

# Class in search of fungus among us



All photos by Katie Wilson Clackamas Print



LEFT: Bob Misley inspects a Chanterelle collected by student Colin Park. FAR LEFT: Misley instructs the students on their collected finds. BELOW: Park shows off a *Ramaria* specimen he collected.



## Mushroom Identity class goes a-hunting, learns more than just which ones to eat

Ask any world-class chef why mushrooms are so great because, according to Science Instructor Bob Misley, any world-class chef will know exactly why mushrooms are so great.

Misley has taught Mushroom Identification and Taxonomy at the college for over 10 years.

"An interesting mix of students tend to be drawn to this class," he said. "It's not only an identification class; it also introduces students to the complex ecology of the Pacific Northwest forests."

Misley took a group of this term's Mushroom Identification students up to a trail that runs between Rainbow Campground and the Riverside Campground, along the Clackamas River, last Sun., Oct. 22.

It was a beautiful day, cold, but with clear skies.

Students paired up with a "buddy" and took to the trail, wandering off of it here and there to search for mushrooms.

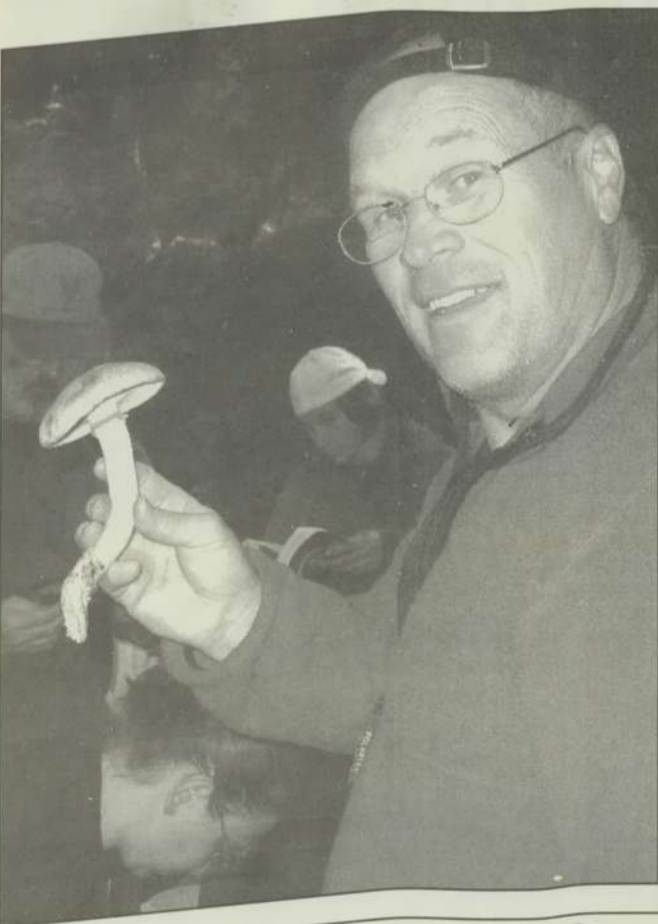
Within the first 15 minutes, students stumbled on a whole patch of Chanterelles.

After nearly four hours of 'shroom hunting, the group met back together at the end of the trail.

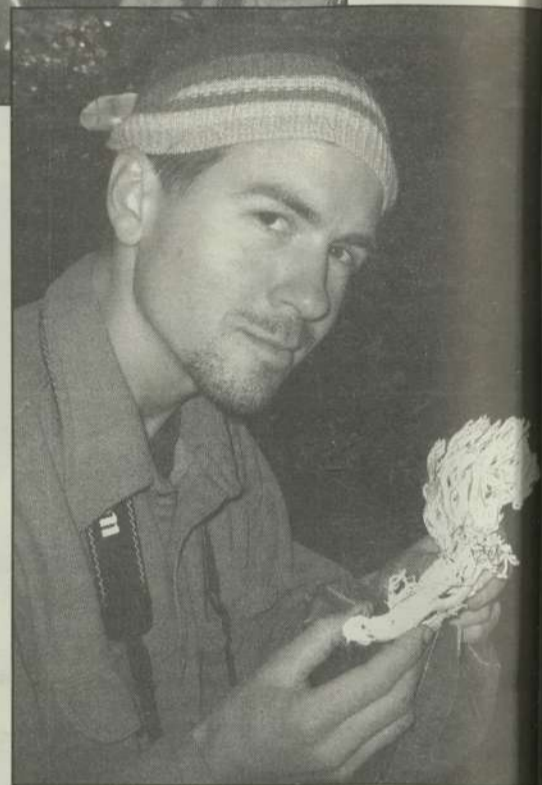
"Have I seen more variety in years past? Yes," said Misley to the students, but he added that this year had still brought some fine specimens. A picnic table became a display table for the students' finds.

"I'm trying to introduce students to the field component, get them out in the environment and let them know there's a rich abundance of mushrooms available that are good to eat," said Misley.

Compiled by Katie Wilson



LEFT: Misley displays an unidentified species of *Cortinarius*. ABOVE: Student Jaime Putzier hunting mushrooms along the Clackamas River.



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