



SandFest success

Festival draws thousands to beach

October 20, 2021

Vivian Carlson
Staff writer



Bruce Peck of Bradenton, Fla., works on a sculpture on Saturday, at SandFest. The 'cracks' on the sculpture's face were intentional. Peck was competing in the master solo division. Lots more SandFest photos are inside. Staff photo by Murray Judson

After a year's hiatus because of the pandemic, the three-day sand sculpture event, Texas SandFest 2021, brought thousands to the beach Friday through Sunday, Oct. 15 through 17.

"It all turned out great," said Ruth Maspero, president of the SandFest Board of Directors. "We are really excited that so many people came and took part in this fun event."

The weather did not put a damper on attendance or on the sculpting Maspero said.

“The big rain that we had on Thursday morning did minimal damage,” she said. “Trying to put up all the signage on Friday was challenging, and then the big winds that came on Friday night caved in and knocked over some of the vendors’ tents, so we decided to postpone the opening until noon so the vendors could get everything set back up.”

Maspero said that by 10:30 a.m. there was a line of people about 500 yards down the beach standing in line at the gates. By then most of the vendors were set up, so SandFest organizers decided to open the gates, she said.



Mélineige Beauregard of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and Chris Guinto of Key West, Fla., took first place in the masters duo competition with a creation called ‘The Voodoo Curse.’

She said that Saturday had the biggest crowds, but on Sunday the weather was beautiful and there was still a good crowd. There was a surge of attendees on Sunday afternoon before the Spazmatics took the stage.

“The crowd was huge in the Music Tent area for the Spazmatics. I had so many tell me that it was the best concert they had ever been to,” Maspero said. “There were so many people dancing and just relaxing in lawn chairs, listening to the band.”

The layout of the grounds was different from years past. She said that it worked well, just like they planned. The music and beer area was its own entity. By putting them together and separate from the sculptors’ area, people could enjoy the sculptors, and

then everyone could congregate in one area to watch some great entertainment, Maspero said.

“The sculptors were fabulous as always,” she said. “What I got from the sculptors was that they were so excited to be back on the sand, and it showed in their work.”



Sue McGrew of Tacoma, Wash., won first place in the masters solo division. She also scored the People’s Choice award among masters solo entries.

When asked about the traffic and parking, Maspero said that it was busy, but things flowed really well. She said that the organization expanded the south parking lot on the beach and that helped. Traffic was more controlled.

She said folks utilized the different parking options both on Beach Access 1A with the golf cart shuttle and Roberts Point and Community Parks with the RTA shuttle.

“As they always are, our volunteers were amazing and helped make everything go smoothly,” Maspero said.

The sponsors were very happy with how everything went as well, she said.

“The board wants to thank everyone for coming and supporting our cause,” she said.

Texas SandFest is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that supports other area nonprofit organizations and gives scholarships to graduating Port Aransas High School seniors.

In 2019 the organization gave \$355,000 to area nonprofits. The total proceeds from this year's SandFest have not yet been determined.



Nabbing second place in the masters solo division was Morgan Rudluff of San Francisco, Calif.

SandFest 2022 is set for Friday through Sunday, April 8 through 10.

Artistry in motion!

See a sculpture created in time-lapse photography at SandFest. The link: youtu.be/9bNfVsGLo8o

SandFest 2021

Masters Solo Winners

1st Place and People's Choice

Sue McGrew, Tacoma, Washington

2nd Place

'Remembering' by Morgan Rudluff

San Francisco, California

3rd Place

Matthew Deibert, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Masters Duo Winners

1st Place

'The Voodoo Curse'

Mélineige Beauregard and Christ Guinto

Montreal, Quebec, Canada & Key West, Florida

2nd Place and People's Choice

'Noah's Bark' by John and Laura Gowdy

Castelfranco Veneto, Italy

3rd Place

'In the End, the Flowers Always Win'

Lucinda Wierenga&Emerson Schreinder

South Padre Island

and Michigan/Galveston



John and Laura Gowdy of Castelfranco Veneto, Italy, took second place in the masters duo division with a sculpture called Noah's Bark. They also scored the People's Choice award among masters duo entrants.

SandFest 2021

Amateur Winners

20-Year Patch

San Marcos Suns — this is

their 23rd year competing

at Texas SandFest

Sand Couch Category

Sand Potatoes — this team

builds the only sand couch

every year.

They are undefeated in the

sand couch category.

2-Day Adult Solo

1st Place

'Thru Time,' Pedro Preciado

2nd Place

'Solitude the Mer-Witch,'

Sylvia Carpenter

3rd Place

'Curiosity,' Catherine Morris

2-Day Team

1st Place

'Funky Town Factory,'

Sandscrapers

2nd Place

'Looney Dunes,'

Timeless Thomas

3rd Place

'So Others May Live,' Tyler

Morris and Lauren Waldo

1-Day Adult Solo

1st Place

'Lizzard Peace,' Resa Goff



Taking third place among masters solo entrants was Matthew Deibert of Atlantic City, N.J.

2nd Place

'Big Fish,' Rudy Lucio

3rd Place

'Pelican Sign,' Michael Wyatt

1-Day Team

1st Place

'Snacktime, Naptime,'

Sand Pitties

2nd Place

'The Rocket,' Team Fusion

3rd Place

'Spooky Scene,' Poerner Pod

Teen Team

1st Place

'Pumpkin Graveyard,'

Unexpected

2nd Place

'Octopus in Punkin' Patch,'

Aiden and Victoria

Family

1st Place,

'Race for the Candy Corn,'

Lucio on the Left

2nd Place

'Coming Home to Port A,' Bee

Amazing

3rd Place

'Crocodile Rock,'

Little Dunes



Lucinda Wierenga and Emerson Schreiner took third place in the masters duo division.

SandFest 2021

Semi-Pro Winners

1st Place

'Sleepy Gnome' by Wade Lapp

Kelso, Washington

2nd Place

'Santana' by Leonard Gonzales, California

3rd Place

'Small World' by Darrell OConnor

Wilmington, Delaware

People's Choice

'We'll Share' by Steve Nagy

Central Texas



Folks stand in line to get into the grounds of SandFest on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 16. The line backed up because festival organizers delayed the festival's opening time by about 90 minutes that morning. Organizers were trying to give vendors time to fix their booths after gusty winds the night knocked down their shade structures. Staff photo by Lee Harrison

See you at Texas SandFest 2022

April 8-10



Members of the Sandscrapers, an amateur team from Fort Worth, work on their sculpture, 'Funky Town Factory,' on Saturday, Oct. 16. The team won first-place in the two-day amateur adult team competition. Staff photo by Murray Judson



Christy McDonald of Franklin puts the finishing touches on a sprawling sand castle that she and her father created at SandFest. Her father is 'Amazin' Walter' McDonald of South Padre Island. They competed in the master duos division at the festival. Staff photo by Lee Harrison



Semi-pro sand sculptor, Steve Nagy of Central Texas, puts finishing touches on his sculpture on Saturday, Oct. 16, at the 2021 Texas SandFest. 'We'll Share' took the People's Choice award in the competition. Staff photo by Murray Judson



The Artisanry booth, featuring Turkish towels and linens, is put back together on the morning of Saturday, Oct. 16, on the SandFest grounds after the booth was damaged by wind the previous night. Many other vendors' booths also were knocked down by brisk winds that night, delaying the opening of the SandFest grounds by about 90 minutes Saturday morning. The pictured booth was run by Imen Jouini, right, of Boerne. Her husband, Sayf Jouini, is at center. At left is Portland resident Roy Burnett, a friend who was helping out. Staff photo by Lee Harrison

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