

6-16-11

Contact: Kate Duesterberg or Cat Buxton, 802-785-4737, growing@cedarcirclefarm.com

Celebrate Strawberries & Local Organic Agriculture at the 9th Annual Strawberry Festival at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center

East Thetford, VT—Every year on the last Sunday in June, juicy red organically-grown strawberries take “center stage” at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center’s Strawberry Festival in East Thetford, Vermont. Now an Upper Valley family tradition, the 9th Annual Strawberry Festival, takes place on **Sunday, June 26, from 10 am to 4 pm** at the farm on Pavillion Road along the Connecticut River, just off of Route 5—rain or shine!

Strawberries share “center stage” this year with featured Vermont puppeteer, mask maker, and performance artist Gabriel Q. In *Gabriel’s Kitchen*, a puppet show about fresh whole foods Gabriel Q entertains children of all ages, from 11:30-12:30, with his version of “Its America’s Got Talent for fruits and vegetables.” Throughout the day, he’ll also perform roving puppetry and display his giant butterfly puppets in the strawberry patch.

Also live, The Wall-Stiles from Vermont play contemporary rock music under the tent from 1:30-3:30 while festival goers have lunch or relax in the shade.

Throughout the day, visitors can enjoy a host of mostly free activities, such as ongoing horse-drawn wagon rides to and from the strawberry patch, children’s coloring projects, face painting (\$1), and self-guided farm tours.

“Some additional features of this year’s festival include draft horse field demonstrations, bicycle and solar-powered blenders to make our strawberry smoothies, and an educational table from 350.org. Our harvest festivals are a way of opening up the farm to the public to share our passion and inspire interest and support for sustainability, organic farming, and great fresh food—while minimizing trash through

our waste recovery station and encouraging people to bring their own cups and place settings,” says CCF’s education coordinator and festival organizer, Cat Buxton.

An organic “good food” concession (starting at 11 am) offers homemade strawberry shortcake and tarts, strawberry smoothies, grilled local sausages, farm-fresh salads, and local organic ice cream with strawberry sauce—plus wood-fired organic veggie and herb pizzas made by the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) in their copper-domed mobile oven.

The Strawberry Festival is a “Green Event” with a waste recovery station, which has yielded only two bags of trash for more than 1500 visitors in previous years. Folks are encouraged to bring a place setting (plate, utensils and cup) to help reduce waste.

The farmstand and Hello Café are also open. Parking is available in designated fields for \$5 per car, and carpooling is encouraged. Come by train, bicycle or on foot and get in free! For a festival schedule and directions, visit www.CedarCircleFarm.org or call the farm at 802-785-4737.

Cedar Circle Farm is a fifty-acre certified organic farm, dedicated to “growing for a sustainable future” through the production of certified organic vegetables and berries, bedding plants, and quality flowers and herbs. The farm offers a CSA program, dinners in the field, harvest festivals, gardening workshops, cooking classes, and guided educational farm tours for schools and groups.

—END—

Photo: Puppeteer Gabriel Q performs at Cedar Circle Farm’s Strawberry Festival.
Photo credit: Ian Clark

Or Puppeteer Gabriel Q with farm manager Kate Duesterberg at Cedar Circle Farm’s Strawberry Festival. Photo credit: Pam Knights.

