The 2012 Festival theme is “Celebrating Louisiana’s Folk Music.” The traditional musical genres that will be performed at the 2012 Festival comprise a diverse landscape with musicians coming from throughout the state to perform. Breaux Bridge resident Yvette Landry will play country and honky tonk music. Cajun musicians will include Cajun on Demand, the legendary Ray Abshire, the recently Grammy nominated Feufollet, and Briggs Brown and the Bayou Cajuns. Bluegrass performers will be the Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band and Reasonable Facsimile. Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La-Mystics and Reverend Charley’s Patent Medicine Show will perform a variety of country, honky tonk, bluegrass, and roots music. Master musicians Henry Gray and the Cats and saxophonist Hardrick Rivers and his group the Rivers Revue Band will play the jazz and blues. French Creole la la music will be performed by Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys, and the LaCour Trio will play Zydeco. Jesus Rhythm will perform gospel songs. Finger picking virtuoso Richard Smith, who Chet Atkins described as “The most amazing guy I know on guitar,” will be accompanied by cellist Julie Adams. Longtime Festival favorites the Back Porch Band will play a variety of traditional musical genres, including gospel, Civil War era music, American pioneer music, and Irish and Scottish music. Coming to us from East Texas, a place that shares much of Louisiana’s musical roots, will be the Caddo Creek Band playing western swing. This year also sees the return of Max and Marcy and Friends, who will lead some bluegrass and country open jams. Bring your guitar or banjo and join in the tune!

Many of the performers at the 2012 Festival will participate in informances which combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists. The Festival will also include the folk crafts people and traditional foods that will have you coming back for more. In honor of this year’s theme, Ron Yule and the Medicare String Band will perform “A History of Louisiana Fiddling Genres and Styles” on the stage of Magale Recital Hall directly before this year’s highly anticipated Louisiana State Fiddle Championship. Join us for a rousing celebration of Louisiana’s musical heritage, past and present!

HONORARY CHAIR

Ray Abshire was mentored by Cajun musicians in the 50’s and 60’s “Dance Hall Era” of South Louisiana. Abshire played accordion with the legendary Balfa Brothers Band, even performing with them at the very first Cajun music festival in 1974. Absent from the stage except for rare appearances since the mid 70’s, Abshire returned to performing in the early 1990’s. Like his early mentors, Abshire has the rhythmic style and classic vocals reminiscent of the pre-amplification period. Dan Willging of New Orleans’ offBeat Magazine has written that Ray Abshire is “one of the reasons Cajun music continues its roots resurgence. Abshire is one of the most awe inspiring accordionists you’ll ever hear—the real deal in the old school tradition.” He has played at the Festivals Acadians, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Denmark’s International Cajun Festival, and the Cajun Music Festival. Ray Abshire and his band will perform Cajun music at the Festival.
The 2013 Festival theme will be “Celebrating Louisiana’s Horse and Cattle Culture.” There is no period of Louisiana history when cattle and horses have not played a role in the culture of the region. All of the peoples of this diverse region have been participants in cattle raising: American Indians, Frenchmen, Spaniards, Afro-Americans, Creoles, and Anglo-Americans have all taken a hand at “running livestock.” This is still a land of men and horses, cows and cowboys, and their influence is deeply rooted in the folkways of today’s Louisianans. Many Cajun cowboys such as those in Eunice and Mamou still run the traditional rural Courir de Mardi Gras on horseback from house to house, begging for chickens for the communal gumbo. Cowboy poetry and western ballads describe the rugged independence and frequent loneliness of the cowboy (and cowgirl!) life, as well as its closeness with the natural world. Amateur and professional rodeos, riding club trail rides, and horse racing are all popular, especially in North Louisiana. Much of Louisiana’s folk music genres are closely tied to agrarian culture, including Cajun, Zydeco, and country and western. Musicians at the 2013 Festival will include Geno Delafose and French Rockin’ Boogie, Hadley Castille and the Sharecroppers Band with Sarah Jayde Williams, Kerry Grombacher, Maggie Warwick and the Louisiana Hayride Band, the Hugh Harris Band, Gal Holiday and the Honky Tonk Revue, Knight Train, the Jambalaya Cajun Band, and D.L. Menard. The crafts associated with horse and cattle culture will also be exhibited, along with day long demonstrations by the craft persons working on site. Rounted out by the prestigious Louisiana State Fiddle Championship and the traditional foods that the Festival is renowned for, this will be a Festival to remember!

**2013 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival**

**Henry Gray**

Born in 1925 in Kenner, Louisiana, Henry Gray began playing the piano at age 14 and is one of the most celebrated blues pianists in American History. Howlin’ Wolf’s pianist for twelve years, Gray has also played with Jimmy Reed, Elmore James, the Rolling Stones, and Muddy Waters. Gray is one of the key contributors to Louisiana’s Unique “Swamp Blues,” and has performed at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival for the past thirty years. He has recorded over 58 albums. In 1985 he appeared in the public television documentary Rainin’ in my Heart. A 1998 Grammy nominee, in 2006 Gray was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship Award by the National Endowment for the Arts. Gray was featured in the 25th anniversary of the NEA’s NCTA Blues Master’s Series in 2008. Henry Gray and The Cats will perform blues music at the Festival.

**Ray Abshire**

(see Honorary Chair)

**Goldman Thibodeaux**

As the son of a sharecropper, Thibodeaux began working the fields when he was eight or nine years old. As he worked he always whistled and sang. Amede Ardoin, an accordionist, was a big musical influence while Thibodeaux was growing up. When he was fourteen years old Thibodeaux began playing the triangle, scrubboard and vocals with his brother-in-law. Thibodeaux also sat in with a group called the Lawtell Playboys, who encouraged him to take up the accordion. In his fifties he bought his first accordion. Calvin Carriere of the Lawtell Playboys taught him. Before Carriere died, he asked Thibodeaux to continue the Lawtell Playboys. Within less than two years, four band members had died. Despite this tragedy he continued to play. Currently Thibodeaux plays old time, la-la Creole dance music. He has written 30-35 songs, mostly waltzes and two-steps. He has also been the recipient of many awards including the 2009 Creole People’s award, the 2004 Appreciation for Promoting Music and Culture, Council for the Development of French in Louisiana and many others. Thibodeaux was a 2007 Grammy nominee.
Narrative/Informance Sessions—N-Club Room
July 21, 2012
Informances combine interviews with informal musical performances by the artists.

Ray Abshire Workshop to be held at 2012 Festival

Ray Abshire, renowned Cajun accordionist and master musician, will perform at the 2012 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival on Saturday, July 21st. He will also participate in a narrative session in the N-Club Room from 4:00pm to 4:45pm and conduct a workshop from 5:00pm to 6:30pm at Prather Coliseum.

In honor of this year’s Festival theme “Celebrating Louisiana’s Folk Music,” Festival attendees may sign up for a special workshop to be directed by Ray Abshire. This accordion, fiddle, and guitar workshop will be taught by Ray Abshire (accordion), Brandon Moreau (fiddle), and Brent Abshire (rhythm guitar). The cost is $50 per student and cash or checks are accepted, but not credit cards. Payment will be made at the door and a maximum of 30-35 students will be accepted. Accordion students are asked to bring a C accordion. The workshop is open to beginning, intermediate, and advanced players of all ages. There will be a one hour teaching session followed by a 30 minute jam session. Festival visitors may attend the jam session free of charge. For more information, email Ray Abshire at ray@rayabshire.com.

Traditional Crafts
Saturday Only 8:00am-5:00pm

Jerry LaCaze—Wood Carving and Jewelry
R.V. Couch—Instrument Making
Frieda Tuma & Nicole Holcomb—Pysanky Eggs
Lora Ann Chaisson—Alligator Jewelry and Palmetto Baskets
Billy Anderson—Bull Whips
Chris Moore—Iron Working
Los Adaes Foundation—Quilts and Bonnets
Kenneth and Mary Royston—Whitling and Needlework
Roy Parfait—Wood Carving
Elvin Shields—Plantation Toys
Gena Wagley—Dolls
Juanita Leonard—Paintings, Sculptures, and Other Crafts
Roy Burst—Choctaw Silver-smith Jewelry
Tom Colvin—Choctaw Palmetto and Cane Baskets
Myrna Wilson—Koasati (Coushatta) Pinestraw Baskets
Alice Tyler—Clifton-Choctaw Beadwork
Becky Walsh—Clifton-Choctaw Baskets
Betty Hatcher—Needlework
Geraldine Robertson—Dolls and Baskets
Clifton Rambin—Gourd Art and Walking Sticks
Charlene Quinility—Spinning and Weaving Wool
Billy Phillips—Wood Carving
Edward Procell—Bees/Hives/Honey
Doris Perkins—Lye Soap, Quilling, and Wood Burning
Jo O’Quinn & Shelaghley Woods—Wood Turning
W.D. Norton—Baskets
Shelton Meacham—Banjo
Making
John Colson—Filé Making
Ann Luster—Spanish Moss
Dolls and other Houma Crafts
Janie Luster—Houma Indian Palmetto Baskets and other Houma Crafts
Furman Harris—Cigar Box Guitars
Daniel Goodman—Fiddle/Violin Making
Rick Felkel—Instrument Making
Bill Elzey—Wood carving
Tommy Gandy—Woodwork

10:00-10:45
Instrument Making Session (Basketball Room)
## 2012 Music Schedule

### Friday July 20, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>East Stage</th>
<th>Main Stage</th>
<th>West Stage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30 Doors Open</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5:00-5:45 Cajun Dance Lessons</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 Open Bluegrass and Country Jam</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with Champ Crossno</td>
<td>with Max and Marcy</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 – 7:15 Jesus Rhythm</td>
<td>6:00-7:15 Briggs Brown and the Bayou Cajuns</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-9:00 Briggs Brown and the Bayou Cajuns</td>
<td>7:30-8:45 Yvette Landry Band</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:00-11:00 Cajun on Demand</td>
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#### Louisiana State Fiddle Championship

On Saturday, July 21, 2012, the Folk Festival will host the Louisiana State Fiddle Championship from 12:00pm to 4:00pm in Magale Recital Hall. Fiddlers from around the state will compete for cash prizes and ribbons in two main categories—Non-Championship Division and Championship Division. Fiddlers are welcome to enter in either division but not both. Those who enter the Championship Division will compete for the Grand Champion title. Alternatively, the Non-Championship Division is not competitive for the state championship. The two top fiddlers from each group in the Championship Division—ages 0-21, 22-59, 60 and above will compete for cash prizes and the opportunity to be recognized as the state’s best fiddler. At 5:45pm on Saturday, the winner will perform on the Festival’s main stage in Prather Coliseum.

Fiddle Championship Late Registration
2nd Floor Recital Hall Foyer
12:00-1:00

Ron Yule and the Medicare String Band perform
“A History of Louisiana Fiddling: Genres and Styles”
Recital Hall
11:30-12:45

For more information visit our website at [http://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu](http://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu)
## 2012 Music Schedule

### Saturday July 21, 2012

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:00-10:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;The LaCour Trio</td>
<td><strong>9:00-10:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Richard Smith and Julie Adams</td>
<td><strong>9:00-10:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reverend Charley’s Patent Medicine Show</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10:30-11:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys</td>
<td><strong>10:30-11:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Cajun Dance Lessons with Champ Crossno</td>
<td><strong>10:30-11:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12:00-1:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reverend Charley’s Patent Medicine Show</td>
<td><strong>11:30-12:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Feufollet</td>
<td><strong>12:00-12:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Henry Gray and the Cats</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1:45-3:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ray Abshire</td>
<td><strong>1:45–2:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Henry Gray and the Cats</td>
<td><strong>1:00-2:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Back Porch Band</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>3:15-4:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Caddo Creek Band</td>
<td><strong>3:00-4:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;The LaCour Trio</td>
<td><strong>2:30-3:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La-Mystics</td>
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<td><strong>5:00-6:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Feufollet</td>
<td><strong>5:45-6:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Louisiana State Fiddle Champion</td>
<td><strong>5:30-6:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band</td>
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<td><strong>6:30-7:45</strong>&lt;br&gt;Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La-Mystics</td>
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<td><strong>7:00-8:15</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reasonable Facsimile</td>
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<td><strong>8:45-10:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Open Bluegrass and Country Jam with Max, Marcy and Friends</td>
<td><strong>9:45-11:00</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band</td>
<td><strong>8:00-9:30</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ray Abshire</td>
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# Thanks For Your Support

**Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Contributors**

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<td>Mariner’s Restaurant</td>
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<td>Ronnie’s Auto Glass</td>
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<td>Kenneth and Mary Royston</td>
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<td>James R. Vincent</td>
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**Louisiana State Fiddle Championship Contributors**

| Pete & Jeanette Gregory         | Senator Gerald Long       |
| Lewis Hines                     | Collins and Stanley Real Estate |
| Mr. and Mrs. Dwane Murphy       | John and Maye Foster      |

**Supported in part by grants from the following:**

- Supported in part by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council, and Shreveport Regional Arts Council.

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- This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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What to know before you go

Dates: July 20th and July 21st, 2012
Friday: 4:30 pm to 11:00 pm
Box Office opens at 4:30 pm; no on site tickets will be sold before 4:30 pm
Saturday: 8:00 am to 11:00 pm
Box Office opens at 8:00 am; no on site tickets will be sold before 8:00 am

Ticket Information

$8.00 all day pass
$5.00 evening only
FREE kids 12 and under

$11.00 two day pass available in advance only

Discounted all-event passes must be purchased by 6 pm on Thursday July 19, 2012 at the Louisiana Folklife Center, Room 213 Kyser Hall; no discounted all-event passes will be sold at the Festival.

Directions

The Festival is held in comfortable, air-conditioned Prather Coliseum, on the campus of Northwestern State University in historic Natchitoches. The site provides ample, nearby parking and is handicap accessible. No alcohol is allowed or sold on the site. To reach the Coliseum, take the Natchitoches exit from I-49. From Shreveport, turn left; from Alexandria, turn right onto Hwy. 6 / University Parkway and turn right onto South Jefferson. Prather Coliseum is on the right, just past the President’s house and the tennis courts. Contact the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332 or Folklife@nsula.edu
http://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu
for information.
Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau
800-259-1714

The Fiddle Championship needs your support to remain an ongoing event!

_____$50 Supporter—2 passes (all events)
_____$100 Friend—4 passes (all events)
_____$200 Patron—8 passes (all events ) &
Stage Signage
_____ Other Amount

In addition, you will receive recognition from the stage, listing in the Festival Program and on the website, and the opportunity to present a prize.

Make checks payable to:
NSU Foundation
Mail to:
Louisiana Folklife Center
NSU Box 3663
Natchitoches, LA 71497

Kidfest is an area dedicated to child-friendly activities and is a fun way for children to examine their own cultural and family traditions as well as those from around the state.
Kidfest will be available on Saturday ONLY from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Activities will include handmade crafts and a cakewalk directed by Friends of The Rebel State Park.

EXHIBITS

Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site: Bicentennial Exhibit
Rebel State Park: Instruments
Delta Music Museum: Memorabilia
Cammie G. Henry Research Center
Elvin Shields: Plantation Toys
2012 Natchitoches -NSU Folk Festival
“Celebrating Louisiana’s Folk Music”

Please check your donation preference:

*Make checks payable to the **NATCHITOCHES-NSU FOLK FESTIVAL** *
Mail to: Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497

- **Friend of the Festival** ($25)
  - Receives: 1 pass (all events)

- **Member** ($50)
  - Receives: 2 passes (all events)

- **Sponsor** ($100)
  - Receives: 4 passes (all events)
  - 1 T-shirt (size __)

- **Patron** ($250)
  - Receives: 10 passes (all events)
  - 2 T-shirts (sizes __, __)

- **Grand Patron** ($500)
  - Receives: 20 passes (all events)
  - 3 T-shirts (Sizes __, __, __)

- **Benefactor** ($1000)
  - Receives: 40 passes (all events)
  - Logo on Stage and mentioned in news releases

- **Grand Benefactor** ($2500)
  - Receives: 60 Passes (all events)
  - 5 T-shirts (Sizes: __, __, __, __, __)
  - Logo on stage and mentioned in news releases and advertising

In addition, all donors will receive listing in the Festival Program and on the website.

NAME: _________________________
ADDRESS: _________________________
PHONE: _________________________