

Winter 2020

Spore Print



Alberta Mycological Society

Feature Mushroom: *Inonotus Obliquus*

Inonotus obliquus, commonly known as chaga, is a fungus in the family Hymenochaetaceae. It is parasitic on birch and other trees. The sterile conk is irregularly formed and has the appearance of burnt charcoal.

Chaga is traditionally grated into a fine powder and used to brew a beverage resembling coffee or tea. However, caution is warranted with chronic use due to the extremely high concentrations of oxalates in chaga.

Sourced 2/25/2020 from Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inonotus_obliquus

Taxonomy:

Kingdom: Fungi

Division: Basidiomycota

Class: Agaricomycetes

Order: Hymenochaetales

Family: Hymenochaetaceae

Genus: *Inonotus*

Species: *I. obliquus*

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Edibility: Unknown

Gill Attachment: N/A

Growing Season: All

Hymenium: Smooth

Cap: N/A

Spore Print: Brown

We have a new website!

Join us at: <https://www.albertamushrooms.ca>

The website includes featured mushrooms, blog, member log in and resources and much more!





Current Board

Rosemarie O'Bertos - Past President

Karen Slevinsky - President

Mike Schulz - Vice-President

Rob Simpson - Treasurer

Elizabeth Lakeman - Secretary

Christine Costello - Membership Coordinator

Dr. Claude Roberto - Director at Large

Bill Richards - Director at Large

Catherine Jevic - Director at Large

Elizabeth Watts - Director at Large

Dr. Jonathan Cale - Director at Large

Joelle Chille Cale - Director at Large

Isabella Tarasco - Director at Large

Lisa Oishi - Director at Large

Ryan James - Director at Large

“The cookery books will give you a thousand finicky devices, mushrooms in this, mushrooms in that, but there is only one way—to fry them, simply with bacon, until they swim in their black fragrant juice.”

— H.E. Bates, *Through the Woods*



Volunteer!

If you are interested in mycology, particularly leading forays please email our board for further information about volunteering opportunities: amsdirectors@albertamushrooms.ca



Mushrooms— Places To Be & Things To Do

Canada

The Mid Island Mushroom Festival—Coombs, BC—October 2020

AB Mycological Society EXPO— U of A Botanical Gardens, AB—August 2020

Sicamous Fungi Festival— Sicamous, BC—September 2020

Fungus Among Us Mushroom Festival—Whistler, BC—October 2020

VMS Annual Mushroom Show—Vancouver, BC—October 2020

Annual Richmond Mushroom Show—Richmond, AB—November 2020

USA

Oregon Truffle Festival —Yamhill Valley, OR—February 14-16, 2020

Makanda Mushroom Festival—Shawnee National Forest, Il—April 17-19, 2020

Mesick Mushroom Festival—Mesick, MI—May 2020

National Morel Mushroom Festival—Boyne, MW—May 14-17 2020

Muscoda Morel Mushroom Festival—Muscoda, WI—May 2020

Pacific Northwest Mushroom Festival—Olympia, WA—July 2020

Eagle Mushroom & Wild Food Festival—Eagle, CO—August 2020

Telluride Mushroom Festival—Telluride, CO—August 13-16 2020

King Boletus Mushroom Festival—Buena Vista, CO—August 2020

Kennett Square Mushroom Festival—Philadelphia, PA—September 12-13, 2020

Long Beach Tenunsula Wild Mushroom Festival—Long Beach, WA—September 2020

Texas Mushroom Festival—Madisonville, TX—October 17, 2020





Calendar of Events

Date - Event - Area

March 21—AGM—Edmonton

March 22—Winter Polypore—Edmonton

May 9—[Spring Mushroom Course—U of A](#)

May 10—Mothers Day Morels—Edmonton

May 30—Foray—Lac La Biche

June 6—Late Morels—Gunn

June 20-21—Summer Solstice Foray—Poplar Creek Natural Area Stewardship

June 26—Mushroom Sex Talk—Edmonton

June 27—[Summer Mushroom Course—U of A](#)

July 4 & 5—Shakespeare Forays—Edmonton

July 11-12—Foray—Grand Cache

August 8—EXPO Foray—Edmonton

August 9—EXPO—U of A Botanical Garden

August 29-30—GAMF—TBD

September 5-6—Foray—TBD

September 12—[Fall Mushroom Course—U of A](#)

<https://www.albertamushrooms.ca/events/>

Did you know

Mushrooms are one of the few natural sources of vitamin D, which is essential for healthy bones and teeth.





News From The Veil: How a Guy From a Montana Trailer Park Overturned 150 Years of Biology

In 1995, if you had told Toby Spribille that he'd eventually overthrow a scientific idea that's been the stuff of textbooks for 150 years, he would have laughed at you. Back then, his life seemed constrained to a very different path. He was raised in a Montana trailer park, and home-schooled by what he now describes as a "fundamentalist cult." At a young age, he fell in love with science, but had no way of feeding that love. He longed to break away from his roots and get a proper education.

At 19, he got a job at a local forestry service. Within a few years, he had earned enough to leave home. His meager savings and non-existent grades meant that no American university would take him, so Spribille looked to Europe.

Thanks to his family background, he could speak German, and he had heard that many universities there charged no tuition fees. His missing qualifications were still a problem, but one that the University of Göttingen decided to overlook. "They said that under exceptional circumstances, they could enroll a few people every year without transcripts," says Spribille. "That was the bottleneck of my life."

Throughout his undergraduate and postgraduate work, Spribille became an expert on the organisms that had grabbed his attention during his time in the Montana forests—lichens.

You've seen lichens before, but unlike Spribille, you may have ignored them. They grow on logs, cling to bark, smother stones. At first glance, they look messy and undeserving of attention. On closer inspection, they are astonishingly beautiful. They can look like flecks of peeling paint, or coralline branches, or dustings of powder, or lettuce-like fronds, or wriggling worms, or cups that a pixie might drink from. They're also extremely tough. They grow in the most inhospitable parts of the planet, where no plant or animal can survive.—Continued on pg 8



Source: https://getpocket.com/explore/item/how-a-guy-from-a-montana-trailer-park-overturned-150-years-of-biology?utm_source=pocket-newtab%3Futm_source%3Dfbclid=IwAR34HW3rO88zTcfCBt8uLweYL2iMyc9oerJzNKEUffSUw85a9KcV1_1uTg



Establishing a U of A Endowment Fund

Each year students make decisions regarding what they want to study and how. We are lucky to have Mycology Courses available to students through the University of Alberta educating the next generation of Mycologists.

In order to support students in their studies the Alberta Mycological Society has made an investment in our future with a contribution to the University of Alberta Endowment Fund to be used to assist Mycological students with their funding.

To further assist students a fundraiser will be held each year leading up to the Alberta Mycological Society AGM & Presidents Dinner. Funds raised will be invested with the endowment fund.

If everyone reading this donates \$10 we will raise enough to fund 5-6 students in their studies.

Can you help with a onetime donation? Please visit our website at <https://www.albertamushrooms.ca/>





Executive Retreat Summary

Retreat Report

Each year the Alberta Mycological Society hosts a retreat at Rundle Mission located at Pigeon Lake in Alberta.

The purpose of the retreat is to focus on the Society activities for the next year and close off any outstanding items from the previous year.

Retreat – Friday Evening

The drive out to Pigeon Lake was a slower than anticipated due to the recent snow and cold weather in the Edmonton Capital Region. I followed Karen's silver Mercedes through the snow occasionally referencing my downloaded Google Map to our destination.

Close to our final turn, as signs signaled, we were nearing Pigeon Lake, a White Tail Deer bounded through a field and stopped, perfectly framed by the curve of the slope and backlit by the orange glow of the setting sun. A welcome invitation to the serenity of the area.

As we pulled into the parking lot the speed dropped to 20km and we rolled through to the parking lot of the Rundles Mission. Our accommodations for the next few days stood as a cozy outpost in the snow drifts a two-story log and stone cabin looking out on Pigeon Lake.

Karen, Lisa and Rose spilled from the vehicle and greeted me warmly and we started to unpack our vehicles of the provisions and luggage for the next few days.

From -25 to the welcoming warmth of the cabin we busied ourselves unpacking and stowing our supplies. Christine and Hugh arrived shortly thereafter. Hugh started the fire in the hearth, and we started preparing dinner.

As food was prepared the remaining board members rolled in and got settled with regrets from Elizabeth Lakeman, Isabella Tarasco Joelle Chille Cale and Dr. Jonathan Cale.

The group dug into the food prepared and enjoyed tea, wine and scotch and settled in with lively conversation catching up at talking about history and current events. The conversation slowly diminished as individuals left to go to bed. The accommodations include two rooms with bunk beds.

Retreat – Saturday Meetings

The smell of coffee and bacon wafted through the cabin as the group started to move. Hugh and Christine were kind enough to prepare breakfast; mushroom scramble mushroom eggs with chicken & turkey bacon along with toast and jams.

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News From The Veil: How a Guy From a Montana Trailer Park Overturned 150 Years of Biology

Lichens have an important place in biology. In the 1860s, scientists thought that they were plants. But in 1868, a Swiss botanist named Simon Schwendener revealed that they're composite organisms, consisting of fungi that live in partnership with microscopic algae. This "dual hypothesis" was met with indignation: it went against the impetus to put living things in clear and discrete buckets. The backlash only collapsed when Schwendener and others, with good microscopes and careful hands, managed to tease the two partners apart.

Schwendener wrongly thought that the fungus had "enslaved" the alga, but others showed that the two cooperate. The alga uses sunlight to make nutrients for the fungus, while the fungus provides minerals, water, and shelter. This kind of mutually beneficial relationship was unheard of, and required a new word. Two Germans, Albert Frank and Anton de Bary, provided the perfect one—*symbiosis*, from the Greek for 'together' and 'living'.



When we think about the microbes that influence the [health of humans](#) and other animals, the algae that provide coral reefs with energy, the mitochondria that power our cells, the gut bacteria that allow cows to digest their food, or the probiotic products that line supermarket shelves—all of that can be traced to the birth of the symbiosis as a concept. And symbiosis, in turn, began with lichens.

In the 150 years since Schwendener, biologists have tried in vain to grow lichens in laboratories. Whenever they artificially united the fungus and the alga, the two partners would never fully recreate their natural structures. It was as if something was missing—and [Spribille might have discovered it](#).

[He has shown](#) that largest and most species-rich group of lichens are not alliances between two organisms, as every scientist since Schwendener has claimed. Instead, they're alliances between *three*. All this time, a second type of fungus has been hiding in plain view.

"There's been over 140 years of microscopy," says Spribille. "The idea that there's something so fundamental that people have been missing is stunning."... read more at source listed on page 5



Executive Retreat Summary

Retreat – Saturday Meetings...Continued

We moved through the agenda and this among many times through the day I felt the pressure of the amount of work the Society does each year; events (GAMF, EXPO and forays), printed materials, website and administration.

The passion of the group is enchanting and energizing -the Board of the Alberta Mycology Society cares deeply about things we sometimes don't associate with mushrooms (the ones I hunt to eat);

Citizen science;

Assessing biodiversity

Working with Local and Canadian
Herbariums

Conservancy;

Nature Alberta

Northern Saskatchewan River Valley
Alliance

Urban Trees – RE: Urban Tree Bylaw

Poplar Creek Natural Area Stewardship

Membership building

Energizing membership

Engagement

Use of social media

Retreat – Saturday Evening

Christine and Hugh prepared a lovely curry and tossed salad, myself and another board member had dietary restrictions and were graciously accommodated with gluten and dairy free meals throughout our stay.

The group played rousing rounds of Code Names, which Christine brought along. The teams were tied until a contentious tie breaker leading to a sudden death round crowning an excited victorious team.

Retreat – Sunday Wrap Up

Breakfast was scrambled eggs with rabbit hash from the Friday leftovers and as Ryan said, breakfast got us hopping into our next meeting.

Annual General Meeting planning including announcement of the upcoming speaker and positions available for election at the next AGM and Presidents Dinner.

One of the most exciting items to come out of the meeting was Bill Richards motion and the AB Mycological Society board voting to start an endowment investment to the University of Alberta for students studying mycology of 2000\$ a year. The criteria for eligibility and details to be determined.

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Executive Retreat Summary

Thanks to all that attended!

Contributions were amazing and varied with everyone helping in all aspects of the event.

Christine and Hugh Costello – cooking and cleaning for the group

Mike Schulz – booking accommodations

Karen Slevinsky – running the meeting as per our agenda

Rob Simpson – providing food and providing treasurers report (and many jokes)

Bill Richards – providing food including lovely pickled mushrooms

Elizabeth Watts – providing lovely desserts

Lisa Oishi – taking minutes during our challenging conversations and keeping track of information

Ryan James – providing printer and support materials

Rosemarie O'Bertos – providing food for meals

Thank you to Rundles Mission for existing and hosting us.





The Lincoff Mushroom Festival Student Scholarship

Application due date: May 1, 2020
Notification of Award winner: June 1, 2020

PURPOSE

The Lincoff Mushroom Festival Student Scholarship was established in 2018 to memorialize the late Gary Lincoff. The Scholarship is to benefit and inspire students of mycology—a cause that Gary felt so strongly about—by providing financial assistance with travel to attend the Telluride Mushroom Festival and benefit the student's studies. Applicants should be students (undergraduate or graduate) pursuing study in the field of mycology specifically, or biology, chemistry, ecology, or conservation in general at community colleges, colleges, and universities.

CRITERIA

1. Applicants must be enrolled full time in biological sciences, chemistry, or environmental sciences, and must provide the name of school and contact for student's advisor.
2. Applicants must be actively studying fungi and pursuing creative inquiry projects, thesis, or doctorate program involving fungi.
3. Applicants must have GPA 3.0 or greater and provide recent transcript.
4. Applicants must supply a one-minute video stating why you should win the award. Be creative!
5. Applicants may supply additional information that may strengthen their application, including: financial need, academic achievement, grades, rank in class, standardized test scores and achievement test scores, community / extracurricular involvement, leadership, participation in specific activities, awards and recognition, and work history.
6. Scholarships are awarded without regard to race, ethnicity, gender, citizenship, or sexual orientation. Students from outside USA are encouraged to apply.
7. Applications (including video) or questions about the application, should be submitted by email to the Executive Director, Britt Bunyard, britt@telluridemushroomfest.org.
8. Application deadline is May 1, 2020, no exceptions. Notifications will be made via email no later than June 1, 2020.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Lincoff Mushroom Festival Student Scholarship will provide for full registration to the Telluride Mushroom Festival, all lodging expenses during the Festival, shuttle rides to and from the Montrose Airport (for travelers arriving by air), and travel expenses (up to \$500 for travel within USA, \$1,000 if outside USA). Lodging, Festival Registration, and shuttle rides will be pre-arranged by the Festival for the Award Winner. Travel reimbursement will be made, upon arrival, at Festival.



The Telluride Mushroom Fest is a program of the Telluride Institute, a registered non-profit organization under IRS section 501C3
www.tellurideinstitute.org/telluride-mushroom-festival





Cooking with Mushrooms

MUSHROOM PICKLING RECIPE

Canning Liquid

3-5 pounds mushrooms

1 gal (4L) water

1 ½ tbsp. salt

Cook cleaned mushrooms in this liquid for 15 minutes.

Brine (boil for ½ hr.)

2 cups (470 ml) water

13 peppercorns

2 bay leaves

1 ½ tbsp. salt

1 tbsp sugar

¼ cup (70 ml) vinegar –add at the end

Strain

Recipe Cont.

Preparation

Put mushrooms in jar, add brine.

Process 15 minutes.

When serving

Strain-add oil,salt, pepper, garlic





Upcoming AGM & Presidents Dinner

Every year, the Alberta Mycological Society hosts its Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by a mushroom dinner for its members. This annual event is a great way for members to get together in an informal setting, listen to a guest speaker, and have a delicious mushroom meal. At this event, our Alberta Mycological Society President awards the President's Award. This award goes to non-board members for their extraordinary contributions and effort on behalf of the society.

Tickets to the President's Dinner are released a few weeks before the event. **The event is booked for March 21, 2020.**

Board Member positions will be elected at the AGM, there are 4 available positions.

If you enjoy attending forays, assisting with volunteer coordination, website maintenance consider joining and established Alberta Society.

Location doesn't matter! You can attend Board Meetings remotely—this is the Alberta Mycological Society, representation of all regions is important.

If you are interested in these positions keep an eye on our events page and attend the AGM to express interest.

<https://www.albertamushrooms.ca/events/>

Alternately reach to our President @ kislevinsky@hotmail.com



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