

# Sweet sights, sounds, aromas and tastes at Chilimania

Adapted from press release from Chilimania

There's a lot of fun to load on your plate in early September in Edgerton.

Not only will Chilimania, Edgerton's largest street festival, be held Saturday, Sept. 9, but also on Friday night, Sept. 8, the festival will host the second annual "Country Edge" from 6 p.m.-12 a.m., featuring country music star Keith Anderson.

Chilimania, of course, is full of fun festivities for the whole family, including the Chili Chase 5K/10K Fun Walk/Run, a massive chili cook-off competition, sizzling live music all day Saturday, featuring tributes to AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, and so much more.

Gates open at 10 a.m., Sept. 9 and close at midnight. All-day admission is \$8 per person, with kids under 12 free with an adult.

Tickets to Country Edge are \$8 per person, available at the gate only, with children 12 and under admitted free when supervised by an adult.

## About Chilimania

Chilimania has been growing bigger and better for nearly three decades. It all started as a small chili competition but now it's grown to one of the largest chili cook-offs in the Midwest. These folks are serious about their chili. An average of 50-60 cooks will be competing for the best chili at Chilimania and in the whole Midwest. Plus, festival attendees sample many varieties of chili from the cooks until it's all gone. Spoons up at 3 p.m....chili goes fast!

Chilimania was conceived as an event to unite and raise money for the Edgerton community. Over the past 28 years, more than \$155,000 has been given back through annual spring scholarships to Edgerton High

School students, Edgerton community donations, plus many Edgerton Student and Athletic Clubs. Between scholarships and donations to community groups, Chilimania donated more than \$19,000.

"I was part of the original chili crew with a big dream. I am proud to see that the vision is alive and stronger today," said Chilimania board member Bruce Morris. "It's great that Chilimania is an event that is looked forward to year after year by not only our locals but attendees from all over the Midwest."

The festival takes place in downtown Edgerton at the intersection of Canal and Henry streets, one block off the junction of Highways 51 and 59.

## Sizzling stage music

Once again, this year Chilimania boasts headline acts from Friday evening through all day and night Saturday.

"Edgerton will rock big time again this year and we added a Friday night for some rockin' country", said Chilimania Entertainment Coordinator Tom Reitz.

For Country Edge, headliner Keith Anderson will take the stage at 10 p.m. Anderson's debut CD, "Three Chord Country and American Rock & Roll," was certified Gold and garnered two Top 10 hits, "Pickin' Wildflowers," and "Every Time I Hear Your Name." This success prompted music trades Billboard and Radio & Records to name him country music's No. 1 New Male Artist of 2005 and the top new solo country artist of the year.

It wasn't just his music that was getting attention. Anderson was named one of People Magazine's "50 Hottest Bachelors."

Anderson's sophomore CD garnered the biggest hit of his career, "I Still Miss You," which peaked at No. 2.

Anderson has also co-

written hits for other artists, most notably "Lost In This Moment," the smash hit for Big & Rich, which garnered him a CMA and ACM Song of the Year nomination.

"Keith Anderson will be playing his big hits from numerous albums," said Country Edge's Casey Schmeling. "We are especially lucky to have landed this 'pro' act from Nashville for our second annual Country Edge."

The opening act for Country Edge will be Pink Houses at 7 p.m. This 11-piece band will entertain you with their high energy mix of music and show. You'll hear those favorite modern country songs as well as some great rock classics.

The Chilimania musical lineups begins with, yes, The Monday Morning Dixie Band and its upbeat Dixieland sounds.

"Monday Morning Dixie Band is the only band to play every year at Chilimania and we're honored to have them back," said Morris. "I don't know what the event would be like without them playing in the background as the cooks are getting their chili ready in the morning."

At 2 p.m., Unity the Band performs its brand of roots and reggae. Kai "Pita" Katobalavu, the band's lead singer, was born in Suva City, the capital of the Fiji Islands. In 2002, he moved to Wisconsin. Here, he found fertile ground where he could share his original reggae with a new audience.

At 5:30 p.m., you can experience "Kashmir - The Led Zeppelin Show." Kashmir performs Led Zeppelin's entire catalog including, but not limited to, Led Zeppelin's movie The Song Remains The Same. A Kashmir show is kind of like a Led Zeppelin convention where friends come together to share stories and experiences relating to Led Zeppelin.

Headlining Chilimania at 9:30 p.m. will be Back in Black, a tribute band that presents an incredible, exciting, high-energy reproduction of a concert performance of AC/DC.

All the members of Back in Black live in Dallas/Fort Worth area and are experienced musicians not only dedicated

to the sound and look, but also capturing the power and excitement of AC/DC. Back in Black was one of the first tribute bands chosen by Live Nation/CBS Radio to tour all the House of Blues. In 2013 they were featured on AXS TV "World's Greatest Tribute Bands."

## Chili Chase 5K/10K

Chilimania is once again featuring its Chili Chase, a 5K/10K Fun Run/Walk. Note the addition of the new 10K run. Both runs are timed events for the serious runners. Medals will be awarded for various age brackets and more. Participants meet at 7 a.m. on Saturday at 121 N. Henry St.

The event begins with a costume contest and crowning of the 2017 pet mascot. Runners are off at 8 a.m. and wind around the streets of Edgerton. Although costumes are not required, this race attracts enthusiasts dressed as chili peppers, spoons and chefs - many with a "chili" dog by their side! All varieties of leashed pets are allowed at the Chili Chase.

Refreshments are served at the finish line. For those over 21 devotees, Chilimania Bloody Beers will be served inside the gates of Chilimania until 9:45 a.m.

The individual entrance fee of \$30 can be made at Sara's Health and Fitness, 121 N. Henry St., or online at [www.tandhtiming.com](http://www.tandhtiming.com) before Aug. 7. After Aug. 7 it is \$40 per runner.

## Bloody Mary competition

Looking for something to do after the race and before the gates of Chilimania officially open? Walk around to 2 Brothers Pub and Grill at 116 W. Fulton St. Area bars will compete at 10 a.m. for the Best Bloody Mary title.

## Salsa competition

A salsa contest is held from noon to 1 p.m.

"Registered cooks are welcome to bring their homemade salsa for a blind judging event which will be scored by a select panel of judges just like the Chili event," said Chilimania President, Dave Luellwitz.

Bring your salsa to the



Sometimes it's as much about the costumes and booth themes as it is about the chili. The chili chefs typically go all in regarding both aspects of the street festival. (File photo)

chili judging tent at noon.

## All chili welcome!

For the 21st year, Chilimania has the honor of being an official Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI) event and hosting a CASI-sanctioned chili grind cook-off, while simultaneously offering a traditional (open) chili cook-off.

Passionate chili cooks throughout the Midwest and as far away as Texas make the journey to Edgerton to cook up their secret recipes and compete for top prizes in both categories. Chilimania is a proud host to the 2017 Wisconsin State Championship CASI Cook-Off during the festival - something they have done since 1998.

Cooks may enter either contest, or both, for one \$30 entry fee. The street festival opens to cooks at 7 a.m. with a cook's meeting at 10 a.m.

"We've done this chili contest many years but we always view it as a tremendous opportunity for Edgerton," said Luellwitz. "It provides a ton of fabulous chili and salsa to taste and many great

booths for our scores of visitors to experience throughout the day."

## Free chili tasting

The chili tasting, which is free to all attendees, begins at 3 p.m. After paying for admission, simply pick up a free chili tasting cup from various locations throughout the festival grounds at or after 3 p.m. You will then be allowed to sample as many chili flavors as your palette can handle, while quantities last.

## More stuff to do

Beyond chili, there are plenty of activities for kids with a bouncy house and a variety of other children's games running from noon to 5 p.m.

## Parking

Additional parking is once again available this year for fest-goers. Parking will be available at Central Park on Highway 51. In addition, a designated motorcycle parking lot will be available.

For more information on Chilimania, visit [chilimania.com](http://chilimania.com) or [facebook.com/Chilimania](https://www.facebook.com/Chilimania).



The Chili Chase 5K/10K offers fun for all ages - and species. (File photo)

# Anglers flock to Indianford Dam

By Jeff Brown  
Reprint from previous Lakes Edition

The Indianford Dam blocks the migration of fish from the Rock River into Lake Koshkonong, stacking up schools of walleyes, sauger, northern pike, crappies, white bass, bluegills and attracting big channel cats.

That makes it a perennially popular spot with fishermen, who line the shore, stand along the dam and old brick hydro house, and anchor small boats in the rush of water beneath the dam.

They fish here night

and day, at all times of the year, using an array of gear that spans the history of angling: long brown cane poles, slick modern spinning outfits, even the occasional fly rod.

Finding a spot among the crowd of anglers from which to wet your line is the least of your worries, however.

The same current that pulls fish and bait food to the dam can wreak havoc with your tackle, pulling your lure down and snagging it under one of the rocks or on one of the sunken tree limbs that line the river bottom near the

dam. You'll lose less gear by casting downstream, below the dam towards Lake Koshkonong, than you will upstream above the dam.

The ten-mile stretch upstream of the dam that begins at the Centerway Dam in Janesville is less heavily fished than the area below the Indianford Dam and offers anglers opportunities to land good-sized fish as well.

Directions: From Stoughton and Edgerton area, take U.S. Highway 51 south through Edgerton, cross the bridge over the Rock River, then turn west on County Road M

and go until you reach Indianford, the dam is on your left. From the Janesville area, take U.S. Highway 51 north towards Edgerton, then turn west on County Road M and go into Indianford.

From the Milton area: Take County Road M west to U.S. Highway 51 and turn north on U.S. Highway 51. Go a short distance, turn west on the continuance of County Road M and go into Indianford. From the Evansville area: go east on County Road M and take it all the way into Indianford; the dam is on your right.