

# The North American Truffler

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## January 8, 2019 speaker: Matt Trappe

What are those molds doing in your compost, your cheese, your medicine cabinet, and that wall in your closet? Withhold your judgment as Doctor Matt Trappe takes meeting-goers beyond the 'ew!' and to the 'oh!' as he explores the inner beauty of the world of mold.

## The Inner Beauty of Molds



*Aspergillus sp.*

## Inform your calendar!

**NATS Annual Potluck**  
Saturday, February 9, 2019  
See page 2 for more details

### 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.

Matt received a Masters of Science degree from Oregon State University as well as a doctorate in environmental science. He's studied the effects of fire and anthropogenic disturbance on fungal communities at Crater Lake National Park, the host and habitat associations of winter chanterelles and has been known to lead a foray or two.

# NATS Meeting & Annual Potluck Saturday February 9, 2019

## NATS 2019 Potluck

**When:** 6:30 pm Saturday, Feb 9, 2019

**Where:** Corvallis Senior Center on 27th Street

**What to bring:** An edible dish\* to share, tableware, beverage of your choosing. NATS provides tea/coffee

**Why:** It's fun! Where else can you eat, elect officers, potentially renew NATS dues, bid on table centerpieces, donate to the Pavelek Memorial Scholarship fund, and enjoy an exotic scientific presentation by speaker Amy Rossman?



## Creative Centerpieces for Good Cause!

The Henry Pavelek Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in honor of Henry Pavelek, Sr., whose energetic enthusiasm for truffles was paramount in the establishment of NATS as a sustainable organization. For many years the NATS Board of Directors has awarded a scholarship to student nominees pursuing a career in mycology. Proceeds from auctioned table centerpieces are donated to the scholarship fund. So put on your creative pants and bring your own centerpiece to the potluck!

**\*Please provide an ingredient list for your yummy dish for those on restricted diets.**

## **Potluck Speaker: Amy Rossman Collecting fungi in the Amazonian Cerra de la Neblina, Venezuela**

If you haven't had time in your daily schedule to explore untouched, biologically-isolated regions, listening to this talk is the next best thing! Join NATS at the February 2019 speaker meeting as mycologist Amy Rossman takes us to Cerro de la Neblina, a flat-topped tepui located at the corner of Venezuela, Brazil and Colombia. Using military transport, dugout canoes, and helicopters, a group of biologists including Rossman and mycologist Roy Halling were able to explore this untouched biological island. Listen to Amy's experience on this fungi-collecting expedition where, in the end, everyone survived, despite encounters with the Neblina quick weight-loss diet (i.e, no food for five days), ingesting toxic blueberries, and getting lost in the jungle. The fungi were worth it!!



## March 12 Speaker: Ying Chang: Endogonales – A truffle-producing fungal lineage with an ancient history

Do you ever find yourself pondering the mechanics underlying how plants first moved out of water and colonized land? Then ponder away with NATS at our March 2019 meeting, where Dr. Ying Chang, research associate with Oregon State's Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, will describe her fascinating pursuit to unravel the story of the evolution of early land plants and fungi.

Unlike most truffle-producing fungi, the Endogonales belong to the phylum Mucoromycota, relatives of the black bread mold, *Rhizopus*. Some members of Endogonales are known to form ectomycorrhizal associations with conifers and other trees, constituting a mycorrhizal lifestyle that originated independently from that of Basidiomycota (mushrooms) and Ascomycota (cup fungi). Intriguingly, some Endogonales species form mycorrhizal-like associations inside the bodies of some of the earliest of land plants (liverworts and hornworts) indicating that Endogonales may be one of the fungal lineages that assisted in the terrestrialization of plants.

As a trained phylogeneticist straddling the worlds of moss and mushrooms, Dr. Chang's recent genomic work with Endogonales confirms the presence of genomic features associated with a mycorrhizal lifestyle. Based on molecular dating analyses, the origin of Endogonales appears to be really, really, really old, and roughly corresponds with the appearance of the first land plants.



This issue's Celebrating Longevity feature is an apt choice: a poem, dedicated to Jim by late NATS member Wanda Pavelek, shows how deeply appreciated Jim is to the amateur mycologist.



*Photo credits to Frank Evans, we think.*

#### TRUFFLER'S DOGGERAL

Dedicated to Dr. James Trappe

There's a national Arbor Day  
Also a September Labor Day.  
NATS should declare a Truffle Day  
To honor the true gourmet.

The more you seek, now keep this in  
mind  
The better tubers you maybe will  
find.  
For the truffler who rakes with care  
Oregon White Truffles are sometimes  
there.

So seek and ye shall find  
The best truffles of the kind.  
To use with paté or eggs seems best  
Your tastebuds will discover the  
rest.

Now to further your education  
Send them to Jim for identification  
But to this, I must elucidate  
The best truffles, Jim already ate!

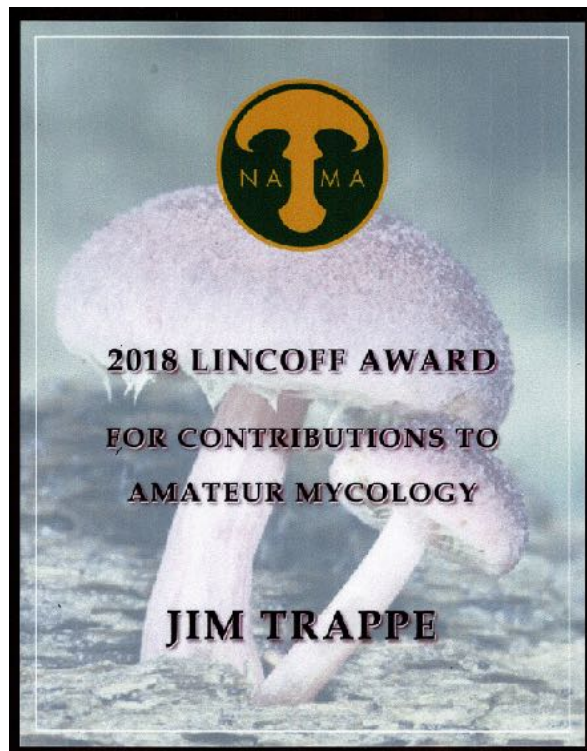
Wanda Pavelek

*Poem taken shamelessly without permission from newsletters posted on the NATS website. Volume 10, Issue 2, 1984.*

## **Congratulations to Dr. Jim Trappe, recipient of the 2018 Gary Lincoff Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology!**

If you attended the December NATS meeting you already know that our own Dr. Jim Trappe was awarded the 2018 Gary Lincoff Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology. If you missed out, that's ok! I don't think another round of applause will hurt Dr. Trappe.

The award (pictured right) is sponsored annually by the North American Mycological Association in honor of an individual having contributed extraordinarily to advancements in amateur mycology. NATS board members collaborated on a nomination letter that is posted in full on the following page.



Dear NAMA Awards Committee,

March 30, 2018

In 1978, instructor Tony Walters of Linn Benton Community College approached Dr. Jim Trappe, an expert in truffle research, and asked him to deliver a presentation about truffles to students enrolled in his mushroom identification course. After Dr. Trappe's very well-received class presentation, Tony approached him a second time, this time to ask whether Jim would be willing to help organize a group dedicated to science and education about truffles in North America (it would be termed a "citizen science" group today). And so the North American Truffle Society (NATS) was established, dedicated to enhancing the knowledge of truffles and truffle-like fungi and open to people from all walks of life. Since its inception, Jim has been the foundation of NATS, serving as its scientific advisor and providing enduring inspiration for participants over the history of the organization. The board of directors of the North American Truffle Society is honored to nominate Dr. Jim Trappe for the 2018 Gary Lincoff Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology.

Choosing our nominee was the easy part; the more difficult task lies in finding a way to inclusively convey the breadth of Dr. Trappe's influence on the world of amateur mycology. The scope of his legacy extends beyond NATS to other members of the community and, indeed, the world. Jim has personally inspired an array of individuals with diverse backgrounds, from firefighters to oceanographers. So many, many people have learned to enjoy, study, and appreciate truffles and the natural world surrounding them because of Jim. Herein we happily share but a fraction of NATS member's experiences with Jim for your consideration.

For example, Jim's tutelage sparked a passion for truffles in a retired fireman. He became an active NATS member for the rest of his life and undertook a weekly, one-hour drive to Corvallis, OR to help accession truffles into the Oregon State University Herbarium. Over the course of his time with NATS he collected over 3,000 truffles, including some species new to science. After his memorial service, his son sent a touching message to Jim's son, saying, "My father enjoyed working with all of you so much I want to thank you and your father, Jim, and the rest of the group, for making him feel like an equal."

Jim's teachings and encouragement were meaningful to another long-time NATS member who, upon retirement from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, participated in NATS forays and meetings. He also assisted with the preparation of specimens for the OSU fungal herbarium for many years. His experience with Jim made him feel fulfilled and appreciated in retirement.

Another long-time NATS member volunteered her time to help catalogue truffle specimens for the herbarium, even as she continued working as an office manager for an engineering firm. Once weekly, she and an older NATS member (a retired nurse), prepared specimens at the USDA Forest Service, Forestry Sciences Lab. Both now retired, they continue to volunteer, even after the elder turned 90 years old!

NATS's current president discovered the NATS organization not long after moving to

our area. Jim's helpfulness and willingness to teach her truffle identification skills in the field or with the help of a microscope, led to her long involvement as vice president and now president. She found Jim's encouraging demeanor an inspiration to continue learning about both truffles and mushrooms.

Our current NATS's secretary, a member since 1980, enjoys memories of monthly meetings held in Jim's lab, where he demonstrated microscopic techniques for the identification of truffles. He further educated members in making temporary identification of specimens in the field based solely on physical characteristics. Many individuals became reasonably adept at identifying sporocarps, but what she appreciates most is that "Jim is never too busy to talk with me and continues to give guidance in identifying truffles. His contributions to the field of mycology are known world wide, and amateurs such as myself appreciate his dedication and friendship."

Every NATS member has their own story of admiration, appreciation, and thankfulness for Jim's presence in our lives – and for his sense of humor. We come from diverse backgrounds, amateur and professional mycologists, students, old and young alike.

Of course Jim's influence on professional and amateur mycologists reaches far beyond the North American Truffling Society. A few of his many connections are listed below:

A young man from the east coast contacted Jim about a truffle he had found. Jim ended up working with the 14 year-old to publish his find. They have now traveled throughout Europe and Australia together, and he is soon starting a PhD program thanks largely to being inspired by Jim.

In addition to presentations to NATS, Jim has supported many other amateur mushroom clubs with his interesting talks – including the Oregon Mycological Society, Cascade Mycological Society, Vancouver Mycological Society, Sonoma County Mycological Association, Los Angeles Mycological Society, and the Oregon Truffle Festival. He has participated in field trips for amateurs too numerous to list, but two excursions serve as examples: In 2002 Jim was the Chief Mycologist for the NAMA Annual Foray and in 2016 was a leader for the Fungi BioBlitz in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (see photo) where about 90 citizen scientists participated and found over 120 mushroom and truffle species. These efforts focus on the west coast of North America, but he has also engaged in many similar activities throughout North America and in countries around the world.

Jim has also contributed so much to the field of mycology with his writings. He has authored or co-authored 402 new species names of fungi (mainly truffles), along with 40 genera, 2 families, and one order of fungi. His book *Trees, Truffles, and Beasts* (Maser, Claridge, and Trappe, 2008) describes the complexities of forests, fungi, and animal interactions in a very readable format. He is also an author of the *Field Guide to North American Truffles: Hunting, Identifying, and Enjoying the World's Most Prized Fungi* (Trappe, Evans, and Trappe, 2013) making truffle identification possible for amateurs who aren't blessed with Jim's presence in their lives.

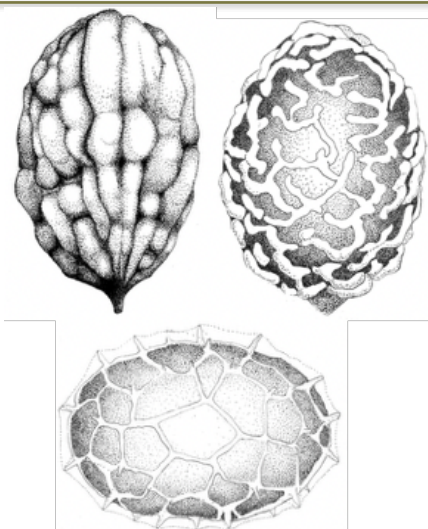
Dr. Trappe's roots run deep. He serves as a connection between past and current generations of mycologists, professional and amateur alike. His extensive knowledge and world-travel alone cannot solely account for his popularity, however. What makes Jim really special is his warmth and his desire for inclusion of anyone with an interest in mycological matters, no matter their experience or skill level.

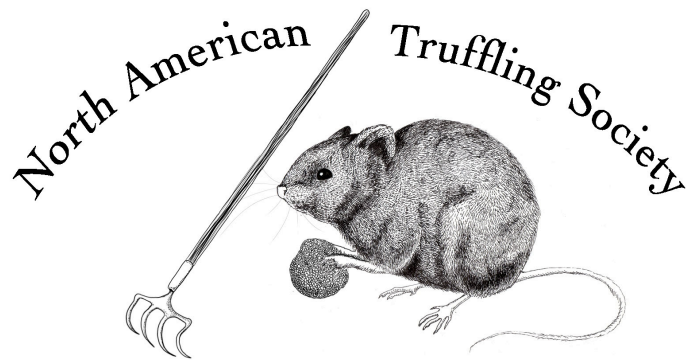


Jim Trappe (center) gives an orientation to his BioBlitz 2016 team. Photo credit: Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

On behalf of the NATS Board of Directors, my sincerest thanks,  
Sarah Shay  
Editor, North American Truffler

The NATS Board would like to extend a warm welcome to Kyle Gervers and Barry Wulff, each of whom has graciously committed themselves to the roles of NATS Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. NATS is deeply thankful to Pat Rawlinson who, at long last, has stepped down from her flawless tenure as NATS secretary. Our thanks to longtime treasurer Zelda Carter is equally profound - your crocs will be hard to fill!



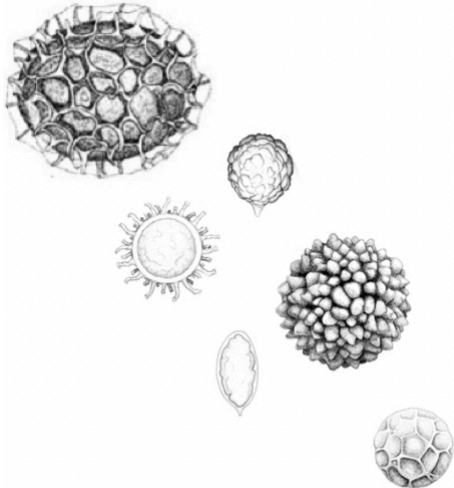


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## WANTED

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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+