

Cajun Crazy



Spring Convention Patterson, Louisiana

Patterson Area Civic Center April 17-23, 2020

Ca•jun / key-juh n / adj.
relating to the Cajuns,
especially with reference
to their folk music (typically
featuring the concertina,
accordion, and fiddle) or
spicy cuisine.

The Cajun Coast is a sampler of everything Louisiana offers, in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere that is the heart of Cajun hospitality.

The past and present have contributed to a fascinating cultural mix of French, Spanish, English, African, Native American, and Cajun traditions with rich and flavorful food, music, art, and history.

St. Mary Parish

With a population of over 53,000 and 700 square miles of land is located in the Bayou Teche region of Cajun Country between New Orleans/Baton Rouge (90 minutes

to the east) and Lafayette (60 minutes to the west) via Hwy. 90. It consists of five municipalities: Morgan City, Franklin, Berwick, Baldwin, Patterson, and the Sovereign Nation of the Chitimacha. The economic lifeblood is agriculture, seafood, and the oil industry.

We invite you to stroll a 19th century boulevard of cast iron street lamps and moss-covered oaks in the heart of a community with many properties of which are listed on the National Register.

Explore the exotic beauty of the Atchafalaya on a swamp tour. Visit museums,

antebellum homes, plantations, and historic communities. Play the Atchafalaya Golf Course at Idlewild (adjacent to the Convention site), named to *Golf Digest's* Top 10 Best Louisiana Courses 2013 and *Golfweek's* Best Courses You Can Play in 2012. Whatever your interests, you will find St. Mary Parish is the perfect place to experience Louisiana adventure.

Come to the Cajun Coast and immerse yourself in what *National Geographic* called this "hauntingly beautiful land" for a taste of the real Louisiana.

Convention Highlights

- Six nights of camping with water and 30 or 50 amp service, Friday through Wednesday night, dump station available
- Come early for Wednesday and Thursday for only \$20 a night
- 18-24 hours of tech sessions
- 12-19 hours of non-technical sessions
- Vendors, Vendors, Vendors...
- Three ice cream socials
- Two catered dinners
- Two Lunches
- Daily Coffee Hour and Book Exchange
- Hot waffles daily and one egg breakfast
- Zydeco Ladies Luncheon
- Gumbo Cook-Off!
- Early Bird Horseshoe Competition
- GMC Parts Exchange, Craft & Flea Market
- Vintage GMC/MH Show "Open House"
- Weighing of the Coaches
- Participate in the Sunday Worship Service Choir
- Pineblock Derby – don't forget your racer!
- The popular raffle for \$1,000 in cash, free convention fees for two, plus many more items.

PLUS...



**DAILY
DOOR PRIZES**

The Amenities

>> Patterson Area Civic Center

Physical address:
116 Cotton Rd, Patterson, LA 70392
Lon: -91.290475, Lat: 29.677687

Mailing address:
PO Box 148, Patterson, LA 70392

>> Campground Amenities

- Beautiful buildings and grounds
- All sites have water and electric
- Dumpstation available
- Comfort station with restrooms and showers

Vendor Area

A designated outdoor vendor area will be available near the main building for your shopping convenience. Vendors are supplied with a large free-standing "Vendor" sign.

>> Weighing of the Coaches Clinic

Ever wondered what your loaded GMC weighs? Here is your opportunity to find out. Prior to weighing, your front and rear ride heights at four points will be recorded. During the weighing all six wheels of your coach will be independently weighed – two at a time.

>> GMC Parts Exchange, Craft & Flea Market

Bring those no longer needed GMCMI items to sell on Sunday afternoon! Also, we enjoy seeing and purchasing those lovely things you make.

>> GMC Motorhome Open House

Tour and enjoy seeing original and updated GMC Motorhomes. The tour will follow the Parts, Craft, and Flea Market on Sunday.

>> Request for Tech Presenters

What is that one thing that you may wish to share? Here is your opportunity! The Mini-Tech Sessions consist of 15-20 minute tech/informational sessions that feature one thing that the presenter wishes to share. Need more time than 15-20 minutes, not a problem. Contact Kim for more information.



>> Request for General Sessions

We have a couple of sessions open, just in case you have an idea or session you would wish to lead, contact Kim today! Possible items:

- Cooking
- Smart Phone
- Crafts
- Nutrition
- Genealogy
- Travel
- Tech for Ladies
- Health Issues

PINEBLOCK Derby Kit

Order your kit on the Convention registration form for the Clinic (pickup on arrival) or build your derby racer at home. Only \$20 each with free shipping.

Order at:
thegmcmhstore.com



>> Convention T-shirt

Above is the featured t-shirt for the Spring Convention. Thank you Byron Songer for another great design. Order yours on the Convention registration form.

>> "The Shed"

All attendees are invited for a fun session of craft projects, cards, socializing, and so much more! Are you working on a project...come work on it and share. For more information contact Kim.

>> BOOKWORMS & their diet

Remember to bring your books, tapes, and dvds for the Book Exchange table. Also, bring your favorite book and share it at the "Bookworms and their Diet" session. Previous lists are available at gmcmi.com/community-book-list/.



>> Convention Volunteers

Volunteers welcome at the Convention! Helping with coffee/breakfast, luncheon, etc. – or an event of your own that you would like to lead. Contact Kim today!

>> Early Bird Horseshoe Tournament

Come early and participate in the Early Bird Horseshoe Tournament on Thursday, April 16 at 2:30 pm. Prizes will be awarded.

Pineblock Derby

Get those GMC racers ready for the GMCMI Pineblock Derby!

For updated GMCMI Pineblock Derby Rules go to gmcmi.com/gmcmi-pineblock-derby/.

Those of you who have made additional GMC racers, please do bring them so that others can race them. Thank you!

>> Vendors, Vendors, Vendors

This is your opportunity to view all of the great innovations that our GMC Motorhome vendors have for us. Show your appreciation by purchasing those much needed items.

Place your orders today with Alex Sirum GMC and pick them up at the Convention – no shipping charge!

>> Worship Service

We invite you to join the choir for Sunday's service. Rehearsal is at 1:00 pm on Friday, April 17. We are also looking for a volunteer to direct the choir. Play the piano or other instrument? We welcome all to participate. We can supply the keyboard if needed. Please contact Kim for more information.

>> Fred & Diane Dugger Memorial Food Drive

Please bring non-perishable food items and paper products which will be donated to a local charity.



zydeco Luncheon

Ladies slip on your Zydeco shoes, grab your hat, and join the Ladies of GMCMI for lunch and a multi-dimensional, knock-your-socks-off tour of the spicy spectrum of Cajun culture...a way that celebrates living!

What goes best with shoes...socks!

We ask that you bring a pair of socks (any size) to be donated to a local charity. Thank you.



>> Crafts

Back by popular demand – fleece projects such as blankets, dog beds, and child car seat covers. We are looking for additional crafts for the Convention. Have an idea? Please call Kim.

>> Updates

The GMCMI website will provide seminar, vendor, schedule confirmations/additions and other pertinent updates. Go to gmcmi.com.

Unable to Attend Entire Convention

Not a problem!

Contact Kim for additional information.

zy•de•co / zahy-di-koh / n.
popular music of southern Louisiana that combines tunes of French origin with elements of Caribbean music and the blues and that features guitar, washboard, and accordion.



Monday, April 20 | 12:00 pm

>> CPR/AED Certification & Recertification Class

Two years ago at the Spring Convention in Tucson, Arizona, GMCMI held classes where members became certified to operate the GMCMI defibrillator. Recertification is required every two years. We have made arrangements for training at Patterson. It will be held on Friday, April 17 at 8:00 am. GMCMI will subsidize a portion of the fee for those who participate. To attend the class, simply check the box on the registration form and pay only \$25 per person!



Things to See & Do

>> Patterson

- **Louisiana State Wedell-Williams Aviation & Cypress Sawmill Foundation Museum**
Visit the new exhibit "From Berwick Bay to Etouffee: Shrimping in Louisiana" (next door)

• Captain Cavair Swamp Tours

Discover the beauty and tranquility of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area – a federally designated area that is filled with winding bayous, rivers, and a large Cypress swamp. (across the street)

>> Berwick (7 miles)

• Brown House – Berwick's Heritage Museum

The Brown House was built in 1893 and donated to the town of Berwick by Dewey Brown and his wife, Wilhelmina "Billie" Diboll Brown around 1970.

>> Morgan City (8 miles)

• Diving & ROV Historical Preservation

Diving & ROV equipment on display showing the preservation and history.

• Great Wall

Located along the Atchafalaya River in Morgan City and Berwick, the "Great Wall" stands 21 feet.

• International Petroleum Museum & Exposition

Visit "Mr. Charlie" the only place in the world where the general public can walk aboard an authentic offshore drilling rig. Learn about the oil industry, past and present, the functions of the oil rig, and tales about the industry's beginnings.

• Morgan City Historic District

Includes unique shops and restaurants and is close to several attractions within the historic district. Morgan City's historic district is also home to splendid churches ranging from the 1870s to the early 1900s.

>> Franklin (15 miles)

• Franklin Historic District

On the National Register of Historic Places, the District boasts more than 420 noteworthy structures. Stunning antebellum homes under a live oak arcade, charming Victorian cottages and a late 19th-century downtown shopping district all contribute to the romance and elegance of this jewel of the Bayou Teche. A walking tour is a must for lovers of historic architecture and those looking for the authentic Old South.

• Young-Sanders Center

The Center for the Study of the War Between the States in Louisiana. A research library museum.



For additional information visit:
cajuncoast.com.

GUMBO COOK-OFF

Cooks Wanted!

Enter Your Favorite Style...
mild, spicy, bean, hot, chicken,
beef, seafood, vegetarian

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 | NOON

Sign up on the registration
form and get more details.
For more information
email kimweeksgmc@gmcmi.com

Awards Presented for
**BEST GUMBO &
BEST TABLE DECOR**

**We can not have a
Gumbo Cookoff without Gumbo...**
*enter as a GMC chapter, group,
or individual. No entry fee.
Open to all Convention attendees.*

GMCMI will be providing rice
for the gumbo and \$30
to each gumbo entry to assist
in the cost of the gumbo.

gum•bo / guhm-boh / n.
primarily of a strongly-flavored
stock, meat or shellfish, a
thickener, and what Louisianians
call the "Holy Trinity" of
vegetables, namely celery,
bell peppers, and onions.
Gumbo is often categorized
by the type of thickener
used, whether okra or filé
powder (dried and ground
sassafras leaves).

the schedule TENTATIVE THAT IS...

WED. | APRIL 15 | PRE-CONVENTION

1:00 pm Early Arrival & Registration

THURS. | APRIL 16 | PRE-CONVENTION

7:30 am Morning Coffee and Donuts
9:00 am Early Arrival & Registration
2:30 pm Early Bird Horseshoe Tournament
7:30 pm Ice Cream Social
8:00 pm Bingo (free cards, prizes awarded)

FRIDAY | APRIL 17

7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, & Waffles
8:00 am CPR Training (pre-registration
required)
9:00 am GMCMI Arrival & Registration
1:00 pm Choir Practice for Sunday Worship
Service
3:15 pm First-Timers Meeting – All Members
Welcome
5:15 pm Welcome Meeting
6:30 pm Catered Meal and Entertainment

SATURDAY | APRIL 18

7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles,
Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal,
Juice, & Fruit
8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
9:00 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
12:00 pm Gumbo Cook-Off!
1:00 pm Afternoon Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
7:30 pm Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY | APRIL 19

7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Bagels,
English Muffins, Oatmeal, Juice &
Fruit
7:30 am Egg Breakfast
8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
9:00 am Worship Service
10:15 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
1:15 pm GMC Parts Exchange, Craft &
Flea Market
3:00 pm GMC Motorhome Open House Tour

MONDAY | APRIL 20 | ZYDECO DAY

7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles,
Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal,
Juice, & Fruit
7:30 am Pineblock Derby Weigh-in
8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
9:00 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
12:00 pm "Zydeco Luncheon" for the Ladies
12:00 pm Chili for the Men
1:00 pm Afternoon Tech Sessions
3:00 pm "The Shed"
7:30 pm Ice Cream Social
8:00 pm Pineblock Derby Races

TUESDAY | APRIL 21 | MARDI GRAS!

7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles,
Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal,
Juice, & Fruit
8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
9:00 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
1:00 pm Afternoon Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
2:30 pm GMCMI Regional Member Meetings
3:45 pm Mardi Gras Parade! (pets welcome)
5:30 pm **Mardi Gras!** – catered meal and
entertainment

WEDNESDAY | APRIL 22

7:30 am Morning Coffee, Donuts, Waffles,
Bagels, English Muffins, Oatmeal,
Juice, & Fruit
8:30 am Announcements/Daily Drawings
9:00 am Morning Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
1:00 pm Afternoon Tech & Non-Tech Sessions
3:30 pm Membership Meeting, Awards,
GMCMI Raffle (meal to follow
Membership Meeting)

THURSDAY | APRIL 23

Noon Campground Checkout –
Convention Ends –
Have A Safe Trip Home!

The GMCMI Mardi Gras Parade & Celebration!

Tuesday, April 21

Bring your beads, masks, hats, feathers, and colorful clothing.
Decorate those wagons, build a float, and play those instruments.

Don't forget to dress up your pet for the parade!

How about your campground site...let's decorate and party!

