

CHRIS MASER SPEAKING AND PRESENTING ON SOCIAL –ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ABSTRACT:

Chris Maser is considered an expert in his field of study and is recognized for his ability to integrate science and social values in order to bring humanity closer to social-environmental sustainability. Chris's voice resonates through his courageous speaking and writing. As a leader in his professional community, Chris poses societal problems in ways that don't pander to popular opinion and simple slogans, but rather draw the mind down a complex path of systematic thinking. Chris will provide informative sessions, in the form of lecture and presentation, to Missouri State faculty, staff, and students during his time on campus. Chris Maser's visit to MSU will be hosted by the student organization, Students for a Sustainable Future.

DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES (April 20th):

Chris Maser will speak publicly on the MSU campus three times and spend the remainder of his time with various student groups on campus (Ex. Students for a Sustainable Future, Sierra Club, and Greek Life).

- (1) Morning question and answer session open to all MSU students, faculty, and staff. To be hosted by Students for a Sustainable Future (SSF) and the Sierra Club at an undetermined location.
- (2) Afternoon (1:00 p.m.) and evening (7:00 p.m.) speech and presentation in the Parliamentary Room of the Plaster Student Union. Event will be open to all MSU students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public. Speaker will be allotted 60 minutes to speak and present. Remaining 30 minutes will be offered for question and answer time.
- (3) Mid-afternoon (4:00 p.m.) open forum and discussion at the Mud House coffee shop on MSU campus or at the Coffee Ethic located in downtown Springfield (easily accessible via the Bear Line). Speaker to be introduced by a member of the SSF, who will also serve as a moderator.

BELOW IS INFORMATION ABOUT CHRIS MASER:

Chris Maser is a professional scientist and consultant in sustainable forestry and sustainable community development; he has authored and co-authored twenty-six books and more than 250 articles. His career spans thirty years as a research ecologist in forest, shrub steppe, sub arctic, desert, coastal, and agricultural settings. He was a member of Yale's Peabody Museum Prehistoric Expedition to Egypt., conducted a three-year coastal survey for the University of Puget Sound, and carried out an eight-year study of old growth forests with the U.S. Departments of the Interior. He has given more than 100 talks throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, and Asia. Speaking topics include: sustainable forestry, sustainable community development, and resolving environmental conflicts.

Beyond his professional and career achievements, Chris's friendly concern for the environment reminds us our lives are interdependent in every aspect. He connects the sustenance of life, even in the largest cities, to the health of soils in remote forests.

Robert Merrill, and editor of two of Chris's books, is stirred by Chris's ability to "present an unusual blend of hard science and the wisdom of the ages, equally comfortable discussing the chemistry of organic decomposition, economics, psychology, and history.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ISSUES ADDRESSED:

Developing environmentally sustainable communities is a concern to many people affiliated with Missouri State University. Inviting Chris Maser to speaker publically at MSU will help our populace to better understand the underlying principles and concepts of sustainability. Chris's thorough knowledge of the importance to maintain nature's processes will encourage and enthuse students to pursue lifestyles committed to sustainable living. Chris's presentations will help to inform students of the campus-wide effort to create a more environmentally-minded community. Lastly, Chris Maser's friendly, personal approach will help students form connections as we realize the correlation between care of the environment and quality of life.

OBJECTIVES AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Relating community health to forest ecology through the study of environmental sustainability is what Chris Maser does. Educating the MSU community in social-environmental sustainability will create leadership potential for many students. Chris has the ability to inspire students to see the world in its multi- and related dimensions. In his own words, "we are not individuals, we are dynamic."

AUDIENCE AND PARTICIPANTS:

Chris will be a guest to the faculty, staff, and students of Missouri State University. His visit will be hosted by Students for a Sustainable Future and the Sierra Club. Chris will speak publicly and present to students across the MSU campus. Members of SSF will work with Greek Life to create times for Chris maser to present to members of several fraternities and sororities. Also, SSF will work with the Mud House on campus, the downtown Coffee Ethic, and most importantly the Plaster Student Union to secure times for Chris to present.

OVERVIEW OF CROSS DISIPLINARY PARTICIPATION:

Connecting students and their communities with the environment is naturally cross-disciplinary. Helping young people to realize how their quality of life will vary with the overall health of the environments has the potential to create real action. The more students are asked to stop and recognize how our footprints are changing the world around us, the more sensitive we will be to developing sustainable lifestyles.

Because Chris's research draws a correlation between forest ecology and development of environmentally-sustainable communities, listeners need not have a background in the sciences. Chris's audience will be captivated if they have even the slightest concern for developing sustainable living. Chris does more than research sustainable forestry practices; he teaches leadership in environmental sustainability. Therefore, Chris's message is applicable to any young person hoping to diversify their education.

AUDIENCE:

- (1) All Missouri State University faculty, staff, and students.
- (2) Members of the Greek Community at MSU in light of the recent effort to incorporate “Going Green” in Greek social events.
- (3) It will be a personal effort of mine to raise awareness of Chris Maser’s presence on campus to members of the Department of Technology and Construction Management and to the MDU Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.
- (4) The general public who is aware of Chris’s presentations on campus and at the Coffee Ethic in downtown Springfield.

BUDGET AND BUDGET EXPLANATION: (\$3000)

SSF would like to provide a \$3,000 honorarium for Chris Maser’s services at MSU. Chris’s activity will be centralized on Missouri State University’s campus and thus our budget for his services can not be recovered from any other organization. However, his speaking even at the downtown Coffee Ethic will be geared for MSU students who spend more time off campus and consider themselves a part of the downtown Springfield community.

OTHER FUNDING:

Chris Maser has accepted an invitation to be present at the 2009 Missouri State University Public Affairs Conference (April 21-24). The Department of Biology will be sponsoring Chris’s travel and lodging expenses for his participation during the week of the Public Affairs Conference.