

# OHIO SAUERKRAUT FESTIVAL HISTORY

The beginning in 1970... As the Waynesville Retail Merchants were planning to hold a sidewalk sale, it was suggested that a sauerkraut dinner be served as part of the event. With this decision, the Ohio Sauerkraut Festival was born.

That fall, on October 3, 1970, Waynesville hosted its first Sauerkraut Festival, serving 528 pounds of sauerkraut to approximately 1500 visitors. Entertainment included an antique car parade. German bands and folk dancers, checkers and spelling bee contests, and of course, prizes for the largest head of cabbage and the best homemade sauerkraut. Booths were set up on Main Street to sell kraut-containing foods (including sauerkraut ice cream), fall harvest, produce, and display the antiques, arts, and crafts of a few vendors.

Word of the high-quality food, entertainment, and crafts spread quickly and the Festival attracted crowds of approximately 4,000 in 1971 and 10,000 in 1972, the size of the Sauerkraut Festival brought it under the management of the Waynesville Area Chamber of Commerce. The Festival continued to attract even larger numbers of visitors, surpassing 40,000 in 1976. In the early 1980's the number of arts and crafts booths steadily increased, and the number of festival goers increased to an estimated 100,000 in 1982.

Today ... the Ohio Sauerkraut Festival serves 11 tons of sauerkraut and attracts approximately 350,000 visitors each year to browse among the over 450 craft booths and sample the offerings from more than 30 different food booths. It continues to be one of the top-quality festivals in the United States, attracting visitors and vendors from every state across the Nation.

## OHIO SAUERKRAUT FESTIVAL PAST CHAIRPERSONS

1968	<b>Don Hawke</b>	1992	<b>Roger Fenner</b>
1969	<b>Albert Stubbs</b>	1993	<b>Clyde Hale</b>
1970-1973	<b>William Stubbs</b>	1994	<b>Jeff Richards</b>
1974-1975	<b>Don Dunkin</b>	1995	<b>Dave Allen</b>
1976	<b>Dan Becker</b>	1996-1997	<b>Sally Smith</b>
1977	<b>Jack Estes</b>	1998-1999	<b>Barb Brannock &amp; Nancy Mowery</b>
1978	<b>Lee Snyder</b>	2000-2001	<b>Linda Jones</b>
1979	<b>Kay Emmons</b>	2002	<b>Bob Jones</b>
1980	<b>Paul Heffner</b>	2003-2006	<b>Ron Kronenberger</b>
1981	<b>Bill Brannock</b>	2007	<b>Linda Jones &amp; Kim Branson</b>
1982	<b>Reed Madden</b>	2008-2009	<b>Linda Jones, Kim Branson &amp; Ron Kronenberger</b>
1983	<b>John Lamm</b>	2010-2012	<b>Gus Edwards &amp; Ron Kronenberger</b>
1984	<b>Clyde Hale</b>	2013-2015	<b>Gus Edwards</b>
1985	<b>Phil Myers</b>	2016	<b>Linda Jones &amp; Lonnie Schear</b>
1986	<b>Fred Konen</b>	2017-2019	<b>Lonnie Schear</b>
1987	<b>Richard Hoppe</b>		
1988	<b>Lonnie Schear</b>		
1989	<b>Bob Jones</b>		
1990	<b>Fred Konen</b>		
1991	<b>Don Dunkin</b>		