

A Festival Not-To-Be Missed

The Acadian Memorial Festival, held in St. Martinville the 3rd Saturday in March, offers something special for everyone. This year, I attended the festival for the first time. As I walked alongside the Bayou Teche and within view of the famous Evangeline Oak Tree, I spoke to several other visitors, some having traveled several hours to attend this special event. Everyone came with a different goal in mind. Some wanted to learn more about the Acadians and their exile from Acadia (Nova Scotia), others wanted to attend the genealogy workshop, and everyone was excited about the afternoon re-enactment of the “first” Acadians arriving by boat on the Bayou Teche.

There were many other activities that were equally impressive, including several notable guest speakers, children’s story times and workshops, films, and complimentary entry into the Acadian Memorial as well as the Heritage Center.

This festival provided the best in Cajun food, music, and arts & crafts (like other festivals), but the organizers’ goals go much deeper than that. This festival educates and enhances our understanding of those great Acadian pioneers and celebrates our Cajun culture and traditions.

I was thoroughly impressed and inspired by this unique festival; I hope everyone reading this letter will realize the importance of supporting such an honorable event. Please mark your calendars for the 2009 Acadian Memorial Festival and help us celebrate the resiliency and spirit of those courageous, hardworking, and fun-loving Acadians. It is truly the festival “not-to-be missed.”

To find out more, please check on-line at:

www.acadianmemorial.org

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