

FUNGI FEST 2026

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21	
2:45 PM & 4:30 PM	Fungi Tasting & Cooking Tips, Kymi Draeger Registration is required with Karla: 715-358-5667 or kortman@wisc.edu.
6:30 PM	What are Fungi and Why Study Them? - Megan Dudenhoeffer <i>Join us for an introduction to fungal forms and the common fungi found at Kemp Station. Then learn about the fungal research done at the Center for Forest Mycology Research, including current research on the invasive golden oyster mushroom.</i>
Friday evening & Saturday	Fungi Under the Microscope, Marie Trest <i>Take an opportunity throughout the event to explore the microscopic world of fungi!</i>
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22	
8:30 AM	Foray Registration <i>All foray participants will sign in before starting collections.</i>
8:45 AM	Important Announcements **Please do not bring fungi samples collected from other sites. **
9:00 AM	Fungi Foray <i>Bring a basket or other container to carry the fungi you collect on the property at Kemp Station. Opportunities available to tag along with experienced foray participants. Return your collected samples to the collection table no later than 11:00 am.</i>
11:00 AM	Lunch <i>Bring your own food and beverage to enjoy near the forest or along the lake shore.</i>
12:15 PM	Foray Collection Table Talk <i>Learn more from our speakers about the fungi collected at Kemp.</i>
2:00 PM	Rotten, hollow, but growing and standing: How trees fight decay fungi, Glen Stanosz
2:45 PM	Fungi: Climate Warriors of the Forest & the Forest Fungi Project, Cassandra Allsup <i>How mycorrhizae can help forest trees withstand climate change and a citizen science project where the community collects tree roots to send to the UW- Madison lab. We study where and why mycorrhizae live where they do.</i>

Speaker Bios:

Cassandra Allsup is a forest mycorrhizal ecologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who specializes in integrating microbial ecology (with an emphasis on mycorrhizal relationships), forest resilience and reforestation efforts. Her core contributions investigate how shifting or migrating soil microbes could optimize tree tolerance to climate changes. In addition to research, she contributes to outreach through a community science project called Forest Fungi Project. The public has contributed thousands of root samples across the US, investigating climate impacts on soil fungal species associated with forest trees.

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Amy Bishell is microbiologist at the USFS Forest Products Laboratory with over 20 years of laboratory experience. She holds a master's degree in plant pathology and has worked with a diverse range of microorganisms, including bacteria, bacteriophages, yeast, and fungi, as well as human and animal cell cultures. Currently, Amy's work focuses on decay fungi, mold, and termites responsible for wood degradation. She collaborates with several PhD scientists on projects such as natural durability and modifications of various wood species, copper tolerance of decay fungi, mold growth on stored wood and termite cold tolerance. Previously, Amy studied fungal plant pathogens affecting potatoes, cranberries, and apples with the UW Madison, Ocean Spray Cranberries and USDA ARS.

Kymi Draeger is a world adventurer and foodie. She holds a BS and MS (Biology/Environmental Science) from UW - Green Bay, and a PhD (Forestry/Plant Pathology) from UW-Madison. She loves all things Fungi.

Megan Dudenhoeffer is a research mycologist at the Center for Forest Mycology Research. She began her career as a wildlife researcher but discovered the fascinating world of fungi when she moved to the Midwest. Megan's favorite part of Fungi Fest is seeing the tables filled with everyone's mushroom collections.

Grant Kirker is a Forest Products Technologist who studies fungal decomposition and how fungi interact with wood in the built environment, from construction materials to engineered composites, pinpointing what makes wood last and what makes it fail. His work includes extensive testing of wood preservatives and protection systems, evaluating how treatments perform against decay fungi and how they can extend the service life of wood products. Blending ecological insight with practical innovation, Kirker's research advances both our understanding of fungal-driven decomposition and the durability of modern wood materials.

Daniel Lindner is a research mycologist at the US Forest Service's Center for Forest Mycology Research, based in the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. Daniel has been fascinated by fungi since his teenage years, and his research areas cover fungi that are important to forest health and forest management. Daniel received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Plant Pathology in 2001. His Ph.D. research examined the effects of forest management on fungal communities in the upper Midwest.

Glen Stanosz is a Wisconsin native and the emeritus Professor of Tree and Forest Health at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research group studied the biology and management of tree diseases caused by fungi. Professor Stanosz is an award-winning teacher whose students include future foresters, horticulturists, and arborists, and professionals in the green industry.

Marie Trest is Teaching Faculty at the UW-Madison Department of Botany and teaches the laboratory section of Fungi. She has been involved with this course in various ways for about 15 years. She is particularly interested in lichens and enjoys introducing others to this fascinating life form.