

# PRESS RELEASE

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival Planned for October

**September 8, 2008 – BLUFFTON, SC** – The Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival is back for the fourth year – and growing. What started as a one-day event in 2005, has quickly become a week of festivities in historic Bluffton showcasing the arts and locally harvested seafood.

Festival events are scheduled Monday, October 20 – Sunday, October 26. The response to the event has grown over the years. “Festivals are like magnets, they attract the young and old, rich and poor, locals and transplants, all to celebrate their community,” said Dan Wood, Festival Founder.

New events include a “Seafood Lunch and Learn” on Monday at May River Grill (reservations required) with guest speakers Nancy Schilling, Friends of the Rivers, and Kim Jones, Natural Resource Manager for Bluffton; Church of the Cross Historic Tours on Wednesday and Thursday; a night with James Beard Award Winning cookbook author, Joe Dabney, and an extended two-day open-air art market.

Returning events include the 5K Run, Saturday morning children’s fishing tournament , Saturday Street Fest with live music and “Iron Chef” competition and the favorite Friday Night VIP “Pop an Oyster with Champagne” dinner held this year at the recently restored Historic “Seven Oaks” in Old Town Bluffton. Tickets for the VIP event are \$75 a person and reservations are required.

The Festival was created in response to the citizens of Bluffton who have expressed a great passion for protecting and maintaining the pristine quality of the May River and the historic Bluffton Oyster Company. “As Bluffton continues to grow it is paramount that we continue to introduce our citizens, old and new, to these precious Bluffton gems,” Wood said. “A portion of the proceeds raised through the event are earmarked for the protection of the May River.”

Support for the event from the community has been strong. Bluffton Today, Hilton Head Regional Medical Center, Rotary Club of Bluffton, Friends of the Rivers, South Carolina Seafood Alliance and the South Carolina Shrimpers Association have all committed to major sponsorships.

For further details on V.I.P. tickets and sponsorship, and the full schedule of events visit [www.blufftonartsandseafoodfestival.com](http://www.blufftonartsandseafoodfestival.com) or call 843.757.BLUF (2583).

**About the Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival** - The Historic Bluffton Arts & Seafood Festival was started to help further a sense of community and to benefit the citizens, the local area merchants and artists through tourism.

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