



*O Oysters, come and walk with us!* —Lewis Carroll

## Wellfleet OysterFest Fact Sheet

### What:

The *Wellfleet OysterFest* is a two-day family festival celebrating the town's famous oysters, clams and shellfishing traditions. The *'Fest* as it is affectionately dubbed brings together locals and visitors alike for a *weekend full of hometown flavor and big time fun!*

### When:

Saturday and Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, will mark Wellfleet's **thirteenth** annual OysterFest. (Always the weekend after Columbus Day)

### Where:

Located on Cape Cod in Wellfleet, Massachusetts just 100 miles/two hours from Boston, Mass. and Providence, R.I. The *'Fest* is held primarily in the heart of Town Center and has expanded along the waterfront, to the Town Pier, in the Public Library and Wellfleet Preservation Hall, as well as other venues. *Look for nature walks and tours of the oyster beds on the mud flats, too!*

### To Do:

There is something for everyone at the *Wellfleet OysterFest*. Take a fun fall weekend get-away and experience:

- **Local cuisine:** Throughout the weekend, local shellfishermen and women come in off the tides to offer their briny, luscious oysters and clams. Alongside the rawbars, restaurants serve up chowders, stuffed clams, and other traditional New England fare.
- **New England brews and vines:** Enjoy New England beers and ales – considered classic accompaniments to oysters, as well as wines from neighboring Truro Vineyards.
- **Beautiful arts and crafts:** More than 90 carefully selected artisans and artists show off a stunning range of arts and crafts including handmade jewelry, paintings, sweaters, soaps, furniture, jams, and more.
- **Competitive fun:** The town's Recreation Department organizes a 5K *Shuck n' Run* road race for adults and a Kids' Fun Run for the younger set and a Tennis Round Robin. The Wellfleet Public Library offers an *OysterFest Spelling Bee* for adults and children alike. What draws the biggest crowd is the *Annual Oyster Shuck-Off Competition*. The preliminaries are held on Saturday afternoon and the final shuck-off on Sunday. One of Wellfleet's home-town shuckers – William "Chopper" Young, Jr. – has gone on to win the national and international shucking champion titles.

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- **Special activities for kids:** Children revel in an area set aside for games, craft activities, and the ever-popular moonbounce. The road race also includes a *Fun Run* just for kids and the Wellfleet Public Library offers a Spelling Bee just for 'Littlenecks' ages 12 and under. No fees are charged.
- **Lots more to learn and do:** Educational programs put together by some of Cape Cod's top experts on the local marine environment line Main Street for the weekend. NOAA Fisheries Service, the Audubon Society, the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association and the Wellfleet Historical Society all offer fun and informative events and/or interactive displays. Live music, cooking demonstrations and tours on the oyster flats entertain the crowds throughout the weekend.

**Who:**

The *Wellfleet OysterFest* is produced by *Wellfleet Shellfish Promotion and Tasting (SPAT)* a non-profit organization devoted to fostering a greater understanding of the town's shellfishing industry, the history and traditions of its aquaculture and wild fisheries, and to enhancing the Town of Wellfleet by supporting its community. Even the name SPAT honors the oyster, which begins life as a free-swimming larva called spat.

The *'Fest* is made possible through collaboration with the Town of Wellfleet, the support of many generous area businesses and shellfishermen, a wonderful group of volunteers and, most importantly, the weekend's dedicated attendees.

**Why:**

Proceeds from the annual *Wellfleet OysterFest* support its educational mission, including a Nauset Regional High School scholarship program, and grant awards to people pursuing careers in shellfishing or those whose creative and educational work increases awareness of Wellfleet's shellfishery, an important part of our community life. To date, SPAT has awarded more than \$125,000 between the high school scholarship program and its community grants.

**More information:**

- Cost: Admission is \$5 per day, \$8 for two days and children 12 and under are free. All food and retail items priced individually. Some satellite events (e.g. cooking demonstrations) require a small fee. All kids' activities are free. Sorry, no pets allowed.
- Parking: Strolling replaces car traffic for most of the two days of the family festival. Walk-in parking is available at the Town Pier, Cove Corner (near the Wellfleet Post Office) and at the Wellfleet Elementary School (behind the police and fire station). In addition, frequent shuttle bus service will run from designated ocean beach lots to Main Street from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Handicap parking with shuttle service is available.
- Weather: The OysterFest goes on rain or shine!

Visit [wellfleetoysterfest.org](http://wellfleetoysterfest.org) to learn more, make a donation, or join the volunteer effort.

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