

MYCENA NEWS

NOV 2019
VOL 71:03

Submissions for the December newsletter are due by November 20th

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NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING:

Tuesday, November 19th, 2019

7-10pm

Buckley Room/ Randall Museum

Else Vellinga PhD: History of Mycology in California

THE TALK WILL focus on the people who were instrumental in naming mushroom species, on the advocates for conservation, those advancing the science behind our understanding of mushrooms in the field, and the pioneers in mushroom dyes.

Else Vellinga is a mycologist who is interested in naming and classifying mushroom species in California and beyond, especially Parasol mushrooms. She has described 22 species as new for California, and most recently worked at the herbaria at UC Berkeley and

SFSU for the Macrofungi and Microfungi Collections Digitization projects. She got her training at the national herbarium in the Netherlands, and her PhD at the university of Leiden. Her main goal is to contribute to the conservation of mushroom species, and for that reason she has proposed several species for the IUCN global database of endangered species. She tries to keep current with the mushroom literature. Else is also an avid knitter and likes to use mushroom dyed yarn for her creations. •

President's Post

Stephanie Wright

WELL, WE ARE just waiting for the rainy season to begin when mushrooms will start popping up everywhere. In the meantime, planning for major fall events is in full-swing...

I know that I will see some of you at Mendo Camp. I've had a wonderful time there every year that I have attended. The first time I went, several people took the time to chat with me; they have become friends that I value a great deal. The folks I met at Mendo also got me more involved in MSSF. I love being part of this club, and wouldn't be where I am today if I hadn't made connections at Mendo Camp.

The food at Mendo Camp is wonderful. The Saturday forays, led by experienced folks, find an amazingly wide variety of species. The speakers are always interesting, and this year is no exception. Friday night features Dr. Christopher Hobbs on medicinal mushrooms, and Saturday has Dr. Roo Vandergrift sharing about his research in Ecuador. - [more info](#) -

The weather has varied over the years from very dry, to a very rainy weekend, from warm and humid (almost tropical for November), to quite cold. If you are coming, do check the weather forecast for Mendocino – it's distinct enough from the local Bay Area weather conditions that you do need to check and come prepared with appropriate clothing and sleeping gear.

Every year new campers are surprised at how many different species are collected. Last year was very dry, coming off a long drought, yet 113 unique species were found – [see the 2018 list](#).

Let's see... what to bring as my contribution

to the Friday afternoon-evening appetizer pot-luck at Mendo... will I bring the same thing as I have done the past few years, or something different? What are you going to bring to share on Friday? (or for Saturday afternoon? If you are a late-arrival on Friday, we have fridge space to keep your pot-luck contribution which will be put out on Saturday as a treat when people return from forays.)

Most of my time right now is devoted to [Fungus Fair](#) planning. We're figuring out the floor plan, signing-up vendors & volunteers, getting permits, talking to guest chefs, making sure all the collecting forays are scheduled, and anticipating the day when posters will be ready to be picked-up...

We have a wonderful line-up of speakers for the Fungus Fair.

BRITT BUNYARD: *From Summer of Love to Suddenly Mainstream: Psychedelic Mushrooms.*

All of a sudden magic mushrooms have burst back onto the stage and become mainstream again. This presentation will answer all your questions about basic science of these enigmatic fungi, their role in the environment, their interesting chemistry, and where they occur. Also (since you're dying to know) the latest on clinical research and legal status of psilocybin. This presentation will be for general audiences with no prior knowledge of biology or science required. There will be lots of pretty images, enthusiastic discussion, and free samples. (Just kidding: no free samples!)

CAT ADAMS: *New Research on Amanita*

She is interested in how chemical ecology influences interactions between plants and fungi. For her PhD in Tom Bruns' lab, Cat is studying the invasive ectomycorrhizal fungus, *Amanita phalloides*. The death cap mushroom kills more people than any other mushroom, but how the deadly amatoxins influence its invasion remains unexplored.

DANIEL WINKLER: *Choice edible and medicinal mushrooms of the California North Coast and Beyond*

California is blessed with a great diversity of mushrooms; Some are poisonous, many of no culinary value, some are medicinal and a select group is some of the best food to enjoy. Our choice edible mushrooms such as morels, chanterelles, hedgehogs, king boletes, matsutake and bear heads are fairly easy to identify, a fact that helps overcoming fungophobia and truly appreciate wild mushrooms.

EUGENIA BONE: *Microbia*

In this talk Eugenia explores how one can “see” the microscopic realm, a topic from her book, *Microbia*. Ecosystems are defined by the observer. Substitute a thimble of soil or an inch of human gut for Yellowstone Park, and you find that microbes function in their spaces according to the same rules of ecology as charismatic animals in the park. If we look at microbial life from this ecological point of view, it is possible to anticipate how they will behave under difference circumstances, like whether you till a field or eat a Big Mac. It's seeing, without looking.

We had record attendance at our last Fungus Fair, let's make this one even bigger & better.

Tickets are on sale now!

Early-bird pricing ends Nov. 14. [\$12 for adults, \$10 for students/seniors, \$8 for kids 6-12] Regular-priced tickets will be sold through EventBrite until mid-day of the fair.

Tickets are available at the door, however by far the quickest way to get through the entrance gate, is by having an EventBrite ticket. [\$15 for adults, \$12 for students/seniors, \$10 for kids 6-12].

Please “share” this event on your social media – no purchase required, you can “like,” and share from the EventBrite page, links are right below the ticket options. When you use social media to share, it's just about the best advertising we can get.

Group discount tickets are available, contact me. - [Stephanie](#) •

Fungus Fair

Madhu Kottalam

Join us **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**, for the 49th Annual Fungus Fair—A celebration of fungi featuring wild mushroom displays, lectures, cooking demonstrations, activities, vendors, and of course, delicious mushroom soup.

Speakers include Eugenia Bone, Cat Adams, Britt Bunyard, and Daniel Winkler.

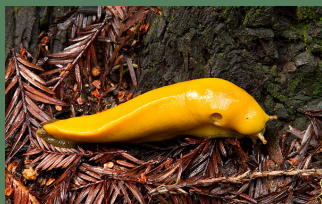
This year's beautiful poster and t-shirt watercolor art is by long-time member, Holly Bazeley. A lifetime artist, Holly has been photographing, drawing, and painting mushrooms, trees, plants, and animals for about ten years. She has studied art, botanical drawing, horticulture, permaculture, and mushrooms. Holly's style consists of both surrealism and realism. She works in acrylic, watercolor, watercolor based oils, and colored pencils. Holly loves incorporating found mushrooms, plants, and animals into her paintings. She informally describes her art as "edible art" and told us, "I grow (or forage) it, harvest it, draw it, and eat it." Make sure to stop by Holly's booth and check out more of her artwork!

Tickets available [online](#) and at the door. You can also take a look at the wide variety of volunteer positions available and sign up at https://mssf.ivolunteer.com/ff_049. Volunteer for any 3-hour shift and receive free entrance to the fair.

We can't wait to see you there! •



Santa Cruz Mycoflora Foray
Debra Johnson



Santa Cruz Mycoflora Foray
December 12 – 15, 2019
Scotts Valley, CA

Forays
Lectures

Cooking demonstration and tasting
Workshops in identification,
cultivation, microscopy,
field illustration & photography

Details <http://scmfforay.com>

Register <https://scmf.brownpapertickets.com/>

Email scmf.foray.2019@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz
and the Santa Cruz Mycoflora Project

photos by Christian Schwarz, Hugh Smith, Bradley Dunbaugh

scmfforay.com

Fungus Fair Volunteer Call

Stephanie Wright

2019 FUNGUS FAIR: Calling ALL Mycological Society of San Francisco Members—we need you!

The Fungus Fair is our largest event of the year, and it runs 100% on volunteer-power. There are positions for every interest and every skill level.

Just as mushrooms spring up, seemingly magically, after a rain, and then fade away, often only a day later, so does the fair come into existence and then disappear. People traipse over hill and dale collecting specimens, usually well over 300 species. These fungi are brought to the SF County Fair building, where experts identify them; after ID, they are arranged on display tables... Meanwhile, a naturalistic forest display is created with trees, forest duff, and fungi. Educational, vendor and hands-on activity tables are set up. Outside organizations bring in their lichen displays and microscopes...

And the volunteers get fed. The key players in this set-up get home late, late, on Saturday and then get up early, early to be back on Sunday before the doors open to the public where a wonderland of mushrooms has appeared!

At the end up of the day, it is all swept away. We clean-up as though we had never been there. The fantastic mushroom display was alive for 24 hours, then is gone, not to appear for another year.

It truly is magical and you can be a part of it. Volunteering at the Fungus Fair is fun.

Plus – you get free admission to the fair and a meal.

Your friends can volunteer too, you don't have to be a member to volunteer at the fair.

Children and teens can also be volunteers, if they are mature enough for the job. For example, they could help in the craft zone if they are able to be there as a helper to others, and not just to do more crafts themselves. We have had kids & teens with a strong interest and some knowledge of fungi assist at educational tables as well. If you want to include a child or teen as a volunteer, give me a call so we can assess each individual case. Thanks.

Sign-ups have begun: [iVolunteer](#)

If you have volunteered at past fairs, you are probably in the database. Do check that the email address is correct since that is how you get confirmation of your sign-up to volunteer. Also as an MSSF member, if you do volunteer at the fair, that email address is how we will contact you about a Volunteer Appreciation event next spring.

If you have questions, contact me – [Stephanie](#), or 510-388-5009 •

— *Membership Report* —
Stephanie Wright

— *October Mushroom Sighting* —
Eleana Hsu
San Francisco

WE'VE ADDED 160 new members so far this year. That's really great!

I encourage you to add your birthdate to your record – I'd love to be able to figure out the demographics of our members. Also, if you have family members living at the same address, and if they register for MSSF events, please add them to your record as “additional family members.” It makes event registration easier, and gives us a better count of the number of people who actually participate in our club's activities.

I just changed my photo in the MSSF database. My previous photo was taken in Del Norte County, December 2004. The current photo was taken just a few weeks ago – it was time to get up-to-date.

You can add your photo too; it helps when people are getting to know one another. If you send me an email, I like to see who sent it – I usually remember faces even if I don't know your name yet.

Annual membership dues are going to increase in 2020. Renewal invoices will be generated on Dec 1, if you pay your dues before the end of the year (Dec 1-31, 2019), it will be at the current rate. After January 1, it will be at the higher membership rate. If you have a multi-year membership plan, and you are already paid up for 2020, you will not receive a renewal notice.

—[Stephanie](#) •



pristine little porcini

Mycena News Submissions

Please do send in your submissions for the Mycena News pronto. The new monthly official deadline is now midnight the 20th of each month. (Any month that the 20th falls before or on the general meeting the deadline will be the Wednesday after the general meeting.)

This does not mean to wait until the 20th of each month to turn in your stuff; it means that is the deadline and you should shoot for getting it in starting by the first of the month.

If you have something that is dependent on the general meeting like photos of the mushroom ID table or the hospitality preparations, etc. you now can get that in before the deadline.

Please email your submissions to:

mycenanews@mssf.org

Please use this MN email address as, if you send it to newsletter individuals, it can get lost when we try to search down all the submissions if they aren't submitted to the official email address.

Best format is to "save as" a Microsoft Word Document, 97-2003, with a minimum of formatting in the doc. You may also use a "notepad" style document with only "plain text."

We ask that you please follow these conditions:

- Please DON'T use any ALL CAPS.
- Please DON'T use any indents, tabs, or bullets.
- Please DON'T use any bolding, underlining, or any other italics besides:
- Please DO include italics for scientific names or foreign words.
- Please DO use single spaces between words and ends of sentences.
- Please DO use ONLY left justification for all paragraphs, titles, signoffs, etc.
- Please DO use 11pt New Times Roman font if you have it, but NOT multiple fonts or unusual fonts or multiple sizes.

For bibliographies that often have special formatting included in your submitted doc, if you have lifted them from other docs, you may just leave all the original formatting, and we can see better what was intended and make modifications for the masterdoc, if needed.

Please follow these above conditions for your official submissions, however if you would like for us to see how you envision the formatting of your submission, you can also submit a second version formatted in that manner and we may be able to make use of that.

As we get submissions they are each incorporated into a MN masterdoc with certain in-house MN master formatting for the final design layout. The design layout software removes all previous formatting from the masterdoc, so any extra formatting you insert, beyond the above parameters, only complicates the prepping of the masterdoc, so please DON'T do that, and DO follow the above submission conditions. •



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Mycological Society of San Francisco
The Randall Museum
199 Museum Way, SF, CA 94114

Find us on social media



(click me!)

Mycena News is the members' newsletter of the Mycological Society of San Francisco, published monthly September–May.

Please e-mail photos, comments, corrections, and correspondence to mycenanews@mssf.org

To subscribe, renew, or make address changes, please contact Stephanie Wright: membership@mssf.org

Past issues of Mycena News can be read online at <http://mssf.org/mycena-news/issues.html>

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MSSF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Council leadership, learn the inner workings of the MSSF and help make decisions that shape the future of the society. Do your part by contributing your time to this 100% volunteer organization!

To learn more about all council and committee positions, go to: www.mssf.org members-only area, file archives, council member position descriptions. Or email president@mssf.org.

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