

JANUARY 2025



# SPORE PRINT

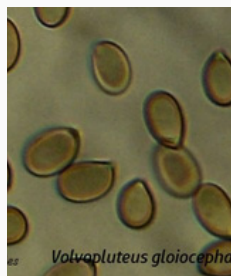
Official Newsletter of the Alberta Mycological Society

BY KEN DIES

## THE BIG SHEATH MUSHROOM

### *Volvopluteus gloiocephalus*

In older field guides this mushroom has been called *Volvariella gloiocephala* or *Volvariella speciosa*, but in 2011 it was placed in its own genus *Volvopluteus* based on molecular findings, with the type species being *gloiocephalus*. Its markedly sticky cap is about 5-15 cm in diameter and varies from white to grey brown, when fresh. The free close to crowded gills start out white but soon turn pink as they mature. The silky white stipe (6-12 cm long) is tapered to a slightly swollen base which is enclosed in a cup-like volva just below the ground surface. As this mushroom ages it becomes flaccid and waterlogged. It is commonly found growing in cultivated soil such as gardens, roadsides, compost and manured fields. Inexperienced mushroom hunters might believe this mushroom is an *Amanita* sp. due to the presence of a volva but can be separated by the absence of a ring and pink spores rather than white as in *Amanita* sp.



**Division:** Basidiomycota  
**Class:** Agaricomycetes  
**Order:** Agaricales  
**Family:** Pluteaceae  
**Genus:** Volvopluteus  
Vizzini, Contu & Justo, (2011)  
**Type species:** gloiocephalus  
**Cap:** White to greyish  
**Gills:** Free, Crowded, White, turning pink at maturity  
**Stem:** White, tapered to a swollen base encased in a sack like volva  
**Spore print:** Pinkish  
**Context:** waterlogged with age  
**Odor/taste:** not distinctive

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# What's Been Happening Around Calgary?

BY SEAN CAMPBELL

The Calgary branch of the Alberta Mycological Society brought together an extraordinary community this year, forming connections between mushroom enthusiasts, artists, chefs, scientists, and others with a series of captivating events.

## The Inaugural Spore Social

Our season began at The Artist Lounge with the first-ever Spore Social, where guests savored innovative mushroom-inspired tapas dishes and artisanal cocktails. The evening was enriched by the stunning artwork of Helene M.E. Schalkwijk-Barendsen, and the mycological samples and tinctures showcased by Simon Metke.

## Lobster Mushroom Night

The AMS partnerships flourished as Meta4foods joined forces with The Artist Lounge to celebrate the remarkable lobster mushroom. Chefs Chris Rivest and Jeremy Theoret transformed local ingredients into an unforgettable fine-dining experience. Their innovative menu had lobster mushroom bisque, delicate ravioli, and Alberta striploin medallions, concluding with an inspired chanterelle sorbet drizzled with Saskatoon berry syrup. Each wine-paired course showcased the beauty of local foraging and sustainable cuisine.

## Beakerhead: Fungi Meets Science

The AMS was invited to participate at TELUS Spark Science Centre's Beakerhead festival this year. Our society sparked wonder and curiosity with display tables and a series of presentations in the Infinity Dome. The freshly foraged mushrooms were of particular interest, as visitors from all walks of life discovered the hidden marvels of mushrooms, fostering a deeper appreciation for mycology.

## Indigenous Science Night: The Fungus Among Us

Our participation with Beakerhead went so well, the Science Center invited us back for an Indigenous Science Night with a focus on fungi. The night celebrated the deep-rooted connections between fungi and Indigenous traditions. Local Knowledge Keepers shared ancestral wisdom about mushrooms in cuisine, ceremony, and healing practices. The Mycelium Market offered artisanal fungi-inspired creations, while presentations explored the sacred relationship between fungi and mental wellbeing. This meaningful gathering bridged traditional knowledge with contemporary understanding, honoring fungi's enduring role in Indigenous cultures.







## We've Had A Good Time: Edmonton & Area

by Mel Holm

The 2024 foray season has been long and wonderful, with so much activity! Many new foragers joined us in the spring in pursuit of the ever-elusive morels, and I'm happy to say that this season had a bumper crop: there were many morels in many baskets! Citizen science thrives in our joint project with the Friends of Elk Island Society: We hosted excursions to the Beaver Hills Biosphere throughout the season, adding new specimens to our Fungarium.

The Wild Mushroom Expo was hosted in the town of Devon at the community centre in the hot and dry July. I'd like to give a special thanks to our volunteers who collected fungi, stood at tables, and braved the kitchens at our biggest fundraising event of the year - it was a wonderful day overall and we're already planning next year's Wild Mushroom Expo!

I'm immensely satisfied with this season and look forward to the rest that winter provides us.

Mel



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Annual General Meeting

11050-90 Street NW, Edmonton, Alberta,  
Canada

Date: Saturday, March 22, 2025

Annual General Meeting: 9AM - 4 PM

President's Dinner: 6 PM - 9 PM (TBD)

Location: Santa Maria Goretti Centre







# FORAY REPORT

Upon assuming my new role as Foray Coordinator for the Alberta Mycological Society, I quickly realized the magnitude of the responsibility before me: planning the entire season of forays. It was no small task. I took a week of vacation, hit the road, and began scouting. After driving thousands of kilometres, spending countless hours on the computer, and working closely with regional coordinators, we assembled an impressive roster of over 60 forays and events for the season.

Spring arrived with its usual energy and excitement. After a long winter, our members were eager to get outdoors, drawn by the promise of morels and verpas. Nearly 50 members joined our first forays in the Edmonton region. While verpas were abundant, the elusive morels proved harder to find, though reports of large hauls trickled in from across the province. Unfortunately, organized forays never quite matched the morel bounty some experienced individually.

Summer, however, brought heat and dry conditions, forcing the cancellation of many planned forays. Despite this, those that went ahead saw decent attendance and yielded some interesting finds.

Autumn arrived, bringing cooler temperatures and much-needed moisture. A rich variety of edible mushrooms began to emerge, and our final camping weekend at Weald rewarded all attendees with a wonderful abundance of fungi.

A special thank you goes out to our Calgary team—Christine Costello, Barb Shworak, Taylor Routledge, Nadia Shiwdin, and Sean Campbell—who were an unwavering force throughout the season. Their hard work allowed me to focus elsewhere, and I cannot express enough gratitude for their efforts. I would also like to thank our President, Karen Slevinsky, who joined me as my foray partner on numerous occasions throughout the year—your support has been invaluable. And of course, a heartfelt thank you to all the board members, volunteers, and generous hosts who led and contributed to the success of our many forays. We couldn't have organized such a robust season without your collective efforts. Looking ahead to the 2025 forays, I am calling on our members to step up and lead. This past season has taught me a great deal, and one thing is clear: a small group of board members simply cannot do it all. We are all volunteers with jobs, families, and responsibilities outside of AMS, and while we do our best to organize events across the province, it is impossible to be everywhere. Even with all of our best efforts, I still feel that I failed members who are further away from the main corridor of Calgary to Edmonton.

If you can lead just one foray in your region (i.e.. Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Cold Lake, Hinton, Pincher Creek, Lethbridge, etc.), it will be a huge benefit to members all across Alberta. I'll be sending out emails to the group, and specific individuals in the coming months to ask for assistance next year.

Please help us make 2025 the best foraging season the Alberta Mycological Society has ever seen!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Armishaw  
Foray Coordinator



**BAUER CASAVANT**  
Bauer is holding a beautiful *Pleurotus*  
*Ostreatus*







## GAMF WAS FUN

The Great Alberta Mushroom Foray 2024 was held in Cold Lake, Alberta at the Cold Lake Energy Centre. We had 12 official forays and 2 pre-forays. Everything was photographed and logged into iNaturalist. Our expert mycologists, and army of volunteers, worked tirelessly to ID and log every specimen they could. Below are some photos from Ryan Armishaw. You will find many of our findings in the [2024 GAMF: Cold Lake section of iNaturalist](#).



## Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Dates: Friday, August 30, 2024 to Monday, September 2, 2024

Location: Cold Lake, Alberta

Foray Attendees: 111 foray attendees over 14 forays



## G.A.M.F 2025

August 29 - September 1

Location:  
Fox Creek, Alberta





# **WILD** MUSHROOM EXPO 2024: A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Melanie Fjoser, Lead,  
Wild Mushroom Expo 2024 Committee.

## On Saturday, August 3: Getting Ready

Pre-Expo forays kept AMS members very busy collecting fresh mushrooms in very dry conditions. Pickings were scarce but there will always be some fungi to be had. Some dedicated members travelled as far as Slave Lake following the rain to ensure a bountiful harvest to round out our ever-present polypore collection. Thank you, foragers!

Meanwhile at the Devon Community Centre, other volunteers worked diligently to create a transformative atmosphere for our members and visitors. Many volunteers worked the full day to ensure as much preparedness as possible for the next day's event. Thanks for your hard work!

## Sunday, August 4: The Main Event!

Our Wild Mushroom Expo opened at 10:00 am, with a welcoming speech by Devon Mayor Jeff Craddock, who related how important medicinal mushrooms have been to him personally. During the day we welcomed a steady stream of visitors, of all ages, from all over the province, who enjoyed many facets of the day – freshly foraged mushroom and microscopy displays, talked with our experts and volunteers, ready and able to respond to all manner of mushroom questions. Speakers Christine Costello, Robert Rogers and Martin Osis shared their fungal knowledge to young and old. Hungry guests enjoyed mushroom-based cuisine from our Wild Mushroom Café and tastings from our guest chefs, Chef Zach and others. Nature-related vendors showcased a variety of wares. Several non-profit groups enlightened folks on other activities available in Alberta. The media was also there – conducting TV and Radio interviews, publishing our stories, and creating interest in Expo, both before, during and after the event.

We were able to hang our award-winning mushroom photos throughout the rooms, and also presented a special tribute to one of our beloved founders, Leni Schalkwijk, with a collection of her oil paintings and field notes donated to AMS years ago.

Several businesses supported this event in many ways. We give thanks, first to our Province of Alberta, for the richness and diversity of fungi growing in our environment, followed by The Town of Devon Council and Staff, Hardy's Independent Grocer, Devon Home Hardware, The Devon Public Library, Devon Days Committee, Taber Corn, Mo-Na Foods, The Devon Dispatch, and many others. Our volunteers and vendors were instrumental in creating this magical experience. Thank you all! Mushrooms are the stars of the show, but all of you were the very important supporting cast that made this a great success.

We'll be back! We've had overwhelming support for the Devon Community Centre as the venue for Expo and have already secured the dates for next year. Our Wild Mushroom Expo 2025 will be on Saturday, August 16 (forays & set-up), and Sunday, August 17 for the main event. Mark the date and be ready to answer the Call for Volunteers and the Call for Vendors. We will need you!

On behalf of our wonderful and hard-working Wild Mushroom Expo 2024 Committee, thank you, we appreciate you very much!

## NEXT YEAR

**Wild Mushroom Expo  
2025**

**Location:** Devon  
Community Centre,  
20 Haven Avenue,  
Devon, AB

**Date:** Sun. August 16  
10 am – 5 pm

**Pre - Event Forays:**  
Sat. Aug. 16: all day







# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Melanie Fjoser



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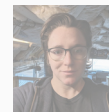
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Nadia Shiwdin



## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Eleasah Wittke



## FORAY COORDINATOR

Ryan Armishaw



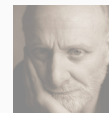
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a roller coaster year it was for foraging 2024! For me the foraging season was glorious! "Moreling" in central Alberta and north was fantastic. Usually, I count my morels and verpas – you know - zero, 7 and maybe even 18. But this year I could finally measure my morel finds. (The mass shall remain secret.) However, as with all years, the 2024 foraging season was largely dependent on the weather. While the spring was cool and rainy, perfect weather for the spring mushrooms, it soon heated up by summer and several forays had to be cancelled for lack of fungi. However by late summer the moisture returned and yielded great finds across the province in the edible and inedible categories. To see what was foraged see our Blog and Completed Foray Reports [Foray Reports and Blog – Alberta Mycological Society](#). Note especially the copious amounts of white hedgehogs, yellowfoot chanterelles and suillus harvested at Weald in mid-September. Nice to end the year on a bounty.

In addition to praising the macrofungi, there are so many people to recognize this year for their fine performance in making the Alberta Mycological Society the respectable organization it is – an organization of approximately 900 members. First and foremost, I would like to thank Ryan Armishaw, Foray Coordinator, for his endless hours of scouting sites, seeking out foray leaders, organizing foray kits and generally bringing forays to a new level in 2024. Foraging for mushrooms is one of our primary activities. Forays started as early as May 11 and extended all the way into October. Education is next. For that, I would like to acknowledge the fine work of Melanie Fjoser, Treasurer and lead on Expo; specifically, Melanie orchestrated an exposition of fungi as the Greatest Show from Earth in Devon, Alberta. Kudos to Melanie as she and her team brought many new changes to this fine education program. Thank you, Melanie. Certainly, the Calgary team led by Sean Campbell need commendation. The Calgary team organized 2 dining events: the Spore Social and Mushroom Lobster Night at The Artist Lounge restaurant / art gallery. The Calgary team was also involved in 3 other events: Mush Love at NVRLD, and both Beakerhead and the Fungus Among Us Indigenous Science Night at the TELUS Spark Science Centre. Who knows, there may be more to come. These Calgary specialty nights were a wonderful combination of educational programming and culinary experiences – thank you Sean Campbell, Christine Costello, Nadia Shiwdin and Barb Shworak for your creativity and ingenuity in bringing innovative programming to our Calgary members. The Great Alberta Mushroom Foray leads Martin Osis and me, Karen Slevinsky, and our outstanding group: Ryan Armishaw, Claudia Torres, Ryan James, Michael Schulz, and Rick Watts brought the Alberta Mycological Society to northeastern Alberta to the relatively sparsely populated but macrofungal rich area of Cold Lake. A special thank you to our patient and wise mycologists Kyle Canan, Roland Treu, Paul Kroeger, Martin Osis and Michael Schulz who spent many hours at the Cold Lake Energy Centre verifying the identified specimens. Barb Shworak, Liz Watts and Melanie Fjoser did important behind the scenes identification work. Meanwhile the rest of the board Nadia Shiwdin (membership), Claudia Torres (microscopy, GAMF meals, posters and brochures) Mel Hohn (VP, Expo, GAMF, and merchandise), Paul Welke (volunteers), Elle Wittke (2 newsletters), Liz Watts (solstice), Robert Simpson (filings & fungal identification), Ethan Zapach (merchandise) and Rose O'Bertos (advisor) all helped to "keep the lights on" for the Alberta Mycological Society. Finally, it should be noted that Elizabeth Lakeman still has her fingers on ensuring that the Alberta Mycological Society Graduate Award is growing as best as possible. A huge thank you to everyone who gave so freely of their time this year, and truly every year for many of the above-mentioned board members. Huzzah!

While the snow has covered the ground, the work of the Board turns inward. We will be surveying you to assist with planning for 2025, we are working on board policies, and Expo and GAMF are already "glimmers in our eyes." The fungi may be resting but your Board certainly is not!

Karen Slevinsky  
President, Alberta Mycological Society



**HERICIUM  
CORALLOIDES**



**AMANITA MUSCARIA**





# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

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# THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS



Scents  
of Wonder

Self Heal Distributing



*THANK YOU!*



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