



FOR RELEASE: October 6, 2011

CONTACT:

Allison D. Inman, Marketing & PR Coordinator

adinman@ncarboretum.org

(828) 665-2492 x204

Green Home Tours Offered by Local Realty Company and The North Carolina Arboretum

ASHEVILLE, NC – A Community Partner of The North Carolina Arboretum is offering green home tours now through December. MOSAIC Community Lifestyle Realty is leading tours of a variety of homes and construction sites that are green-built or green remodels.

Tours include:

Green Home Driving Tour

Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Caravan in your own vehicle (carpooling with family and friends is encouraged) and visit new green homes and green construction sites throughout Central and West Asheville. This tour will last approximately three hours.

Green Remodel of a Conventional Home

Saturday, November 12 at 1:00 or 2:30 p.m.

See a green home makeover of a conventional home, and learn more from the builder, homeowners, and a building scientist. This tour will last approximately one hour.

Weirbridge Village Tour

Saturday, December 3 at 2:30 p.m.

Get an up close tour of this new 280-unit ENERGY STAR™ apartment community being built in South Asheville. See what it takes to construct an energy efficient multifamily building. This tour will last approximately one hour.

Gaia Village Tour

Saturday, December 10 at 2:30 p.m.

See what a modern sustainable village looks like. Gaia Village is a green community of 15 homes that share a central courtyard and community gardens, with a greenway connection to West Asheville Park and a meditation garden on Rhododendron Creek.

Tour space is limited, and registration is required. To reserve your space, please call (828) 665-2492. A cash donation of to The North Carolina Arboretum Society is suggested at the time of the tour. All tours begin off-site and attendees are responsible for their own transportation.

The tours are being held in conjunction with the Arboretum's new exhibit, *Sustainable Shelter*. The exhibit introduces visitors to the functions of shelters, and how animals and humans have adapted to different environments through a diversity of structures. Biodiversity, human and animal architecture, ecosystems, and energy and water conservation are concepts explored by *Sustainable Shelter*, all from the perspective of the "home."

The NC Arboretum is located next to the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance at Milepost 393. From I-26, take Exit 33 and follow Blue Ridge Parkway signs for two miles to the entrance ramp. Visit www.ncarboretum.org/plan-a-visit for parking fees, property hours and building hours. For general information call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org.

More than 15 interactive components uncover how we can learn from nature to make our dwellings more sustainable parts of the earth's natural systems. Graphics, cartoons and interactive computer games explore how daily actions are part of the earth's carbon and water cycles. Visitors can test ways to make homes more sustainable with hands-on exhibits. Scale models show how the size and environmental impact of American homes have changed over time. Visitors can then build a model of a home that incorporates many of the environmental features presented in the exhibition.

To broaden the visitor experience, an exhibit called *Home Green Home* is featured in the Baker Exhibit Center Greenhouse. Designed and produced by Arboretum staff, the exhibit includes a variety of animal shelters, insect hives, and nests native to our area. Visitors are introduced to xeric landscaping examples, and local green home building products will be on display, courtesy of Mosaic Community Lifestyle Realty.

Sustainable Shelter is on display at The North Carolina Arboretum through January 2, 2012. The exhibition will be open to the public during regular Baker Exhibit Center hours: 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. daily. Exhibit admission is in addition to the standard parking fee (\$8 per personal vehicle), and is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students age 18 and under. Admission and parking is always free for Arboretum Society members.

For information, call (828) 665-2492 or visit www.ncarboretum.org. The central mission of The North Carolina Arboretum, an affiliate institution of the 17-campus University of North Carolina system, is to cultivate connections between people and plants.

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