

Idaho Truffle Farmers Weekend, February 22-24, 2019

As proud members of the Western Truffle Growers Association, we cordially invite you, our fellow farmers, to join us for a fun and informative weekend of speakers, activities and food. The foothills above the City of Eagle is the heart of the Idaho truffle country which presently produces two varieties (*T. melanosporum* and *T. Borchii*) and boasts three truffle farms with over 10,000 truffle trees planted. The goal of this event is to continue in the WTGA tradition of transparency of information with truffle growers in the west. Attendees need not be from the western states but should have an orchard planted, or one in the planning stages. Eagle, Idaho is 15 miles from Boise Airport (BOI).



Participating Truffle Farms



Aquila Truffles, Périgord (Brad Sprenger, Proprietor)



Eagle Groves, Bianchetto side (Ken Fry, Proprietor)



Bella Vista Farms (Paul Beckman, Proprietor)

Preliminary Schedule of Events

Feb 22 Friday

5:00pm – 6:00pm

Arrival/Welcome Reception, Dinner to follow

8:30pm – ?

Lighting of the Biochar Welcome Ceremony and Bonfire

Feb 23 Saturday

8:30am – 12:00pm

Field Activities*

12:00pm – 1:30am

Barn Lunch

2:00pm – 5:30pm

Guest Speakers at Hilton or Camille Beckman Facility

7:30pm- 10:00pm

3rd Annual Idaho Truffle Festival Dinner**

Feb 24 Sunday

8:30am – 12:00pm

Field Activities*

12:00pm – 1:30pm

Barn Lunch, Farewell

*Field Activities to take place at all 3 adjacent truffle farms at the Eagle foothills and will include truffle hunts, grove tours, equipment, pruning, irrigation and Idaho Truffle Viagra (version of Spanish wells).

** The Annual Idaho Truffle Festival dinner (included) takes place at the Eagle's elegant Chateau des Fleurs Event Center. It is a celebration of the locally grown truffles, *Idaho's Other Tuber!*[™], in this case the Bianchetto truffle (*Tuber borchii*) will be served. This six-course gourmet dinner is open to the general public, epicureans and growers alike. It carries a \$100 price tag but is included in the price of this event.

Featured Keynote Speaker



Dr. Tom Michaels has been involved with the science and art of growing mushrooms and truffles literally his entire life. He grew up on the family mushroom farm in Naperville, Illinois, and later completed his Ph.D. in plant pathology with research in truffle fungi at Oregon State University. His dissertation on the cultivation of Périgord truffles was the groundbreaking foundation of his role as a pioneer in tree inoculation and truffle farming. Dr. Michaels started his truffle farm in 1997 which to date has produced more truffles than any farm in in North America. The blight has since devastated most of his 2,500 trees, but Dr. Michaels continues to engage in and promote trufficulture research.

Included in Event

Included in price of the event are: the speakers, transportation within Eagle, Saturday and Sunday lunches (catering trays at the truffle groves), Friday dinner and the Saturday Idaho Truffle Festival Dinner. We've taken cost out wherever possible, while maintaining quality of the things that matter to us as farmers. Alcohol at dinners is not included but will be readily available. This is a not-for-profit event, so any extra funds will be spent on communal items such as more truffles and swag.

Price and Registration

\$235/person. Make check payable to "Idaho Truffle Growers Association", mail to Ken Fry at 5161 Keane Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608. Please include names of attendees, contact information and if dogs are attending w/their names. Questions call or text 858.354.4087 (Ken's Mobile) or email: kfry@geneseesci.com. PayPal, Venmo and Bitcoin can also be used upon request.

Suggested Lodging

Hilton Garden Inn, Boise/Eagle - **208-938-9600**
145 E. Riverside Drive, Eagle, Idaho, 83616

We have a block of rooms under “Idaho Truffle Growers Association”. The discounted rates for 2 queens or 1 King are \$139 (standard) or \$149 (river view w/balcony). Hot breakfast at hotel is \$10.95.

Truffle dogs are encouraged to attend and hunt but the Hilton has a no-pet policy. If you plan on bringing your dog please contact us if you need a place to stay. We will do our best to connect you with others with dogs.



Eagle, Idaho’s Truffle Triangle

Foreground – truffle trees of **Bella Vista Farms**; Middleground – **Aquila Truffles** grove; Background – **Eagle Groves**, Périgord side (planted 2017)