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september :09

volume 8: issue 9

Two Festivals: One September Weekend



By TARA LYNNE BROWN

In the short time span of just two days, artists, musicians and performers will flood the area. Downtown Carrboro and downtown Durham are slated to boast their annual September festivals, drawing more than 30,000 visitors. Two communities will feature the rhythms of local sounds, spectacles, end-of-summer celebrations and free admission.

Carrboro Music Festival

On Sunday, September 20th, in a town with a population of 16,000, the day-long 12th Annual Carrboro Music Festival will attract 10,000 people at indoor and outdoor venues around downtown Carrboro. It's difficult not to treat yourself to lunch or dinner out on the town when attending a free festival with a free bio-diesel shuttle service and free pedicab rides.

The festival has become an end-of-summer staple. Once known

as "The Fete De La Musique," the Carrboro Music Festival was held in June during its first three years.

"One of the reasons we moved the festival from June to September is demand for volunteers," Gerry Williams, Festival Coordinator, shared. "In September, everybody's back in town, students are newly enrolled and families are done with summer vacations."

With so many people moving to the area each year, and new students enrolling at nearby universities, the Carrboro Music Festival is typically their first taste of the music scene.

Williams has the respected and challenging task of selecting the musicians. He has a thick binder bursting with 2009 applications.

"With between 200-300 applications and 150-170 slots to fill at 24 indoor and outdoor venues around town, it's competitive," Williams said.

His choices range from six-, eight- and ten-piece bands to solo performing acts. Festival visitors can rest assured that all 150+ performers are not the same year after year. He allots half of the openings to veteran performers (those that have participated with the festival for more than three years), and the other half of the slots to "new blood." This "takes care" of the longtime performers while keeping a fresh edge on the lineup.

Volunteers are the backbone of the festival and organizers are always exercising recruitment efforts. If you have a few hours available you can volunteer and receive for free: two passes to The DSI Comedy Theatre, a raffle ticket and a T-shirt.

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A Cool Place In Chatham County

By MICHAEL POLLOCK

Where the Rocky and Deep rivers meet in wild southeast Chatham County remnants of ice age times remain. Surrounding the parking lot is typical forest dominated by shortleaf pines and post and white oaks. But as the trails descend to the leafy riverbanks, there are hints of the Appalachians. Exotic pines with soft, bluish-green

needles – white pines - are the most unique feature of the Triangle Land Conservancy's White Pines Nature Preserve.

White pines have been growing on this hillside for 10,000 years or longer, evolving into a southern species. White pines are common in local landscaping and as live Christmas trees, but self-seed only here. They are so

common that farmsteads were made of white pine. By 1884 biologists had realized that the area is unique, and the TLC started protecting it in 1985. On these slopes white pines and other northern species mingle with southern species. It feels cooler downhill, and the TLC says temperatures are ten degrees cooler than in nearby

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Close Encounters

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**Two Festivals:
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The festival typically runs on 50-75 volunteers with a wide range of jobs and shifts. High school students can earn service learning hours in addition to the standard volunteer benefits.

"With more volunteers, the shorter the shifts will be," Williams said, encouraging all available to lend their time.

The festival is following their tradition of converting the Town Commons into a children's activities area, crowned with a twenty foot slide. Families needn't be concerned about missing out on the music while enjoying the activity area; there are six

stages of music adjacent to the space. The musicians will add a soundtrack to your life while you sample vendors' fare and release your creativity on arts and crafts projects.

From 12PM-8PM the Chapel Hill Transit bio-diesel bus runs a free shuttle into town from Carrboro Plaza on Highway 54. For more information and volunteer instructions visit www.carrboromusicfestival.com.

CenterFest Arts Festival

The Durham Arts Council is presenting the two-day 36th Annual CenterFest Arts Festival, a showcase of visual and performing art, on September 19th and 20th. Hundreds of artisans and craftspeople from all over the nation have showcased their work at the CenterFest Arts Festival for almost forty years. Aside from the art, the festival offers the opportunity to learn more about the community in the greater Durham area. Numerous non-profit and civic organizations host booths at the festival as well.

Artists will travel to Durham from nine states, and with the largest selection of artists in recent years, 117 in total, 38 will be new.

"We will feature 200 performing artists, about 28-30 different groups on 3 stages," said Executive Director of the Durham Arts Council, Sherry DeVries.

Similar to the challenge the Carrboro Music Festival faces, the CenterFest Arts Festival has the task of



narrowing down their artist applicant pool to 117. A stronger focus on diversity was exercised in the planning of 2009's festival.

DeVries said, "We consciously made a larger effort in recruiting visual artists that had a strong mix of different media, pottery, sculpture, jewelry, painting, photography and wood work."

Attendance at 2008's festival went up 5,000 people.

"We're anticipating that the number of visitors will continue to increase," DeVries said. "We're finding people are enjoying events closer to home and are not taking vacations as much; instead they are enjoying cultural events and museums and festivals in their own communities."

With the effects of the economy and trends toward affordable activities, 2009 attendance for this free festival is expected to reach 25,000 or more.

Also new to last year's festival was the CenterFest Citizens' Choice

Award, and due to its popularity, it will return in 2009. This award allows visitors of the festival the opportunity to vote for their favorite artist. Typically this is an honor for merit judges. Allowing the public to contribute toward the selection stresses the strong



community vibe the festival has maintained and grown over so many years.

Helping the artists, hosting the information booth and assisting with children's ac-

tivities are just a few of the volunteer opportunities available. Along with the personal reward of contributing toward another successful event, volunteers receive a free T-shirt. "We need close to 200 volunteers to accomplish this event," DeVries said.

The CenterFest Arts Festival takes place across from Durham Central Park on Foster Street from 10AM--6PM on Saturday, September 19th and 12PM--6PM on Sunday, September 20th. As for the most ideal time to visit the festival, DeVries recommends Saturday morning, "to have the best pick of the artwork."

More information and details regarding volunteering are located at <http://centerfest.durhamarts.org>. ■



Southern Neighbor is published monthly. Distribution of 27,500 copies monthly to 55+ neighborhoods.

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Printing: Triangle Web Press

Two months of back issues are available online at www.southernneighbor.com.

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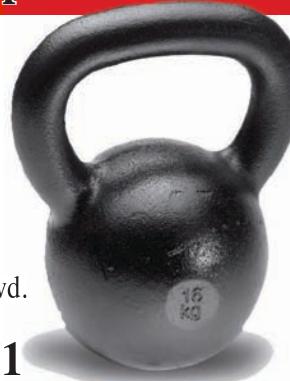
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