

## Community Action Teams Focus on Education

Sustainable Sandhills' Community Action Teams (CAT's) began standing up across the region in June 2008. We've learned a lot about community outreach and engagement in this "year of the CAT" – and after listening closely to a couple of our most active CAT's and members, we are shifting the focus of the CAT meetings to education. Here are some examples from two recent CAT meetings this summer, and one from our next scheduled CAT meeting in Cumberland County on August 11.

At our **June** CAT meeting in **Cumberland County**, **Paul and Cathy Linskens** made a presentation (and marital stand-up comedy routine) on **Gardening with Native Plants of the Sandhills**. This presentation was in response to interest generated by visitors to their Fayetteville home on SS's 2009 Spring Urban Farm Tour. Paul and Cathy not only grow food in their backyard, but they have painstakingly moved and established native plants from around the region into their yard. Their presentation was very detailed and fascinating, and will inform the Cumberland CAT's establishment of a Native Plant Rescue Team. Think Ghostbusters with shovels and spades! You can download Paul's complete presentation [here](#).



At our **July** CAT meeting in **Moore County**, **Taylor Williams** from the Moore County Cooperative Extension Service made a presentation to the Moore CAT on **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's)**. This CSA presentation was in response to the overwhelming demand expressed by CAT members at a Moore CAT breakout group discussion in the spring. Taylor has many years of experience with CSA's – and has worked both sides of the CSA model. In his job as a horticultural agent, he has been an advocate for CSA's as a way to keep local farmers working their small family farms. As a husband and father, he's also been a farmer producing for a local CSA! The Moore CAT hosted a potluck and more than 30 people showed up to learn about CSA's. In fact, there



is so much interest in CSA's (and locally grown food in general) that SS has developed and will release a consumer survey later this August to document consumer interest in CSA's for farmers who might need some persuasion....

Our next **Cumberland County CAT** meeting is on **August 11** (6:30pm at the CC Headquarters Library, Pate Room) and will feature a program titled **"Fayetteville's Renewable Energy Future."** **Dr. John Mattox** from Fayetteville State University and **Charles Young, Fort Bragg's Sustainable Transportation Planner** will focus on petroleum supply, carbon emissions, climate change, renewable energy, and infrastructure to support plug-in electric vehicles. This topic is especially timely in the Fayetteville and Cumberland County community for a number of reasons:



- The recent award of more than \$2.1M in Recovery Act funds to Fayetteville and Cumberland County for energy conservation and efficiency projects.
- The City of Fayetteville is currently drafting a Sustainability Masterplan – with a definite focus on energy conservation and climate impacts.
- The City of Fayetteville is preparing to adopt a new Unified Development Ordinance with a number of incentives for sustainable development.
- The Greater Fayetteville Futures II community initiative's Green Community Objective is actively pursuing renewable energy and green growth initiatives.
- PWC is preparing to introduce a new set of customer incentives for energy conservation and efficiency measures, and may soon adopt an "interconnection policy" to allow PWC customers to tie their own renewable energy generation systems to the grid and sell their green power on the open market.

It's a great time to get active on your **Community Action Team**. Contact **Amanda Blue, SS Community Action Team Coordinator** for meeting schedules and topics, and to suggest (or demand) a topic for an upcoming CAT meeting in your community!

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