

2018 FABULOUS FALL FUNGI WORKSHOPS

Presented by: Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS)

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

Now in its 9th year, *Fabulous Fall Fungi* (FFF) is a series of multi-day mushroom workshops offered to the public each fall at Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS). These workshops introduce participants to the vast diversity of mushrooms and other fungi found in Southern Ontario. Typically, 150-200 species are identified in each workshop, including ones not seen in previous years. To date, just over 500 species (503 to be exact) have been recorded since the workshops began back in 2009 (there were no workshops in 2010).

The workshops are very hands-on, with daily field trips (usually within 30-40 minutes of QUBS) 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 head back to the classroom. If not, the instructor gives a slide presentation. But no matter what, we always set aside some time one of the evenings to watch bioluminescent mushrooms glow in the dark.

Once registered, each person is sent a moderate amount of reading material and is responsible for getting familiar with this material prior to the start of the workshop. At the workshop itself, each individual is provided with a species checklist and has access to an extensive collection of reference books. There will also be a compound microscope on hand, allowing us to look at some basic microscopic structures.

WHO ARE THESE WORKSHOPS FOR?

Fabulous Fall Fungi workshops are suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced, and will appeal to naturalists, conservationists, educators, hikers, canoeists, photographers, artists and all others with a curiosity to learn about the natural world.

Note: The primary focus of these workshops is on developing your fungal identification skills, along with learning about fungal natural history and ecology. They are not intended to be foraging workshops. That being said, if we happen to come across any edibles in sufficient quantities, the kitchen staff is more than willing to prepare samples for us to try. Typically, we sample anywhere from 1-5 species per workshop.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Richard Aaron (B.A., M.B.A.) has been studying mushrooms and other fungi since 1994 and loves to share his knowledge with others. He has conducted walks, workshops and lectures on a variety of nature subjects, including fungi, for over 85 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. His website is at: <http://natureknowledge.weebly.com>.

LOCATION

All the workshops are based at Queen's University Biological Station, located near the village of Chaffey's Lock. Driving time from downtown Kingston is just under an hour. Detailed directions, maps, and GPS coordinates will be sent to you after you register.

CLASS SIZE

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

DATES & PRICES

Session	Start	Finish	Cost	What you get
#1	Fri, Sept 7 (5:00 pm)	Mon, Sept 10 (3:00 pm)	\$450	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 full days of instruction (spread over 4 days)• 3 nights' accommodation• 9 meals (Friday supper to Monday lunch)• use of classroom & other facilities• Fabulous Fall Fungi mug (NEW)
#2	Mon, Sept 24 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Sept 28 (3:00 pm)	\$600	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 full days of instruction (spread over 5 days)• 4 nights' accommodation• 12 meals (Monday supper to Friday lunch)• use of classroom & other facilities• guest mycologist for 1½ days (NEW)• Fabulous Fall Fungi mug (NEW)
#3	Sun, Sept 30 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Oct 5 (3:00 pm)	\$750	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 full days of instruction (spread over 6 days)• 5 nights' accommodation• 15 meals (Sunday supper to Friday lunch)• use of classroom & other facilities• guest mycologist for 1½ days (NEW)• Fabulous Fall Fungi mug (NEW)
#4	Tues, Oct 9 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Oct 12 (3:00 pm)	\$450	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 full days of instruction (spread over 4 days)• 3 nights' accommodation• 9 meals (Tuesday supper to Friday lunch)• use of classroom & other facilities• Fabulous Fall Fungi mug (NEW)

MEALS & ACCOMMODATION

Special diets/restrictions are accommodated to the best of the cooking staff's abilities. In the past, they have met the needs of vegetarians and vegans, plus those with gluten or lactose intolerance, nut allergies and other food restrictions.

Accommodation at QUBS is a mix of building types. Each person will be given their own room in a cottage (couples may wish to share a room). Or you can opt for your own mini-cabin, but these are unheated and lack plumbing (there are washrooms & showers in the main lodge building), in which case you are advised to bring a winter sleeping bag, wool hat and warm sleepwear. All the cottages have heating, bathrooms and showers.

MINIMUM AGE & PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Participants must be at least 18 years of age & 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 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 if the weather is warm enough. There are also canoes you can borrow (life jackets & paddles are supplied).

CARPOOLING

The instructor will send a class list to everyone approximately 4-5 weeks before each workshop begins to allow those interested in carpooling to try to make arrangements. 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), indicating which session you are interested in. You may also wish to indicate a 2nd and 3rd choice.

Step 2: If there is still space, the instructor 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 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.

TICKS

Ticks have been reported from the areas where we go collecting, so it is best to be prepared. Recommendations on how to reduce your risk of being bitten by a tick will be sent to you after you register.

ITEMS TO BRING

The Queen's University Biological Station does not provide bedding or bath items. Participants will need to bring their own bedding (or a sleeping bag) for a single bed, a pillow, towel and facecloth, and personal toiletries. There are a few double/queen size beds too, but you won't know if you get one until you arrive, so bring different sizes of sheets if possible or simply a sleeping bag.

A complete list of items to bring will be sent to you after you register.