

Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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September festival is moving up to Montalto

THE Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello – an annual celebration of local food, heirloom plants, and sustainable gardening – is moving to Montalto, Thomas Jefferson’s “high mountain.”



Tastings are among the festival's popular offerings.

Sponsored by Monticello’s Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants and the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, the family-friendly festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 12, and will highlight the efforts of those who promote regional food, organic gardening, and the preservation of traditional agriculture. Admission will be \$5 per car.

“Rising 400 feet above and then

overlooking Monticello, Montalto offers a thrilling venue for any event, especially a harvest festival that celebrates sustainable agriculture and the garden legacy of Thomas Jefferson,” said Peter Hatch, Monticello’s director of gardens and grounds.

For the third year in a row, the festival will include tastings, informative workshops, and talks by authorities such as William Woys Weaver, nationally known heirloom vegetable authority and author of numerous gardening and cook books.

Festival-goers will be able to learn about growing medicinal herbs and how Jefferson revolutionized gardening and American cuisine. There will be child-friendly offerings, including a live bee display and workshops on worm composting and how to make eco-friendly birdfeeders.

“This year we have a great group of presenters and a great variety of different workshop topics,” said Ira Wallace, who has helped coordinate the festival since its inception in 2007.

Just before the festival begins, there will be an old-fashioned seed swap from 8 to 10 a.m. on Montalto, providing seed savers with an opportunity to share their



The Montalto setting will offer festival-goers unparalleled views of Monticello and the surrounding countryside.

knowledge, enthusiasm, and seeds in a more relaxed setting.

“Seeds are not just little plants-in-waiting, but also little bundles of human culture,” Wallace said. “For thousands of years, people have traded them with friends and neighbors. The seed swap encourages people to collect, save, and share their own seeds. It’s a fun chance for gardeners to talk about their favorites

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September festival

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and exchange tips.”

There also will be pre-festival events on Friday, Sept. 11.

From noon to 3:30 p.m., a series of free workshops will be held at the Center for Historic Plants headquarters at Tufton Farm.

At 4 p.m., there will be a seed-saving tour of the gardens at Monticello followed by an illustrated lecture on heirloom tomatoes by author and heirloom vegetable authority Amy Goldman at the Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center. Tickets are \$35. Capacity is limited; to register call (434) 984-9880.

For additional information about the Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello, visit the Web site heritageharvestfestival.com.

Benefit concert Aug. 8

A concert to benefit the 2009 Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello will be held Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center and Smith Education Center.

Virginia singer-songwriters Devon Sproule and Adrienne Young will be the featured performers at the event, which will be preceded by a local-food tasting, a seed-saving demonstration, and the chance to explore the new Monticello Museum Shop and Garden Center.

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets, priced at \$25, will be available through the Web site monticello.org.