

Begonia Festival Prepares to Take Flight Labor Day Weekend

Begonia Festival Post 8.28.09

Capitola will once again offer locals and visitors a reason to look forward to the end of summer when the annual Begonia Festival takes off Sept. 4 through Sept. 7. Filled with flowers, films, floats and fun, this year's event has a "Capitola Takes Flight" theme.

The festival opens Friday with a dusk showing at the beach of the family animated movie "Chicken Run." The film's story of chickens trying to fly sets the festival theme.

Saturday features the popular sand sculpture contest. Free registration begins at 8 a.m. — again at the beach — for five categories of contestants. Judging starts at noon.

A children's art exhibit opens at 9 a.m. on the Esplanade. That afternoon, dance to the Houserockers starting at 4 p.m. at the Esplanade bandstand, then stick around to watch "Superman," the 1978 film starring Christopher Reeve.

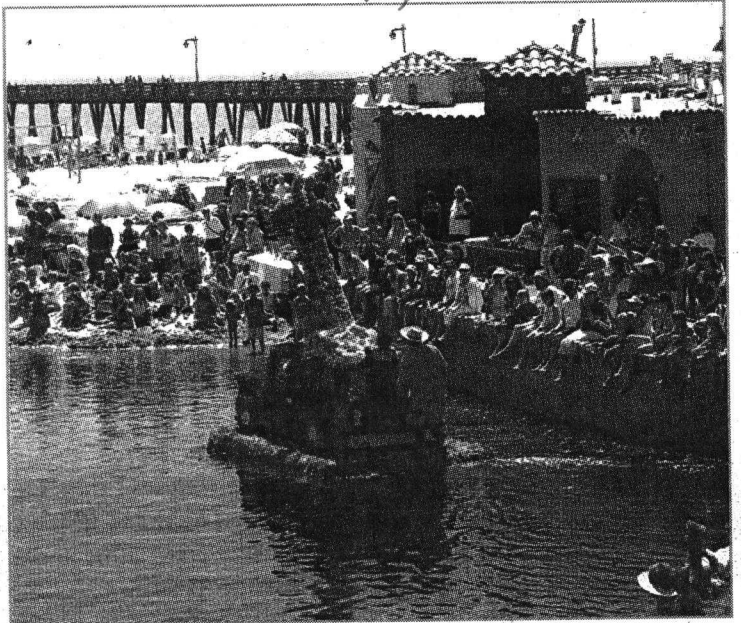
Flowers Float & Fly

Begonias take center stage on Sunday, with final float preparations, hat decorating at 11 a.m. and the nautical parade in the Soquel Creek lagoon at 1 p.m.

Eight teams have entered floats at press time.

Last year's grand prize winners, the Riverview Rascals, plan a biplane float. Their \$1,000 donation prize from 2008 went to Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Other entries are "CVRA Takes Off" by the Capitola Village Residents Association, "Big Bird & Friends" by Windmill House, "When Pigs Fly" by Cal Poly Alumni, "Precocious Paradise Pelican" by Casa Finkel, a dragonfly by Up the Creek Gang, a rocket car by



Floats from last year's Begonia Festival.

Best Buy Soquel and My Thai Beach's "A Rather Royal Barge."

Nautical parade chair Laurie Hill said teams often welcome some extra last-minute hands.

"Even if you didn't plan to build a float, you can come down and help put on some flowers," she said.

Mike Hadley and the Groove will finish the day with

a concert at 4 p.m. at the Esplanade Bandstand.

The festival returns to the lagoon with Monday's fishing derby for early risers, starting at 6 a.m.

At 11 a.m., children can head to the Esplanade to create art. Registration for the rowboat races begins at noon by the Stockton Bridge, with races starting at 1 p.m. — boats provided. ■

Capitola's Birthday Celebration Ends with a Blast

Incorporated in 1949, the city of Capitola has been celebrating its 60th birthday this year. The birthday remembers the date the city was first incorporated, while the village can trace its roots to the 1800s.

The festivities wrap up Sept. 2 with the final twilight music concert, followed by a fireworks display.

The celebration began in May, when Capitola Village hosted a weekend of family events and the mall served birthday cake. The final

activities also have a local flair.

The Digbeats will kick off the Wednesday evening with live music starting at 6 p.m. Then at about 8:30 p.m., fireworks, courtesy of Devcon Construction and Redtree Properties will light the sky from the Capitola Wharf.

Anyone can join in the free fun by bringing a blanket or low beach chairs to sit on the sand, listen to the concert and enjoy the fireworks extravaganza. ■