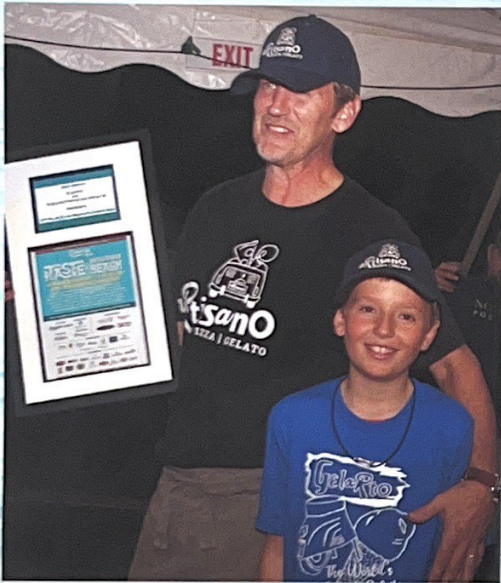


Taste of Wrightsville Beach

BY GEORGE CLARKE, PHOTOS BY JACKIE WHITAKER



King Neptune restaurant won 3rd Place for Best Savory Dish; (L-R) Neal Cool, Jimmy Gilleece and John Anderson.



Artisano Pizza & Gelato's Nigel Langstone and his son, Herbie won 3rd Place for "People's Choice Award"

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Weekend Meals on Wheels Council, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our title sponsor, Coastal Kia, our host, Bluewater Grill, our generous sponsors, restaurants, vendors, volunteers and patrons for making the 9th Annual Taste of Wrightsville Beach the best ever. Patrons raved about the delicious dishes, beer, and wine. The competition was fierce as the island's top chefs vied for the judges' and people's choice awards. We had a record crowd on a beautiful night and raised much needed funds for our senior citizen shut-ins.

The Taste of Wrightsville Beach was started 10 years ago as an idea to celebrate our delicious and diverse culinary offerings on the island. It also serves as a reminder that the restaurants need support during the winter months when the tourists are gone. That first event was to be held outdoors, a plan changed by Super Storm Sandy to indoors at Blockade Runner in the 11th hour. The event has outgrown all the venues, weathered hurricanes, nor'easters, date changes and a pandemic. Our loyal sponsors, restaurants, and patrons support us every year to assure the success of the Weekend Meals on Wheels' only fundraiser. The beautiful weather this year was a welcome blessing!

Weekend Meals on Wheels is a faith-based organization and exists to provide nutritious meals and social contact to area senior citizens. Meals are delivered on weekends and other days not covered by the weekday Home Delivered Meals Program of New Hanover County. In 1990, volunteers realized that some clients they served during the week were going hungry on weekends or holidays, when the county offices are closed. These volunteers, local churches, restaurants, and the New Hanover County Department of Aging banded together to meet the need and developed Weekend Meals on Wheels. It was one of the first programs of its kind in North Carolina. Clients are 60 years old or older, homebound in our community- those who are frail, elderly, convalescing or sick, with no resources or ability to prepare meals on their own. The majority of our clients are 75 years old, and we are seeing an increase in the percentage of our 90 year old clients. Many are lonely. Along with a nourishing meal, our volunteer drivers deliver friendly smiles, compassion and also serve as a liaison between the community and the client. If you would like to get involved, please visit our website www.weekendmealsonwheels.org.

Lisa Weeks
Event Co-Chair
Wrightsville Beach



Lisa Weeks is a co-founder of the Taste of Wrightsville Beach and chair of this year's 9th annual event.



Catawba Brewpub received a 3rd Place award in the Best Beer category.



The Greenhouse restaurant team (L-R); Joanna Walton, Parker Lewin, Mauricio Hiarcaya, Rileigh Abraham.



Nothing Bundt Cake wins 3rd Place for "Best Sweet Dish."

A Fun Time for a Good Cause

JUDGES' OVERALL DISH

- 1st place-EAST at BLOCKADE RUNNER'S Cocoa and red wine braised beef with black bean puree and plantain chips.
- 2nd place-EAST at BLOCKADE RUNNER'S Horchata cupcake with spice buttercream frosting.
- 3rd place-FISH HOUSE with Southern Style Fish Stew.

JUDGES' SAVORY DISH

- 1st place-EAST at BLOCKADE RUNNER'S Cocoa and red wine braised beef with black bean puree and plantain chips.
- 2nd place-POES TAVERN'S pimento cheese sliders with jalepeno jack cheese and pico de gallo sliders.
- 3rd place-KING NEPTUNE'S sliced beef short rib with chimmichurri and parmesan.

JUDGES' SWEET DISH

- 1st place-EAST at BLOCKADE RUNNER'S Horchata cupcake with spice buttercream frosting.
- 2nd place-BEACH BAGEL'S Monkee Bread.
- 3rd place-NOTHING BUNDT CAKE-Moist and delicious bites of pumpkin spice bundt cakes with our signature butter cream cheese frosting.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE DISH

- 1st place-PORTLAND GRILLE's balsamic-esspresso glazed beef short ribs over yukon gold mashed with pickled shallots, pomegranate, beef tallow breadcrumbs and micro greens.
- 2nd place-BLUEWATER GRILL's redneck rockefeller style roasted oysters topped with pimento cheese and bacon crumble.
- 3rd place-GELARTO'S GELATO made with fresh ingredients and milk from our own herd of cows grazing in the alps near Turin, Italy.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEER

- 1st place-WATERMAN'S BREWING COMPANY
- 2nd place-WILMINGTON BREWING COMPANY
- 3rd place-CATAWBA BREWING

PEOPLE'S CHOICE WINE/SPIRITS

- 1st place-NONI BACCA
- 2nd place-WINDHAM DISTRIBUTING
- 3rd place-PRESTIGE BEVERAGE COMPANY

The 9th Annual Taste of Wrightsville Beach was a HUGE success thanks to our title and loyal sponsor Coastal Kia and other generous sponsors, our AMAZING vendors, raffle donors and patrons with beautiful weather! Most importantly, we raised money for our senior shut-ins. Thanks to all who came and congratulations to the winners. *Look forward to seeing you next year!*



The Butcher's Market (Back Row L-R) Smith Prevost, Jess Powell, Mike Murrill, Jeff Gregory, Cole Braxton (Front) Taunyia Wilkins, and Derek Wilkins.



Niki and Mark Bloomquist with Blue Shark Vodka.



EAST Oceanfront Dining at the Blockade Runner garnered four awards: (L-R) Cain Bowers, Shaun Fenix, Jessica Cabo, and Mary Baggett.



The Bluewater Grill placed 2nd with the People's Choice award for its grilled oysters topped with pimento cheese and a bacon crumble.



South Beach Grill (L-R) John Andrews, Jack Hayes, JaVon Lucious, Michael Overton, and Jenny Sherer.