NEWS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden presents Dr. Daniel Chamovitz

May 23 - Pittsburghers will have a unique opportunity to meet native son and author of *What A Plant Knows*, on Thursday evening, June 7, 2011, at Rodef Shalom in Oakland.

6:00 pm start – Rodef Shalom Temple's Biblical Garden tour - 30 minutes
6:30 to 6:40 pm - time for guests to regroup and find seats in the lecture room
6:40 pm - Dr. Daniel Chamovitz is introduced and lecture begins
7:15 to 7:30 pm - Question and Answer session
7:30 pm - Guests are invited to go to Aaron Court for refreshments and book signing.

Plants: they are all around us, and we rely on their products every day, in countless ways. But how much are they aware of themselves? How does a Venus flytrap know when to snap shut around its prey? How do chrysanthemums know to bloom right before Mother's Day? If a tree is being attacked by a predator, can it warn its fellow trees? And do plants really care what music you make them listen to?

Renowned biologist Daniel Chamovitz—director of the Manna Center for Plant Biology at Tel Aviv University—explores the fascinating world of plants in his delightful **WHAT A PLANT KNOWS: A Field Guide to the Senses (Scientific American/Farrar, Straus and Giroux / June 5, 2012 / $23)**. Illuminating the science and the romance of plant biology, Chamovitz demonstrates how plants are acutely aware of the world around them and shows how humans share biology not only with chimps and dogs but also with begonias and sequoias.

Among other findings, Chamovitz reveals that:

> Plants, despite popular opinion about their musical preferences, are deaf, and contain some of the same genes known to cause deafness in humans.
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> Plants can smell if their fruit is ripe or their neighbor is being eaten by a ravenous bug. Some plants prefer certain scents, such as *eau de tomato* to *eau de wheat*.
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> Plants can distinguish different touches and can differentiate between hot and cold.
> Plants don't like to be touched much, and shaking a plant can lead to growth arrest.
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> Plants see when you come near them, and they know whether you're wearing a red or blue shirt. The plant genes that help determine whether it's in the light or the dark are also found in human DNA.

Plants know up from down. Humans and plants respond to gravity in similar ways, as experiments with plants on the International Space Station have proven.

Plants retain past events and can recall this information at a later period. Tobacco plants know the color of the last light they saw. Willow trees know if their neighbors have been attacked by caterpillars. Cherry trees remember the preceding winter.

Daniel Chamovitz grew up in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, and studied at both Columbia University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he received his Ph.D. in Genetics. He carried out postdoctoral research at Yale University before accepting a faculty position at Tel Aviv University where he recently served as Chair of the Department of Plant Sciences. In 2002, Prof. Chamovitz was a visiting scientist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. He is currently the Director of the Manna Center for Plant Biosciences at Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Chamovitz's scientific career has been characterized by novel and field-defining research: As a Ph.D. student in the lab of Joseph Hirschberg he was the first to clone a gene involved in the biosysnthesis of beta-carotene. As a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Xing-Wang Deng at Yale University, he discovered the COP9 Signalosome protein complex that was proposed then to be a master regulator of plant development. Later, Prof. Chamovitz's lab was the first to show that the COP9 Signalosome is also essential for development of animals. His lab in Tel Aviv has been spearheading the study of this important protein complex and has shown that it is likely involved in a number of human diseases including cancer. Prof. Chamovitz is among the most prominent researchers in this field and is often invited to give lectures at leading universities worldwide.

Through the generosity of Silvia Speyer, there is no cost to attend but reservations are necessary. Space is limited. Reservations will be accepted through May 28th at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden website, pittsburghbotanicgarden.org, or by phone, 412-444-4464.

The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden is currently under construction along the Parkway West corridor, 20 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh. The site, near Settler's Ridge, is located on 460 acres. By area, this will be one of the largest botanic gardens in the United States and the only U.S. garden to be constructed on reclaimed land. Another unique addition will be the first and only "Fred Rogers Garden of Make Believe". Construction of the Woodland Gardens and the Bayer Welcome Center is underway and the garden is expected to open to the public in 2013. Wedding rentals will be available upon the garden's opening.

For more information please call 412-444-4464, or visit the website at pittsburghbotanicgarden.org.