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WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY – SATURDAY, MAY 9



Small scale farmers cool the planet and feed the world – this is the current campaigning theme of the **Fair World Project** (Portland, OR). As **FWP** states succinctly on its [website](#) , "*Small scale farmers feed the majority of the world with access to less than a quarter of all farmland.*" **FWP** also claims that "*Small scale integrated organic farms are more resilient in the face of intensifying climate change events like hurricanes than are plantations and monocultural operations*"

FWP is an offshoot of the [Organic Consumers Association](#). With **World Fair Trade Day** approaching **FWP** has released a NEW 17-MINUTE VIDEO DOCUMENTARY. [Small-Scale Farmers Cool the Planet](#) highlights the role of industrial agriculture in contributing to global warming and the critical contribution of organic small farmers and consumers who are conscious of Fair Trade principles to combating the climate crisis.

WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY ACTIVITIES IN THE MANKATO AREA

MAFTTI's program:

Coffee sampling at Hilltop Hy-Vee – 10a.m.-12 noon; 2:00-6:00p.m.

Book display at Barnes & Noble (River Hills) – during the week before World Fair Trade Day.

Check what's new!

Display boards about Fair Trade in local coffee shops

Free filmshow – “Connected by Coffee” (70 minutes), Conference Room, Blue Earth County Library, 2:00p.m.

In St.Peter, [The Fair Emporium](#) will be offering a **10% discount** storewide for the day and the sampling of brewed Fair Trade African Roots coffee and Equal Exchange organic dark chocolate minis.



Display Boards



Coffee Sampling



Book Display

MSU STUDY ABROAD – FAIR TRADE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

During March two student groups travelled south from Mankato – one to Belize and the other to Nicaragua. Megan Maier went to Belize with Dr. Kristin Scott's group of students of Business and Marketing. Carrie Bluth went to Nicaragua with Dr. Jim Dimock's Communications Studies group.

Each kindly wrote a report for MAFTTI's Newsletter in which they describe encounters with local people gaining a better living in impoverished circumstances in ways that reflect or chime with the principles of Fair Trade. Megan's report is [here](#), Carrie's will feature in the May Newsletter. MAFTTI's thanks to both of them.



FASHION REVOLUTION DAY, April 24

Very soon the second anniversary of the Rana Plaza tragedy in Dhaka, Bangladesh will be commemorated. On April 24, 2013 a multi-storey complex of garment factories collapsed, killing over 1,100 workers.

On **April 24, 2014** people working in the world of international fashion launched an annual **Fashion Revolution Day** to attract public and industry attention to the nature of the supply chains, often exploitative, that bring wearing apparel from South and East Asia to household name stores like (in the USA) Walmart, Dress Barn and The Children's Place.

The question that **Fashion Revolution Day** provokes is "*Who made my clothes?*" – the same one that impelled Kelsey Timmerman to travel many miles to find the answer – and write "[Where Am I Wearing?](#)" before he came to Mankato to speak at MAFTTI's Fair Trade Fashion Show last September.

Something of the international and national flavors of **Fashion Revolution Day** can be glimpsed [here](#) and [here](#).

A personal response that **Fashion Revolution Day** encourages on the 24th is the wearing of clothes **INSIDE OUT WITH LABEL SHOWING** – and then the posting of selfies on the Facebook page! Game?

April 24, 2015 sees Fashion Revolution's first event in the Twin Cities - the showing of "**Cotton Road**", an award-winning documentary film which follows the commodity of cotton from South Carolina farms to Chinese factories to illuminate the work and industrial processes in a global supply chain.

Time: 6.15. Venue: Minnesota Textile Center, 3000 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis. More details [here](#).



CONNECTED BY COFFEE

Coffee is MAFTTI's main focus for 2015. A new film – "[Connected by Coffee](#)" is being shown in the MAFTTI network. Mention has already been made to the showing at Blue Earth County Library on **May 9**.

The first 30 minutes of the film focus on Fair Trade coffee production in southern Mexico. This part will be shown at MAFTTI's "**Connected by Coffee**" event on Thursday, **June 4** – 7:00p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 320 E Main Street, Mankato.

MAFTTI is very pleased to be able to welcome to that gathering two special guests from River Rock Coffee Shop, St.Peter – Tamika Bertram (Owner) and Helena Shanks (Lead Barista). Both have visited southern Mexico recently. River Rock uses coffee from the co-ops featured in the film. They will be able to add recent perspectives to the story portrayed in the film, which dates from 2012-3.

Mexican desserts will make the evening a thoroughly palatable occasion.

Watch the MAFTTI website for information about tickets.

One last thought – if coffee is a topic that could attract the MEN of the Mankato area (as has been suggested), please do your bit to bring about a more equitable gender balance in the audience. If you're male, come. If not, bring one with you!



PRODUCT NEWS

Hilltop Hy-Vee has expanded its Health Market and, in doing so, taken on several new Fair Trade products: Rice, Red Palm Oil, Kombucha teas, Bhakti Chai. They feature on MAFTTI's updated [Shopping Guide](#).

CATCHING UP WITH MAFTTI

On March 18 two Winnipeg-based sociologists gave a lecture at MSU in the Social Justice series. Mark Hudson and Mara Fridell spoke on "**How Fair is Fair? – Fair Trade and Social Justice**". Catch up [here](#). MAFTTI was glad to be able to be a co-sponsor of this event. The make-up of the audience demonstrated that it had made a contribution to bridging the gap between town and gown.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mankato Farmers' Market – MAFTTI again plans to have a Fair Trade literature table on four Saturday mornings, 8:00-12 noon, during the season. First Congregational Church/UCC will be there, in the Best Buy parking lot, on May 16. We need to cover June 20, July 18 and August 15. How about you?

North Mankato Fun Days Parade, July 12. – MAFTTI's 'Carmen Miranda' float needs to be assembled (4:00-6:00p.m. on the 11th) and escorted on the parade (10:30a.m.-1:00p.m. on the 12th). Good weather is not guaranteed but MAFTTI asks that, if you are going to be in Mankato or North Mankato then, you think about participating in this fun but purposeful activity.

If you can help with the coffee sampling at Hilltop Hy-Vee, at the Farmer's Market or at the Fun Days Parade in any way, please contact MAFTTI through the website – www.maftti.org

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