

# The North American Truffler

*Journal of the North American Truffling Society*

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Winter 2022-2023



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## Announcements

**Don't miss it! The 2023 NATS Potluck Celebration is upon us!**

**When:** February 11, 2023 6 pm

**Where:** Corvallis Community Center,  
2601 NW Tyler Avenue

**Bring:** A favorite dish w/ingredients list to accommodate restricted diets. Punch and tea provided, bring your own tableware if you wish.

See page 3 for more details

## NATS Volunteer Opportunities, Winter 2023

There's an abundance of fungi-related activities and volunteer opportunities this season. Ward off winter doldrums by lending a hand!



The **2023 Oregon Truffle Festival** is just around the corner and this year, local NATS members are in luck: the event will be held in Corvallis!

Participation couldn't be easier; neither could volunteering. **And volunteers are needed!** See page 6 for more and visit their website at:

<https://oregontrufflefestival.org>

## NATS Volunteers Needed!

**Hospitality chair Sylvia Donovan needs volunteers.**

◆Donate decorative centerpieces for the February potluck

◆Come early to help with potluck setup

◆Stay late to help with potluck cleanup

◆Volunteer to bring treats to our January or March meeting.

To give a hand, please write us at:

[NATrufflingSociety@gmail.com](mailto:NATrufflingSociety@gmail.com)

## A Note About NATS Speaker Meeting Format

Thanks to those of you who responded to our recent query regarding preferences in speaker meeting format. A large majority of NATS members prefer Zoom meetings at this point, though some local members enjoy the in-person option. For the present, therefore, NATS will hold in-person, hybrid Zoom meetings when featuring a local speaker, and purely Zoom meetings for speakers speaking from somewhere else. Check the monthly meeting announcement email for clarity as to which meetings will have an in-person component.

## NATS Winter 2022-2023 Featured Speakers

### January 10, 2023: Richard Tehan



#### **Drug discovery and chemical ecology investigations of *Cordyceps* and related fungi**

Join NATS for the January 2023 speaker meeting where Dr. Richard Tehan will provide an overview of some of the most potent, transformative drugs derived from the fungal Kingdom. Richard's presentation will highlight the ways in which fungi are uniquely interesting from a chemical perspective. He will also elaborate on current, cutting edge research on bioactive metabolites from insect- and truffle-parasitic fungi.

Richard Tehan received a B.S. in Chemistry from Utica College of Syracuse University and a PhD. in Pharmaceutical Sciences with Kerry McPhail at Oregon State University. His thesis work involved the isolation and structure elucidation of new, bioactive natural products from insect-pathogenic fungi, as well as analyses to investigate the evolution and chemical ecology of natural product families. His ongoing research also includes taxonomic studies of *Cordyceps* and related fungi. Richard aspires to continue in a research career investigating the evolution of this group of fungi, their metabolic diversity, their potential for drug discovery, and the roles specialized metabolites play in their unique ecologies.

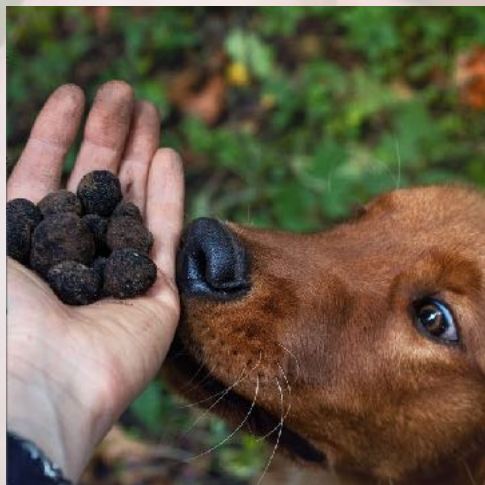
## **NATS Meeting & Annual Potluck Saturday, February 11, 2023**

It's February, and that means it's time for NATS' annual potluck celebration! This event is a great opportunity to renew annual dues, donate to the scholarship fund, and bid on the eclectic array of table centerpieces wrought yearly from the imagination of NATS members. All proceeds go to the Pavelek Memorial Scholarship fund. There will be other raffle items to win, officer elections, and plain good company.

**Please be aware and respectful of others - bring your masks and wear them when not eating or drinking for the safety of older and/or health compromised members.**

### **Potluck Speakers: Heather & Hilary Rose Dawson w/ live performance by truffle dog extraordinaire, Rye**

**Wait, don't eat the truffle! Adventures in truffle dog training and life with a "diversity dog"**



Truffle dogs are gaining popularity in the Pacific Northwest because they find the highest quality culinary truffles - and it's a fun activity to do with your dog. What happens when a dog doesn't stop truffling? Turns out some dogs are great at finding unusual non-culinary truffles everywhere. Learn about truffle dog training and some of the cool truffles we didn't expect to find in the western Cascades and Willamette Valley.

Heather and Hilary Rose Dawson are sisters who have been truffling with dogs since 2019. Heather graduated with her Bachelor's degree from the University of Oregon in 2020 and works as a mycological technician in Bitty Roy's lab at UO. Hilary Rose is a Biology PhD student in the Soil Plant Atmosphere Lab at UO. Their star golden retriever, Rye, is a truffle dog genius who finds a large diversity of underground odiferous fungi whenever he's in the woods. In this talk, they will share their experiences with a truffle dog who does not focus on culinary species, the common and uncommon non-culinary truffles they've found, and give a live demonstration of a truffle dog in action.

## NATS Winter 2023 Featured Speakers, con't

### March 7, 2023: Dr. Jessie Uehling

#### **Mycological diversity and ethnobotanical history of psilocybin.**

In 2020, Oregon voters approved a ballot measure to allow use of psilocybin (the hallucinogenic compound found in some mushrooms) in therapeutic settings. Preliminary data show psilocybin has potential to address mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Dr. Uehling is the mycologist for Oregon's Psilocybin Advisory Board, which was created to research how to roll out a safe and equitable system for psilocybin use. Jessie will discuss mycological diversity and the ethnobotanical history of psilocybin use, as well as the clinical trial data on the efficacy of psilocybin as therapy.



Dr. Jessie Uehling is a mycology professor at Oregon State University in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. At OSU she runs a research lab, curates the fungal herbarium collection, teaches, serves as a governmental policy advisor, and provides outreach and education to the community. She is passionate about fungal diversity, education, and mental health.

## Did someone say toadstool?

### Highlights from recent NATS activities

NATS was back with tables at both Yachats and Mt. Pisgah mushroom shows in 2022. Our truffle related merchandise was a great hit at both venues. At Yachats we sold 75% of our stock of T-shirts. We were able to get more shirts before the Mt. Pisgah Mushroom show, and we sold more than \$1000 worth of shirts and books at the show.




Future mycologists at the Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Show

**NEW** for 2023 events: 100% cotton truffle bags in two sizes. The embroidery was designed and sewn by Gillian Poss. You can purchase the same embroidered design on T-shirts. Come to the Oregon Truffle Festival Marketplace on February 19th to purchase your very own shirt or bag!



# Save the Date! Upcoming Foray Opportunities

Thanks to the efforts of our Vice President Joyce Eberhart, NATS will start off the new year hosting three forays! General information about dates and location are provided below. Members will receive an email with a chance to sign up before each foray - Spots go quickly, don't dawdle!


January 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 
29	30	31				

**When:** January 28th

**Where:** Coast range W of Corvallis

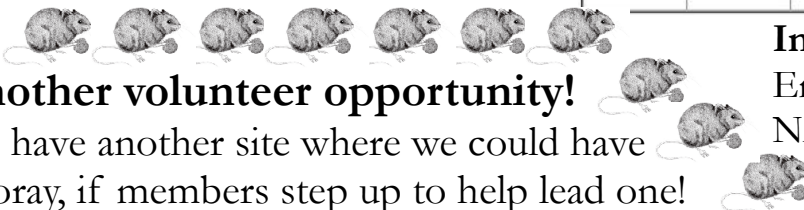
**Misc:** Dawson sisters truffle dog demo, please leave Fido home

**When:** Feb 28th  
**Where:** Hubbard area  
**Misc:** Survey for truffles on privately-owned 25 yr. old Douglas fir forest

February 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

**When:** March 11th  
**Where:** Coast range W of Corvallis  
**Misc:** Parking is limited; participants selected on basis of random drawing

March 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1



**Another volunteer opportunity!**  
 We have another site where we could have a foray, if members step up to help lead one!

**Interested in volunteering?**  
 Email us at:  
[NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com](mailto:NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com)

## *Oregon Truffle Festival*

**February 19, 2023 OSU Alumni Center**

<https://oregontrufflefestival.org/event/2023-fresh-truffle-marketplace/>

The Oregon Truffle Festival (OTF) is back! Bringing together artisan food producers, chefs, speakers, industry experts, truffle growers, and an ever-growing community of truffle fans, the OTF highlights time and time again that beautiful wine country of Oregon's Willamette Valley is the premier destination for all things truffle in North America.

OTF has worked tirelessly over the past fifteen years to educate farmers, land owners, harvesters, truffle dog trainers, chefs, and consumers about every aspect of native truffles and truffle cultivation, while furthering the mycological research that began over 100 years ago at Oregon State University.

The festival has also sought to keep events accessible, with tickets to the marketplace starting at \$15 per person. NATS will hold a table at the venue marketplace and those tables need to be manned. Additionally, NATS members may volunteer to help work the Truffle Festival admissions table, check ID at the door for wine tasting, and more. Shifts are in four-hour increments, either 9-1 or 1-5, after which they gain free entry to enjoy the marketplace when off shift!

## **Don't forget the FunDiS West Coast Rare Fungi Challenge continues!! 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.

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.

If the kingdom fungi rings your bell, take a dive into community science. Join thousands of community scientists across North America in the Fungal Diversity Survey (FunDiS) by visiting:

<https://fundis.org/protect/take-action>



## The Return of Todd Elliott

NATS was fortunate to have a surprise speaker in December, as Todd Elliott was in town to visit his friend and mentor - Dr. Jim Trappe, NATS's very own scientific advisor! The meeting was held at the Corvallis Public Library, as well as aired via Zoom. Todd's talk was titled:

### Vertebrate Mycophagy: the role of animals in spore dispersal around the world

Todd shared his recent research into these interactions and described what is known about the ecological importance of these fascinating interconnected associations around the world. Mammals, reptiles, and birds contribute to the dispersal of truffles and many different fungi through the consumption of fruiting bodies.

Todd Elliott is a biologist, naturalist, and mycologist. His work in global biodiversity and interrelationships in nature has taken him to remote corners of six continents to study the biodiversity and ecology of fungi. Most recently, he has been conducting research in Australia for his PhD on the role vertebrates play in the dispersal of fungi (truffles in particular). Todd is an author of the **Timber Press field guide Mushrooms of the Southeast** and has discovered and described species of mushrooms new to science.

He also gives a most entertaining and informative talk - Thank you Todd! If you interested in learning more about his work, visit [Todd's Google Scholar page](#).



Many thanks to our scheduled speaker, Dr. Eduardo Nouhra, for agreeing to postpone his talk.

## 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. **When our speaker is presenting via Zoom, meetings consist of two sessions.** The first, at 7:00 pm, is the NATS business meeting. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. 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 our speaker is presenting in-person, meetings will have only one Zoom invitation for 7:00 pm. We will still have a short business meeting at the beginning, but will go immediately into the speaker portion without waiting until 7:30.**

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!

## 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\*

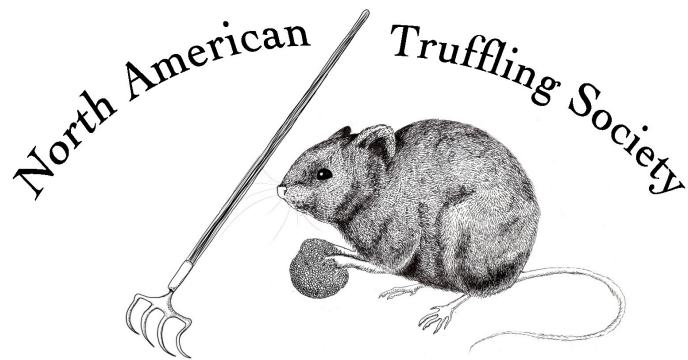
Overstory/understory trees & shrubs (scientific name preferred)

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.



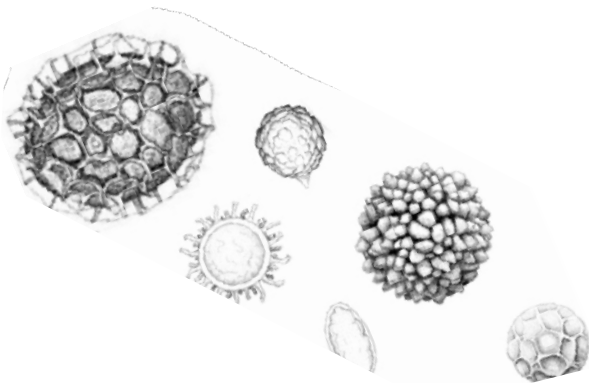


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## WANTED

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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:

**The North American Truffling Society**  
**P.O. BOX 296**  
**CORVALLIS, OREGON 97330**

If you mail a dried specimen, please let us know by sending an email to [NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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 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 97339**  
[www.natruffling.org](http://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+