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*"a unique festival of exciting cultural, educational, and entertaining events"*

Produced by The Lost Colony, 1409 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954 [www.thelostcolony.org](http://www.thelostcolony.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Land of Beginnings Festival: A Unique Celebration of Outer Banks Culture & History**

*--MARCH 27--APRIL 4th EVENT HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY--*

(Manteo, NC - March 6, 2009) The Outer Banks' history is an extraordinary saga of the American dream. Before the New World met the Old World, there was a thriving Native American culture. And in 1587, before Jamestown and Plymouth, a group of 117 men, women and children founded the first English settlement on Roanoke Island. Their disappearance is one of the nation's greatest unsolved mysteries.

The Wright brothers accomplished the world's first powered-flight atop a sand dune in 1903, just a year after Reginald Fessenden first transmitted human speech by radio from his base on the Outer Banks.

These tales of resilience and pioneering spirit have forged a community rooted in its unique heritage, and residents continue to work diligently as care-takers of the cradle of American history.

The fourth annual Land of Beginnings Festival celebrates the history, trail-blazing spirit and hospitality of the Outer Banks community. The nine-day event is filled with storytelling encounters, rich drama, living legends and more. It begins Friday, March 27, with a Children's Faire, reaches a celebratory peak with a signature Black & White Ball and ends with a Time Capsule Burial on April 6.

Sponsored by *The Lost Colony*, the world's first and longest running outdoor symphonic drama, the festival's mission is "to celebrate the history and culture of the Outer Banks; to provide entertainment that enhances the quality of life for Outer Banks residents and visitors; to

produce and promote events and activities that contribute to the charitable, educational, cultural, and economic development of the area.”

“The festival gives businesses, non-profits, and other historic sites a rare opportunity to celebrate our common heritage,” says Carl Curnutte, executive director and producer of *The Lost Colony*. “It also is an opportunity to showcase our greater Outer Banks community.”

The kickoff is the Children’s Faire held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 27, at the Wright Brothers Pavilion. Dare County schools are not in-session for students that day, so this is an ideal way to entertain them. The event includes activities ranging from face painting to balloon art to rock climbing.

"Each year, we try to expand our presentations and our 2009 Children's Faire will be no less spectacular this year, with fun and exciting activities for all ages," said Buster Nunemaker, Children’s Faire committee chairman. Last year’s Children’s Faire was attended by nearly 3000.

Exhibitors include the National Park Service, Dare County, North Carolina Aquarium, Currituck Heritage Park, *The Lost Colony*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Outer Banks History Center, Pizza Hut, Kitty Hawk Kites, Outer Banks Hospital, College of the Albemarle, and more. A highlight of the day is a grand entrance by the US Army Golden Knights Parachute Team.

The Golden Knights have impressed audiences with their sky diving finesse for five decades. These skilled skydivers compete nationally and internationally, always earning high marks. The Knights are divided into two competition teams -- the Gold Team will appear at the Faire and will jump at noon. After touch down, children may assist in packing the parachutes and they will be available for autographs.

The festival's three free storytelling sessions present the rich stories of Outer Banks natives. Each session features a kaleidoscope of both tall tales and true stories.

All sessions begin at 7 p.m. Session I, will be on Saturday, March 28, at the Hatteras Village Civic Center; Session II, Tuesday, March 31, Roanoke Festival Park in Manteo; and Session III, Wednesday, April 2, The Black Pelican restaurant in Kitty Hawk.

Storytelling as an Avocation, an Author’s & Producer’s View’, a free event sponsored by Outer Banks History Center, will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, at the Wright Brother’s Pavilion.

The Living Legend Community Luncheon will be at noon on Monday, March 30, at Wright Brothers Pavilion. Captain Omie Tillet, born on the Outer Banks in 1929, the much-beloved “chaplain of Outer Banks fishermen,” North Carolina boat-builder, and mentor of generations of charter boat captains, will receive the third annual Living Legend Award to be

presented at this luncheon. Luncheon cost is \$18 per person and reservations are required. Call 252-473-2127.

And there are theatrical performances!

The North Carolina Dance Theatre will present American Masterpieces at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, at the First Flight High School; Tickets are \$15 per person, (252) 473-5558.

The Outer Banks written and inspired satiric-drama, *The Night Before Take Off*, will show at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo Friday thru Sunday, March 27–29; for show times and tickets, call (252) 473-1571.

Hear what the future could bring when the College of the Albemarle presents “Create the Future: A Community Conversation.” This presentation focuses on creating the Dare County of the future and will focus on topics related to infrastructure, education, technology, and culture. Keynote speaker is Marshall Brain, author of *Robotic Nation*. The event is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, at the Wright Brothers Pavilion. For reservations call (252) 473-2264 extension 235.

The hallmark celebratory event of the festival is the "Black & White Ball: A Global Affair" with an international gala “around the globe” theme from 6 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, at the Wright Brothers Memorial Pavilion. Guests will enjoy sumptuous food, an open bar, silent auction, live auction, international vignettes, and the earth moving beats of the live dance band Coolin’ Out. For reservations, call *The Lost Colony* office at 252-473-2127.

To close the festival, there will be a Time Capsule Burial at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 6, at the Dare County Governmental Center. The capsule will include DVDs of the oral history shared at the Land of Beginnings’ storytelling sessions, archival videos of the Living Legend Community Luncheon, interviews with children about the future of Dare County, the winning 2009 Festival poster, and other memorabilia.

Although there are multiple event locations, most activities will be at the Wright Brothers Memorial in Kill Devil Hills. Many are free, but others require reservations and a prepaid ticket. For more information, and reservations, call 252-473-2127 or visit [www.thelostcolony.org](http://www.thelostcolony.org).

### **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

The Land of Beginnings Festival is an annual celebration of Outer Banks Originals which defines who we are as a community. Events planned at various sites that week include a long list of exciting cultural, educational and entertainment activities. Participating sponsors include both nonprofits and businesses that subscribe to promoting the future of the Outer Banks by preserving its past.

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