

The North American Truffler

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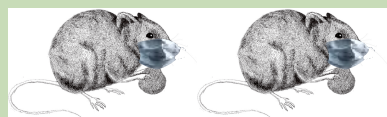


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2020 NATS Board Members

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Vice President - Joyce Eberhart
Secretary - Kyle Gervers
Treasurer - Barry Wulff
Scientific advisor - Jim Trappe
Truffle master - Matt Trappe
Membership - Mysti Weber
Newsletter editor - Sarah Shay
Club event coordinator - Carolina Piña Páez
Hospitality - Sylvia Donovan
Librarian - Amy Rossman
Members-at-Large - Frank Evans and Dan Luoma



Upcoming Events

Safety Over 'Shrooms:



Due to dangers (known and unknown) caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, NATS monthly speaker meetings are postponed until Fall 2020. Stay tuned, and stay respectfully safe!

Would you participate in a Zoom NATS meeting if it is not safe to meet in person by October? If your answer is 'Yes!', please send an email to NATrufflingsociety@gmail.com to help us gauge interest. Thanks!

Highlights of the February 2020 NATS Annual Potluck Dinner



NATS President Marilyn Hinds addresses NATS members in attendance at this year's potluck dinner.
Photo by Dave Pilz.

The annual NATS potluck was held on February 8, 2020. The spirit was one of warm companionship coupled with delicious dishes, a riveting silent auction, and a fascinating presentation by filmmaker Tristan Stoch.

Stoch describes himself as always having been obsessed with mushroom hunting, likely true of many NATS members. However, Stoch indulges his fascination beyond “just the fungi” to include the people behind the picking. “There’s huge diversity in ethnic groups, motivations for looking for mushrooms,” he explains. “Are we looking for truffles to study? Are we looking for truffles to sell? Are we picking because our grandparents taught us to pick?”

Attendees were privy to some 40 minutes of film related to Stoch’s most recent project, a multi-segmented documentary of sorts addressing mycology in the Northwest from multiple perspectives. A completed segment focused on the tradition of matsutake hunting for first and second-generation Japanese living in the Pacific Northwest, and the ways in which events associated with World War II impacted that tradition.

Stoch also shared unpolished clips and footage related to his project, including the advent of academic mycology in the Pacific Northwest, the centrality of mushrooms to our cuisine, how the gospel of mycology is impacted by citizen scientists on social media, and a history of mycological associations such as NATS. “Amateurs are really the foundation of mycology,” Stoch said.

These amateurs look forward to more of Stoch’s insightful work!

Some stills from his films are shown on the next page.

Photos from Tristan Storch's presentation for the NATS potluck



Oregon Historical Society photo of Japanese railroad workers.



Leah Bendlin documenting a find on iNaturalist, photo by Tristan Storch.



The Oregon Mycological Society's fall show, photo by Tristan Storch.



Amy Peterson picking matsutake, photo by Tristan Storch.

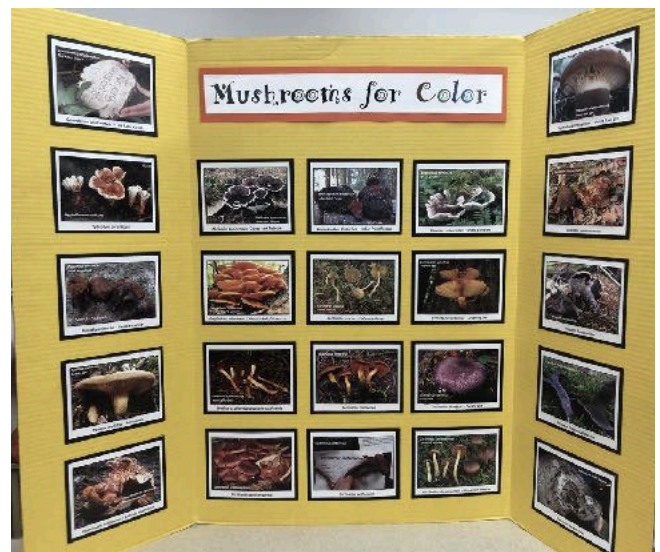


Joy Thavisack hunting porcini, photo by Tristan Storch.

March Meeting - Cheshire Mayrsohn Ancient Arts-and-Crafts: Dyeing with Lichens

Our March speaker (just before the shutdown!) was retired BLM botanist Cheshire Mayrsohn. She currently serves as president of Cascade Mycological Society and has taught classes on lichen and mushroom dyeing at the Eugene Textile Center in Eugene. Mayrsohn says, "The colors I get are all about mushroom chemistry, not the color of the fruiting body. It is always a surprise the first few times I use a new species. As a mushroom dyer, I rarely get skunked mushrooming; there is always something to pick and try to dye."

Cheshire spoke about the 3,000 year-old art of lichen dyeing, and the more recent art of dyeing with mushrooms. She also talked about the mushroom species used, and did a demo showing the different colors achieved by changing the pH. She brought an amazing array of things she has made using mushroom dyes, both fabric and knitted works of art - she is wonderfully creative and talented!



All photos by Chris Eberhart.

Someday Speakers

Dr. Bitty Roy

Remnant Pacific Northwest (PNW) prairies are known to contain large numbers of now-rare plant species. But is there an association between prairie-associated mushrooms and plants of conservation interest? Join NATS someday in the future when Dr. Bitty Roy will describe her long-term research into the macrofungal diversity of PNW prairies and the ways in which management practices influence community composition.



Richard Tehan

A graduate student in the medicinal chemistry PhD program at Oregon State University, Richard studies natural fungal products. His research focus concerns drug discovery and the evolution of secondary metabolism in the Ascomycete genus, *Tolypocladium*, better known by its synonyms *Cordyceps* and *Elaphocordyceps*. He is also studying the taxonomy and systematics of *Tolypocladium* and other *Cordyceps*-like fungi.

Speaker Meeting Suggestions?

Is there a mycology-related topic you want to learn more about? Have an idea/presentation that might tickle your fellow NATS members' fancy? Let us know! Contact NATS Vice President and speaker coordinator extraordinaire Joyce Eberhart with details/contact information for potential NATS presentations. Thanks for your input and remember- NATS is as interesting as we make it!



Future NATS speaker?

OBITS

Remembering Frank Morris

December 26, 1920 — April 11, 2020

by Pat Rawlinson

Frank was a long time member of NATS, and a past president, in the early 1980's. He and his wife, Lesley, were a constant presence at meetings and forays. They owned a small woodlands near Mary's Peak and they hosted NATS forays there at different times. Not only did we enjoy the truffling but we could admire and enjoy his skills at managing his property.

Frank had a good sense of humor and shared his interest in travel and some of his military experiences. He was a great conversationalist, and his roasted Matsutake mushrooms at the annual potluck were a real treat! He lived a long and productive life, and he will be missed by so many in the community.



Rest in Peace, Frank.

Remembering Clarence Omoto

December 23, 1923 — May 2, 2020

by Marilyn Hinds



Clarence Yoshito Omoto, beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, passed away at age 96 in Corvallis. Born in Hawaii, Clarence served in the MIS, 100 Battalion of the US Army during WW II, earning the unit Metal of Honor. He earned a BS in Biology with a minor in chemistry before working 25 years as a medical researcher at Mt Zion Hospital in San Francisco and Stanford University. Clarence lived his Philosophy of Life of "Work Hard, Have Fun".

He and his wife Vi Fujiko shared 64 happy adventure filled years raising a family, volunteering at church, camping, traveling, and mushroom hunting. Retirement led them to follow their children and grandchildren to Corvallis and a new adventure - truffle hunting. On his first foray Clarence found an unidentified *Rhizopogon* species.

Clarence is survived by his wife, daughter, son, and granddaughters, all of Corvallis.

Native American Mushroom Design by Christine Roberts

You've seen it before, but do you know the story behind it? This Native American mushroom design was created by mycologist and illustrator Christine Roberts. Hailing from the UK, Roberts received an MS in Forest Biology at Oregon State University, followed by a PhD in Forest Biology at the University of Victoria. While working on a fungal diversity project in the HJ Andrews Experimental Forest near Corvallis, OR in the early 1990s, she researched details for the artwork.

On top of the mushroom sits a Haida style frog or toad—as in 'toadstool.' Beneath, the mushroom cap splits open to reveal an inner creature, a feature used in several North Pacific tribal dance masks. Inside is the Raven who brings water that makes the fungi fruit. The legend is as follows:



Raven was once white in the days before fresh water existed on Earth. One day he was thirsty, so he flew to the heavens where a great giant lived who guarded a pot of fresh water. He entered the giant's home to find him gone, so he drank his fill from the pot of water on the floor. Suddenly, the giant returned, and closed the door so Raven was trapped. The giant was angry at the Raven for stealing the water, and chased him. Raven escaped up the chimney, which turned his plumage black. As he flew back to Earth, drops of water falling from his beak became the rain, then the rivers and lakes filled. (Raven design adapted from Tsimshian)

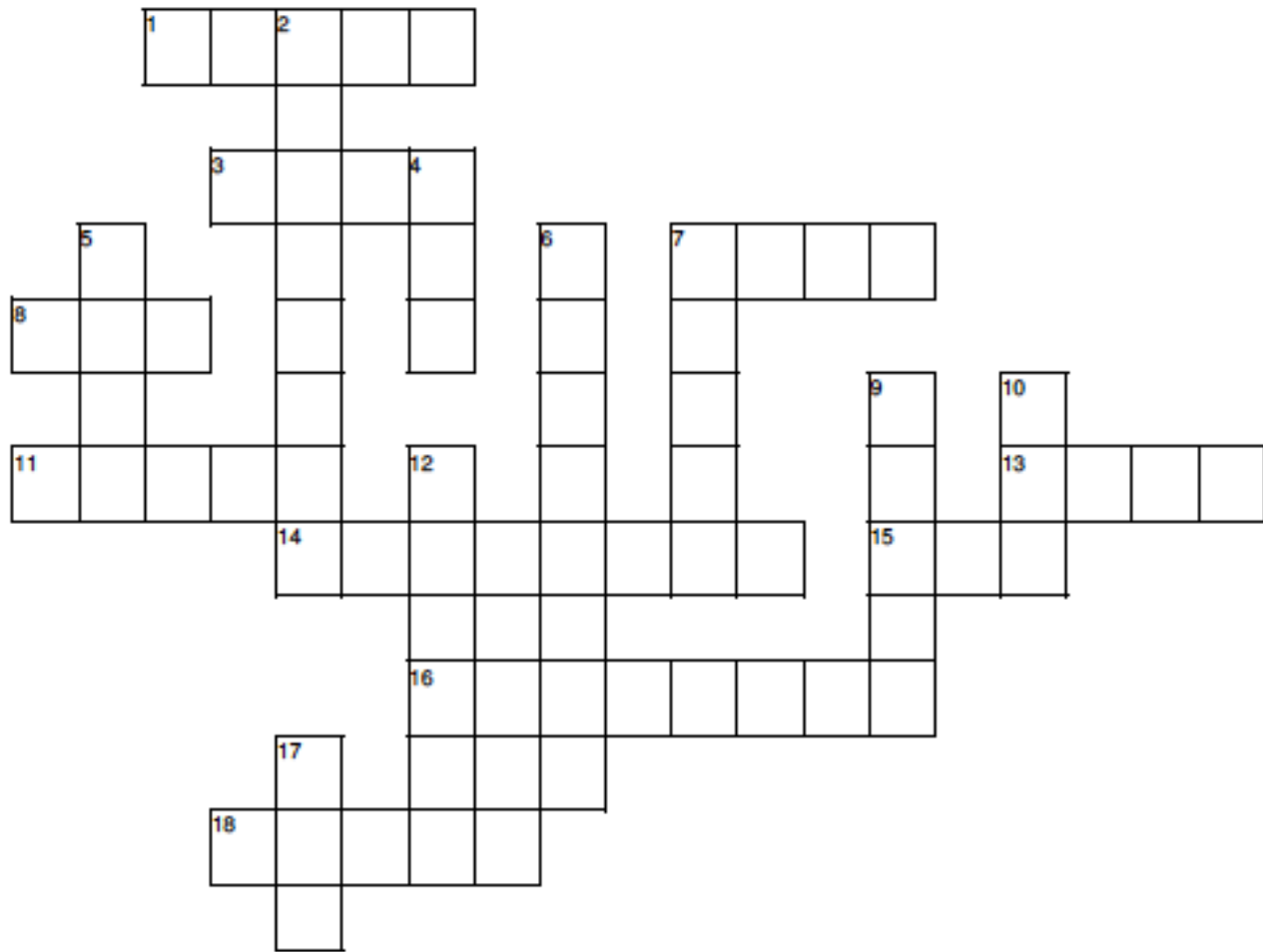
On the sides of the cap are deer (left) and flying squirrels (right) after the designs of the more southern tribes toward Mexico. Below the cap is a Hopi sun symbol, a Hopi rain symbol, and a tree symbol of Roberts' own design signifying the three necessities for mycorrhizal fungi.

The eye is Chilkat, the nose Kwakwaka'wakw, and the whole is in the Haida style. The eye below symbolizes the vision mycologists would like to attain to find truffles, or the visions sought by those eating 'magic' mushrooms.

The maggots (brown wiggles) and banana slug at the bottom representing these creatures' reliance on mushrooms for food and habitat.

Christine has freely allowed this piece to be used to benefit mycology clubs. She has created natural history illustrations and sculptures for museum displays, field guides, text books, and purely decorative purposes.

Truffler Crossword #1



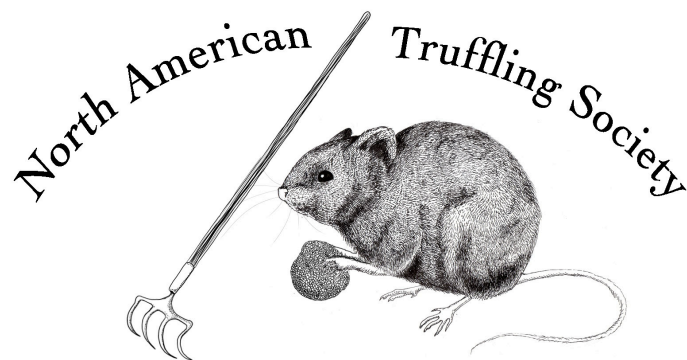
Across

1. What happens when you forget you have truffles in the car trunk
3. Victims of Cordyceps who climb to great heights
7. truffles are mycorrhizal with _____
8. How long it takes to find a truffle without a dog
11. NATS longest serving treasurer
13. Transparent sacs within which truffle spores form
14. France's equivalent to Italy's Piedmont region
15. Squirrels like truffles better than _____
16. A truffler's arch nemesis
18. A truffle's weird cousin

Down

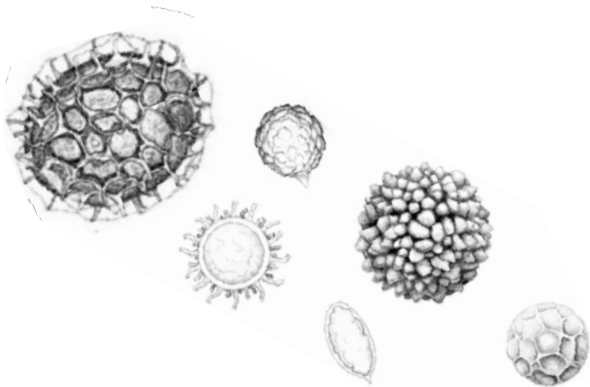
2. The kind of mushroom to put in a cookie
4. Truffle compounds act as an aphrodisiac to these 4-legged creatures
5. Spore disperser
6. Dish often paired with truffles in France
7. 'Shallow' gold
9. Wielder of the NATS Meeting Gavel
10. NATS best secretary
12. The Pope of the Truffle World
17. A truffle's best friend

SURELY IN A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING, UNCERTAINTY, AND SHELTER-IN-PLACE, SOMEONE WILL BE BORED ENOUGH TO FINALLY LOOK AT THE NATS CROSSWORD PUZZLE (unsolved since Spring 2018). BE FIRST TO SOLVE & WIN AN OPPORTUNITY TO CALL THE NEXT NATS MEETING TO ORDER WITH THE PRESIDENT'S GAVEL!



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:

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.

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



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+