

Fat Man



Last week, the Bung Hole Mycology Club awarded the title of “World’s Biggest Mushroom” to Jerome Dinklaker’s “Fat Man,” a *boletus fibrillosus* that measured a whopping 5 feet 2 inches from volva to cap. The fellow obviously had a knack for growing huge fungi because this was his fourth win in as many attempts. Jerome shyly shrugged off the judges’ accolades and attributed his mushroom’s size to the soil he grew it in, which he’d harvested from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. One of the arbiters familiar with events there 65 years ago asked for a sample, which Jerome cheerfully provided. “Hmm,” she remarked as she chewed on the sliver of stalk. “Tastes a little like plutonium.”