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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: David Tweedie, 252-921-0260

The 14th annual Ocracoke Festival will showcase new and returning artists

OCRACOKE--The 14th Annual Ocracoke Festival on Ocracoke Island will feature new and returning artists the weekend of June 7 to 9. Presented by Ocracoke Alive, the festival celebrates music, storytelling and artisans from the North Carolina coastal region and beyond. In the February 2012 issue of *Coastal Living* magazine, the Ocracoke Festival was rated as one of the top 15 island festivals in the world.

The 2013 Ocracoke Festival is also seeking individual and business sponsorships. "We are excited about the new perks we are offering for supporting the Ocracoke Festival this year," says Festival Director David Tweedie. "In addition to our heartfelt thanks and press recognition, sponsors can receive tickets to the Friday night feed and the special Saturday night Ocrachicks concert, sailing trips on the Skipjack Wilma Lee and more. Best of all, donors help ensure that this great event can happen for another year."

The festival is financed with donations, grants, admission buttons, merchandise sales and fundraisers.

Interested contributors can find out more information on donation levels at <http://www.ocracokealive.org/ocracokefestivalsponsors.cfm>, and can donate online or by mail. As the festival has grown over the years, the producing staff has added new dimensions, with a few new ones this year.

Last year, commemorative, limited-edition buttons were sold to help with revenue. This year, these buttons will be required for patrons wanting to sit in the festival-supplied seating. A change has been made this year in the **Friday Night Feed** from 5 to 7 p.m. This will not be a community potluck but will be catered by the Pony Island Restaurant and will be \$15 a plate. However, complimentary dessert will be available at the **Art Auction** at 7 p.m. in the newly renovated Berkley Manor, 155 Silver Lake Dr., near the south ferry docks. A cash wine and beer bar also will be available at the auction.

During Saturday's event from noon to 6 p.m., those who want to enjoy a glass of wine or beer may do so within earshot of the music in our new Beer and Wine Garden. Zillies Island Pantry will provide the alcoholic beverages.

A late night singer-songwriter circle will take place Saturday night at 9:30 PM in Ocracoke Coffee. It is open to all musicians.

Last year, a new stage was added—the Workshop Stage—to great acclaim, where aspiring musicians can learn from professionals. This stage will again take place on the lawn of the Ocracoke United Methodist Church.

For children, the ever-popular Fish Print T-Shirts will be available Saturday morning from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

New performers this year include Caravan of Thieves, Cassie & Maggie MacDonald, Jeanne Jolly, The Outliers, The Alberti Flea Circus and Paperhand Puppets.

They will perform on the Live Oak Stage on the Books to be Red grounds and the Howard Street Stage along with returning favorites Storyteller Donald Davis, Molasses Creek, Beleza, L Shape Lot, Jacob Johnson, Bernie Petteway, The Green Grass Cloggers, Martin Garrish, Phil Kelly, Bob Zentz, Philip Howard, Capt. Rob Temple & Sundae Horn, The Ocracoke Opry, Chainsaw Artist Clyde Jones, Jef the Mime, Lou Castro and the Jazzcasters, Rodney Kemp, Craicdown, John Golden, The Ocrachicks and more.

Fine artists and crafters on the festival grounds will showcase their works in painting, sculpture, wood carving, jewelry, textiles and more. Food will be available by some of Ocracoke's finest eateries.

For more details visit the festival website at www.ocracokealive.org.

Ocracoke Alive, Inc., is a private non-profit committed to enriching the Ocracoke Island community through the encouraging and sponsoring cultural, artistic, educational, and environmental activities including the production of plays, musicals, musical events, exhibits, schools, workshops and festivals.

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