



EAST SLOPE

SAUVIE ISLAND • LINNTON

Salsa Squared

Sauvie Island festival features spicy food, music

By Charity Prater

As a back-to-school treat for the family, Howell Territorial Park and adjacent agricultural lands on Sauvie Island are hosting Salsa! Salsa! from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, September 16.

Salsa! Salsa! will include a variety of hands-on events, salsa tasting and musical performances. Farm tours will give visitors a chance to explore parts of the island. Seed-saving demonstrations will allow people to plant their own take-home tomato plants. Sensory games will challenge visitors to seek sounds without using their eyes, and soil/compost exploration will give all a chance to get their hands dirty.

"The entire event is a blast for all ages," says Shari Raider, owner of Sauvie Island Organics. "It's fun for even those who don't have kids."

The harvest celebration includes salsa tasting and judging of more than 10 chefs from various restaurants including Salsas by Wildwood, Fife, Taqueria Nueve, Higgins, Roux, Park Kitchen, Culinary Artistry, Proper Eats, Hot Lips Pizza, Bon Appetit, Pambiche and many more.

Musical performances by Media Cana, featuring members of Cana Son, are also among the festivities. Salsa dancing and a salsa auction are among the most popular aspects of the celebration. The auction

winner will take home two cups of salsa from each professional chef along with handwritten recipes.

"Last year we had a smaller version of the event, and it was such a success we've decided to expand it this year," says Raider.

Sauvie Island Organics, Sauvie Island Center, and Janus Youth Food Works Farm are hosting the event. Since 1993, Sauvie Island Organics has been farming the island and helping to connect consumer and grower through a Community-Supported Agricultural Scholarship program that enables low-income people to afford their produce. Sauvie Island Center is dedicated to teaching youth and adults about farming, the foods they grow, and the land around them through field trips. Janus Youth Food Works Farm is a youth-employment program that educates participants aged 14 to 21 in planning and implementing farm businesses.

Salsa! Salsa! is free, with donations accepted to support the hosts of the event.

Salsa! Salsa! Howell Territorial Park, (503) 797-1850, 13901 NW Howell Park Rd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, September 16. www.sauvieislandorganics.com or www.sauvieislandcenter.org.