

Summer 2025

Louisiana Folk

Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Folklife Center

The 45th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

July 19, 2025

The 45th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will be held in air-conditioned Prather Coliseum on the Northwestern State University campus in Natchitoches on Saturday, July 19. The 2025 festival theme is "Crafting Louisiana." The festival's curated showcase of Louisiana folk artists, food vendors, and crafts vendors will open at 9 am, with live entertainment scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Line dance lessons will be given at 9:45 on the West Stage, Cajun dance lessons will be offered at 11:15 a.m. on the Main Stage, and zydeco dance lessons will be held at 5:45 p.m. on the Main Stage. Adult admission to the festival is \$10 per person, or \$6 per person after 5 p.m. Admission is free for children ages 12 and younger.

The 2025 festival will include three stages of live music featuring artists including zydeco by Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band and the LaCour Trio, Cajun music by Amis du Teche, dancing blues by the D.K. Harrell Band, western swing by the Kristyn Harris Band, Louisiana dance hall music and swamp pop by The Has Beans, Celtic and roots music by Smithfield Fair, and gospel by The Amazing Rhythm Disciples! Performances by cultural groups include the Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers, and The Armadillos Tejanos who will present a son jarocho dance fandango, among others. Live music and performances begin at 10 a.m. and end at 10 p.m. The Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held in the Magale Recital Hall, 1-4 p.m. The Louisiana State Fiddle Championship is accepting pre-



Joe Suchanek
Photo by Peter Jones

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registrations through July 10 and offers numerous cash prizes in the Championship Division.

This year also includes a Red Beans & Rice Cookoff, in which professionals and hobbyists alike can compete in one of multiple categories and demonstrate their cooking skills! Registration and the Cooks' Meeting will take place at 8:00 a.m. There is no entry fee. Tasting and judging will begin at 12:30p.m., and winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m. Red beans and rice must be cooked on-site outside of Prather Coliseum (beans may be pre-soaked).

For complete festival details, please visit www.nsula.edu/folklife. Please RSVP to the Facebook event and invite friends by searching "Natchitoches NSU Folk Festival" on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter at @NSUfolklife. We hope to see you there!

What To Know Before You Go

Hall of Master Folk Artists 2025 Inductees

Christy Castille, Traditional Crafts Person

John Litzenberg, Folk Musician

Smithfield Fair, Folk Band

Tom Whitehead, Folk Art Historian

Induction ceremony will be held at 10:30 a.m. on the Main Stage inside Prather Coliseum. All are welcome!

Location: The Festival will be held on Saturday, July 20 in comfortable, air-conditioned Prather Coliseum, located at **220 South Jefferson Street**, on the campus of Northwestern State University in historic Natchitoches, LA.

Directions: To reach the Coliseum, take **Exit 138** (the Natchitoches exit) from I-49. From Shreveport, turn left; from Alexandria, turn right onto Hwy. 6/University Pkwy. Continue along the road for approximately 4 miles and turn right onto South Jefferson. Prather Coliseum is on the right, just past the President's house and the tennis courts.

ADMISSION

\$10.00 per person, *cash only* (price includes sales tax)

\$6.00 per person after 5 p.m.

FREE for children 12 and under

***Purchase your ticket at the Prather Coliseum Box Office
Festival Box Office Opens at 9 a.m.***

Download the Donation Form at www.nsula.edu/folklife



Audio
Description

Accessibility Information

Prather Coliseum and the CAPA Annex/Magale Recital Hall are fully wheelchair accessible. ASL interpretation, assistive listening devices, and audio description will be made available upon prior request. The deadline to request ASL interpretation, assistive listening devices, and audio description services is July 1, 2025. Please contact folklife@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-4332 for requests.

Note: Alcohol is not allowed or sold on the site. Ice chests, outside food and drinks are prohibited.

Event Overview



This year's T-Shirts will be available for pre-order*, as well as at the event in our Country Store, alongside shirts from past years' festivals, CDs, and more!

*For pre-order information, please email folklife@nsula.edu with the subject line "T-Shirt Pre-Order"

Find Us Online!

<https://www.nsula.edu/folklife/>



<https://www.facebook.com/NSULAFOLKLIFECENTER>



<https://twitter.com/NSUfolklife>



<https://www.youtube.com/@louisianafolklifecenter4109/>



pinterest.com/nsulafolklife

Saturday July 19, 2025, 9am - 5pm

Tentative Exhibits & Demonstrations

The Cammie G. Henry Research Center
The Cane River National Heritage Center
The Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve
Creole Heritage Center
Dr. Elista Istre
Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library
Fort St. Jean Baptiste Historic Site
NCPTT
Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers
Mr. Danny's Magic
Natchitoches Area Convention and
Visitors Bureau
Robert Bennett

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

Admission to KidFest is free for children attending the festival.

Outside Demonstrations

Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers
LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center
Red River Smiths
West Baton Rouge Museum

Silent Auction

A Silent Auction will be held **from 9 am-3 pm** in Prather Coliseum. Items for the Auction will be donated by various craft vendors. Revenue from the Auction will be used to pay for some of the many festival expenses.

****Must be 18 years or older to bid, and must be present to win****

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.



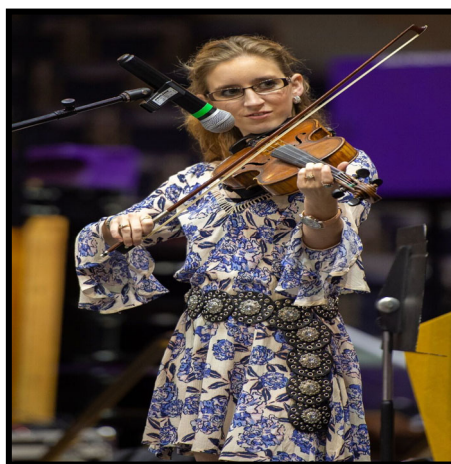
Fiddle Championship Schedule

- * 12:00-1:00 pm Magale Recital Hall, 1st floor, CAPA Annex
Late Registration
- * 12:00-1:00 pm Smithfield Fair
- * 1:00-4:00 pm LA. State Fiddle Championship,
Magale Recital Hall

Workshop

Appalachian and Roots Music Workshop with Clancey Stewart

Join Clancey Stewart, 2014 Ozark Folk Center "Musician of the Year," for a free musical spoons workshop at 11 am in the N-Club Room in Prather Coliseum. The first fifty participants of this workshop will receive a free musical spoon. The workshop will also include a demonstration of fiddle sticks and the dancing doll!



Clancey Stewart, 2018 LA State Fiddle
Champion (photo by Chris Reich)

YOU keep the Fiddle Championship alive!

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

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

_____ \$100 Friend, 4 passes (all events), 1 t-shirt

_____ \$250 Patron, 8 passes (all events), 2 t-shirts & 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** and write “**Fiddle Championship**” on the memo line.

Mail to: Northwestern State University, Louisiana Folklife Center, Natchitoches, LA 71497

The Louisiana Folklife Center is unable to officially endorse political candidates or parties

Red Beans & Rice Cook-Off

By popular demand the Red Beans & Rice Cook-Off is here! The Red Beans & Rice 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: Pork Sausage, Other Protein Sausage, and Meat Alternative Sausage. Participants may enter any or all of the three categories of the competition.

Red beans and rice must be cooked on-site, although beans may be pre-soaked. Only meat 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 red beans 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., red beans may be sold to festival patrons at “a buck a cup.”

Entries will be judged on:

Appearance: looks like red beans—colors of the beans and the distribution of protein is representative of good red beans & rice

Aroma: smells appetizing

Texture: has the consistency of good red beans & rice

Flavor: tastes like good red beans & rice



Elvin Shields, Alan Broussard, and Terry Heinsohn, winners of the 2012 Gumbo Cook-Off.

Red Beans & Rice 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
2:15 p.m.	announcement of winners, Main Stage

Festival Schedule

West Stage	Main Stage	East Stage
	9:30-10:15 The Thistle Dancers and Pipers with Celtic Dance Lesson	
9:45-10:30 Line Dance Lesson with The Classy Steppers	10:30-11:00 Welcome Ceremony	9:45-10:45 Latin Dancing with Sabrasura!
10:45-11:45 The LaCour Trio	11:15-12:00 Cajun Dance Lessons	11:00-12:30 The Kristyn Harris Band with Yodeling Lesson!
12:00-1:15 The D.K. Harrell Band	12:15-1:15 Amis du Teche	12:45-1:00 Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers
1:30-2:30 The Amazing Rhythm Disciples!	1:30-2:15 Son Jarocho Fandango with Armadillos Tejanos!	1:15-2:15 The Snake Doctors
2:45-3:00 Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers	2:30-3:30 Western Swing with The Kristyn Harris Band	2:30-3:30 Amis du Teche
3:15-4:00 Son Jarocho Dancing with Armadillos Tejanos	3:45-4:45 Dancing Blues with the D.K. Harrell Band	3:45-5:00 The Has Beans
4:15-5:15 The Home Grown Tomaters	4:45-5:00 Silent Auction Winners Announcement	
5:30-6:30 TBA	5:00-5:30 Louisiana State Fiddle Champion	5:15-6:15 Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band
	5:45-6:30 Zydeco Dance Lessons	
	6:45-8:00 Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band	6:30-7:30 TBA
	8:15-9:30 Louisiana Dancehall Music by The Has Beans	

Invited Craftspeople — Saturday, July 19th, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ONLY!!

Elliot Abbey, Native American basket maker
Adams Apiary & Farm, bees
Neal Ainsworth, handmade wooden toys, swings, & bird feeders
Judy Allen, jewelry
Sarah Bearden, Bearberry Farm, jams, jellies, pickles, handmade quilts
Martin Benoit, Louisiana Ink Art, ink drawing
Casey Bigpond, ball sticks and basket
Christopher Shane Billiot, woodcarvings and dream catchers
Mike Bonin, handmade woodwork
Judith Braggs, Black folk art quilts
Roy Burst, Choctaw silversmithing
Brandon Cagle, throw pottery/pottery wheel
Campti Historic Museum Quilters, quilting
Cane River Soap Company, Mike & Kim Walthall, handmade soaps, scrubs, lotions & candles
Laura Glen Carlson, handmade jewelry
Billy Carlton, net making
Christy Benoit Castille, shuttle tatting
Jeff & Gloria Causey, garfish scale designs, alligator buttons, & wildlife crafts
Rex Childress, wooden toys/carvings
Cindy Lou's True Soap, Cynthia Hernandez, homemade lye soap, bath bombs, bath salts, sugar scrubs
R.V. Couch, handmade musical instruments
Penny Crawford, LA watercolor prints
John & Scarlett Darden, Chitimacha basketry
Deborah Domengeaux, chair caning
Kirk E. Dupre, cigar box guitars
Bill Elzey, walking sticks
Stephanie Escudé, Native American dolls
James & Julie Eubanks, woodturning, hand crafted charcuterie boards, egg boards
Extreme Cypress, John & Roxanne Grubb, trinket boxes, puzzle boxes and other cypress wood products reclaimed from hundred-year cypress bar wood and logs
Douglas Fazzio, Houma woodworking
Bill Fisher, Jena Choctaw woodcarvings
Rose Fisher, Native American baskets
Kent Follette, pottery
Cindy Fuqua, pottery
Tommy Gandy, scrollwork & wooden toys for children
Garden District Soapery, Bridgette S. Guillory, artisan soaps & candles
Olivia Gates, handmade hunting horns
Melvin Harper, carved walking canes
Charolette Harrell, embroidered work
Bre Harris, bronze sculptures, architectural elements, custom designer furniture, paintings, and fine art prints
Cliff & Marilyn Hernandez, wood carvings
Charles Hill, wooden toys
Ethan Hill, video game, cartoon series
Susan Hill, Susie Q dolls, handmade sock dolls
Hobgoblin Hill Puppets, Alice Wallace, hand carved puppets
Vickie Holbrook, Native American craft
Ho Minti Society, Native American crafts
Indio Art, Juan Martinez, Native American crafts
Renae Jackson, pottery
Burley and Cynthia Johnson, fly ties, canned jelly
Vernon Johnson, handcrafted wood bandsaw, jewelry boxes
Lisa Johnston (Louisiana Lagniappe Foods), gourmet pepper, fruit, and wine jellies
Kenneth Kerry, turkey calls, knives, baskets, folk art, wooden turtles
Juanita Leonard, paintings, sculptures, folk art items
Tammy Lloid, spinning & weaving
Ann Luster, Spanish moss dolls & alligator garfish
Janie Luster, Houma Indian baskets & crafts
Rick Korn, framed art and magnets

Jerry LaCaze, wood carvings, wood crafts, pyrography
Bayou LaCombe, Choctaw, Native American crafts
Kenneth Lindner, wood crafts
Thelma Litteken, Natchitoches Tribe, hand painted wine glasses, hand painted decorative items
Jean Livesay, Black Bayou Pottery, pottery
Mandie Lucas, Bayou Souls dolls; mixed media "voodoo/art"
Millard Mangrum, pottery & fleur-de-lis items
Jerry Masters, woodturning crafts
Dwight P. Mayeux, quill pens & historic writing
Shelton Meacham, handmade banjos
Janette Melton, Natchitoches Tribe, corn shuck dolls & other items
Becky Thomas Meziere, pine needles baskets, handmade beadwork
Gladys Miller, dulcimers
Jackie Miller, Mardi gras mask, regalia
Janet Miller, hand spinning
Chris Moore, iron work, birdhouses
Paul Morgan, wooden crafts and toys
David Morris, woodwork
Native Ties, Alfreda Mathieu, handmade jewelry, dreamcatchers, water drum
Timothy & Felica O'Bryan, stones, minerals, crystals, wire wrap jewelry
Roy Parfait, Houma wood carvings
Derek Patterson, art paintings
John Perry/Chipalottas, flintknapping
Danny Petrella, Mamou Choctaw, cowhide chairs
Fred A. Pittman Jr., handcrafted knives
Red River Quilters, Tonya Evans, quilts & quilting
Rising Sun Youth, Choctaw-Apache of Ebarb, drinks
Riverside Pecan Co., pecans & pecan products
Travis Robertson, bow ties
Susan Rodrigue, functional stoneware pottery
Margo Rosas, beadwork
Catherine Rouchon, polished stones & crafted sterling silver jewelry
Sharon Rouchon, basket weaving
Nicholas & Mary Royston, whittlings, carvings, quilting
St. Augustine Catholic Church Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Gail Jones, quilting
Stan Routh, architectural drawings
Margaret Riley Santhanam, textiles, Choctaw & Chickasaw crafts
Wayne Schultz, leather belts, wallets
Barbara Seegraves, gourd art
Steve Seneca, art portraits
Rachel Shaddox, handmade soaps
Elvin Shields, twisted wire toys
Gladys Celestine Shutt, Native American basket maker
Brad Smith, handmade woodworks
Rhonda Stevenson, paper-mâché and paper-clay items
Ruth Stevenson, knitting & crochet
Swept Away Brooms, Sharon Jackson, broom making
Talimaili Band, handmade arts & crafts
Gene Tomko, Louisiana Music Map
Frieda Tuma, pysanky eggs
Twisted Pines Quail Farm, Annette Scarborough, pickled quail's eggs
Alice Tyler, Clifton-Choctaw beadwork
John Vidrine, honey, honey sticks, creamed honey, and goat milk soap
Craig Vincent, handmade accordions
Brent Walden, handcrafted Earigami earrings
Waylon Jerome White Deer, Native American art
Myrna Wilson, Koasati (Coushatta) pine straw baskets
Sharon Womack, birdhouses
Deborah West, Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas, dolls, moccasins, etc.
NWLA Basket Makers, Geraldine Zelinsky, longleaf pine needle and sweetgrass baskets

Narrative/ Informance Sessions, July 19, 2025 Prather Coliseum N-Club Room

Informances combine interviews with informal musical performances.

- 10:00-10:45** The Craft of Songwriting with Smithfield Fair
- 11:00-11:45** Roots Traditions with Musical Spoons Workshop
- 12:00-12:45** Master Artisans Roundtable
- 1:00-1:45** Traditional Dolls and Dollmaking
- 2:00-2:45** Blues Music Informance with D.K. Harrell
- 3:00-3:45** The Art of Everyday Workmanship
- 4:00-4:45** Memories of Clementine Hunter
- 5:00-5:45** Fiddling Across Borders: An Introduction to Mexican Regional Fiddle Styles

Thanks For Your Support!

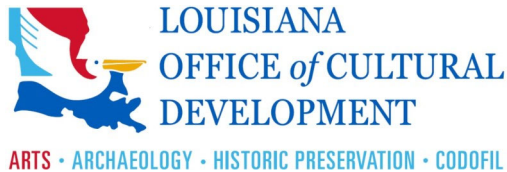
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2025 Natchitoches -NSU Folk Festival

“Crafting Louisiana”

*Make checks payable to **NSU FOUNDATION** and write “Folk Festival” on the memo line*

Mail to: **Northwestern State University, Louisiana Folklife Center, Natchitoches, LA 71497**

___ **Friend (\$25)**

Receives: 1 pass (all events)

___ **Patron (\$250)**

Receives: 8 passes (all events)
and 2 T-shirts

___ **Grand Benefactor (\$2500)**

Receives: 30 Passes (all events)
and 5 T-shirts

___ **Member (\$50)**

Receives: 2 passes (all events)

___ **Grand Patron (\$500)**

Receives: 10 passes (all events)
and 3 T-Shirts

___ **Sustainer (\$5000)**

Receives: 60 Passes (all events)
and 10 T-shirts

___ **Sponsor (\$100)**

Receives: 4 passes (all events), 1 T-shirt

___ **Benefactor (\$1000)**

Receives: 20 passes (all events)
and 4 T-shirts

___ **Folklife Visionary (\$10,000)**

Receives: 100 Passes (all events)
and 20 T-shirts

All funds received before July 1st 2025 will receive listing in the Festival Program and on our website. In addition, Benefactors, Grand Benefactors, Sustainers, and Folklife Visionaries will have their logo displayed on the Main Stage, and mentioned in news releases/advertising/social media.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

T-shirt size(s) _____

Funds received after July 1, 2025 may not be listed in the Festival Program.

Fair market value of items received may not be deducted from your Federal Income Tax.

The Louisiana Folklife Center is unable to officially endorse political candidates or parties

Thanks for supporting the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival!!!