PRESS RELEASE

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"Art of Cuisine" Iron Chef Challenge

Local Chefs Compete for Top Spot at Historic Bluffton Arts and Seafood Festival

On Saturday, October 25th area chefs will create mouth watering seafood dishes as part of the Iron Chef Challenge during the fourth annual Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival. Each chef will be challenged to prepare two dishes in one hour using two unknown seafood and two non-seafood ingredients provided by the festival committee.

"It's pretty amazing to see what these chefs can prepare in such a short amount of time, outdoors, underneath a tent, says Mary O'Neill, President of this year's festival. "We should really appreciate the tremendous talent we have right here in the Low Country."

The competition will be held in downtown Bluffton in "Neptune's Galley" tent in the Promenade beginning at 11:00. At 12:00 noon the dishes will be sampled by the judging panel and the winning dishes will be determined on the basis of taste and presentation.

Participating this year will be Jaime Glynn of Kingfisher Seafood & Steak, Mike Cowan of Boathouse II, Raul Chavez of Myrtle's Bar and Grill, Joe Sullivan of Mulberry Street, and Peggy Beck of Joyful Palate. Prizes will be awarded at 12:30 and include a Traeger Pellet Grill "Lil' TEX valued at \$699 for first place, a custom crafted oyster table with a bushel of May River oysters and condiments valued at \$300 for second place, and a gourmet basket with wine valued at \$150 for third place.

In 2007 the top prize went to George Davis of the Ocean Grille, second place went to Brad Blake of Blake's Land Sea Spirits, and third place was awarded to James Hudson of Myrtle's Bar and Grill.

The "Art of Cuisine" Iron Chef Challenge is part of a week long celebration of Bluffton's unique history, cuisine, art and culture taking place October 20-26. Events showcase locally harvested seafood, Lowcountry cuisine, and area and regional artists. Also included is live music, a fishing tournament, boat tours, children's activities, fireworks and more. Festival organizers invite both locals and tourists to discover "Where Fine Art & the Bounty of the Sea Come Together."