

The North American Truffler

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Announcements

Room **2602** in Cordley Hall on the Oregon State University campus is ready for NATS Fall 2023 speaker meetings!!! NATS will now have in-person meetings every month 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.



Meet NEW NATS Board Member Anna Heinrich!

The North American Truffle Society is thrilled to introduce Anna Heinrich as our newest Board Member, bringing a fresh perspective to the NATS truffle community. With Anna's dedication to truffle hunting and conservation, we're set for exciting times ahead!

One of Anna's unique assets is their loyal truffle-hunting companion Gilly – a canine partner trained to seek out these precious fungi. This dynamic duo is all set to explore the hidden treasures of our region's forests, and they invite you to join in on these thrilling truffle adventures.

For Anna, becoming a part of NATS is not just about the truffles (although they are fabulous); it's about giving back to a community that brings them joy. They are excited to contribute their skill, insight, and passion for truffles to support NATS' mission of increasing scientific knowledge and conserving these elusive fungi.



Are you as eager as Anna to dive into the world of truffles? Whether you're interested in joining a truffle foray, volunteering, or becoming more deeply involved with NATS, there are plenty of opportunities for you to engage. Anna is your point of contact for NATS truffle forays coming soon. Stay tuned for announcements about upcoming community events!

NATS 2023 Fall Speakers

October 10, 2023 Dr. Melanie Jones

Corruption of the wood-wide web? What we really know about structure and function of forest mycorrhizal networks

Have you heard the recent buzz about forests? That trees send warning signals and resources to other trees via fungal networks? And that these resources help seedlings survive and grow, especially if they are related to large trees? Melanie Jones will review the scientific evidence for these ideas with an explanation of why evidence is sparse, too variable to generalize, or lacking entirely with respect to specific claims.



Dr. Melanie Jones is a Professor Emerita at the Biology Department of the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus in Kelowna. She has been studying ectomycorrhizal symbioses in forests and recently disturbed sites for over 40 years.



In February, 2023, together with Justine Karst and Jason Hoeksema, she published a paper in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* entitled "Positive citation bias and overinterpreted results lead to misinformation on common mycorrhizal networks in forests." Join NATS for this intriguing discussion.

November 7, 2023 Dr. Carolina Piña Páez

Dig and dig some more, truffles you may score!

What are truffles? Where are the best places to look for them? Are truffles rare? Is it true that all truffles are edible? The presentation will answer these and other questions. Carolina will explain the close association that this group of fungi has with trees and animals and their role in forest ecosystems, focusing on North American truffle diversity.

2021 Pavelek Scholarship winner Carolina Piña Páez became intrigued with the ecology and convergent evolution of truffles after her first introduction to them in the summer of 2009. She received an MS in Systematics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), working on the systematics of truffles in the Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt with Dr. Roberty Garibay-Orijel. Carolina earned her PhD in the Department of

Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University in Dr. Joey Spatafora's lab. Her doctoral project combined fieldwork and lab experiments to unravel past climate change cycles' effects on *Rhizopogon* and their hosts (Pinaceae) in the Madrean Sky Islands. Specifically, she studied how *Rhizopogon salebrosus* has migrated with its hosts and how isolation and environment are shaping its evolutionary trajectory. Her research interests include fungal taxonomy, host shifts in ectomycorrhizal fungi, sexual reproduction, and how recombination impacts natural populations' genetic diversity.



December 5, 2023 Speaker To Be Determined

Fall 2023 Upcoming Events

Yachats Mushroom Festival October 20 - 22, 2023



Mushroom Dinner
Workshops
Mushroom Walks
Speakers
ID Hall
Vendors

Held at various venues in Yachats
www.yachats.org

It's nearly time to head to the Oregon coast for the 2023 Yachats Mushroom Festival! This event has continued to attract hundreds of visitors during its 20+ years.

Over time, it's grown to include multiple educational sessions with mushroom experts, a number of hands-on workshops, multitudes of fungi-related displays, and guided walks that sell out weeks in advance. To register for speakers, workshops, and guided walk, view the festival's daily schedules here:

<https://yachats.org/events/yachats-mushroom-festival>

Carolina Pina Paez, our wonderful Events Coordinator will soon be moving away. Thank you, Carolina, for your years of coordinating NATS volunteers for these events!! Now, YOU have the opportunity to step into this exciting role. If you are interested, please write to natrufflingsociety@gmail.com.

THE GEM OF THE OREGON COAST
YACHATS MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival October 29, 2023



Strawberries and cream (*Hydnellum peckii*) and Douglas squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*).
Artwork by Emily Poole.

Tickets go on sale late September. Proceeds support work in native habitat stewardship and outdoor environmental education. For more information, visit:

<https://mountpisgaharboretum.org/festivals-events/mushroom-festival/>

In partnership with Lane Community College and Cascade Mycological Society, the Mount Pisgah Arboretum is holding its 2023 Mushroom Festival on Sunday, October 29th. This charming annual event has occurred since 1981 and continues to fascinate festival-goers with mycology-related activities such as:

- A huge mushroom exhibit of hundreds of local species
- Edible and poisonous mushrooms display
- Guided nature walks by local naturalists
- Mushroom vendors
- Local foods, arts, and crafts
- Kids' crafts and activities
- Cider pressing, scarecrow contest, and hay rides



Cascade Mycological Society

Nonprofit 501(c)(3) - Education, Research, and fun with fungi

Look Who's Talking...Programs of Note



Rye evincing typical eagerness for a live truffle hunting opportunity.

Remember Rye, Heather, and Hilary Rose Dawson? Featured NATS potluck speakers and truffle dog training scientists? You must, no one forgets a face like this.

That face of Rye, along with the enthusiasm and knowledge of the Dawson sisters, was featured in a recent episode of OPB's 'America Outdoors' with Baratunde Thurston. Click on the link below to watch.



Rye enjoying a contemplative moment in the woods.



Hilary Rose Dawson and Heather Dawson discuss one of Rye's finds with program host Baratunde Thurston.

<https://watch.opb.org/video/oregon-new-heights-tpq3p0/>



Thanks to Hilary Rose and Heather for putting Oregon truffles in the spot light.



Oregon Mycological Society to Host Noah Siegel



It's no overstatement to say the Pacific Northwest has an amazing diversity of hypogeous fungi (truffles and false truffles). Who better to speak on the matter than Noah Siegel, a man who has spent 20 years across 3 continents hunting, photographing, identifying, and writing about all things fungal?



Siegel will speak at the October 9, 2023 general meeting of the Oregon Mycological Society. His presentation will go beyond the realm of highly prized edibles to highlight the diversity and beauty of our region's underground fungi, and provide sustainable tips to find them. You're undoubtedly in for a visual treat as Noah's fungal photography has garnered him awards from the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) photography contest and have been featured in numerous other mediums. For more detail visit:

<https://www.wildmushrooms.org/calendar/general-meeting-2023-10/>

'Stop Walking on Truffles: The Cryptic Life Underground'

When: Oct 9, 2023, 7-9 pm PST

Where: World Forestry Center
Cheatham Hall, SW Knights
Bldv, Portland, OR 97221

BIG NEWS! FunDis Opens Up DNA Sequencing for FunDis Local Projects



Thanks to a partnership with Stephen Russell and his company, [Mycota](#), all FunDis Local Projects are eligible to send Stephen specimens for sequencing. Our FunDis Volunteer Sequence Validation Committee analyzes the results and determines the species. Read instructions [here](#) on how to submit your fungal specimens for DNA sequencing.

In order to send us specimens for DNA sequencing you must join or start a FunDis Local Project. NATS has a FunDis Local Project, contact us at NAtrufflingsociety@gmail.com if you are interested in finding out more.

The FunDis West Coast Rare Fungi Challenge continues!! October 2020 - March 2025



What is the Fungal Diversity Survey? FunDis is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the documentation, appreciation, and protection of the fungal kingdom. Just under 10% of fungal species are documented and the need to catalogue and map fungal species before they expire is acute.

Get involved! Participate in community science with the **West Coast Rare Fungi Challenge**. Visit to learn more. <https://fundis.org/protect/take-action>

Preserve Your Fungal Finds!!



Meet the Harvest Right HRFDM- a lovely sight to a fungiphile. And now, thanks to mushroom enthusiast Evan Sekulic of Portland, your chances of seeing it in person, and perhaps lyophilizing some of your own fungal specimens, has just increased.

Sekulic, new NATS member and proud new owner of the device, has most generously offered use of it to NATS members interested in freeze drying their fungal collections.

“It’s a great tool to experiment with for preserving mushrooms/truffles...superior to regular drying for long term storage and preservation of aroma,” he said.

“It would make me feel justified in the purchase if other people used it too,” he continued. “I look forward to meeting some folks and helping them preserve their finds this winter.”

Surely this is an offer you can’t refuse. If you would like to know more, send an email to NAtrufflingsociety@gmail.com and we can help foster a connection.



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*

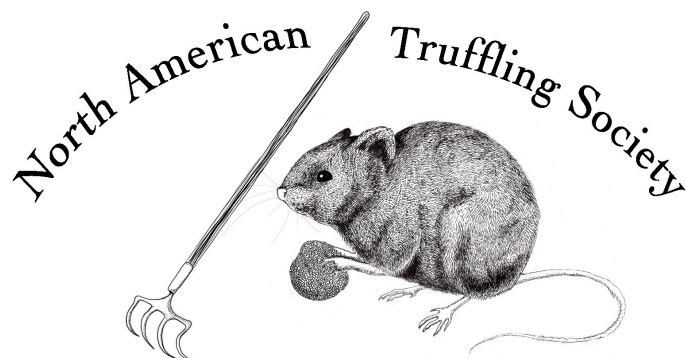
Slope*

Overstory/understory trees & shrubs (scientific name preferred)

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

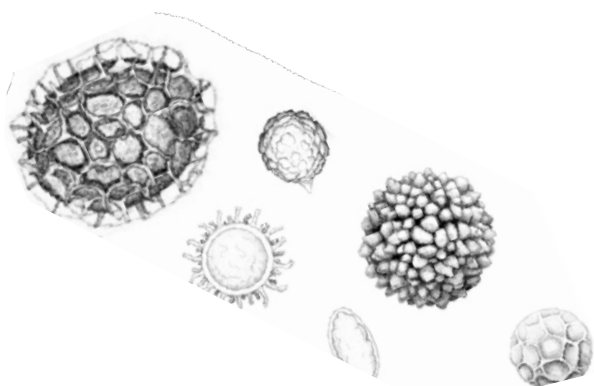
Fresh notes such as colors and odor (using the notes section on iNaturalist)

*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+