

## Support a Local Hidden Treasure

Shop at Whole Foods Market in Dublin on Thursday, Sept. 2, and you will be helping a local treasure bloom—one that is hidden right in our own back yard!

Five percent of the store's sales will be donated to Stratford Ecological Center, located at 3083 Liberty Rd. in Delaware. These contributions will help Stratford's commitment to educating children and adults about the relationships between living things and their environment.

If we can spread the word and get lots of local people to shop at the store that particular day, imagine what it could mean for the Eco Center. That could be a lot of bucks for this non-profit, 236-acre educational farm and nature preserve that has been operating in Delaware since 1993. (For an interesting history of the property and facilities, go online at [www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org](http://www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org)).

Open to visitors 9-5, Mon. thru Fri. and 9 -1 on Sat., Stratford is a gem worth exploring whether you come for a visit on your own (suggested donation \$2 per person or \$5 for the family) or take advantage of one of the many events, classes, workshops, field trips, farm camps, or other amazing opportunities. Take some time to meander along one of the many scenic trails through the woods and along the creek or stop in to pick your own produce in the farm gardens and green houses or show your kids and grandkids what an actual working farm complete with animals and gardens looks like (petting the barn cats is a particular favorite for our seven-year-old).

While you are marking Sept. 2 on your calendar, mark Sept. 25 as well. Stratford will host their Harvest Fair and auction which will feature wagon rides, live music, bake sale, candle dipping, living history, broom making, puppet show, a farmer's market and much more. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids.

To learn more, go to [www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org](http://www.stratfordecologicalcenter.org) or call 740/363-2548. Let's join together as a community to help support this valuable resource and beautiful property.

*Tuesday Trippier lives in Delaware, is a writer and mother of three with a special interest in green living.*