

2nd Annual Urban Farm Tour Is a Success!

More than **300 participants** came out to support Sustainable Sandhills and learn more about the mushrooming interest in urban farming and locally grown food at the 2nd Annual Sustainable Sandhills **Urban Farm Tour (UFT)** on Saturday, April 10, 2010. Veteran and rookie farmers alike came together to celebrate their goal of independence from grocery store produce, meat, and dairy aisles.



Participants started their tours at one of the two UFT headquarters - the **Cape Fear Botanical Garden** in Cumberland County and **Aberdeen Elementary School** in Moore County. They were able to pick up tour programs, t-shirts, raffle tickets, and even heritage tomato plants! Participants could choose from more than 20 sites in the two counties, which featured bee keepers, native plants and edible landscapes, rainwater harvesting, chickens and roosters laying eggs, racing pigeons, vermi-



composting (worms!), shade gardens, certified wildlife habitats, composting, and even a bio-char demonstration. Young urban farmers discovered hidden guinea nests, and got their hands dirty digging into the rich soil and harvesting some tasty treats at some of the sites.



School gardens were well represented on the 2010 UFT. The UFT featured the work of students and teachers from **Aberdeen Elementary School, Southern Pines Middle School, Pauline Jones Elementary School** and the **Fayetteville Academy** – with raised beds spilling over with lettuce, sweet snap peas, strawberries, and a variety of beautiful flowers.



At the end of the day, 80 participants gathered at **Bell's Seed Store** in Fayetteville and **Gulley's Garden Center** in Southern Pines to take part in free "Getting Started" workshops. Whether they were old hands or first-timers, the participants received a thorough grounding in the basics, had all their questions answered by experts, and were conveniently located at an outlet with the supplies right on hand, and on sale!



Prior to the day of the Tour, two potlucks were held to allow UFT site owners, sponsors, volunteers and Sustainable Sandhills staff to share a little fellowship and pick up all the materials and instructions needed for a logistically challenging event! The Cumberland County potluck was hosted by Sustainable Sandhills in the Moore Exposure Building, and the Moore County Potluck was hosted by Kathy and John Byron at their home in Pinehurst. We are always amazed at the support and interest in our communities around local food. Special thanks to **Jean and Steven Moore of Moore Exposure** and **John and Kathy Byron** for opening your doors to a bunch of rowdy local foodies for 2-3 hours in April!

Again this year, our great friend **Lisa Lofthouse** shared her artistic gifts with us by creating custom UFT plaques for every one of our sponsors and site owners. Using only recycled materials, Lisa expressed our appreciation by using reclaimed flooring to display the 2010 UFT logo. Thank you Lisa!

After the successful 1st Annual UFT in 2009, we were able to recruit a group of great sponsors. Our Premium Sponsors for the 2010 UFT were:

- [Comfort Made Blinds](#)
- J&L Sustainability Consultants
- [Sandhills Energy](#)
- [Carolina Grown](#)
- [Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates](#)
- [Huberth Farm Services](#)
- [Not Just Linens](#)
- [The Moore County Farmer's Market](#)
- [Southern Landscape Group](#)



- [Chef Warren's](#)
- [First Bank of Southern Pines](#)
- [First Carolina Care Insurance](#)
- [Public Works Commission of the City of Fayetteville](#)

Our UFT Program advertisers included:

- [Raven's Wing Healing Center](#), [Farm Up the Street](#)
- [Sweet Fi's Cakes](#)
- [Moore Equine Fee & Supply](#)
- [May Street Market](#)
- [EcoLogic](#)
- Debbie Davis & Family
- Carthage Farm Supply
- Aberdeen Supply Company
- [Moore County Partners In Progress](#)
- Sandhills Feed Supply
- The Botanical Garden Club



The generous support of our sponsors and advertisers and the willingness of our site owners to share their experiences with the general public made the Tour possible. Thanks to each and every one of you for making the 2nd Annual Urban Farm Tour a great success!

Door prizes were donated and raffled off to several happy (and lucky) recipients. The prizes included a \$100 gift basket from **Honey Thyme Herb Farm**, the book *Square Foot Gardening* donated by **Huberth Farm Services**, two \$100 boxes filled with pastured, hormone and antibiotic free meat (beef, chicken, pork), milk, organic produce and more donated by **Carolina Grown**, the book *Discover and Enjoy the Pleasure of Locally Grown Food* donated by **Luci Fernandez**, and a gift basket from the **Fayetteville Famer's Market**. These gifts resulted in a healthy number of raffle ticket sales, which helped to offset the expenses of the 2010 Urban Farm Tour.

We're looking forward to the avalanche of photos and testimonials this summer and fall that were promised by the UFT site owners and the urban farmers inspired by their day on the 2010 UFT. We look forward to seeing you all on the 3rd Annual SS Urban Farm Tour in 2011!