

## 2016 FABULOUS FALL FUNGI WORKSHOPS

(Queen's University Biological Station)

Fabulous Fall Fungi is a series of multi-day mushroom workshops for the public offered each fall at Queen's University Biological Station. To meet growing demand, there are four sessions this year – the most we've ever offered!

### NEW FOR 2016

- ▶ More sessions than ever to choose from
- ▶ Our first-ever 5-day workshop – for those wishing to maximize their learning opportunities (in addition to our regular 3-day workshops)
- ▶ All workshops will begin with supper the first evening (In years prior, workshops began at 8 pm and did not include supper.)
- ▶ A presentation the first evening
- ▶ A prize will be given out in each session for the “best” species found

... *plus all the wonderful activities from previous years*

### DATES & PRICES

Session	Start	Finish	Cost	What you get
#1	Tues, Sept 13 (5:30 pm)	Fri, Sept 16 (4:00 pm)	\$405	3 full days of instruction (spread over 4 calendar days), 3 nights' accommodation, 9 meals (Tues supper to Friday lunch), use of classroom & other facilities, handouts.
#1a Newly added	Tues, Sept 20 (5:30 pm)	Fri, Sept 23 (4:00 pm)	\$405	3 full days of instruction (spread over 4 calendar days), 3 nights' accommodation, 9 meals (Tues supper to Friday lunch), use of classroom & other facilities, handouts.
#2	Sun, Sept 25 (5:30 pm)	Fri, Sept 30 (4:00 pm)	\$625	5 full days of instruction (spread over 6 calendar days), 5 nights' accommodation, 15 meals (Sunday supper to Friday lunch), use of classroom & other facilities, handouts.
#3	Tues, Oct 4 (5:30 pm)	Fri, Oct 7 (4:00 pm)	\$405	3 full days of instruction (spread over 4 calendar days), 3 nights' accommodation, 9 meals (Tues supper to Friday lunch), use of classroom & other facilities, handouts.

## **ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS**

Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, *Fabulous Fall Fungi* has grown steadily, from one session per year to offering four sessions this year. These workshops introduce participants to the impressive diversity of mushrooms and other fungi growing in Southern Ontario. Typically, 130-160 species are identified in each 3-day workshop, including species not seen in previous years. It is possible that 200 (or more) species will be seen in this year's first-ever 5-day workshop. In all, nearly 400 species have been recorded since the workshops began back in 2009 (there was no workshop in 2010).

The workshops are designed to be very hands-on, with daily field trips to collect fresh specimens, followed by working in the classroom, both as a group and individually, to identify our finds. This is complemented with mini-lectures and informal discussions about fungal ecology, natural history and uses. There will also be evening PowerPoint presentations, plus the opportunity to see a bioluminescent mushroom glow in the dark.

While the emphasis in these workshops is on developing your ID skills, if we find any edibles the kitchen staff is always amenable to preparing samples for us to try. Participants will be provided with printed materials and a checklist, and will have use of a class set of field guides, 10x loupes, plus an extensive collection of reference books. There will also be a microscope or two on hand, allowing us to look at some basic microscopic structures.

Suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced, these workshops provide an ideal opportunity to become better acquainted with the mysterious world of fungi.

## **CLASS SIZE**

In order to provide the best learning experience possible, each workshop is limited to 12 participants.

## **INSTRUCTOR BIO**

Richard Aaron, B.A., M.B.A.

Richard has been studying mushrooms and other fungi since 1994 and loves sharing his knowledge with others. He has conducted walks, workshops and lectures on a variety of nature subjects, including fungi, for over 75 organizations in Canada and the U.S. He has also worked as a summer staff naturalist at Algonquin Provincial Park and been published in several leading nature periodicals. Knowledgeable, witty, and passionate, he is the perfect guide to introduce you to the fungal kingdom. His website is at <http://natureknowledge.weebly.com>.

## **LOCATION**

All workshops are based at Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS), located near Chaffey's Lock, about 50 km north of Kingston, Ontario. Driving time from downtown Kingston is a little under an hour. Further details about the Biological Station can be found at [www.queensu.ca/qubs](http://www.queensu.ca/qubs).

Detailed directions, maps & GPS coordinates will be sent by the instructor to all registrants at least one month prior to each workshop.

## **SWIMMING & CANOEING**

QUBS is on Lake Opinicon, so there are opportunities to go swimming. There are also canoes you can borrow (life jackets & paddles are supplied).

## **WORKSHOP DATES & TIMES**

See table on page 1.

## **ACCOMMODATION & MEALS**

Your registration fee covers all meals and accommodation during the workshop.

- 3-day workshops: 3 nights (Tues-Wed-Thurs) + 9 meals (Tuesday supper– Friday lunch)
- 5-day workshop: 5 nights (Sun-Mon-Tues-Wed-Thurs) + 15 meals (Sunday supper–Friday lunch)

Accommodation at the Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) is a mix of cottages & other buildings. We will do our best to provide you with your own room if this is something you desire.

Meals take place in the lovely dining hall at QUBS. Special food preferences/diets will be accommodated to the best of the cooking staff's abilities. In the past, they have satisfied the needs of vegetarians and vegans, plus individuals with gluten intolerance, lactose intolerance, nut allergies and other food restrictions.

## **MINIMUM AGE & PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Participants must be 18 years of age or older.

Participants must be able to comfortably walk a minimum of 2 km per day. Some of this walking will entail going off trail over uneven ground and may involve some inclines. However, we always move at a moderate pace.

If you have any medical conditions we should be made aware of, you will be asked to provide this information on the registration form you will fill out.

## **WHAT TO BRING**

The Biological Station does not provide bedding or bath items. Participants will need to bring bedding (or a sleeping bag) for a single bed, a pillow, towel and facecloth, and personal toiletries.

For a complete list of what to bring, see 'PACKING LIST' on next page.

## **CARPOOLING**

The workshop instructor will send a class list to everyone a month or more before a workshop begins. Then, those who are interested can contact each other and try to arrange carpooling. While many participants hail from the Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto areas, over the years we have also had people come from Peterborough, Orillia, Barrie, St. Catharines, Brantford, Guelph, Georgetown, Oakville, Whitby, Oshawa and elsewhere.

## **HOW TO REGISTER**

To secure a spot in a workshop:

**Step 1:** Email the workshop instructor, Richard Aaron ([natureteacher1@gmail.com](mailto:natureteacher1@gmail.com)), to inquire if there is space available in the particular session you would like to attend. To increase your chances of getting into a workshop, you can indicate 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices as well (this is optional).

**Step 2:** If Richard indicates there is still space, he will send you the registration form to fill out. There are three ways to pay the registration fee: by certified cheque, bank draft or money order (banks may waive the service fee for certain types of accounts). No personal cheques.

**Note:** Payments will be held until there are sufficient registrations for each workshop to proceed, at which time applicants will be notified that the workshop will run. If we do not receive sufficient registrations and a workshop has to be cancelled, payments will be returned. Keep in mind that no workshop up to this point has ever been cancelled, and in fact there are usually waiting lists.

## **CANCELTION POLICY**

If you cancel more than 30 days in advance you will receive a full refund less an administrative fee of \$50. If you cancel less than 30 days in advance, no refund will be given unless a replacement registrant can be found, in which case a full refund less an administrative fee of \$50 will be given.

## **PACKING LIST**

### **Essential:**

- sleeping bag (or sheets and blanket), pillow, shower towel, hand towel/facecloth, personal toiletries (see 'WHAT TO BRING')
- flashlight & spare batteries
- hat (for sun)
- warm hat & gloves (evenings can get cold)
- sturdy footwear and other appropriate clothing (for sunny and warm; wet and cool)
- sunscreen
- sharp knife with stiff blade – for removing specimens from substrate (pocket knife, hunting knife)
- pen/pencil & notebook
- whistle (to summon help if needed)
- compass or GPS unit (phone GPS is undependable, as tower reception can be spotty)

### **Recommended:**

- your favourite mushroom field guides (if you have; *Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada* is particularly recommended) \*
- 10x loupe (if you have)\*
- plastic fishing tackle box (or a foam/plastic egg carton) – for collecting small/delicate specimens\*
- collecting basket with handle, such as a 6- or 7-litre fruit basket, or something fancier\*
- laptop computer – handy for independent research (QUBS has wi-fi)
- camera

\* the instructor will have extras available that participants can use

### **Optional:**

- compound microscope – if you have (QUBS has dissecting microscopes)
- bathing suit (should the lake be warm enough & you wish to go for a swim)
- rubber boots or gaiters (for while we are out collecting) – in case it is raining or the vegetation is wet from morning dew