



Helen is excited about the market!



Sheila enjoying a snack!



A beautiful radish plant!

It's April and Time for Outdoor Marketing!

By Carolyn Brenneman, Columnist

Well, it's already April and the weather is nice for outside activities. We are ready to explore. This month, there are several outdoor markets

all around Georgia where we can find entertainment, fun, fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, herbs, homemade desserts, breads, raw honey, jellies and hand-crafted items. Today, though, my group of friends are visiting a small family-owned outdoor market that is delightful. The family owned business has many fresh fruits and vegetables as well as unusual baked breads and sweet pastries. There are also giant peppers, tomatoes, red onions, varieties of lettuce, very yellow lemons, tangerines, apples, radishes, and giant Brussels sprouts.

We want to get some of everything, it's so fresh. Then there are freshly made breads, rolls, and apple muffins, which are a real treat. What a great atmosphere for our small market. There is a nice shaded seating area with lots of wooden tables, surrounded by small lemon trees and plants to create a most pleasant environment. Enjoying the afternoon with friends, we are



Baked breads!

having mango ice cream cones! This is a splendid way to spend the day with friends.

Now, there are many outdoor markets for everyone to explore, but one of my truly favorite markets in the Atlanta area is the Alpharetta downtown Saturday market. It is part of the cornerstone of the community, and the market has the scent of freshly baked bread mingling with the fruity fragrance of local flowers. Walking through downtown Alpharetta, there are old-fashioned cobblestone streets that lead us to the Town Green, the heart of the market. It all starts early Saturday morning, around 8:30 am, and individuals and families gather to start their weekend with purchasing fresh, local produce. The artists are out to show displays of watercolors, acrylics and oils as well as the musicians delighting us with rhythm, melody, and harmony. The sound of acoustic guitar music is setting the perfect tone for the morning.

The market bustles with energy and many people are roaming the rows of vendors' stands draped with colorful canopies displaying piles of fresh produce. The farmers come out to sell the ripe heirloom tomatoes, the green peppers, and baskets of apples, lemons and colorful melons - cantaloupes and honeydews.

There is a stand overflowing with local honey, as there are many different varieties that produce several different colors. The vendor tells us that the honey is harvested from hives just a few miles outside the city. Tasting the honey, it is so sweet and rich.



A swirl mango ice cream!



Brussel sprouts are so large!



Apples, apples and more apples!



Very large red onions that smell wonderful!



Bees and honey are so sweet!

The next stall has handcrafted soaps, lavender, rosemary, and eucalyptus, their fresh scents blending with the natural surroundings. The vendor shares the story of how she started making soaps as a hobby, and now it has become her full-time passion.

We can enjoy the serenity and beauty and pick up some fresh items – local honey, bread, flowers, and even handmade soaps.

For more information on the Alpharetta Market, visit the website www.alpharettafarmersmarket.com. This market is every Saturday until November 15th. Or visit one of the other many outdoor markets this April! It's worth it.



A view of the Alpharetta market!