

Bring out the RED, WHITE SENECA

and BLUE for FEST

BY JESSICA SIBLEY
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — Feeling patriotic? Summer is nipping at our heels and the city of Seneca is gearing up for the 5th annual Seneca Fest to commemorate Memorial Day.

According to event coordinator, Riley Johnson, this year's shindig is going to be huge.

Now on the job for just over a year, Johnson said he learned a lot from last year's event.

"I observed a lot," he joked. "But this year, it's been totally hands-on and we are so excited about the final product. If you want me to use one word to describe this, it's 'Big.' Everything is going to be big."

From a stout musical variety to an extended event, Seneca Fest will have everything a fun weekend in the sun should have.

Starting a day earlier this year, Beach Night will kick off on Thursday in conjunction with Jazz On The Alley.

"That's a big change and we think it's going to be a success," he added.

The beach themed music will invoke dancing, while Friday night will feature country music and Saturday will finish strong as the stage will be lit up with rock 'n' roll.

The event will continue rain or shine, and Johnson said the weather was looking promising for a successful weekend.

From the music to the inflatables for the kids to the scads of food and good company, it's something that Johnson said shouldn't be missed.

"Bring the entire family," he said. "It's a lot of fun and the admission is free. You can't beat that."

Also new this year, event coordinators will be selling tickets for the food vendors.

"We're going to try it out with the food first, where you will pay a certain amount for a certain number of tickets," he said.

"We're thinking it will make things easier."

There will also be a classic car cruise-in, helicopter rides, more than 30 craft vendors, 25 art vendors and other activities for the family to participate in.

He added that handicapped parking will be located in the Wachovia parking lot across from Norton-Thompson Park, where the festival will be held.

"There will be a lot of security on golf carts and four wheelers," he said. "Because some of those streets will be shut off, people can ask an officer for a ride closer or to any store. They will be happy to help."

"We're expecting thousands of visitors and are ready for another great Seneca Fest," he said.

The barbecue cook off is sponsored by the Oconee County School District's Education Foundation, while the Blue Ridge Arts Council is sponsoring Arts on Main Street.

"A big thanks to the city of Seneca for making this great event possible," he said.

Friday, May 27

- Noon** BBQ Cookers arrive
- 1-9 pm** Arts on the Main
- 3 pm** Cars start arriving for Cruise-In
- 50s/60s Music** on the Main Stage
- 3 - 6 pm** WGOG 96.3 - Gary Butts
- 4:30 pm** Live Music on the Main Stage
- 5 - 10 pm** Cruise-In
- 5:30 pm** Opening Ceremonies
- 5:40 pm** Emily Lynch on the Main Stage
- 6 pm** No Butts About It (BBQ Plates Sold - No Pulled Pork)
- 6 - 6:15 pm** Baila Baila Studio to perform
- 6:30 pm** Silver Nickel Country Band on the Main Stage
- 8:30 pm** Alamo on the Main Stage
- 9 pm** Winner of The 2012 Dash Plaque Award



Saturday, May 28

- 8 am** Seneca Fest 5K at Shaver Complex
- 8-10 am** Craft Vendor Set Up
- 11:30 am - 1:30 pm** Forget Tomorrow on the Main Stage
- Noon - 3 pm** People's Choice BBQ Samples (\$10 if you sample and decide you would like a plate, the plate will be \$5)
- Noon - 6 pm** BBQ Plates Sold (\$10)
- 1:30 - 1:40 pm** Baila Baila Studio to perform on the Main Stage
- 1 - 5 pm** Lunney House Museum
- 1:45 - 3:45 pm** Soul Feathers on Main Stage
- 3:45 - 4 pm** Baila Baila Studio to perform
- 4 - 6 pm** Main Stage - Stone Echo & Bad Company
- 4 - 6 pm** Jazz on the Alley - BH Trio
- 6 - 8 pm** Stone Echo on the Main Stage
- 8 - 10 pm** Bad Company on the Main Stage
- Fireworks**



Food, sunshine and music are sure to bring out thousands of people to the 2011 Seneca Fest like the happy group seen here at last year's event.

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Scott Lawing, front, checks under the hood of Joe Patterson's car during the Classic Car Cruise-In during last year's Seneca Fest.

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