

The North American Truffler

Journal of the North American Truffling Society

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Fall 2019

October 8, 2019: Dr. Roo Vandegrift Richer than Gold: Biodiversity vs. Industrial Mining



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

All general meetings are held at 7:30pm in room 2087 of Cordley Hall on the Corvallis OSU campus. Cordley is reached via Orchard Avenue east of 30th St; [click here for a street map](#). Room 2087 is on the second floor on the south side of the building; [click here for a building map](#). Parking in any of the A1 lots is free after 5pm.

Don't miss the October NATS speaker meeting! Dr. Roo Vandegrift, recently returned from an expedition to the heart of the cloud forest, will give a presentation that is sure to be mind blowing. Be prepared for amazing images testifying to the rich biodiversity in one of western Ecuador's last unlogged watersheds. Emphasis, of course, on the fungal part (esp. genus *Xylaria*).

Hailing from the Appalachians of southwest Virginia, Roo earned a BS in Dr. RH Jones' soil ecology lab at Virginia Tech. He completed his PhD at the University of Oregon with Dr. Bitty Roy. During his studies he earned numerous grants and the opportunity to work with the incomparable taxonomist Dr. Yu-Ming Ju as part of NSF's 2013 East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute program in Taiwan.

Roo is currently involved in an EPA-funded large study focused on impacts of weatherization on microbial communities found in household dust, among other things. Amazingly, he has spare time, during which he serves as Herbarium Liaison with the North American Mycoflora project, acts as an Executive Board Member for the Rainforest Information Center's campaign against the expansion of metals mining on protected forests in the Ecuadorian Andes, and studies taxonomy and systematics fungi in the Ascomycete family Xylariaceae.

November 5, 2019 Speakers: Jim & Jamie PART 2

Truffle hunting across three continents and two oceans

Jim and Jamie gave Part 1 of this talk to NATS last May. For a review of all the good things said about them, reread the last Newsletter Volume 37 No. 2 (available at natruffling.org if you didn't save your copy).



That article ended as follows:

“I don't know where they will go next but two things are certain:

1. Jim's truffle interns keep him feeling young while he turns them old before their time and
2. You won't want to miss the May speaker meeting as old and young share their adventures pursuing the joy of truffles. And how they earned the medals...”

As they had time only to cover the Australian parts of their adventure, don't miss the upcoming meeting to learn how they earned those handsome medals and follow their truffling adventures on more northerly continents.

December 10, 2019 Speaker: Dr. Joey Spatafora

The Oregon Mycoflora Project

Are you familiar with the North American Mycoflora Project (NAMP)? Undoubtedly you are familiar with the name Joey Spatafora. Join NATS at the December speaker meeting where Joey Spatafora will provide an in-depth understanding of the NAMP project.


If you are not familiar with Dr. Joseph Spatafora, he is former president of the Mycological Society of America, and was recently appointed Department Head for Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University. In his 23 years at OSU he has maintained an active and successful record of teaching, research and service, for which he was recognized as one of OSU's Distinguished Professors in 2018. His research on the evolutionary biology of fungi is recognized internationally.




Two distinguished mycologists:
Dr. Spatafora and Dr. Luoma

North American Mycoflora Project

What is it?

 North American Mycoflora Project (NAMP) is an organization dedicated to a continental-wide collaboration between citizen scientists and professional mycologists to document the biodiversity of North American fungi. This is accomplished by empowering mushroom enthusiasts with the tools they need to do scientifically rigorous research....essentially in their own backyard.


How does it work?

 The process goes like this:


- Find a mushroom or truffle (yay you!)
- Photo document and voucher the specimen
- Deposit specimens in an herbarium/fungarium
- Samples are subjected to DNA sequencing to complement the morphological observations by amateur mycologists.

Eventually, these fungal diversity surveys will be utilized in producing a modern, comprehensive list of macrofungi for North America.

Who's doing it?

 If you are reading this newsletter, YOU are. Independent of the nerdy perks and pure nature entertainment value, this kind of community science contributes mightily to the understanding of fungi and development of ever important conservation strategies.

Shouldn't NATS be doing it?

 We are! NATS pioneered mycological "citizen scientist" participation 41 years ago! Now we have new tools that weren't available 40 years ago: see side panel for details.

Want to read more about it?

[Visit: http://mycoflora.org/](http://mycoflora.org/)

MYCOBLITZ FORAY TO MARYS PEAK

October 24 – Join us to learn how to be a citizen scientist as part of the North American Mycoflora Project (<http://mycoflora.org/index.php>).

Mycologically-inclined Oregonians are working to create an Oregon Mycoflora Project, and NATS is uniquely suited to help put fungi on the map! The Mycoflora bioblitz week <http://mycoflora.org/index.php/participate/continental-mycoblitz-2019> is Oct 20-27, so we will be participating in that nation wide effort. If you have a smart phone download the iNaturalist app ahead of time.

Meet at the Marys River Park (300 S 11th Street) in Philomath at 12:30 PM on Thursday, Oct. 24. We will meet in the shelter to learn how to collect good voucher specimens, fill in field data cards, take good photographs, and submit them to iNaturalist as part of the Mycoflora efforts. We will then carpool up to Marys Peak to look for truffles to submit. It is unlikely that there will be any culinary truffles found at this elevation, but some rare species have been found at this site by NATS members in the past.



NATS November 22-24 weekend foray



Our fall weekend foray will be at **Camp Westwind**, on the coast just north of Lincoln City. Camp Westwind offers miles of hiking trails in pine and spruce forests and a beautiful beach almost exclusively accessible from the Camp. Lodging is dorm-style in rustic cabins (each sleeps 9), with access to the Wilson Community Lodge for gathering and mushroom displays and a small kitchen. Restrooms and showers are communal but private. Attendees arrive Friday afternoon-evening and get settled in, we'll forage until we drop on Saturday then enjoy a catered dinner and social time that evening (adult beverages are allowed). On Sunday, folks are welcome to stroll the grounds and beach to their heart's content and head home in the afternoon. Cost for the weekend will be \$70, including Saturday night dinner. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate single night pricing for this event. Folks wishing to attend need to submit a signed liability waiver form and pre-payment to Marilyn Hinds by November 8, and will receive detailed instructions prior to the event. Interested people please email mkhinballard@peak.org for forms.



The Yachats Mushroom Festival is Turning 20!!!

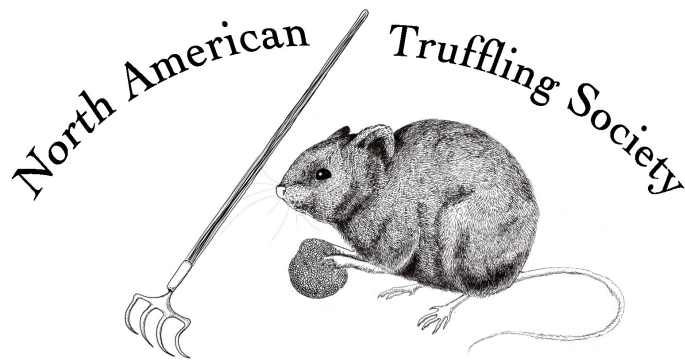
October 18-20, 2019: The [Yachats Mushroom Festival](#) calls all fun guys and fun gals to enjoy a weekend of delectable wild forest mushroom cuisine, expert-led mushroom walks, talks and exhibits, culinary classes and fungi arts workshops, culinary mushroom markets, wine tasting, and live entertainment. Guided mushroom walks and exhibits are free and open to the public.

The Annual Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Show

October 27: The annual [Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Show](#) in Eugene features a huge mushroom exhibit, great live music, food, children's activities, hay rides, nature walks and a scarecrow contest. The festival is loaded with fun things to do for everyone in the family. A wide variety of mushrooms, plants, and arts and crafts will be on sale, with proceeds supporting the Arboretum's work in environmental education and habitat restoration. This event is one of the largest mushroom displays on the West Coast. Bring the entire family (except the dog) to enjoy the festival. Suggested donation \$10 per person, children under 12 free.



Photo courtesy the Cascade Mycological Society website, used without permission.



WANTED

Creative suggestions for newsletter topics, comments about articles, your opinions about any truffle and/or fungi related topic. Send contributions to: newsletter editor Sarah Shay at NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com



Information contained in *The Truffler* is to be used at your own risk. NATS Inc., its officers, editors, and members are not responsible for the use or misuse of information presented herein. If you are unsure of mushroom identification or safety, **please** consult an expert! In addition, attending and participating in a NATS event is entirely at your own risk. No person associated with NATS is either directly or indirectly responsible for anything that occurs during, or in transit to/from, a NATS event. Be responsible.

UNIDENTIFIED TRUFFLE?

What to do?

Visit www.natruffling.org for a printable field data card (hand-written submissions on awesome stationary certainly welcome). Please provide a description of significant characteristics of the habitat immediately surrounding the collection site, including the dominant trees and other vegetation species and slope/exposure. Also include site coordinates (GPS data, if available) and, when possible, color digital images showing a surface view and an interior section, cut top-to-bottom, through the center of the truffle.

Prior to submission, gently remove loose soil from the specimen. DO NOT scrub briskly or use a stiff brush; an intact outer skin is important for identification. Dry thoroughly using a food dehydrator OR by refrigerating samples in a loosely closed paper bag for a couple days. For faster drying, cut truffles in half to reduce moisture trapped by the outer skin.

Mail your dried specimen to:

Dr. Jim Trufflin' Trappe
USFS Forestry Sciences Lab
3200 Jefferson Way
Corvallis, OR 97331

If you want to know what your truffle turned out to be, please include your email address or a self-addressed stamped postcard!

The North American Truffling Society, Inc.

The North American Truffling Society is a non-profit organization based in Corvallis, Oregon that brings together amateurs and professionals who are interested in fungi that fruit below ground. The mission of NATS is to enhance the scientific knowledge of North American truffles and truffle-like fungi, and promote educational activities related to truffles and truffle-like fungi.

NATS is the only organization of its kind in the world devoted to gathering truffles and enhancing our knowledge about them. Primary activities include educational meetings and truffle-collection forays. NATS members collect truffles worldwide, thereby contributing to our understanding of their habitat and range, identification and classification, and edibility. NATS specialists also provide truffle identification services.

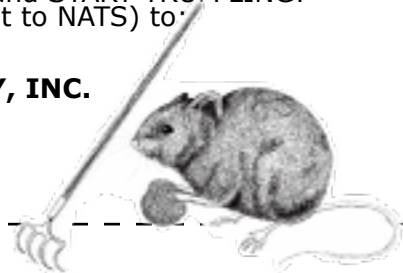
NATS offers:

- Forays (field trips) to collect truffles.
- Monthly educational meetings (autumn through spring) on varied mycological topics.
- A periodic newsletter, "The North American Truffler: Journal of the North American Truffling Society", describing recent truffle finds, program meetings and other topics.
- An annual potluck dinner.
- The excitement of participating in valuable scientific research.
- New and interesting friends.

NATS welcomes new members. As a nonprofit, membership dues are tax exempt and deductible. Dues may be paid by cash (in person) or by check (US Mail). If you pay by check, please retain your canceled check as your receipt for tax purposes. You can also pay online with a credit/debit card via Paypal at www.NATruffling.org/renew.htm.

For further information on truffles and membership, contact NATS and START TRUFFLING!
Please return completed form (with check made out to NATS) to:

THE NORTH AMERICAN TRUFFLING SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 296
CORVALLIS, OREGON 97330
www.natruffling.org



Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____
(Province) (Postal code)

Email address(es): _____

Annual membership fees: \$15 first family member, \$10 each additional family member in the same household. Businesses: \$15. Individuals/Businesses from other countries: \$20, **payable in US funds.**

Annual contribution categories: Donor: \$15-\$49; Contributor: \$50-\$499; Sustaining \$500+