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Illinois Wesleyan Hosts New Sustainable Living, Wellness Fair

April 5, 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — In a combination of two popular local exhibitions, the first-ever Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo will be held at Illinois Wesleyan University on April 21 and 22.

The Illinois Wesleyan Wellness Fair has joined forces with the Illinois Sustainable Living Fair to form the new two-day event, the collaboration between the Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness Program, the Ecology Action Center of Bloomington/Normal, and the Center for Sustainable Community of Stelle, Ill.



"Creating Healthy Communities" is the 2006 theme for the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo (ISLWE), which will again offer an exhibitors fair, located at Illinois Wesleyan's Shirk Center, 302 E. Emerson, and a workshop conference, which will be held at IWU's Center for Natural Science, 201 Beecher St.

Exhibitor hours will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fri., April 21 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sat., April 22, with more than 100 exhibitors sharing products and information on many aspects of sustainability and wellness. The exhibitors fair is free to the public and will include live music, several workshops on popular topics, a fuel efficient vehicle rally, live stage performances and more.

As in previous years at the Wellness Fair, a series of workshops and presenters will be offered on each day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information on such topics as health and wellness, renewable energy, land use, green building, environmental justice and sustainable living practices will be available.

A complete listing of all exhibitors and presenters is available at the Web site: <http://www.islwe.org>

A keynote address will be presented by Bill Wilson, the executive director of the Center for Sustainable Community, a non-profit educational organization located in Stelle, at 7 p.m. on Fri., April 21, in the Main Lounge of the Memorial Student Center (104 E. University St.).

Wilson has been an explorer and advocate of sustainable living and wellness his entire adult life. He is a 28-year resident of Stelle, which started as a private, intentional community in the early Seventies. Unable to find a cohesive direction, Stelle opened its doors to the public in 1982 as a simple homeowners association allowing anyone to buy, sell or build a home in the sustainably-oriented and progressive community. Stelle hosts its own organic garden co-op, tool co-op, dinner co-op, solar-powered telephone company, solar-powered high-speed internet service, a windmill that helps power its water treatment facility and, nearby is Illinois' first straw bale home.

The keynote address will be followed by a social mixer featuring the music of The Chestney Family Band.

Registration for the presenters is \$15 for both days or \$8 for one-day only (prior to April 14) or \$20 for both days or \$12 for one day after April 14 and at the door. The cost for the Friday evening reception only is \$5. Children under 18 and students with ID can attend free.

For more information on the Illinois Sustainable Living and Wellness Expo, contact:

Missy Smock, Illinois Wesleyan University Wellness, (309) 556-3334

Bill Wilson, Center for Sustainable Community, (815) 256-2204

Julie Elzanati, Ecology Action Center, (309) 454-3169

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