

NORTHWEST HERBAL FAIR NEWS 2012

February 14, 2012

Dear Teachers & Friends of the Northwest Herbal Fair,

The Northwest Herbal Fair (NWHF) will not be held in 2012 for reasons outlined below. However we may be close to signing a contract with a venue for the 2013 Northwest Herbal Fair. We will announce the 2013 date and venue as soon as we have an agreement.

The 2011 Northwest Herbal Fair was fantastic! 900 people and 120 workshops by 75 presenters! 65 vendor booths. Burke's stage team provided another great year of music and entertainment. Good weather and a big lake to swim in. The NWHF kitchen cranked out over 3,000 meals of delicious cuisine. The organization ran smoothly throughout. Music, color, friends, swirl and all the other elements of a great gathering centered on herbal medicine. The event will ever be historic in our memories. The workshops were so well attended and there were so many old friends and new friends to talk to about the healing herbs. The 2011 NWHF was a success by all measures. Or almost all, as it would have been nice to make a profit. We were able to pay all our bills and a fair amount of the funds were able to be spread among the coordinators, workers and presenters. As in most community events, a lot of people donated their time to helping make it a success. Thanks to all the presenters, staff and volunteers.

So why aren't we doing it in 2012?

1) Fire Mountain Scout Camp had almost everything we could want in a venue. Alas, we found out it will not be available in 2012 during our usual late August time period because they had closed another scout camp elsewhere and so are keeping Fire Mountain Scout Camp open later into the season to accommodate the other camp's clientele. We have not been able to find a suitable venue in northwest Washington available in August 2012.

2) Both Michael "Skeeter" and Saphir have rather full schedules in 2012 and would not be able to put in as much time as they did in 2011. We both did stellar performances and put in many hundreds of hours. Even though most of the other coordinators are ready to step up to the plate in 2012, it did not look like a wise decision to attempt it given Saphir and Michael's limited time availability.

The 2013 NWHF is already in the works. We hope to be able to announce the date and venue shortly. The venue we are looking at is close to Mount Vernon, not far from the Fire Mountain scout camp. So we can count on our newer clientele in Skagit county to remember us and we are still close to our roots in Whatcom county. Our draw from the rest of the Northwest continues to grow as the interest in herbal medicine grows.

Thank you so much for contributing your beautiful energy to last year's Fair and have a transformative year. Stay tuned to our website for further developments. Once we have a 2013 date we will put up application forms for presenters, staff and volunteers. See you there.

Herbally yours,
Skeeter, Saphir, Burke, & Michele

www.nwherbfair.com

2012 HERBAL GATHERINGS

As a consolation prize here is a list of the 2012 herbal events happening in the Northwest that we know of. Since you can't come to the NWHF in 2012, consider attending some of these other herbal gatherings.

Sustainable Herb Conference

March 24, 2012, Saturday from 9 - 5 pm. Corvallis, Oregon. GivingTree Farm Herb Company in partnership with Linn-Benton Community College's Benton Center and The Corvallis Multicultural Literacy Center. The Sustainable Herb Conference will be offering workshops and presentations on the limitless subject of herbalism in six different categories: medicinal/clinical; energetic/spiritual; culinary/craft; nature, farm and garden; story telling; and herb walks. Sliding scale: \$5 - \$25 for the entire conference. www.givingtreefarm.com/id24.html

The Northern California Women's Herbal Symposium

Begun in 1991, as an inspiration from the Women Herbalist's Conference in Oregon. The northern California offshoot was so successful that it has been held two times a year for many years.

Session 1: May 25-28, 2012

Session 2: August 31- September 3, 2012

info@womensherbalsymposium.org, or call 707-824-1429

www.womensherbalsymposium.org/

Bastyr Herb and Food Fair

June 2, Saturday, 2012

14th Annual. A one-day, free event held in Seattle at the campus of Bastyr University at the north end of Lake Washington. Bastyr is one of the foremost naturopathic schools in the US with a student body, faculty and staff of about 1,200. The gathering started out small, but has grown each year with over 1,000 attending the past few years. They always have a nice line-up of speakers, workshops and garden walks. Their herb garden is one of the best I have seen and is well worth a visit anytime.

Montana Herb Gathering

July 13-15, 2012. Near the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The 12th MHG. A sweet, regional herb gathering focused on Montana. Always brings in a great set of teachers including notable herbalists from outside the region. Co-founded by Michael Pilarski. Generally it attracts about 150 people.

www.montanaherbgathering.org

Northwest Herbal Fair

Back in 2013. 3rd weekend in August. www.nwherbfair.com

Breitenbush Herbal Conference

September 6-9, 2012. Held at Breitenbush Hot Springs in Oregon's Cascades, this is the most famous gathering of herbalists in North America. 2011 was their 25th anniversary! This gathering brings in many of the top herbalists from around the USA. www.breitenbushherbalconference.com/

Rootstalk

2012? 2011 was the first year of this new gathering (held on Sept 22-25). A celebration of People, Plants and Planet. Their website doesn't have any 2012 info up. www.rootstalkfest.com

Southern Oregon Herb Gathering

2012? The first SOHG was held September 23-25, 2011 near Cave Junction, Oregon.

Contact Deb Lukas, Siskiyou Mountain Herbs. sisqdeb@gmail.com www.siskiyouherbs.com
www.facebook.com/sisqherb

Portland Plant Medicine.

2012? Their 3rd annual was held at NCNM, December 2-5, 2011. A new, small, regionally-focused, exciting gathering. www.thedirt.org/node/5657