

Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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Heritage Harvest Festival set for Monticello grounds

THE Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello promises to be bigger and better than ever in 2010.

The fourth annual celebration of local food, heirloom plants, and sustainable gardening will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 11, on Monticello's West Lawn and in Thomas Jefferson's Vegetable Garden.

Organized by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, the Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello continues Jefferson's legacy by championing vegetable cuisine, plant experimentation, and sustainable agriculture.

"The restored landscape of Monticello will provide the perfect backdrop for the promotion of regional food, organic gardening, and the preservation of traditional agriculture," said Peter Hatch, Monticello's director of gardens and grounds.

Last year, more than 2,700 people attended the family-friendly event, which was held on Montalto, the "high mountain" that rises 400 feet above Monticello.

The 2010 festival will once again feature tastings, workshops, hands-on demonstrations, interpretative walks, children's activities, and various other attractions. Attendees also will be able

to meet area farmers and representatives of nonprofit organizations, and local vendors will offer meals and snacks, as well as seeds, plants, and garden supplies.

Experts will come from around the country to share their knowledge on such topics as seed-saving, botanical medicine, and regional cookery. Among those scheduled to speak are Patti Moreno, an independent film producer, urban gardener, and writer best known as the host of *gardengirltv.com*; Barbara Pleasant, the author of *The Complete Compost Gardening Guide* and a contributing editor for *Mother Earth News*; and Sharon Astyk, a teacher, blogger, farmer, and the author of three books, including *A Nation of Farmers: Defeating the Food Crisis on American Soil*.

Also at this year's festival, Southern Exposure Seed Exchange will host the annual heirloom seed swap and co-anchor the popular "Buy Fresh Buy Local" tasting tent with the Piedmont Environmental Council, and Monticello will conduct special garden tours and new programs on preserving historical plants.

For additional information, visit the Web site heritageharvestfestival.com.



The fourth annual event, to be held Sept. 11, will again feature numerous family-friendly activities. TJF/Stephanie Gross

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