



Foray Newfoundland and Labrador: General Information

Welcome!

Our participants- from self-admitted rank amateurs to professors with a world-wide reputation in mycology- hail from Newfoundland, Labrador, mainland Canada, the United States and Europe. A hearty welcome to you all and an especially warm welcome to our visitors! We hope all of you will find this a good experience that draws locals to mushrooms and visitors to Newfoundland for many years to come.

Forays

The purpose of a major annual foray like this one is to enable participants to learn about mushrooms while actively collecting them in the field. It concentrates more on species identification, list development and census than on collecting for food. Exchange of information, both informal during outings and social events and formal in the form of lectures, are very much part of a major foray.

Collection for Display

Careful collection and documentation of specimens is very important. If 60 people dump everything they pick all day on a table for the poor identifiers, the latter will drown under a huge pillar of fungi. Please help by keeping collections separate, trying to identify them, if you can, and filling out what you can on the collecting slips for each- our record for filling out slips has been excellent. Good information helps identification enormously. Please pick the whole mushroom, not just parts. For many mushrooms, features of the "root" part of the stem are crucial for correct identification. This is where the knife comes in handy.

Display Tables

A reward for your efforts will be over 200 different species, professionally identified and labeled for view- the equivalent would take a single collector several years to amass, going out full-time.

There is a lot of database activity at a foray, making some participants reluctant to look at the specimens, because they feel they are "in the way". Do not be scared off by the activity. The Database Team has its work to do, including getting specimens on the table. Please note that the display room is set up for YOU. It is there ONLY so that participants can see what has been collected and identified, can learn and follow their own specimens and can compare the haul to other collections. If this were not important, there would be no need for a display table, the specimens could be dried immediately and the Database Team's work would be a lot simpler. So do not feel reluctant to examine what has been collected. Visit the tables often at any time that suits you.

Species List

Past Species Lists and Foray Reports, as well as an Annotated Cumulative List of mushroom species, are available on our web site <nlmushrooms.ca>. We expect to add more new species each year, working toward a provincial list. At present it is over 1,000 species. At a wild guess we might have 3,000-7,000 species of native mushrooms in Newfoundland and Labrador. If this is true and we do our job right, addition of new species should not slow down for many a year.

Faculty: Identifiers, Mycologists & Leaders

Recent studies have shown that possibly as much as 67.4% of mycologists are human. Not all Faculty know everything about every mushroom. Not all Faculty know the area. Their main task is to aid in the accurate identification of mushrooms collected. They stay inside sorting and identifying specimens while the rest of us get to enjoy the outdoors. Without their services we'd have a useless mound of fungal compost at the end of the day. Out-of-town Faculty travel here at their expense, thus subsidizing their opportunity to serve us! Don't be shy to show your gratitude.

The percentage of trail leaders who are human, closely rivals that of the mycologists. The main task of leaders is to get you in and out of the woods safely and on time; they are responsible for their group. Therefore, please respect their decisions, notify them if you have any problems, tell them if you intend to stray far afield or must leave the group. Leave together, stay together and arrive together. September is rutting time for moose. Bulls are less likely to charge a group than single individuals and poachers are less likely to mistake groups than individuals. All leaders have above average knowledge of mushrooms and we are lucky to have a few with formal mycological training as well as some with great teaching ability. All leaders serve for the pleasure and pride it gives them, without any financial recompense. Therefore, treat them all well—don't be reticent to thank and flatter!

Registration Form Acknowledgment

Please note that an Acknowledgment that you are aware of the risks involved with a foray and are willing to assume them in return for the experience is part of the Registration Form that all must sign to register. We look on this as the terms of engagement or understanding between FNL and participants. On our side, we shall strive to do all to make this as enjoyable, informative and safe an experience as possible.

That said, there are some perils inherent in forays into nature to collect mushrooms as well as in their identification for eating purposes. Among such perils must be recognized the possibility of human error, no matter how knowledgeable and well intentioned the individual. While we try to prevent such possibility, we can neither deny its existence nor guarantee its absence. By signing the Acknowledgment, you also acknowledge this possibility and agree to accept responsibility for it in return for the experience. Please read and understand it first.

Clearly, no matter how much we try to avoid them, there are some risks inherent in venturing in the outdoors, somewhat increased during hunting season. By signing the Acknowledgment, you acknowledge that you are aware of these risks and assume them, in order to participate. And, of course, we are not the only ones in the outdoors; in addition to other human beings (e.g. hunters), there are animals, small and large, that may pose a potential threat. Again, by signing the Acknowledgment you indicate your awareness and acceptance of this possibility as a potential risk you are willing to assume in return for the foray experience. From our website you can also download our Policies and Procedures Book, to see what guidelines we follow to make your experience pleasant, smooth and safe.

LOST

One of the risks of outdoor activity is getting lost. From the publications page of our website <nlmushrooms.ca> you can download articles about what to do if this happens. Please read them. These are general guidelines and all is not applicable to our situation. For example, there is no cell phone service in most of the areas we foray, so having a phone and keeping a list of numbers to call is not applicable. Also, we have only a limited amount of 2-way radios. However, everybody gets a whistle and since we do not venture very far afield from each other, this remains an excellent means of signaling in our situation. Know the few simple codes and always take your whistle with you.

Hunting Season

Moose-hunting season opens close to us on the weekend of our foray. Please be prudent in the woods, stay together and wear bright clothing. We cannot guarantee that hunters will not stray into these areas, although as a general rule, poachers are much more watchful.

Needs, Wishes, Preferences

If you have any special dietary needs, please let us know. The kitchen may not be able to solve every need, but we shall surely try and let you know if there is a problem.

If you wish to lead a foray, please indicate. If you're from outside the area, we'll pair you up with someone familiar with the trail, if need be. Some knowledge of mushrooms is required to lead, but you need not be a walking encyclopedia. Knowing common mushrooms, being able to guess the genus of some others and a desire to show or explain what you know to your companions is all we ask. If you wish to help identify specimens with the identifiers, considerably more expertise is required. Most people know if they can do it.

Alcohol & Tobacco

Alcohol is allowed, but please restrict its use to the Reception-Cookout-Dining areas and your quarters. You may bring wine or beer to your evening meals. Please do not drink alcohol in other public places. At the Reception on Friday, we provide local wild fruit wine from local wineries and at the Quidi Vidi QuuQup on Saturday, we provide Quidi Vidi beer. Both beverages are donated by their respective makers to support our foray. We encourage you to patronize their products in appreciation. All other times it's strictly BYOB. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased in government liquor stores in larger cities; in smaller communities alcoholic beverages are often sold in special sections of licensed general stores. Beer can be found in most gas stations.

Venues for our forays are smoke free.

Pets

No pets allowed.