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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Morel Mushroom Festival May 16–17 in Muscoda, Wis.**

Adventure and fun will be popping up all over at the Morel Mushroom Festival in Muscoda, Wis., May 16–17 as the village celebrates this nutty-tasting gourmet mushroom so prevalent to area woodlands. Activities range from geocaching to helicopter rides during weekend festivities geared to all ages from children to adults.

The Tasting Room at Mushroom Headquarters in the heart of Muscoda offers visitors samples of fried morel mushrooms (while they last), Wirtz Morel Microbrew, a microbrew beer crafted locally by Wirtz Haus of Brew, a Wild Morel and Leek Jack Cheese made locally at Meister Cheese Company. Or, they can savor a mushroom brat and enjoy the other culinary samples from Roots Chocolates, Porter Maple Syrup, Spurgeon Wine and Newport Coffee & Breads.

Morel mushrooms are known for their smoky, nutty, earthy taste. Their conically shaped cap is pocked with a distinctive pattern of raised ridges and they can range in color from pale cream to almost black. Prized for their gourmet flavor, the morel's seasonal availability renders them a rare treat. In 1982 Muscoda was named Wisconsin's Morel Mushroom Capital.

On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors to the festival can enjoy a helicopter ride over the greening hills and valleys near the quiet community of Muscoda and view a variety of vehicles from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on display at the Custom Car and Truck Show. On Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors can enjoy a Bartels Chainsaw Carving Show demonstration and purchase a sample of the artist's work, scout out bargains at a Flea Market and treasures at the Arts and Crafts Sale.

Geocaching returns this year at 10 a.m. Saturday for explorers in search of adventure and a fun way to poke around the hills and valleys surrounding the village. Participants can go to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) to sign up in advance.

Guided tours of unique Native American burial sites at Ancient Indian Effigy Mounds will be given by a local historian at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday and at 11 a.m. Sunday. There's a Horseshoe Tournament, Chalk Drawing Contest and plenty of food for sale from local vendors.

Fireworks at dusk cap off Saturday's fun at Riverside Park on River Road, along the banks of the beautiful Wisconsin River. The parade focuses on the *Fungus Among-Us* theme of the festival and includes members of the UW Marching Band and Zor Shriners. The parade will be held at 2 p.m. on Wisconsin Avenue through downtown Muscoda.

Driving from Madison or Milwaukee to Muscoda provides a visual feast in mid-May. Choose Highway 60 as it hugs the south bank of the Wisconsin River and travel through dappled shade just above the water's edge. Or choose a route that winds through the driftless area of Wisconsin, where farmers work the gently rolling fields and wooded hills display nature's canvas of fledgling leaves unfurling in delicate shades of greens, yellows and reds.

For more details and a complete schedule of Muscoda's Morel Mushroom Festival, go to [www.muscoda.com](http://www.muscoda.com), or call 608-739-3182.

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