



# Funga Scripta

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NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Photo by Jeremy Gamble

## UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

### MYCONB SOCIETY WALKS

Our regional walks have finished for the year. We thank everyone who showed up and joined us on these free (for members) events hosted by MycoNB leaders.

If you missed out, we hope you'll join us next year. Keep your eyes peeled for dates to be announced in spring 2025!

In the meantime, stay in touch with us by joining the MycoNB Society's Facebook group.

## MEET OUR TEAM

**PRESIDENT** Jessika Gauvin

**VICE-PRESIDENT** Anthony Brooks

**CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER** Alfredo Justo

**SECRETARY** Brad Robichaud

**TREASURER** Michele Fullarton

**MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR** Jared Scratch

**SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR** Holly Jones

**OPERATIONS DIRECTOR** Samantha Steeves

**NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR** Matthea Schumpelt

**MEMBERS-AT-LARGE** Jonathan Allport, Andrew McPherson, Toni Doucette

*Special thanks to Kendra Driscoll for reviewing and proofreading the newsletter!*



### CONNECT ON FACEBOOK

[Soci t  MycoNB Society Forum](#)

[\(New Brunswick mycological society\)](#)

*Chlorociboria* | Photo by Travis Simms





# Letter from the President

JESSICA GAUVIN | Moncton, NB

Dearest Fellow Mycophiles,

As we transition into the colder months, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements of our community over the past year. This season, as the leaves fall and we prepare for winter, we also celebrate the continued growth and progress of our society. Together, we've made significant strides in advancing the field of mycology, whether through our hands-on regional walks, our province-wide annual foray, or the ground-breaking research that some of our members have contributed to.



My favourite milestone to share is that MycoNB members have played an integral role in advancing fungal DNA research, with over 2,000 fungal specimens sent for analysis this year. This is a tremendous accomplishment that not only strengthens our collective knowledge, but also contributes to the global effort of understanding fungi and their critical roles in our ecosystems. Your dedication to these projects is helping to push the boundaries of what we know about the fungal kingdom.

Looking ahead to the winter months, we are excited to continue our work and share our findings. While the mushrooms may slow down as the temperatures drop, our commitment to learning and growing as a community remains steadfast.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your passion, hard work, sense of community and enthusiasm. Your contributions are what make MycoNB such a special organization, and I am incredibly proud of all that we've accomplished together. Let's continue to support one another, share our discoveries, and inspire future generations of mycologists.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to MycoNB. We are looking forward to another season of exploration and discovery, both in the field and in the lab, as we continue our journey into the fascinating world of fungi.

Mush love,

Jessika Gauvin  
MycoNB President



# Highlights from the 2024 Annual Foray

MATTHEA SCHUMPELT | Newsletter Coordinator



**What a turnout we had for this year's MycoNB Annual Foray** on September 14! Around 40-45 people attended, all of whom were eager to connect with fellow mycophiles from across New Brunswick! Enthusiasts ranging from novice to seasoned experts converged at Fundy National Park's Salt & Fir Centre to share in their mutual love for all things fungal. And thanks to Alfredo Justo, MycoNB's Chief Science Officer (who happens to be the Curator of Botany and Mycology at the New Brunswick Museum [NBM]), we were able to gain permission from the park to collect mushrooms for the AC Network sequencing project! NBM also covered the park day-pass costs for each participant, and Fundy National Park donated the day's rental of the Salt & Fir Centre for the foray. So a big thank you to NBM and Fundy National Park for generously sponsoring major

components of the foray as a contribution toward furthering public interest in mycological study in New Brunswick!

The foray began with a land acknowledgement led by Vice President Anthony Brooks, followed by a presentation on mushroom identification basics by society President Jessika Gauvin. Participants then signed up for trails led by MycoNB team members and experts, breaking into smaller groups for a more intimate setting of specimen collecting and interaction. This experience always proves to be one of the highlights of the foray: Setting off into the woods with like-minded individuals collecting mushrooms for further learning and discussion. And what a beautiful day it was for it, too!



Top left: MycoNB leader Anthony Brooks in the field | Photo by Jessika Gauvin  
Bottom right: Coastal Trail group's specimen table | Photo by Matthea Schumpelt



Upon returning from the trails, each group was assigned a table upon which they could display their finds on paper plates. MycoNB experts and other knowledgeable members circulated the tables to assist with identification and write down the names of each on the paper plates. (We had so many specimens to display that we ran out of paper plates to use for lunch!) Some of the specimens we collected included:

- *Amanita*
- *Cantharellus*
- *Chlorociboria*
- *Connopus*
- *Cortinarius*
- *Fomitopsis*
- *Gloeophyllum*
- *Hydnum*
- *Hygrocybe*
- *Inocybe*
- *Laccaria*
- *Lactarius*
- *Leccinum*
- *Lycogala*  
(slime mould)
- *Mycena*
- *Paxillus*
- *Russula*
- *Tricholoma*
- *Xerocomellus*



MycoNB executive team members Jessika Gauvin, Jared Scratch, and Matthea Schumpelt share a selfie | Photo by Jessika Guavin

The learning opportunities continued post-lunch with a presentation by Alfredo on work toward a census of Atlantic Canada mushrooms. He then encouraged participants to consider joining the MycoMap AC Network, a project aiming to document all the macrofungi in the Atlantic provinces through free, unlimited DNA barcoding. On this note, the society is proud to have a number of MycoNB members who have been collecting specimens for the project since the start of the 2024 mushrooming season. (An article highlighting some of their finds is at the end of the newsletter.)

All in all, the 2024 Annual Foray was a huge success made possible by NBM, Fundy National Park, and, last but certainly not least, the MycoNB executive team. Thank you to all who attended. If you missed the foray, we hope to see you at next year's event and our regional walks in 2025!



Chief Science Officer Alfredo Justo sniffs a slimy *Cortinarius* | Photo by Matthea Schumpelt



Not a member yet? You can purchase a MycoNB membership at any time! Visit [myconb.org](http://myconb.org) to learn more!



Top: (L) The New Brunswick Museum team preparing foray specimens for sequencing | Photo by Matthea Schumpelt  
(R) Kristina Bromley making do for lunch without paper plates | Photo by Jessika Gauvin  
Bottom: (L) Jeremy Gamble documenting fungi with photography | Photo by Jessika Gauvin  
(R) Foray participants collecting specimens | Photo by Jessika Gauvin



## Celebrating Personal Growth at MycoNB

JONATHAN ALLPORT | MycoNB Executive Team Member | Sussex, NB



Left: Salt & Fir Centre | Photo by Jonathan Allport  
Right: Coastal Trail group | Photo by Matthea Schumpelt

**During the annual foray in September**, I had the amazing privilege of leading my first mushroom walk ever! At home, I usually spend my time foraging alone, but MycoNB has given me many outlets on their regional walks to get excited with like-minded people. I have been foraging for almost 10 years now and only in the last year (maybe due to me not dying or getting sick) has my family been on board with trying fungi I forage. However, it feels totally different when others outside your immediate circle rely on your knowledge and expertise when it comes to a hobby you share together.

### **The imposter syndrome is real.**

Thankfully, my first walk was co-led with Matthea Schumpelt (the best newsletter coordinator ever), but the best part about the Fundy walk was that it really did feel like a group effort as most of the people on our walk were also extremely knowledgeable.

Once we assembled our group, we set out for the Coastal Trail from the Salt & Fir Centre. I don't think we even made it two feet out of our cars before the mushrooms showed themselves! The initial hill housed so many different mushrooms in so many shapes and sizes that we probably didn't travel more than 100 feet into the trail for the first hour as it was just jammed full of fungi.

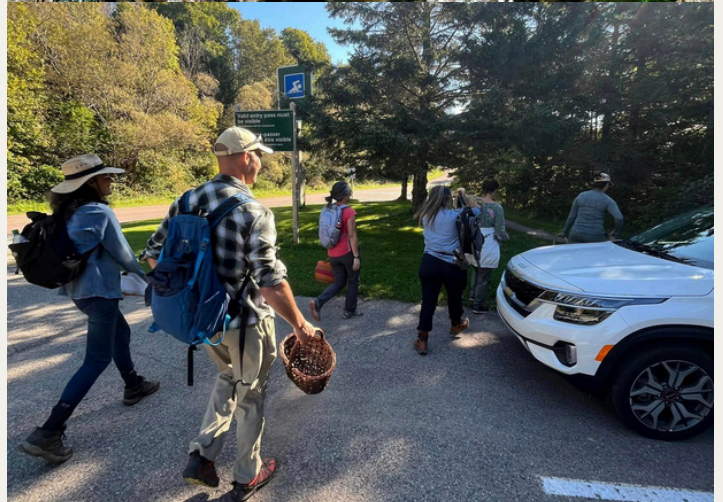
After the initial jitters settled out, I started realizing that everyone on this trail was equally as excited as I was to discuss fungi and find out together what we had found. One of my cherished memories is interacting with some hikers passing by who asked us what we were doing. When I told them, they excitedly wanted to know what mushroom they were holding (It was a red *Russula*.) It was wonderful to talk about mushrooms with people who didn't set out to learn about mushrooms that day!



During our walk, we found what seemed to be a mountain of *Cortinarius*, *Hydnum* (which we kept giving to one particular member as a running gag), *Tricholoma*, *Amanita*, and some others I didn't know. After a successful romp in the woods, we heaved our way back down the hill, ready to rejoin the rest of the foray participants at the Salt & Fir Centre.



Reflecting on the experience, I felt like I answered questions well and said "I dunno" about 1,000 times. Even still, the questions I did answer gave me an overwhelming confidence that I kind of know what I'm talking about and where my gaps lie.



I'm in the Sussex area and enjoy foraging up and down the bluff and surrounding trail network. I know that 2025 will bring great things for me including (most likely) my first solo lead of a MycoNB regional walk.



Thank you to MycoNB for giving me the opportunity to lead my first walk, Matthea for being the best co-leader ever, Fundy National Park for allowing MycoNB to complete so much important research for the Mycoblitz, and the rest of the MycoNB Executive for giving me the confidence that if you put so much love and passion into something, good things will come.

- Top right to bottom:
1. *Cortinarius* species | by Matthea Schumpelt
  2. Heading to the Coastal Trail
  3. Author with group participants |
- Photos by Jonathan Allport



# Fall Fungi, Fabulous Foraging, and Friends

TRAVIS SIMMS | Fredericton, NB

**Over the last few years,** I've found myself diving down a mycological rabbit hole. When life gets busy and work pulls me in ten different directions, I find that a nice walk in the woods and a hunt for fungi has been the best way to unwind and reconnect with nature.

## Becoming a Citizen Scientist at the Annual Foray

After a busy summer and not much time to explore the woods, I committed this fall to attending some MycoNB events to make up for lost time! In September, I attended the Annual Foray in Fundy National Park, where I got to explore with local experts and learn about some of the mushrooms we have growing in our forests.

At the foray, along with finding a multitude of fungi, samples were collected to be dried and prepared for genetic sequencing to discover precisely what species we have growing in New Brunswick and uncover new, undocumented species. There aren't many hobbies that make you into an amateur scientist, so it was, overall, a very neat experience!

## Regional Walks

Following the foray in late September, I attended the Sussex Bluff Trail walk led by mycological expert Alfredo Justo of the New Brunswick Museum. Despite the woods being very dry and crunchy, we managed to find a handful of different mushroom species, from common puffballs and crust fungi to *Chlorociboria*, the pretty turquoise elf cup. If you haven't hiked the Sussex Bluff, you should: It's an easy hike for any skill level with a gorgeous view at the end!



Bottom left: Foray identification table; Top right: *Chlorociboria* sp;  
Bottom right: *Suillus clintonianus* | Photos by Travis Simms



Then in October, I was fortunate to attend the last MycoNB event of the year at Black Beach in the Saint John area. This picturesque area provided an easy-to-follow trail into the forest with a mossy, fairy-like landscape. Some choice edibles that we found included chanterelles, hedgehogs, and puffballs, but we also found some interesting poisonous species. One specimen of interest was an *Amanita* species which, when broken, produces a distinct smell of raw potatoes. Unfortunately, this one was very much not edible.

With winter coming and this fun guy eagerly waiting for the next mushroom season to return, I will bide my time watching the Facebook groups such as [Soci t  MycoNB Society Forum](#), [Mushroom Hunting New Brunswick](#), and [Poisons Help; Emergency Identification For Mushrooms & Plants](#). The poisons group is extremely interesting, and the level of knowledge shared internationally is incredible—but please follow the rules if you check it out!

Until next season, happy mushroom hunting, friends!



Left: *Fomitopsis mouncenae*; Top right: *Pholiota* sp.;  
Bottom right: *Lactarius* sp. | Photos by Travis Simms



## Lichens by R. Troy McMullin: A Book Review

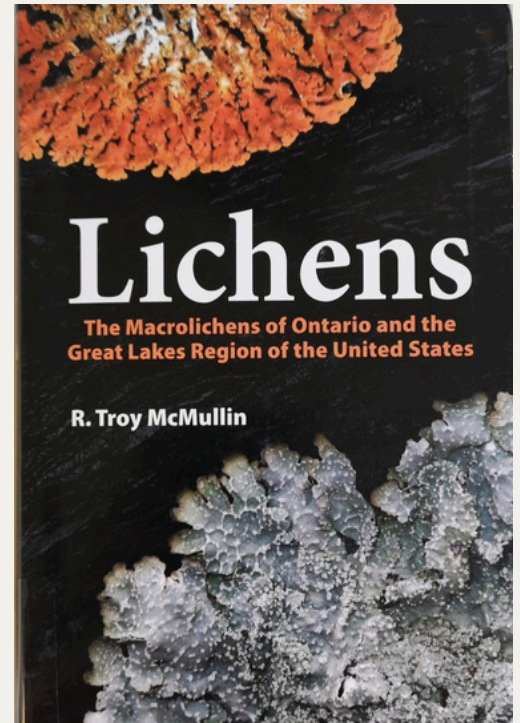
KENDRA DRISCOLL | Curatorial Assistant, Botany & Mycology | New Brunswick Museum

***Lichens: The Macrolichens of Ontario and the Great Lakes Region of the United States* by R. Troy McMullin. Richmond Hill, ON: Firefly Books, 2023. 608 pp. ISBN: 9780228103691**

**It is not every day that a new lichen book is published.** In the past, there have been precious few colour illustrated guides for identifying North American lichens. Even now, there are fewer than ten such books available, half of them either out of print or focused on western lichens. Under the circumstances, Dr. Troy McMullin's book on Ontario lichens was poised to become a staple on the bookshelves of Eastern Canadian lichen enthusiasts almost overnight.

In essence, the book is a comprehensive guide to the 453 macrolichens<sup>[1]</sup> known to occur in the province of Ontario, including several known only from historical collections and thought to be extirpated. It includes an introduction, identification keys, descriptions of each genus, and a detailed overview of many species, colour photographs of most species, and a glossary.

The introduction contains a lot of information written in clear prose with colour photographs and diagrams included where helpful. It includes all the information one would expect, including the ecology of the study area, history of investigations, and a general introduction to key concepts and terminology relevant to lichens. Particularly welcome and well done is the section explaining how to appropriately collect, document, and study lichens, including a list and photograph of useful equipment and a caution against collecting rare species. A section on conservation provides names and the status of rare species, which is only partially applicable in New Brunswick. Several of New Brunswick's federally listed species-at-risk are absent from Ontario, and provincial conservation status can differ substantially between the two provinces (e.g., "Textured Lungwort", *Lobarina scrobiculata*, is quite rare in Ontario but not particularly in New Brunswick). Overall, the information is well chosen and presented in a logical way: Most of it should be useful to anyone interested in studying lichens no matter where they live.



### Footnote:

[1] Macrolichens are species of lichen that can be separated from their substrate, falling under the broad morphological categories of "fruticose" (bushy, stalked or dangling) or "foliose" (having a clear upper and lower surface). Microlichens are "crustose" species lacking a lower surface and inseparable from their substrate.



The book includes two different ways to identify which genus a lichen belongs to. The first is a photographic summary of the genera, ordered by genus name. For some variable or large genera, more than one species is pictured which should increase the odds of guiding the reader to the correct genus. The photographs are mostly excellent, with the exception of a few cases where the colour balance does not seem quite correct (e.g., the characteristic yellow-green colour of *Flavoparmelia* is not apparent on p. 35). The book also includes a traditional dichotomous key, broken into manageable sections. Whichever method the reader uses to select a starting place among the 113 genera represented in the book, the description of each genus includes notes on similar taxa including key characteristics that should either confirm that the choice is correct or successfully redirect the reader to a more likely possibility.

The core of the book provides descriptions and discussions of the lichen taxa, arranged alphabetically by genus and species. A description is provided for each genus including chemistry and habitat information as well as notes on look-alikes as mentioned above, followed by a list of references and a key to all relevant species of the genus (if more than one species). Detailed descriptions are provided for at least one species per genus, complete with photograph(s), vernacular name, habitat information, notes for distinguishing similar species, a distribution map for Ontario, and global distribution. This section, the most important part of the book, provides clear, reliable information and appears thorough and well-researched.

The end of the book includes a list of literature cited, a glossary, and an index. The glossary is impressive—16 pages long, illustrated by drawings, and comprehensive well beyond the requirements of this book.

Overall, this is a well done, beautifully illustrated, and reasonably priced book containing reliable information. It has everything you need to know to study macrolichens in Ontario. But before you run out and buy it, you may be wondering: Will it be useful to a would-be lichenologist in New Brunswick?

The good news is that substantial overlap exists between the lichens of New Brunswick and Ontario. Comparing the latest publicly available lists of Canadian species from the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (2022), it appears that ~65% of macrolichen species in Ontario also occur in New Brunswick. Conversely, ~84% of all the macrolichens recorded in New Brunswick also occur in Ontario, including nearly **96%** of our most common or widespread species (ranked S4 to S5). As mentioned above, not all NB species-at-risk can be found in this book, so anyone looking to actually collect lichens or contribute photographic observations of rare species will need to do a little extra homework first to learn about our rare species. Aside from that one caution, there is an excellent chance that if you find a macrolichen in NB, you can use this book to successfully identify it!

I hope some of you will enjoy adding this book to your library as I have. Happy reading!

Kendra Driscoll  
Curatorial Assistant, Botany and Mycology  
New Brunswick Museum



**Reference:**

Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC). (2022). *Wild species 2020: The general status of species in Canada*. National General Status Working Group. (Database file available: <https://www.wildspecies.ca/reports>)

**Resources for finding formally assessed species at risk:**

- [Federal: Species at Risk Public Registry](#)
- [Provincial: Assessment of Wildlife Species](#)

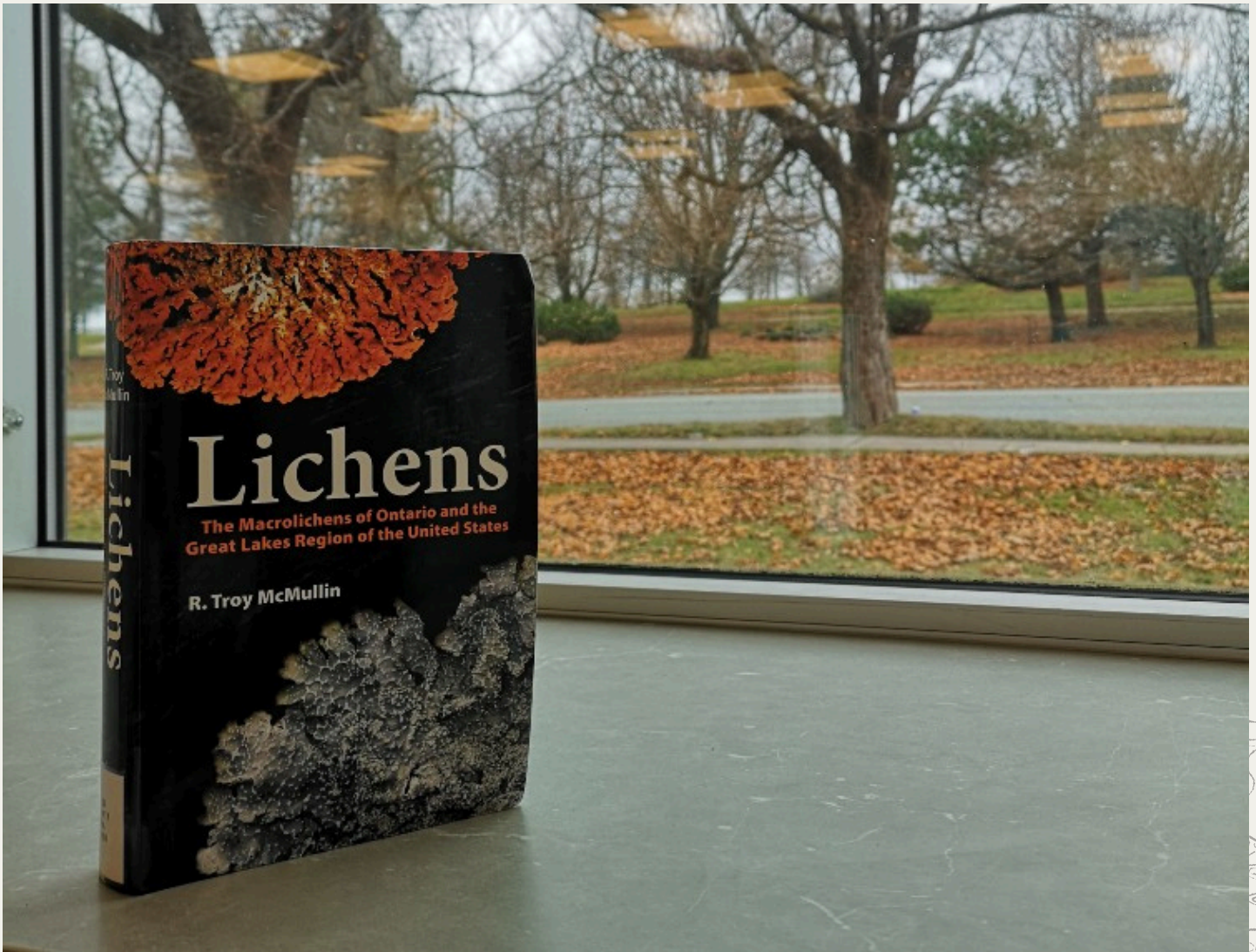
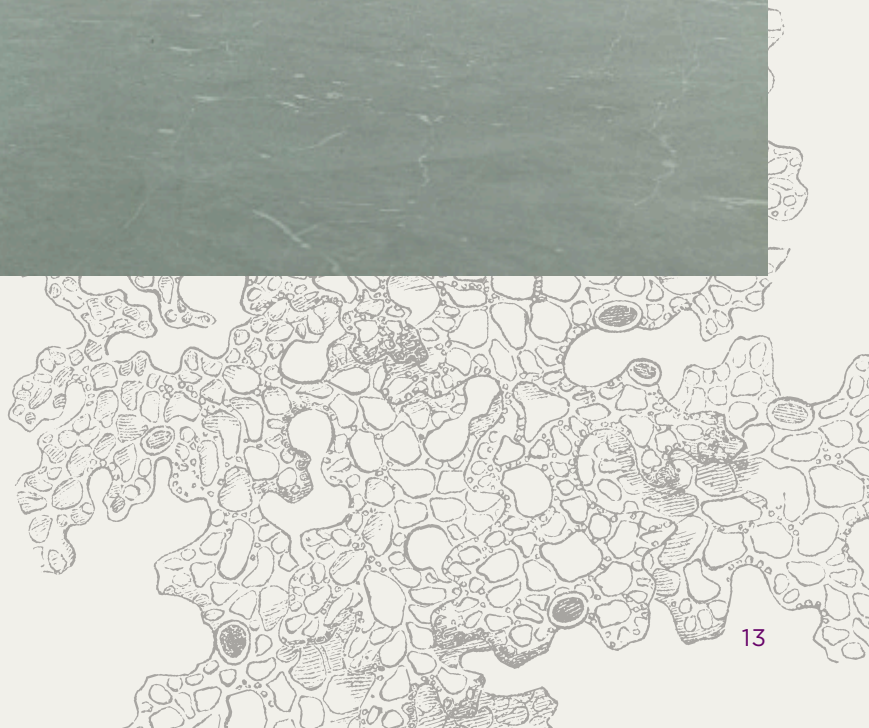


Photo by Kendra Driscoll





# The Art of Documentational Photography

JEREMY GAMBLE | Fredericton, NB

**When not working on media for clients,** Jeremy loves spending time capturing fungi in an artistic way. Often using the intricate methods of focus stacking, he showcases fungi in pleasing compositions with stunning detail. Inspired by Alan Rockefeller (the rockstar of documentational mushroom photography) and having learned so much through his generous teachings on social media, Jeremy has fallen in love with incorporating the surrounding features of nature to cradle the subjects.

Follow Jeremy on Instagram at [moon.asked.the.crow](https://www.instagram.com/moon.asked.the.crow)



*Nectriopsis violacea* | Photos by Jeremy Gamble





Top: A bouquet of fungi  
Bottom: (L) *Armillaria* species; (R) Fungi holding a cup of water | Photos by Jeremy Gamble



# Why Go Mushrooming? A Personal Reflection

EVE NIELSEN | Fredericton, NB



**Some people get into mushrooming** for the knowledge of what's edible and what's poisonous, some for the hunt of undiscovered fungi to catalogue, some to enjoy nature and a further excuse to get out more, and some for the "magic" shrooms.

My journey started with a love for foraging and learning more about what's edible and beneficial for us.

I've come to realize that our beliefs in life affect how we look at mushrooming. Some believe that nature should be undisturbed and left alone as much as possible; some prioritize cataloguing species, making new discoveries, and preserving nature. Others see it as free food and medicine that they can benefit from. And some just want to know what can poison them or their pets so they can care for their loved ones. Of course, many take an interest in mushrooming as a means of propelling them to go out and exercise while having fun at the same time.

So what is it that compels me to mushroom? I'm motivated by many of these same things: a love of nature, exercise, knowledge of the beneficial and poisonous, discovery of new species, delectable

meals ... but it's a little different for me. I see purposeful creation and design that makes my heart sing with wonder and gratitude to such a good God, a God that gives us such variety and beauty to see, to eat, to enjoy, and even to be used as medicine. He could have



Top: Forest-to-sky view  
Bottom: Hedgehogs, matsutake, bear's head tooth  
Photos by Eve Nielsen



made one mushroom or made them all brown (though there are enough little brown mushrooms as there is), but instead, we are given bleeding-tooth fungus (*Hydnellum peckii*) and bright orange chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus*), ones that smell of burnt sugar (*Lactarius helvus*), or mint gum (*Hydnellum suaveolens*). We also have ones that grow on the ground and those that grow on trees in clusters so plenteous, the tree looks embedded with seashells. How marvellous even is a single, tiny *Mycena* that is so delicate and highly detailed!

I believe fungi are a precious gift from a loving Creator meant for us to use, take care of, and discover. What about you?



Top: (L) *Hydnellum suaveolens*; (R) *Trichaptum* sp.  
Bottom: (L) *Hydnellum peckii*; (M) *Cortinarius* sect. *Dermocybe*; (R) *Parasola* sp.  
Photos by Eve Nielsen



# A Year in the Life of a New Mycophile

PAT ALLEN | Durham Bridge, NB

## Preface

*On December 1, 2021, in a matter of seconds, life as I knew it ceased to exist. My beautiful boy was killed at his work site in Fredericton. For the next eighteen months, I struggled through a nightmare of grief and depression. Formerly active, both indoors and out, I lost all interest in previous hobbies and pleasures. I developed an array of post-traumatic stress related medical problems. The only thing I was able to force myself to do was to go for walks in the woods. In the forest, where my young son and I had once spent hours enjoying the wonders of the natural world, I felt some measure of peace.*

## A Fortuitous Encounter

However, the beginning of my whirlwind relationship with wild mushrooms did not take place in the forest. On July 27, 2023, while moping about my yard, I wandered behind one of my outbuildings. There, directly in my path, sat the largest puffball I'd ever seen (below). If the thing hadn't been so big, I probably wouldn't have taken notice. For some reason, I felt I should photograph and measure this impressive specimen.



Leaving the giant puffball, I checked my home library. Sure enough, at the back of a shelf, I found an old Agriculture Canada mushroom booklet. I read that giant puffballs were edible as long as they were totally white inside. Excitedly, I called a nature-loving neighbour. Within minutes, she arrived with one of her young daughters. The child was so excited when I let her pick the mushroom and carry it to a table. We sliced the monster in half. Its texture was somewhat akin to a heavy sourdough bread. From outer skin to centre, it was as white as new fallen snow. My friend went home happy, and I Googled “cooking and preserving giant puffballs.”

From then on, I began to notice just how many mushrooms were growing within my woodlot. They seemed to be everywhere in all shapes, sizes, and colours. Surely some of these were also edible. But which ones? I had no desire to poison myself or George, my little grandson that our dear boy had left us to help raise. I'd have to educate myself to gain enough knowledge to expand my mushroom foraging list beyond giant puffballs.

Within days, I'd checked out all the mushroom books in the Fredericton Public Library. I didn't read everything, but I did look at lots of mushroom pictures. At this same time, another big puffball popped up behind my shed! On August 27, without a clue as to what I was documenting, I began taking photos of every mushroom I came across.

*Calvatia gigantea* (giant puffball)  
Photo by Pat Allen



## Chanterelles & Connection

I purchased a more current book on mushrooms of Northeastern North America. I read that our region hosted a choice edible, the golden chanterelle. Various authors warned against toxic look-alike mushrooms. This was a bit scary, but I was determined to find some chanterelles.

In mid-September, while caring for my elderly mother in Riverview, I came across a piece of woodland that had, as my book described, chanterelle habitat written all over it. I ventured into this forest and picked a basket full of beautiful fruit whose characteristics seemed to clearly match those of chanterelles. But I wasn't absolutely sure and to me, this was a problem. I didn't know any mushroom people. I remembered reading a CBC article that interviewed a lady who had been instrumental in putting together a New Brunswick group for mushroom-hunting enthusiasts. I relocated the article. I couldn't believe my luck: Jessika Gauvin lived in Moncton, and I was sitting in Riverview with my basket of mushrooms! Jessika was driving back from Quebec when she took my call. She sounded exhausted but still said she could spare a few minutes the next morning.

Jessika met me at her door. First, she confirmed that I did indeed have a basket of chanterelles. Yahoo! Then, in the next ten minutes, she gave me a crash course on the basics of mushroom identification. I was impressed. Before I left, Jessika picked up one of the chanterelles, held it close under her nose, and inhaled deeply. She smiled as she said, "Awww, always smell them." I departed, delighted with the encounter, and with a gift of few black trumpets. They enhanced my supper delightfully. I immediately added black trumpets to my list of desirables, but first, I would take Jessika's advice and register for membership in the Mycological Society of New Brunswick.

A few days later, back on my own turf in Durham, I spotted a tiny thing that looked like a short pencil with a red tip. Was it some kind of mushroom? I thought I remembered seeing a photograph of something like it. Whatever, I took a photo. Then, in one smooth motion, I picked up the slimy thing, shoved it up under my nose, and took a big sniff. Gagging and trying not to vomit, I staggered to a nearby puddle. I sunk my fingers into the mud and rubbed and rubbed. Yes, I'd met my first stinkhorn!



Stinkhorn mushroom | Photo by Pat Allen

## Guided Walks & Exciting Finds

During the fall of 2023, I joined Jessika on a mushroom walk in Odell Park. She confirmed what I'd thought were winter chanterelles and hedgehogs. I later went on another MycoNB walk with Anthony Brooks where I learned about the characteristics of several gilled mushrooms, including Amanitas. I was impressed with the Anthony's UV flashlight that captured the glowing gills of certain mushrooms, and he later sent me information of where to buy one. On Facebook, I took more than my fair share of time from the group experts. (I couldn't believe what a kind, helpful



and friendly group I'd fallen into.) I also expanded my 'hunting grounds' to explore different habitats. Upon finding my first lion's mane, I jumped up and down with excitement. I also learned a few of the more easily identified boletes. I was super pleased that 2023 produced a bounty of mushrooms and that the year had a long, drawn-out fall.

## The 2024 Season

When the winter of 2024 finally set in, I just couldn't stop going to the woods. I realized that I'd pretty much ignored polypores during my initial months of crashing about in the world of funga. I dusted off my snowshoes with the dual purpose of getting exercise and identifying polypores. With help from my books and the group experts, I learned to identify chaga, several of the larger bracket fungi, and some of the smaller stemmed polypores. I also hauled home some beautiful artist's conk just in case I decided to revisit a former hobby.

As a late-blooming mushroom enthusiast, I'd not yet experienced the spring or full summer mushrooming seasons. I had no idea what to expect. So, I signed up for two online courses with Jessika. I repeatedly watched Adam Haritan's [Learn Your Land](#) videos about trees and mushrooms. When spring did arrive, I became familiar with every elm in Durham. I was rewarded by finding several trees producing dryad's saddle. I found tons of poplar-associated oysters, and a bit later, I discovered that lobsters lived up to their name as a seafood treat. Throughout the summer, I continued to take advantage of the MycoNB walks and enjoyed attending the Annual Foray at Fundy Park. What lovely people, and what a totally pleasant learning experience.

## Final Thoughts

A little over a year ago, I knew nothing about tooth fungi, gilled fungi, boletes, puffballs, earth stars, crusts, polypores, stinkhorns, jellies, corals, cups, or earth tongues. Through various avenues, I've gained a beginner's understanding of a few New Brunswick fungi. Through Jessika, I now know a tiny bit about the medicinal benefits of some mushrooms. And though I make an effort to pronounce the Latin names, my brain's linguistic capabilities have never been strong (not to mention the two mini strokes I had in early 2023 that have somewhat shortchanged my memory).

However, there has been no single mushroom that has helped me move forward on my personal healing journey. Was that giant puffball that started me down this path deliberately placed for me? Who knows? What I do know is that over this past year, I have taken a keen interest in something totally new to me. In the process, I have made new friends, collected and eaten new free food, enjoyed my mushroom experiences, and developed a knowledge base concerning one part of our natural world. Thanks to all who have helped me along my way.





# NB's Most Wanted: AC Network Project 2024

MATTHEA SCHUMPELT | Newsletter Coordinator | Miramichi, NB

**In wrapping up the 2024 mushrooming season,** I asked New Brunswick participants in this year's MycoMap Atlantic Canada (AC) Network project to share the specimens for which they most wanted to see DNA sequencing results.

As a recap, the MycoMap AC Network is a census project aiming to document macrofungi of Atlantic Canada through unlimited genetic sequencing offered for free by Mycota Labs.

The project launched in 2024 but will likely continue in 2025. If you're interested in participating next year, feel free to contact me at [newsletter@myconb.org](mailto:newsletter@myconb.org) if you have any questions.

Without further ado, here are this year's participants' most wanted lists! Please note that the identifications under each observation are suggested IDs or approximations awaiting confirmation from sequencing results.

## Toni Doucette

Photos and observations by [Toni Doucette](#). Image permissions: [CC BY-NC 4.0](#).



Genus *Samsoniella*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/239260262>



*Helvella elastica*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/237366163>



Genus *Helvella*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/235943187>

### Others on Toni's Most Wanted List:

- Genus *Deconica*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/247372025>
- Genus *Entoloma*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/244965553>
- Genus *Entoloma*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/243623144>
- *Hypomyces luteovirens*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/246205763>
- *Atheniella adonis*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/247914298>



## Sean Rhindress

Photos and observations by [Sean Rhindress](#). Image permissions: [CC BY-NC 4.0](#).



*Baorangia bicolor*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/237017609>



*Leccinum scabrum*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/237284863>



Complex *Laccaria laccata*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/241160386>

### Others on Sean's Most Wanted List:

- *Xerocomellus dryophilus*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/238653251>
- *Boletellus chrysenteroides*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/238504323>
- *Amanita* (Complex *Mappae*): <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/242273914>
- *Cyanoboletus pulverulentus*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/243665462>
- *Chalciporus rubinellus*: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/238652177>

## Pat Allen

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Boletes and Allies

<https://inaturalist.ca/observations/243892639>



Genus *Pholiota*

<https://inaturalist.ca/observations/239083822>



Genus *Leccinum*

<https://inaturalist.ca/observations/243891499>



## Holly Jones

Photos and observations © [Holly Jones](#).



Genus *Hygrocybe*

<https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/249678806>



Family Entolomataceae

<https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/249424691>



*Cuphophyllus canescens*

<https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/248809342>

### Others on Holly's Most Wanted List:

- Family Entolomataceae: <https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/248730105>
- *Hodophilus subfuscescens*: <https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/248726957>
- Genus *Microglossum*: <https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/247368358>
- Genus *Lanmaoa*: <https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/241874859>
- *Hodophilus subfuscescens*: <https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/238884880>
- Kingdom Fungi: <https://www.inaturalist.ca/observations/238521565>

## Matthea Schumpelt

Photos and observations © [Matthea Schumpelt](#).



Genus *Lepiota*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/243461650>



*Lanmaoa pallidorosea*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/236620366>



Genus *Lactarius*

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/237960112>



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*Funga Scripta* is always looking for submissions! Topic ideas include (but are not limited to):

- Stories from MycoNB events
- Highlights on NB fungi
- Scientific processes related to fungi
- Personal accounts or stories related to mushrooming
- Poetry/prose, art, photography
- Most interesting fungus you've found
- Recipes and tips for storing mushrooms

Send your submissions to [newsletter@myconb.org](mailto:newsletter@myconb.org)





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