

# 2017 FABULOUS FALL FUNGI WORKSHOPS

(Presented by Queen's University Biological Station)

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

Now entering its 8<sup>th</sup> year, *Fabulous Fall Fungi* is a series of multi-day mushroom workshops offered to members of the public each fall at Queen's University Biological Station. These workshops introduce participants to the impressive diversity of mushrooms and other fungi growing in Southern Ontario. Typically, 150-200 species are identified in each session, including ones not seen in previous years. In all, nearly 500 species have been recorded since the workshops began back in 2009 (there was no workshop in 2010).

The workshops are very hands-on, with daily field trips (within ~30 minutes of the biological station) to collect fresh specimens, followed by working in the classroom, both individually and as a group, to identify our finds. This is complemented by mini-lectures and informal discussions about fungal ecology and natural history. Evenings vary. If there are specimens still to be identified, we go back into the classroom. If not, the instructor gives a PowerPoint presentation. But no matter what, we always find time one of the evenings to watch bioluminescent mushrooms glow in the dark.

**Note:** While the emphasis is developing your ID skills, if we find any edibles the kitchen staff is happy to prepare samples for us to try. Typically, we sample anywhere from 1-5 species per session. However, it is important to stress that these are not foraging workshops since the majority of what collect and identify is not edible.

Workshop participants will be provided with reading material 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.

*Fabulous Fall Fungi* workshops are suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced, and provide an ideal opportunity to become better acquainted with the mysterious kingdom of fungi.

## CLASS SIZE

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

## LOCATION

All sessions are based at Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS), located near Chaffey's Lock, about 50 km north of Kingston as the crow flies. Driving time from downtown Kingston is a little under an hour. Further details about the Biological Station can be found at <https://qubs.ca>.

The instructor will send detailed directions, maps, GPS coordinates, and a class list (should you wish to try and arrange carpooling) to all registrants approximately one month prior to each session.

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Richard Aaron (B.A., M.B.A.) 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 80 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>.

## NEW FOR 2017!

- all participants receive a *Fabulous Fall Fungi* T-shirt
- new 4-day format
- the first post-Thanksgiving session (an opportunity to see late-season species)
- a *people's choice* prize for "best find" in each workshop (in addition to the *instructor's choice* prize from previous years)

## DATES & PRICES

Session	Start	Finish	Cost	What you get
#1	Mon, Sept 25 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Sept 29 (3:00 pm)	\$585	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 full days of instruction (spread over 5 calendar days)</li><li>• 4 nights' accommodation</li><li>• 12 meals (all meals during the workshop)</li><li>• use of classroom &amp; other facilities</li><li>• <i>Fabulous Fall Fungi</i> T-shirt <b>(NEW)</b></li></ul>
#2	Mon, Oct 2 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Oct 6 (3:00 pm)	\$585	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 full days of instruction (spread over 5 calendar days)</li><li>• 4 nights' accommodation</li><li>• 12 meals (all meals during the workshop)</li><li>• use of classroom &amp; other facilities</li><li>• <i>Fabulous Fall Fungi</i> T-shirt <b>(NEW)</b></li></ul>
#3	Tues, Oct 10 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Oct 13 (3:00 pm)	\$450	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 full days of instruction (spread over 4 calendar days)</li><li>• 3 nights' accommodation</li><li>• 9 meals (all meals during the workshop)</li><li>• use of classroom &amp; other facilities</li><li>• <i>Fabulous Fall Fungi</i> T-shirt <b>(NEW)</b></li></ul>

## **ACCOMMODATION & MEALS**

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

- 3-day sessions: 3 nights (Tues/Wed/Thurs) + 9 meals (Tuesday supper– Friday lunch)
- 4-day sessions: 4 nights (Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs) + 12 meals (Monday 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 at least 18 years of age & must be able to comfortably walk a minimum of 3 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.

## **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).

## **TICKS**

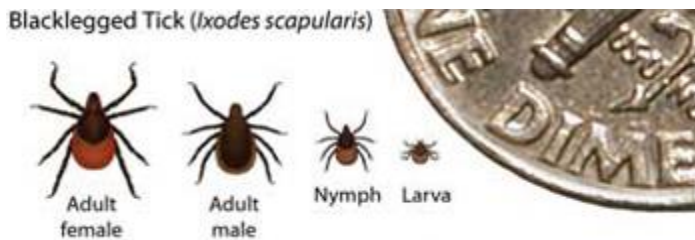
The former manager of QUBS wrote to me several years back: "*Ticks have become more prevalent lately in the vicinity, so please come prepared - long pants, insect repellent and daily tick checks.*"

The following recommendations have been gleaned from a number of sources. By following these procedures, you reduce the risk of being bitten by a tick.

- wear light-coloured clothing – long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks (the better to see ticks)
- tuck pants into socks
- spray skin with DEET (min 20% concentration)
- spray shoes and socks with DEET (min 20% concentration)
- spray the rest of your outer clothing with permethrin (Permethrin goes under several brand names. I usually get Repel in the 6.5 oz. can.) – Permethrin is banned for human use in Canada, but is available in the U.S. from Walmart, Cabelas, TSC stores, etc. In Canada, you can find permethrin sprays for animals but in weaker concentrations. Don't get these.
- take a shower right after being in the field (if a tick hasn't embedded itself, it may wash off)
- after the shower, change into a different set of clothing
- put the clothing you were wearing in the field into a hot drier for 10 minutes (The drier at QUBS takes \$1.50 to operate. I will bring rolls quarters for everyone to use.)

- do daily tick checks, preferably with a buddy who can inspect your back and other areas you can't check yourself (take special care to check under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the navel, backs of knees, in and around all head and body hair, between the legs, and around the waist). One FFF participant recommended that women use a hand mirror to check their private parts since she once found a tick there.
- purchase a tick key (aka tick extractor) – one type is available at Lee Valley

The Blacklegged Tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) is very small. Here is a size chart:



There are many useful websites with other tips on keeping yourself safe.

### **CARPOOLING**

The workshop instructor will send a class list to everyone 4-5 weeks before each session begins to allow those who are interested in carpooling to try to arrange something. While the majority of participants hail from the Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto areas, over the years we have had people come from many other parts of Southern Ontario.

### **HOW TO REGISTER**

**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 wish to attend. You may wish to indicate 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices as well.

**Step 2:** If the instructor indicates there is space, he will email 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 or for seniors). **No personal cheques.**

You will be sent confirmation once your registration has been received. Note that a workshop may be cancelled if the weather conditions are so dry that there are few fungi to be seen. Fortunately, in all the years that *Fabulous Fall Fungi* has been running, we have only had to cancel one session.

### **CANCELLATION POLICY**

If you cancel more than 45 days in advance you will receive a full refund less an administrative fee of \$75. If you cancel less than 45 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 \$75 will be given.

## 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.

The following is a packing list of what to bring.

### **Essential:**

- sleeping bag (or sheets and blanket), pillow, shower towel, hand towel/facecloth, and personal toiletries
- flashlight & spare batteries (it gets pitch black at night away from the buildings)
- hat (for sun)
- warm hat & gloves (evenings can get cold)
- sturdy footwear and other appropriate clothing (for sunny and warm; wet and cool)
- light-coloured clothing (long sleeve shirts, long pants, socks), as discussed under 'Ticks'
- tick key & hand mirror
- sunscreen
- sharp knife with stiff blade – for removing specimens from substrate (pocket knife, hunting knife)
- pen/pencil & notebook
- whistle (to summon help if needed while collecting in the woods)
- late-model smart phone (with GPS using satellite tracking) / stand-alone GPS unit / compass

### **Recommended:**

- your favourite mushroom field guides (*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 6-8 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
- slippers/sandals/flip flops (we take our shoes off in the lodge, and some people may find the floors cold)
- rubber boots or gaiters (for while we are out collecting) – in case it is raining or the vegetation is wet from morning dew
- bathing suit (should the lake be warm enough & you wish to go for a swim)