

An Evening with Paul Stamets

Toronto Botanical Garden - April 27, 2011

The Floral Room - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM



THE FLORAL ROOM
777 Lawrence Avenue E.
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1P2



Solutions from the Underground: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World

See Paul's TED Talk at

www.ted.com/speakers/paul_stamets.html

"Once you've heard 'renaissance mycologist' Paul Stamets talk about mushrooms, you'll never look at the world - not to mention your backyard - in the same way again." Linda Baker, Salon.com

As we are now well engaged in the 6th Major Extinction ("6 X") on planet Earth, our biosphere is quickly changing, eroding the life support systems that have allowed humans to ascend. Unless we put into action policies and technologies that can cause a course correction in the very near future, species diversity will continue to plummet, with humans not only being the primary cause, but one of the victims. What can we do? Fungi, particularly mushrooms, offer some powerful, practical solutions, which can be put into practice now.

The central premise is that habitats have immune systems, just like people, and our close evolutionary relationship to fungi can be the basis for novel pairings that lead to greater sustainability and better health.

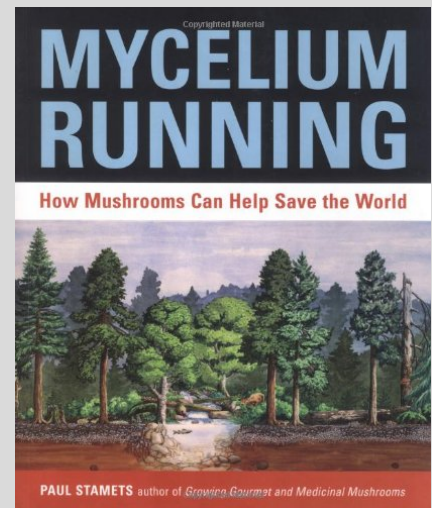
Paul Stamets will discuss the evolution of mushrooms in ecosystems and how fungi can help heal environments. As environmental health and human health are inextricably interconnected, fungi offer unique opportunities that capitalize on mycelium's diverse properties. Fungi are the grand molecular dis-assemblers in nature, decomposing plants and animals, creating soils and the food web of life. Forest dwelling mushroom mycelium can achieve the greatest mass of any living organism - this characteristic is a testimonial to the inherent biological power of the fungus.

About a dozen species of medicinal mushrooms will be explored from a historical perspective leading to the clinical studies in which Paul is participating. Moreover, he will discuss his work with the U.S. Department's Bioshield BioDefense program, wherein his extracts were the first natural products from hundreds of thousands of samples tested found to be potent inhibitors of pox, bird flu and other viruses. As ecosystems become stressed, diseases proliferate, and many scientists predict a viral storm is on the near horizon, one symptom of the Earth reacting to the insults we have levied. His recent research shows mushrooms have a surprisingly broad range of anti-infective properties, including but not limited to inhibiting *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria. If it were not for the biological prejudice against 'mushrooms', science would be better prepared for facing these challenges. Paul will demonstrate that mycelium offers many of the solutions we sorely need.

About Paul Stamets

Paul Stamets has written six mushroom-related books, with his most recent being *Mycelium Running: How Mushrooms Can Help Save the World*. *Growing Gourmet & Medicinal Mushrooms* and *The Mushroom Cultivator* are used as textbooks around the world by the specialty and medicinal mushroom industries. He is the author of many scholarly papers in peer-reviewed journals (*The International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms*; *Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine* (eCAM, Oxford University Press); *Herbalgram*, and others)

He has written more than twenty patents. He started a medicinal and gourmet mushroom business, *Fungi Perfecti, LLC*, in 1980. (www.fungi.com.)



Paul is an advisor to the Program of Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona Medical School, Tucson; on the Editorial Board of *The International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms*, and was appointed to the G.A.P./G.M.P. Board of the U.S. Pharmacopoeia. Stamets is the sole source supplier and co-investigator of the first two NIH funded clinical studies using medicinal mushrooms in the United States. His strain collection is extensive and unique, with many of the strains coming from old growth forests. He has been working with the NIH governed BioShield BioDefense Program since 2005 to develop new defenses against bioterrorism.

Paul has received several environmental awards.

In 2008, Paul received the National Geographic Adventure's Magazine's Green-O-vator and the Argosy Foundation's E-chievement Awards. In November of 2008, *Utne Reader* recognized Paul as one of the 50 Visionaries of the Year. In February of 2010, Paul received the President's Award from the Society of Ecological Restoration.

In March 2010 Paul received the 'Packy Award' from Sustainable Business Coalition and Whole Foods Market's Green Coalition for the Life Box™. In September 2010, the Life Box received the Opportunity Green Award, the best green invention amongst 25 semi-finalists. [Most all orders of his products are shipped in Life Boxes - boxes infused with hundreds of tree seeds so end-users can become active in re-greening the planet.] Paul's talk at TED.com on how mushrooms can help save the world has been viewed by hundreds of thousands.

Married to C. Dusty Yao, a plant fanatic, who shares a passion for fungi and their love of the Old Growth forests. Both believe that people properly armed with fungal wisdom can help save the planet. They reside at the base of the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State.

An Evening with Paul Stamets - Registration - April 27th 2011, 7:00PM

- Advance Registration\$30.97 + \$4.03 HST= **\$35.00**
- Advance Student Registration\$22.12 + \$2.88 HST= **\$25.00**

Registration at the door add \$5.00 **PLEASE NOTE:** Registrations at the door will be limited to availability. Payment at the door will be Cash or Cheque only

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Presented by:



Questions?

Contact us at:

**Urban Forest
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