

6th Annual Strawberry Festival at Cedar Circle Farm and Education Center

By Lee Clark

EAST THETFORD-Strawberries, organic foods and family entertainment were the stars at the 6th Annual Strawberry Festival held at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center on Sunday, June 29th in East Thetford. The morning rains cleared to a pleasant, overcast day that brought hundreds of families out to pick strawberries, sample local organic foods and take part in a variety of free activities.

Horse-drawn wagons delivered families from the farm store to the strawberry patch to pick organically-grown strawberries. At noon, children and adults gathered around to watch the "Garden Variety" puppet show given by Gabriel Q. of White River Junction. After that, the music started. Hafiz Shabazz of Thetford, VT, director of the World Music Percussion Ensemble at Dartmouth, played the drums with a small ensemble to entertain festival-goers under the tent.

To satisfy the hungry group, the food concessions served homemade strawberry shortcake, grilled local sausages, veggie burgers, farm-fresh salads, and Strafford Organic Creamery ice cream. They even had pizza. The Northeast Organic Farming Association of VT (NOFA-VT) made pizzas using local organic vegetables and herbs, cooking them in their mobile wood-fired oven.

According to Cedar Circle Farm manager, Kate Duesterberg, "the festival has really grown over the years. Lots of folks come and spend the day, starting with picking berries and then taking time to enjoy the good food, festive atmosphere, and opportunity to visit with their neighbors." Co-manager and husband Will Allen says, "Knowing where your food comes from is so important. With all the recent recalls of meat, spinach, tomatoes, etc, more and more people are realizing that local, organic farms are the surest way to a safe food supply. And the added benefit is that farm fresh, organic food is really delicious!"

Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center is a fifty-acre certified organic farm dedicated to growing for a sustainable future through the production of certified organic vegetables and berries and quality flowers and herbs. The Farm offers a Community Supported Agricultural (CSA) program, and educational programs and workshops for new farmers and the local community.



Ally Waters of Hanover and Leo Daly of East Thetford serve up delicious strawberry desserts at the Strawberry Festival.



Eliza Rodi, of Lyme NH picks her own strawberries.



Sierra Winand, 5 of Woodstock, VT takes driving a tractor seriously at the 6th Annual Strawberry Festival at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center last Sunday, June 29.



The crowd gathers round as Puppeteer Gabriel Q of White River Junction, performs his "Garden Variety" Puppet Show.

TBWS Photos by Ian Clark



A horse-drawn wagon brings festival goers back from the strawberry patch at the Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center in E. Thetford.

Photo at right: Seth "Mono" Graubert, 3 gets some help from his mother, Ann Smith of Etna, NH, while eating a veggie burger at the 6th Annual Strawberry Festival at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center in E. Thetford, VT. on Sunday, June 29, 2008.



The children (and adults) enjoy the "Garden Variety" puppet show (and photo at right), performed by Puppeteer Gabriel Q of White River Junction, at 6th Annual Strawberry Festival at Cedar Circle Farm & Education Center in E. Thetford.

