

Roanoke Island Festival Park February 2010 Events

Freedmen's Colony Blues Concert

The 6th Annual Freedmen's Colony Blues Jam will be held in the indoor theatre at Roanoke Island Festival Park on Friday, February 26th at 7:30 p.m. Ruth Wyand, an Outer Banks based "roots" fingerstyle guitarist of international acclaim, will open the show. Her material runs the gamut from blues to bluegrass and everything in between. Local musicians will be joining her and "special guest" artists of renown will be making return appearances to the annual event.

The second half of the evening belongs to Tidewater Virginia blues maven Jackie Scott and the Housewreckers. Jackie is a powerful performer who has served as president of the area blues foundation chapter, The Natch'l Blues Society. She makes a big noise performing with the Housewreckers, a polished group of blues artists from nearby Virginia.

During the Civil War, Union-occupied Roanoke Island, which lies between the North Carolina mainland and the barrier islands known as the Outer Banks, became home to thousands of former slaves. Initially these refugees settled near the Union headquarters, creating a community that included churches and a school. In the spring of 1863, this camp evolved into a government-sanctioned colony. Major General John G. Foster, Commander of the 18th Army Corps, ordered Horace James, a Congregational minister from New England who was serving as a chaplain in the Union army, to establish a colony of former slaves on the island. Although the Roanoke Island Freedmen's Colony was an experiment of national significance, few people are aware of its history. For more information about the Freedmen's Colony please visit www.roanokefreedmenscolony.com or call (252) 473-2753.

Don't miss this special evening that promises to be a very unique event filled with some serious local heat. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door and may be purchased at SSR Music in Nags Head; Manteo Booksellers and Roanoke Island Festival Park. (252) 475-1500.

Priceless Pieces Quilt Show

Feb. 27-March 29.

Art Gallery

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mon-Fri) 10 a.m. 4 p.m. (Sat) noon- 4 p.m. Sundays

The annual show will feature new and old quilts, nature-themed mini quilts and fiber art made from recycled materials. The Teacup Quilters will be raffling off a quilt they have made for the event. They are hosting a Vendor's Day on March 13- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; A Special Event Day on March 20 and a Trunk Day on March 24- noon- 3 p.m. where regional quilters will offer a show -and -tell. A reception will be held on Feb. 28, 2-4 p.m. (252)-475-1500 roanokeisland.com

Rescue Men—The Story of the Pea Island Surfmen

27 February 2010, 7:30 PM

Join us for the Outer Banks debut of the documentary film *Rescue Men: The Story of the Pea Island Life Savers*; Produced and directed by Los Angeles based DreamQuest Productions. The Outer Banks History Center is hosting the event. A light reception will follow the film in the Grand Mall. Admission is free.

On the night of October 11, 1896 in hurricane force winds, one crew known as the *Pea Island Surfmen* accomplished the impossible. Led by *Keeper Richard Etheridge*, this historic all black crew etched themselves into history rescuing stranded sailors whose ships had succumbed to the harsh Atlantic. *Rescue Men* is the story of the men that manned the *Pea Island Lifesaving Station* on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Due to the heroics and accomplishments of these brave men and others like them in the U.S. Lifesaving Service, we now have what is called "*The United States Coast Guard*." View the trailer for *Rescue Men* at www.dreamquest.tv (click on Rescue Men) or www.rescuemenfilm.com. (252) 475-1500.

Elizabeth City State Concert Choir

Roanoke Island Festival Park Performance Series

February 28 at 4 p.m.

Indoor Theatre

The 30 member choir will perform at 4th Sunday @ 4 on February 28 in the Indoor Theatre as part of the RIFP Performance Series. Directed by Interim Choir Director and Professor of Vocal Instruction, Dr. Walter Swan, musical selections will include early to modern music by African American composers. The performance is free and open to the public. (252) 475-1500 or roanokeisland.com.