

MUSHROOM ART UNIVERSE OF TAYLOR LOCKWOOD

Stephen C. Brandt, Oregon Stamp Society

[Ed. note: My friend, Steve Brandt, from Portland, Oregon, is involved with both stamp collecting and photography, so when I learned that Taylor Lockwood was going to be making a presentation in nearby Salem, Oregon, I asked Steve to send me a report.]

On 25 October 2018, the Willamette Valley Mushroom Society held a special meeting at the Loucks Auditorium of the main Library in Salem, Oregon, to have a program on bioluminescent mushrooms by multitalented mushroom expert and photographer, Taylor Lockwood.

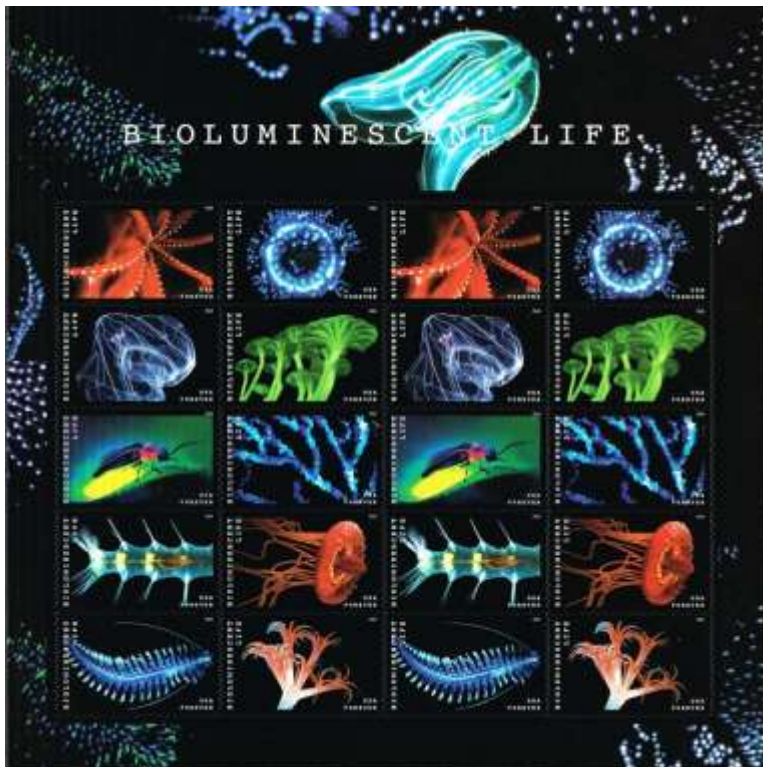
A native of Seattle, now living in Florida, he attended Washington College of Agriculture before becoming interested in music. The music business took him to San Francisco and then Los Angeles where he was a member of several rock and roll bands.

In 1984, he got tired of Los Angeles and the music business and moved to Mendocino County in California. There, he soon became fascinated with frogs and fungi. He related that he wanted to “see mushrooms as a frog does.” He has traveled all over the world to view mushrooms from the ground up.

He presented us with an audio visual program that was both informative and entertaining, and included pictures and video from the former Soviet Union, Indonesia, and mushrooms on anthills in Australia.



Taylor Lockwood



The concept of the Bioluminescent Life stamps originated in 2013. Lockwood had previously submitted designs for mushroom stamps, which he showed us in his presentation. All were rejected.

He then submitted a photograph of a *Mycena lucentipes*, a bioluminescent mushroom native to Brazil. This submission eventually became one of ten stamps featured in the issue. This stamp is the second stamp on the second row of the sheet.

The first stamp on the third row is a firefly, Lampyridae, submitted by Gail Shumway. The first stamp on the fifth row is a marine worm, *Tomoparis*, submitted by Steve Haddock. The other seven stamps came from photographs of sea creatures submitted by well-known marine biologist, Edith Widder, who is CEO and Senior Scientist at the Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA).

Both Taylor and Widder were special guests at the 22 February 2018, First Day of Issue ceremony held in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Due to time limitations, we adjourned to a local restaurant where we socialized, and Lockwood answered questions. He also had samples of fungi related items for sale on his website: taylorlockwood.com.