

# BILLY BOWLEGS FESTIVAL

FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA



*Fun for the Entire Family!*

**FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA**

**JUNE 3 — JUNE 11, 1978**

# ADULT TREASURE HUNT

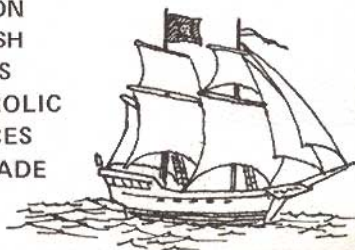
**\$500<sup>00</sup>**

CASH  
PRIZE

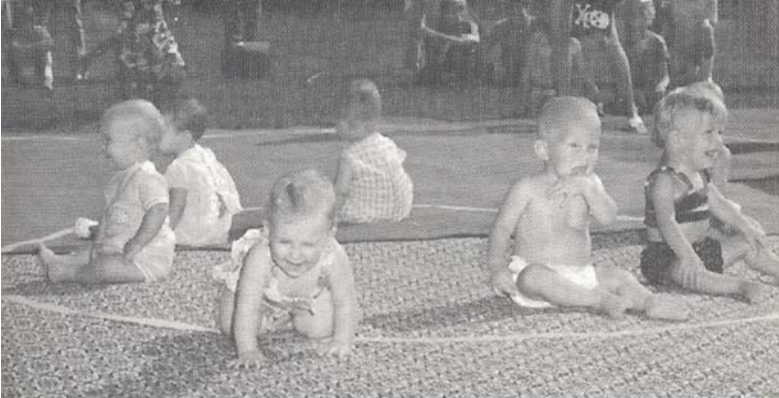


## *Festival Events*

- CHILDREN'S TREASURE HUNT
- BATTLE OF THE BANDS
- SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
- DOWNTOWN WINDOW CONTEST
- SKATEBOARD SLALOM
- CHESS TOURNAMENT
- ART SHOW IN THE MALL
- OUTDOOR ART SHOW
- TENNIS TOURNAMENT
- BOAT PARADE – KREWE LANDING
- ADULT TREASURE HUNT
- PIRATE'S MARKET
- WASH TUB RACE
- MID-NIGHT RUN
- SKI SHOWS & TOURNAMENT
- SMALL FRY FISHING CONTEST
- SKATE-A-THON
- BAND CONCERT
- UNIQUE BEARD CONTEST
- SQUARE DANCING
- CORONATION
- DIAPER DASH
- FIRE WORKS
- FRISBEE FROLIC
- YACHT RACES
- NIGHT PARADE

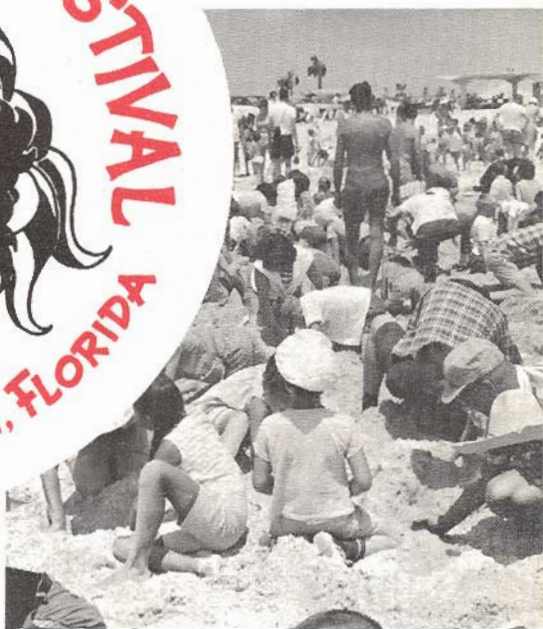






**BILLY BOW**  
**FT. WALTER**





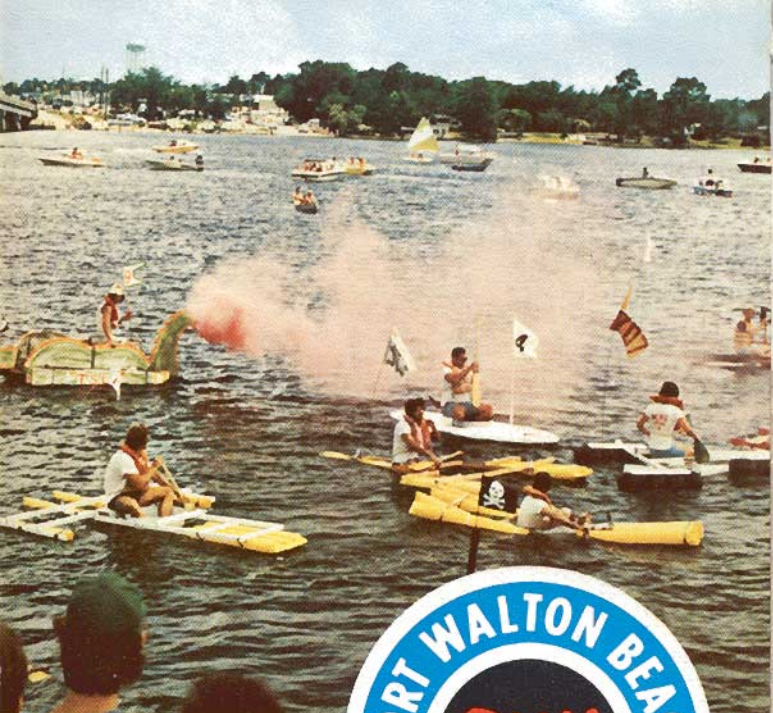




## PIRATE CAPTAIN BILLY BOWLEGS

The Billy Bowlegs Festival has William Augustus Bowles, a notorious old boy, as its patron pirate. He arrived in what was to become Florida's Playground Area in 1778 when the Spanish, English and Americans were maneuvering for control of the Gulf shores and its shipping lanes. Believing himself destined to command instead of obeying, Captain Billy Bowlegs gathered a force of a "couple hundred plundering Indians, relics from the American Army and White Banditti," a rollicking piratical crew which grew to be the concern of all three of the power-hungry countries. Captain Bowlegs (Bowles) created his own throne and the three nations considered everything from murder to a general's commission to get him on the right side. Financed by loot from a Spanish ship and surrounded by a handful of Indians, Captain Billy invaded English society for support. He was rewarded with a flag of 'English and Indian colors mixed,' a silver pipe, tomahawk, a Chain of Friendship and trade supplies, with which he formed the State of Muskogee. The Spanish enticed him to New Orleans and grabbed the head of the State of Muskogee. He was shipped out to Madrid and then to the Philippines, but he jumped ship and returned to his 'state' and greater deeds of piracy. He raided on the Gulf and on shore. His schooners flew his pirate flag, except when they switched to the British Flag to claim their 'salvaged' loot at international ports. But all good pirates must have an end, and Captain Bowlegs' came after he was seized when he was lured to peace talks in the presence of Spanish, American and English agents. The Spanish paid his disenchanted Indians a reward and took poor old Captain Bowlegs to Morro Castle, where he starved himself to death in 1803 rather than 'sink so low as to speak to the Cuban general.' So grab a pirate's costume and HAVE FUN with the modern Krewe of Bowlegs.





*Annual Event!*

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