



Building The Sport Of Steak Cookoffs!

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RETIREMENT!

By **Danny Kennedy**

Folks said to sit back, enjoy life, go places, and meet people. It'll be fun they said. Then along comes the Steak Cookoff Association (SCA) and the life I knew changed— for the good! I met Ken Phillips and Brett Gallaway in Ruleville Mississippi 4 years ago then spent a year chasing SCA around the country working with them and Michelle Dang, learning how to run SCA events and meeting world champions and legends, pillars of the cooking world. As a result, these culinary giants such as Johnny Joseph, Mark Lambert & OBR, Mike Mills, Malcom and Waylon Reed, BNO's Eric Hodson and Allen Smith, Terry Roan, Saffron Hodgson, Rheada Haynes and countless others have not only helped me grow as an SCA Representative but most importantly helped me grow as an individual. To those individuals, I am truly grateful for their trust and support because without them I could not have grown this sport in the Mid-South area to where it is today.

When SCA was introduced into the Mid-South and the surrounding areas, there were roughly 3-4 contests a year. In a short span, SCA has grown to over 38 local competitions a year and we are still growing! This is a testament to the desire of promoters and cooks who want one day events which are cost-effective, draw in top teams, have good payouts, and raise a lot of money for charities. Our World Championship this past October is indicative of how much the SCA has grown with over 180 teams from all over the world participating at the championship weekend.

As the new year begins, we're off and running with our first major contest of the year in Ocean Springs, MS at the Shed BBQ and Blues joint which is one you do not to want to miss. We have a contest in Duluth, Ga. at the Transportation Museum and there are countless others throughout the Mid-South. Which brings me to the exhilarating goals for this new year. There are ongoing discussions with promoters in Huntsville, Birmingham, and the middle Mississippi areas not to mention the panhandle of Florida to bring even more contests to this part of the United States I call home. But what's really exciting is not only the growing number of contests to be offered this year but how we can expand our contest categories.

Finally, as in the BBQ world, SCA is about family. I've seen it time and time again where a cook new to the SCA is set up beside an experienced cook then the next thing you know the newbie is in the top ten. Even in the time of need SCA members are surrounded by the "SCA family" showering them with support and the can-do attitude. That is what is so special about SCA, we're "FAMILY."

WOW! What a year 2019 is shaping up to be, and I look forward to sharing it with all of you, my family!



#SCAFamily. Judges Trey Presswood and Jessica Phillips with Danny Kennedy in the middle.

Hope to see ya down the road...Hogtail.

FEBRUARY 2019

Searing Steaks in the Swamp

By **Kitty Dolan**

January 4th, 2019 in Naples, Florida came with beautiful temperatures in the low 80's and a gentle breeze, in other words, a great day for the first SCA event in south west Florida and the first steak event of 2019. The Big Swamp Cookoff was held at the Collier County Fairgrounds, a gigantic venue with easy access for SCA cooks and judges next to the magnificent Florida Everglades.

The cooks meeting, steak selection, judges meeting and judging took place in the large covered livestock building, with announcements in the attached main arena and stage barn. Our cooks were able to set up close to the turn-in area on sites with electric provided and communal water available throughout the grounds. Cooks came from as close as a mile away to as far as Michigan to try to cook the winning rib eye.



Ten judges had their fill of steak with twenty-three entries of Choice Angus rib eyes provided by the sponsor, The Collier Fair Board. The top ten places were read with payouts to;

4th place - \$100 to Brant Ison, first time cook from Naples, Fl.

3rd place - \$300 and 9 points to John Sweeney from Detroit Mi.

2nd place - \$400 and 10 points to Sarah Watkins from Clearwater, Fl.

and a well-deserved:

1st place - \$500 and 11 points to John Pendray from Williston, Florida.

This was an outstanding event at an awesome venue, a great time was had by all. I look forward to next years' event.