

SVIMS

South Vancouver Island Mycological Society

Meeting and Presentation

When: Thursday, May 3, 7:00 pm

Where: Pacific Forestry Centre
506 West Burnside Road
Saanich, BC

What: Talk on



From Mycoheterotrophy to Medical Myco-prospecting: Exploring Mycelial Threads in North-central BC

BC, especially north-central BC, has a vast wealth of fungal riches, many still of uncertain taxonomic affinity and properties. In this presentation, Hugues Massicotte will explore several venues of enquiry that he has pursued over the years. The talk will include some of the fundamental features of fungal-root interfaces as well as more recent pragmatic studies on medicinal properties of fungi. Hughes will focus on the delicate microscopic structure of several mycorrhizal systems, the ecological aspects of mixotrophy and mycoheterotrophy for plants and fungi, and how teaching these concepts can be a challenge. He will also present reflections on a collaborative health-related project: immuno-modulating properties of mushrooms and conks in north-central BC.

Who: Hugues Massicotte

Hugues Massicotte has been a professor at UNBC since 1994. As a forest biologist, he teaches a variety of forest-related courses in the Ecosystem Science and Management Program. He obtained his forestry degree at Laval University, and his MSc and PhD (in Botany and Mycology) at the University of Guelph. Hugues's research focus is on the intricate morphological and structural intricacies that exist between fungi and plant roots in mycorrhizal associations. His focus also includes microbial processes, the ecology in forest soils, and how disturbances (for example, fire or clearcut logging) and soil amendment practices (for example, the addition of bioenergy wood ash or biochar) can impact tree root microbial associations, soil nutrients, and/or tree growth.