

NATS CURRENT NEWS

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

February 1988

Editor: Pat Rawlinson

Vol. 6 No. 6

President: Dr. Steven Miller, P. O. Box 3004-203, Corvallis, OR. 97339, 757-4408.  
Vice President: Tom O'Dell, 336 N. W. 16th, Corvallis, OR. 97330, 757-4379.  
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Board Member-at-Large: Frank Evans, 808 NW Merrie Dr., Corvallis, OR. 97330, 752-5480.  
Membership: Vernon-Verba Moore, 31831 Berlin Rd., Lebanon, OR. 97355, 451-5141.  
Trufflemaster: Steve Morgan, 35550 Kirk Ave., Brownsville, OR. 97327, 466-4252.  
Librarian: Don Johnson, 38644 Green Drive, Lebanon, OR. 97355, 542-8394.  
President, Portland Chapter: Dan Wheeler, 7714 SE Stephens, Portland, OR. 97215, 774-0223.  
Newsletter Ed: Pat Rawlinson, 34197 NE Colorado Lk. Dr., Corvallis, OR. 97333, 752-2243.

FORAY, Saturday, February 6, 1988, to private property of Elizabeth and Michael Enright, 42084 McDowell Creek Drive, Lebanon, OR. Their property is located one mile from the intersection of Berlin and McDowell Creek Roads.

Meet at Benton Center, 630 NW 7th, Corvallis, OR., at 9:00 A. M. For those coming from other areas, meet at VIPS, I-5 and Hwy 34 interchange, at 9:30 A. M., or at the Enright property at 10:15 A. M.

Dress for the weather and bring a lunch. For more information, including more detailed directions to the Enrights, call Steve Morgan at 466-5206, Brownsville.

Steve Morgan  
Trufflemaster

MEETING, Monday, February 8, 1988, 7:30 P. M., Large Conference Room, Forest Sciences Lab, 3200 Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR.

Dr. Steven Miller will be the guest speaker. Steve will present a workshop on "How to Describe a Fungus." Learning to describe a fungus can be a valuable aid in identifying truffles.

Come prepared to be an active participant and improve your identification skills.

For further information, call Tom O'Dell, 757-4379.

Tom O'Dell  
Program Chairman

PORTLAND CHAPTER NATS

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

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Pat Rawlinson and I gave a lecture on NATS and truffles to the Lincoln County Mycological group in Depoe Bay on January 13, 1988. It happened to be the night of their annual potluck, and we were treated to a fine repast and made some new friends. The drive over to the coast was a bit frightful because of the wind and driving rain, but we made it there and back in one piece. Pat suggested that a trade of respective newsletters would be in order. I think the idea won favor with the editor of their newsletter, especially when Pat mentioned that the dates of our "truffle banquet"

were included in the NATS CURRENT NEWS.

Several people have noticed that attendance at the monthly meetings has dropped off a little of late, even though we have more members now than at any other time in the history of NATS. It is true the weather has not been overly cooperative this year, but it is embarrassing for the speaker when only a few people show up. I have been trying to recall how other groups maintain good attendance, and welcome any thoughts that anyone might have. It is difficult to create a diversity of speakers and topics without input from the members. What would you like to hear about, or participate in?

Steve Miller  
NATS President

#### SPECIALITY MUSHROOM CULTIVATION WORKSHOP

An introductory workshop on the CULTIVATION OF EXOTIC MUSHROOMS will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 16/17 April, 1988, at 25044 River Road, Fort Langley, B. C., Canada.

The workshop fee of \$125.00 will include all materials, plus tea and coffee. Advanced registration, by mail, is essential as course attendance will be limited.

Course participants may expect to leave the workshop with course handouts and lecture information on a variety of subjects, which will enable them to cultivate many exotic mushroom species. Participants will also prepare materials during the laboratory sessions which they will retain.

For further information on the workshop and subjects to be covered, contact William Chalmers, Western Biologicals Ltd., P. O. Box 46466, Station G., Vancouver, B. C. V6R 4G7. Telephone: (604)228-0986.

#### SLIDE PACKS

The demand for the Slide Packs has exceeded the supply! However, new packs are being made up as ordered. Please allow ten days for your order to be filled. Mail orders to: NATS, P. O. Box 296, Corvallis, OR. 97339.

Individual slides may also be ordered, at \$1.00 each. For a list of slides available, write to NATS at the above address.

#### MEET YOUR OFFICERS

NATS President Steven L. Miller was born and raised in Riverton, Wyoming. An avid outdoorsman, he became interested in biology at an early age. As a U. S. Forest Service range ecologist for the Shoshone National Forest, he encountered "snow-bank mushrooms" throughout the summer, as the snow melted at higher and higher elevations in the Wind River Mountains. This led to the study of fungi with Dr. Martha Christensen at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, where he received his B. S., and with Dr. Orson K. Miller at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he received his M. S. and Ph. D.

Since 1985 he has been a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at Oregon State University. His interests still are with fungi, primarily the ecology and taxonomy of ectomycorrhizal fungi, and he is currently looking for a permanent position.

Steve and his wife, Jenny, live in Corvallis and share their home with three dogs known as Badger, Kate and Sandy.



**"DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME YOU STOPPED RAISING MUSHROOMS IN THE CELLAR?"**

Sent in by Vern Moore

TRUFFLE OF THE MONTH  
Barssia oregonensis Gilkey



Photo by Dr. James Trappe

**ORDER:** Ascomycetes

**DESCRIPTION**

By Dr. Steven Miller

**ETYMOLOGY:** Named in honor of H. P. Barss, who collected the type collection in Benton County, Oregon.

**ASCOCARPS:** 1-2.5 cm, subglobose to somewhat flattened, lobed, with a single apical, lateral or rarely basal cavity opening to the interior.

**PERIDIUM:** Surface scabrous to verrucose; pink, pinkish buff to pale brownish orange, interior white; in cross section 0.5-1.0 mm thick, concolorous with the surface.

**GLEBA:** In cross section appearing as a solid, firm band of tissue with canals or hyphal stuffed chambers opening into the central cavity; pale pink or orange, canals white.

**ODOR:** Not distinctive or sharp, metallic.

**TASTE:** Not distinctive.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Early spring to late spring, associated with Douglas

fir from the west coast into the Rocky Mountains. This fungus is probably ectomycorrhizal with Douglas fir, but often appears embedded in moist soil under vine maple and other shrubby plants.

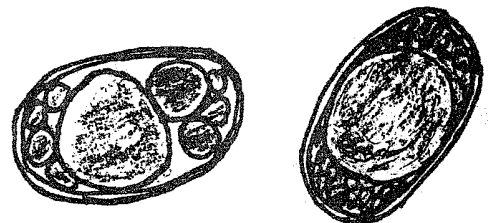
**EDIBILITY:** Edible. No significant flavor, but the crisp texture lends a crunch to salads of all types. No special recipes have been developed yet.

**VOCABULARY:**

Scabrous - slightly rough or gritty to the touch.

Verrucose - warty; covered with small wart-like outgrowths.

**SPORES:** 30-40 x 18-19 millimicrons



MARCH 1987 FINDS

3/15/87 Humboldt County, CA.

Rhizopogon parksii Smith.....Robert Sutherland

OCTOBER 1987 FINDS

10/15/87 Long Beach Peninsula, Washington

Rhizopogon occidentalis Zeller & Dodge.....Susan Wortman

10/29/87 Cape Perpetua, Lincoln County, OR.

Elaphomyces muricatus Fries.....Mayetta Bushnell

Rhizopogon hawkeriae Smith.....Welles Bushnell

Truncocolumella citrina Zeller.....SAA

NOVEMBER 1987 FINDS

11/02/87 Bar View Park, Tillamook County, OR.

Rhizopogon occidentalis Zeller & Dodge.....Mary Wilhelm

11/07/87 Paul Bishop's Tree Farm, Beavercreek, OR.

Martellia sp., immature.....Norene Wedam

Rhizopogon sp., immature.....SAA

Rhizopogon villosulus Zeller.....Norene Wedam

Dennis Wedam

Scleroderma hypogaeum Zeller(parasitized)2 coll.....Norene Wedam

Tuber sp.....SAA

11/15/87 Wilson W. Clark Tree Farm, Washington

Rhizopogon parksii Smith(2 coll.).....Dennis Wedam

Rhizopogon villosulus Zeller.....SAA

Tuber gibbosum Harkn.....SAA

11/27/87 Cinabar Road, Lewis County, Washington

Rhizopogon villosulus Zeller.....Dennis Wedam

DECEMBER 1987 FINDS

12/05/87 Starker's Forest, Blodgett, OR. - Benton County

Hymenogaster parksii Zeller & Dodge.....Vern Moore

Hysterangium crassirhachis Zeller & Dodge.....Steve Morgan

Martellia sp.....Dennis Wedam

Rhizopogon parksii Smith.....Vern Moore

Steve Morgan(2 coll.), Tom Nogay

Rhizopogon villosulus Zeller.....Dennis Wedam

Tuber gibbosum Harkn.....Vern Moore

Steve Morgan, Tom Nogay

12/12/87 Oregon City, Oregon

Rhizopogon parksii Smith.....Robert Wise

Tuber levissimum Gilkey.....SAA

12/12/87 Oregon City, OR. - Clackamas County

Rhizopogon hawkeriae Smith(2 coll.).....Dan Wheeler

Rhizopogon parksii Smith(3 coll.).....SAA

Tuber levissimum Gilkey.....Dan Wheeler  
 Tuber sp., immature(2 coll.).....SAA  
 12/14/87 Beaver Creek, OR., Clackamas County  
 Geopora cooperi Harkn. f. cooperi.....Dan Wheeler  
 Hymenogaster parksii Zeller & Dodge.....SAA  
 Rhizopogon parksii Smith(10 coll.).....SAA  
 12/18/87 San Pablo Creek, Contra Costa County, CA.  
 Hymenogaster mcmurphyi Zeller & Dodge.....Christopher Thayer

JANUARY 1988 FINDS

1/02/88 Lincoln County, OR.  
 Hymenogaster parksii Zeller & Dodge.....Welles Bushnell  
 Anna Marin, Pat Rawlinson  
 Picoa carthusiana Tul. & Tul.....Steve Morgan  
 Tuber gibbosum Harkn.....Mayetta Bushnell  
 Welles Bushnell, Paul Jensen, Anna Marin, Caroline Moore, Steve Morgan  
 Frank Morris, Pat Rawlinson

RED CHECK MARK on your address label??  
 This will be your last newsletter, as your 1988 NATS membership fee is due now. Please use the renewal form below to renew your dues. We don't want to lose you as a member!

Membership is from January 1-December 31 of each year.

Please check your address label and make any address or spelling corrections. Bulk mailing does not provide for forwarding newsletters--we want you to receive your NATS CURRENT NEWS.

NATS SLIDE SHOW is available on loan to members who would like to show it to their local mycological group. It can also be loaned out to mycological societies. The slide show is about NATS, and it contains many slides of truffles. A script accompanies the show, which is approximately 30-40 minutes long.

Please make your request well in advance of the date needed to allow for mailing. The only requirement is that the borrower pay postage both ways.

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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY:

- First Family Member.....\$7.00
- Each Additional Family Member.. 5.00
- Donor.....\$8.00 - \$49.00
- Contributor.....\$50.00 - 499.00
- Sustaining.....\$500.00 or more

NATS WELCOMES the following new members; from Oregon, Julie Grimes, Dallas; Jim Reed, Eugene; James Mitchell, Salem; Annette Simonson, Corvallis; Elsie Shipp, Independence; Allison Petrak, Turner; Alex and Frauna Melnick, Milwaukie; Lee Gray, Depoe Bay; from California, Harold Harby, Kelseyville; David Glenn, Santa Cruz; Sterling & Capi Brown, Thomas Cheatham, Covelo; Norman & Rose Grabstein, Jim Mullins, Eunice Meyer, Beatrice Denpfl, San Francisco; R. S. Justice, Alameda; Terri Strunck, Murphys; Levi Green, Riverank; Bob Peden, Modesto; Brian O'Grady, Mountain View; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Merz, Reedley; Bill Coleman, Redway; Brian Fisk, Clyde Smith, Mendocino; Osama Douman, ElCerrito; Gertrude Sherlock, Los Altos Hills; R. W. Winskill, Mill Valley; Gordon McBride, Fort Bragg; Paul Kersten, Escondido; Ted Klaseen, Redding; Don Harkin, Nevada City; Clay & Anita Albright, Crescent City; Edward Tolosko, Pebble Beach; R. Bump, Orinda; Sandy Obester, Half Moon Bay; Dr. James S. Godwin, Stockton; Dr. Donald Curry-Allen, Bradbury; Doug Moren, Livingston.

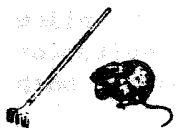
Ross Mullins, Cordova, Alaska; Roger Haskins, Davenport, Iowa.

THE COOKBOOK OF NORTH AMERICAN TRUFFLES is available for \$7.00, plus \$1.00 postage. Edited by Frank and Karen Evans, this unique cookbook is the first collection of North American truffle recipes. The recipes are all favorites of NATS members. Mail your order to: NATS, PO Box 296, Corvallis, OR. 97339.

CALENDAR

February 6, 1988 - Foray to Enright property, Lebanon, OR.

February 8, 1988 - Meeting, 7:30 P. M., Forest Sciences Lab. Dr. Steven Miller will present a workshop on writing descriptions of fungi.



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Truffling Society, Inc.  
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