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Third Annual Phoenix 'Tour de Coops' Puts Urban Fowl on Center Stage

Phoenix, AZ - September 26, 2011: The third annual self-guided tour of urban poultry coops in the central Phoenix area is set to kick off on December 3, 2011 from 7:30am to 4:30pm.

Tour de Coops is organized by the Valley Permaculture Alliance (VPA - formerly the Phoenix Permaculture Guild) in response to the burgeoning interest in urban chicken keeping, and rapidly-increasing attendance in their backyard chicken-raising classes. It is designed to give visitors insight into the experience of raising urban chickens, ducks, and quail, while inspiring them to start their own backyard coops.

Advocates of raising urban chickens and other poultry often do so in conjunction with edible vegetable gardening and say that the practice provides not only enjoyment, entertainment and ethically-raised eggs, but helps to support their gardens. Chickens help in the garden in the following ways; by controlling pests, providing nutrient rich compostable manure and eating discarded garden scraps.

"The Phoenix Tour de Coops is a fun way for folks to learn and see how other like-minded people are raising chickens, ducks, and other fowl in the urban environment," says Bryan White, a Valley Permaculture Alliance volunteer "It's really going to open some people's eyes to the possibility of a more sustainable way of living".

There is a nation-wide grassroots level enthusiasm for urban chemical-free gardening and backyard livestock care. Citing large communities of like-minded people in Portland, Seattle, Austin, and Salt Lake City, the VPA is thrilled with the overwhelming interest in last year's event and is looking forward to an even larger turn out at this year's event.

The Tour is self-guided, so folks can go at their own pace and visit the coops that they're interested in, and interact with fellow neighbors who are participating in hands-on sustainability.

Tickets for the event go on sale the first week of November. Price of admission is \$10 per adult and children under 18 are free with the purchase of an adult ticket. Tickets can be purchased online at www.tourdecoops.org.

About The Valley Permaculture Alliance:

The Valley Permaculture Alliance is a local 501c3 non-profit, and operates as a volunteer run organization. The mission of the VPA is to inspire sustainable urban living through education, community involvement and creative cooperation. Programs offered include tours of local sustainable homes, educational classes, hands-on training and event demonstration booths. As well as annual events including the VPA Fruit Tree Sale, Mesquite Bean Milling, Pancake Breakfast and the Tour de Coops.

Permaculture is a term that combines "permanent" and "agriculture / culture" and addresses sustainability and interdependence of human and natural ecosystems. The VPA is committed to the principle of promoting the conscious design of cultivated ecosystems that include diversity, stability, resilience and financial viability.

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