

From Plant to Plate

As the winds whip around these mountains, the roots of the next harvest are growing in local greenhouses.

A homegrown garden or orchard is a tradition fully rooted in our community. Useful Plants Nursery values this tradition and stocks a diverse variety of local and non-local species of trees, vines, shrubs, herbaceous perennials, and medicinal herbs.

“Growing a garden is the most cost-effective way to eat organic” said nursery manager Bruce Johnston.

Along with the standard nursery varieties such as blueberry, pear, peach, and heritage apple, the nursery stocks species that have largely been forgotten or overlooked such as the American groundnut and elderberry, as well as fig and persimmon that are well-suited for growing in our soil. The nursery also stocks imported varieties, such as the Goji berry and ginkgo biloba trees from the Far East.

Useful Plants Nursery has the goal of diversifying in a limited geographic area and looks for ways to integrate into Old Fort and McDowell County. A member of the Old Fort Chamber of Commerce, the nursery offers discounts on plants to schools, 501(c)3 corporations, and commercial farmers.

The nursery also offers landscape design services by Chuck Marsh, who has more than 20 years experience.

Located in the heart of Earthaven Ecovillage, between Old Fort and Black Mountain, Useful Plants Nursery encourages visitors on an appointment basis. For more information or to schedule a visit, call 828-669-6517 or visit usefulplants.org.

By Wendy McAnally



Hospice Spaghetti Fund-raiser 3/26 & 27.

Call 652-1987 or 6192 for information

For Chamber Members Only

This ad can be yours for \$25 828-668-7223

Old Fort Chamber

NEW MEMBERS' FY2008

Donald & Linda Hensley owners of Hensley's Power Washing. 828-253-9107 or email hensleypowerwashing@yahoo.com

Tina Fowler, Hospice of Rutherford County. 828-245-0095 or email tfowler@hospiceofrutherford.org

Jim Gardner, Custom Shirts & Embroidery. 828-652-1115 or email jim@customshirtsonline.com

Todd Bradley, Four Oaks Seafood, 828-668-4929 or email fwb4343@netzero.net

Dave & Brigitte Walters, Inn on Mill Creek, 828-668-1115 or email info@innonmillcreek.com

Messer Financial Group, 828-778-5368 or email ronakent@yahoo.com

Kevin Gay, MoonShadow Personal Concierge Service. 828-803-2875 or email info@chefkevinpc.com

Arthur Krantz, PRC Industries. 631-750-9600

Jeff Silver, Signs by Design. 828-652-2620 or

email signage1@verizon.net

Bruce Johnston, Useful Plants Nursery. 828-669-6517 or email bruce@usefulplants.org

Kim Demarzio, Bouncin Kids. 828-437-1000 or email kim@bouncinkidsusa.com

Richard McEntire, Boxcar Concierge. 828-442-6978 or email easy4u@wegoshop.com

Davidson's Fort Historic Park

**OLD FORT
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

25W Main St
Old Fort, NC 28762
www.oldfortchamber.com




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The experienced staff at Carriage House has manufactured custom wood doors for over 30 years. Through our extensive network of dealers, homeowners, architects, and builders, we produce the industry's finest carriage doors, ensuring each design is the perfect fit to enhance the beauty and value of your home. Explore our website, carriagedoor.com to find overhead doors designed to exacting standards, hand-crafted by skilled artisans, and engineered with the modern convenience of overhead sectionals and electronic openers.



The result? A beautiful custom door that provides a dramatic finishing touch for your home.

If you have not seen the incredible gates they have at their factory you need to stop by. The doors were designed and built for Doctor Phil, of TV fame. His homeowners association would not allow him to put them up so Mike and Barbara Martin decided to install them at their factory in Old Fort. Carriage House Door celebrated their three year anniversary last month. I remember going to their open house when they had about 10 workers. They now have 48 workers and Mike told me that he sees no layoffs or hard times in the future. They are continuing doing what they do best, making the highest quality doors in America!