



1685 Jaggie Fox Way
Lexington, KY 40511
859-255-6592
www.godspantry.org



NEWS

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CONTACT:

Marian Guinn, God's Pantry Food Bank
(859) 288-5311 or marian@godspantry.org

Central Kentucky's Best Food and Drink Honored at the 2009 Taste of the Bluegrass

LEXINGTON, Ky. – The finest food and drinks in Central Kentucky were represented this past weekend at the 29th annual Taste of the Bluegrass, presented by God's Pantry Food Bank and the Kentucky Restaurant Association's Bluegrass Chapter. Winners were selected in nine categories in both a Judges' Best and a People's Choice vote.

This year's Judges' Best winners included a Best Entrée win for Sullivan University's bourbon riblets. Louisiana Passion took home Best Appetizer/Soup for its crawfish and shitake bisque. JW's Steak House won the Best Dessert award for its Kentucky butter cake with bourbon sauce and Sullivan University took home the Best Bread award for its sweet potato biscuits. Holly Hill Inn won Best Salad for its local asparagus with citrus glaze.

Coca-Cola V-10 Vitamin water was judged Best Non-Alcoholic Beverage, while Buffalo Trace took home the Best Liquor award for its bourbon. In the Best Beer category, Alltech's Lexington Brewing Company claimed a fourth straight award in the category, this year for its Kentucky Ale. Lovers Leap Vineyards rounded out the Judges' Best awards with a win in Best Wine for its Peach Bellini Chardonnay.

Judges for this year's contest included WTVQ-TV's Michelle Rauch, WLEX-TV's Kevin Christopher and Bill Meck, WKYT-TV's TG Shuck and Jennifer Nime Palumbo of WKY-TV. ClearChannel Lexington was represented by Gene Guinn, DeAnn Stephens from the Bull, WKQQ's Dennis "Dead Air" Dillon, Anthony Ridgeway, WLAP and Megan Glenn. Additional judges included: Robbie Clark, editor of the Chevy Chaser and The Southsider, Rhonda Reeves from Ace Weekly, Jack Pattie from WVLK-AM, Twitch from ZRock 103, John Wells, of Central Kentucky's Christian Radio and Kelli Patrick, editor, Skirt! Magazine rounded out the judging panel.

In the People's Choice vote, Louisiana Passion won for Best Appetizer, while Historic Boone Tavern took home the award for Best Entrée for its Creole spiced rubbed scallops over jalapeno creamed corn. Best Dessert went to JW's Steakhouse, while Great Harvest Bread won in the Best Bread category. Holly Hill Inn again took home Best Salad honors. The Best Alcoholic Beverage went to Lovers Leap Vineyards, and jon conti won Best Non-Alcoholic Beverage for its iced green tea.

Turf Catering was named the Best Decorated Food Booth and Southern Wine and Spirits, American Division earned Best Decorated Beverage Booth honors.

TJ Strong of Lexington was the winner of the door prize drawing this year, receiving gift certificates for dinner at Lexington's best restaurants.

More than 1,600 people attended this year's event, held at the Keene Barn and Entertainment Center at Keeneland. Next year's event is scheduled for May 28, 2010. Stay tuned to www.godspantry.org for more information.

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The mission of God's Pantry Food Bank is to reduce hunger in Kentucky through community cooperation making the best possible use of all available resources. We serve 50 counties of central and eastern Kentucky and distribute \$10 worth of food for every \$1 donated. Last year, God's Pantry Food Bank and its member agencies distributed more than 15.5 million pounds of groceries to more than 159,000 individuals. God's Pantry Food Bank is a member of Feeding America. Through community partnerships and distribution of food to 50,000 agencies, Feeding America collectively works to assure that people in need have access to a balanced diet. For more information visit us at <http://www.godspantry.org>/or www.feedingamerica.org.