

2019 FABULOUS FALL FUNGI



Who Are These Workshops For?

These workshops are for all those interested in learning about macrofungi (mushrooms and other fungi that can be seen with the naked eye). The main focus is on developing identification skills, along with learning about fungal natural history and ecology.

Please note that these are **not** foraging workshops, so if this is your primary interest these workshops are not a good fit.

That being said, if we happen to come across any edibles in sufficient quantities, the kitchen staff will gladly prepare them for us to try. We typically sample anywhere from one to five species per workshop session.

General Overview

Now entering its 10th year, *Fabulous Fall Fungi* is a series of workshops offered to the public each fall at Queen's University Biological Station. Participants are introduced to the wide variety of mushrooms and other macrofungi found in Southern Ontario at this time of year. Typically, 150-200+ species are identified in each session. A total of 614 species have been recorded since the workshops first began.

Mornings are spent roaming through woods collecting fresh specimens at various sites (carpooling is often required), while afternoons are spent in the classroom working on identifying our finds. Evenings tend to vary. If there are specimens still to be identified, we head back to the classroom. If not, the instructor may give a slide talk. Part of one evening is always devoted to viewing bioluminescent and fluorescent fungi in the dark.

The workshops focus on macro-identification techniques (i.e. using physical features, spore prints, and chemical tests). Due to time constraints and lack of equipment, there is no formal instruction on microscope use. However, the instructor does offer informal instruction after 9 pm each evening to anyone who is interested, using the instructor's own microscope.

Once registered, each person will be 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 workshops themselves, students will be given a printed species checklist and have access to an extensive collection of reference books.

Class Size

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

Location

All the workshops are based at Queen's University Biological Station, located near the village of Chaffeys Lock. Driving time from downtown Kingston is approximately 50-55 minutes. Detailed directions, maps, and GPS coordinates will be sent to you once you register.

About the Instructor

Richard Aaron (B.A., M.B.A.) has been studying mushrooms and other fungi since 1994 and is passionate about sharing his knowledge with others. He has given walks, workshops and lectures on a variety of nature subjects, including fungi, for over 90 organizations in Canada and the U.S. He has also worked as a summer staff naturalist at Algonquin Provincial Park and has been published in several leading nature periodicals. His website is at <http://natureknowledge.weebly.com>.

What These Workshops Offer

- great meals (allergies/restrictions can usually be accommodated – see details on next page)
- your own room / mini-cabin
- daily field trips to collect specimens
- plentiful formal & informal instruction
- a guest mycologist at each session
- evening presentations (time permitting)
- an opportunity to learn how a microscope is used for identification (after 9 pm)
- viewing of bioluminescent & fluorescent fungi
- 150-200+ species per session
- prizes for "best" finds
- access to a large library of reference books
- loupes & collecting baskets available for use (if you don't have your own)
- sample edibles (if we find any) prepared by the kitchen staff
- chaga tea available 24/7 (courtesy of [Annanda Chaga](#))
- and more!

New for 2019

- a tree ID lesson will be available at the start of each collecting session (optional to attend)
- instructor will do a walk-around of the display tables prior to supper each day – to highlight interesting specimens found by others
- instructor will be available after 9 pm each evening for anyone wishing to learn how to use a microscope to identify fungi
- a guest mycologist in all three sessions

Dates & Prices

Session	Start	Finish	Cost	What you get
#1	Mon, Sept 23 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Sept 27 (3:00 pm)	\$650	<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, lecture hall & other facilities• a guest mycologist
#2	Sun, Sept 29 (5:00 pm)	Fri, Oct 4 (3:00 pm)	\$795	<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, lecture hall & other facilities• a guest mycologist
#3	Mon, Oct 7 (5:00 pm)	Thurs, Oct 10 (3:00 pm)	\$495	<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, lecture hall & other facilities• a guest mycologist

Meals & Accommodation

All meals (aside from any picnic lunches) will take place in the QUBS dining hall. Special diets/restrictions are accommodated to the best of the cooking staff's abilities. In prior years, they have successfully 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, which is nearby), 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 each 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 the instructor should be made aware of, you will be asked to provide this information on the registration form you will be filling out.

Swimming & Canoeing

QUBS is on Lake Opinicon, so there are opportunities to go swimming if the water is sufficiently warm. There are also canoes you can borrow (life jackets & paddles are supplied). Keep in mind though that the workshop schedule is pretty full, leaving little in the way of leisure time.

Carpooling

The instructor will send a class list to everyone approximately four 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, in case your first choice is already full.

Step 2: The instructor will email you a 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 will be seen. In all the years that *Fabulous Fall Fungi* has been running, only session has ever been cancelled due to dry conditions.

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 issued. The instructor tries his utmost to find replacements, as those who have had to cancel can attest to.

Ticks

Black-legged ticks (aka deer ticks) are known to occur in the areas where we go collecting, so it is best to be prepared. Recommendations on how to minimize 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), a pillow, towel and facecloth, and personal toiletries. Beds are a mix of single, double and queen size beds, but you won't know which size you get until you arrive, so bring different sizes of sheets (or just bring larger sheets), or simply a sleeping bag. A complete list of items to bring will be sent to you after you register.