



# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

James Moore Theatre, Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>



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**12:00 am -1:30 pm: Dennis Desjardin**

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**Title: Mushrooms of Hawaii**

**Description:**

MUSHROOMS OF HAWAII is a beautifully presentation filled with scenic photographs of Hawaii and detailed accounts of mushrooms species that occur there. Data on the ecology, distribution, edibility, and taxonomy of Hawaiian mushrooms will be provided

**Speaker info:**

Dr. Dennis Desjardin, Professor in the Dept. of Biology at San Francisco State University, is the scientific advisor of the San Francisco Mycological Society and Director of the H. D. Thiers Herbarium. He was awarded the Alexopoulos Prize from the Mycological Society of America for outstanding research and the W.H. Weston Award for excellence in teaching. Dr. Desjardin is the Principal Investigator on the National Science Foundation funded projects to document the Agaricales (gilled mushrooms) of the Hawaiian Islands, Indonesia and Southeast Asia.

Dr. Desjardin has been interested in agarics and boletes for nearly 50 years, ever since he was at 3 years old and his Swiss grandparents took him in the field to collect porcini (*Boletus edulis*), chanterelles (*Cantharellus formosus*) and champignons (*Agaricus campestris*). The grand parents told him that all other mushrooms were poisonous and should not be touched, which only piqued his curiosity. Dr. Desjardin main research interests are in the systematics of fleshy Basidiomycetes, especially those of the Hawaiian Islands, Pacific Northwest and Indonesia, and in the phylogeny of marasmioid and mycenoid fungi.

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**1:30-2:30 pm: Taylor Lockwood**

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**Title: Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi**

**Description:**

Follow the camera's eye away from the familiar natural world of plants and animals into the strange and cryptic world of mushrooms. Taylor Lockwood's exquisite photography, choreographed to a background of classical music, explores the colors, textures, and sometimes bizarre beauty of fungi from around the world. This year's presentation features the release of Taylor's new DVD of his classic slide show "Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi". The show will include recent live footage and still photos from Australia and New Zealand.

**Speaker info:**

Taylor Lockwood, one of the world's best mushroom photographers, is perhaps the only professional photographer who specializes in mushrooms and other fungi. He has traveled around the world shooting fungi in their natural habitats, and has presented his multimedia slide show to audiences abroad and here at home in the United States. His work has appeared in the New York Times, and he is the author of the photography book Treasures of the Kingdom Fungi.

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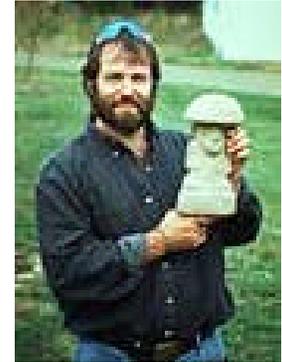
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**3:30-5:00 pm: Paul Stamets**

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**Title: Medicinal Mushrooms: Host Defenses for People and Planet.**

**Description:**

Mushrooms have figured prominently in the evolution of humans and their environment. Prehistoric peoples discovered mushrooms as a valuable resource adding survival. Modern science is now authenticating what our ancestors have long known. Recently the role of mushrooms in the environment -- especially their mycelial networks -- appear far more important than heretofore realized. A visually spectacular presentation.

**Speaker info:**

Paul Stamets is the author of several definitive books about mushroom cultivation and about mushrooms of the genus *Psilocybe* and their allies. As founder and owner of the mushroom business Fungi Perfecti, Mr. Stamets has pioneered innovative cultivation methods for gourmet and medicinal mushrooms. He has also invented unique mycological solutions to environmental problems, a discipline he refers to as mycotechnology.

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# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**11:30-12:30 pm: Michael Boom**

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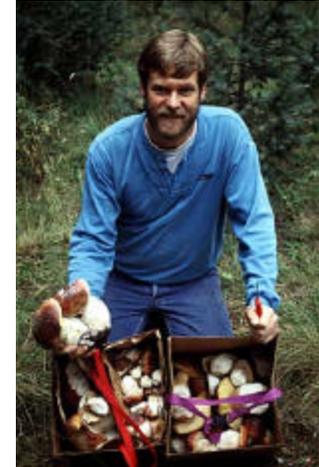
**Title: Secrets of the Mushroom World**

**Description:**

Invisible superorganisms? Mushrooms having sex? Strange inter-kingdom alliances? There's much more to mushrooms than meets the eye. Join Michael Boom for a revealing peek at the world behind the familiar mushrooms you see on display, and an introduction to the denizens of the mushroom world you're most likely to encounter in California.

**Speaker info:**

Michael Boom is a past president of the Mycological Society of San Francisco. He's written about mushrooms and mycology for the East Bay Express, Mushroom: The Journal, and other publications. He also leads field forays and gives introductory mycology lectures for groups such as the San Francisco Park and Rec docents and the Oakland Museum docents.



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# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**2:00-3:00 pm: Bob Mackler**

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**Title: Mushrooms 101: The First Course**

**Description:**

If you're new to mushrooms, this presentation's for you. Speaker Bob Mackler starts with a slide show and lecture that teaches the life cycle of mushrooms and their common and uncommon features. He follows it with a question and answer session, then takes those interested for a guided tour of the displays in the Fungus Fair. Those interested can follow up with an outdoor mushroom foray that Bob will lead in Pt. Reyes in January.

**Speaker info:**

Bob Mackler is a past president of the Mycological Society of San Francisco, serves on the specimen identification panel for the Fungus Fair, is co-chair of the MSSF's scholarship program, and a docent in the Natural Science gallery of the Oakland Museum. He's also on the poison-control center list for mushroom poisoning advice in Contra Costa County. A retired high-school teacher, Bob's 30+ years of teaching experience make him an ideal guide for beginners in mycology.

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# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**2:30-3:30 pm: Debbie Viess**

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**Title: Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of the Bay Area**

**Description:**

Join amateur mycologist Debbie Viess for a fun and fungus-filled talk about Bay Area mushrooms. She'll provide a cook's tour of some of her favorite edible mushrooms, a rogue's gallery of their poisonous look-alikes, and a few just because! Local psychoactive mushrooms and their deadly mimics will also be covered.

**Speaker info:**

Debbie Viess is a biologist, writer and artist with a consuming interest in mushrooms. She is currently the Chair of the Education Committee for the MSSF, and is particularly passionate about amanitas.

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# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**4:00-5:00 pm: Mo-Mei Chen**

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**Title: Forest Fungi Phytogeography**

**Description:**

This presentation brings together a number of papers on plant pathogens of China, Eastern Russia and North America. The papers were based on extensive collecting and research done over a period of forty years in a variety of remote areas and thus offer an overview of the geographical and natural distribution of plant pathogens. Knowledge of phytogeography is becoming increasingly important in international agricultural business. This presentation deals not only with identification of plant pathogens, of which the fungi genus is the most important, but emphasize the importance of understanding the source, evolution and geographical history of pathogens such as tree rust.

**Speaker info:**

Dr. Chen graduated from the Plant Protection Department of Beijing Agricultural University in the early 1950s. Between 1953 and 1982, in addition to filling various teaching positions, Dr. Chen spent many summers as a member of large scale scientific expeditions in virgin forests of Northeastern China and on the Qingzhang Plateau in the Himalayas. Her work focused mainly on plant pathogens with a special interest in fungi, particularly rusts

Since 1982 Dr. Chen has been living in the United States and has been involved with numerous research and teaching projects. Dr. Chen works at the Jepson Herbaria of the University of California at Berkeley and has taught U.C. Extension classes on the cultivation of mushrooms for both food and medicinal purposes and has been instrumental in introducing valuable new mushroom species into the United States.

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# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**1:00-2:00 pm: Clark Heinrich**

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**Title: Mushroom Gods of Religion and Alchemy**

**Description:**

Rejecting arguments that the elusive philosophers' stone of alchemy and the Hindu elixir of life were mere legend, Clark Heinrich provides a strong case that *Amanita muscaria*, the fly agaric mushroom, played this role in world religious history. Working under the assumption that this "magic mushroom" was the mysterious food and drink of the gods, Heinrich traces its use in early Hinduism, Judeo-Christianity, the Grail myths and Alchemy, illustrating how ancient cultures used the powerful psychedelic in esoteric rituals meant to bring them into direct contact with the divine. While acknowledging the speculative nature of his work, Heinrich concludes that in many religious cultures and traditions the fly agaric mushroom--and in some cases ergot or psilocybin mushrooms--had a fundamental influence in teaching humans about the nature of God.

**Speaker info:**

Clark Heinrich has been a mycotheologist since 1974 and has completed years of study with masters of yoga philosophy and Western mysticism. He is the author of *Magic Mushrooms in Religion and Alchemy*; coauthor of *The Apples of Apollo*; and has published several journal articles.

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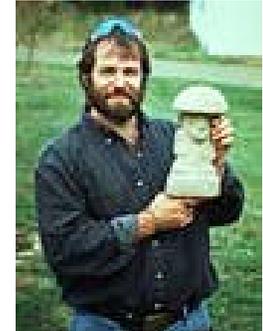
# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**2:30-4:00 pm: Paul Stamets**

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**Title: New Waves of 'Magic' Mushrooms:**

**Description:**

Reflections on the identification and their use: a thirty year odyssey of discovery New Waves of 'Magic' Mushrooms

**Speaker info:**

Paul Stamets is the author of several definitive books about mushroom cultivation and about mushrooms of the genus *Psilocybe* and their allies. As founder and owner of the mushroom business Fungi Perfecti, Mr. Stamets has pioneered innovative cultivation methods for gourmet and medicinal mushrooms. He has also invented unique mycological solutions to environmental problems, a discipline he refers to as mycotechnology.

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# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**12:30- 1:30 pm: Ken Litchfield**

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**Title: Creating Your Own Mushroom Garden**

**Description:**

Want to be able to foray for mushrooms in your own backyard or local community garden? Ken will discuss how to incorporate mushrooms into your garden location by examples from the MSSF's Cultivation programs at the Randall Museum, the Presidio National Park, organic farms, and backyards

**Speaker info:**

Ken Litchfield is the head of the Cultivation Committee of the Mycological Society of San Francisco. He is an illustrator and instructor in natural history subjects. He is currently installing the educational gardens at the newly remodeled Randall Museum where the MSSF has its general meetings.

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**2:00-3:00 pm: Dorothy Beebee and Miriam Rice**

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**Title: Mushrooms for Color - Full Circle**

**Description:**

Dorothy Beebee will open the presentation with a brief slide show on the history of mushroom dyeing, and polypore paper making, and then introduce Miriam C. Rice to talk about her latest work with pigments for watercolors, and her new drawing medium which she calls "Myco-Stix". Miriam will then show the equipment and materials used for making Myco-Stix, present some finished samples, and after her presentation, will invite attendees to use these media on different types of paper.

**Speaker Info:**

Miriam C. Rice, a creative Mendocino artist, was nationally known as a sculptor, batik artist and woodblock printer before discovering in the early 1970s the fungi pigments that can be used in natural dyes. Miriam wrote the first books on the subject: "Let's Try Mushrooms for Color" and "Mushrooms for Color". She used the leftover detritus from mushroom pigment manufacturing to make paper. Further experiments brought about the development of watercolors and drawing materials using fungal pigment, plus invitations to present her work to international Symposia. She is the founder and director of the non-profit organization, "The International Mushroom Dye Institute" and continues her artistic work in her Mendocino studio.

Dorothy Beebee is a scientific illustrator and dyer who drew mushroom illustrations for two of Miriam's dyeing books. Dorothy has continued to work with Miriam for over 30 years now, documenting and illustrating the fungi used in mushroom dyes, polypore paper, and mushroom watercolor pigment. She has presented dye workshops for the Mycological Society of San Francisco, the Sonoma County Mycological Association, and the North American Mycological Association. She also writes a monthly dyeing column for the SOMA News.

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# Fungus Fair 2002 Speakers

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**3:30-4:30 pm: Scott Hajicek-Dobberstein**

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**Title: Mushrooms in the History of Religion**

**Description:**

In the biographies of some Buddhist adepts from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries there are clues which can be interpreted to reveal that the adepts were consuming psychedelic *Amanita muscaria* mushrooms to achieve enlightenment. In keeping with their vows to maintain the secrecy of their practices, this secret ingredient in the elixer used to attain 'realization' was unnamed. Its identity was concealed behind a set of symbols, some of which appear in earlier shamanic traditions that used the mushrooms in the forest of Northern Eurasia.

**Speaker Info:**

For over thirty years, Scott Hajicek-Debberrstain has been a student of ethno psycho-pharmacology, the religious or shamanic use of plants. For the last fourteen years, he has sought evidence for the possible use of psychedelic materials in Buddhist rites by reading ancient and modern Tibetan texts in several genres. His teacher told him he would never find such evidence because Buddhism has a taboo on "intoxicants". Scott proved wrong.

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