

Jekyll Island

GEORGIA'S JEWEL

For Immediate Release

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Shrimp and Grits Southern Style Jekyll Island: The Wild Georgia Shrimp Festival Announces Inaugural Year

Jekyll Island, Ga. (September, 2006) – What happens when you combine two southern favorites, shrimp and grits, into a single recipe? That's what visitors and chefs alike will find out at the inaugural Jekyll Island Shrimp and Grits: The Wild Georgia Shrimp Festival. The Festival, to be held September 15-17 at the Jekyll Island Historic District, is a week-end long homage to the coastal crustacean and 'southern oatmeal' mixture.

The Shrimp and Grits Festival will feature an old-fashioned cook-off with both amateurs and professionals (those with two years or more industry experience) competing in respective cook-off competitions. Judging for the coastal cook-off will be conducted by local and regional food experts: Dan Macdonald, Food Editor for the Florida Times-Union; Abigail Hutchinson, Executive Chef at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel; Jennifer Beale, WJCL-TV Good Morning Host; Dan Dickerson, Vice President of Operations and General Manager of Latitude 31, the "Rah" Bar, and Café on the Wharf on Jekyll Island; and Master Shrimper Andrew "Speedy" Tostensen. In an unusual twist, interested spectators can also place their vote in the amateur contest, becoming part of a consumer judge's panel by paying a \$10 fee.

For competitive types who are cooking challenged, the festival will feature shrimp eating contests. Those who prefer tasting be a personal affair will find sampling plentiful. In addition, restaurants from around the coastal area will be serving up and selling a variety of southern fare.

To learn more about how Georgia's Wild Shrimp get from deep blue to table, University of Georgia Marine Extension Service's shrimp boat, the Georgia Bulldog, will be docked at the Jekyll Island Marina providing visitors an opportunity to tour the boat as well as 'ask the experts' about the industry. The floating marine classroom experience will provide visitors a first-hand 'look and feel' on board a shrimping vessel. Shuttles will run every 30 to 45 minutes from 10 am until 3 pm on Saturday and from 11 am – 3 pm Sunday from the main festival grounds at the Jekyll Island Historic District to the Jekyll Island Marina where the Georgia Bulldog boat will be docked.

The Jekyll Island Shrimp and Grits: The Wild Georgia Shrimp Festival will also feature a full menu of entertainment and activities. Kids will enjoy the Family Fun Zone featuring inflatables, face painting, crafts and more. Lovers of antiques will enjoy the antiques and collectables show featuring works from around the region. Visitors who purchase \$20 or more in the antiques area can exchange their gate receipt for a \$3 discount on their merchandise. L

ive entertainment features Atlanta's Cigar Store Indians. Entertainment hosts, the BigDawg and Paul Show will also perform.

For more information on the Jekyll Island Shrimp and Grits: The Wild Georgia Shrimp Festival and other Jekyll Island events, please visit www.jekyllisland.com or call 1-877-4JEKYL.

About Jekyll Island.

Jekyll Island is a barrier island on Georgia's coast – midway between Jacksonville, Fla.; and Savannah, Ga. Accessible by car just minutes from I-95, Jekyll Island offers a variety of amenities, including 10 miles of beach, four golf courses, a 250-acre Historic Landmark District, water park, tennis center, an array of lodging options including hotels, cottages and campgrounds. Owned by the State of Georgia, and managed by the Jekyll Island State Park Authority, Jekyll Island has had development limited to just 35 percent of its available land area. This unique aspect of Jekyll Island serves to preserve the critical barrier island ecosystem, as well as provides guests with a unique escape from the crowds and complications of other beach resort destinations. Please visit www.jekyllisland.com for more information or call 1-877-4JEKYLL.

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