



## April 2019

**April 3-7, 2019**, North Carolina Azalea Festival at Wilmington, Inc., Wilmington, NC, [www.ncazaleafestival.org](http://www.ncazaleafestival.org)

Founded in 1948, the North Carolina Azalea Festival in Wilmington is the state's largest festival of its kind and considered a premier event. More than 300,000 people attend concerts, fairs and special events that make up the festival. Volunteers galore gather to make this event extraordinary from the Festival Parade and the three-day Street Fair to the home and garden tours and other entertainment. An award-winning event, the North Carolina Azalea Festival is expanding into neighboring counties and regions for the 2019 festival.

**April 4-13, 2019**, Clay County Agricultural Fair, Green Cove Springs, FL, [www.claycountyfair.org](http://www.claycountyfair.org)  
The Clay County Agricultural Fair offers lots of separate events all under one big overall event umbrella stretched over 10 days. Enjoy ag exhibits, educational exhibits, food vendors, arts and crafts vendors, national entertainment headliners, daily entertainment showcases, history exhibits, goat yoga and more. This year the theme is: "This is OUR fair" and a lot of folks are shouting about this event. The Big Idaho Potato Truck put the fair on their route and Carnival Eats (from the Cooking Channel) videoed for the upcoming season. Bring the whole family for great fun!

**April 4-13, 2019**, Come-See-Me Festival, Rock Hill, SC, [www.comeseeme.org](http://www.comeseeme.org)  
The 10-day Come-See-Me Festival showcases Rock Hill with music, sports, community activities and garden parties. Signature events include Beach Bash, Parade, Moonlight Jazz & Blues, Gourmet Gardens and Hops at the Park. Other consistent favorites are the Festival finale, the Come-See-Me Tailgate Party, Skydiving and Fireworks Extravaganza. Family-friendly activities are plentiful and include excitement the likes of the Mayor's Frog Jump, Teddy Bear Tea Party, Chalk on Main, Musical Mania, Sundaes with mascot Glen, Healthy Kids Zone and Everything Trucks. Enjoy local talent, compete in a 5k or 10k road race and see what new Vernon Grant-designed Glen the Frog logo graces the highly coveted souvenirs for 2019. Download the Come-See-Me app to your smartphone and make your way to one of the hottest festivals in the Southeast.

**April 5-7, 2019**, Summerville Family YMCA Flowertown Festival, Summerville, SC, <https://summervilleymca.org/flowertown-festival-2019/>

The Flowertown Festival is in its 47<sup>th</sup> year as a charity event established by the Summerville Family YMCA's founding organization in 1972 as its premiere fundraising event. This three-day weekend event entices visitors with color: hot pink azaleas, purple wisteria and delicate white dogwood. Additionally, the weekend offers a large arts and crafts festival with nearly 500 vendors from arts and crafts, businesses, non-profits, Farmer's Market and commercial food and beverages. Folks can expect music and a Children's Jubilee as well as food trucks, an air-conditioned hospitality tent and the highly anticipated HARIBO gummies.

**April 6, 2019**, Acadiana Po'boy Festival, Lafayette, LA, [www.acadianapoboyfestival.com/](http://www.acadianapoboyfestival.com/)

Each year on the first Saturday of April in Parc Sans Souci, the Acadiana Po'boy Festival celebrates the legacy of the Po'boy sandwich as well as promoting the culture and hospitality of Acadiana through food, music and fun. Held in historic downtown Lafayette, the festival hosts over 25 Po'boy vendors as well as beverages, arts and crafts, kids' activities and live entertainment. Sample inexpensive \$3 Po'boy bites and shop local.

**April 12-14, 2019**, Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC, [www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net/](http://www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net/)

Attracting over 10,000 folks from near and far, the Loch Norman Highland Games is a weekend-long event featuring more than 50 family clans, a variety of Scottish dancing performances and music highlighting the rich history and ancestry of Scotland. Feeling particularly strong? Try your hand at flipping telephone-sized poles, throwing weighted stones, hammers, sacks of straw, long bows and battle axes. Kids will love the space created just for them and grownups can partake in whiskey and food tastings and enjoy historic reenactments. Also noteworthy, the Loch Norman Highland Games is host to the Carolinas Open Highland Dancing Championships (one of six sanctioned championships held across the nation).

**April 12-14, 2019**, Original Downtown Lake Charles Crawfish Festival, Lake Charles, LA, [www.downtowncrawfest.com](http://www.downtowncrawfest.com)

Come one come all! The Original Downtown Lake Charles Crawfish Festival offers activities for all ages with food, music and a wealth of entertainment. There will be carnival rides, a downtown parade, live entertainment, a pageant, food vendors, a crawfish eating contest and more than 10,000 pounds of crawfish at the festival held at the Lake Charles Civic Center. A Crawfish Scoot 5k Run/Walk has been added for 2019.

**April 12-May 3, 2019**, Kentucky Derby Festival, Louisville, KY, [www.kdf.org](http://www.kdf.org)

Kentucky Derby lovers will delight in this festival of the same name. Celebrated across an almost month-long stretch, the Derby Festival is to community celebrations what the Run for the Roses is to horse racing. A premiere and award-winning event, the Derby Festival generates more than \$127 million annually for the local economy with festival events particularly raising more than half a million dollars for area charities annually. Don't miss the 2019 Derby Festival kick-off on April 13<sup>th</sup> with Thunder Over Louisville fireworks extravaganza. Guests will enjoy a myriad of activities ranging from sports (basketball, volleyball and golf) to music, kids' activities, a half and full marathon, a cycling event, hot-air balloons, live bed racing, the Great Steamboat Race, the Republic Bank Pegasus Parade and so much more. Bring the family for affordable good times.

**April 13, 2019**, Lewisburg Chocolate Festival, Lewisburg, WV, [www.lewisburgchocolatefestival.com/](http://www.lewisburgchocolatefestival.com/)

Celebrating all things chocolate, attendees of the Lewisburg Chocolate Festival will sample sweet treats while strolling through the streets of town. Check out chef demonstrations, live music, face-painting and more as the mayor joins in dressing up as the beloved Willy Wonka. Family-friendly and growing each year, this festival is a benefit for the United Way of Greenbrier Valley.

**April 13, 2019**, North Carolina Pickle Festival, Mount Olive, NC, [www.ncpicklefest.org](http://www.ncpicklefest.org)  
Bring the whole gang to Mount Olive for the annual North Carolina Pickle Festival! Enjoy a family-friendly atmosphere with a roaming eight-foot pickle named Ollie Q. Cucumber, free Mount Olive Pickles, pickle foods, Pickle Packing Production Challenge, Pickle Eating contest, Pickle Derby, Mascot Race, 5k Cuke Patch, 75-mile Tour de Pickle Bicycle Ride, entertainment, classic car show, antique tractor show, helicopter rides and other roving artists. This year brings a partnership with Seymour Johnson Air Force Base and an appropriate military pickle theme— Pickles and Planes.

**April 13-14, 2019**, Perry Dogwood Festival, Perry, GA, [www.perrygachamber.com/perry-dogwood-festival](http://www.perrygachamber.com/perry-dogwood-festival)

Come celebrate the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the Perry Dogwood Festival featuring the Arts and Crafts Show and Ultimate Air Dogs in historic downtown Perry. This year brings even more unique vendors selling one-of-a-kind creations as well as live music and high-flying canine action on Main Street. The Hot Air Balloon Rally at the Georgia National Fairgrounds is not to be missed with tethered rides available. Coolers are welcome and festival-style food will be sold on-site. There's a kids' zone too, so bring the family!

**April 20, 2019**, Weeki Wachee Water Egg Hunt, Weeki Wachee, FL, [www.WeekiWachee.com](http://www.WeekiWachee.com)  
Looking for a creative egg hunt this year? This is it! The annual Water Egg Hunt takes place at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park, so grab the kids, their baskets, a bathing suit and head on over. Egg hunts are done by age group with some taking place at the kiddie pool and some at the beach. Children can trade their eggs for candy, splash in crystal clear springs and see mermaids perform live at Florida's only spring-fed waterpark. This year the park is undergoing renovations that will greatly enhance the visitor experience, and it will be completed by April.

**April 24-27, 2019**, Spring AQS QuiltWeek, Paducah, KY, [www.quiltweek.com/locations/spring-paducah/](http://www.quiltweek.com/locations/spring-paducah/)

The original AQS QuiltWeek - Paducah event brings the world of quilting to quilting to Quilt City USA® with exhibits featuring the most exquisite quilts being created today, AQS Contest quilts and diverse special exhibitions. This year is the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for AQS QuiltWeek and it will be celebrated with stunning exhibits from the corners of the world including: The 14th Quilt Nihon Exhibition, featuring prizewinning quilts from Japan; Quilts of Valor Service Recognition Exhibit; Desedamas – Spain, dynamic quilts by Cecilia & Merce González; and Cherrywood Challenge 2018: Prince Tribute, all the pieces in this collection are created with Cherrywood Hand-Dyed Fabric and artists took inspiration from the late musician, Prince. Also noteworthy, there will be workshops and lectures with world-class instructors, merchant malls and quilt-related events community-wide.

**April 24-28, 2019**, Beaufort Wine and Food, Beaufort, NC, [www.beaufortwineandfood.com](http://www.beaufortwineandfood.com)  
One of Eastern NC's premier culinary events, Beaufort Wine and Food (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) has raised more than \$700,000 for charities and non-profits since 2004. The annual five-day event heads into its 15<sup>th</sup> year offering a wide range of experiences from intimate wine dinners to the crowd favorite Vin de Mer, where guests are fully-engaged in a culinary tour de force with over 300 wine labels and lots of local/regional cuisine. Nationally-recognized talent attracts lots of attendees and allows for more opportunities to expand successful events like the Grand Reserve Tasting & Auction as well as the Historic Wine Walkabout. Beaufort Wine and Food also features three select wines to showcase under their private label.

**April 24-28, 2019**, Festival International de Louisiane, Lafayette, LA,  
<https://festivalinternational.org/>

Festival goers from all around come each April to celebrate the uniqueness of Lafayette through music. Festival International de Louisiane is the largest non-ticketed outdoor Francophone festival in the country offering connections between Acadiana and the Francophone world. Expect to see hundreds of performing and visual artists from 15 countries in addition to local talent on seven stages across the downtown area over five days. Added excitement includes street performers, international cuisine, chat room tent, Sunday French Mass and new merchandise.

**April 25-28, 2019**, Vidalia Onion Festival, Vidalia, GA, [www.vidaliaonionfestival.com/](http://www.vidaliaonionfestival.com/)

Each spring brings the anticipated harvest of Georgia's Official State Vegetable, the internationally known Vidalia Sweet Onion, celebrated through the Vidalia Onion Festival. Featured on The Food Network and recognized as one of Five Don't-Miss Festivals Across the U.S. by MSNBC, the four-day event offers everything from a baseball tournament and the Miss Vidalia Onion Pageant to the Vidalia Onion Culinary Extravaganza. Enjoy the Children's Parade, Movie Under the Stars, Opening Ceremonies with a Street Dance and fireworks as well as the arts and crafts show, carnival, sidewalk sales, "Tales from the Altamaha" folk-like play and the famous onion-eating contest. Take a cooking class, hear some music, watch some youth and adult ball tournaments and take it all in.

**April 26-27, 2019**, GypsyMoon Marketplace, Bowling Green, KY,  
[www.gypsymoonmarketplace.com](http://www.gypsymoonmarketplace.com)

GypsyMoon Marketplace is a multi-day barn sale held twice a year (April and November) at Highland Stables—a converted horse barn now hosting year-round weddings. A fun tourism draw for Bowling Green, GypsyMoon Marketplace offers vendors, music, food, workshops and more. Enjoy shopping for homemade/handmade items, vintage treasures, original art, home décor, gifts, funky junk, photography, jewelry, clothing and so much more.

**April 26-28, 2019**, Panoply Arts Festival, Huntsville, AL, [www.artshuntsville.org/panoply-arts-festival/](http://www.artshuntsville.org/panoply-arts-festival/)

Downtown Huntsville's Big Spring Park comes alive in late April as the Southeast's premier arts weekend brings a festival of art, music and more with a three-day Panoply Arts Festival featuring a juried Art Marketplace (showcasing almost 100 professional visual artists from across the nation), STEAM interactive activities, community art projects and over 50 state performances as well as an Arts Alive showcase tent. The signature event for Huntsville-Madison County will incorporate a celebration of the bicentennial and the Apollo 11 moon landing in 2019.

**April 27, 2019**, Boulder Dash 5k/10k Race, Cumming, GA, <http://boulderdash5k.com>  
Join the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boulder Dash 5k/10k Race this year where lots of new and exciting family activities are sure to delight. The unique course winds through an active quarry, offering participants great views as well as a flurry of fun at the finish line with the Bluegrass Spring Fling awaiting. With a nod to healthy lifestyles, the 2019 Boulder Dash celebrates spring in a dino-mite way!

**April 28, 2019**, Blessing of the Fleet and Seafood Festival, Mt. Pleasant, SC, <https://experiencemountpleasant.com/events/blessing-of-the-fleet/>  
The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Blessing of the Fleet and Seafood Festival presented by East Cooper Medical Center and Harris Teeter pays tribute to Mount Pleasant's local shrimping and fishing industry with a boat parade, live music, craft show and other free activities centered around Ravenel Bridge and Charleston Harbor. Guests will enjoy local seafood and paying tribute to the fleet of fishing and shrimp boats in local waters.