

Dixon Shrimp Farmer hosts Annual Shrimp Festival

By Connie Erisman

If one delights in fresh shrimp to satisfy the taste buds then Dixon Missouri is the place to be! What began as a curious trip to investigate shrimp farming has now turned in to 15 years of successfully stocking, growing, feeding and harvesting tasty fresh water shrimp. Paul Smith not only has been fulfilling his dream to raise and harvest shrimp on his 50 plus acre farm in Dixon, he enjoys providing an annual day of fun for the entire family!

A Shrimp Festival is scheduled annually for early September at the Show-Me Shrimp Farm located at 15720 Conway Road. To be exact it always occurs the weekend after Labor Day! It is an all day event beginning at 9:00 a.m., with free admission, rain or shine.

Shrimp farmer, Paul Smith, invites everyone out to this one of a kind festival that has become a Dixon tradition!

Pondside sales of Freshwater Prawns starts around 9:00 a.m. These prawns have been raised in well water with no hormones, chemicals or pesticides being used. Shrimp usually sell at \$10.00 lb. Paul raises 10,000-15,000 each year as conditions provide. A September harvest is planned.

A full day of additional activities are scheduled along with the shrimpfest. Music, food, and happy hearts seem to go hand in hand! For up to date activities see Facebook page: show me shrimp.

Indeed, delicious shrimp plates served all day, horseshoe tourna-



ments, volleyball games, bounce house for the kids among other activities, to name a few, top off the already festive day of harvesting! A new grass 600 ft long landing strip is available for STOL airplanes. Some clients will be flying in to enjoy the festivities.

A 20'x30' stage accommodates the entertainers and sound system. The echos of fun can be heard throughout the farm!

Music entertainment is provided for everyone's enjoyment. Guests may bring camping gear and stay the night at no cost.

A wine tasting station tops off the festivities.

"Please keep in mind that we do reserve the right to have limits on these shrimp as we want as many people as possible to have a chance to see just how good fresh shrimp taste," stated Smith.

When talking with Paul about his operation he proudly explained that he buys all of his project lumber, steel and other supplies including food for the festivities locally. And he is very aware of the importance of recycling which he enjoys. Paul believes in hard work and is grateful for the community support he receives.

So grab your ice chest and your lawn chair and head out to the Show-Me Shrimp Farm each fall for a rare delicacy in mid-Missouri, "Home Grown Shrimp."

For more information you can call 417-664-2307, go to www.showmeshrimpfarms.com or check them out on facebook.

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