

# The North American Truffler

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## Announcements



6'



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Once again, due to COVID-19 concerns, NATS monthly speaker meetings will continue to be hosted on ZOOM (except for the May potluck).

6'



6'



## The NATS Potluck Dinner is On!

After a long COVID-inspired hiatus, the annual NATS Potluck dinner is back!

**When:** SUNDAY May 15, 2022 6 PM

**Where:** Corvallis Community Center (formerly called the Senior Center)

Said COVID hiatus did not prevent our own Jim Trappe from turning 90, however. The 2022 Potluck gathering will also be about wishing Jim a belated Happy Birthday.

Please see page 4 for details.



NATS-led forays are a good idea, aren't they? Turn to page 5 for a report on the February and March forays.

## NATS Spring 2022 Featured Speakers

**April 5, 2022: Dr. Marty Kranabetter**

**Beneath our feet: ruminations on the scarcely noticed yet spectacular symbiotic fungi of temperate coniferous forests**

The awe-inspiring coniferous forests of the Pacific Northwest are utterly dependent upon symbiotic fungi (ectomycorrhiza) for their survival and productivity, yet we have much to learn about the fundamental ecology of mycorrhiza. I will review some of my recent research on the diversity and function of ectomycorrhizal fungi across southern Vancouver Island and highlight the importance of this guild to temperate rainforest ecology.

Marty Kranabetter is the West Coast regional soil scientist with the BC Ministry of Forests and is located in Victoria, British Columbia. Marty's areas of interest are soil ecology (especially ectomycorrhizal fungi), biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, and forest nutrition/productivity.



**May 15, 2022: Dr. Daniel Luoma**

**Alpine Wildflowers and Mushrooms of Southern Norway**



In this presentation, you will experience the alpine flora and mushrooms of southern Norway through the photographs of Dan Luoma and Joyce Eberhart. Dan's program originates from a workshop they attended at the Alpine Research Center near Finse. This high mountain station is located within Hardangervidda National Park and is near the southern limit of many arctic plants.

Dan is a retired professor from the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society at Oregon State University. He was employed with the College of Forestry at OSU since 1984, starting as a Graduate Research Assistant. Dan pursued research on the diversity of ectomycorrhizal fungi in natural and managed forests of the Pacific Northwest. He is also conducted research on, and developed monitoring protocols for, commercially harvested forest mushrooms. Dan has particular expertise with those fungi that produce truffles. He has taught forest mycology through the Siskiyou Field Institute and Southern Oregon University and general mycology through the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at OSU.



**June 7, 2022 Dr. Keith Egger**

**Mushrooms of Eastern Hemlock stands in the  
Acadian forest of Nova Scotia**

Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is under threat in eastern Canada from the invasive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) an aphid-like insect that attacks the needles. I will talk about a research collaboration to document the mushroom community associated with hemlock-dominated stands. Through two mushroom seasons we have documented more than 100 mushroom species in hemlock stands. I will discuss their phenology and distribution and compare our observations to legacy collections made from some of the same sites in the 1990s. Our objective is to understand the impact of hemlock loss on mushroom communities in Kejimikujik National Park in central Nova Scotia. Sadly, due to the location in a National Park, disturbing the forest floor by raking for truffles is highly frowned upon.

Keith Egger is Professor Emeritus at the University of Northern British Columbia now retired to Nova Scotia. He spent 29 years researching fungal diversity and ecology and teaching mycology-related courses, first at Memorial University of Newfoundland and then at UNBC. He continues to be involved in mushroom research and public mycology education in Nova Scotia.



# 2022 - The Year of the Return of the NATS Potluck!



**When:** SUNDAY May 15, 2022 6 PM

**Where:** Corvallis Community Center  
2601 NW Tyler Ave.



We are excited to be planning our annual potluck (assuming no horrible change in the COVID levels)! The 2022 Potluck gathering will also be an opportunity to wish our own Jim Trappe a belated 90<sup>th</sup> Happy Birthday, as we were not able to hold a celebration for him last August.

Because at least one of us is 90 years old, and we have a number of mature members, we are asking that only people who are fully vaccinated (including a booster if you are eligible) attend.

Remember that the potluck is the main fundraiser for our Pavelek Scholarship fund! Please support mycology students by creating centerpieces for our silent auction. All proceeds will go directly to the scholarship fund. Centerpieces can consist of anything you think up - cook something, sew something, build something, do artwork, offer services or the use of a vacation place if you have one... be creative and have fun! OR, you can bid generous amounts to purchase said centerpieces.

Any questions? Write to [natrufflingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:natrufflingsociety@gmail.com)

Look at how much fun you'll have!!



## Potluck Registration Protocols

Only members of NATS and their families are allowed.

All participants must register- please sign up for the party at: [NATS potluck registration](#).

Please be aware and respectful of others - bring your masks and wear them when you are not eating or drinking! We are asking that only fully vaccinated (including a booster if you are eligible) people attend. Please bring your vaccination card or a photo of it to the potluck.

## January Foray Report

On January 29th NATS held its first foray since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. On private property south of Corvallis (many thanks to the owner!), 15 NATS member participants led by 4 foray leaders (not to mention some 4-legged friends) found these species:

*Tuber oregonense*  
*Tuber californicum*  
*Barssia oregonense*  
*Rhizopogon sp.*

Several fruitings of what initially seems to be a truffle were also spotted. While *Clitocybe sclerotoidea* may look like a truffle, it does not behave like one, it's designs running more along the lines of parasitism. NATS' very own scientific advisor, Dr. Jim Trappe, wrote about this unusual parasitism of an ascomycete mushroom (*Helvella lacunosa*, the very cool looking “elfin saddle”) by a basidiomycete mushroom.



*Clitocybe sclerotoidea*, photo by foray participant Rena Chen

See Jim’s article in the journal *Mycologia* (Trappe, J.M. (1972). Parasitism of *Helvella lacunosa* by *Clitocybe sclerotoidea*. *Mycologia* 64: 1337-1340) or read more about this at [https://www.mushroomexpert.com/clitocybe\\_sclerotoidea.html](https://www.mushroomexpert.com/clitocybe_sclerotoidea.html). Or do both!

## March Foray Report



NATS is especially thankful to Starker Forests for their generosity in allowing NATS to foray on their land. The March 5, 2022 NATS foray took place at a location near Blodgett – it was a beautiful day to wander a nice, younger doug-fir forest with a sparse understory. Not a lot of truffles were found- the prize for most goes to “Rye” the Dawson sister’s highly skilled dog.

The 27 participants, 5 foray leaders, and 9 dogs found these truffle species:

*Hymenogaster sp.*  
*Tuber oregonense*  
*Leucangium carthusianum*  
*Elaphomyces sp.*  
Genea (possibly 2 sp, probably neither named)



Thanks to NATS member Carly Gabrielson for creating a new web based registration that was highly successful. She has agreed to help us in more ways in the future! Thank you Carly!

# NATS iNaturalist Project Tops 1,000 Observations!

In the three months since publication of our last newsletter, observations of a further 164 species were added to the NATS iNAT project, bringing the total to 1088 observations throughout North America!



## Specimen Highlight: The genus *Genea*

How many species of *Genea* does Oregon have? At our March foray the very talented dog “Rye” found some *Genea*. Rye’s person says her dog specializes in *Genea*, finding it everywhere they go truffling. Previous NATS speaker Dr. Matt Smith studies *Genea*, with one of his Phd students working on a phylogeny of the genus. NATS is excited that Matt and his student Elizabeth are excited to collaborate with the Dawson sister (and Rye) to get fresh specimens of *Genea* for their work. Some day we will know which species are actually here in Oregon!



Submitted by *rosawoodsii* in Oregon

Genus *Genea*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/108484768>

### Last month’s Specimen Highlight:

*Rhopogaster transversarius*

Oops! We said “This “truffle” belongs to the family [Hysterangiaceae](#), thereby making it a relative of some common *Hysterangium* species here in the Pacific NW.” Turns out this genus is actually a *Suillus*!



Submitted by Richard Tehan in Oregon

*Genea* cf. *barknessii*. OSU colleagues suggested it is an undescribed sp. close to *G.h.* Ascospore is stained with phloxine 1%.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/41148603>

Going truffling? Please consider uploading photos of your truffles to NATS’ iNat page. You can easily obscure the location of your finds so nobody else finds your secret spots. See the bottom of page 8 for more information.

# Don't Forget: FunDiS West Coast Rare Fungi Challenge

## October 2020 - March 2025



FunDiS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to a world in which the fungal kingdom is fully documented, understood, appreciated and protected. With just under 10% of fungal species documented and impending threats of habitat loss, pollution, and climate change, the need to catalogue and map fungal species before they expire is acute.

Are you hooked to the thrill of a mushroom hunt? Does kingdom fungi ring your bell? Have you a hankering for community science? Then join thousands of community scientists across North America in the Fungal Diversity Survey (FunDiS).

FunDiS strives to increase scientific knowledge and public awareness of the critical role of fungi in the health of our ecosystems and to better utilize and protect them. We do this by equipping community scientists, working with professionals, with the tools to document the diversity and distribution of fungi across North America. There are 3 primary FunDiS programs: improved diversity databases; rare fungi challenges; community science projects.

### What's a Rare Fungi Challenge and is there one in my area?

Rare fungi challenges document rare and threatened fungi in various regions of North America. And YES! There is one in the PNW. Piloted in October 2020, the West Coast Rare 10 Challenge resulted in collections of 10 endangered fungal species from Alaska to California. The West Coast Challenge will continue, year-round, with searches for an additional 10 fungal species. Help us find and document a target list of rare, under-documented or potentially threatened fungi. Your high quality citizen observations can make a difference to scientists, conservationists, and fungi. For more information about FunDiS and to see the next 10 endangered species on the target list, please visit: <https://fundis.org/protect/take-action>

Be sure to check out FunDiS's bi-monthly eNewsletter, **Funga Decoded** at: <https://fundis.org/resources/email-list>



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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!

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## 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](mailto: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\*

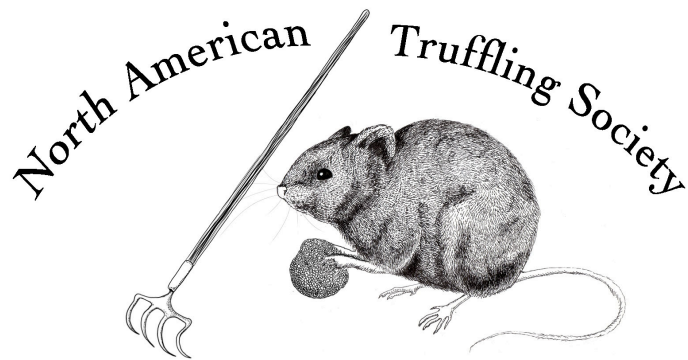
Overstory/understory trees & shrubs (scientific name preferred)

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.



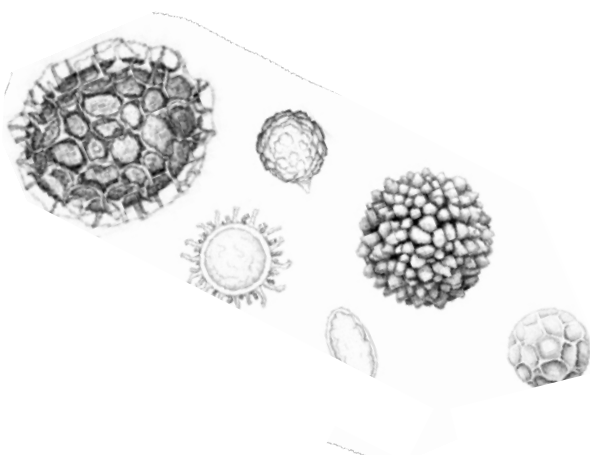


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## WANTED

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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**  
**Cornville, 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:

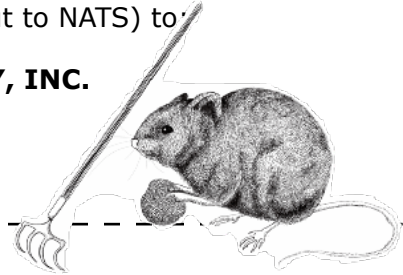
- Forays (field trips) to collect truffles.
- Monthly educational meetings (autumn through spring) on varied mycological topics.
- A periodic newsletter, "The North American Truffler: Journal of the North American Truffling Society", describing recent truffle finds, program meetings and other topics.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

NATS welcomes new members. As 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+