


The North American Truffler

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Announcements

Room 2602 in Cordley Hall on the Oregon State University campus is ready for NATS speaker meetings!!! NATS will now have in-person meetings October through June for local members. All meetings will also be broadcast on Zoom for those of you who live farther away. See you soon either way!

The address for Cordley Hall is 2701 SW Campus Way, Corvallis, Oregon. Parking is across the street, and you'll need to enter at the NW corner of the building.

Welcome to Sarah Colby, NATS's New Events Coordinator!

Sarah Colby has a secret goal- she wants to help save the world from climate change. How's she trying to do that? Through the promotion of PNW truffle science and industry. Some might find this lofty, but to Sarah it just makes sense to use her hobby- hunting with her dogs- for good.

Sarah has truffled with her dogs for over 12 years- sustainable harvesting had always been a priority. She's participated in numerous forays, seeing in them opportunity for environmental stewardship education. This led her into the world of small forestry. In leasing forest land for native truffle harvesting, she helps small landowners generate income needed to invest in reforestation. She's part of a cooperative of hunters working to promote truffle harvesting through the Oregon Small Woodland Association.

This summer, Sarah is sponsoring a meeting of PNW foragers and industry entrepreneurs on native truffle infusion and other food uses- to improve food safety, distribution, and sales on a larger scale. On the smaller scale, you may have encountered some of her truffle infusion- NATS potluck goers were treated to a nice array of truffle-infused treats from the charcuterie tray she contributed.

NATS members will be extremely fortunate to see a lot of Sarah Colby. She has agreed to volunteer her time as NATS's event coordinator, and began by facilitating NATS's appearance at the first annual "A Taste of Truffle" held recently in Newberg. We look forward to more of Sarah in action on NATS's behalf!



NATS 2024 Spring Speakers

April 9, 2024: Randy and Nancy Molina

European Black Truffle Ecotours in Spain: Exploring Spanish Culture with Truffle Hunts, Culinary Delights, and Fine Wine



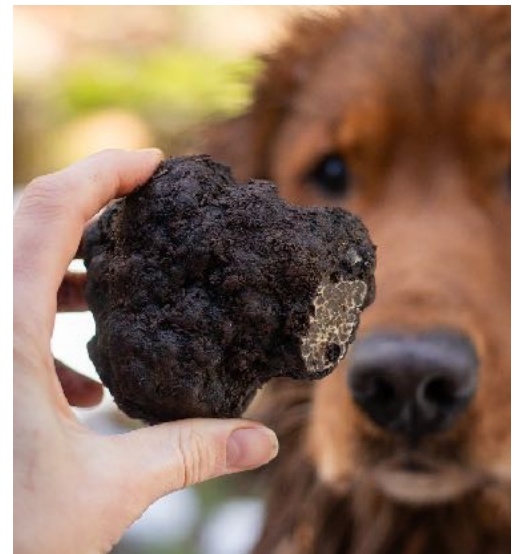
In February 2016, 2019, and 2024, the Molinas participated in Truffle Ecotours led by OSU alum Chris Fischer, world expert on the culture of the European black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*). Tours took place in the Ribera del Duero region of Spain (the province of Soria, about 100 miles northeast of Madrid), and included truffle hunts in wildlands and established orchards, countryside hikes, and visits to old villages, castles, and wineries. Over the course of several meals, different chefs prepared a variety of delightful dishes with black truffles. Don't miss these travelogue insights on the local production of truffles in Spain and their growing gastronomical use worldwide.

Randy Molina is a mycologist (and student of our own Dr. Jim Trappe) who led the PNW Forest Mycology Team in Corvallis from 1985 – 2007. Nancy Molina is a forest ecologist who served as Area Ecologist for the Mt. Hood and Gifford Pinchot National Forests, Research Coordinator for the PNW Research Station's Northwest Forest Plan, Branch Chief for the BLM in Oregon, and currently works with refugees in Portland.

May 7, 2024: Hilary Rose and Heather Dawson

Truffle diversity of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) lies in a floristically rich region where Californian and Oregonian flora overlap. The Monument spans a range of habitats from high elevation fir forests to lowland savannas. Yet, little is known about the fungi of CSNM. Over a span of two years, Heather Dawson and her sister, Hilary Rose, documented truffle diversity in CSNM via truffle dog forays, finding over 60 species in 25 genera, including many undescribed species. In this talk, Hilary Rose and Heather will share their findings and showcase the use of truffle dogs to explore understudied regions. Truffle dog Rye will be there to demonstrate his fungi finding finesse.



Heather Dawson is a Master's student at the University of Oregon and a truffle dog trainer. She studies truffle diversity of Willamette Valley oak savanna using truffle dog Rye, a four year old golden retriever. Hilary Rose Dawson is a PhD candidate at the University of Oregon and a postdoctoral research fellow at the Australian National University. She studies plant-soil-fungi interactions in the context of climate change.

NATS 2024 Spring Speakers

June 4, 2024: Christopher Bivins

Are mycoheterotrophs actually parasitic? Investigating proximity-based abundance of *Tomentella fuscocinerea* relative to *Corallorhiza striata*.

Mycoheterotrophs, non-photosynthetic fungal symbionts, are typically described as parasitic on their fungal hosts. But are these relationships truly so one-way? Christopher Bivins seeks to elucidate this with research focused on two mycoheterotrophic plants: *Sarcodes sanguinea* and *Corallorhiza striata* and their respective ectomycorrhizal fungal hosts, *Rhizopogon ellенаe* and *Tomentella fuscocinerea*.

Research (Bidartondo et al. 2000) shows that *S. sanguinea* may enjoy a mutualistic relationship with *R. ellенаe*. Bivins investigates *C. striata*, comparing its interactions with *T. fuscocinerea*, to assess whether such potentially mutualistic associations are more widespread across mycoheterotrophs.

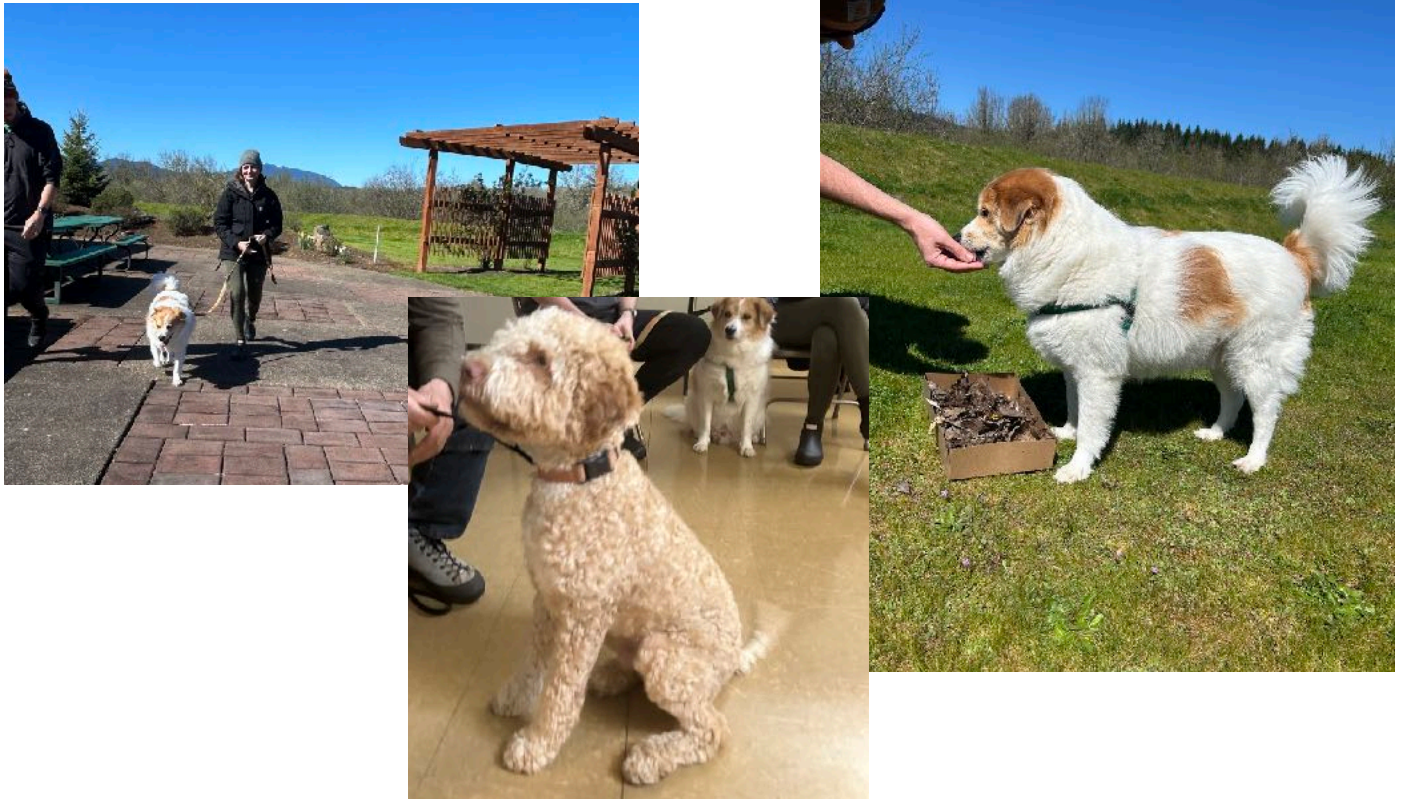
Utilizing techniques such as environmental DNA (eDNA) metabarcoding from rhizosphere soil and ectomycorrhizal root tips as well as assessment of proximity-based abundance of fungi to plant, his findings suggest the relationship between mycoheterotrophs and their fungal hosts may not be solely parasitic but rather context-dependent, with potential mutualistic interactions varying across species. Don't miss out on the nuance of these highly complex ecological interactions!

Christopher completed work for his master's degree at Fresno State. He is currently a Ph.D. student at UC Merced where he works on a number of fungal ecology projects in the Sierra Nevada Foothills.



NATS Truffle Dog Training

On Saturday, March 30th, NATS's 4-legged friends were given a chance to improve their truffle finding skills courtesy of dog trainer Caroline Lindstedt. After a presentation by Dan Luoma, attendees enjoyed the open venue and amazing weather.



“A Taste of Truffle” Marketplace

On March 9th NATS hosted a booth at the first annual “A Taste of Truffle” Marketplace in Newberg, Oregon. A variety of vendors offered truffle-based crafts and products to an enthusiastic throng of event goers that never seemed to let up. NATS's own Jim Trappe was present to sign copies of his books - which meant a record number of book sales. Thanks again to Sarah Colby for arranging for the NATS booth and bringing a lovely display of truffles. Don't miss out next year!



 **A TASTE OF TRUFFLE MARKET** 
March 9th • 11am-4pm

• WINE TASTING • TRUFFLE VENDORS • PNW CRAFTS •
• CHEF DEMOS • TRUFFLE DOGS •
Chehalem Cultural Center Ballroom

Presented by the Newberg Downtown Coalition & Taste Newberg
Sponsored by the Chehalem Cultural Center

NATS Foray Report



Joint forays between NATS and the Benton Small Woodlands Association a success!



First truffle found at J2E Tree Farm



Foray participants at Crestmont Farms



Willa digs for truffles at Take Flight Farm



Foray participants at the Hibb's property near Airlie



North American Truffling Society held four joint forays with members of the Benton Small Woodlands Association. The forays were an excellent opportunity for NATS goers (and often, their dogs!) to spend some time in the woods. Unfortunately, not a lot of truffle diversity was discovered on the properties - yet!! NATS thanks all four hosts for their generous sharing of their properties.

NATS ZOOM Speaker Meeting Refresher

Our meetings this season will all be hybrid meetings, giving you an opportunity to attend in person or connect via Zoom. If Zoom seems a mystery, you are certainly not alone! Direct your questions to natrufflingsociety@gmail.com. The in-person meetings will be held in Room **2602** in Cordley Hall on the Oregon State University campus.

For the foreseeable future, NATS monthly speaker meetings will continue via Zoom. Meetings will usually start at 7:00 pm with a short business meeting. The speaker portion of the meeting will follow when our business portion is finished. 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 45 minutes or less. Zoom participants will be able to interact with audio or through the Zoom chat.

When you receive your monthly NATS email about upcoming meetings you will need to register ahead of time to attend via Zoom by clicking on the link in the email. Just fill in the short form 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*

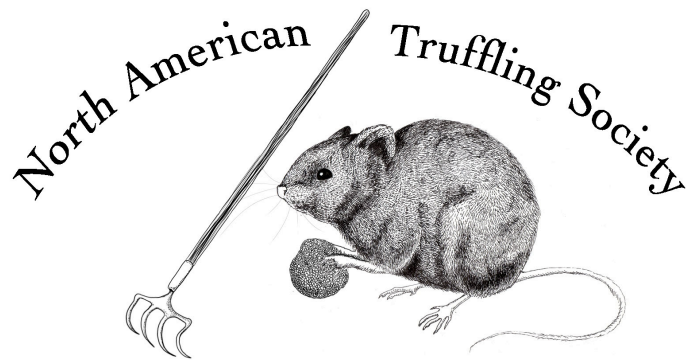
Slope*

Overstory/understory trees & shrubs (scientific name preferred)

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

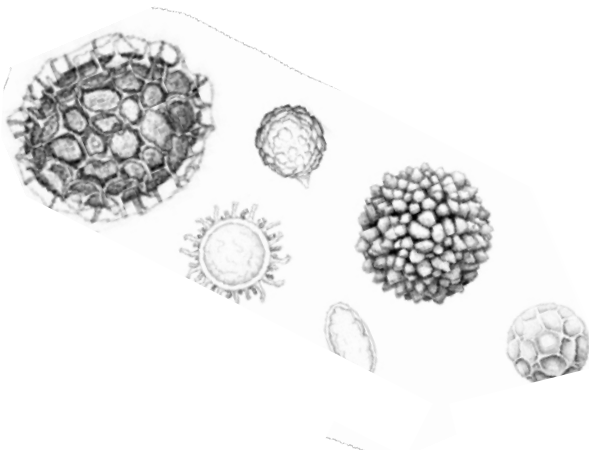
Fresh notes such as colors and odor (using the notes section on iNaturalist)

*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:

The North American Truffling Society
P.O. BOX 296
CORVALLIS, OREGON 97339

If you mail a dried specimen, please let us know by sending an email to natrufflingsociety@gmail.com.

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:

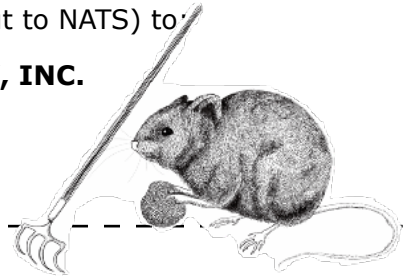
- Forays (field trips) to collect truffles.
- Monthly educational meetings (autumn through spring) on varied mycological topics.
- A periodic newsletter, "The North American Truffler: Journal of the North American Truffling Society", describing recent truffle finds, program meetings and other topics.
- 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 may be considered a tax-deductible donation for those who itemize their taxes. 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 97339
www.natruffling.org



Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

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

Email address(es): _____

Annual membership fees: \$20 first family member, \$10 each additional family member in the same household over the age of 18 years. Businesses: \$20. Individuals/Businesses from other countries: \$20, **payable in US funds.**

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