

If you are a student interested in ecology, consider applying to work on a research project supervised by Bitty Roy (UO) in conjunction with the local mushroom group, the Cascade Mycological Society (CMS).

The project involves learning about the fungi that breakdown wood chips as part of our work on the Fungi of Lane County. Wood chips are essentially “fast food” for fungi and they are a readily available substrate in towns, which also means that this is a good place to look for species that are new to our area.

What you will do:

1. Fungi from wood chips around Eugene and Springfield will be collected and photographed, the images and information will be posted to iNaturalist, then the specimens will be dried and prepared for an herbarium using the North American Mycoflora Protocols (NAMP)
2. Do microscopy on the specimens as part of the identification process.
3. Prepare and ship material for DNA sequencing and curate the sequences when they come back.
4. Prepare an illustrated key for use in our area.
5. Meet with Else Vellinga who has published on the wood chip fungi in the Bay area of California. She will be here at the end of October for the mushroom show.
6. Help set up the mushroom show at Mt. Pisgah
7. Give a talk to CMS about the wood chip flora
8. You can put your own spin on the project too.

What you will gain:

1. Research experience on a fun project through with you will interact with a lot of people who are also interested in mushrooms. Research is increasingly required if you wish to go to graduate school.
2. Likelihood of a being on publication (if you write it, you will be first author)
3. If you have work-study money, you can be paid for some of your time.

Application process:

Write to Bitty at bit@uoregon.edu with the following information:

1. Tell us a little about why you find mushrooms, or fungi in general, interesting.
2. What’s your background in mycology? Are you currently taking, or have you taken, mycology at the UO or the mushroom class at LCC?