



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WELLFLEET SPAT ANNOUNCES 2008 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Wellfleet, Mass...July 17, 2008) Wellfleet Shellfish Promotion And Tasting (SPAT, a non-profit organization, not the free-swimming larva) has a long history of promoting shellfishing traditions by supporting local businesses and helping area residents, awarding generous grants each year for educational projects. An annual scholarship is given to a Nauset Regional High School (NRHS) student who is interested in pursuing higher education. The 2008 winner, **Henry Valdez**, has been accepted to Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he plans to study culinary arts in the fall. He will receive \$2,500 each year for four years. To apply for a grant award or the NRHS scholarship, visit <http://www.wellfleetoysterfest.org/scholarships.html>.

Mark Your Calendar October 18–19, 2008

Eighth Annual OysterFest Celebrates Sustainable Bivalves and Green Initiatives

In tribute to Cape Cod's favorite sustainably farmed mollusks, each year, thousands of locals, visitors, couples, families, oyster experts and clam chowder lovers flock to the **Wellfleet OysterFest**. The 2008 two-day festival is set for **October 18-19** and promises the entertainment and excitement of an [oyster shuck-off contest](#), arts and crafts, delicious New England seafood fare, locally brewed beers, a road race and live music. A newly formed recycling committee will implement some eco-friendly initiatives including a shell recycling plan for leftover "empties."

Always Has Been and Will Be Naturally Green

Shellfish farming is one of the most sustainable forms of fishing and has been practiced in Wellfleet for over [200 years](#). The annual festival is not only a celebration of the beloved [local oysters](#) and littleneck clams, but also an appreciation of all that the little bivalves do for the environment. Since oysters and clams are farmed, the shellfishermen don't deplete any wild stocks and, each year, replenish the supply with fresh seed native to the area, just like an agricultural farm. Simple tools are used and the harvest is done by hand. As an added bonus, the mollusks are filter-feeders and actually clean the waters they live in as they go about their daily business. Farmers don't add anything to the water to help them grow: this is their natural state, **naturally green**.

Save the Shells!

With new recycling methods at this year's event (including sorting out number 1 and 2 plastics and returnables), used clam and oyster shells will be collected and given to the Wellfleet Shellfish Department to be redistributed in the harbor late next spring as culch. Culch creates natural habitat to nurture the next harvest by providing a bed for oyster and clam spawn, called [veliger](#), to adhere to and call home. If you're interested in joining the recycling committee for this year's OysterFest, please submit a volunteer application [here](#) or contact [Kathy Stetson](#).

For more information, visit the [Wellfleet OysterFest homepage](#). Sorry, **no pets** are allowed at the 'Fest. Contact [Nancy Civetta](#) for press inquiries and photo requests ONLY.

Wellfleet Shellfish Promotion And Tasting (SPAT)

Wellfleet Shellfish Promotion And Tasting is SPAT, a name that honors the oyster, which begins life as a free-swimming larva called spat. Wellfleet SPAT is a non-profit organization that fosters greater understanding of the town's shellfishing industry and the history and traditions of its aquaculture and wild fisheries, and is committed to enhancing the Town of Wellfleet and supporting its community. SPAT produces the annual Wellfleet OysterFest and proceeds support its educational mission, including a high school scholarship program and grants to people pursuing careers in shellfishing or those whose creative and educational work increases awareness of Wellfleet's shellfishery, an important part of our community life.

About Wellfleet OysterFest

The eighth annual Wellfleet OysterFest takes place the weekend after Columbus Day, Saturday and Sunday, October 18 and 19, 2008, in Wellfleet, Cape Cod, Mass. This two-day street party celebrates the town's famous oysters, clams and shellfishing traditions and brings together locals and visitors alike for a weekend full of hometown flavor and big time fun. There is something for everyone: local cuisine, arts and crafts, a road race, children's activities, cooking demonstrations, educational exhibits, walking tours, theatre, live music and the Oyster Shuck-Off competition. The 'Fest is made possible through collaboration with the Town of Wellfleet, the support of many generous area businesses and shellfishermen and women, a wonderful group of volunteers and, most importantly, the weekend's dedicated revelers. Entry is free. Parking is available at Town Pier, Cove Corner and Wellfleet Elementary School, which are short walks to the town center festivities. Additional parking is provided at designated ocean beach parking lots with free shuttle buses to town. Sorry, no pets allowed. Visit <http://www.wellfleetoysterfest.org> or call (508) 349-3499.