

MATT BABER

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EXPERIENCE

Farm Liaison, Forager & Larder Master | The Spice Companies | 2015 - 2020

Served as hands-on conduit between farm, restaurant & catering. Ran mushroom farm & in-house fermentation program. Also held role of Catering Executive Sous Chef and assisted with agricultural & culinary workshops for nonprofit arm.

Program Director & Educator | Kelly's Working Well Farm | 2016 - 2017

Helped launch nature-based democratic school. Managed aspects of the farm & curriculum.

Owner | Wolf Boy Provisions | 2013 - 2016

Handmade, naturally cured meat products with commitment to local & ethical sourcing.

Executive Chef | The Katz Club Diner | 2013

Catering Chef | fire food & drink | 2010 - 2013

Managed large staff & diverse production schedule for high-end catered events & new restaurant concept.

EDUCATION

Wild Mushroom Expert | March 2019 | Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Certified to identify wild mushrooms for public distribution.

Permaculture Design Certificate | Sept. 2016 | Midwest Permaculture

Completed comprehensive training in permaculture design principles.

Culinary Arts Diploma | May 2008 | International Culinary Arts & Science Institute

OBJECTIVE

To utilize my combined experience in working with regionally available foods - from planting to preparation & preservation - in a dynamic role that explores and elevates the agricultural, culinary, and educational value of responsibly grown & foraged items.

SKILLS

- Local food landscape: extensive knowledge of seasonality, best use of local ingredients, farms, producers & markets
- Wild, foraged foods: understanding of identification, availability, harvest & preparation
- Mushroom farming: building & managing shiitake, oyster & lion's mane in a farmed setting
- Permaculture approach of working with nature's principles to achieve efficiency & maximize outputs
- Management of staff, scheduling, production & inventory
- Planning & implementation of workshops & demonstrations