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## **Events**

### **How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World - A Talk by Paul Stamets - Sept 22**

Free Lecture & Book Signing

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Promega BioPharmaceutical Technology Center; 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, Madison, WI 53711

Please join renowned Mycologist Paul Stamets for a lecture on the life saving role fungi can play in sustainability and rejuvenating natural environments. Presenting at the Promega Campus, Stamets will explain to how mushroom mycelium can break down toxins, replace insecticides, produce antibiotics and, through emerging technologies, support farmers, gardeners, green architects and ecological designers. Stamets has been repeatedly recognized for his groundbreaking exploration and discovery of fungi and its potential benefit to the earth and life.

Following the lecture and questions, Stamets will be available to sign his most recent book: Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World.

For more information, contact Penny Patterson or Tawnia Munyon at 608.274.4330 or [penny.patterson@promega.com](mailto:penny.patterson@promega.com)<mailto:penny.patterson@promega.com> or [tawnia.munyon@promega.com](mailto:tawnia.munyon@promega.com)<mailto:tawnia.munyon@promega.com>

## **“Sowing Stories in Quann Community Garden” Exhibit Open until October**

Please come to the exhibit "Sowing Stories in Quann Community Garden," which will be open park hours August 23-October 30, 2009. The exhibit features photos of Quann gardeners alongside their quotations about why gardening at Quann is important to them. The exhibit is in English and Spanish with some parts translated into Hmong. The exhibit is located outside in Jess Bullen Orchard and Quiet Garden (204 Bram Street), across the street from Quann Community Garden. From Park Street heading away from downtown, turn left on Wingra, right on Beld, and left on Bram Street. Go through the small tunnel, and you will be at the exhibit!

## **Michael Pollan**

### **Book Discussion & Potluck at Troy Gardens - Sept 23**

As part of **Go Big Read**, the University's very first communitywide common book program, Community GroundWorks and Lakeview Branch Library will host a potluck and discussion of Michael Pollan's **In Defense of Food** on Wednesday, September 23, from 6-7 pm at Troy Gardens. Discussion co-leaders will be Katie Scharf, neighborhood librarian, and Claire Strader, farmer for Troy Community Farm (and White House Farmer!), who brings her personal perspective as an urban organic farmer. Copies may be reserved by contacting any Madison Public Library or stop in at Lakeview Library and tell them you are a part of the Troy Gardens' discussion group. Frugal Muse bookstore will also stock copies. Join us at beautiful Troy Gardens with a dish to pass, a place setting and your opinions of the book. In case of rain, we will meet at the Lakeview Library in the Northside TownCenter. Call Katie at the Library, 246-4547, with any questions.

## **In Defense of Food:**

### **The Omnivore's Solution - A Talk by Michael Pollan**

Michael Pollan, John S. and James L. Knight Professor of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley

September 24, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

Kohl Center

Doors open at 6 PM

This Event is Free and Open to the Public, No Tickets Needed

Real food--the kind of food your great-grandmother would recognize as food—is being undermined by science on one side and the food industry on the other, both of whom want us focus on nutrients, good and bad, rather than actual plants, animals and fungi. The rise of “nutritionism” has vastly complicated the lives of American eaters without doing anything for our health, except possibly to make it worse. Nutritionism arose to deal with a genuine problem--the

fact that the modern American diet is responsible for an epidemic of chronic diseases, from obesity and type II diabetes to heart disease and many cancers--but it has obscured the real roots of that problem and stood in the way of a solution. That solution involves putting the focus back on foods and food chains, for it turns out our personal health cannot be divorced from the health of the soil, plants, and animals that make up the food chains in which we take part. In this talk, Pollan explores what the industrialization of food and agriculture has meant for our health and happiness as eaters, and looks at the growing national movement to renovate the food system.

Michael Pollan's *In Defense of Food* has been chosen as the first book in the [Go Big Read](#) common book program.

Read one of Pollan's recent articles about the future of food in America: *New York Times Magazine: The Food Issue: [An Open Letter to the Next Farmer in Chief](#)*

## **Food for Thought Festival with Michael Pollan - Sept 26**

Saturday, September 26, 2009 8:00 am – 1:30 pm Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (off the Capitol Square) The annual Food for Thought Festival is a fun, festive forum that explores and celebrates our many opportunities to eat more pleasurably, healthfully and sustainably. Informational and interactive displays by over 60 local organizations and businesses. Speakers and Presentations. Cooking Demonstrations by guest chefs. Live Music, Kid's Activities, Great Food, and More! *Featuring special guest speaker: [Michael Pollan](#)*

## **Wendell Berry at the WI Book Festival - Oct 11**

From the Wisconsin Humanities Council: We're thrilled to have the legendary [Wendell Berry](#) coming to Madison for the keynote event of the Wisconsin Book Festival on Sunday, October 11th at 4:00pm in the Capitol Theater at Overture Center for the Arts. *Admission is FREE, but tickets are required for entry.* Check the Website for more details: [www.wisconsinbookfestival.org](http://www.wisconsinbookfestival.org).

## **The Botany of Desire - Film Oct 6 - 27**

Please join us for the four-part Madison premiere of *The Botany of Desire*, every Tuesday in October. The apple, the tulip, the marijuana plant and the potato are the stars of the film adaptation of journalist Michael Pollan's best-selling book, *The Botany of Desire*. The documentary begins in the author's own home garden, before journeying to the apple orchards

of Kazakhstan, the tulip markets of Amsterdam, a medical marijuana hot house, and the potato fields of South America.

These four famous plants have evolved to take advantage of the human desires for sweetness, beauty, intoxication and control. The interconnected relationship between plants and humans is what Pollan terms "the botany of desire."

Wisconsin Public Television and Madison Public Libraries invite you to join us for the FREE Madison premiere of The Botany of Desire. Over the course of four Tuesdays in October, we'll explore each of Pollan's desires:

Apple (sweetness) | 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6

Tulip (beauty) | 7p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 13

Marijuana (intoxication) | 7p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20

Potato (control) | 7p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27

Each screening will be followed by an audience discussion.

All events will be held at:  
Madison Central Library,  
201 W. Mifflin St., Madison  
Contact library at 608-266-6300  
Directions to library

For more information e-mail Lynne Blinkenberg at WPT or call her at 608-265-6331.

## **Classes**

### **Got Dirt? Gardening Training Session - Sept 24**

Thursday, Sept 24 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dane County UW-Extension Lyman Anderson Agriculture and Conservation Center; 1 Fen Oak Court; Madison, WI

Interested in learning how to start a garden at your local facility? Attend a Got Dirt? Training Session and learn the background of the program and various gardening techniques, such as cold frame gardening, raised bed gardening, container gardening and microfarms, which can be easily planted at local educational facilities. Information will also be provided about funding opportunities and grants. Space is limited. Please contact Kristen Buettner at 920-391-4655 or Buettner\_KM@co.brown.wi.us to register.

## **Fitchburg Fields Courses**

Exciting classes for gardeners and eaters are being offered at Fitchburg Fields Garden in August and September. See their website to sign up and for more information at <http://www.fitchburgfields.org/> . Please RSVP to Catherine at 335-7295 or [ffvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:ffvolunteers@gmail.com).

- **Create a Mini Hoophouse to Extend the Growing Season:** Sun. 9/27, 2-4 pm - Only 2 spaces left! If you want to pick greens during the winter, or start spinach and peas super early, you need one of these.
- Saturday, October 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll be co-hosting a workshop on **Sheet Mulching** (also known as Lasagna Gardening) with the Madison Area Permaculture Guild. For a suggested donation of \$10 - \$15, you can learn how to avoid sod stripping and plowing the next time you want to create a garden. You'll leave with tired muscles and printed instructions, and we'll be left with twice as much capacity for teaching and feeding people!

Sign up for the following classes and we'll pick a date that fits most people's schedules:

- Preparing and Canning Herbal Jelly
- Preserving Herbs and Freezing Pesto

## **Job Openings**

### **WIRED: Seed to Table Project Manager & Curriculum Developer**

The Goodman Community Center has an 8 month contractual LTE position available. The WIRED initiative is a partnership between The Goodman Community Center, Community GroundWorks, Madison Metropolitan School District and East High School. Other partners include MATC and Food Fight Inc.

The proposed Seed to table program is an Urban Teen Farming, Culinary Arts and Food Distribution Program targeting students at East High. Students will receive credits toward graduation and classes will be taught during school hours and outside of traditional school hours. The goal is to offer a new and engaging curriculum to high school students that prepares them for post secondary education and careers in Food production.

Community Groundworks, along with East Staff are developing and piloting a greenhouse and teen farming program. The Goodman Community Center will work with East High staff to develop a culinary arts, canning/preserving and food distribution program.

The two primary responsibilities of the WIRED Project Manager will be responsible for:

- 1) Partner Coordination, Communication and Management
- 2) Developing, documenting and submitting a curriculum to the Department of Public Instruction for fall 2010 class implementation.

The position will be contracted for approximately 900 hours over an 8 month period. The expectation is that the position will be close to fulltime the first 5 months and then taper as the project is completed. The person must be able to work independently, have experience with curriculum development and project management.

Applications and full position descriptions are available at the front desk at the Goodman Community Center and online or by contacting:

Lisa Jacob

Goodman Community Center, Assistant Director

241-1574 ext 226

[lisa@goodmancenter.org](mailto:lisa@goodmancenter.org)

Questions regarding the Seed to Table Initiative should be directed to:

Meme Kintner

Goodman Community Center, Middle and High School Program Director

241-1574 ext 229

[meme@goodmancenter.org](mailto:meme@goodmancenter.org)

## **Michael Fields Agricultural Institute Public Policy Internships for 2010**

Policy interns will have the opportunity to assist in coordinating the Fiscal Year 2010 grassroots agricultural appropriations campaign; work on Farm-to-School provisions in the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization; develop new grassroots contacts in key congressional and senate districts nationally and develop similar strategies for Wisconsin's grassroots network development; participate in state sustainable agricultural policy development; join policy conference calls of groups such as the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition; and work as NSAC interns for two weeks in Washington, D.C. We offer these internships for five months, starting in early January, 2010. The weekly schedule of internship hours worked is flexible. MFAI will pay a \$450/month stipend, plus up to \$100/month in work-related supplies, etc. We will pay for a roundtrip ticket to Washington, plus lodging and a modest per diem while in Washington, D.C. for two weeks. We will also cover registration to participate in MFAI trainings and events and will assist in your attending at least one major movement-related conference, and usually more.

Interested applicants should submit a letter expressing reasons for interest in this position, relevant background, a writing sample, names/contact information for three references, and

confirmation of housing and other arrangements by Friday, October 30, 2009. (Applicants from out of town may simply note that they understand that they need to make these arrangements and are prepared to do so.) Please send applications to Margaret Krome, MFAI Policy Program Director, 2524 Chamberlain Ave., Madison, WI 53705. For more information, you may contact Margaret at [mkrome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkrome@sbcglobal.net) or (608) 238-1440.

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute is a public, non-profit institute for education and research in sustainable agriculture. We actively encourage students of all races, colors and national and ethnic origins to apply. Please inquire if special arrangements may be needed.