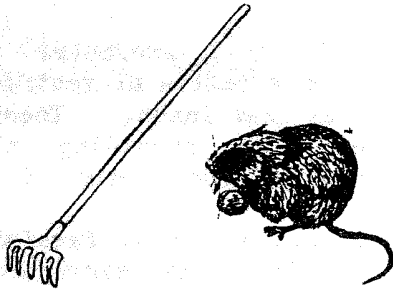


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NATS CURRENT NEWS

Monthly publication for  
THE NORTH AMERICAN TRUFFLING SOCIETY, INC.  
P. O. Box 296  
Corvallis, OR. 97339

January 1988

Editor: Pat Rawlinson

Vol. 6 No. 1

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FORAY, Saturday, January 2, 1988, to Harlan, Oregon. Meet at Benton Center, 630 NW 7th, Corvallis, OR., at 9:00 A. M. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch.

For those coming from the coastal areas, meet at Burnt Woods General Store, Hwy 20, at 10:00 A. M.

For more information, contact Steve Morgan, Brownsville 466-5206.

Steve Morgan  
Trufflemaster

MEETING, Monday, January 4, 1987, 7:30 P. M., Large Conference Room, Forest Sciences Lab, 3200 Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR.

The speaker has not been confirmed at this time, but there will be a meeting. For further information, call Tom O'Dell, 757-4379.

PORTLAND CHAPTER NATS

For information about foray and meeting, contact President Dan Wheeler, 774-0223.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

We just returned from the Second Western Congress on Truffles and Wild Edible Mushrooms in Santa Rosa, CA.

What a wonderful event! Throughout the three days of conferences and field trips we were treated to wine (courtesy of the Geyser Peak Winery), and a myriad of catered lunches and receptions, and a cooking-with-truffles demonstration (with abundant samples provided) on how to make truffled crab souffle and broiled chicken with truffles. To top off the event, at the conclusion of the conference, we attended a gala banquet that consisted of five courses, each replete with a truffle and a specially selected wine compliment. An event of a lifetime (well almost, the next conference will probably be in about five years).

On the more serious side of the conference, NATS made an excellent showing. The first Cookbook of North American Truffles, Frank and Karan Evans, editors, was a great success. Those attending the conference were treated to a complimentary copy with many participants ordering extra cookbooks to give as gifts (they are selling like crazy so get yours while they are still in print). The lectures were on a variety of topics, each adding to our knowledge of the biology, cultivation, commercialization, or enjoyment of

truffles and wild edibles. A number of noted experts were among the lecturers, including Dr. J. Delmas from France, Dr. Mario Honrubia from Spain, Dr. Nils Fries from Sweden, and Dr. Gaston Guzman from Mexico. Frank Evans gave a very nice account of NATS and what we're about.

The foray was also a success. Although we did not find Tuber gibbosum, almost everyone was able to turn up at least a Rhizopogon or two. It apparently did not matter however, because the woods literally rang with the cries of "I found one!" In fact, the group I was leading found their first truffle thirteen minutes from stepping off the bus. We ended up with about fifteen species of truffles for the day.

All in all it was an educational and enjoyable experience. Thanks once again to Henry Trione and Ralph Stone (Tristos and Peak Winery) and Harry Merlo (Louisiana Pacific) for their generosity in putting the affair together, and for recognizing that NATS is at the center of truffling in North America and the world.

Steve Miller  
NATS President

THE NATS ANNUAL POTLUCK AND AWARDS Banquet, December 11, 1987, held at the Benton County Clubhouse, was a big success! Participants were treated to a delectable array of hors d'oeuvres and main dishes, all candidates for the next edition of the NATS cookbook.

Dr. James Trappe, master of ceremonies, presented service awards to Frank and Karan Evans, Keith Sherry, Wanda Pavelek, Vern and Verba Moore; service and field work awards to Dan Wheeler, Welles Bushnell and Henry Pavelek; service and culinary award to Norene Wedam; service and photography award to Steve Morgan; service and research awards to Dr. Steven Miller and Dr. James Trappe; research award to Michael Castellano; media awards to Larry Korn and Ann Ruff.

Dennis Wedam presented Tuber gibbosum trophies, made by Vernon Moore, to Dr. James Trappe and Dr.

Steven Miller. He also presented an award in the form of a bottle of truffled cooking oil to Pat Rawlinson. Thanks to Shawn Anderson for providing the fresh Tuber gibbosum that went into the oil.

Wanda Pavelek and Henry J. Pavelek, Jr. presented to NATS the microscope that belonged to Henry Pavelek, NATS president who died in July. The microscope is to be made available to NATS members to check out and use for the study of truffles. Dr. James Trappe volunteered to give instructions to anyone who wishes to use the microscope. The NATS membership thanks the Pavelek family for this generous gift. It is an important contribution to the society to assist in advancing our study and knowledge of truffles.

Frank and Karan Evans showed slides from the Truffle Congress in Santa Rosa and Frank Morris had a photo display showing how he grows Shiitake mushrooms.

Thank you to FRANK MORRIS for putting the Annual Potluck and Awards Banquet together, and to all those who helped Frank set up and clean up. It was a wonderful evening of good food and fellowship.

#### 1988 NATS OFFICERS ELECTED

Welcome to the following officers for 1988, nominated and voted in at the December 11, 1987 Annual Potluck and Awards Banquet:

President: Dr. Steven Miller  
Vice President: Tom O'Dell  
Secretary: Betty Smith  
Treasurer: Welles Bushnell

Future issues of the newsletter will carry a "Meet Your Officers" column to help you know those serving NATS.

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PLEASE let us know of any address change as soon as possible. Bulk mailing does not allow for forwarding mail. We don't want you to miss any newsletters.

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TRUFFLE OF THE MONTH

Hymenogaster parksii Zeller & Dodge

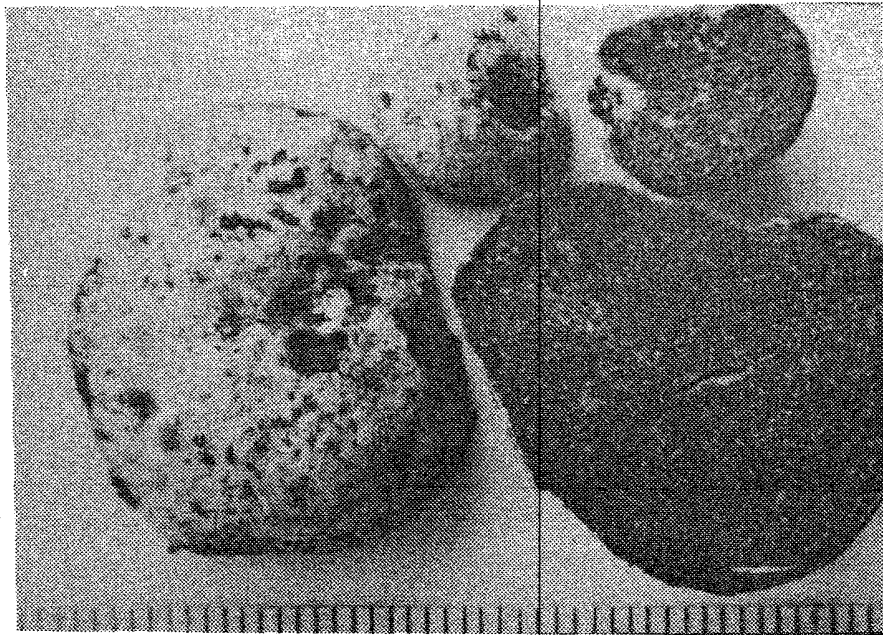


Photo by Dr. James Trappe

ORDER: Gasteromycetes

DESCRIPTION

by Dr. Steven Miller

**ETYMOLOGY:** Zeller and Dodge had a propensity for naming new taxa after respected botanists and mycologists. This species was named in honor of Harold Parks, who collected hypogeous fungi in California for many years.

**BASIDIOCARP:** 1-3 cm diameter, subglobose to somewhat flattened or irregular, often with a persistent basal tuft of mycelium with adherent soil.

**PERIDIUM:** Surface dry, cottony at first then smooth, unpolished; white to pallid white when young, yellow white to orange white with age, brownish orange where handled; in cross-section 0.2-0.5 mm thick, white.

**GLEBA:** Loculate, locules 2-3 per mm at first, up to 1 per mm in age, irregularly shaped, not oriented but smaller toward the base; firm young, then soft, spongy with age; columella present,

dendritic from a small sterile base, evident in small traces throughout gleba, occasionally percurrent when young, leathery; white young, then gray brown, light brown, finally dark brown, columella and sterile base white or pale yellow.

**ODOR:** strong, penetrating, farinaceous.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Late fall and winter into spring, associated with Douglas fir. The type collection was taken from the Guadalupe Mines region of California, but the range of this species is west coast from California to Washington and into the Rocky Mountains.

**EDIBILITY:** Edible.

VOCABULARY:

**Dendritic:** tree-like, resembling a tree in shape.

**Farinaceous:** starchy

**Loculate:** divided into small secondary compartments.

**Percurrent:** extending whole length of sporocarp but not continuing on through peridium.

OCTOBER 1987 FINDS

- 10/02/87 Ontario, Oregon  
Scleroderma cepa Pers.....Leeds Bailey
- 10/15/87 Long Beach Peninsula, Washington  
Rhizopogon occidentalis Zeller & Dodge.....Susan Wortman

NOVEMBER 1987 FINDS

- 11/05/87 S. E. 82nd and Foster, Portland, OR.  
Pisolithus tinctorius (Pers.) Coker & Couch.....Dan Wheeler
- 11/07/87 Paul Bishop's Tree Farm, Clackamas County, OR.  
Parasitized Martellia sp.....Dan Wheeler  
Rhizopogon villosulus Zeller(2 coll.).....Dan Wheeler  
Rhizopogon sp., immature.....Susan Wortman  
Dan Wheeler  
Parasitized Scleroderma sp.....Susan Wortman  
Tuber gibbosum Harkn.....Dan Wheeler  
Dan Wheeler
- 11/12/87 Hwy 58, unnamed road, milepost 50  
Rhizopogon subcaerulescens Smith.....Dennis Wedam  
Rhizopogon sp., immature(2 coll.).....SAA
- 11/13/87 Silver Creek State Park, Oregon  
Rhizopogon hawkeriae Smith.....Welles Bushnell  
Truncocolumella citrina Zeller.....SAA
- 11/21/87 Cape Kiwanda, Oregon  
Rhizopogon occidentalis Zeller & Dodge(2 coll.).....Mary Wilhelm  
Rhizopogon parksii Smith.....SAA
- 11/21/87 Two miles south of Beaver creek, OR., Clackamas County  
Rhizopogon villosulus Zeller(10 coll.).....Dan Wheeler
- 11/29/87 Woods Creek, Benton County, OR.  
Hysterangium setchelii Zeller & Dodge.....Frank Evans  
Rhizopogon hawkeriae Smith(2 coll.).....SAA  
Rhizopogon parksii Smith.....SAA  
Tuber gibbosum Harkn.....SAA

NATS WELCOMES the following new members:  
from Oregon, Shirley Gingell, Lebanon;  
Maxine Thompson, Corvallis; Fred Millett,  
Oregon City; Jane Smith, Corvallis;  
Nancy Murray, Portland. From California,  
Katherine Parkinson, Del Mar; Janet  
Barton, Fremont; John & Kathy Perkins,  
Sanger; Loraine & Robert Berry, Ross;  
Ginger Wickersham, Napa; Holly Peterson,  
Oakville; Dr. Marc Shapiro, Lower Lake.

James Pearse, New Hazelton, B. C.,  
Canada; Tom Nogay, Gardiner, MT.;  
M. H. Wilson, Crossville, TN.; Dick  
Gruey, Bisbee, AZ.; Joseph Truitt,  
Wilmington, DE.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR DUES now, using the  
convenient form on the inside of the  
last page.

Hymenogaster parksii Recipes  
Submitted by Norene Wedam

Truffled Butter

Grate truffle and add butter until it stops crumbling. Excellent spread on white bread.

Truffled Cream Cheese

Combine one half part cream cheese, one quarter part butter, one quarter part grated H. parksii, chopped pimento to taste.

Use to make sandwiches or stuff celery.

Dairy products in general enhance the flavor of this truffle. Try experimenting.

FROM VERN MOORE

It would seem that I have been in hibernation all summer: no forays, meetings, or Steve Miller's fabulous classes, just work. I finally got to attend the Starker Forest Hunt on December 5, 1987. My wife and I thought it was wonderful to get together with some of the members of our organization. We thought it was a very successful foray, even though many of our regulars were at the Santa Rosa Conference.

A brand new member from Montana, Tom Nogay, was there (his membership packet was well on its way to Montana); also, Michael Chase, a year long member on his first foray, and Dennis Wedam came without Norene as she was on the

1988 MEMBERSHIP DUES

NATS annual membership is from January 1-December 31 of each year. Dues are tax deductible. Renew your dues now with this convenient form. Fill in and mail, with your check, to: NATS, P. O. Box 296, Corvallis, OR. 97339.

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CATEGORY:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Family Member.....\$7.00       | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor.....\$50.00 - 499.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Each Additional Family Member.. 5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....\$500.00 or more  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor.....\$8.00 - \$49.00           |   |

sick list. Welles and Mayetta Bushnell were also part of our ever faithful group. And of course, our great truffle-master, Steve Morgan, who always makes up a great foray.

The foray was a good one. Everyone found many Tuber gibbosum, among other species of truffles. I am happy that Steve was able to collect many of his favorite truffles, the Hymenogasters, Ha! He did get many Oregon Whites, too.

THANK YOU TO PAUL BISHOP, Beavercreek, for hosting the November 7, 1987 NATS foray. Members and guests were welcomed with the ever present full coffee pot and doughnuts to ward off the chill.

Paul's tree farm produces many species of truffles, and most of us were rewarded with finds. Several species novum and rare species have been collected here in the past.

The Portland Chapter of NATS, headed by Dan Wheeler, also joined us for this foray. The weather cooperated which made for a fun and productive outing.

THANK YOU to Dan Wheeler and Welles Bushnell for providing truffles used in the Truffle Aroma Evaluation display at the Second Western Congress on Truffles in Santa Rosa, CA., December 2-5, 1987. THANK YOU to Anna Marin for the use of her display! It was a big hit.

BOB MAHAFFY, a Coos County farmer, forester, and NATS member, was named Oregon Tree Farmer of the Year.

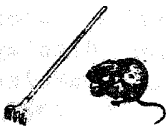
"Mahaffy owns about 1,500 acres 10 miles east of Coos Bay where his family has lived since 1905.

The farm is stocked with firs, from seedlings to old growth, and contract logging did not begin on the properties until the mid-1950s.

According to Mike Fitzgerald, the Oregon State University forestry extension agent for Coos and Curry counties, Mahaffy does not use herbicides in his forest management and he has opened plots of land for patch clearcut studies.

Mahaffy has also employed the unusual tactic of snag blasting to create wildlife habitat on clearcuts. Snag blasting is the process in which treetops are dynamited to excell the snag process in Douglas fir."

Thanks to Bruce and Frank Morris for submitting this article which appeared in the COOS BAY WORLD, November 25, 1987. CONGRATULATIONS, BOB MAHAFFY!



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

THE COOKBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN TRUFFLES edited by Frank and Karan Evans, is available for \$7.00, plus \$1.00 postage and handling. The first cookbook written on North American truffles is selling well, so get your copy now before the first printing is gone. Mail you requests to: NATS, P. O. Box 296, Corvallis, OR. 97339. Your book(s) will be sent immediately.

SLIDE PACKS

A few slide packs remain for sale, \$30.00 to members, ppd. The slide pack contains 35 slides of commonly found truffles, plus five slides of educational importance in the study of truffles. Mail orders to: NATS, P. O. Box 296, Corvallis, OR. 97339.

REMEMBER

Foray: Saturday, January 2, 1988  
Meeting: Monday, January 4, 1988

To mail your dues today!

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