



## Weekly Farmer's Market News May 24, 2008

### **Squash makes an appearance; tie dye makes a splash at the Jasper Farmers Market**

**By Darla Huffman**

When yellow crookneck squash shows up at the farmers market you know that summer is right around the corner; the temperature was another clue, as vendors who had arrived in the cool of the morning began to shed their long sleeves. That squash was at Henry and Shirley Patterson's booth which was well stocked, not only with squash but broccoli, cauliflower and huge heads of cabbage. They had a steady stream of customers and sold out before the market day was over.

There was another great "green" idea from one of our newer farmers market vendors! Growing even a few of your own vegetables is a step in the earth-friendly direction and Mollie Awtrey has made it easy for anyone to do, even without a garden. She has created pretty and useful hanging baskets planted with flowers and vegetables together. Peppers and squash or tomatoes were surrounded by petunias to decorate the patio or porch while nourishing the family. Imagine lying in your hammock and reaching up to pick a tomato to snack on.

The most colorful stop, in a stroll through the market, was the display of tie dyed tee shirts at the booth shared by Cindi Goodwin and her Big Canoe neighbor, Pat Culbertson. Pat, a local art teacher spent many hours folding, tucking, tying and dying and the results were amazingly intricate, one of a kind designs. Cindi is multitalented and had not only unique paintings but quilted things like jackets and purses. Both of these artists have their work on display at the Clothesline art show now at the Sharptop Gallery.

Many other arts and crafts vendors find a profitable outlet for their wares at the farmers market. Often it is a hobby that they love and want to do more of. Although it is time consuming, Shirley Martin finds making beaded jewelry fun to do and relaxing as well. She works with natural stones and sterling silver as well as tiny glass beads and is a popular vendor at the market. The money makes selling her creations as she put it “supports her habit”.

There were two vendors at the market this week selling handmade natural skincare products. Elaine Carey Goble, a market regular back again this year, has a product line called Nature’s Essence Skincare. Making her first appearance at the market, a vendor who wished to be known as simply Dawn, had soaps, masks, scrub and other skincare products called Plain Jane Skincare.

Tomato plants were once again plentiful and came in all size. Charlotte Bell, who has a nursery in Waleska, had the tallest plants and they were blooming and looked like they would soon bear fruit. She also had a lot of beautiful geraniums.

Raising money this week for cheerleader camp were Kim Walker and Breanne Winders, students at Jasper Middle school. They had planted flowers in their painted terra cotta pots to offer in exchange for a donation.

The Jasper Farmers Market is held every Saturday from now until October 28, from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. The exceptions will be the Saturdays of July 5 and Oct 4. During the peak season there will be a Wednesday market from June 18 to August 27, with the same hours. The location is the Park & Ride Lot, near Lee Newton Park, off of Highway 53, near downtown Jasper, Georgia. Only handmade or homegrown products can be sold at the Jasper Farmers Market. Watch this newspaper for any exceptions to time or location and other up to date information regarding the farmers market or go to Master Gardener web site at [www.pickensmg.com](http://www.pickensmg.com).

See Photos Below!



*Hamming it up for the camera are local artist Pat Culbertson, tee shirt dyer and Cindi Goodwin, painter/quilter.*



*Raising money for cheerleader camp are Jasper middle school students Kim Walker and Breanne Winders, accompanied by Kim's dad, Ed Walker.*



*Tomatoes and squash are growing upside-down in these mixed use hanging baskets made by Mollie Awtrey.*



*Henry Patterson helps a customer to his early vegetables, including the first squash of the season.*