N.C. State Fairgrounds
July 2, 2010
Volume 2, Issue 3

Show Spotlight!

In this Issue:

Celebrate What's Great at the N.C. State Fair

July 4th Celebration

Early Bird Fair Tickets

Employee Spotlight: Dudley Baggett

Happenings at the Hunt Horse Complex

Facilities Update

Blue Ribbon Recipe

Coming Events

Contact Us

Coming Events

More at ncstatefair.org

Every Saturday and Sunday, except during the month of October
Raleigh Flea Market

July 1-4
NCHJA Annual Hunter Jumper Horse Show

July 7-11
State 4-H Horse Show

July 15-18
Kids Exchange Consignment Sale

July 16-18
Gem & Jewelry Show

(Continued on next page)

"Celebrate What's Great!" at the 2010 N.C. State Fair

It's difficult to describe 11 fun-filled days of rides, games, exhibits, competitions, concerts and deep-fried goodness with a phrase. And yet, every year we do this by creating a new theme.

This year, one question kept surfacing: "What's your favorite part of the North Carolina State Fair?" Is it the agricultural exhibits, the entertainment, the rides or how about the food? The truth is that the N.C. State Fair has something for everyone; it's all great.

The theme for the 2010 State Fair is… **Celebrate What's Great!**

We're looking forward to celebrating everything that makes our State Fair great over the coming months. We'll have plenty of promotions and news updates on our social media websites, so check out the Deep Fried blog or stay connected with us on Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, YouTube and Flickr.

The 2010 website will be launched in mid-July, and that's where you'll find the scoop on how to enter blue ribbon competitions, how to take a Deep Fried Bus Ride to the Fair, and when and where to purchase admission and ride tickets at deep discounts.

Stay tuned!

Free fireworks at fairgrounds for the Fourth

Where can you watch a free, spectacular fireworks show; enjoy free activities like a water-balloon toss, sack races and Wii gaming; hear local bands for free and eat free N.C. watermelon, all in one day? It's all at the State Fairgrounds this Sunday for the 2010 July 4th Celebration, presented by the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department and the N.C. State Fair.

July 4th fireworks at the fairgrounds start at 9:15 p.m.

Gates open at 5 p.m. and activities will run until 8:30 p.m. in the Jim Graham Building and Expo Center. The fireworks display starts at 9:15 p.m.

There will be kid-friendly sports challenges, craft activities such as constructing paper airplanes and hats, carnival-style games and military vehicles on display. Food and drink vendors will be on site and the Raleigh Flea Market will remain open until 7 p.m.

The N.C. Watermelon Association will provide 150 melons, 50 more than last year, picked from Jackson Farming Co. in Autryville for the Got to Be NC watermelon-cutting event. Samples will be distributed outside the Expo Center starting at 5 p.m.

It looks like the weather on Sunday should be beautiful and dry, but in case of inclement weather all indoor activities will still take place on July 4th, but the fireworks will be held on Monday, July 5 at 9 p.m.

There's free admission and parking. Please, no pets, alcohol or coolers.

Coming Events

More at ncstatefair.org

July 16-18
NBHA Barrel Racing NC State Finals

July 23-25
Youth Quarter Horse Show

July 24-25
Bead Mercantile Show

July 30-Aug. 1
Sportscard and Sports Memorabilia Show

July 31
Chick-Fil-A Spicy Summer Cool Down

July 31-Aug. 1
NCHJA "C" Indoors Horse Show

July 31-Aug 1
Raleigh Summer Dressage Horse Show

August 7-8
NC Appaloosa Horse Show

August 7-8
Kay Blandford Barrel Horse Racing Clinic

August 8-9
Dixie Gun & Knife Classic

August 10
Commissioner's Food Safety Conference

August 13-15
Camptown RV Fall Expo

August 13-14
Children's Spring Clothing & Baby Equipment Sale

August 14-15
Carolina Mane Event Show Circuit, LLC

August 15
Toy Train Sale, Swap Meet

August 15
Southern Bridal Show & Expo

August 20-22
Carolina Fall Boat Show & Sale

August 21
East West Classics Motorcycle Swap Meet & Show

August 21
VYPE High School Sports Conference & Expo

Be an early bird to save on State Fair tickets

Advance tickets for the 2010 State Fair go on sale online at www.ncstatefair.org August 2 at 10 a.m.

Admission tickets

- Gate price: $8 for adults, age 13-64
  $3 for children, age 6-12
  Free for children, age 5 & under
  Free for seniors, age 65 & older
- Advance price: $6 for adults *(saves you $2)*
  $2 for children *(saves you $1)*
  $5 for groups of 40 or more tickets purchased at the same time *(saves you $3)*

Ride tickets

During the Fair: $1 per ride ticket

Advance price: $10 for a sheet of 18 tickets *(saves you $8)*

Early Bird Special

With the Early Bird Special, ticket buyers can earn up to three free adult admission tickets based on the total purchase amount of admission, ride, grandstand and Dorton Arena concert tickets before convenience fees.

- Purchases between $40 and $100 earn one free admission ticket
- Purchases between $100.01 and $200 earn two free admission tickets
- Purchases over $200 earn three free admission tickets

The Early Bird Special runs Aug. 2 through Sept. 29, and is good for online sales only.

Dudley Baggett celebrates his father through his work

Dudley Baggett, State Fairgrounds Landscaping Director, has attended an annual reunion of World War II veterans with his father, Durwood, for several years now.

"When all the men get together, they'll sit around and tell stories about being in the 94th Infantry Division ," explained Baggett, a change from what is typically said of war veterans—that they just don't talk about it much.

Members of the 94th Infantry Division pose at the annual reunion in Charleston, SC, May 2010

"He would occasionally answer my questions about being in Patton's Third Army in Europe, because I was a WWII fanatic growing up."

The reunion, held earlier this year in Charleston, SC, is a special occasion for the Baggett father and son.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Durwood Baggett, born in 1922, became an assistant agricultural agent with the Yancey County Cooperative Extension. Over his 32 year career he worked as a New Hanover County Cooperative Extension Agent, and was later re-titled County Extension Director. Baggett is credited with encouraging local Wilmington-area garden club members to train to answer horticultural questions from the public; an idea which later developed into the Master Gardeners program as we know it today.

The younger Baggett, who oversees all landscaping operations at the N.C. State Fairgrounds year-round, including the annual State Fair, says his dad's love for horticulture rubbed off on him at a young age.

"Ever since the time I was old enough, I would help him do landscaping jobs, build greenhouses and all sorts of things."

Dudley says his dad, who was awarded a Bronze Star for his war-time service, stays young by staying active. Since retiring, Baggett has helped to establish a therapy program that incorporates horticulture and a 4-H junior Master Gardeners program.

"My dad definitely stays busy. He serves on the Soil and Water Conservation Board, he's Vice President of the New Hanover County Farm Bureau, and he's a member of the Lions Club."

Dudley Baggett, who was hired just before the October 2000 State Fair which set a record at the time with 846,724 fairgoers, sets high standards for himself and his work.

"I want the N.C. State Fairgrounds to be thought of as 'beautiful' and 'well-maintained.'"

He probably learned that from his dad, too.

Flowers at Hunt Horse Complex, managed by Dudley Baggett, N.C. State Fair Landscaping Director

Coming Events

More at ncstatefair.org

August 21-22
NCAHA Open Fall Extravaganza Horse Show

August 27-29
Central Piedmont All Arabian Horse Show

August 27-29
NCHJA "C" Outdoors Horse Show

August 28
Children's Good News Spectacular

August 28-29
Body Mind Spirit Expo

September 2-6
Kennel Club Dog Shows

September 2-6
Equestrian Exchange Consignment Sale

September 3-5
Treasures of the Earth Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

September 4
N.C. State CALS Alumni & Friends Tailgate Party

September 4-5
Carolina Reptile & Exotic Animal Show

September 4-5
NCDCTA Labor of Love Horse Show

September 5
Soul Twist Arts & Music Festival

September 6
NCDCTA Sport Horse Breeding Show

September 8
Taste of Home Cooking School

September 10
EID UL-FITR Prayer Meeting

September 10
Carolina Welsh Club Fall Classic Horse Show

September 10-12
NC State Charity Classic

September 11
Carolina Roller Derby

September 11
MADD Shifting Gears Event

Happenings at the Hunt Horse Complex

Wow, have things been busy at the Horse Complex!

We finished up the month of May with one of the greatest shows in the country, the Southern States Regional Morgan horse show – and do they know how to put on a horse show! This show has received numerous national honors, most notably is that of being the "most hospitable" show in the nation for their Association, which sums up just how awesome this event is.

June started off with the annual Capital Dressage Classic which was down in entries this year but is making plans to bring back the CDI status next year that has attracted international and Olympic competitors in the past. The Horse Complex next hosted one the biggest Quarter Horse show circuits in the country – the Tar Heel Triple Classic, over an eleven day span with exhibitors attending from 23 states, Canada and Australia.

Photo courtesy Harold Campton and www.LittleFurturity.com

The Little Futurity featured a western pleasure futurity class that paid out $41,000 in prize money, with over $14,000 going to the winner of this class. It was great to see the level of the competition and the people in the seats throughout this show. The show was so well attended that 625 stalls were used, and exhibitors had to set up stalls under the covered arena. Some reservations just couldn't be accommodated due to the sheer popularity of the show. The Tar Heel Triple Classic is making plans to add 100 temporary stalls next year under a tent (but is really hoping that someone will offer to build another barn before then!)

At this time, a new 240' x 300' riding arena at the west end of the Hunt Horse Complex property is being fenced and wired for sound. The NCHJA is also finishing up their annual show right now, and that is always a great event.

The State 4-H show in the middle of July is always a huge success, as well, and has over 435 stall reservations at this time. This is an amazing youth show that the facility is very proud to support, with over 8,000 4-H horse projects in the state of NC alone.

And then to liven things up even more, be sure to come out the third weekend in July for the State NBHA barrel racing finals to see a bunch of great horses and riders lay down some really fast times on some really tight patterns.

For a full calendar and links to all the upcoming shows please visit www.HuntHorseComplex.org

—*Dale Barnett*
Hunt Horse Complex Manager

Little Futurity participants gather in the Hunt Horse Complex dining hall.
Photo courtesy Harold Campton and www.LittleFurturity.com

Facilities update

Since the 2009 State Fair, we've added 40 large, recycling bins to our collection, giving us a total of 60 brightly colored, corrugated plastic bins.

These bins are primarily used in outdoor locations, and because of their 6-feet-tall size, are highly visible during events.

We've also purchased 8 smaller recycling bins made of a more heavy-weight plastic, and 20 corrugated cardboard recycling bins for use inside the buildings.

Did you know?

At the 2009 State Fair, we collected & recycled:

- .77 tons (1,540 lbs) of comingled products, including plastic bottles, aluminum cans and steel
- 12.68 tons (25,360 lbs) of cardboard
- 33.75 tons (67,495 lbs or 9,245 gallons) of fryer oil

Coming Events

More at ncstatefair.org

September 11-12
La Fiesta del Pueblo

September 11-12
Carolina Carriage Fall Classic

September 11-12
North Carolina Guitar Show

September 12-13
NC Gourd Arts & Crafts Festival

September 15-18
NC State Championship Horse Show

September 17
MC of NC Expo & CE Classes

September 17
Historically Black Colleges & Universities College Fair & Fundraiser

September 17-19
Greek Festival

September 18-19
Central NC Pagan Pride Day

September 18-19
Old North State Antique Gun & Military Collector Show

September 18-19
DogGoneFast Flyball Club Flyball Tournament

September 18-19
The Original Coin & Currency Show

September 19
Mexican Independence Day Celebration

September 24-26
Southern Ideal Home Show

September 24-26
NCQHA Futurity

September 25
AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day

September 25-26
North State Toy & Hobby Show

September 30-October 2
Special Olympics & NC Equestrian Tournament

Blue Ribbon Recipe

A new feature of the Show Spotlight! newsletter highlights blue-ribbon recipes from past N.C. State Fairs.

Be sure to visit the 2010 N.C. State Fair website in mid-July to see contest information for this year's Special Cooking Competitions, and other food-related categories.

Margherita Bruschetta with Hidden Valley Herb Garlic Cheese

Dave Kranyik of Apex, 2009 Hidden Valley Dressings "Fresh Taste for the Family" cooking contest winner

For the bruschetta base:

French bread, sliced into 36 thin rounds
2 tablespoons of olive oil

For the Hidden Valley Herb Garlic Cheese:

2 tablespoons (1 packet) – Hidden Valley Original Ranch Dressing Powder Mix
2, 8-ounce packages of cream cheese
1 tablespoon dried parsley leaves
1 tablespoon of dried chives

Topping for the bruschetta:

2 cups (about 2 medium-sized) fresh vine-ripened tomatoes, diced small, de-skinned and seeded (optional) *
1 tablespoon olive oil
½ teaspoon salt
Cracked pepper – to taste
½ cup fresh basil, chopped
1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated

Combine the topping ingredients except the fresh basil and Parmesan cheese; they will be used later in the recipe. Set the mixture in the refrigerator while preparing the herb cheese and bruschetta base.

To make the herb cheese, combine all the ingredients together and place into a food processor. Process until the cheese is soft enough to spread with a butter knife, being careful not to over mix or it can get too soft to spread. If you don't have a food processor, simply leave the cream cheese at room temperature for one hour to soften it and then mix the ingredients with a spoon.

To make the bruschetta bases, preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Place sliced French bread rounds on a cookie sheet, (preferably light-colored; dark-colored sheets can burn the bread easily). Brush the top of the bread bases with olive oil and place in oven for 12-15 minutes, until the bread is lightly toasted. Remove from oven and let cool for 10 minutes.

Spread about 1 teaspoon of the Hidden Valley herb cheese on top of the bruschetta bases until covered.

Using a teaspoon, place tomato topping on top of the herb cheese.

Top each bruschetta with some grated Parmesan cheese and place into a 375-degree pre-heated oven and bake for 5-7 minutes. Remove from oven and top with fresh basil. Let cool for a couple of minutes before serving. Makes 36.

* Tip for de-skinning and seeding the tomatoes: Heat one quart water over high heat until it boils. Have a mixing bowl with ice and water in it. Cut off the stem portion of the tomato and cut an "X" on the bottom of the tomato, but not too deep. Place the tomato into the boiling water and leave for 20-30 seconds, until the tomato skin begins to peel. Remove the tomato from the water and place in ice water. Wait 2 minutes and peel off the skin. Cut the tomato in half across the middle (not stem to end) and squeeze gently to remove the seeds. Rinse gently with cold water to remove remaining seeds. Using tomatoes with skins and seeds won't affect the quality of the dish.

Contact Us

North Carolina State Fair
Steve Troxler, Agriculture Commissioner
Wesley Wyatt, State Fair Manager

Mailing Address:
1010 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1010
Physical Address:
1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: (919) 821-7400; **Fax:** (919) 733-5079

Web site: www.ncstatefair.org ■ **Calendar of Events:** www.ncstatefair.org/events/calendar.htm
Deep Fried @ the N.C. State Fair Blog: www.ncstatefair.org/blog
Finds us on Twitter: www.ncstatefair.org/twitter
Fan us on Facebook: www.ncstatefair.org/facebook

To subscribe to future issues of Show Spotlight! please visit: www.ncstatefair.org/newsletter.htm