

2019 FABULOUS FALL FUNGI

Presented by:



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
BIOLOGICAL STATION

Who Are These Workshops For?

They are for anyone, from beginner to advanced, interested in learning about mushroom identification, ecology and natural history. If sufficient quantities of edible fungi are collected, the kitchen staff will prepare them for us to try. We typically sample up 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 macrofungi (mushrooms and other fungi visible with the naked eye) growing in Southern Ontario at this time of year. Typically, 150-200+ species are identified in each session. A total of 611 species having been recorded since the workshops first began.

The focus of these workshops is on learning to identify species without the aid of a microscope, using field guides and online resources. Due to time constraints and lack of equipment, there is no formal instruction on microscope use. The instructor does, however, offer informal instruction on microscope use each evening (after 9 pm) to anyone who is interested, using his own microscope. Those with their own compound microscope are free to bring it.

Mornings are spent roaming the 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 remaining to be identified, we head back into the classroom. Otherwise, the instructor may choose to give a slide talk. Part of one evening is always reserved for viewing bioluminescent and fluorescent fungi with the lights turned off.

Once registered, each person is sent a modest amount of reading material and is responsible for being familiar with this material prior to the start of the workshop. At the workshops themselves, students are 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.

Guest Mycologist

To further improve the student/teacher ratio, there will be a *guest mycologist** in each workshop, who will assist with identification and instruction.

* An extremely knowledgeable amateur who has been personally invited by the instructor. Some of these guests will be coming from the U.S. to join us.

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 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 9:00 pm each evening for anyone wishing to learn how to use a microscope to identify fungi (optional to attend)
- a guest mycologist at 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 calendar days)• 4 nights' accommodation• 12 meals (Monday supper to Friday lunch)• use of classroom, lecture hall & other facilities• a guest mycologist to help with ID & instructing
#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 calendar days)• 5 nights' accommodation• 15 meals (Sunday supper to Friday lunch)• use of classroom, lecture hall & other facilities• a guest mycologist to help with ID & instructing
#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 calendar days)• 3 nights' accommodation• 9 meals (Tuesday supper to Friday lunch)• use of classroom, lecture hall & other facilities• a guest mycologist to help with ID & instructing

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 ever 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. This is the new reality in Ontario and elsewhere. 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. A complete list of items to bring will be sent to you after you register.