

Summer 2024

# Louisiana Folk

Official Newsletter of the Louisiana Folklife Center

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

July 20, 2024

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will be held in air-conditioned Prather Coliseum on the Northwestern State University campus in Natchitoches on Saturday, July 20. The 2024 festival theme is “The Old Songs Live Forever!” The festival’s curated showcase of Louisiana folk artists, food vendors, and crafts vendors will open at 9 am, with live entertainment scheduled for 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Cajun and zydeco dance lessons will be offered, as well as fiddler Clancey Stewart leading free square dance lessons. 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 2024 festival will include three stages of live music featuring artists including Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers, the Forest Huval Band, Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs, Brandon Degeyter and The Mire Playboys, and the Zion Harmonizers, and more, as well as performances by cultural groups including Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly, and a musical patriotic tribute by the Victory Belles performing World War II-era songs in three-part harmony, 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-registrations through July 10 and offers numerous cash prizes in the Championship Division.

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2023 Fiddle Championship Contestants (L-R): Joe Suchanek, Jody Suchanek, John Brittain, Clancey Stewart, Ken Lewis, Ron Pace, Curry Perkins (Photo by Peter Jones)



2023 Louisiana State Fiddle Grand Champion Curry Perkins. (Photo by Chris Reich, NSU Photographic Services)

This year will also feature a Jambalaya 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. Jambalaya must be cooked on-site outside of Prather Coliseum.

For complete festival details, please visit [www.nsula.edu/folklife](http://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 2024 Inductees

Cynthia Ramirez  
The Zion Harmonizers

Induction ceremony will be held at 11:30 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

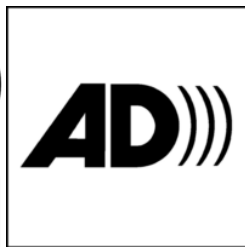
\$10.00 per person, *cash only* (price includes sales tax)

\$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](http://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, 2024. Please contact [folklife@nsula.edu](mailto: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-Shirt features the Clementine Hunter painting *Dancin'*, and 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](mailto: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](https://pinterest.com/nsulafolklife)

# Saturday July 20, 2024, 9am - 5pm

### Tentative Exhibits & Demonstrations

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

### KidsFest

KidsFest 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. KidsFest will be available during the festival, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in the main exhibit area.

Admission to KidsFest is free for children attending the festival.

### Outside Demonstrations

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

## 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](http://www.nsula.edu/folklife).

Those who enter the Championship Division will compete for the Grand Champion title. The two top fiddlers from each group in the Championship Division—ages 0-21, 22-59, 60 and above—will compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to be recognized as the state's best fiddler.



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

## Fiddle Championship Schedule

- \* 12:00-1:00 pm Magale Recital Hall, 1st floor, CAPA Annex  
Late Registration
- \* 12:00-1:00 pm Music by Fire of Tierra Caliente
- \* 1:00-4:00 pm LA. State Fiddle Championship,  
Magale Recital Hall

## Square Dance Lessons!

Join fiddler extraordinaire Clancey Stewart at 10:30 am on the Main Stage as she teaches free square dance lessons. Accompanied by live music by the Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Band, this will be a great way to learn the basics of square dancing. All ages welcome!

**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: Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 5688 Natchitoches, LA 71497

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

**Narrative / Informance Sessions**

Informances combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists.

**N-Club Room in Prather Coliseum**

10:00-10:45 Musical Nooks & Crannies (Pentecostals to Juke Joints): How Central Delta Music Happened in Ferriday

11:00-11:45 Traditional Louisiana French Narratives

12:00-12:50 Alabama and Coushatta Traditional Cultural Program

1:00-1:45 Music Informance with Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers

2:00-2:45 Music Informance with The Zion Harmonizers

3:00-3:45 Day of the Dead Celebrations

4:00-4:45 Sweet Inspiration: Estelle Brown’s Life in Music with the Queen of Soul and King of Rock and Roll

5:00-5:45 Music Informance with Fire of Tierra Caliente

# Jambalaya Cook-Off

The Jambalaya Cook-Off is here! This year's Jambalaya Cook-Off will be held outside of Prather Coliseum between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. during the folk festival. Professional and novice chefs are invited to participate in any of our three categories: seafood, poultry plus (chicken, duck, turkey, wild game, sausage, etc.), and people's choice. Participants may enter any or all of the three categories of the competition.

Jambalaya must be cooked on-site. Only stock and meat/seafood may be prepared in advance. Entries must be cooked using propane gas or open cookfire outside of Prather Coliseum. Running water and assigned cooking spaces will be available for each participant.

Each Head Cook is responsible for preparing a minimum of 2 GALLONS of jambalaya 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., jambalaya may be sold to festival patrons at "a buck a cup."

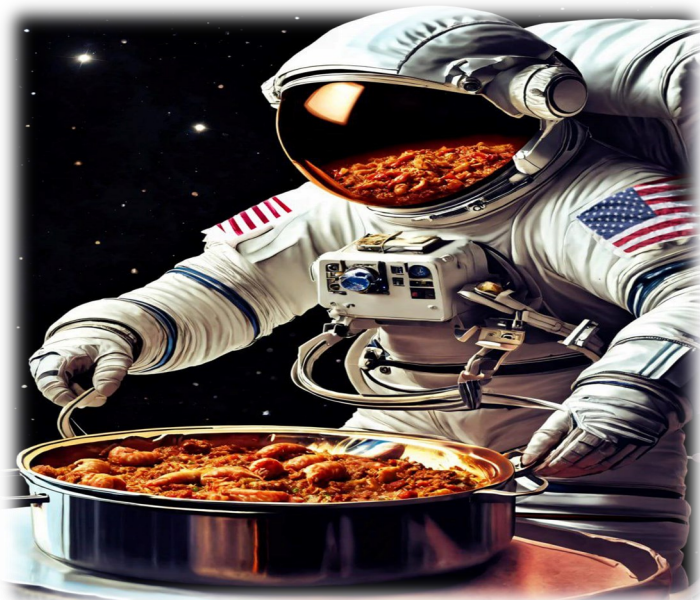
Entries will be judged on:

Appearance: looks like good jambalaya – the color of the jambalaya and the distribution of protein is representative of good jambalaya

Aroma: smells appetizing

Texture: has the consistency of good jambalaya

Flavor: tastes like good jambalaya



## Jambalaya Cook-Off Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. registration and Cooks' meeting, N-Club Room, Prather coliseum
- 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
- 3:30 p.m. announcement of winners, Main Stage

# Festival Schedule

West Stage	Main Stage	East Stage
	9:30-10:15 <b>The Thistle Dancers and Pipers</b>	
10:00-11:00 <b>Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe</b>	10:30-11:30 <b>Square Dancing Lessons with the Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Band!</b>	10:15-11:00 <b>Alabama-Coushatta Traditional Dancers</b>
11:15-12:15 <b>The Forest Huval Band</b>	11:30-12:00 <b>Welcome Ceremony</b>	11:15-12:15 <b>Dancing Blues by Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers</b>
12:30-12:50 <b>Expressions of America with The Victory Belles</b>	12:15-1:00 <b>The Zion Harmonizers</b>	12:30-1:15 <b>Zydeco Dance Lessons</b>
1:00-1:30 <b>Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly</b>	1:15-2:00 <b>Alabama-Coushatta Traditional Dancers</b>	1:30-2:30 <b>Dikki Du and the Zydeco Krewe</b>
1:45-2:15 <b>The Magic of the Târ with Ali Montazeri</b>	2:15-2:45 <b>The Victory Belles</b>	
2:30-3:30 <b>Armadillo Jackal Band</b>	2:45-3:30 <b>Grupo de Danza Folklórica Mexicana Ketzaly</b>	2:45-3:45 <b>Forest Huval Band</b>
3:45-4:45 <b>The Zion Harmonizers</b>	3:45-4:45 <b>Sonny Gullage and the Blues Groovers</b>	4:00-5:00 <b>Cajun Dance Lessons</b>
	4:45-5:00 <b>Silent Auction Winners Announcement</b>	
5:00-6:15 <b>The Rick Adams Band</b>	5:00-5:30 <b>Louisiana State Fiddle Champion</b>	5:15-6:15 <b>Brandon Degeyter and The Mire Playboys</b>
	5:45-6:30 <b>Cajun Dance Lessons</b>	
6:30-7:30 <b>Fire of Tierra Caliente</b>	6:45-8:00 <b>Brandon Degeyter and The Mire Playboys</b>	6:30-7:30 <b>The Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Band</b>
	8:30-10:00 <b>Johnny Earthquake and the Moon-dogs!</b>	7:45-8:45 <b>Open Jam Session led by The Willie Stewart Family and Friends Bluegrass Band</b>

**Invited Craftspeople — Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm ONLY!!**

Christy Benoit Castille, tatting	Brandon Cagle, handmade potter
Juanita Leonard, folk art items	Elvin L. Shields twisted wire toys.
Danny Petrella, Mamou Choctaw, cowhide chairs	Mike Potts, cypress knee tables
Frieda Tuma, pysanky eggs	Vernon Johnson, handcrafted wood bandsaw, jewelry boxes
Alice Tyler, Clifton Choctaw bead work	Rick Kom, wildlife & pet portraits
Myrna Wilson, Koasati (Coushatta) pine straw baskets	Catherine Rouchon, polished stones & crafted sterling silver jewelry
Stephanie Escude, Native American dolls	Sharon Rouchon, basket weaving
Ann Luster, Spanish moss dolls & other crafts	James and Julie Eubanks, woodturning
Becky Thomas Meziere, pine straw baskets	John Vidrine, cigar box guitars
Judy Allen, jewelry	Jeff & Gloria Causey, garfish scale designs, alligator buttons
Bearberry Farm, Sarah Bearden, jams/jellies	Gail Jones/St. Augustine Catholic Church Confraternity of Christian Mothers, quilting
Alfreda Mathieu, Native Ties, dreamcatchers, garfish scale earrings, necklaces	Jerry Masters, woodworking items
Campti Historic Museum Quilters	Paul Morgan, PDM wood crafts and toys
Janet Miller, hand spinning	John & Roxanne Grubb (Extreme Cypress), whimsical trinket boxes, wood puzzles and more from cypress barnyard and logs from the Atchafalaya basin
Cindy Fuqua (Cindy the Potter)	Brenda Lofton (Riverside Pecan Company), pecan products
Marilyn Hernandez, wood carvings	Neal Ainsworth, handmade wooden toys, swings, and bird feeders
Susan Hill, Susie Q dolls, sock dolls	Timothy & Felicia O'Bryan, stones, minerals, crystals, and wire wrap jewelry
Sharon Dickerson Jackson, broom maker	Steve Seneca, art portraits
Millard Mangrum, pottery and fleur-de-lis items	Susan Rodrigue, handmade pottery
Chris Moore – iron work, birdhouses	AND MORE!!!
Fred A. Pittman Jr., hand crafted knives	
Stan Routh, architectural drawings	
Barbara Seegraves, gourd art	
Jerry Hale, Acadian Brown Cotton of Louisiana	
Gene Tomko, Louisiana Music Maps	



# Thanks For Your Support!

## Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Contributors

Cleco Power LLC	Pete and Jeanette Gregory	Frank Fuller
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C&H Precision Machining LLC	James and Betty Durham	David and Linda Clark
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Kathleen Myers	Paul Howard Matt	
Harrington Law Firm	Wayne and Sandra McCullen	
Maye Foster	Young Estate, LLC	
John Clifton Conine	Terry and Susan Howard	

## Supported in Part by Grants and Donations from the Following:



The Louisiana Folklife Center  
NSU Box 5688  
Natchitoches, LA 71497-0014  
(318) 357-4332

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
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**2024 Natchitoches -NSU Folk Festival**

“The Old Songs Live Forever“

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

Mail to: **Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 5688, Natchitoches, LA 71497**

\_\_\_ **Friend (\$25)**

Receives: 1 pass (all events)

\_\_\_ **Patron (\$250)**

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

\_\_\_ **Benefactor (\$2500)**

Receives: 30 Passes (all events)  
and 15 T-shirts

\_\_\_ **Member (\$50)**

Receives: 2 passes (all events)

\_\_\_ **Folk Hero (\$500)**

Receives: 10 passes (all events)  
and 4 T-Shirts

\_\_\_ **Sustainer (\$5000)**

Receives: 60 Passes (all events)  
and 20 T-shirts

\_\_\_ **Sponsor (\$100)**

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

\_\_\_ **Folk Legend (\$1000)**

Receives: 20 passes (all events)  
and 6 T-shirts

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

Receives: 100 Passes (all events)  
and 25 T-shirts

All funds received before July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 will receive listing in the Festival Program and on our website. In addition, Folk Legends, 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, 2024 may not be listed in the Festival Program.

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

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