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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Clam It Up at Cedar Key's CLAMERICA Celebration on 4<sup>th</sup> of July**  
***A Celebration of Cedar Key Farm-Raised Clams***

CEDAR KEY (April 21, 2010)--Cedar Key, Florida Cedar Key, Florida will be exploding on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> when the 7th annual CLAMERICA Celebration brings thousands of clam lovers to this island community to enjoy their sweet and savory farm-raised clams. Sponsored by the Cedar Key Aquaculture Association, the day will be filled with fun, food, and events for the whole family from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the City Park and Beach on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, so bring your blankets and lawn chairs and relax. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday this year, the Celebration will begin with a blessing of our clams, city, community, and country at 10:30 am.

Cedar Key, located on Florida's west coast, is a leading producer of farm-raised clams in the United States with over 130 million clams harvested annually from the inshore waters surrounding the keys. This festival is an opportunity to celebrate the new industry, as well as the country's birthday. Cedar Key farm-raised clams are featured on the menu and will be served in a variety of ways by community organizations. There will be steamed clams, clams-on-the-half-shell, clam chowder, and clam fritters for all of you clam lovers. Other local seafood served will include smoked mullet, crab cakes, and fried shrimp. For landlubbers, there will be hamburgers, hot dogs, corn-on-the-cob, watermelon, root beer floats, ice cream, and more.

The festival will open with a children's bicycle parade and flag raising ceremony by the Tri-County Marine Corps League at 11:30 a.m. CLAMANIA events will be held throughout the day – all of which are free. Prizes abound for clam bag races, a clam harvest-hunt, clam raceways, guess the clam count, clam lease (greased) pole, and a host of other children's activities. A featured event again this year is a Shellfish Sand Sculpture to be created by Suzanne Altamare, a World Champion and Grand Master Sand Sculptor from Daytona Beach ([www.justplainsand.com](http://www.justplainsand.com)). Suzanne will also provide sand sculpting tips prior to the amateur sand 'n shell contest. The 7th annual Cultured Clam Cook-off will showcase a variety of clam recipes including local favorites, along with clam cooking and shucking demonstrations. Another popular event is the Clam Challenge for restaurateurs, during which the public is invited to taste and assist a panel of judges in selecting the best dish. There's also a kayak race, golf cart parade and clam farming exhibits. Continuous live music will be provided, featuring Flash Point, and introducing Matt Lawrence from Starke, a Hollywood Week contestant in this year's American Idol.

For the third year in a row, our Celebration was selected by the Southeastern Tourism Society as a Top 20 Event for the month of July (see [www.southeasttourism.org](http://www.southeasttourism.org))! For more information, please call (352) 543-6346 or 543-5057, or visit the website, [www.cedarkey.org](http://www.cedarkey.org). At dusk, the City of Cedar Key will host the fireworks display. **Come clam out in Cedar Key!**