



## General Information About Foray NL

### **Welcome to Foray!**

Foray NL is made up of a diverse group of participants, ranging from passionate amateur citizen scientists to esteemed mycologists with global reputations in the field. Our group includes fungi and lichen experts from Newfoundland and Labrador and across the world.

We hope this event will foster a deeper appreciation for fungi, spark new connections within the mycology community, and help draw attention to the fascinating world of mushrooms in Newfoundland for years to come. A special welcome to new participants, we're excited to have you join us!

### **Forays**

The main goal of a major annual foray like this one is to provide participants with hands-on experience in learning about mushrooms while actively collecting them in the field. The focus is primarily on: species identification, biodiversity list development, and sample preservation.

While collecting for food is not the focus of this event, sharing knowledge is an important part of each foray. Learn more about mushrooms and lichen directly from experts through informal exchanges during outings and workshops and dive deep into the science behind what we do with more formal presentations.

## Collection for Display

Proper collection and documentation of specimens is crucial. Our Forays take place in the woods and on the trail. *Properly fill out your mushroom identification cards as best you can while in the field.* There will be identifiers nearby to help out, but you can reference your field guides as well. It will be easier to fill in all the details of each mushroom and the collection site while you are picking it. Don't be afraid to ask questions!

Keep your specimens separate by using wax paper, fishing tackle boxes, and paper bags. Attempt to identify them yourself, if possible. Fill out as much information as you can on the collecting slips (this has been a strong point in past forays).

When all the collecting is complete we head back to the "Mush-Room" where species are identified, photographed, numbered, put into a database and dried for future research.

If every participant were to empty their baskets at the end of the day with no identification cards, it will overwhelm the identifiers and create chaos.

## Helpful Tips for Collection:

Pick whole mushrooms (not just parts) and try to get a sample that has various life stages. The "root" part of the stem is essential for proper identification. Use your knife to carefully remove the entire mushroom, including its base. Remember: Good documentation and careful collection make a significant difference in the identification process!

## **Species List**

Past Species Lists, Foray Reports, and an Annotated Cumulative List of mushroom species are available on our website at [www.nlmushrooms.ca](http://www.nlmushrooms.ca). We aim to add new species each year, working toward a comprehensive provincial list.

Currently, the list includes over 1,000 species, and we estimate that Newfoundland and Labrador may host between 3,000 and 7,000 species of native mushrooms. If this estimate holds true and we continue our work effectively, the addition of new species should remain steady for many years to come.

## **Faculty: Lichenologists & Mycologists**

Recent studies suggest that approximately 67.4% of mycologists and 51.7% of lichenologists are human. Not all Faculty members are experts on every mushroom or familiar with every area. However, their main role is to assist in the accurate identification of mushrooms collected. While they work inside sorting and identifying specimens, the rest of us get to enjoy the outdoors. Without their expertise, we'd end up with nothing more than a pile of fungal compost at the end of the day.

Many of our out-of-town Faculty members travel here at their own expense, subsidizing their participation to serve us. Please don't hesitate to express your gratitude for their contributions!

## **Trail Leaders:**

Foray NL trail leaders, are nearly as "human" as the mycologists. Their main responsibility is to get you in and out of the woods safely and on time.

Respect their decisions, and always inform them if:

- You have any issues
- You plan to stray far from the group
- You need to leave the group

Remember:

- Leave together, stay together, and arrive together.
- September is rutting season for moose. Bulls are less likely to charge a group than a single person, and poachers are less likely to mistake groups for individuals.
- All trail leaders have above-average knowledge of mushrooms. We are fortunate to have some with formal mycological training and others with excellent teaching skills.
- They serve purely for the enjoyment and pride it brings them, without financial compensation
- Treat them well and don't be shy to offer thanks or compliments!

## **Volunteering**

Foray NL is run entirely by volunteers. If you wish to you wish to be a part of our volunteer board, lead a foray, help out in the kitchen, or help in any other way please let us know! We are always looking for new board members. The last event of the Foray is the Annual General Meeting in which we pick new members for the board. If you have had a great weekend and feel like being part of our team to help make this annual event a success, just let one of the board members know!



## **Registration Form Acknowledgement**

When you register, you'll need to sign an Acknowledgement confirming that you are aware of the risks involved in a foray and are willing to assume them in exchange for the experience. This serves as the terms of engagement between Foray NL and participants. On our end, we are committed to making this event as enjoyable, informative, and safe as possible.

That said, there are inherent risks involved in forays, especially when collecting mushrooms and identifying them for consumption. Human error is always a possibility, no matter how knowledgeable the individual. While we take steps to minimize these risks, we cannot guarantee their absence. By signing the Acknowledgement, you recognize this risk and agree to accept responsibility for it in return for the experience. Please read and understand this carefully before signing.

There are other risks involved in outdoor activities, which may be slightly increased during hunting season. By signing the Acknowledgement, you confirm that you are aware of these risks and accept them in order to participate. Additionally, the outdoors is shared with other people (such as hunters) and wildlife, both large and small, that could pose potential threats. By signing the Acknowledgement, you acknowledge and accept this possibility as part of the risks you are willing to assume in return for the foray experience.

For more detailed guidelines on how we strive to make your experience safe and enjoyable, you can download our Policies and Procedures Book from our website.

## **Lost During the Foray**

One of the risks of outdoor activities is the possibility of getting lost. We have resources available on our website [www.nlmushrooms.ca](http://www.nlmushrooms.ca) where you can download articles on what to do in case this happens.

These guidelines are general and may not apply directly to our situation. For example, cell phone service is not available in most of the areas we explore, so having a phone or a list of numbers to call isn't a practical solution. Additionally, we have a limited number of 2-way radios available.

However, each participant is given a whistle, which is an excellent tool for signalling in our foray areas. Since we stay relatively close to one another, the whistle is a great means of communication. Make sure you know the whistle codes and always have 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.

## **Dietary Needs**

If you have any special dietary needs, please let us know.

The kitchen may not be able to solve every need, but we will try to accommodate as best we can.

## **Alcohol**

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 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.

## **Tobacco**

Venues for our forays are smoke free.

## **Pets**

Unfortunately, no pets allowed.

