

# The North American Truffler

*Journal of the North American Truffling Society*

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Fall 2020



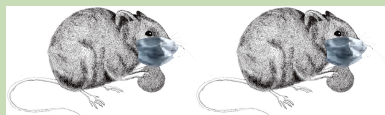
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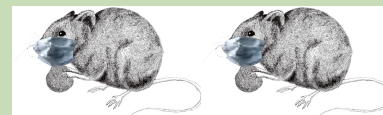
## 2020 NATS Board Members

President - Marilyn Hinds  
Vice President - Joyce Eberhart  
Secretary - Kyle Gervers  
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Scientific advisor - Jim Trappe  
Truffle master - Matt Trappe  
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Newsletter editor - Sarah Shay  
Club event coordinator - Carolina Piña Páez  
Hospitality - Sylvia Donovan  
Librarian - Amy Rossman  
Members-at-Large - Frank Evans and Dan Luoma

## Upcoming Events



### Safety Over 'Shrooms:



**Due to the now widely known dangers caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in-person NATS monthly speaker meetings are indefinitely postponed. We now invite you to ZOOM with NATS!! See page 2 for details.**

## Coronavirus, Zoom, and Fall Meetings Update

In an ordinary world, NATS members would receive an email detailing when and where monthly meetings will occur. These are not ordinary times but you can still count on receiving that awaited email telling you about upcoming NATS events!

For the foreseeable future, NATS meetings will take place via Zoom. Each month we plan to host a Zoom meeting consisting of two separate sessions. The first session, at 7:00 pm, will be the NATS business part of the meeting. Anyone with an interest in participating is very welcome to do so. If this part of our meetings is of no interest to you (as hard as that is for us to understand), simply tune in to the speaker portion of the meeting which will follow at 7:30 pm. The speaker will be introduced, fascinate us with their subject material, and linger for follow-up questions/discussions. In an effort to keep meetings short, speakers will present for 40 minutes or less. Only the speaker and NATS board hosts will be visible on video, so feel free to attend wearing sweat pants. Members will be able to interact with audio or through the Zoom chat.

When you receive your monthly NATS email about upcoming meetings, you will be asked to send an email to [NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com) if you would like to receive an invitation to that month's Zoom meeting. Our meetings will be hosted through Oregon State University, and we will be very sure to keep them securely password protected to avoid uninvited guests.

If Zoom is a mystery to you, or you aren't comfortable using it, you are certainly not alone; please write to [NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com), and we will try to answer any questions you may have.



Stay safe and be reasonable!

## ZOOM IN! NATS Fall 2020 Speakers

**October 6, 2020: Richard Tehan**

### **Cordyceps of the World and the Western USA**

A graduate student in the medicinal chemistry PhD program at Oregon State University, Richard studies natural fungal products. His research focus concerns drug discovery and the evolution of secondary metabolism in the Ascomycete genus, *Tolypocladium*, better known by its synonyms *Cordyceps* and *Elaphocordyceps*. He is also studying the taxonomy and systematics of *Tolypocladium* and other *Cordyceps*-like fungi.



**November 10, 2020: Arthur Grupe**

### **Techniques in the Cultivation of Gourmet Fungi with an Emphasis on the Pecan Truffle**

Somewhere in the jungles of Guyana, Arthur Grupe got hooked - on mycology. A survey of macrofungi, headed by Dr Terry Henkel, changed Grupe's life and forged a new career path, thus far including: earning his MS degree at Humboldt State and PhD at the University of Florida; describing 8 new species of *Sarcodon*; winning NATS' own Pavelek Memorial Scholarship; publishing a number of peer-reviewed publications, and, currently, obtaining a post doctoral research position at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Zoom in on Grupe when he will elaborate findings from a 5+ year investigation of pecan truffle inoculations, discussing techniques that may very well be applicable to the cultivation of other gourmet ectomycorrhizal fungi.

**December 8, 2020: Dr. Bitty Roy**

### **Dynamics of Prairie-Associated Fungi and Rare Plant Species in Remnant Prairies of the PNW**

Remnant Pacific Northwest (PNW) prairies are known to contain large numbers of now-rare plant species. But is there an association between prairie-associated mushrooms and plants of conservation interest? Join NATS virtually on as Dr. Bitty Roy describes her long-term research into the diversity of macrofungi in PNW prairies and the ways in which management practices influence community composition.



## Remembering Jon Kenneke July 11, 1968 — May 21, 2020

From the Corvallis Gazette Times, June 11, 2020



Jon Keith Fromherz-Kenneke, 51, of Albany passed away May 21, 2020 at home surrounded by his loving family. Jon was born in Carbondale, Illinois on July 11, 1968 to Larry Jon Kenneke and Rose Marie (Foster) Kenneke. The family moved to Corvallis in 1970. A sister Susan Lea (Kenneke) Davies joined the family in 1971.

Jon attended Garfield Elementary School, Highland View Middle School and Corvallis High School graduating in 1986. While in high school, Jon was active in amateur radio club and played bass for the Corvallis Youth Symphony.

He then attended Southern Oregon College (now University), earning a degree in Communications. Jon was active in the school's radio station — KSOR. As student announcer, Jon regularly delivered newscasts and hosted a musical variety program.

Upon graduation he worked as a computer programmer, radio communications specialist, and most recently as a broadcast engineer for Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB). He also was among the first promoters of Oregon's energy renewal program — Blue Sky.

He had an interest in all things related to saving energy and protecting our environment. He owned and drove one of the first all-electric cars to be built. It was a funny wedge-like vehicle looking much like a piece of pie with wheels. The "Wedge" was energy friendly, but was prone to catching fire. He further converted used cooking oil into bio-diesel fuel for his Volkswagen camper. He was often seen at the back doors of local restaurants collecting used cooking oil. Volkswagens powered by his concoction smelled like fast food restaurants on wheels.

Jon also was a frequent lecturer at Oregon's Sol West festivals where he gave demonstrations on cooking with solar ovens. His interest in solar energy led to the installation of solar panels in the back yard of his home in Albany. He was especially proud of his "off-the-grid" backwoods cabin. He designed and installed a solar collection system that made the cabin energy self-sufficient.

Jon was an avid fan of vintage Volkswagen campers, often owning several at one time. He belonged to the Wet Westies, a group of Volkswagen enthusiasts who held regular campouts around the state. Meeting in state parks and consenting farmer's fields, the group shared a unique camaraderie stemming from their Volkswagen adventures. He seldom missed a "Westie" campout. During his illness Jon's "Wet Westies" buddies organized a Volkswagen parade by his house with horns blaring and banners waving saluting Jon.

One of Jon's favorite outdoor activities was hunting for mushrooms. He belonged to a local mushroom club and always enjoyed tracking down elusive fungi. At one time he served as the editor of the group's newsletter. Not only did Jon harvest mushrooms, he went a step further and prepared gourmet meals incorporating these mushrooms. Jon's talent in the kitchen went beyond mushrooms. He also baked delicious breads, preserved fruits and vegetables, and created a variety of smoked meats and savory sausages.

But his greatest passion was being with his children — reading stories to them when they were younger, playing games, or building clever little projects. He especially enjoyed sharing the out-of-doors with them — toasting marshmallows around a campfire, hiking in the woods, camping at the coast or rafting on the Willamette River.

Jon is survived by the love of his life, his wife Rebecca Fromherz-Kenneke; his beloved children Ashley Kenneke, Daniel Kenneke and Brynna Kenneke; his parents; his sister (brother-in-law Steven); nieces Sarah McPherson and Sophia Davies; an aunt Janet Foster; and numerous pets including Bob, Buttercup, and Moonbeam.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents Elroy and Evelyn Kenneke and Virgil and Virginia Foster; and by his uncle Gary Foster.

In the evening of May 21, as Jon was leaving us, a rainbow appeared in the sky letting us know he was on his way to a big campout with the angels in heaven.

## Remembrances of Steve Carpenter

by Amy Rossman

Steve loved natural history and being outdoors ever since he was a child growing up in Lake Oswego, Oregon, roaming the woods with his Boy Scout Troop (and where he knew Everett Hansen, retired forest pathologist at OSU). When Steve came to Oregon State as an undergraduate, he knew even then that he wanted to study fungi and so took Bill Denison's course in mycology. As a graduate student I met Steve on fungal forays of which there were several each year. He used to say that I followed him around because first he went to Cornell University for a Master's degree working on an unusual fungus he found in Peavy Arboretum (a little green discomycete, *Gelatinodiscus flavidus* on *Chamaecyperis nootkatensis*) and I went to Cornell for a postdoc. Then he received his Ph.D. at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) working on a genus of little yellow discomycetes and I went there for a second postdoc. While at NYBG, he had several opportunities to collect fungi in the tropics which he loved. When absent for these trips, he allowed me to stay in his apartment for the price of taking care of his dog, an Irish Wolfhound named Claudius. I was never afraid walking around the Bronx with giant Claudius by my side; that dog could really poop.



After Steve received his Ph.D., there was no place in the world for him to live but Corvallis, Oregon. Given the scarcity of jobs in mycology, he had to draw on his scientific ingenuity and enthusiasm for fungi to find his way there. I know that he was ecstatically happy to meet his wife Patty and have three lively boys to pass on his interest in the great outdoors. After a postdoc or two with Oregon State University, including work on the fungi of Mt. St. Helens after the eruption, Steve obtained a job at Hewlett-Packard in charge of clean rooms and sanitation. This job was far removed from the systematics of obscure fungi but I know he did well there. Sometime along the way, he started Abbey Lane Laboratories in his garage as a side activity responding to those needing help with fungi. From my perspective this was wonderful because, in my job as Head of the USDA Mycology Laboratory in Maryland, we constantly got calls from people needing advice on what to do about their black mold in wet houses or fungi on fish. Thank goodness I could send them to Steve for assistance.



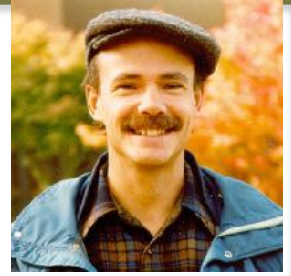
Steve was interested in everything outdoors, especially nearby Marys Peak. Noticing a need, he wrote the best-selling pocket-books "Wildflowers of Marys Peak Meadows" and "Wildflowers of Bald Hill Meadows"; if you have this book, you know there is no apostrophe after the Marys. He followed this with the book "Mushrooms of Marys Peak and Vicinity" that is also popular. The series was to be continued by a book on the mushrooms of the northern Oregon coast on which he was working when he died. Steve always wanted to tell others about the excitement of the natural world and did so with these publications. When my husband and I returned to Corvallis, Steve was eager to go out collecting as we did on a few occasions. He helped me find a relatively rare fungus wanted by a student and only found in the Pacific Northwest. Steve had noticed a few dying trees in a field just over the bridge in Alsea and, voilà, there it was!

**Remembering Steve Carpenter**  
**October 15, 1951 — June 9, 2020**

What a shock to receive the phone call from Patty with the news that Steve had died! He is gone too soon as there are many more fungi to be discovered and studied and many more children who need to know about the wonders of nature. I will miss you, Steve.

# The Tale of *Tuber luomae*

Finally!! You can read all about it in the journal [Fungal Systematics and Evolution](#). Also in [SciTechDaily](#), [Science News](#), or [Modern Farmer](#). And, at long last, in The North American Truffler.



Unless you have been hiding under a rock lately, you must be aware that our own Professor Doctor Daniel Luoma, current NATS Board Member-at-Large, was officially honored in having his name affixed to a rare species of truffle that he discovered: *Tuber luomae*.

Big deal, you say. People call each other names on a daily basis these days. Why the epic fuss over the naming a truffle?

Because it's been four decades in the making.

A synopsis may be helpful for NATS members under the age of 40 to appreciate the tale of *Tuber luomae*, which begins in 1981, Dr. Luoma's first year of graduate school at OSU. While attending a mycological meeting on Washington's Orcas Island, he collected some truffles, among the first he'd find in a career spanning 40 years. The specimen, confirmed as an undescribed species by NATS Scientific Advisor and truffle guru Dr. Jim Trappe, was subsequently added to OSU's collection where it would remain, not quite altogether forgotten, for four score and seven years. (Kidding- it was just decades). At any rate, morphologically unique or not, there it sat seemingly lost, waiting for science to catch up. When that happened, 12 years of combined effort and the application of advanced microscopy and molecular techniques cemented its reputation as a unique species.

The story has the makings for a compelling drama- youth striking out, roaming free in vast wilderness locales; the mysteries of nature; the loss of things; the finding of things; the losing them again; the bemoaning of time's relentless march forward; finding the thing again and this time putting it somewhere you really, really, really know you'll remember; the advancement of science; perseverance; and romance. Yes, romance. Of a nerdy persuasion.

*Tuber luomae* truly is a rarity; just 3 other specimens are known to have been collected. Naturally, it follows that the band of scientists who resolved to resolve this intrigue meets the very definition of esoteric. Tremendous credit is due to Dan, of course, as well as the publication's co-authors: to Jim Trappe's unfathomable knowledge of truffles, Greg Bonito's powers of DNA analysis, Carolina Piña Páez's adept microscopy skills. But perhaps none deserve so much credit as co-author Joyce Eberhart does. Cue the nerdy romance.

Many NATS members know of Joyce and her array of fine qualities, particularly Dan, since he happens to be Joyce's husband. This takes esoteric to a whole new level. Although Joyce wasn't present when Dan collected his namesake, it is no exaggeration to suggest that *Tuber luomae* could indeed have remained in the OSU herbarium four score and seven years if not for the presence of some of those fine qualities. Her regard for Dan, for instance, or respect for her colleagues. Her dedication to science, approach to problem-solving, willingness to seek help if needed, her freakish patience over the years, all wrapped up in the art of her enduring, persevering ability to lovingly nag.

Nag no more! Congratulations and deepest thanks to all who have helped bring Dan's mycology career full circle.



## NATS Event Coordinator Wins 2020 NAMA Memorial Fellowship

NATS member Carolina Piña Páez was awarded the 2020 NAMA Memorial Fellowship, a yearly administered, merit-based scholastic grant for outstanding graduate students. The summary of Páez's qualifications below illustrates her depth of intelligence, dedication and potential in the field of mycology. The only thing left out is mention of the tremendous energy and dedication she has brought to NATS during her 7 years of involvement.

Congratulations, Carolina! And many hearty thanks from your NATS cohorts and colleagues.

### NAMA MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP

Carolina Piña Páez, Oregon State University

pinapaec@oregonstate.edu



“Carolina Piña Páez is a PhD candidate in the department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University in Dr. Joey Spatafora’s lab. She received her BS in Biology from the University of Sonora where she worked with gasteroid fungi in the Sonoran Desert. In summer 2009 she was first introduced to truffles, and fell in love with their fascinating ecology and convergent evolution. In 2014 she received her MS in Systematics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), working on the systematics of truffles in the Transmexican Volcanic Belt with Dr. Roberto Caribay-Orijel. Her current research focuses on the diversity and population genetics of *Rhizopogon* in the Madrean Sky Islands of the Southwestern US and Northwestern Mexico. Specifically, Carolina is studying how *Rhizopogon* has migrated with

its hosts and how isolation and environment is shaping its evolutionary trajectory. Her research interests include fungal taxonomy, host shifts in ectomycorrhizal fungi and sexual reproduction, and in particular how recombination impacts genetic diversity.”

*The Mycophile* 2020 September-October | 9

To learn more about this and other award opportunities, visit the North American Mycological Association website at: <https://namyco.org/awards.php>

OR

The Mycological Society of America website at:

<https://msafungi.org/msa-graduate-fellowships-nama-memorial-fellowship-and-backus-award/>

## First-ever Fungi Film Festival to Feature Documentary by Filmmaker Tristan Stoch

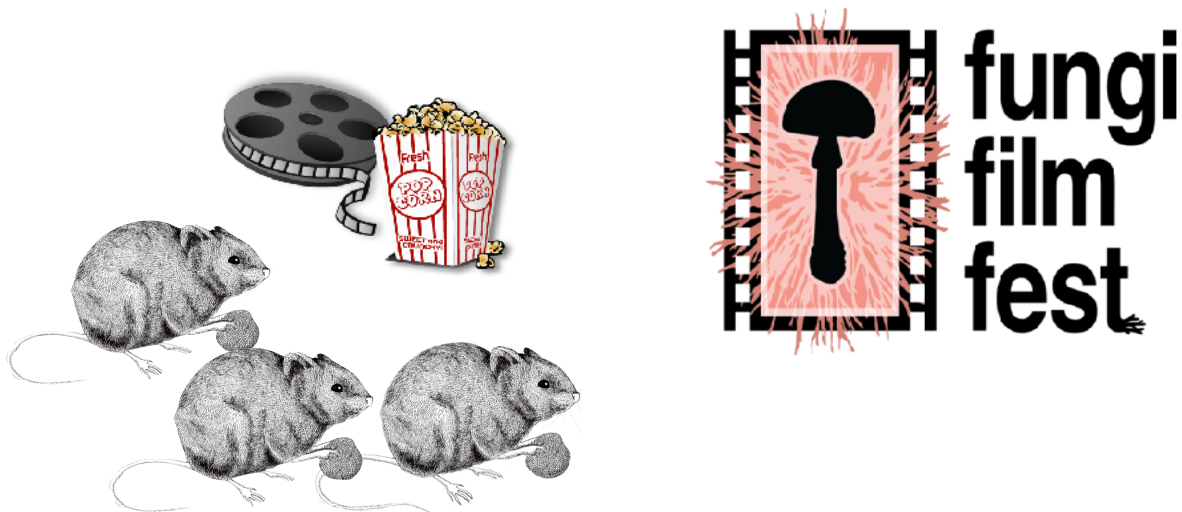
Attendees of the 2020 NATS annual potluck dinner lucked out on more than just a gastronomic level this year, partaking in what was essentially a first screening of filmmaker Tristan Stoch's latest project. The multi-segmented piece addresses Northwest mycology from multiple perspectives, including the tradition of matsutake hunting by first and second-generation Japanese families who made these Northwest Forests their home.

And now, Stoch's work will feature as part of the first-ever Fungi Film Festival (FFF) set to launch this October!!! Information about the festival can be found at <https://www.fungifilmfest.com>. Naturally, COVID Time Rules prevent the possibility of an in-person venue, so FFF will make its debut as several days of online live streaming. A number of other cool mushroom-related films will play, too, and again, you may appreciate the opportunity to don your sweatpants.

Stoch edited his footage to accommodate the festival's 10-minute slot, saying, "The story still flows. I actually like some of the edits I made and may keep some of them in the final release."

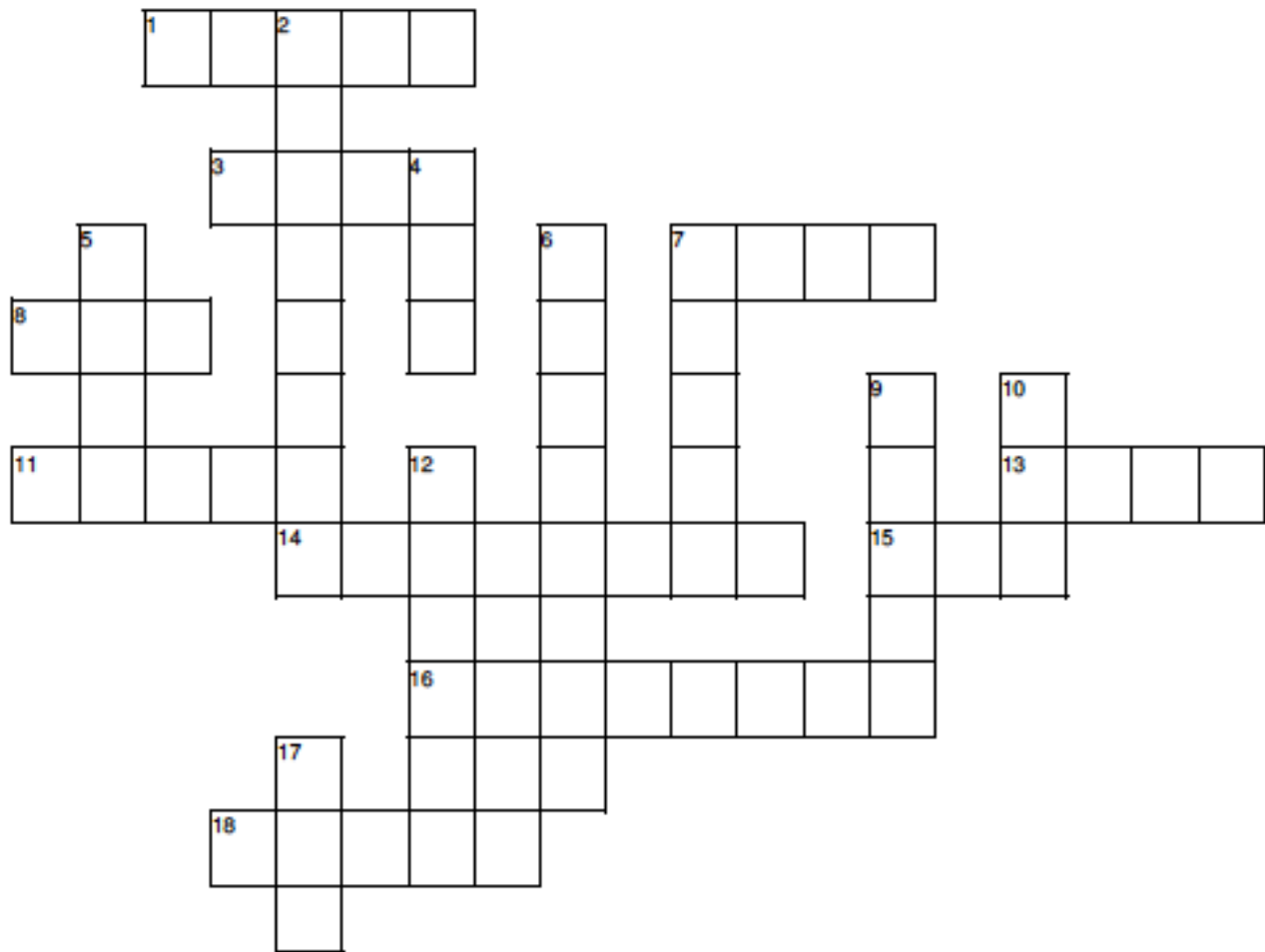
After the festival, Stoch plans to post his final version online in November as Episode 1 of a web series, *Mushroom Stories*, and will start releasing the rest of the episodes after that. Noting the change of format from film to web series, Stoch commented, "There is just too much to fit into a single film. All the filming I've done so far can be thought of as 'Season 1.' If the world doesn't end before then, I might even make a Season 2!"

Fingers crossed, Tristan!





# Truffle Crossword #1



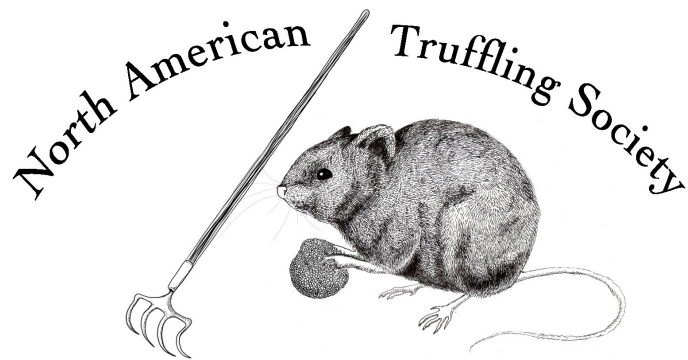
## Across

1. What happens when you forget you have truffles in the car trunk
3. Victims of Cordyceps who climb to great heights
7. truffles are mycorrhizal with \_\_\_\_\_
8. How long it takes to find a truffle without a dog
11. NATS longest serving treasurer
13. Transparent sacs within which truffle spores form
14. France's equivalent to Italy's Piedmont region
15. Squirrels like truffles better than \_\_\_\_\_
16. A truffer's arch nemesis
18. A truffle's weird cousin

## Down

2. The kind of mushroom to put in a cookie
4. Truffle compounds act as an aphrodisiac to these 4-legged creatures
5. Spore disperser
6. Dish often paired with truffles in France
7. 'Shallow' gold
9. Wielder of the NATS Meeting Gavel
10. NATS best secretary
12. The Pope of the Truffle World
17. A truffle's best friend

I realize wielding NATS President Marilyn Hind's gavel would be more fun at an in-person NATS meeting. And I commend NATS's readership for safely entertaining themselves in the midst of a pandemic. But I must say, again, and I quote: **"SURELY IN A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING, UNCERTAINTY, AND SHELTER-IN-PLACE, SOMEONE WILL BE BORED ENOUGH TO FINALLY LOOK AT THE NATS CROSSWORD PUZZLE (unsolved since Spring 2018). BE FIRST TO SOLVE SO I CAN ADD ANOTHER ITEM TO THIS PAGE!**

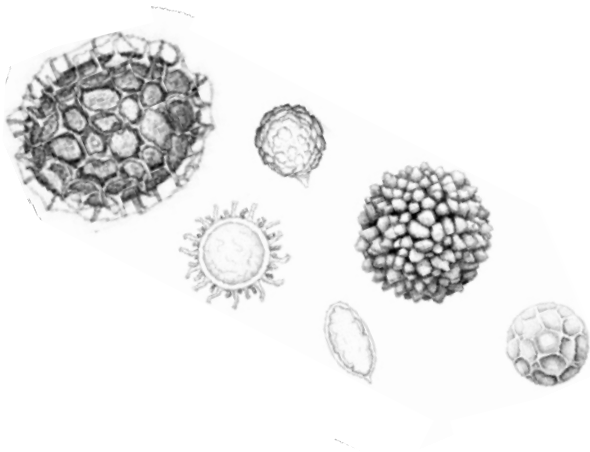


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## WANTED

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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](mailto: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.

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## UNIDENTIFIED TRUFFLE?

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### What to do?

Visit [www.natruffling.org](http://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](http://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](http://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+