

German-American Society of Florida, Inc. (UGASF)

October, 2017

Oktoberfest time is upon us and every German Club is celebrating it one way or another. I have contacted every club president, and here are the ones that participated in the survey:

St. Augustine G.A.C.: Sept. 9 and Oct. 7. Contact: Helga at 904.377.9010

The Villages Oktoberfest Parade at Spanish Springs Town Square: Oct. 17. Contact: Kirk at 352.305.6533

West Central Florida G.A.C.: Sept. 23. Contact: Michael at 352.637. 2042

Sun City Center G.A.C.: Oct. 12. Contact: Fred at 813.938.4845

Spring Hill G.A.C.: Oct. 13. Contact: Lisa at 352.688.3744

Sarasota G.A.C.: Oct. 28. Contact: Brigitte at 941.371.7786

Marion County G.A.C.: Sept. 24. Contact: Oscar at 352.347.9812

Pinellas County G.A.C.: Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 6,7,13,14. Contact: Ilse at 727.527.6281

Central Florida G.A.C.: Oct. 7 and 28. Contact VanTam at 407.834.0574

Cape Coral G.A.C.: Oct. 20, 21, 23 and 27, 28, 29. Contact: 239.283.1400

Palm Beaches A.G.C.: Oct. 13, 14, 15 and 20, 21, 22. Contact: 561.967.6464

New Port Richey G.A.C.: Oct. 18. Contact: Christne at 727.938.7603

Treasure Coast G.A.C.: Oct 6, 7, 8. Contact: 727.337.0941

The Villages G.A.C.: Sept. 21. Contact: Ray at 352.205.1515

The Villages Deutscher Club: Sept. 21. Contact Kirk at 352.350.6533

Short history of Oktoberfest

Crown Prince Ludwig, later to become King Ludwig I, was married to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on 12th October 1810. The citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities held on the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the happy royal event. The fields have been named Theresienwiese ("Theresa's fields") in honor of the Crown Princess ever since, although the locals have since abbreviated the name simply to the "Wies'n".

Horse races in the presence of the Royal Family marked the close of the event that was celebrated as a festival for the whole of Bavaria. The decision to repeat the horse races in the subsequent year gave rise to the tradition of the Oktoberfest.

In 1811 an added feature to the horse races was the first Agricultural Show, designed to boost Bavarian agriculture. The horse races, which were the oldest and - at one time - the most popular event of the festival are no longer held today. But the Agricultural Show is still held every three years during the Oktoberfest on the southern part of the festival grounds.

In the first few decades the choice of amusements was sparse. The first carousel and two swings were set up in 1818. Visitors were able to quench their thirst at small beer stands which grew rapidly in number. In 1896 the beer stands were replaced by the first beer tents and halls set up by enterprising landlords with the backing of the breweries.

The remainder of the festival site was taken up by a fun-fair. The range of carousels etc. on offer was already increasing rapidly in the 1870s as the fairground trade continued to grow and develop in Germany.

Today, the Oktoberfest is the largest festival in the world, with an international flavor characteristic of the 21st century: some 6 million visitors from all around the world converge on the Oktoberfest each year.

And since the Oktoberfest is still held on the Theresienwiese, the locals still refer to the event simply as the "Wies'n". So "welcome to the Wies'n" means nothing other than "welcome to the Oktoberfest"!

On a sad note:

One of our directors, Henry Schaber passed on to the next world. Henry, you will be missed and our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

BreadVillage at: infobreadvillage.com has the real bred from Germany to your mail box in two days. Delicious.

