


The North American Truffler

Journal of the North American Truffling Society

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Fall 2024

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Announcements

Room **2602** in Cordley Hall on the Oregon State University campus is reserved for NATS speaker meetings!!! NATS will 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.



Are you a graduate student of Mycology?
apply for the

Henry Pavelek Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Download the application here
<https://www.natruffling.org/scholar.htm>
and
send it to Carolina Piña Páez at
carolina.ppaez@gmail.com

North American Truffling Society
P.O. Box 296, Corvallis, OR, 97339



more information

NATS 2024 Fall Speakers

October 8, 2024: Danielle Sublett

From spore to soil: discovering diversity beneath California's Oaks



Fungi play a vital role in forest ecosystems, forming critical symbiotic relationships with trees. Join NATS for its October meeting where speaker Danielle Sublett will provide insight to this role. Her research focuses on ectomycorrhizal (EcM) fungi associated with *Quercus* species in the Sierra Nevada foothills, with special emphasis on the diverse genus *Cortinarius*. Through sporocarp collections and high-throughput sequencing, over 60 distinct *Cortinarius* species were identified in this project, revealing notable differences in fungal diversity among oak species.

Her research also investigates how environmental gradients and host specificity shape *Cortinarius* communities, with a focus on *Quercus douglasii*, which supports the highest diversity of EcM fungi. Danielle will also touch on truffle-like sequestrate species collected during the study, offering insights into their potential ecological parallels with true truffles. This presentation will appeal to both conservationists and fungal foraging enthusiasts, showcasing the hidden diversity beneath California's oak woodlands.

Danielle completed her Master's thesis under the mentorship of Dr. Alija Mujic at California State University, Fresno, and currently teaches biology and ecology at College of the Sequoias. She is pursuing PhD opportunities this fall, with a focus on fungal ecology and conservation biology.

November 12, 2024: Tristan Stoch

Mushroom Seasons: people and mushrooms in the PNW

Tristan Stoch is a filmmaker and amateur fungi enthusiast currently based in Portland, Oregon. Born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, he is passionate about the regions' biodiversity and history. Since 2017, Tristan has been filming and editing Mushroom Seasons, a documentary web series about people and mushrooms in the Pacific Northwest. He will show five completed episodes that present topics such as Japanese-American matsutake traditions, commercial harvest of wild mushrooms, amateur mycologists, and truffle dogs. He will also share never-before-seen footage of NATS members and Pacific Northwestern truffle history that he has learned during his studies.



NATS 2024 Fall Speakers

December 10, 2024: Charlie Bruder

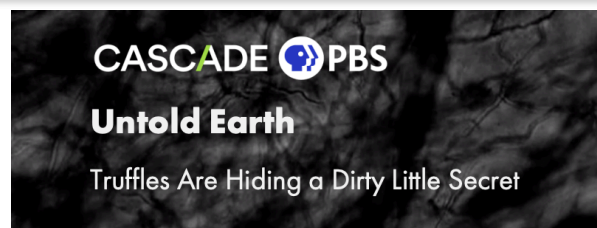
The domestication of fungi in food systems: a basic history



The story of plant and animal domestication is vast, but Charlie Bruder's interest is unparalleled. Join NATS at the December speaker meeting where Bruder will cover a basic history of edible plant and animal domestication, and discuss the implications of domesticating fungi for food systems. Conventional means of breeding fungi as well as genetic engineering/CRISPR will be discussed. Both biological and cultural reasons surrounding domestication will be explored.

Charlie is an aspiring mycologist and farmer currently studying microbiology at Oregon State University. Passionate about foraging and community based agriculture, Charlie is certified in permaculture design, and aims to bring an ecological perspective to the rising popularity of mushrooms in our food system. Currently, he works with the Wood Decomposition Lab, where he helps maintain one of the largest culture libraries of native fungi in the PNW. Charlie practices elements of Korean Natural Farming, and other organic methodologies in his own farming and gardening, hoping to increase soil microbial diversity in agricultural systems.

In Case You Missed It...



The PBS Nature series 'Untold Earth' aired an episode sure to pique NATS member interest. "Truffles Are Hiding a Dirty Little Secret" features NATS's beloved Jim Trappe, well-known Northwest truffle enthusiast Charles Lefevre, OSU PhD Candidate Abbey Neat, and William Padilla-Brown founder of Mycosymbiotics. Originally aired in May of 2024, the featurette can be viewed [here](#).

Fall 2024 Upcoming Events

Yachats Mushroom Festival October 18 - 20, 2024



It's nearly time to head to the Oregon coast for the 2024 Yachats Mushroom Festival! This event has continued to attract hundreds of visitors during its 20+ years. Over time, its 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 at:

<https://www.yachatsmushroomfestival.org>

Mt. Pisgah Mushroom Festival October 27, 2024



In partnership with Lane Community College and Cascade Mycological Society, the Mount Pisgah Arboretum is holding its 2024 Mushroom Festival on Sunday, October 27th. This charming annual event has occurred since 1981 and continues to fascinate festival-goers with mycology-related activities such as:

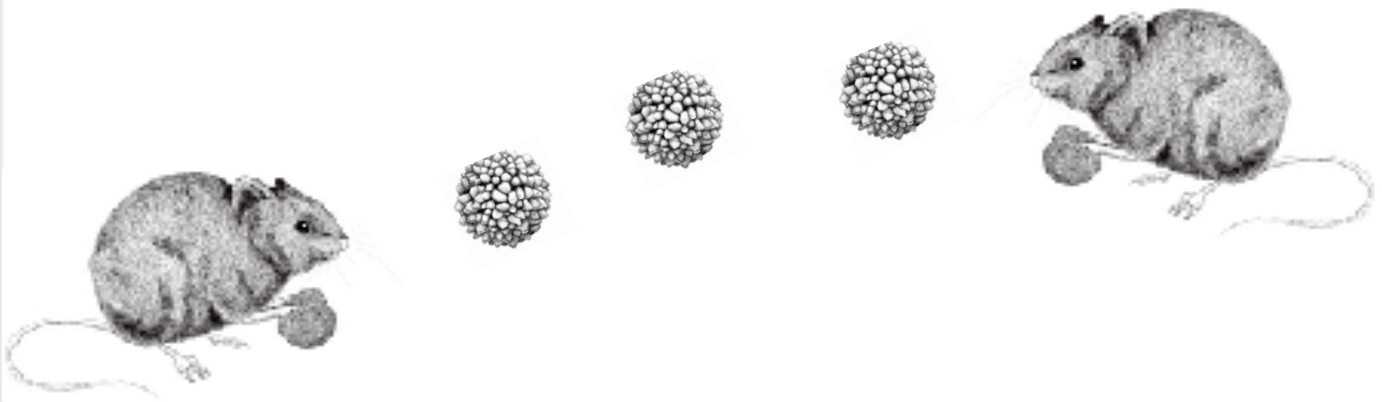
- A huge mushroom exhibit of hundreds of local species
- Edible and poisonous mushrooms display
- Guided nature walks by local naturalists
- Mushroom vendors
- Local foods, arts, and crafts
- Kids' crafts and activities
- Cider pressing, scarecrow contest, and hay rides

Tickets are on sale now! Proceeds support work in native habitat stewardship and outdoor environmental education. For more information, visit:

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



Begin Your Charitable Giving Here!



North American Truffling Society

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE

Help us carry out our mission of promoting educational activities and enhancing the scientific knowledge of North American truffles and truffle-like fungi.

SUPPORT TRUFFLE SCIENCE



PAVELEK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Your donation gives students resources to study mycology

Visit natruffling.org/scholar.htm



FIELD RESEARCH GRANT

Help us help our citizen scientists research truffle diversity in our forests

Visit natruffling.org/donate.htm

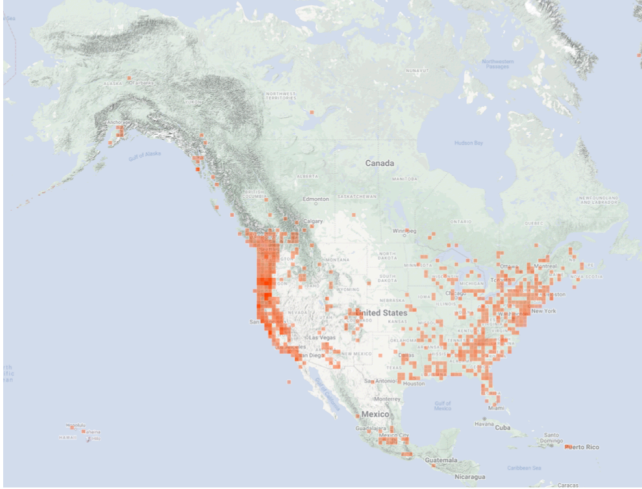


Update on the NATS iNAT Project

by Hilary Rose Dawson

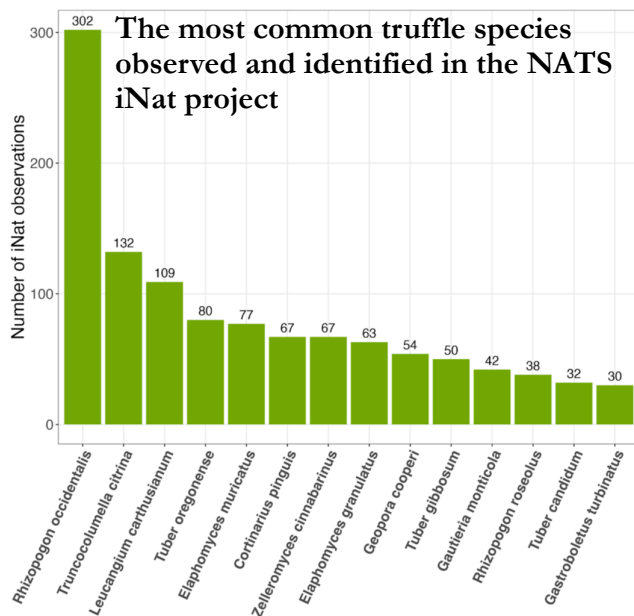
The NATS iNaturalist project has surpassed 6,500 truffles observed by more than 1,700 people! iNat is a community science initiative that collects observations of organisms like truffles to map what grows where and when. A big part of iNat is building community by connecting observers with identifiers, volunteers who help identify findings.

A map of all observations by the Truffles of North America iNaturalist project



The NATS iNat project focuses on truffles in the broad sense: macroscopic, underground fruiting bodies of fungi that are gasteroid (fertile tissue is enclosed inside an outer skin “peridium”), as well as fungi forming “secotiid” fruiting bodies—those considered an intermediate form. iNat users can join the project and then add their truffle observations by following [these instructions](#). (Not on iNat yet? It’s quick and easy to [sign up and start observing](#).)

So far, the top truffle species on the iNaturalist project are *Rhizopogon occidentalis*, *Truncocolumella citrina*, *Leucangium carthusianum*, *Tuber oregonense*, and *Elaphomyces muricatus*. However, more than half of the observations still need identification. Some truffle species can’t be identified from photographs alone. But many can be, and if you’re familiar with truffle identification we need your help figuring out which truffles are in the NATS project!



Once you’ve signed up for iNaturalist, you can use the Identify tool to find observations that need identification. You can use the Project filter and type in ‘Truffles of North America’, or you can just visit this link: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/identify?project_id=95284 If you’re just getting started with identifying on iNaturalist, be sure to review the Identification Etiquette tutorial. If you’re uncertain about identifying for the first time, check out observations that don’t even have a family or genus yet to see if you can get them to a more precise level. If you spot an observation that isn’t a truffle, send Hilary Rose (@rosawoodsii on iNaturalist) a private message and she will take care of it.

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*

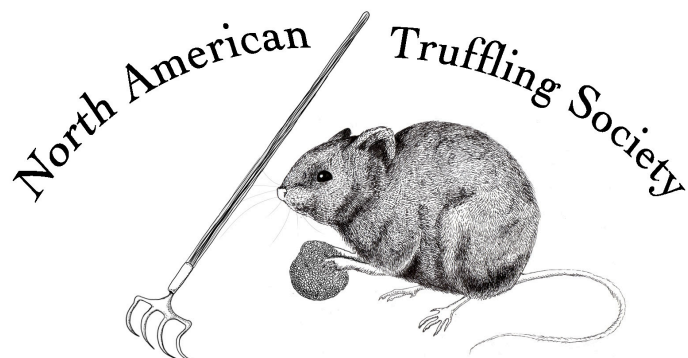
Slope*

Overstory/understory trees & shrubs (scientific name preferred)

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

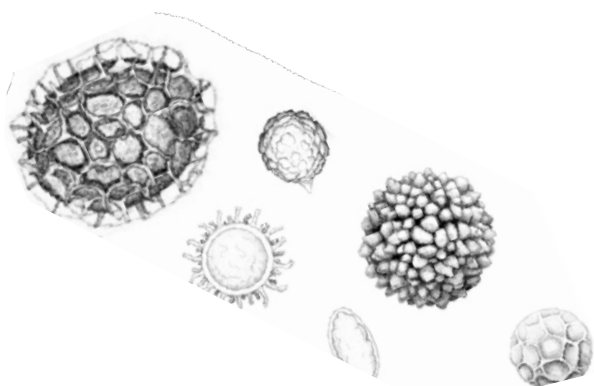
Fresh notes such as colors and odor (using the notes section on iNaturalist)

*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+