



Tomato & Heritage Festival Returns to Ruskin
May 2 & 3, 2009

Once again Ruskin Florida celebrates its agricultural heritage roots at the annual Ruskin Tomato & Heritage Festival. Always the first weekend in May, this year's event is on Saturday May 2 and Sunday May 3.

We will have continuous entertainment thru the weekend. It will be Bluegrass and Country music. Featured performers include a tribute to Patsy Cline by Caroline Cline as well as local talent such as Paul Carr. This year in addition to our main stage we are adding a second stage for local country and Bluegrass performers to come together to "jam."

FREE tomato plants will be given out each day while supplies last. Even if you miss out on a plant you can still enjoy FREE tomato slices. Tomato sandwiches will be prepared and sold by Ye Royal Krewe of Charlotte DeBerry as a fundraiser. There will also be FARMERS MARKET that will be bigger and better than ever before including one by SweetBay Supermarket where you can purchase fresh tomatoes and other vegetables. There will be lots of other fresh vegetables and fruits available. There are several vendors offering hot sauces, dips and salsas.

You won't go hungry with the many food returning food vendors. Enjoy DOWN HOME COOKING, fried green tomatoes,

swamp cabbage, cow chips, fresh juices, fried catfish, smoked mullet, BBQ ribs and lots more of great vittles.

Vendors will be bringing crafts, jewelry, sauces, spices and clothing items. Many of our local non-profit organizations will be on hand with helpful information. Plant vendors will be bringing decorative potted flowers, landscaping plants and fruit trees.

Heritage Village will feature the "SWAMP WIZARD "with his displays of early trading. Our Heritage Village will include a vintage tractor show and demonstrations by a blacksmith, wood lathe worker. Learn how a spinning wheel works, how to hook a rug or make corn husk dolls, cane a chair & get honey from a comb. Everyone in the Village will be demonstrating their craft.

There will be a Children's Court to keep the little ones amused with Cowboy Attractions: obstacle course, bounce house, mechanical bull, euro bungee, air brush tattoo, pony rides and face painting. Also this year Home Depot will bring out their kids Workshop to help make useful projects. The Ruskin Community Church will be selling yo-yos as a fundraiser and will doing FREE face painting and FREE balloon art.

Our Watershed Tent will include valuable information about our natural environment, made possible with support from a Community Education grant from the Alfalfa River Basin Board of SWFWMD, the Florida Wildlife council, the Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center and participating organizations within the tour. There will be speakers and demonstrations as well as interactive booths. The tour is free with your paid admission to the festival.

At noon on Saturday the Ruskin Tomato King and Queen will be crowned. Each new monarch will be the person who raised the most money to help fund a scholarship program for second-year students at the Hillsborough Community College SouthShore Campus in Ruskin. The scholarship is a project of the Friends of HCC SouthShore.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR FESTIVAL

SATURDAY:

10:00 am to 10:45 am----PRIMETIME
11:15 am to 12:00 pm----CAROLINE CLINE
12:15 am to 1:00 pm----PAUL CARR and The SWAMP STOMPERS
1:15 pm to 2:00 pm----CAROLINE CLINE
2:15 pm to 3:00 pm----PAUL CARR and The SWAMP STOMPERS
3:15 pm to 4:00 pm----CROSSROADS BAND
4:05 pm to 4:45 pm----BUCKSHOT CLOGGERS
4:50pm to 5:30 pm----THE PERFORMING ARTS CLUB KIDS &
FRIENDS

SUNDAY:

10:00 am to 10:45 am----ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
CHILDREN'S CHOIR
11:00 am to 12:00 pm----SWEET ADELINES
12:15 pm to 1:00 pm----SOUTHERN STAR BAND
1:15 pm to 2:00 pm----KELLY EMERSON
2:15 pm to 3:00 pm----SOUTHERN STAR BAND
3:15 pm to 4:00 pm----KELLY EMERSON

The Festival is the major fund raiser for the Ruskin Community Development Foundation, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation (www.RuskinFoundation.org) established to improve life in the Ruskin area. Your sponsorship, whether in actual dollars or in-kind donation, will go a long way in supporting the many ongoing projects of the RCDF.

Event Location:
E. G. Simmons Park
2401 - 19th Avenue N.W
Ruskin, Florida

Ample free parking is available or free shuttle service is available from parking area to the main gate. Disabled parking is adjacent to main gate.

Hours:
Saturday, May 2, 2009, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday, May 3, 2009, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Admission:
Adults - \$5
Children 12 and under FREE

Website:

www.RuskinTomatoFestival.org

Press Photos by Fred Jacobsen available for use at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/37162608@N05/>

Volunteers are needed both days. Please come on out to help a while.

Sponsor Opportunities, vendor information and to volunteer:
Contact Festival Manager Don Glover, 813.935.4996

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