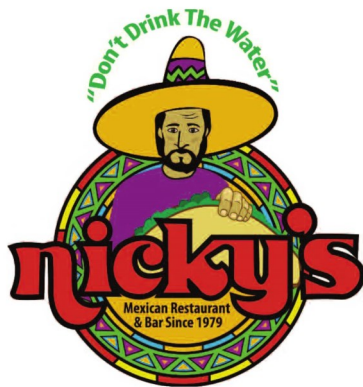




Official Program
July 23, 2022
Prather Coliseum



Thanks to Our In-Kind Supporters!





NORTHWESTERN STATE

Office of the President

July 23, 2022

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 42nd 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 "Stronger Together: The Power of Traditional Culture" 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 Jones
President
Northwestern State University

Welcome

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Director Louisiana Folklife Center



Welcome back! We are so grateful to once again be able to meet face-to-face. We had planned for this year's theme, "Stronger Together: The Power of Traditional Culture," to be the theme for 2021, but were prevented from doing so by the pandemic. However, the Festival's two year hiatus has made this theme even more timely. This year's theme celebrates the ways in which folk traditions bring people together in positive ways, providing solace, hope, cheer, and inspiration. We are truly stronger together than apart!

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 Caddo Culture Club and the Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team. Also exciting will be a Cajun guitar workshop with Yvette Landry and Beau Thomas. And don't miss getting your feet moving with dance lessons from the Cajun French Music Association Dance Troupe and music by this year's honorary chair, fiddler extraordinaire Amanda Shaw!

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 Aaron's Rent to Own, Bank of Montgomery, City Bank, the City of Natchitoches, Cleco, Exchange Bank, Georgia's Gift Shop, the Harrington Law Firm, Jeanne's Country Garden, 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, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and Foundation, and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council 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 2023 which will feature juré by the Broussard Sisters, blues by Jimmy "Duck" Holmes, Americana music by James Linden Hogg, the Rising Sun Youth Group of the Choctaw-Apache Tribe of Ebarb, Rusty Metoyer & the Zydeco Krush, and classic country and swamp pop by Yvette Landry and the Jukes. See you next year!



Table of Contents

In Memory.....Page 6
 Bill Bryant
 William “Billy” Phillips
 Clifton Douglas Rambin
 Hardrick Rivers Sr.
 Mary Linn Wernet

Honorary Festival Chair, Amanda ShawPage 11

Hall of Master Folk Artists.....Page 12
 R.V. Couch
 Louisiana Czech Heritage Folk Dancers
 Elvin Shields

Fiddlin’ with Fiddles: R.V. Couch and His Handmade Instruments.....Page 15
 Zoey Hebert

The Plantation Toy-Making Tradition of Elvin Shields.....Page 18
 Zoey Hebert

Prather Coliseum Diagram.....Page 22

Louisiana State Fiddle Championship Schedule.....Page 23

Narrative Sessions/Exhibits.....Page 24

Live Music Schedule.....Page 25

Outside Demonstrations.....Page 26

KidFest.....Page 29

Festival Music.....Page 30

Dance Demonstrations.....Page 33

Festival Crafts..... Page 35

Book SigningsPage 47

Festival Food.....Page 48

Many Thanks.....Page 50
 Festival Steering Committee



In Memory

Hardrick Rivers, Sr. 1956-2022



Hardrick Rivers began playing music early in his life. At age 13, he began to study under and play with one of the masters of Louisiana music, Overton Owens—sometimes called Dr. Drip Drop. Rivers quickly joined Overton Owens and the Mustangs, which was formed during the late 1960s. He worked hard in those early years to find his unique sound on the saxophone, and he clearly succeeded.

Eventually, he formed his own group, the Lighthouse Crew, which he left in 1992. In 1994, he formed a new group, Rivers Revue Band. In 1996, a group of musicians decided to have a monthly jam session at Roque's Grocery in Natchitoches; Overton Owens joined many of these sessions. From these jam sessions grew the Roque's Blues Band.

Rivers was inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists in 2001. 2003 marked the year of his teaming with B. B. Majors Blue Band and they toured Italy playing various blues events and venues. The year of 2017 brought another signal honor—his being honored as a Louisiana Tradition Bearer at a ceremony at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana

History Museum in Natchitoches. Known as a "sax man" and blues band leader, Hardrick was a versatile musician who truly enjoyed performing.

Rivers' community of Powhatan recognized the statesman-like qualities he had and elected him as their Mayor in 2020 where he brought a spirit of progress to that settlement. He was the sitting Mayor at the time of his passing on March 10, 2022.

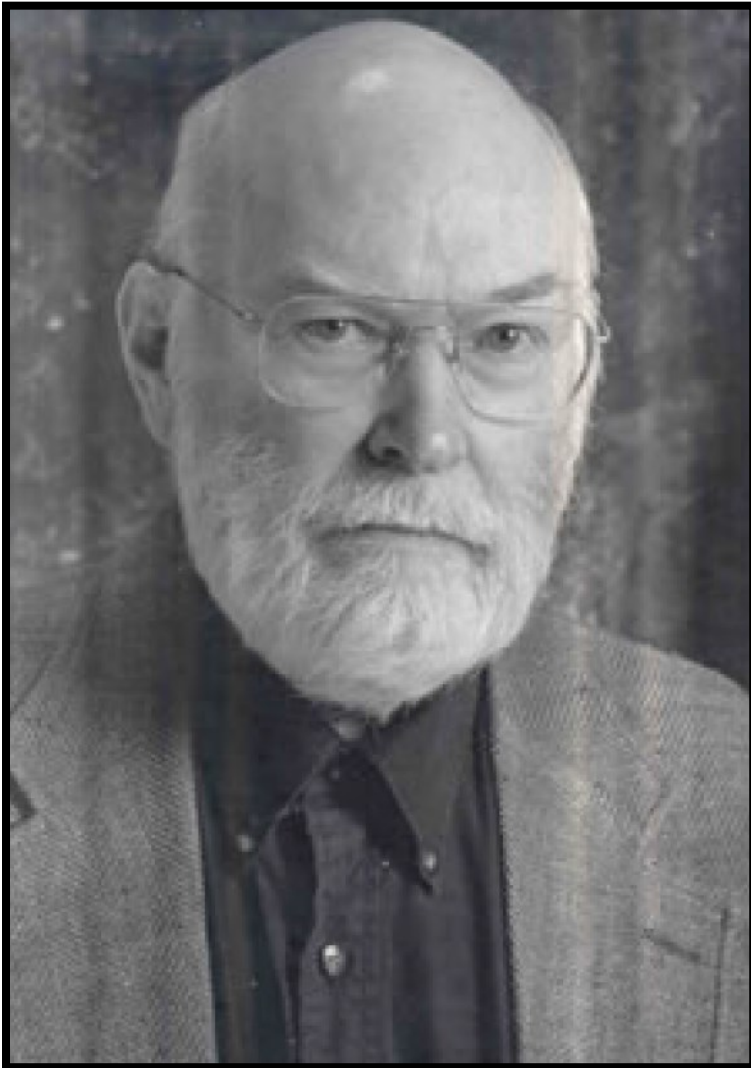
Source: <https://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu/artist-biographies/profiles/184>

Source: <http://www.winnfieldmemorialfh.com/obituary/the-honorable-hardrick-rivers>



In Memory

Dr. Billy Joe Bryant 1936-2021



Artist and musician Dr. Billy Joe Bryant, 84, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2021. Bill Bryant was born on October 19, 1936 in Shreveport. He attended Byrd High School and received his B.A. in Art at Centenary College, studying under artists Don Brown and Willard Cooper. He also enjoyed the experience of music, travel, and camaraderie as a member of the Centenary College Choir.

Following college, Bill served eight years in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged as a captain in 1967. While stationed in Washington D.C., he met his wife of 58 years, Alice Louise Peck, while taking classes with painter Richard Lahey at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design at George Washington University where he eventually earned his M.A. in Art. He then began his career as an art teacher, working at Louisiana College.

In 1976, Bill moved his family back to Louisiana where he began his teaching career at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, retiring as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Fine and Graphic Arts in 2004.

Throughout his life, Bill Bryant was immersed in a spectrum of art and music

activities. He was a member of the Hoover Watercolor Society and participated as artist and juror in many regional exhibitions. Combining his drawing talent with his famous sense of humor, Bill was also a contributing cartoonist for the *Natchitoches Times* for many years with his armadillo-themed comic strip.

Having grown up listening to old-time string band music, Bill became heavily involved in the folk music revival, learning to make and play mountain dulcimers during his time in Kentucky. For over three decades, he performed with The Back Porch Band, which was an integral part of the Natchitoches NSU Folk Festival.

In 2001, he was inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists for his dulcimer craftsmanship. His legacy of art and music lives on with his children and grandchildren as well as with students and friends.

Source:

<https://www.blanchardstdenisfuneralhome.com/obituary/dr-bill-bryant>



In Memory

William "Billy" Phillips 1941-2021



Photo by Chris Reich

William "Billy" Phillips, a master woodcarver who was known in his hometown of Alexandria as the owner of a long-running local business, Phillips Signs, passed away on Nov. 7, 2021. Phillips was a popular vendor at the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival, where his unbelievably realistic carvings of fish, water fowl, and wildlife were always a hit with crowds.

Phillips took up woodcarving in his 40s, when a visit to the Catahoula Lake Festival in Pineville sparked his interest. By the mid-1980s, he'd developed a serious passion for carving. He became especially well-known for his accurate, colorful portrayals of freshwater fish, which he hand-painted using tiny brushstrokes, resisting the temptation to save time using an airbrush.

Phillips used only wood from Louisiana in his carvings, with cedar, cypress and tupelo being among his favorites. He was an avid fisherman and a devoted husband to his wife, Bea. His good humor and incredible craftsmanship will be missed by attendees and organizers of the NSU-Natchitoches Folk Festival.



In Memory

Clifton Rambin 1942-2022



Clifton Rambin made his journey to heaven to be with those that went before him on Jan. 1, 2022. Rambin spent most of his life working in the oil fields of Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico, he also was a 20+ year volunteer firefighter for DeSoto Fire District 8. In his retired life, Clifton became a renowned wood carver and attended festivals throughout Louisiana, where he was always one of the most-requested artists in attendance. His artistry was honored in 1995 by then Governor Edwin Edwards and Speaker of the Louisiana State House of Representatives Joe Salter when his art was placed on display in the "The Creole State: An Exhibition of Louisiana Folklife" at the State Capitol Building in Baton Rouge.

Rambin was born on July 31, 1942. He lived with his wife Margie in Pelican, LA, where he first began learning his craft. He was completely self-taught in creating decorated gourds, woodwork, and walking sticks. He first became interested in gourd decorating in 1990 when his wife wanted to paint gourds. He started to raise gourds and there were so many laying around that

he decided to start decorating them himself. Clifton raised gourds of many different shapes, burned designs on them, and polished them with floor wax.

Not only did Rambin grow and decorate gourds, he also created walking sticks and children's whistles. He learned how to make whistles from elders in his hometown. He taught himself how to create walking sticks, but first received the inspiration from seeing David Allen and his sticks at a festival. To create his lovely walking sticks he used ash, pecan, and bois d'arc wood.

His work is featured in the Creole State Exhibit at the Louisiana State Capitol, at the Louisiana Folklife Center, Ben Nighthouse Campbell's Collection, and the Bayou State Collection.

Source: <http://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu/artist-biographies/profiles/182>

Source: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/clifton-douglas-rambin-obituary?id=32070178>



In Memory

Mary Linn Wernet



Photo courtesy Wernet Family

Mary Linn Wernet, Associate Professor and University Archivist of the Cammie G. Henry Research Center in Watson Memorial Library and Records Officer at Northwestern State University, passed away on Jan. 31, 2022.

She had overseen the Cammie G. Henry Research Center in Watson Memorial Library since 1988. Prior to joining Northwestern State's faculty, she was an appraisal archivist with the Louisiana State Archives and an oil and gas title abstractor with Caddo Abstract and Title Company in Shreveport.

Wernet authored several articles and book reviews primarily on Louisiana topics in *Louisiana History*, *North Louisiana History*, *Louisiana Library Association Bulletin*, *Southwestern Archivist*, and *Minerva Journal of Women and War*. She was a project director of two Louisiana-related grants and a participant in more than a dozen grants. In 2014 she received the Elizabeth McLundie Bolton Award from the Louisiana Association of Museums. The award recognizes an individual outside of the museum profession for their extraordinary achievement as well as outstanding support of Louisiana museums.

She served as a committee member and officer of several historical and archival associations. She served as president of the North Louisiana Historical Association, was a member of the Louisiana Historical Association's Archives and Records Committee, and a member of the Louisiana Archive Training Collaborative. She provided hundreds of presentations and exhibitions highlighting the collections of the Cammie G. Henry Research Center. Her last exhibit was "50 Years of Collecting at the NSU Libraries Cammie Henry Research Center – Featuring Artifacts of Interest," part of Watson Library's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Source: <https://www.blanchardstdenisfuneralhome.com/obituary/mary-wernet>



2022 Honorary Chair and Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee



Photo courtesy AmandaShaw.com

Amanda Shaw

Acclaimed Louisiana fiddler Amanda Shaw blazes trails with her clever songwriting and exciting performances. With over 20 years of experience, Shaw captivates audiences of all sizes – from intimate listening rooms to national television audiences. Shaw blends authentic Cajun culture with endearing local charm, delivering shows that burst with Louisiana flavor. Her most recent album, *Joie*, is her sixth full-length studio recording and her first album to feature Cajun French vocals.

Amanda Shaw & the Cute Guys are a staple at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, where she performs annually. Shaw was a featured New Orleans performer on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve in 2020 as well as on CNN's New Year's Eve with Don Lemon in 2018, 2019, and 2021.

Catch Shaw performing with her outstanding backing band, the Cute Guys, on the Main Stage at 1:15 p.m. and on the East Stage at 4:15 p.m. Shaw will also participate in an

“informance”—a unique combination of interview and informal performance—in the N-Club Room at 3 p.m. The 42nd annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival is honored to welcome Shaw as our 2022 Honorary Chair!

Amanda Shaw will be among those inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists at 11:15 a.m. on the Main Stage.

Source: AmandaShaw.com



2022 Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee

R.V. Couch

R.V. Couch started disassembling and rebuilding household objects during his childhood in Summerville, LA. He found that he had an affinity for working with his hands, and he enjoyed tinkering with items around the house. He often fixed objects that were broken, rather than paying to have them fixed or replaced. As an adult, Couch continued to work with his hands as an automotive and mobile home mechanic.

Couch realized that he wanted to build instruments after his retirement when he decided to learn to play the fiddle. The repair costs for his fiddle were high, so he decided that he would build his own. There are flaws in the construction of that first fiddle, but just as with the other objects he’s built throughout his life, he quickly gained skill in building instruments.

Couch expanded beyond building fiddles when his daughter showed him

a strumstick, which he took measurements from and proceeded to replicate. His designs come from a variety of places, from blueprints to ideas from other instrument makers to his own imagination. He has made fiddles, strumsticks, regular, travel, and cigar-box guitars, and a mandolin. His creativity when it comes to crafting instruments is apparent in the ways that he has improved on pre-established designs. Couch will be displaying and selling his handmade instruments at this year’s NSU-Natchitoches Folk Festival.

R.V. Couch will be among those inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists at 11:15 a.m. on the Main Stage.



Photo courtesy R.V. Couch



2022 Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee



Photo courtesy David Holcombe

The 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.

The Holcombes, in association with Cookie Tuma and others, shared authentic Czech dances. The local group mastered these dances and others taught by visiting dance instructors or learned on trips to the Czech Republic.

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 Folklife Festival in Natchitoches and at events in Texas. Although time has decreased their numbers, the group still performs at the Louisiana Czech Heritage Festival at Libuse. Visiting Czechs have been astonished to find such a vibrant and authentic dance group in the middle of rural Louisiana, a tribute to the tenacity and resiliency of Czech folk traditions in the colonies of Libuse and Kolin.

Catch the Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers live on the West Stage at 10 a.m. and on the Main Stage at 3 p.m.

Source: David Holcombe



2022 Hall of Master Folk Artists Inductee

Elvin L. Shields



Photo courtesy Betty Shields

Elvin Shields was born into a family of sharecroppers in December of 1949 on Melrose Plantation. He spent his childhood working in the fields with his family and the other sharecroppers of the plantation. There was no money for the family to buy toys, so Shields and the other boys learned to twist wire into toys.

This tradition, carried over by slaves from Africa, supplied the children with toys and gave them a medium to be creative. Children would make toys based on the things they saw in their day to day lives, creating an image of plantation life from their perspective. Shields stopped making wire toys when he was fifteen, but he took the craft back up after his retirement to teach about the traditions and history of Black plantation sharecroppers. He found that he enjoys creating the toys, and he enjoys being able to share often overlooked history with others.

Shields is currently 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. The toys Shields twists out of wire are pieces of history that many have ignored or suppressed. Today, Shields uses his wire plantation toys to preserve the culture and history of Black sharecroppers. His dedication to the preservation of Louisiana’s history makes him an excellent candidate for the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

Elvin Shields will be among those inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists at 11:15 a.m. on the Main Stage.



Fiddlin’ with Fiddles: R.V. Couch and His Handmade Instruments

by Zoe Hebert

Handmade instrument maker R.V. Couch is among those who will be inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists at this year’s Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Couch will be selling his beautiful handmade instruments at the festival.

In preparation for the event, I spoke with Couch to learn more about how he got to this point in his life and what his instruments mean to him. As a child, Couch spent a lot of time taking things apart and putting them back together. When things in the house broke, he would fix them. He realized quickly that he had an affinity for handiwork, especially when it came to building. He has always enjoyed working with his hands. There was nothing specific that led him to this realization, according to Couch, but things just worked out that way. He described his experience dismantling and rebuilding his old canning machine in his childhood, as well as working on his bike and his grandmother’s sewing machine. In some cases, Couch would fix things that were broken around the house, like the fan, and build toys for himself out of whatever he had at hand. As an adult, Couch worked as an automotive and mobile home mechanic, continuing to work with his hands until retirement.



R.V. Couch in his workshop in June of 2022.

Couch didn’t start building instruments until around 2005, when he heard someone playing a fiddle and decided that he wanted to learn to play himself. He had found an old fiddle that someone had thrown away and kept it in his shop. After deciding he wanted to learn how to play, he brought the fiddle to a repairman he knew who fixed it up for him, but he was charged \$250 for the repairs.

“I walked out of his shop and to my truck, looking at it, thinking in my mind, ‘I can do better work than that,’” Couch explained.

Couch decided that he was going to build his own fiddle. He was told by the repairman that it would take him three months to build one, but after a month of focused work, Couch had



finished building his first fiddle. He said that there are several mistakes in the instrument, but that it plays very well, and he has a special appreciation for the unique piece. His fascination with the creation and design of instruments was sparked. With the encouragement and support of his wife, Couch began to build more instruments, which he went on to display and sell at festivals.

His repertoire expanded when one of his daughters brought home a strumstick. Couch drew up a pattern for strumsticks using the measurements from the one he was shown and began making his own. He got more information from the man who built his daughter's strumstick and, noticing a few design flaws, proceeded to improve upon the original design. Couch has since made several fiddles and strumsticks, regular, travel, and cigar-box guitars, and a mandolin. He likes to build his instruments in different styles and with various features. While he does have a few blueprints, most of Couch's instruments are built based on his own measurements and experimentation. Some of his instruments are even electrified.

"I've just picked up designs from different places, and I play with my designs some, change them, and little odds and ends where I'll say 'well, let's see if this works,'" he explained, then went on to say, "mine looks different from everybody's, but I'm just using my own imagination."



R.V. Couch displays one of his unique instruments.

There are a few instruments that Couch is especially proud of. One of them is a piece he made for a friend. He explained that his friend had a dog that he loved, so Couch did a carving of the dog's head on the end of the neck instead of the typical scroll. He was proud of how well the carving came out. He also talked about one of the instruments he's kept, a cigar-box guitar designed by his wife. The creation of this guitar was a collaborative effort between the two, with Couch's wife creating the design and Couch crafting it according to her specifications, so Couch put her name in the final piece.

Couch's wife passed away in early 2017. Couch has continued to make instruments since her passing, remembering the support she showed for his passion for building in her life.



“The more I built, the better they got, the better I liked them, and the better everybody looked at them.”

-R.V. Couch

“All the big stuff that she would want to see is happening now,” Couch said. “They displayed my instruments in the Schepis Museum in Columbia for a month. She wanted me to build more, and the more I built, the better they got, the better I liked them, and the better everybody looked at them.”

The original fiddle he made, the one that sparked his love for creating instruments, is his favorite. Several people have asked to buy it, but Couch has stated that he has no intention of selling that particular fiddle. It’s a unique instrument built in the process of trial and error and holds great significance to Couch. All the flaws in the fiddle are physical examples of his learning process, and he ensured that they don’t affect the quality of the music it can play.

The fiddle is his favorite instrument in general, due to the challenge building one presents and the beauty of its music.

Couch is looking forward to talking with the people at the 2022 Folklife Festival. He explained that part of what makes his work so fulfilling is meeting and talking to the people who are interested in his craft. He does not sell his instruments online since he prefers to talk with his customers and interact with them personally. He enjoys interacting with the people who like his work face-to-face and getting to see for himself how they feel about the instruments he loves to create. He often attends the fiddle championships with his toolbox just in case anyone’s instrument breaks. While he noted that every year the festival has something different, this year he is looking forward to being inducted into the Hall of Master Folk Artists. Mr. Couch’s dedication to his



Living Louisiana History: The Plantation Toy-Making Tradition of Elvin Shields

by Zoe Hebert



Louisiana Tradition Bearer Elvin Shields teaches Junior Rangers about plantation toys at Cane River Creole National Historical Park.

Twisted wire toy maker, Natchitoches resident, and Louisiana Tradition Bearer Elvin Shields will be displaying his plantation toys at the 2022 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Shields is to be inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists at this year’s Festival at 11:15 a.m.

“Kids need to have toys, so they find some old wire, and they twist them up.”

-Elvin Shields

Shields was born into a family of sharecroppers in December of 1949 on Melrose Plantation.

Much of his early life revolved around demanding physical labor in the plantation fields. He stated that most children on the plantation started working at around five years old, as soon as they could carry a cotton sack. He had little leisure time,



only Saturday afternoons and Sundays after church. In those hours of spare time, Shields was free to entertain himself by hunting, fishing, and making and playing with his toys. Growing up, his family didn't have the money to buy toys, as was the case with other sharecropper and tenant farmer families. As a result, the children made their own toys out of objects they found or recycled.

“It's a poor thing, it's nothing to do with art,” Shields explained. “Kids need to have toys, so they find some old wire, and they twist them up. But it's something that came from Africa.”

According to Shields, certain tribes in Africa did, and still do, play with wire and make toys. The toymaking tradition was carried along with the slaves as they were taken to the United States and passed down through the generations. He explained that only the kids who lived at the plantations in southern Natchitoches parish learned and practiced twisting wire into toys. He considers the creation of these toys as a way of fulfilling a need rather than as art to be bought and sold.

The shapes the wire toys take are specific to the children making them. Shields stated that he and the other children living on the plantation would twist the everyday sights they had come to recognize, such as tractors, mules, cows, and horses. Some of Shields' other toys depict sharecroppers plowing the fields, dragging cotton sacks, and hunting with dogs. Each of these toys not only provided a means of entertainment for plantation children, but they provide an image of what the children saw and experienced at the time.

“It's whatever a kid sees, that's what he twists. He's twisting his environment,” Shields said.



Twisted wire “plantation toys” created by Elvin Shields. Photo: NPS.



There has been less interest from young people in learning the tradition of wire twisting to make toys in recent years. Shields attributes the decline in interest in the making of wire toys for fun with the rise in technology and the reduction in space for children to play. He explained that he and the other plantation children would play outside in the sand with their twisted wire toys and marbles.

“We would do our tractors or our mules, and we would go sit out in the sand,” Shields reflected. “There wasn’t no beautiful lawns on the plantation, there was just sand around the house.”

Making toys out of wire was a necessity for the boys living on the plantation. Children needed toys, but without the money to purchase them from shopping catalogues, they had to make their own. The method of wire twisting was shared between the boys of each generation, with the older boys teaching the younger. For some time, Shields did demonstrations with children to teach them how to twist wire, but most kids were distracted by modern entertainment and weren’t interested in learning.



Shields shares his work at the NSU-Natchitoches Folk Festival.

Shields took the toymaking tradition back up again in 2011, after his retirement, when he began volunteering at the Cane River National Historical Park. As a volunteer, he led demonstrations and talked about the history of Black sharecroppers in southern Natchitoches parish. The history and culture of Black plantation workers is often forgotten or ignored in favor of the more commonly seen white history, and through his lectures and toymaking, Shields seeks to keep that history alive and raise awareness of the contributions Black Americans have made in the development of Louisiana and the country as a whole.

“Nobody is telling the story,” Shields said. “That’s why I volunteered there, I lecture to groups from all over the world, to tell the real story. Otherwise, the real story is going to be forgotten about.”

Today, Shields still gives talks on the history of Black sharecroppers at the national park, and he has collaborated with NCPTT to produce YouTube lectures reflecting on his experiences as a child in a sharecropper family. He has also released two books describing his experiences and documenting his knowledge of plantation toys. He is determined to ensure that their history, which has



been largely overlooked for decades, is not erased. His perspective on the subject and his understanding of its importance have led to Shields being named a Louisiana Tradition Bearer. This integral piece of Louisiana’s history lives on in the toys Shields makes and the tradition that the craft comes from.

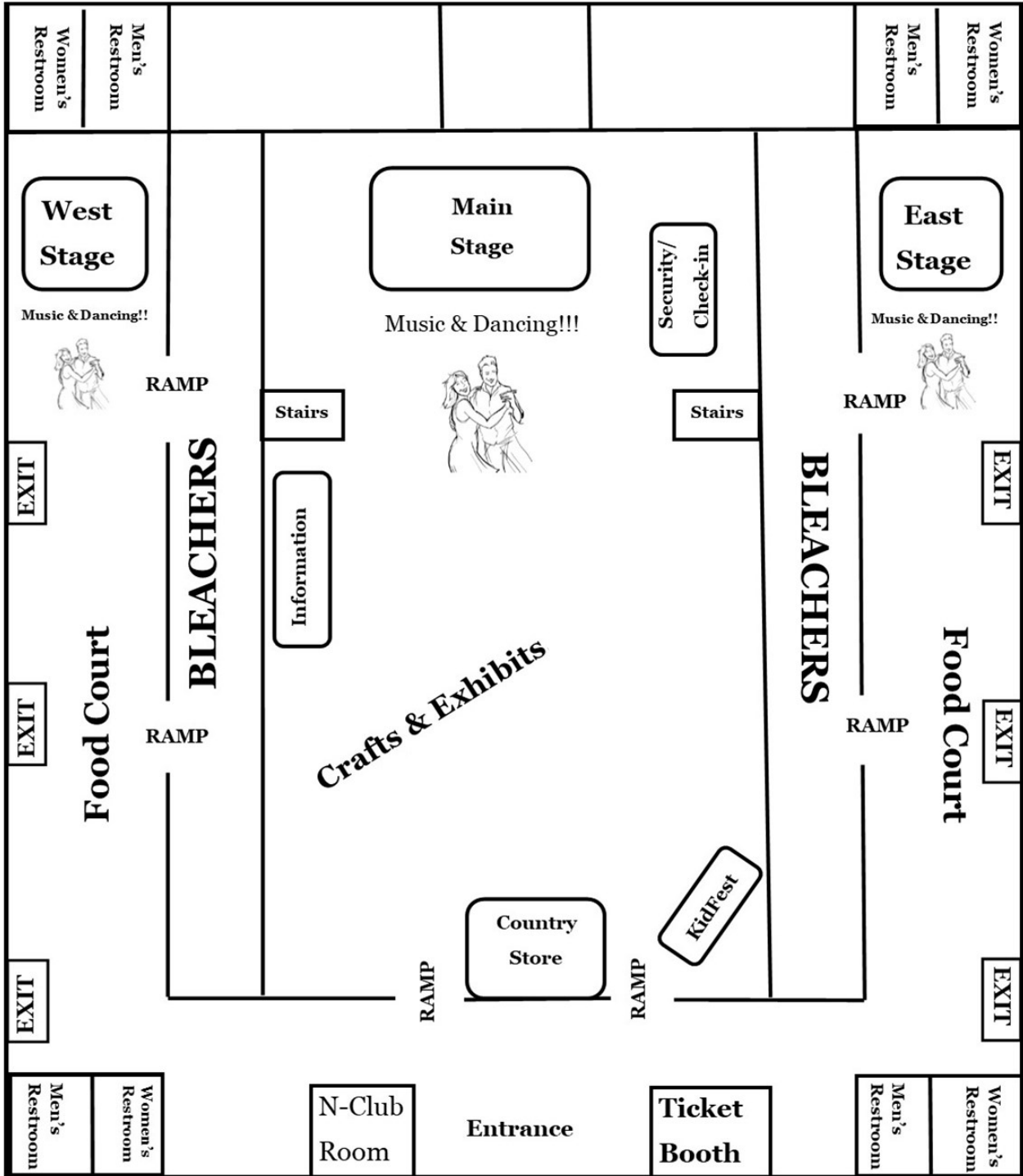
Shields stated that he is looking forward to this year’s folk festival and the interactions he will have with festivalgoers. He said, “I like the music, I like the food, and it’s just a great atmosphere. And I like to look at the other folk artists’ stuff. It’s a delight.”



Elvin Shields displays several of his twisted wire toys. Photo by Betty Shields.



Prather Coliseum Diagram



Wheelchair Accessible

Front of Prather Coliseum

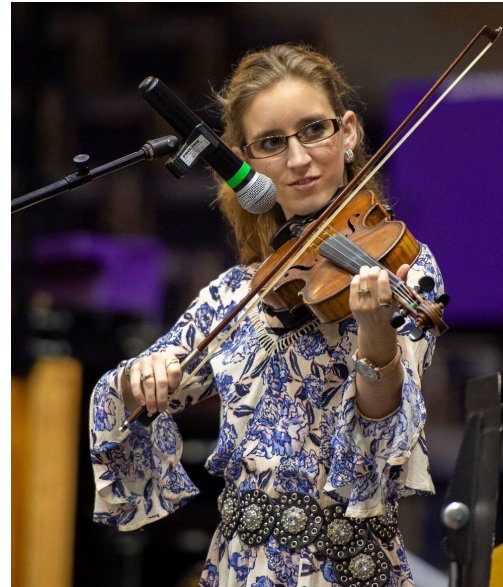
Outside Demonstrations



Louisiana State Fiddle Championship

Magale Recital Hall, 1-4 p.m.

The Louisiana State Fiddle Championship will be held in Magale Recital Hall which is housed in the CAPA Annex located at 140 Central Avenue. 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. 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. **Admission is included with your ticket to the festival—come join the fun!**



Clancey Stewart, 2018 Louisiana State Fiddle Champion. Photo by Chris Reich.



Ron Yule, 2019 Louisiana State Fiddle Champion.

Fiddle Championship Schedule

12:00-1:00 pm Late Registration
Magale Recital Hall, Second Floor Foyer

12:00-1:00 pm Haggis Rampant Celtic Band
Magale Recital Hall

1:00-4:00pm LA State Fiddle Championship
Magale Recital Hall

5:30-6:00 pm Grand Champion Performance
Prather Coliseum Main Stage

Visit our website at
louisianafolklife.nsula.edu

Contact us at: folklife@nsula.edu or 318-357-4332
www.facebook.com/NSULAFOLKLIFECENTER



Narrative Sessions

Narrative/Informance Sessions, Prather Coliseum July 23, 2022

Informances combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists.

N-Club Room

10:00-10:45 Acadian Brown Cotton of Louisiana

Explore the history of natural brown cotton in Southwest Louisiana with Jerry Hale.

11:00-11:45 The Caddo Culture Club

The Caddo Culture Club is an organization formed in 1988 in an effort to preserve the culture and traditions of the Caddo People.

12:00-12:45 Beginning Cajun Guitar with Yvette Landry and Beau Thomas

Join guitarist and songwriter Yvette Landry for an interactive workshop on Cajun guitar—bring your instrument!

1:00-1:45 Talking the Blues: Memories of Hardrick Rivers Sr.

Friends and bandmates of the late “sax man” and civic leader, Hardrick Rivers Sr., share memories from his life.

2:00-2:45 Music Informance: Geno Delafosse

Zydeco star Geno Delafosse will discuss his life in music and growing up zydeco royalty.

3:00-3:45 Music Informance: Amanda Shaw

Get to know Cajun fiddler Amanda Shaw through story and song.

4:00-4:45 Music Informance: Les Frères Michot

Join Les Frères Michot, an all-brothers Cajun band formed in 1986, for this lively session!

Exhibits

Cammie G. Henry Research Center
 Cane River Creole National Historical Park
 NSU Creole Heritage Center
 Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site
 Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers
 Mr. Danny’s Magic
 Tremblay Island
 West Baton Rouge Museum (Outside)



Festival Schedule

Saturday July 23, 2022

West Stage	Main Stage	East Stage
10:00-10:45 Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers	10:00-11:00 The LaCour Trio	10:15-11:30 Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble
11:00-11:30 Yvette Landry and Beau Thomas	11:15-11:45 Welcome Ceremony!	11:45-12:00 Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team
11:45-12:45 Les Frères Michot	12:00-1:00 Cajun Dance Lessons	12:15-1:30 The LaCour Trio
1:00-2:00 The Caddo Culture Club	1:15-2:15 Amanda Shaw & The Cute Guys	1:45-2:45 Les Frères Michot
2:15-3:30 Musical Tribute to Hardrick Rivers Sr.	2:30-2:45 Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team	3:00-4:00 Cajun Dance Lessons
3:45-5:00 Geno Delafosse and French Rockin' Boogie	3:00-3:15 Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers	4:15-5:15 Amanda Shaw & The Cute Guys
5:15-6:15 The Thistle Dancers and Pipers	3:30-4:30 The Caddo Culture Club	5:30-6:30 Flashback
6:30-7:30 Haggis Rampant Celtic Band	4:30-5:00 Louisiana State Fiddle Champion	6:45-7:45 Joyful Sounds
	5:15-6:00 Zydeco Dance Lessons	
	6:15-7:45 Geno Delafosse and French Rockin' Boogie	
	8:00-10:00 Flashback	



◆ Outside Demonstrations ◆

Red River Smiths



Photo by Gary Hardamon

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).



Photo by Gary Hardamon



◆ Outside Demonstrations ◆



Wash Day



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 from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.



◆ Outside Demonstrations ◆



Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers



Photos by Heather Lockwood

The Central Louisiana Dutch Oven Cookers will be bringing a large group to this year’s festival—four “junior cooks” and *fifteen* adult cooks! They’ll be cooking from 9 a.m. ’til 5 p.m. 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.”



◆ KidFest Activities, July 23, 8:30 am till 4:00 pm ◆

The coordinator of KidFest, Sophia Gruesbeck, has some wonderful activities planned this year! Stop by KidFest to enjoy:

- Decorating oyster shells
- Making "swamp slime"
- Creating paper plate pelicans
- Making crawfish holes out of clay
- Making clothespin alligators
- Making Mardi Gras masks
- Louisiana-themed coloring sheets
- Pin-the-tail-on-the-crawfish
- "Bayou hop" obstacle course

FREE with Festival Admission!

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/>



Visit the Acadian Brown Cotton of Louisiana exhibit to follow the seed-to-textile journey of Southwest Louisiana's *Coton Jaune!*

www.facebook.com/AcadianBrownCottonofLouisiana



Festival Music



Amanda Shaw and The Cute Guys

Energetic Louisiana fiddler Amanda Shaw blazes trails with her clever songwriting and exciting performances. With over 20 years of experience, Shaw captivates audiences of all sizes – from intimate listening rooms to national television audiences. Shaw blends authentic Cajun culture with endearing local charm, delivering shows that burst with Louisiana flavor. Her most recent album, *Joie*, is her sixth full-length studio recording and her first album to feature Cajun French vocals.

Catch Amanda live at 1:15 p.m. on the Main Stage and at 4:15 p.m. on the East Stage.

Photo courtesy of AmandaShaw.com

Geno Delafosse and French Rockin’ Boogie

Geno Delafosse is a zydeco accordionist and singer. His sound is rooted in traditional Creole music with influences from Cajun music and also country and western. His father is the famous zydeco accordion player John Delafosse. At the age of eight, Geno joined his father’s band, the Eunice Playboys, as a rubboard player and played with the band until his father’s death. In 1994, he released the album *French Rockin’ Boogie* on Rounder Records. He has been nominated for a Grammy for his album *Le Cowboy Creole*. He lives in Duralde, where he operates his Double D Ranch.



Photo courtesy of Geno Delafosse

Catch Geno’s high-energy show at 3:45 p.m. on the East Stage and at 6:15 p.m. on the Main Stage.

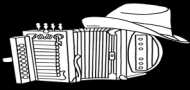
Flashback



Photo courtesy of Bill Handorf

Flashback is an 8-piece oldies show band. Their signature “At the Hop” show features tributes to Elvis, Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, Ricky Nelson, the songs of great doo-wop groups, and classic country songs by Hank Williams, Marty Robbins, and Merle Haggard. Group leader Bill Handorf has been playing music since 1958, with USO tours to Tokyo and Guam during the Vietnam War era and providing vocal and instrumental backup to The Coasters and The Platters. Guitarist and fiddler Kent Gill has performed with the Blake Brothers Bluegrass Band and Maggie Warwick’s Louisiana Hayride Band. Bassist Stan Waters has provided backup to Jimmie C. Newman, Bob Luman, and Charlie Pride. Saxophonist Jeff “Doc” Frazier has played for soul legend Percy Sledge, and singers Cathy Dyer and Jennifer McMullen performed as Sledge’s touring backup vocalists.

Catch Flashback at 5:30 p.m. on the East Stage and at 8 p.m. on the Main Stage.



Festival Music

Haggis Rampant



Photo courtesy of Haggis Rampant

Haggis Rampant is a father/mother/daughter bagpiping group based in the New Orleans area, where they work hard to make a loud Scottish sound in the midst of a region known primarily for jazz and Mardi Gras. Steve and Gillian specialize in harmonies on the Great Highland bagpipes, and Pam keeps them on the beat with her bodhran and Scottish marching bass drum. Steve and Gillian also compete, and have won awards at some of the largest gathering of pipers in the U.S., most notably at Stone Mountain in Georgia and Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina. Learn more about the group at www.haggisrampant.com.

Catch them live at the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship at 12 p.m. and on the West Stage at 6:30 p.m.

Joyful Sounds



Photo courtesy of Johnny Dunn

Joyful Sounds is mostly composed of retired senior adults who attend Westside Baptist Church in Natchitoches. Many others join them as time permits. The "Joyful Sounds" perform for many functions such as special worship services and funerals. You might even say they will sing anywhere the invitation is extended. Their main ministry is singing in nursing homes and retirement homes in the Natchitoches area each Thursday of the month. If you love to sing the old gospel hymns and would like to join them, they are always looking for new members.

Catch Joyful Sounds live on the East Stage at 6:45 p.m.

The LaCour Trio

Multi-instrumentalist Katrice LaCour leads a zydeco trio that plays with the goal of bringing the distinctive musical sounds of the state's southwest parishes to north Louisiana audiences. Also featuring Rainey LaCour and Denver Shoup, The LaCour Trio plays a mixture of old-school zydeco, Creole La La music, and R&B zydeco, appealing to both seasoned zydeco lovers as well as those new to the genre. LaCour's passion for zydeco stems from the French Creole culture that shaped his upbringing in the Cane River town of Cloutierville.

The LaCour Trio will kick things off on the Main Stage at 10 a.m. and will also perform at 12:15 p.m. on the East Stage.



Photo courtesy of Natchitoches Tourism Facebook



Festival Music

Les Frères Michot

Les Frères Michot is an all-brothers Cajun band who have been playing since 1968. They specialize in the “bal de maison” style, which has largely fallen out of use. The brothers have played in Quebec, Acadie, France, and other countries. They have recorded three albums of Cajun music and have been featured in documentaries on CNN, Discovery, and the Travel Channel. Les Frères also performed for Princess Anne and Princess Margaret of England. The group has participated in numerous festivals including the Smithsonian Folk Music Concert Series in DC, Festival International des Francophonies in France, and the Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans. They've performed with Yvette Landry, Dewey Balfa, Ray Abshire, Zachary Richard, and Steve Riley & The Mamou Playboys.



Photo courtesy of Les Frères Michot

Catch Les Frères Michot on the West Stage at 11:45 a.m., on the East Stage at 1:45 p.m., and in the N-Club Room at 4:00 p.m.

Thistle Dancers and Pipers



Photo courtesy of Thistle Dancers and Pipers

The Thistle Dancers and Pipers is a group of talented young people who perform the traditional Highland dances and music of Scotland. Formed in 1998 in Alexandria, VA, the Thistle Dancers and Pipers moved to Natchitoches in July of 2019, where they debuted at the NSU-Natchitoches Folk Festival. Many of the members compete successfully at various levels, ranging from Beginner to Premier in the dancing and Grades 5 to 3 in the piping. Members cover a spectrum of ages from 3 years old up to adults, yet all perform with an air of professionalism. Susan W. Hyams, a member of the British Association of Teachers of Dancing (BATD) and The Federation of United States Teachers and Adjudicators of Highland Dancing (FUSTA), is their founder, director and instructor.

Catch Thistle Dancers and Pipers live on the West Stage at 5:15 p.m.

Yvette Landry

Playing a variety of instruments in several Cajun bands, Yvette Landry also fronts her own band, The Yvette Landry Band. Her debut award-winning album titled “Should Have Known” was released in 2010. (The album was named *Offbeat Magazine’s* “Best Country/Folk Album” and Landry “Best Country/Folk Artist”). Over the past several years, Landry has traveled the world and played countless cultural festivals and venues – from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival to the Bluebird Café in Nashville.

Catch Landry and fiddle phenom Beau Thomas on the West Stage at 11 a.m. She will also lead a Cajun guitar workshop in the N-Club Room at 12 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Yvette Landry



◆ Dancing Demonstrations ◆

The Caddo Culture Club

The Caddo Culture Club is an organization formed in 1988 in an effort to preserve the culture and traditions of the Caddo People. They have appeared at universities, public schools, and museums throughout the United States performing Caddo songs and dances and providing information about the history of the Caddo Nation as well as modern activities. Some events where they have performed include the Annual Caddo Culture Day event at the Caddo Mounds Site near Alto, Texas, the annual Caddo Conference held at different locations across Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana, and the Annual Dance held on the third weekend of June at the Caddo Nation Dance Grounds.



Photo courtesy Caddo Culture Club Facebook

See the Caddo Culture Club in-person at 1 p.m. on the West Stage, at 3:30 p.m. on the Main Stage, and during their narrative session planned for 11 a.m. in the N-Club Room.

Louisiana Czech Heritage Dancers



Photo courtesy David Holcombe

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 West Stage at 10 a.m. and on the Main Stage at 3 p.m.



◆ Dancing Demonstrations ◆

Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team

The Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team, a project of St. Agnes Le Thi Thanh Church in Marrero, LA, practices the art of Lion Dance, an Asian traditional dance that takes away negative energy and brings positive energy. Lions are auspicious creatures believed to bring good luck, good health, and prosperity. Members see performances as an opportunity to not only showcase pieces of their culture, but also to bring joy to all of those present in their communities. The team welcomes men and women from all racial and religious backgrounds. Contact the Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team at risingdragonlion@outlook.com.



Photo courtesy Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team

Catch the Rising Dragon Lion Dance Team in action on the East Stage at 11:45 a.m. and on the Main Stage at 2:30 p.m.

Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble

The Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble, under the direction of Hattie Addison Burkhalter, maintains a rare women-led African American traditional spiritual ritual, rooted in both Christian worship and West African ring shout tradition. Documented only in the Northeast Louisiana Delta region and first practiced by enslaved Africans during the antebellum period, Easter Rock was held from Lake Providence to Ferriday, typically in Baptist churches. Today, this Franklin Parish group appears to be the last practitioners of this once-thriving tradition.

While the Easter Rock is a sacred service, they have performed numerous times for the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the Northeast Louisiana African American Museum, and the 1997 Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife. Recently, the National Endowment of the Arts recognized the Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble as one of its 2021 National Heritage Fellows. The National Heritage Fellowship recognizes recipients' artistic excellence and supports their continuing contributions to the country's traditional arts heritage.

The Winnsboro Easter Rock Ensemble will “rock” at 10:15 a.m. on the East Stage.



Photo courtesy Chris Jay



Festival Crafts * Festival Crafts * Festival Crafts

Adams Apiary & Farm

Adams Apiary & Farm is Veteran owned and is operated by five generations of beekeepers. They continue the family tradition of sustainable natural, chemical and treatment free farming and beekeeping. The honey they sell is 100% natural raw and organically managed.



Image source: Facebook

Judy Allen

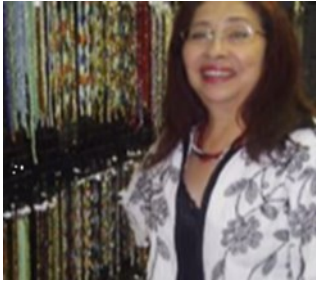


Photo submitted by Judy Allen

Judy Gallion Allen is a Louisiana Creole from Cloutierville, LA. and grew up in a large family with 9 siblings. Their parents were sharecroppers. With very little money for toys she and her siblings had to improvise by making their own. Judy made jewelry using flowers found in the yard and in the wild. As a teenager she began collecting old and broken jewelry from relatives. She followed her parents' wishes, attended NSU, and graduated with a degree in Art Education. Judy continued collecting old jewelry from family members, friends, garage sales, and thrift stores to accumulate a collection of over 45 years. After retiring from teaching, she moved back to Natchitoches, Louisiana. She continues to create new pieces, some using parts of this jewelry collection, while adding new beads, Fleur de lis and other findings.

Bearberry Farm



Photo submitted 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.

Edgar Bush and Alfreda Mathieu — Native Ties

Edgar Bush

After his military career, Edgar Bush became interested in his native heritage and joined the Canneci N'de Band of Lipan Apache in Lafayette. After several classes in beading, jewelry making and other crafts, he began creating his own line of crafts and jewelry. He now serves as a tribal elder and participates in ceremonies and pow wows. He has also participated as head gourd dancer at ceremonial events.

Alfreda Mathieu

Alfreda Mathieu is a tribal member and secretary of the Canneci N'de Band of Lipan Apache in Lafayette, Louisiana. Mathieu learned how to make jewelry and crafts and enjoys participating as a vendor and dancer at pow wows and other Native American events. Alfreda has teamed up with Edgar Bush and they enjoy crafting together. Alfreda Mathieu and Edgar Bush have been creating their Native American jewelry and crafts since 2014.



Photo submitted by Alfreda Mathieu



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts



Brandon Cagle/Natureware

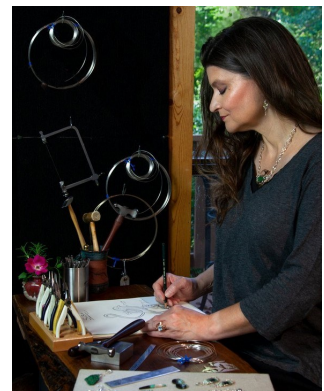
Harrisonburg native Brandon Cagle sells his "Natureware" pottery in Catahoula and Natchitoches. While pursuing his master's in art, Cagle is planning to launch a series of pottery classes in the Harrisonburg/Jonesville area. Cagle has recently begun to specialize in large bowls, planters and vessels.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

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

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



Christy Benoit 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.



Photo submitted by Christy Castille

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 ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts

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.

John Colson

John Colson has produced filé in the same two hundred year-old tradition as the Clifton-Choctaw Indians for nearly 65 years. He learned to make filé from his parents who taught him to collect the sassafras leaves on August 15 every year, dry them by hanging them in a cool dry place, remove the stems and grind the leaves by hand for optimum flavor. During the festival, Colson will demonstrate how to grind the leaves.

Colson, known locally as "The Filé Man," was inducted into the Louisiana Hall of Master Folk Artists in 2019. He is a fixture at the annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.



Photo by Chris Reich for NSU



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. 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.

Mr. Couch will be among those inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists at 11:15 a.m. on the Main Stage.

Photo submitted by R.V. Couch



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts

John & Scarlett Darden



Source: LFC website

As members of the Chitimacha tribe, John and Scarlett Darden continue the traditions set down by their ancestors. John learned how to make split cane baskets by careful observations and practice in the presence of his basket weaving grandparents. The baskets are made with water, piya cane, and dye and crafted with a sharp knife and patience. The baskets mimic the living creatures that they symbolize: black bird eyes, snakes, hearts, turtles, alligators, and little fish. The Dardens were inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center's Hall of Master Folk Artists in 2007.



Source: LFC website

Bill Ellzey

Orvis William "Bill" grew up on a hill farm near Marthville, 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 courtesy Bill Ellzey

Campti Quilters

The Campti Quilters have been quilting together for more than 20 years, often gathering at the Campti Historical Museum. They'll be demonstrating quilting during the festival, and will also be selling quilts, baby quilts, and other quilted items.

Janet Caudillo



Photo courtesy Janet Caudillo

Festival favorite Janet Caudillo will be returning to demonstrate traditional wool spinning. She will also have some of her unique items for sale. With her warm personality and traditional garb, Caudillo's exhibit makes a fun stop for all ages.



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts



Kirk 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.

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.”



Kelsey Mardis



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.



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts

Tommy Gandy

Tommy Gandy is the son of Roy and Vertis Gandy who were longtime craft demonstrators at the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Tommy was born in Minden and grew up in Winnfield. He lived in Baton Rouge where he started his woodworking hobby, then moved to Nashville, TN in 1984. He always came back to LA to help his parents at the Folk Festival and was invited to bring some of his scroll saw projects. Tommy makes children's puzzles, wooden crosses, ornaments, and other toys. He uses acrylic paints on the children's puzzles since they are safe for children.



Photo by LFC staff

Garden District Soapery



Image courtesy Garden District Soapery

Bridgette S. Guillory is the founder and owner of Garden District Soapery, a home-based small business out of the Garden District of Alexandria, Louisiana that specializes in artisan soaps. Bridgette is a registered nurse and mother of four as well as a grandmother of two. All of her products are small-batch, hand-crafted, and organic. Each item available was created to solve a need and help promote healthy skin. The soaps are made with fine ingredients that contain no harsh toxins, chemicals, or preservatives. Bridgette's full line of products include soaps, anti-aging products, a men's section, and candles, so there is a little something for everyone to experience.

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.



Image courtesy the Hernandezes

Susan Hill



Image courtesy Susan Hill Facebook

Susan Hill and her mother make the cutest little sock dolls. Susan originally started making them just for fun when her sister-in-law was making hers. She was a dismal failure at painting the faces like her sister-in-law does so Susan thought she would try stitching the face on like a rag doll she had as a child. Susan previously had never sewn before but a family friend (Mama Frances) at age 90 patiently showed her how to make the dress from an old pattern that she had and Susan has made well over 300 of them with very few duplicates. Her mom is also a big part of SusieQ dolls. Susan's husband and father-in-law approve each doll so it is a true family business.



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts



LFC staff photo

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.

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.

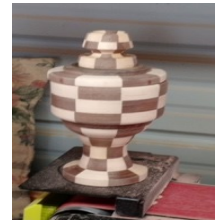


Photo courtesy Shella Lindner

Tammy Lloid

Introduced to the concept of spinning on a second-grade field trip to a Natchitoches parish cotton plantation, Tammy Gibson Lloid learned to spin cotton on a great wheel in 1981. She has been spinning cotton for more than 40 years using the supported spindle, Saxony style spinning wheel, and great wheel (walking wheel). Her husband, Greg, built her first spinning wheel in a woodworking class at NSU. Cotton, particularly brown cotton, is Tammy’s fiber of choice, although she has spun everything from human hair to milkweed fluff! Tammy is considered a “revivalist” spinner rather than a “traditional spinner”, since she did not learn to spin from a family member. She is a self-taught weaver. Tammy was juried into the first two editions of Fait A La Main, a guide to Louisiana Craftsmen produced by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Tammy can be contacted via email at tlloid@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy Gregory A. Lloid

Louisiana Lagniappe Foods



Photo courtesy Lisa Johnson

Louisiana Lagniappe Foods is a family-owned business located in central Louisiana providing a wide selection of jams, preserves, jellies, southern style salsas and bread puddings. The selection of jellies available include fruit, wine, sugar free, pepper and specialty flavors. All products are made from scratch with fresh local ingredients. Louisiana Lagniappe Foods grew from sharing their homemade goodies with friends and family over the years to attending local farmers markets. Today they attend special events throughout the state and you can even find their products at select retailers in Louisiana. Thanks to their loyal customers, their products have been shared from coast to coast. They cook, package, sell and distribute their products to ensure their customers get only the very best, and of course, a little something extra. After all, that is what Lagniappe is all about.



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts

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.

Janette Melton



Janette Melton started making their Native American corn husk dolls last year for their first Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana Pow Wow. Janette Melton is Vice Chief of the Natchitoches Tribe of Louisiana and Winnie Perot is a Council Chief. They got the idea to make these dolls because Janette's grandmother, Louisiana Trichel, mother of Winnie Perot, used to make dolls. They donate 100% of their sales to the Tribe. They hope you enjoy them as much as they enjoy making them for you!

Photo by LFC Staff

Gladys Miller

Gladys Miller will be displaying and demonstrating how to play the dulcimer. In 2012 Gladys won First Place in the Louisiana Country Music Museum's Mountain Dulcimer Contest held in Marthaville, La. Gladys participates in dulcimer festivals and has studied under national champion players Stephen Seifert, Margaret Wright, and Tul Glazner. She is an excellent teacher and students can learn to play a song in one lesson. Gladys leads a dulcimer group in Alexandria named "The Fret Knots" and they entertain by invitation.





◆ Festival Crafts ◆

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.

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.



Roy Parfait , woodcarving



Mike Potts/Cypress Creations

Mike Potts will be returning to the festival to sell his beautiful cypress knee tables.



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts

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.



Photo courtesy Compass Rose Jewelry Designs



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 papers 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.

Elvin L. Shields

Elvin Shields of Natchitoches will be in attendance at the festival displaying his unique “plantation toys” made from twisted wire. Mr. Shields will be inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center’s Hall of Master Folk Artists during the festival’s opening ceremony at 11:15 a.m. To learn more about Mr. Shields’ fascinating life, turn to page 18 of this program.





Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ 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 gourdng 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



Photo courtesy 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.

Ruth Stevenson

Ruth Stevenson, of Campti, will be displaying and selling her hand-made crochet items, knitted goods, earrings, and more at the festival.



Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts ♦ Festival Crafts

Gene Tomko



Photo courtesy 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.

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.



Photo by LFC Staff

Deborah West



Photo courtesy Deborah West

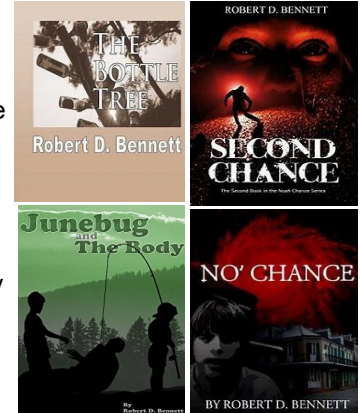
Deborah West is a member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and has been a Southern Cloth Dancer for over 25 yrs. She has been Honored as Head lady in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama! Deborah loves making Native dolls, dream catchers, moccasins, beadwork, dance shawls, 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.



📖 Festival Book Signings 📖

Robert D. 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 unveiling his newest book at this year's Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival!



Karren Bennett

Karren Bennett is not a best selling novelist (yet). She is a reformed computer geek who happens to write books when she is not distracted. She loves pop culture, amazing people, and corny jokes, but has a strong aversion to taking out the trash. When she is not reading or writing, she is probably watching or dreaming of far-away places. Karren is a graduate of Northwestern State University. She lives with her novelist husband, dancing parrot, and a very grumpy dog.



◆ Festival Food ◆

Marjorie Battise

Fry bread, Indian tacos,
fry bread & sausage

Ricky Beshea

Cinnamon pecans, praline pecans,
salted caramel nuts, chocolate
nuts, cinnamon almonds,
freshly made fudge in many flavors

Debbie's Meat Pies

Meat pies, seafood pies, pulled
pork pies, Mexican chicken pies,
chicken pot pies,
breakfast pies, fruit pies
colas, water

Sneaux to Geaux and More

Boudin, tamales, hot dogs,
boiled peanuts, nachos, red beans
and rice

La Casa del Taco

Tacos, quesadillas, loaded nachos,
gumbo, chicken baskets

Roosevelt Sykes

"Washtub" hog cracklins, rib
plates, smoked turkey legs,
nachos, water, soda

Driskell's Original BBQ

Brisket sandwiches, brisket
nachos, pulled pork sandwiches,
pulled pork nachos, cold drinks,
bottled barbecue sauce

Bill's Lemonade CENLA

Fresh-squeezed, real lemonade,
frozen lemonade

Vanna McManus

Dressed burgers, fries, chili cheese
fries, hot dogs, candy apples,
nachos



Festival Contributors

Friend

Your name could be here for only \$25!

Member

David and Linda Clark
Dr. L.C. and Linda Guilbeau
Dayne Lee
Joanne H. Pickett

Sponsor

Carol Chin
John Clifton Conine,
Attorney at Law
Exchange Bank
Maye Foster
Fr. Frank Fuller
Georgia's Gift Shop
Pete and Jeanette Gregory
Harrington Law Firm
Terry and Susan Howard ('72)
John and Sarah Luster
P. Howard Matt
Wayne and Sandra McCullen
David L. Morris
Bryan and Cissy Picou
Ronnie's Collision Center
Weaver Bros. Land & Timber Co.
Young Estate, LLC

Patron

Bank of Montgomery
Mrs. Bill Bryant
C & H Precision Machining, LLC
City Bank & Trust Co.
Don and Sue Hatley
Ron Yule

Grand Patron

CLECO
Aaron's® Rent to Own

Grand Benefactor

Natchitoches Area
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Fiddle Championship Donors

Friend

JE and JB Dollar
Rick Hargis

Patron

Your name would look great here!



Many Thanks To:

Amanda Shaw, Honorary Festival Chair
Dr. Marcus Jones, NSU President
Ronnie Williams, Mayor of the City of Natchitoches
2022 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Steering Committee
Folk Festival Volunteers

Festival Steering Committee

Dr. Lisa Abney
Henry Beasley
Donald Choate
Helen Dalme
Matt DeFord
Arlene Gould

Dr. Hiram “Pete” Gregory
Captain Wesley Harrell
Dr. Donald Hatley
Sue Hatley
Bessie Jones
Jon Lentz

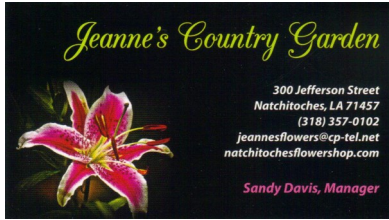
Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Chair
Dr. Thomas W. Reynolds, Jr.
David West
Dale Wohletz



Louisiana Folklife Center Director: Dr. Shane Rasmussen
Louisiana Folklife Center Administrative Coordinator: Bessie Jones
Louisiana Folklife Center Staff: Zoe Hebert, Chris Jay, Brycen Kennedy, LeT’Anna Ledet, Aaron Malone, Alexis McDonald, Leah Moran, and Kevin Thomas
Festival Cashier: Charlotte Thomas
Prather Coliseum Ticket Booth Manager: Emily Windham
Magale Recital Hall Ticket Booth Manager: Debbie Adair
Security: Captain Wesley Harrell
Crew: James Callahan and Matthew Phillips
Sound: WHS Productions/Hank Staples
Crafts: Dr. Pete Gregory
Prather Coliseum Facility Manager: Martin Iddon
Publicity: David West and Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau
Rack Card, Poster, Program Cover, & T-shirt Design: Matthew DeFord
Kidfest: Sophia Gruesbeck
Volunteer Coordinator: Bessie Jones
Website, Social Media, and Program Layout: Chris Jay
Fiddle Championship Coordinator: Dr. Lisa Abney
Fiddle Championship Emcee: Dr. Susan Roach
Fiddle Championship Judges: Yvette Landry, Clancey Stewart, Beau Thomas, Ron Yule
N-Club Room Manager: Khirsten Doolan
ASL Interpretation: Trena Smith
Festival Videographer: David Antilley
Main Stage Manager: Dr. Don Hatley
Country Store Manager: Bethany Staub
Plants provided by: Jeanne’s Country Garden

This public document was published at a total cost of \$1575.00. 700 copies of this public document were published in this first printing at a cost of \$1575.00. The total cost of printing of this document including reprints is \$1575.00.

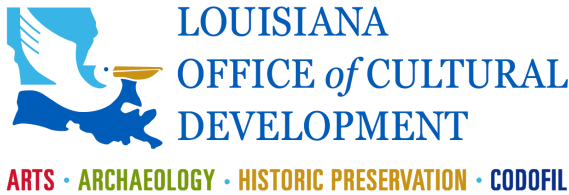
Thanks To Our In Kind Supporters!



42nd Annual Natchitoches~NSU Folk Festival July 23, 2022

“Stronger Together”

Supported in part by grants and donations from:



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

