

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Lake Eden Arts Festival
Black Mountain, NC

CELEBRATING 10TH YEAR AND 20TH FESTIVAL! May 13-15 & October 14-16 2005!

How would you like to play, sing, and dance in a mountain glen, and add some hiking, camping, and swimming in a placid lake for good measure? Or maybe you'd rather a weekend party with 5,000 easy-going, fun-loving people listening to and grooving to dozens of nationally and internationally touring bands cranking out everything from Celtic to world beat, bluegrass to gospel? Or what about just taking that yoga or tai chi class you've wanted to, listening to some poetry, and treating yourself to some cool folk art? What if you could have any one of those weekends and TWICE this year?

It's happening this year May 13-15 and October 14-16, 2005 at the Lake Eden Arts Festival (LEAF) as they celebrate their 20th festival and 10-year anniversary. It is one of the best small festivals internationally and, it's been called "one of the hippest festivals on the East Coast". LEAF happens twice yearly at an idyllic 600-acre setting in the midst of North Carolina's majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. Since 1996, LEAF has presented music and arts in a way that you won't see at other events: surprising, exceptional, up close and delightful, valuing community, celebrations, traditions and good times.

Located at the site of the historic Black Mountain College, now Camp Rockmont, one of the nation's top summer camps, LEAF is a family-friendly, positive atmosphere that encourages you to participate in a cornucopia of activities and entices you to reconnect with Nature, loved ones, and your creative side. Play and simply BE-- in the safe haven of their nurturing retreat. This year's celebrations feature a wide variety of activities from guitar workshops to yoga to canoeing to rock wall climbing and learning African dance, or a poetry slam with a \$1000 first prize. Everyone can create their own unique weekend experience at LEAF. Expand your mind and increase your happiness!

Highlighting the music front, once again this year LEAF presents music and dance from over 50 different cultures and genres and invites people to discover new music while enjoying traditions. Spring LEAF kicks off with a return visit from musical icon Richie Havens, Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown's Final Tour, special performance by Samputu & Ingeli Troupe of Rwanda and continues with the musical talents of Grammy winner Ralph Stanley II & The Clinch Mountain Boys, Dexter Ardoin & The Creole Ramblers (Zydeco), The Ghillies from Scotland, Luminescent Orchestrïi (Gypsy Jazz), Donna the Buffalo (a festival favorite will close the weekend), Cootie Stark (the real Blues), Enter The Haggis (celtic-rock), Asheville Contemporary Dance Theater, Solazo (South American), Roy Bookbinder (storyteller & Blues), Sarah Lee Guthrie & Johnny Irion (Folk), and many more including the Youngest Beatles Tribute Band, Yesterdays Tomorrow. Attention to every festival-goer is paramount, so LEAF creates the setting to see performers in concerts and workshops several times throughout one fun-filled weekend, minimizing the crowds and maximizing the fun.

LEAF in Schools & Streets 2004 inaugural year was stellar & 2005 expands to empower more youth with festive arts! LEAF's expanding role as a non-profit organization and its commitment to community outreach, partnerships, and connecting youth to the arts has created the "Schools and Streets" Initiative, sending artists out to work with groups of young ones ranging in age from 4 to 18. In the inaugural year of LEAF's Schools and Streets Program, 6 performing groups were sent into 9 schools, 1 community center and worked with over 1170 youth. The youth then came to the festival and participated as performers with their mentors, and the families who attended were able to see their kids as "performers" on a national stage.

Tickets are available at the gate; advance ticket purchases are encouraged. Individual day tickets range from \$19 to \$38. Discounted early bird tickets are on sale now thru April 5th: Weekend Passes with camping range from \$92-124. Special YOUTH prices. UNDER 10 are FREE! The 2 Super deals are: The 2 Festival Pass good for May & October \$130-168 and The Community Pass (special for local residents-just no overnight) are \$47-\$67.

Tickets and information for the Lake Eden Arts Festival are available by calling 828/68-MUSIC (686-8742) or on-line at: www.theLEAF.com

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Press release & downloadable photos available online: www.theLEAF.com/press

Great News Stories:

•Celebrating 10th year!! That means the 20th & 21st festivals!!

Performer Quick Highlights:

- The 20th LEAF celebration kicks off Friday night with the return of folk icon Richie Havens & his band.
- Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown's Final Tour! An artist committed to the Blues!
- Thanks to the outstanding movie Hotel Rwanda, the beauty, horror, and healing of this exceptional country and story has been brought to the public. Samputu & Ingeli Troupe of Rwanda is bringing the arts of Rwanda to LEAF. Jean Samputu has been recognized as one of the leading African musicians, as a leading ambassador of Rwandan music and arts, and as a strong activist in helping his country go forward and heal (music being a powerful healing force). Lots of press and further info is provided on press page that you can download or use for reference.
- Cootie Stark is one of the last authentic piedmont blues musicians- see him at LEAF!
- More parking & camping!
- Expanded Family and kids programming.
- LEAF in Schools & Streets inaugural 2004 year made such a positive difference. We worked with 8 different performers, 6 Schools, 3 After School Programs, and 1 community center, 1170 Youths in residencies, 140 Youth Performed at LEAF, and an off the charts inspiring BlueBrass project united local & New Orleans youth through music, workshops and performance!