



Vendor Spotlight July 7, 2017

Howard County Farmers' Market

Artee Porter



Hi. My name is Artee Porter and I was born May 1, 1959. I grew up in Los Angeles, CA. and moved to Tolette in 1975 when I was in the 10th grade. My wife is Brenda Porter. She works at Husqvarna. We met in high school. We have two children, Artee, Jr., 36, Kristie 33 and one granddaughter, Trinity. Besides selling at the Farmers' Market, I also sell fishing weights through eBay at "Artee's Custom Fishing Sinkers."

My interest in gardening began early. When I was 10 years old, I started selling flower and vegetable seeds door to door for the American Seed Company. I had my own little garden in the back yard where I grew carrots, tomatoes, and other vegetables. After moving back to Arkansas, I continued to have a garden and gave away a lot of produce to my neighbors.

I became interested in the Farmers' Market when I saw a notice in the Nashville News about a Growers' Meeting for the new Market. I grow a variety of vegetables, specializing in hot pepper and I make my own hot pepper sauce. I use all organic fertilizers and try to use only organic methods for ridding bugs and other pests. I also grow worms and use worm tea in planting out my seedlings. Come by my stall at the market and I'll tell you my simple method for making worm.

I like to fish, and I enjoy wood-working projects such as making cedar chests. I also enjoy playing the guitar and am a pretty good D.J.

If you want to grow your own garden, I have three bits of advice: Start small, prepare and condition your soil before you plant, and have a lot of patience.

I especially advise shoppers to come to the market and get to know us, your farmers. We are a very friendly group and we want to get to know you! If you have gardening questions, all the vendors are very knowledgeable. You'll walk away with some nice nutritious vegetables and a different perspective on gardening.