
MEDIA ADVISORY

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ARCHIVES EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS WIDE RANGE OF SEAFOOD IN STATE

Secretary of State Tom Schedler, the staff of the Louisiana State Archives and the Louisiana Seafood Marketing and Promotion Board are partnering to present the “Louisiana Seafood: A Gulf de Lis,” exhibit at the Louisiana State Archives. The opening reception will be held on Friday, Sept. 16 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Archives with Secretary Schedler, Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Robert Barham and Chef Cory Bahr in attendance. The exhibit will offer an inclusive look at the foods from Louisiana waters along the Gulf Coast.

A nautical theme is effected by the handiwork of former Navy boatswain mate, Jesse Scott Eaves of Denham Springs, whose intricate marlinespike roping, is a rare, one-of-a-kind art. The 71-year-old Eaves became interested in fancy knot art while serving six years in the U.S. Navy as a boatswain mate from 1958-64. “I have been doing it now for over 50 years and still enjoy it,” he said.

A 40-by-40 inch knotted frame of a picture painted by Montague Dawson in the 1920s, “The Ariel and Taeping,” is a stellar attraction. Eaves made the frame of cotton twine, its base of 11 braids covered with decorations of Turks’ heads, star knots, mats, manrope knots, monkey's fist and many combinations. It was a six-month-long endeavor. He is believed to be the only marlinespike roping artist in Louisiana.

Equally adept as a woodworker, Eaves also displays pins and mallets made in different woods. The pins, in Navy terms, are Fids and Belaying Pins, each with a purpose on a ship. “I work with different Louisiana woods and my goal is to have 100 species,” he said. “I have 50.”

A taxidermy mounting of a 15-pound bass caught in Capitol Lake, on loan from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, will be displayed as well as fish and crabs by taxidermist Sonny Amato.

The Louisiana Room will feature special equipment employed by those who work, enjoy and study marine life. Included will be oyster rakes, crab and crawfish traps, handmade fishing lures on loan from the LSU Rural Life Museum, enlarged photographs of seafood dishes from cookbooks of award-winning chef John Folse, enlarged photographs of everyday outdoorsmen by the late Fonville Winans loaned by Steve Kleinpeter, and the late John Gasquet, selected from one of his collections housed at the Archives.

Continuously-running videos will document the processing of fish, crawfish, shrimp, crab and oysters from the time they reach the dock to the finished product.

“This is a truly educational and entertaining exhibit and ‘covers the waterfront,’ in our case, the Louisiana waters along the Gulf Coast,” Secretary Schedler said. “This is why we call it ‘A Gulf de Lis.’ It’s a broad spectrum of the pleasures and livelihood afforded on our own waters, a learning experience about one of our state’s richest natural resources.”

In the Gallery, an art show by Eric J. Brown will continue through September. The 39-year-old self-taught native of New Jersey has shown across the country in juried and solo art exhibitions, in private and corporate collections and has garnered numerous awards.

The exhibit will be on display from Sept. 19 through Dec. 30 and can be viewed during regular Archives hours: Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free and the building is wheelchair accessible. For more information about the Louisiana State Archives, call 225.922.1000 or visit www.sos.la.gov/archives.

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