

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 2011**

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***Save the date for Islands FallFest 2011***

**The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel celebrates fall  
with exciting annual events and great deals  
at southwest Florida's pristine sanctuary**

LEE COUNTY, FL – The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel on southwest Florida's Gulf coast offers the destination's fourth annual Islands FallFest from September through November 2011. The promotion combines annual events and festivals with special rates and value added deals for visitors to Florida's unspoiled island sanctuary.

Fall is a great time to visit the area. It's less crowded. The weather is cooler. Sandcastles dot the beaches. Stone crab season begins Oct. 15. An "old Florida" community shows off its creative side. An eco festival and a paddling festival celebrate the area's natural resources. There are lots of great deals at area accommodations. Pair them with some of the great events this fall and create a vacation package. Visitors planning a vacation will find a complete listing of events, offers and packages at [www.Islandsfallfest.com](http://www.Islandsfallfest.com).

Upcoming annual events and festivals include:

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Oktoberfest, Cape Coral**

**Oct. 21-23 and 28-30, 2011**

German-American Club  
2101 SW Pine Island Road  
Cape Coral  
239-283-1400

[www.gasc-capecoral.com](http://www.gasc-capecoral.com)

Hosted by the German-American Club, this huge celebration includes German culture, food, music and dancing features. Highlights include authentic live entertainment with large musical groups from Germany, along with enough German food and beer to make anyone do the "Chicken Dance." Gates open Friday 4 p.m. to midnight, Saturday noon to midnight, and Sunday noon to 9 p.m. Tickets cost \$5 in advance, \$6 at the gate for ages 13 and older.

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**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual J. N. "Ding" Darling Days, Sanibel Island**

**Oct. 16-22, 2011**

239-472-1100

[www.dingdarlingdays.com](http://www.dingdarlingdays.com)

"Ding" Darling Days include a week of eco-activities with free refuge tram tours, live wildlife presentations, kids activities, Federal Duck Stamp artist presentation, art day, family day and more. Birding and kayaking tours, environmental speakers, a nature photography contest, and Junior Duck Stamp Awards will fill the week with environmental activities for all ages. The festival celebrates the birthday of the refuge's namesake, conservationist and Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Jay N. "Ding" Darling. For detailed schedule, visit website.

**6th Annual Calusa Blueway Paddling Festival, county-wide**

**Nov. 3-6, 2011**

239-533-7275

[www.CalusaBluewayPaddlingFestival.com](http://www.CalusaBluewayPaddlingFestival.com)

Named a Top 20 Event by the Southeast Tourism Society, the 190-mile Great Calusa Blueway paddling trail follows several waterfront communities in southwest Florida. This signature eco event includes competitive canoe/kayak races, a kayak fishing tournament, paddling clinics and demonstrations, seminars, family activities, archaeological and environmental events, guided tours, and more. Complete details with contact information and regular updates may be found on the website:

[www.calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com](http://www.calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com).

**25th Annual American SandSculpting Championship Festival, Fort Myers Beach**

**Nov. 2-6, 2011**

239-454-7500

[www.sandfestival.com](http://www.sandfestival.com)

The **2011 American SandSculpting Championship & Beach Festival** continues its tradition as one of the most popular, family-friendly events in Florida, attracting an estimated crowd of 50,000 attendees over the five-day event. The event has been named one of 20 recommended events for November in the southeastern United States by the Southeast Tourism Society. Now in its 25th year, the event owes much of its success to the area's abundant natural resources, particularly the soft, sugar-white sands of Fort Myers Beach, which are considered the best in the world for sand sculpting events. This year's festival will feature 16 of the world's best master sculptors along with Florida State and amateur sculptors. These performing artists will unite on Fort Myers Beach to create their imaginatively stunning works of art. This year's event includes a street party and other evening activities. Cost: \$3 for children and seniors; \$5 for adults; \$10 for a family package.

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**29th Annual Taste of the Town, Fort Myers**

**Nov. 6, 2011**

239-277-1197

[www.jlfm.org](http://www.jlfm.org)

Sponsored by the Junior League of Fort Myers, this tasty event held downtown in Centennial Park features samplings from more than 40 local restaurants. The popular food and entertainment festival attracts more than 15,000 people and includes live music and more along the Caloosahatchee River.

**Cape Coral CoCoNut Festival, Cape Coral**

**Nov. 11-13, 2011**

239-573-3121

[www.cocofest.com](http://www.cocofest.com)

Sun Splash Family Water Park  
400 Santa Barbara Blvd.

The Cape Coral CoCoNut Festival celebrates Cape Coral's reputation in the Lee County area for coconuts, multi-cultural food, boating, fishing and wildlife. The festival will feature a live national musical act, gymnastic entertainment, carnival rides, water-ski shows, tropical food, contests, coconut crafts, fireworks, and more.

**Creative Coast Weekends**

**Matlacha, Bokeelia, St. James City**

**November 2011 (Second weekend of each month through April)**

239-283-0888

[www.floridascreativecoast.com](http://www.floridascreativecoast.com)

It is all about art in this quaint fishing community and beyond! Enjoy special events, gallery openings, classes and entertainment for the entire family. Galleries and shops extend hours on Fridays and events and workshops are available on Saturday and Sunday. Check website for list participating galleries and a calendar of events.

For information on planning a vacation to The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel and special value-added packages, visit [www.FortMyersSanibel.com](http://www.FortMyersSanibel.com). Also visit the VCB's Twitter page at <http://www.twitter.com/FtMyersSanibel> or become a fan of The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel at [www.Facebook.com/FtMyersSanibel](http://www.Facebook.com/FtMyersSanibel).

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres. Images are available upon request.