roy began carving in 1976, making small wooden animals and miniature pirogues. He found that he was especially interested in carving animals, and he is well-known today for his long-necked geese, ducks, beavers, rabbits, birds, fish, turtles, panthers, pelicans, owls, rabbits and frogs. He has twice demonstrated wood carving at the Smithsonian's Festival of American Folklife and other venues such as the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival, Silver Dollar City, the Native Crafts Festival in Lafayette, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans, and many other festivals throughout Louisiana and the South. He has also been invited to France twice to demonstrate and sell his work. He was inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists in 2002.



John Perry, Chippalottas Flintknapping



Photo submitted by John Perry

John Perry, the original member/founder of Chippalottas, had an interest in making arrowheads and such since boyhood. In the mid-eighties he found seminars at the Poverty Point archaeology site. As he learned and came up with his own techniques he taught two more locally. Since then by word of mouth the group has expanded, with a semi-permanent core of about 12 people. Anyone with an interest is encouraged to get in touch, they are happy to teach what they know. Their goals are simple, they just want the art of flintknapping to continue to new generations. At the moment they have members from age 12 to late 70s.

Catherine Rouchon

Catherine Rouchon, of Clinton, will be displaying and selling her polished stones and beautifully designed sterling silver jewelry at the festival. Rouchon, who markets her work under the name Compass Rose Jewelry Designs, is a favorite at the Melrose Plantation Arts and Crafts show as well as other regional craft and makers' fairs. Rouchon's work frequently utilizes natural stones, organic minerals, freshwater pearls, and sterling silver.

Learn more about Compass Rose Jewelry Designs at www.facebook.com/CompassRosebyCERouchon.



Festival Crafts

Stan Routh



Photo by LFC Staff

From an architectural background that includes a masters' degree in history and design, a European travel and study fellowship, and his own professional practice since 1962, Stan Routh has devoted his life to visual recordings of the things we all remember. Country stores, little churches, old homesteads, mills, bridges, barns, and other architectural structures, which first catch his eye and then his heart, are faithfully rendered in ink, pencil, or watercolor to capture their essence in a literal "explosion" of pertinent detail. Stan Routh specializes in drawings of historical landmarks, original paintings, sketches, and watercolors of cities and towns throughout Louisiana and surrounding states.

Barbara Seegraves

Barbara Seegraves became interested in gourding after buying a small basket of gourds. She had no one to guide her on her gourd journey, so she read everything that she could find about gourds. Seegraves found that gourds are the most useful non-edible vegetable there is. She learned that gourds are essential to the way of life for many, used as instruments or even in religious ceremonies. Gourds are also used as vessels, storage, bowls, and utensils in everyday life. Seegraves enjoys taking plain gourds and transforming them into something beautiful. She is a member of the American Gourd Society and the Louisiana Gourd Society.

Rachel Shaddox

Southern Lane Soaps is a family-owned and operated business run by three generations who not only make the soap, but use it as well. Each bar is made by hand, cut, packaged, and labeled by them, then shipped directly to their customers. Their products are handcrafted from natural ingredients in small batches to ensure the best quality. Due to the handcrafted nature of the soap, each bar may vary slightly in color and size, but not in quality. Southern Lane Soaps are made using high quality ingredients from start to finish, utilizing the time honored cold process method. Southern Lane Soaps are naturally moisturizing and gentle.

Learn more at www.facebook.com/southernlanesoaps



Photo courtesy of Rachel Shaddox



Elvin L. Shields

Elvin Shields of Natchitoches will be in attendance at the festival displaying his unique twisted wire plantation toys. Shields was born into a family of sharecroppers in 1949 on Melrose Plantation. He and the other boys on the plantation learned to twist wire into toys, as they could not afford to buy them. Today, Shields is a volunteer at the Cane River National Historical Park, where he gives lectures about his time living on the plantation and the history of the Black sharecroppers who lived in southern Natchitoches parish. He uses his wire plantation toys to preserve the culture and history of Black sharecroppers.

Festival Crafts

Gene Tomko

Gene Tomko is an award-winning artist, writer and photographer based in Lafayette, Louisiana. He has been photographing and writing about traditional roots music for more than twenty years and his work has appeared in dozens of international publications such as *Living Blues* and *Down Beat* as well as on numerous releases by artists such as B.B. King, Nappy Brown and Big Jay McNeely. In 2006 he co-authored *Black Hoboes: What’s the Use of Walking If There’s a Freight Train Going Your Way*. Recently Tomko has combined his music scholarship with his artistic talents to create the Louisiana Music Map, a visual tribute to the music and musicians of Louisiana. The work is both artistic as well as academic, featuring the birthplaces of more than 1500 native musicians who performed in a style of music indigenous to Louisiana such as jazz, blues, Cajun, zydeco, la la, swamp pop and gospel. He also creates his own custom wood frames for the maps.



Photo courtesy of Gene Tomko



Photo by LFC Staff

Frieda Tuma

Pysanky is a Czech tradition of “egg writing” developed centuries ago in Eastern Europe as a method of decorating non-boiled eggs. Tuma painstakingly draws designs on the eggs in pencil before using wax and dyes to color eggs. The eggs are then drained through a tiny hole before a coat of varnish is applied to protect the dyes. The eggs are usually decorated in Christian symbols and often make excellent Christmas and Easter gifts.

Brent Walden

Brent Walden is a self-taught origami artist and the creative force behind his business, Earigami. He has taught several classes on the art of origami and works to spread his knowledge and appreciation of the art. With 12 years of experience in the art of paperfolding, he specializes in crafting exquisite jewelry from fine Japanese papers, including earrings, necklaces, and rings. Additionally, he creates stunning art installations ranging from captivating crane bonsai sculptures to intricate miniature crane formation frames.

Festival Crafts

Deborah West

Deborah West is a member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and has been a Southern Cloth Dancer for over 25 yrs. She has been Honored as Head lady in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama! Deborah loves making Native dolls, dream catchers, moccasins, beadwork, dance shawls, etc. She has created regalias and beadwork for dancers from New Mexico to Oklahoma and South! With over 35yrs of experience, Deborah loves creating it all.



Photo courtesy of Deborah West



Image courtesy of the Hernandezes

Marilyn and Cliff Hernandez

Cliff has been making woodcarvings for approximately twelve years. He attended art school before becoming a draftsman. After retiring from the USDA, he began carving items that honored Native Americans, their country, and the south. Marilyn is Native American and a portion of the sales go towards supporting her native family.

Christopher Shane

Christopher Shane is a self-taught artist and a proud member of the United Houma Nation, hailing from the deep southern heartlands of Louisiana. He excels in realistic life drawing, graphic art, with traditional folk art elements, utilizing various wet and dry mediums upon a diverse range of surfaces. His recent artistic explorations involve applying the most evocative skills within his command upon the fruits of nature (dried gourds), and fallen trees and branches that are spoils of the region's frequent violent storms. Here, he aims to capture the familiar imagery and energy of his beloved home territory into wood-burned etchings, cultural symbolism, carved relief sculpture, and traditional craftwork, transforming weathered tokens of nature into enduring pieces of art.



And These Incredible Artists!

Neal Ainsworth, handmade wooden toys, swings, bird feeders; Christopher Billiot, carvings and dream catchers; Jeff & Gloria Causey, garfish scale designs, alligator buttons; Stephanie Escude, Native American Dolls; James Eubanks, woodturning; Olivia Gates, handmade hunting horns; Bre Harris, sculpture, furniture, paintings; Sharon Dickerson Jackson, handmade brooms; Gail Jones, quilts; Kenneth Kerry; Jerry Masters, woodworking products; Janet Miller, hand spinning; Paul Morgan; Timothy & Felicia O'Bryan, stones, minerals, crystals, wire-wrapped jewelry; Doris Perkins, lye soap, quilling, pyrography; Danny Petrella, cowhide chairs; Katherine Prejean, handmade jewelry; Sharon Rouchon, basket weaving; Steve Seneca, portraits; Rhonda Stevenson, paper mache and paper clay items; Ruth Stevenson, knitting, crochet; Alice Tyler, Clifton Choctaw beadwork; John Vidrine, honey products, goat milk soap

Festival Crafts

Look For These Incredible Artists!

Neal Ainsworth

handmade wooden toys, swings, bird feeders

Jeff & Gloria Causey

garfish scale designs,
alligator buttons

Olivia Gates

handmade hunting horns

Sharon Dickerson Jackson

handmade brooms

Kenneth Kerry

Janet Miller

hand spinning

Timothy & Felicia O’Bryan

stones, minerals, crystals, wire-wrapped jewelry

Danny Petrella

cowhide chairs

Sharon Rouchon

basket weaving

Christopher Shane

Alice Tyler

Clifton Choctaw beadwork

Brent Walden

hand-folded wearable art

Sharon Womack

birdhouses

Christopher Billiot

carvings, dream catchers

Stephanie Escude

Native American Dolls

Bre Harris

sculpture, furniture, paintings

Gail Jones

quilts

Jerry Masters

woodworking products

Paul Morgan

Doris Perkins

lye soap, quilling, pyrography

Katherine Prejean

handmade jewelry

Steve Seneca

portraits

Rhonda Stevenson

paper mâché and paper clay items

Ruth Stevenson

knitting, crochet

John Vidrine

honey products, goat milk soap

Myrna Wilson

Koasati (Coushatta) pine straw baskets

Book Signing by Robert Bennett

Robert D. Bennett was born in Louisiana and spent his childhood here and in Texas. While doing research on a book about Louisiana, Robert was surprised to find out that not only has his family lived in the Natchitoches area for years, but literally from the beginning, since he is a descendant of Louis Antoine Juchereau de St. Dennis, the founder of Natchitoches. Bennett’s diverse work history has taken him across the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, as well as England. His books are shaped by the people he has known and the places he has visited. When asked about the inspirations for his books, Bennett said, “If I write about a place, it’s because I’ve visited there and either the place or the people left an impression.” He currently resides in Texas with his wife, Karren, his Jack Russel Terrier, “Sup,” and occasionally his children as they visit. Bennett will be signing his books at this year’s Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival!

Festival Food

Cane River Pizza Co.

Pizza—Cheese, Pepperoni, Specialty

Can Drinks

Water

Driskell’s Original BBQ

Brisket Sandwiches

Brisket Loaded Potatoes

Brisket Nachos

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Pulled Pork Potatoes

Pulled Pork Nachos

Girline’s Food Truck

Red Beans

Etouffee

Gumbo

Homemade Meat Pies

Hamburgers

Po-Boys

Marjorie Battise

Indian Tacos

Frybread & Sausage

Frybread

Monette’s Mobile Munchies

Bill’s Lemonade Cenla

Lemonade

Tea

David Hoover

Alligator Sausage

Boudin

Red Beans & Rice

Boiled Peanuts

Tamales

Nachos

Debbie’s Meat Pies

Savory Homemade Meat Pies

Homemade Fruit Pies

Ricky Beshea

Cinnamon Pecans

Praline Pecans

Salted Caramel Cashews

Chocolate Nuts

Cajun Nuts

Fudge

La Casa Del Taco

Dianne H. Thomas

Festival Contributors

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See your name here for \$25!

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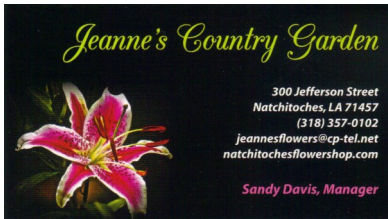
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Crew: Matthew DeFord, Jovan Jones
Sound: WHS Productions/Hank Staples
Crafts: Dr. Pete Gregory
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Fiddle Championship Emcee: Dr. Susan Roach
Fiddle Championship Judges: Brandon Morrow, Ron Yule, James Lindon Hogg
N-Club Room Manager: Khirsten Doolan
ASL Interpretation: Trena Smith
Festival Videographer: David Antilley
Festival Videographer: Chris Reich
Main Stage Manager: Dr. Don Hatley
Country Store Manager: Bethany Staub
Plants Provided By: Jeanne's Country Garden

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Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

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