

Press Release

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A Celebration of Foodlore: Author Night with Joe Dabney

Award Wining Cookbook Author and Storyteller to Participate in Historic Bluffton Arts and Seafood Festival

South Carolina native and author of "Smokehouse Ham, Spoon Bread, & Scuppernong Wine," Joe Dabney, will present lively stories based on his interviews performed while researching his award winning cookbooks. Described as a "Southern humorist seasoned with folklore and southern food," Dabney will be featured at Author Night on Wednesday, October 22, at 7:00 pm at Ulmer Auditorium, Bluffton Town Hall.

Novelist Pat Conroy describes Dabney's popular cookbooks as making his "mouth water for Southern food and heart hunger for Southern stories." Dabney has been featured in TIME magazine and interviewed on NBC's "Today Show."

"We are thrilled to have the winner of the prestigious James Beard Cookbook of the Year Award here in Bluffton", says Mary O'Neill, President of this year's festival. "This award is considered the Oscar of food related literature. We feel fortunate to have the best of the best be a part of the fourth annual Historic Bluffton Arts and Seafood Festival."

On the basis of his folklore books, Dabney was awarded the Jack Daniel's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 by the Southern Foodways Alliance. He is currently working on a cultural cookbook that will cover the coastal areas of the Carolinas and Georgia. Books will be available for sale signing at Author Night on October 22nd.

The week long festival takes place October 20-26 and is a celebration of Bluffton's unique history, cuisine, art and culture. Locally harvested seafood, Lowcountry cuisine, and local and regional artists will be featured, along with live music, entertainment, a fishing tournament, boat tours, children's activities and fireworks.

The festival was created in response to the citizens of Bluffton who expressed a great passion for protecting and maintaining the pristine quality of the May River and the historic Bluffton Oyster Company. What started as a one day event in 2005 has quickly become a week of festivities in historic Bluffton drawing locals and tourists alike.

Cost for Dabney's presentation is \$20.00 a ticket or \$30.00 for a couple. Reservations may be made at 815-6278 or tickets will be available at the door. Remember to bring your favorite Southern recipe. You could be part of Joe Dabney's next book!

