



PRESS RELEASE
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DATES SET FOR 2008 WHITE PINE FESTIVAL

SECOND FESTIVAL TO BE HELD IN ST. CROIX VALLEY JUNE 19-22, 2008

STILLWATER, Minn. and HUDSON, Wis. – This June, the second annual White Pine Festival will again bring artists and audiences from a wide range of backgrounds to the St. Croix Valley for four days of intimate and inspiring interdisciplinary arts events.

The festival will take place in and around Stillwater and Hudson June 19-22, 2008, and it will focus on classical chamber music, poetry, and a third art form not yet determined. The festival's artistic lineup will be announced in February.

“We were overwhelmed by the success of our inaugural festival this past June, and as soon as it was finished we began preparing for 2008,” said White Pine Festival President Matt Thueson. “Based on our progress so far, I am confident the festival will be an even greater success next year.”

The 2008 White Pine Festival will be similar in structure to its predecessor, which drew a combined audience of more than 1,600 to 26 events held throughout the St. Croix Valley between June 20 and June 23.

White Pine Festival Vice President and Artistic Committee Chair James Hainlen said his primary goal is to maintain the festival's high artistic standards while expanding the breadth of its programming.

“We decided to keep music and poetry as pillars of the festival because they were so popular last year, but we also wanted to mix it up a little bit and try something new,” he said. “I can't yet say exactly what that will be, but I can tell you we've talked about visual art, dance and film.”

Organizers said the 2008 White Pine Festival will again rely on the work of many volunteers, and there are opportunities for people of all interests and availabilities to get involved.

“More than 65 volunteers pitched in last year, and I hope to see many more this year,” said Volunteer Coordinator Nicole Young. “There's certainly enough work to go around.”

Thueson said another important way people can help the festival is with a tax-deductible donation.

“Without the generous support of individuals, foundations, and businesses that shared our vision, this festival would not have been possible,” he said. “Thanks to their generosity, we know the White Pine Festival is an idea that resonates with people. It has tremendous potential, but we will need additional financial resources to take it to the next level.”

Those who would like to get involved with the festival or learn more about how their gifts can help establish it as one of the region’s premiere cultural institutions should visit www.whitepinefestival.org or call 651-439-6777.

ABOUT THE WHITE PINE FESTIVAL

The White Pine Festival will present a week-long series of world-class artistic and intellectual events each summer amid the natural beauty of the St. Croix River Valley. The second annual festival will take place from June 19-22, 2008.

The White Pine Festival explores challenging ideas from a wide range of artistic and intellectual perspectives, including music, literature, visual art, history, poetry, nature, science and philosophy. Festival participants are encouraged to view art and the world in new ways, and to approach the task with the vitality, humor and candor one finds in conversations among close friends.

The inaugural festival was held June 20-23 at several venues in and around Stillwater and Hudson. Its events centered around classical music and the literary arts.

The inaugural White Pine Festival would not have been possible without the support of the numerous individuals, businesses and foundations who believed in its vision, and the partner organizations that helped to realize it: Arcola Mills, ArtReach Alliance, Boutwells Landing, the Hudson School District, Stillwater Area Public Schools, the Phipps Center for the Arts, the Stillwater Public Library, the St. Croix Concert Series and the St. Croix Valley Community Foundation.

For more information visit www.whitepinefestival.org.

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PHOTO INFO SHEET

The following high-resolution photographs can be downloaded from the White Pine Festival media resources page:

http://www.whitepinefestival.org/media_resources

20071206-Allmann.jpg — Andrew Wallmeyer, photographer

Arcola Mills Program Director Laurie Allmann leads a tour of the Arcola Mills grounds on June 20, 2007, as part of the 2007 White Pine Festival. (Arcola Mills is located in May Township, Minn., about 15 minutes north of Stillwater.)

20071206-Bonair-Agard.jpg — Jack Young, photographer

Visiting poet Roger Bonair-Agard performs at a late-night poetry slam at the Twisted Grille in Hudson, Wis., on June 21, 2007, as part of the 2007 White Pine Festival.

20071206-Gustavson.jpg — Andrew Wallmeyer, photographer

Visiting poet Cynthia Gustavson gives a lecture at Arcola Mills on June 23, 2007, as part of the 2007 White Pine Festival.

20071206-Gustavson&Stroozas.jpg — Andrew Wallmeyer, photographer

Visiting poet Cynthia Gustavson looks on as Samantha Stroozas reads a poem at Arcola Mills on June 23, 2007, during the 2007 White Pine Festival. Stroozas was one of several Hudson School District elementary students who were invited to share their nature poems at a White Pine Festival poetry reading.

20071206-Hainlen&Bonair-Agard.jpg — Andrew Wallmeyer, photographer

White Pine Festival Vice President James Hainlen and visiting poet Roger Bonair-Agard admire the St. Croix River from the grounds of Arcola Mills during the 2007 White Pine Festival. (June 20, 2007)

20071206-Hoagland.jpg — Andrew Wallmeyer, photographer

Visiting poet Tony Hoagland gives a lecture at Arcola Mills during the 2007 White Pine Festival. (June 23, 2007)

20071206-StPetersburg.jpg — Andrew Wallmeyer, photographer

The St. Petersburg String Quartet performs at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater, Minn., during the opening concert of the 2007 White Pine Festival. (June 20, 2007)