

A stylized landscape illustration. The top half features a large orange semi-circle representing a sun or moon, with the text 'ITHACA NY' in bold yellow capital letters across it. Below the orange shape is a horizontal band of maroon. The bottom half of the illustration has a light blue sky and a pink ground. A large yellow semi-circle is on the right, with a brown triangle inside it. To the left of the yellow semi-circle are two white mushrooms. To the right of the yellow semi-circle are two more white mushrooms. On the left side of the illustration is a large green pine tree. In the bottom left corner of the illustration is a black beetle with orange spots.

ITHACA NY

**NEMF 2025**

**SAMUEL RISTICH FORAY**

SEPTEMBER 18-21



Welcome to Ithaca, New York, for the Samuel Ristich Foray! Together we'll spend the weekend exploring, learning, and connecting amid the beauty of the Finger Lakes. Whether this is your first NEMF or your forty-eighth, we hope the foray brings discovery, inspiration, and joyful moments. Thank you for being part of this tradition—we're so glad you're here!

The NEMF Foray has always been about more than just mushrooms—it's a time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Throughout the day, browse the vendors and check out the Silent Auction for mushroom-themed treasures and surprises. In the evenings, take in a sunset over Cayuga Lake or relax with a s'more by the campfire.

Be sure to use **#NEMF2025** when posting on social media. **#IthacalsGorges** is another great one!

- **Parking:** Grass lot at entrance. Overflow is available in the adjacent field (trucks/SUVs) and across the street at the Cayuga Nature Center. Unauthorized vehicles are not allowed to drive down to camp.
- **Registration:** Small cabin adjacent to main parking. If you need assistance navigating the hill, there will be vehicles making the trip through the day. We recommend bringing a wagon to transport your gear. If you need assistance with your bags, delivery to your cabin village/tenting area will be available.
- **Walks & Tours Transportation:** Buses/vans depart from the main parking area.
- **Meals & Evening Presentation:** Under the big tent at the north end of camp.
- **Lectures:** Held indoors across the street at the Cayuga Nature Center.
- **Workshops:** Hosted at camp under pavilions.
- **Mushroom Drop Off & Display:** Inside Main Lodge.
- **Silent Auction:** Cabin next to big tent.
- **This is primarily an outdoor event:** You'll be spending much of your time outside, day and night, including meals. Dress in layers and bring clothing/footwear suitable for changing weather. A flashlight or headlamp will be essential for navigating camp after dark.

**Special thanks to:** Noah Siegel, Pauline Johnson, Hannah Huber, Paul Sadowski, Jess Evans, Peter & Cindy Molesky, Stacey Kalechitz, Nathan Wilson, Deana Thomas, Harte Singer, John Plishke, David McCheyne, Olga Tzogas and kitchen crew, Tim Best, Gabriella D'Elia, Matt Rozanoff, Rej Butzer, Matt Schink, Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways staff, sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and the hosting clubs (Rochester Area Mycological Association, Susquehanna Valley Mycological Society, Greater Utica Mycological Society, Central New York Mycological Society, and Western New York Mycology Club) who have been essential to producing this event.

## SAMUEL RISTICH



Image & Text from [www.NEMF.org](http://www.NEMF.org)

Since 1995, the annual NEMF Foray has been named in honor of Samuel Ristich. Sam had a Ph.D. in economic entomology but years of training in botany, ecology, mycology, ornithology and how systems work in nature, particularly in the deciduous and coniferous forests of the northeastern United States.

His intense curiosity drove him to question everything until his passing at age 92. He was a researcher and enthusiastic teacher.

--> You can learn more about him at <https://www.samristich.com/>

*A note from Pauline Johnson, Event Chair and graphic designer:  
While brainstorming ideas for this year's artwork, I knew I wanted to include an insect as a tribute to Sam. With guidance from Bill Yule, I learned that one of Sam's favorites was the Megalodacne heros, commonly known as the pleasing fungus beetle. The image is not meant as a scientific illustration, but rather as an artistic interpretation—a way to honor the beauty and interconnectedness of nature, especially where mycology and entomology meet.*

## HOMOLA SCHOLARSHIP

Since 2001, NEMF has awarded the Homola Scholarship—established in 2000 in honor of Dr. Richard Homola—to support applicants wishing to further their study of fungi through foray attendance. To date, 42 individuals have received this scholarship, not including this year's recipients. "Whether you were an expert mycologist or a beginner, Dick was always ready to answer questions or help with an identification. His patience seemed endless, and he always wore a smile. He was a true and fond friend to all amateurs and is sorely missed by all."

--> You can learn more about Dick and the scholarship here: <https://www.nemf.org/homola-scholarships>

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## THURSDAY, September 18

12:00-5:30PM	Registration
1:00-4:00PM	<b>Early Bird Workshop:</b> Toothpick Process for DNA Sampling   Harte Singer   Main Lodge
1:30-4:00PM	<b>Early Bird Walk #1:</b> Cayuga Nature Center
5:30-7:00PM	<b>Dinner:</b> White Tent
6:30-8:15PM	<b>Evening Presentation:</b> White Tent Oh the Places You'll Go: Local Mycological History, Geology, Ecology and Walk Sites   David McCheyne How to Collect for Science   Nathan Wilson <b>Keynote:</b> Importance of Fungi Collections (CUP as an Example)   Teresa Iturriaga
8:30-10:00PM	<b>Social Time:</b> Cash Bar Open 8:30-9:30PM

## FRIDAY, September 19

6:00-7:00AM	<b>Workshop:</b> Sunrise Outdoor Yoga   Pauline Johnson   Lakeside
7:00-8:30AM	<b>Breakfast:</b> White Tent
8:30-11:30AM	<b>Workshop:</b> Shiitake Farm Tour   Hawk Meadow Farm
8:30-11:30AM	<b>Walk #2:</b> Connecticut Hill
8:30-11:30AM	<b>Walk #3:</b> Sims-Jennings Preserve
9:00-10:00AM	<b>Lecture:</b> Urban Fungiculture/Community Mycology   Amanda Dye   CNC Great Room
9:30-11:30AM	<b>Workshop:</b> Medicinal Mushroom Preparations   Olga Tzogas   North Pavilion
10:30-11:30AM	<b>Lecture:</b> Mushrooms & the Legacies of Land Use in the Little Lakes   Shannon Nix   CNC Great Room
10:30-12:00PM	<b>Workshop:</b> Beyond Identification: Close Observational Drawing   Doga Tekin   South Pavilion
12:00-1:00PM	<b>Lunch:</b> White Tent
1:00-4:00PM	<b>Walk #4:</b> Taughannock Falls
1:00-4:00PM	<b>Walk #5:</b> Cayuga Shores WMA / Bell Station Preserve
1:30-3:30PM	<b>Workshop:</b> CUP Herbarium Tour   Cornell Campus
1:30-2:30PM	<b>Lecture:</b> Bugs, Slugs, and other Mushroom Thugs   Bill Yule   CNC Great Room
2:30-4:30PM	<b>Workshop:</b> CUP Herbarium Tour   Cornell Campus
3:00-4:00PM	<b>Lecture:</b> Mechanisms of Spore Release & Dispersal   Arleen Besette   CNC Great Room
3:00-4:00PM	<b>Lecture:</b> Mycelium-Based Biomaterials   Christian Kustra   CNC Climate Room
3:00-4:30PM	<b>Workshop:</b> Fungi Watercoloring   Farah Marie Velten   South Pavilion
5:30-7:00PM	<b>Dinner:</b> White Tent
6:30-8:15PM	<b>Evening Presentation:</b> White Tent Collection Update & Mushroom of the Day(s)   David McCheyne How the ID Room Works   Nathan Wilson <b>Keynote:</b> Seeing Fungi   Kathie Hodge
8:30-10:00PM	<b>Social Time:</b> Cash Bar open 8:30-9:30PM

## SATURDAY, September 20

6:00-7:00AM	<b>Workshop:</b> Sunrise Outdoor Yoga   Pauline Johnson   Lakeside
7:00-8:30AM	<b>Breakfast:</b> White Tent
8:30-11:30AM	<b>Workshop:</b> Shiitake Farm Tour   Hawk Meadow Farm
8:30-11:30AM	<b>Walk #6:</b> Roy H Park Preserve
8:30-4:00PM	<b>All-Day Walk #8:</b> Finger Lakes National Forest
9:00-10:00AM	<b>Lecture:</b> Cordyceps of North America   Richard Tehan   CNC Great Room
9:00-10:30AM	<b>Workshop:</b> Science Communication   Maria Pinto   North Pavilion
10:30-11:30AM	<b>Lecture:</b> Rust Fungi and the Value of Herbarium Specimens   Sam Bucciarelli   CNC Great Room
10:30-11:30AM	<b>Lecture:</b> Fungi of the Deep Earth   Quinn Moon   CNC Climate Room
10:30-12:00PM	<b>Workshop:</b> Making Mushroom Mobiles   Farah Marie Velten   South Pavilion
12:00-1:00PM	<b>Lunch:</b> White Tent
1:00-4:00PM	<b>Walk #7:</b> Texas Hollow
1:30-2:30PM	<b>Lecture:</b> Foray into Fungal Pigments   Sneha Ganguly   CNC Great Room
3:00-4:00PM	<b>Lecture:</b> Gasteroid & Similar Fungi of Eastern North America   Alan Bessette   CNC Great Room
3:00-4:00PM	<b>Lecture:</b> Neurodivergence in Mycology   Spencer Lowery   CNC Climate Room
3:00-5:00PM	<b>Workshop:</b> Introduction to Fungus/Invertebrate Relationships   Bill Yule   Upstairs Main Lodge
4:00-5:00PM	<b>NEMF Trustees Meeting:</b> CNC Great Room
5:30-7:00PM	<b>Dinner:</b> White Tent
6:30-8:15PM	<b>Evening Presentation:</b> White Tent Collection Update & Mushroom of the Day   David McCheyne What Happens with Mushrooms After the Event   Nathan Wilson <b>Keynote:</b> The Life and Work of Mary E. Banning   Patricia Kaishian
8:30-10:00PM	<b>Social Time:</b> Cash Bar Open 8:30-9:30PM

## SUNDAY, September 21

6:00-7:00AM	<b>Workshop:</b> Sunrise Outdoor Yoga   Pauline Johnson   Lakeside
7:00-8:30AM	<b>Breakfast:</b> White Tent
9:00-10:30AM	<b>Table Talk:</b> Main Lodge
10:30-11:30AM	<b>Clean Up:</b> Everyone Invited to Help

## EXTRA SCHEDULE NOTES

Registration is also open FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: 8:00-9:00AM

DIY Arts & Crafts available all weekend.

The Cayuga Nature Center building is closed to the public.  
They're generously allowing us to use two of their rooms and restrooms during our programming.

## FACULTY PRESENTERS & WORKSHOP LEADERS



### Dr Kathie Hodge

*Kathie is an Associate Professor of Mycology at Cornell University, and she loves fungi. Her research focuses on fungal biodiversity, mainly of insect pathogens and molds that spoil foods. She directs the Cornell Plant Pathology Herbarium (CUP), a world-class collection documenting biodiversity of fungi and plant disease organisms. She adores teaching, and is Associate Director of Teaching for Cornell's School of Integrative Plant Science. She gets to teach a Fall field class on mushrooms, and also a famous class called "Magical Mushrooms, Mischievous Molds," which attracts 300+ students each Spring – what fun!*

**Keynote: Seeing Fungi | 9/19 | Evening | Big White Tent**

Join Kathie for a journey into the hidden world of fungi. She'll share how to spot the often-overlooked characteristics that reveal fungi all around us—once you start noticing them, you won't be able to stop. Along the way, Kathie will tell stories of unusual fungi, from the everyday mushroom to the wonderfully strange.



### Dr Teresa Iturriaga

*Curator at the Cornell University Plant Pathology Herbarium -CUP-School of Integrative Plant Science Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Section Teresa's research focuses on the study of fungi, with an emphasis in the biodiversity, systematics, and evolution of the Pezizomycotina. She gathers morphological, molecular, and ecological data to understand the placement and role of fungi in their environment. Another of her interests is in the naming and classification of fungi, and as such, is a member of the Nomenclature Committee for Fungi. Teresa is currently working on the systematics and ecology of post-fire dweller discomycetes and fungi from around the world.*

**Keynote: Importance of Fungi Collections (CUP as an Example) | 9/18 | Evening | Big White Tent**

**Workshop: Tours of the Cornell University Plant Pathology Herbarium | 9/19 | 1:30-3:30PM & 2:30-4:30PM**

Step behind the scenes of one of the world's largest fungus collections at the Cornell University Plant Pathology Herbarium (CUP). This guided tour offers a rare glimpse into a museum of fungi, home to over 400,000 preserved specimens of fungi, lichens, and plant diseases, along with historical photographs and scientific records. Learn about the role of herbaria in mycology, plant pathology, and conservation -- and explore the fascinating history preserved in this extraordinary collection.



### Dr Patricia Ononiwu Kaishian @queendom\_fungi

*Patricia is the Curator of Mycology at the New York State Museum, as well as faculty with the Bard Prison Initiative. Her research focuses on fungal taxonomy, diversity, evolution, symbiosis, and ecology, particularly of the less studied fungal groups, such as the insect-associated Laboulbeniales. She is the author of Forest Euphoria: The Abounding Queerness of Nature, is a collection of essays challenging our expectations of what is normal, beautiful, and possible.*

**Keynote: The Life and Work of Mary E. Banning | 9/20 | Evening | Big White Tent**

Mary Elizabeth Banning (1822-1903) was one of the first American mycologists. She was a talented, self-taught scientist who studied mushrooms in Maryland in the mid-1800s. Banning was one of the first women to describe new species of fungi to science. Throughout her life, she produced scientific descriptions, beautiful illustrations, and rich narratives about her fungal encounters. On account of her gender, however, Banning's work and talent went under appreciated in her lifetime, and her name was lost to obscurity for almost a century. This talk will celebrate her contribution to science and mycology through an exploration of her illustrations, taxonomic work, and story-telling, drawing from the collections at the New York State Museum.



## Alan Bessette

*Alan is a professional mycologist and emeritus professor of biology at Utica College of Syracuse University. He has published numerous papers in the field of mycology and has authored or coauthored more than thirty books, including: Mushrooms of Northeastern North America, Boletes of Eastern North America, and Mushrooms of the Gulf Coast States. His latest book is A Field Guide to the Mushrooms of the Carolinas 2nd Edition. Alan has been the principal mycologist at national and regional forays,*

*and was the recipient of the 1987 Mycological Foray Service Award and of the 1992 North American Mycological Association Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology (renamed in 2015 as the "Gary Lincoff Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology")*

**Lecture: Gasteroid & Similar Fungi of Eastern North America | 9/20 | 3:00-4:00PM | CNC Great Room**

This presentation will describe Gasteromycete fungi and will include a brief history about the mycologists who studied them.

We will explore the ecological roles of the six major groups: bird's nest fungi, puffballs, earthballs, earthstars, stinkhorns, and miscellaneous gasteroid fungi. Lastly, examples of Gasteromycete biodiversity will be illustrated.



## Arleen Bessette [www.facebook.com/arleen.bessette](https://www.facebook.com/arleen.bessette)

*Arleen Bessette is a mycologist and botanical photographer, as well as a retired psychotherapist. She has published several papers in the field of mycology and has authored or coauthored more than 25 books including: Mushrooms of Cape Cod and the National Seashore, The Rainbow Beneath My Feet: A Mushroom Dyer's Field Guide, and Mushrooms of the Southeastern United States. Her most recent book is A Field Guide to the Mushrooms of the Carolinas 2nd Edition. Arleen has won several awards in*

*the North American Mycological Association's annual photography competition, including top honors in both the documentary and the pictorial divisions. She teaches courses on both national and regional levels.*

**Lecture: Surviving Into the Future: Mechanisms of Spore Release & Dispersal | 9/19 | 3:00-4:00PM | CNC Great Room**

Often mushrooms seem to suddenly appear overnight without logical explanation, and then disappear just as quickly and mysteriously. Where did they come from? Where do they go? Why do mushrooms sometimes grow in circles, or Fairie Rings? Are these circles portals to the fairy realm, or places where fairies dance and celebrate? Come explore the curious, and to some, wondrous mechanisms of how fungi ensure their survival into the future. Arleen will explain the active mechanisms of spore release, as well as both the active and passive agents of spore dispersal in this visually entertaining presentation. From creating their own weather, to utilizing the unwitting assistance of other creatures, the ingenuity of the often overlooked and underestimated mushroom just might surprise you!



## Sam Bucciarelli [@phillymycoclub](#) [@sam.buca.0914](#) [@rust\\_bucket](#)

*Sam is the president of the Philadelphia Mycology Club, a tour guide, an educator, and a student with a passion for ecology, especially as it pertains to fungi and the role they play in helping our ecosystems thrive. She grew up in the NJ Pinelands, but brought her passion for all things wild to Philadelphia in 2017 and has been sharing that passion with others ever since. Her love of fungi specifically began through the encouragement to participate in community science, which has been her focus.*

**Lecture: Rusts and the Value of Herbarium Specimens | 9/20 | 10:30-11:30AM | CNC Great Room**

Sam Bucciarelli will speak on the topic of Rust Fungi, their complex life cycles, and their ecological importance. This presentation will cover some of the terminology used when identifying rust fungi throughout different life stages as well as how to recognize specific rusts that are common in the Northeast. She will also touch on some of the volunteer work she has been doing in the herbarium collections at the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, databasing and imaging 200 year old rust specimens, and highlighting the importance of herbarium specimens for fungal conservation.



## Amanda Dye @mandysmushrooms @seacmaworcester

*Amanda Dye is an applied mycologist and urban farmer at The Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA Fungi Farm in Worcester, MA. She holds a B.A in Global Environmental Studies and a Master's in Public Administration from Clark University. Dye's work spans the fields of mycology, public policy, and sustainable development by working in collaboration with nonprofits and institutions to create a more just and equitable food system through fungiculture. She is passionate about making mycology more*

*accessible, creating economic opportunities, and solving real world problems, such as food insecurity, with the help of fungi. She is the founder of Mandy's Mushrooms and The Fungi for Everyone Project, and helped establish the Clark University Mycology Club in 2022.*

### **Lecture: Urban Fungiculture/Community Mycology: How Fungi Can Create Healthier Urban Communities, Tackle Food Insecurity, and Provide Practical Agricultural Education | 9/19 | 9:00-10:00AM | CNC Great Room**

In Worcester County, 1 in 12 people and 1 in 9 children experience food insecurity; across the United States, it's 1 in 7. To address this issue, the Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA created an urban fungi farm in a formerly vacant downtown storage space. This farm produces affordable fresh produce for local residents and donates over 10 different species of mushrooms to food pantries, places of worship, shelters, and community centers. To improve the quality of life for Worcester residents, the farm also teaches workshops to the general public and volunteers about basic techniques in mycology, mushroom cultivation, and the intricacies of controlled environment agriculture. These skills provide new employment opportunities, useful skills to build upon in higher educational institutions, and the ability to pursue a new direction in one's career. This urban farm also promotes intergenerational connectivity and community-building for residents of all ages. Mushrooms also help establish food sovereignty for residents, by providing culturally-relevant foods that can be used in familiar recipes, while still being affordable and accessible. The SEACMA Fungi Farm initiative serves as an example of how nonprofits, local governments, and communities can improve social determinants of health, and benefit from mycology and fungiculture in urban centers.



## Sneha Ganguly [www.kalimushrooms.com](http://www.kalimushrooms.com)

*Sneha Ganguly (born 1989, Jamshedpur, India), also known as Kali Mushrooms, is an interdisciplinary artist identifying and studying wild fungi with a special interest in biological materials and pigments, to create handmade papers, inks, dyes, and extracts. Her work explores the potential of novel mushroom- and mycelium-based materials as a creative medium. Currently, she instructs courses on applied mycology and mushroom cultivation for Cornell Small Farms, as well as for parks, community and*

*cultural organizations in the NYC metro area. You can read about her work in the New York Times, Yes! Magazine, and Time Out NYC. .*

### **Lecture: Foray into Fungal Pigments | 9/20 | 1:30-2:30PM | CNC Great Room**

This presentation explores the science and art of novel fungal pigments, including melanin, UV-fluorescence, bioluminescence, xylindrin and other spaltin varieties, as well as lichen-derived pigments. The lecture will introduce wild species with pigment potential, explore extraction methods, highlight recent scientific research, and examine applications across culture, science, and industry. This program is ideal for those interested in materials science, natural dyeing, and ethnomycology.







## Pauline Johnson @mushyoga

*Pauline guides students to connect with themselves through breath, mindful movement, and meditation. She believes in listening to the body and honoring each person's unique needs, offering variations so every practice feels accessible and supportive. Her teaching spans studio and Hikyoga sessions, classes at the NYS Yoga Festival, private events, and community programs through local libraries. Whether on a studio floor or a forest trail she creates welcoming spaces that encourage*

*presence, curiosity, and connection --weaving together the unifying philosophy of yoga and the interconnectedness of nature. Pauline is the Rochester Area Mycological Association Secretary and NEMF 2025 Event Chair.*

**Workshop: Sunrise Outdoor Yoga | 9/19, 9/20, 9/21 | 6:00-7:00AM | Lakeside**

Start your day with a 1-hour outdoor yoga class that invites connection to nature and self. This all-levels practice blends breath, movement, and stillness while exploring the shared meaning of yoga to yoke or unite) and the interconnected world of fungi. No experience needed -- just bring a mat or towel and an open mind.



## Christian Kustra [www.linkedin.com/in/christiankustra/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/christiankustra/)

*Christian is a Mechanical Engineer with a love for fungi. Much of his free time is spent foraging around Philadelphia, posting to iNaturalist, and participating in Philadelphia Mycology Club events as a speaker and foray leader.*

**Lecture: Mycelium-Based Biomaterials | 9/19 | 3:00-4:00PM | CNC Climate Room**

This presentation will discuss how global industry can adopt mycelium as a biodegradable material.

We will discuss mycelium biomaterials, what they are, how they are made, their material properties, the current state of use in various industry applications, and what challenges will need to be faced in the future.



## Spencer Lowery @foragenorthamerica

*Spencer is a forager, educator, and advocate who has spent over 12 years exploring the intersection of mycology, conservation, and community science. He serves as Vice President and Treasurer of the Alabama Mushroom Society and is the founder of Forage North America, a platform dedicated to reconnecting people with nature through fungi-focused education and storytelling. Spencer's work emphasizes accessible, inclusive approaches to mushroom identification, citizen science, and ecological stewardship. A neurodivergent naturalist himself, Spencer is passionate about highlighting the unique perspectives neurodivergent individuals bring to the field of mycology and creating space for diverse minds in the fungal community.*

**Lecture: Neurodivergence in Mycology | 9/20 | 3:00-4:00PM | CNC Climate Room**

Neurodiversity in Mycology explores how neurodivergent perspectives such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and queer identities bring valuable insights to the study of fungi. The talk highlights how neurodivergent traits align with the weird world of Mycology, while also emphasizing the importance of inclusive communities and accessible learning spaces. It calls for celebrating both human and fungal diversity as a way to strengthen science and connection to the natural world.





## Quinn Moon

*Quinn grew up foraging mushrooms in his hometown of Taos, New Mexico. During his undergraduate studies at the University of Hawaii, he completed a series of research topics focused on genomics and fungi. Quinn is now a PhD candidate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan and works to apply various 'omics techniques to understand the diversity and function of fungi in the Deep Subsurface Biosphere. Additionally, Quinn has taught several mycology courses and workshops*

*as well as presenting mycological research at conferences around the country. Quinn remains deeply curious about the entire fungal tree of life and its continued exploration and conservation.*

**Lecture: Fungi in the Deep Earth | 9/20 | 10:30-11:30AM | CNC Climate Room**

Most of Earth's microbial life is hidden in the deep subsurface, and evidence now suggests it may also be the planet's largest fungal habitat. This talk will explore what makes the deep biosphere such a fascinating environment for fungi, highlight the surprising roles they play there, and share new discoveries about their diversity and function.



## Dr Shannon Nix

*Shannon is a fungal ecologist who received her B.S. from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and Ph.D. from Rutgers University. Prior to becoming a tenured professor at Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Shannon studied the impacts of anthropogenic disturbance on fungal communities as a Fulbright Fellow at the Agricultural University of Norway and as a Post Doctoral Research Associate at the University of Georgia Experiment Station. During her career as a professor at Clarion and George*

*Mason universities, she taught undergraduate and graduate-level courses in mycology, botany, microbiology and environmental science. Shannon left academia in 2020 but continues to investigate the impacts that management and land-use practices have on the composition and diversity of ectomycorrhizal fungi in post-agricultural and transitional forests in the western Finger Lakes region of New York State. In addition to her work as an independent scholar, Shannon is a Science Associate for S.P.U.N (Society for the Protection of Underground Networks) and recently became a sequence validator for DNAMA Volunteer Sequence Validation Corps.*

**Lecture: Fruiting Bodies as Living Histories: Mushrooms & the Legacies of Land Use in the Little Lakes**

**9/19 | 10:30-11:30AM | CNC Great Room**

Shannon will reflect on the history, ecology and fungi that she's encountered in the western Finger Lakes.



## Maria Pinto @aravensgrace

*Maria Pinto is a writer, writing consultant, and educator living in the Boston area. Her nonfiction has appeared in Orion Magazine, Mushroom People, and Arnoldia, among other publications. She has led workshops and given lectures for the New York Mycological Society, Central Texas Mycological Society, Wisconsin Mycological Society, and Sonoma County Mycological Association. She gives regular mycological forays at The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Her book of essays inspired*

*by mushrooms, Fearless, Sleepless, Deathless: What Fungi Taught Me about Nourishment, Poison, Ecology, Hidden Histories, Zombies, and Black Survival is forthcoming from The University of North Carolina Press in October.*

**Workshop: Science Communication | 9/20 | 9:00-10:30AM | North Pavilion**

Learn to tell stories that are both compelling AND true about your respective area of study. These days, the loudest voices often come from those with the most to sell, while those with the know-how and passion to counter the prevailing narrative are silenced in their labs or in the field. During this inflection point in human history, science is too important for scientists to keep it to themselves.

Together, we will discuss and apply methods for breaking down old divisions between the obscure and the popular, so that mycologists, citizen scientists, and naturalists can effectively tell the stories of their subjects to broader audiences. Participants can expect to leave with the beginnings of a story they'd like to tell and resources for pitching outlets.



## Dr Richard Tehan

[the-tehan-lab.square.site](http://the-tehan-lab.square.site)

[@fishroom\\_man](mailto:@fishroom_man), [@richtehan](mailto:@richtehan),

*Richard grew up in upstate NY and attended Utica University, receiving a B.S. in Chemistry. He obtained a Ph.D. in a Medicinal Chemistry program at Oregon State University College of Pharmacy, where he studied drug discovery and chemical ecology in insect-pathogenic fungi in the lab of Dr. Kerry McPhail. Richard is currently Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Utica University where he teaches chemistry and biochemistry and conducts research focused on drug discovery, chemical ecology,*

*evolution, and taxonomy of fungi with particular interest in Hypocrealean entomopathogens and allies broadly known as "Cordyceps". Research efforts are aimed at the discovery of new fungal species and new antibiotics and anticancer agents produced by fungi as well as the elucidation of the ecological roles of these metabolites. Richard has been a passionate mushroom hunter and photographer for fifteen years. He serves as scientific advisor to the Greater Utica Mycological Society, a mycology club based in Utica, NY.*

### **Lecture: Cordyceps of North America | 9/20 | 9:00-10:00AM | CNC Great Room**

This presentation will discuss the insect-pathogenic fungi and related taxa broadly known as Cordyceps. This includes the formal genus Cordyceps as well as many other genera occurring in four families in the order Hypocreales. Emphasis will be on taxa occurring in North America and will focus on classification, identification, biology, chemistry, taxonomic history, and ongoing Cordyceps research.



## Doga Tekin

[www.woodear-mycena.com](http://www.woodear-mycena.com)

*Doga is a linguistic anthropology PhD candidate at UCLA, as well as a multimedia artist and educator. Her primary research follows huitlacoche (Ustilago maydis) as a material and sign across sites in the U.S. and Mexico to examine how its meanings and value are transformed within political-economic systems. She graduated from Cornell with a minor in Fungal Biology and has helped organize mycology gatherings, such as the New Moon Mycology Summit, for over a decade. Across her work,*

*Doga is dedicated to supporting people in cultivating fungal points of view and making mycology more accessible for everyone.*

### **Workshop: Beyond Identification: Deepening our Relationships with Mushrooms through Close Observational Drawing 9/19 | 10:30AM-12:00PM | South Pavilion**

While standardized naming practices are productive in some contexts, taxonomic mushroom identification has long been taken for granted as a dominant epistemological framework in the field of mycology. But what does it look like to get to know mushrooms beyond naming them? How can we develop more intimate relationships with them? This workshop will help us engage deeply with mushrooms through close observational drawing. By turning to our sense of sight, we will practice a special technique of seeing that allows us to move past our assumptions about what a mushroom looks like, and instead sense the mushroom's body in relation to us and our shared environment. The drawing practice I will share in this workshop will not only offer an alternative way of knowing fungi, but it will also help us appreciate all our interspecies relations by slowing down and attuning to how we share space with one another.



## Olga Tzogas

[www.smugtownmushrooms.com](http://www.smugtownmushrooms.com)

*Olga was born + raised into a Greek diner family, surrounded by multi-generational chefs, homemade food + incredible flavors. She started her love affair with Fungi and plants over 20 years ago, with the help & guidance of family, teachers and community. In 2011, Smugtown Mushrooms began, which provides cultivation supplies to grow mushrooms, indoors or outdoors, for food or for medicine. Olga has taught hundreds of folks how to grow mushrooms, make medicine and learn about the glory*

*of Fungi and the natural world. Annually, Olga returns to her ancestral homeland of Greece to guide small groups to immerse in land based + traditional knowledge sharing, highlighting the fungi and plants there.*

### **Workshop: Medicinal Mushroom Preparations | 9/19 | 9:30-11:30AM | North Pavilion**

Together we go through various ways we can access the profound ways mushrooms can help us build immunity and strengthen ourselves and our communities. We go over several varieties of mushrooms that are known for their beneficial properties. Learn techniques and recipes to take home with you. Getting creative with recipes and treating mushrooms like Turkey Tail, Lions Mane + Reishi as the ingredient to inspire a DIY, intuitive approach to making extracts, like vinegars, tinctures + oxymels. Together we explore and open your palate by mixing the gastronomic + functionality of fungi and their allies.

Everyone makes and takes home a 8oz medicinal mushroom extract that is alcohol free.



## Farah Marie Velten [farahmarievelten.com](http://farahmarievelten.com)

*Farah Marie Velten is a CA born, NY based, interdisciplinary teaching artist who is passionate about all things fungi, flora, and fauna. She primarily works with analogue photographic printing processes, often collaborating with nature in an interspecies dialogue. She also leads experimental immersive experiences guiding participants on sensorial walks in the woods, collectively remapping our environment with each engaged encounter. She is an actively proud member of NYMS and NAMA.*

**Workshop: Fungi Watercoloring | 9/19 | 3:00-4:30PM | South Pavilion**

In this fungi watercoloring workshop, participants will get to spend time close studying our collected found fungi while getting to work with watercolors and pencil drawing in a hands-on all levels welcome relaxing activity with all materials provided and multiple techniques and interpretations encouraged, led by Farah.

**Workshop: Making Mushroom Mobiles | 9/20 | 10:30AM-12:00PM | South Pavilion**

In this making mushroom mobiles workshop, Farah will lead participants in creating one-of-a-kind hanging mobiles using our collected found fungi throughout the foray to take home for keepsakes. Using pasta shells, string, and other provided materials, participants will get to see their treasures in new forms in a hands-on fun activity welcoming all interested.



## Bill Yule @boletebill

*Bill Yule is a retired High School Biology teacher and Environmental Educator, Naturalist and amateur Mycologist. In addition he taught Ecology and Environmental Education at The Connecticut River Museum for 20 years. He has been active in mycological education for 30 plus years and has given more than 100 education programs throughout the country. He is a member and educator for four local "Mushroom clubs": Connecticut Valley Mycological Society, CT/Westchester Mycological Association,*

*Rhode Island Mycological Society and Pioneer Valley Mycological Association, as well as a past Board member of the North American Mycological Association. Current interests are fungal ecology, forest and watershed ecology, fungal-insect relationships and all things fungal. "I'm focused on the evolution of co-adapted species in forest ecosystems through the lens of fungi and their associations. I currently work for the State of Connecticut Agricultural Research Station Mycology Lab doing macrofungi biodiversity surveys of Connecticut's major watershed*

**Lecture: Bugs, Slugs, and other Mushroom Thugs: An Introduction to the Complex Interactions Among Fungi and Animals | 9/19 | 1:30-2:30PM | CNC Great Room**

This updated program is an homage to Sam Ristich who helped spark my interest in the interconnections among fungi and invertebrates some 25 years ago. Fungi play a critical role as food, breeding sites, and habitat for invertebrates, vertebrates and all kinds of other organisms. We will explore the common beetles and insects found in fungi and explore the ecology of how these organisms interact. Beetles, flies, slugs and snails, wasps, squirrels, voles, humans, everyone gets into the act. This program is aimed at fungi lovers with an interest in natural history and ecology.

**Workshop: Introduction to Fungus/Invertebrate Relationships | 9/20 | 3:00-5:00PM | Upstairs Main Lodge**

20 minute introduction to common invertebrates in fungi. One hour collection in the field. 40 minute ID & discussion back at classroom.

## Hawk Meadow Farm <https://www.hawkmeadowfarm.com/>

*Hawk Meadow Farm is rooted in a deep commitment to land stewardship, fostering conditions where plants, animals, and people can flourish. Through thoughtful soil building, forest care, and coexistence with wildlife, the farm celebrates the abundance of a thriving ecosystem. Today, Steve & Anne Sierigk focus on cultivating high-quality mushrooms and creating products that support health and well-being, while sharing their expertise through workshops, forest walks, and other educational programs. Guided by the belief that meaningful work should benefit people, the planet, and the spirit, they approach each endeavor with curiosity, joy, and reverence for the interconnected world around them.*

**Workshop: Shiitake Farm Tours | 9/19 & 9/20 | 8:30-11:30AM | Hawk Meadow Farm**

See mushrooms growing outdoors on hardwood logs in a beautiful woodland setting.

Learn about inoculation, harvesting, processing, and more!

# SILENT AUCTION

A tradition full of treasures, surprises, and fungi-inspired finds. **Get ready to make your bids!**

**Location:** Malala Yousafasai Lodge at north end of camp, next to the big white tent.

**Got items to donate?** Mushroom ephemera, books, crafts, or art you don't use anymore and someone else would love? Drop off items on Thursday to the Malala lodge.

**Bidding will conclude 6:00PM, Saturday 9/20.**

## DID YOU FORGET TO ORDER YOUR NEMF 2025 MERCH?

There will be **limited quantities** available for sale at the foray, yay!

You can also **order online** and have it shipped to you, yay!

<https://www.storessimple.com/cayugaxpress/37003>

The store close 10/5/25



## SAFETY & EMERGENCY

Swimming/Boating is prohibited unless a lifeguard is on duty.

Only service animals are allowed, no pets.

**Nearby Hospital:** Cayuga Medical Center

101 Dates Dr, Ithaca, NY 14850

General Info: (607) 274-4011

Emergency Services: (607) 274-4411

**Police, Fire, Ambulance: Call 911**

Event Chair: Pauline Johnson (585) 943-7155

Registration: Paul Sadowski (212) 675-1630

Camp Comstock Address: 1419 Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca, NY 14850

Limited transportation is available for those needing assistance navigating the hill between parking and camp.

## WALKS

### **Walk #1: Cayuga Nature Center** 9/18 | 1:30-4:00PM (Early Bird)

The Cayuga Nature Center, directly across the street from the camp where some activities are taking place, also hosts several miles of trails through about 100 acres of open forest and old field. We won't get on a bus for this one, but we will meet briefly at the bus pickup location and then start off into the CNC trail system. A northern temperate broadleaf forest region, the trails transition through several habitats in quick succession giving many options to the savvy mycologist!

### **Walk #2: Connecticut Hill** 9/19 | 8:30-11:30AM

This is a great walk to drive yourself if you miss the bus space, and with that option you could choose to spend the whole day at this very large and diverse site without exploring all of it. The bus will drop us off where a few trails come together for us to disperse along. The trails range from mild open tractor paths to moderate single file woodland trails, and there are many more within ~2 miles inside the park if you'd prefer to avoid the crowd. Trails are pretty well documented on most major hiking apps. Many Beech Hemlock stands are peppered with some occasional mixed deciduous blocks and some older forestry conifers in one section. And yes, this is the location of many pre-industrial bigfoot sightings and more!

### **Walk #3: Sims-Jennings Preserve** 9/19 | 8:30-11:30AM

At the bottom of the hike is a cliffside view of the lake. Be careful, and do not approach the edge of the cliffs. Cross a small Meadow under restoration to follow a creek down to a mature Oak Hickory forest. A moderate hike, expect around 2 miles to complete the lollipop through the most mature woodland section. This preserve only opened a couple years ago, and is the least well known site. We expect plenty of park finds especially if the weather is dry and we have to look at small things.

### **Walk #4: Taughannock Falls** 9/19 | 1:00-4:00PM

One of the easiest and most accessible walks with some great views, the northward option being especially flat and open leading to perhaps the photo-op of the weekend. The southern branch does have a few stone stairs and some short inclines, the northern route crosses on a bridge but is mostly flat to very mild. Most hikers will take a 1-1.5m option, a 3 mile loop from the parking lot is a lovely hike but would be pretty tough to complete at a mushroom hunters pace in the time we have on site. The two trail options offer strikingly different habitats to choose from, a classic mesic beech hemlock fragment, and a more Xeric oak rich mixed successional forest. The park sees a fair amount of other people, primarily on the lower trail we'll be looking down on for water recreation.

### **Walk #5: Cayuga Shores WMA / Bell Station Preserve** 9/19 | 1:00-4:00PM

Directly across the lake from camp, with binoculars, you might actually see camp's lakeside face. From where the bus parks, head uphill into a conifer section where some mature planted red and white pine intersperse Hemlock and some Beech remnants or head downhill towards the lakeside in search of Chalkland Webcaps. ~1.5 miles round trip to the lakefront.

### **Walk #6: Roy H Park Preserve** 9/20 | 8:30-11:30AM

You can't step in the same river twice the song tells us, and despite the water always changing, always flowing you can step in the same creek many of Cornell's mycologists once did. This preserve offers a trail that cuts up into an Oak Hickory hillside or out through a spruce pine plantation to mature forest and on to Six Mile creek. Dip your toes in carefully, the slate can be slippery; and then return the way you came for a 1-1.5 mile round trip depending on how you wound your way to the lean to at the trail end.

### **Walk #7: Texas Hollow** 9/20 | 1:00-4:00PM

A 1.7 mile loop out and around a bog. Possibly the most rigorous hike of the weekend, bugs can still be pretty active this time of year near the bog but the glacially carved hollow protects a robust baygall community. The persistent moisture makes this a solid backup in case of a dry event, and the unusual habitat offers opportunities to help bolster the weekend species count.

### **Walk #8: Finger Lakes National Forest** 9/20 | 8:30AM-4:00PM (All Day)

We will have a landing area setup at a primitive group camping site in this park, with a local expert hanging generally around the parking area/pavilion pathway to help advise you. The park roads follow many of the original allotment lines, and are arranged into ~1m sections. Many trails converge at or within a few hundred yards along the road from the parking area. Even more are within another 5 minute drive, and you're welcome to drive your group rather than take the bus if you'd like a little more control of your schedule or to try a trail a little further from the bus drop. Halfway between the site and Camp is the town of Trumansburg should you need any supplies or want to explore some local atmosphere.

## ADDITIONAL WALK INFORMATION

### Bonus Walks

- Our land management partners have been very generous with their time and space. You are free to revisit any of these sites on your own after the bus group has gone.
- Self-lead walk at Cayuga Nature Center trails available all weekend. They close at dusk.
- If you go into the nearest town Trumansburg for any supplies, you'll find yourself next to Smith Woods, a small park we can access. This old growth remnant is currently managed by the Paleontological Research Institution, and has a very diverse understory worth walking through.
- Should you find that you still want to get out on your own, or have trouble making the timings of a foray work when you want to get out in the woods; come see one of Walk Leaders especially David McChayne and we can recommend an alternative trail in one of the parks a group is visiting or even a different hike visiting one of the properties being conserved by our partners that we would love your help surveying for fungal biodiversity but parking or property size made a lesser choice for the bus groups.

### Walk Notes

- Buses will depart from the Main Parking lot. Catch your bus back to camp at the same spot you're dropped off.
- Be outside your bus at least 10-15 minutes before departure time as **buses will leave on time.**
- Highly suggested: Download the region in google maps, or similar software, so you have a map without internet access. Drop a pin for your bus location.
- Take a photo of the map from the walk leader's clip board.
- Walk with a buddy. Be mindful of your surroundings.
- Your walk leader will share important information with you on the bus ride to/from your location. Introduce yourself, get to know them, they're a wealth of knowledge.

## COLLECTING FUNGI FOR STUDY AND VOUCHERING & WHERE TO DROP OFF SPECIMENS

- Collect the entire specimen, taking care to keep base intact.
- Pick fresh specimens; please do not collect rotting mushrooms.
- Bring mushroom specimens to the Main Lodge at camp.
- Complete a field identification slip. Writing must be legible.
- Specimen and field slip go in a paper boat on the table as directed by your Walk Leader. DO NOT put in the display area.
- The Mushroom Shepherds will take it from there and get them identified/verified, vouchered, DNA sampled, etc.
- Suggested: Upload your images into Mushroom Observer and/or iNaturalist apps.  
(<https://mushroomobserver.org> & <https://www.inaturalist.org>)

not to scale



Ithaca

1419 Taughannock Blvd  
Ithaca, NY 14850



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OP

## Cayuga Nature Center & Trails

Taughannock Blvd / Route 89

## Camp Comstock

Cayuga Lake

- 1 Registration
- 2 Main Lodge: Mushrooms
- 3 Big Tent: Meals & Evening Presentations
- 4 Pavilion & Bathhouse
- 5 Pit Toilet/Porta Potty
- 6 Vendors
- 7 Malala Yousafzai Cabin: Silent Auction
- 8 Cabin Village: Harriet Tubman
- 9 Cabin Village: Susan B. Anthony
- 10 Cabin Village: Christa McAuliffe
- 11 Cabin Village: Laura Ingalls Wilder
- 12 Communal Firepits
- 13 Arts & Crafts Pavilion
- 14 Cayuga Nature Center: Lectures
- 15 Restrooms
- P Main Parking
- OP Overflow Parking
- ... Access to Cabins
- ▲ Tenting Camping Area