




The North American Truffler

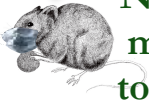

Journal of the North American Truffling Society

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Fall 2021

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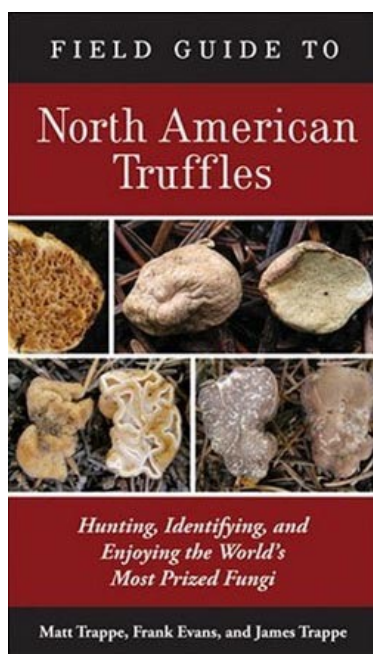
 **Announcements** 

 **6'**  **6'**

Once again, due to COVID-19 concerns, NATS monthly speaker meetings will continue to be hosted on ZOOM.

 **6'**  **6'**

So you can keep the sweatpants on.



A One of a Kind Guide

As we settle in for another pandemic restricted cool season, make the most of your time by checking out the Field Guide to North American Truffles

Written by NATS's own Matt Trappe, Frank Evans, and Jim Trappe, this THE guide for enthusiasts of North American truffles. Organized alphabetically by genus and species, this guide presents photos of truffles and their respective spores, written descriptions of when and where it is found, and comments on edibility and other characteristics. The book's introduction has a wealth of information about truffle ecology, responsible harvesting methods, edibility, and other relevant information. At the end is a glossary of mycological terms with translations of the latin and greek that comprise scientific truffle names.

Sharpen your truffle knowledge and support NATS by purchasing this guide from the NATS website: <https://www.natruffling.org/tfgbuy.htm>

Fall 2021 Upcoming Events

Fall means mushroom season in Oregon; it's time for treasured annual gatherings. How will the pandemic impact tradition this year? Visit the following links to find out what to do and not to do.

Yachats Village Mushroom Fest



The 2021 Yachats village mushroom festival will run from Friday, October 15 to Sunday, October 17. The festival's *Ecology for Everyone* program is cancelled but much delight can be found tasting mushroom dishes at local restaurants. To learn more, visit <https://www.yachats.org/event/21st-annual-yachats-village-mushroom-fest/2021-10-17/>

Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Show

The 2021 Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Show has been condensed to occur over one day, October 31. **Tickets are pre-sale only!** To purchase a ticket and learn more, visit <https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/mushroom-festival>



NATS Fall 2021 Featured Speakers

October 5, 2021: Sara Lynch & Mike Sanders Better Dinners Inspired by Opportunistic Foraging



What do you get when you couple a self-described lover of all things mushroom with a professional chef? The title says it all: better dinners!

Zoom in for the October 2021 NATS speaker meeting as Sara Lynch, OSU College of Forestry graduate, and Chef Mike Sanders, will discuss their passion for identifying, collecting, and using wild mushrooms in everyday cooking.

From Oregon to New Hampshire, their adventures will take us into the field and back into the kitchen. This is one presentation you don't want to miss.



Fall 2021 Speakers (con't)

November 9, 2021: Karl Vernes and Todd Elliott Mammal mycophagy and truffle spore dispersal in the forests of eastern Australia



Karl Vernes is Associate Professor in Mammal Ecology and Conservation at the University of New England. He has worked on mycophagy in Australia, New Guinea, and Canada. Also more broadly on mammal ecology in many other parts of the world, including the Himalayas and Mexico. His work focusses largely on community ecology of mycophagous mammals and how they contribute to healthy ecosystems by consuming and dispersing truffle spores. Karl has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters on mammals.



Todd F. Elliott is a naturalist, photographer, and biologist. He is currently doing graduate research with Karl at the University of New England (Australia), where he studies the ecology of vertebrate dispersal of fungi. Past research projects have taken him to six continents to work with a variety of organisms. His collaborations and publications include the naming of more than 100 fungal species and five genera and he is an author of the field guide *Mushrooms of the Southeast*. Todd was a NATS Henry Pavelek Sr. Memorial Scholarship recipient.

Australian temperate forests support a high diversity of truffle-like fungi and a rich assortment of mammals that feed upon them. This talk will describe our lab's work over two decades that has uncovered mycophagy among a great diversity of Australian mammals - including native rodents, marsupials, and even bats, patterns in the seasonality of consumption and the richness of fungi that show up in mammal diets. We will also present our recent work modelling fungal dispersal by swamp wallabies that demonstrates the great distances mammals can move propagules. Given the established importance of mycorrhizal fungi to forest trees and the degree to which mammals are dispersing the spores of these fungi within forests, it is likely that mycophagous mammal communities make a measurable contribution to the health of Australian forested ecosystems. This is particularly important in light of climate-induced impacts on eastern Australian forests - including drought and intense wildfires - that will likely influence the abundance and distribution of mycophagous mammals.



Fall 2021 Speakers (con't)

December 7, 2021: Shannon Berch Ectomycorrhizal fungi of *Quercus garryana* on Vancouver Island, British Columbia



Quercus garryana is the only oak species native to British Columbia and reaches the northern end of its distribution on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Although its community of ectomycorrhizal fungi has been studied in part of its range in the Pacific Northwest, relatively little attention has been paid to it in BC. Concerns about the impacts of climate change on the future of *Quercus garryana* lead to consideration of the mycorrhizal fungi that mediate its productivity and survival. Berch carried out a preliminary assessment of the fungi forming ectomycorrhizas with *Quercus garryana* at locations on Vancouver Island to begin the establishment of a baseline understanding of these fungi and permit comparison with what is known from the PNW.

A couple years into retirement after a career as a research scientist with the BC government, Berch counts herself lucky enough to continue to pursue interests in the fungi of BC and truffle cultivation. She is also a founding member of the Truffle Association of BC and the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society.

Springer-Nature lauds the journal *Mycorrhiza* for editorial excellence - NATS's own Dave Janos and co-editor Jan Colpaert highly appreciated!

The recently combined Springer-Nature, publishers of more than 2900 journals, has launched a new initiative to assess editorial excellence. *Mycorrhiza* was ranked among the **top 10% of all journals** published by Springer-Nature. The first issue of *Mycorrhiza* appeared in September 1991, and the publication is currently in its 31st volume.

Submissions to *Mycorrhiza* are divided by mycorrhiza type, with Janos evaluating papers

about arbuscular mycorrhizae while Colpaert handles ectomycorrhizas, orchid and ericoid mycorrhizas, and "other." External reviews are considered, after which Janos and Colpaert make the decision to reject, revise, or accept a manuscript. Accepted manuscripts generally endure 2 revisions.

In their tenure, Janos and Colpaert have published many articles on truffles, a fact undoubtedly of interest to NATS members. Published articles are available online [Mycorrhiza Home \(springer.com\)](http://Mycorrhiza.Home.springer.com) however, *Mycorrhiza* also publishes in print, 6 issues per year featuring 8 articles.

By year's end, Janos will have logged a total of 11 years as co-editor. It's his second stint. "Way back" he says, in his Associate Professor days, he co-edited *Mycorrhiza* with Vivienne Gianinazzi-Pearson, for 5 years. He notes, also, that NATS member Randy Molina preceded him as co-editor-in-chief for 8 years.

"I don't think that Springer-Nature was assessing editorial excellence back when Randy was involved, or else he and my predecessor, Vivienne Gianinazzi-Pearson, who edited the journal for 21 years, might have been recognized."

Congratulations again, Dave and Jan!

Mycorrhiza

Journal home > Journal updates > Mycorrhiza is a top 10% rated Springer Nature journal

Mycorrhiza is a top 10% rated Springer Nature journal for editorial excellence

Throughout the year Springer Nature invite journal authors to provide feedback on their publishing experience. We reviewed the prior year's data to identify the journals that exemplified editorial excellence in 2020. As a result of this survey, Mycorrhiza was listed as one of the top 10% rated journals.

The outstanding contribution the Editors in Chief Jan Colpaert and David P. Janos and the Editors bring to the journal are highly appreciated. Thank you!

Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest with author Suzanne Simard

This September, Kirstin Gruessli of the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society (KPMS), kindly invited NATS members to participate in a live Zoom event featuring speaker Suzanne Simard. Dr. Simard is a world-renowned Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia. She is known for her efforts in discovering how trees communicate with, and care for, each other—a communication made possible only by the intricacies of fungal mycelia.

Many thanks to Kirstin for informing NATS of this jewel of a presentation!!! If you happened to miss it, watch it now courtesy of the KPMS at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1citQkj9MGEeVso7N9qt0TGk4ZSmihB1b/view?usp=sharing>

You can view more of Dr. Simard in her TED talk at:

https://www.ted.com/talks/suzanne_simard_how_trees_talk_to_each_other?language=en.

Simard is also the author of a fascinating new book entitled, *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*. NATS Treasurer Dr. Barry Wulff has provided us with a mini-review. Thanks, Barry!



**FINDING THE
MOTHER TREE**
Discovering the
Wisdom of the Forest
SUZANNE SIMARD





Is there wisdom in our forests, and what roles do truffles and other fungi play? Dr. Suzanne Simard, University of British Columbia professor of forest ecology, offers a convincing story of the links in her new and very readable book, “Finding the Mother Tree”. Author Simard takes us on a parallel journey of her personal life, from her early years when she became familiar with and comfortable in the British Columbian mountain rainforests, and her research pursuits of the connections between trees. Early in life, she noticed the hyphal threads of a truffle leading to the roots of a Douglas fir. Born with a bent for critical thinking, she studied forest ecology at Oregon State University. Along the way, her research challenged established forestry policies. This is the life story of a competent researcher who brings to life the world of species-to-species communication.

If you have a subscription to the NYT you can read a longer review here: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/03/books/review/finding-the-mother-tree-suzanne-simard.html> (thanks to NATS member Dr. Randy Molina for sending the link).

NATS Goes iNaturalist: Updates



Last spring, NATS created its own iNaturalist project (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/truffles-of-north-america>) in order to:

-  Enhance knowledge of North America truffles;
-  Group truffle observations centrally;
-  Encourage trufflers to add information to our project;
-  Provide observers opportunity to submit interesting truffles to an herbarium for potential sequencing

So how is it going? The chart you see below tells the story.

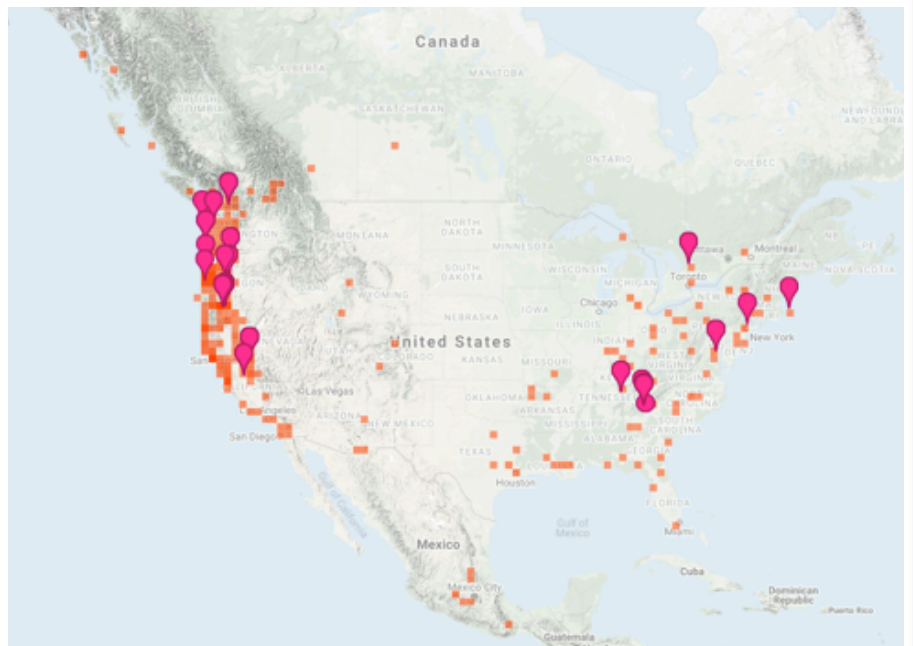
Truffles of North America iNaturalist project update September 2021



777 observations
105 species
264 people (observers)
120 identifiers
27 members

“Jonaleef” (Jonathan Frank)
leads with:
98 observations
37 species

“Corndog” (Conner Dooley)
has the next most observations:
39 observations
18 species

Richard Tehan next with:
36 observations
18 species



 Pins show the locations of recently-added observations.
 The squares show all observations in the project. The darker the square, the more observations in it.

Going truffling? Please consider taking photos of your truffles and uploading them to our project on iNat. It’s easy and fun, and you can do it on your smart phone, or wait to upload them using your computer. AND, you can easily obscure the location of your finds so nobody else finds your secret spots. See the bottom of page 7 for useful information.



NATS ZOOM Speaker Meeting Refresher

Your virtuous patience and virtual attendance as we navigate difficulties presented by the ongoing pandemic are deeply appreciated. And we don't want to miss anyone. If Zoom seems a mystery, you are certainly not alone! Direct your questions to NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com.

For the foreseeable future, NATS monthly speaker meetings will continue via Zoom. Meetings consist of two sessions. The first, at 7:00 pm, is the NATS business meeting. Anyone interested is welcome to do so. If this content is of no interest to you, simply tune in to the speaker portion of the meeting which follows 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. 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 if you would like to receive an invitation to that month's Zoom meeting. Our meetings are hosted through Oregon State University, and we will be very sure to keep them securely password protected to avoid uninvited guests.

Want to share your Zoom meeting invite with an interested non-NATS member?

Don't forget to let us know their name and email address so we will allow them into the meeting!

NATS iNaturalist Submission Process

If you have a specimen that you think should be accessioned, be sure to dry the truffles to prevent rot (see <https://fundis.org/sequence/collect-dry/dry-your-specimens>), and please email NATrufflingSociety@gmail.com to learn if we can accept your specimens.

Additional information fields are provided to record your observations on iNaturalist. Such information is often crucial for specimen identification, so if possible, please include:

Collector's (real) name for the specimen label

Elevation*

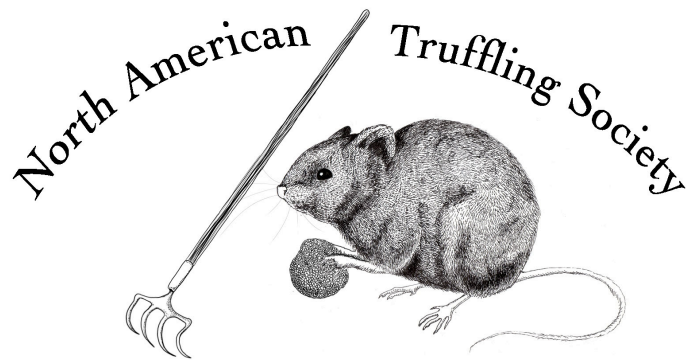
Slope*

Overstory/understory trees & shrubs (scientific name preferred)

Substrate (moss, mineral soil, soil, wood, or litter)

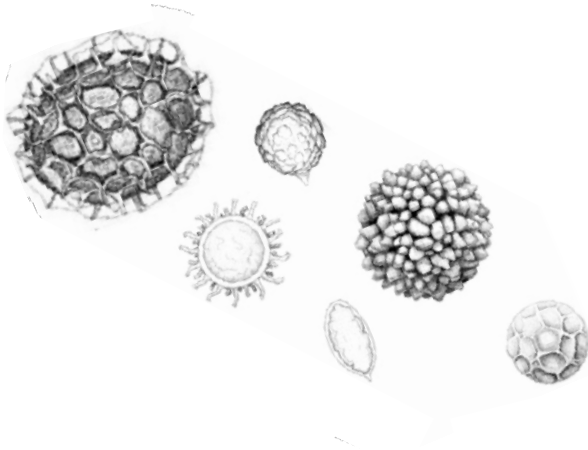
Fresh notes such as colors and odor (using the notes section on iNaturalist)

*Estimates of these data are acceptable, however, **PLEASE** denote such instances.



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~~

DUE TO COVID19, please hold onto your specimens and we will post a new mailing address when we are able to work in the lab again!

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 an educational 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+