

L.I. SPOREPRINT

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 3, AUTUMN, 2008

MUSHROOM DAY 2008 PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM

OCT. 19, 1-4 P.M.



All LIMC members are invited to join us at our annual public mushroom exhibit at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay. The public display will run from 1 to 4 PM, but if you wish to assist, arrive around 12 noon to help in setting up the exhibit. Remember that the entrance fee now applies to LIMC members also. Please search actively and bring any interesting specimens that you find for exhibition and identification. (You do not need to identify it yourself.) Spread the word, and let everyone you know who has even a passing interest in mushrooms or natural history of this event.

Our annual meeting will again be held at our end-of-the-season luncheon, in order to assure a voting quorum.

NEMF 2008 NEW LONDON, CT

This, the 32nd Sam Ristich Foray was the first in the past 14 years where the eponymous Sam Ristich was absent, having passed away in the Spring, and his absence was palpable. His life and accomplishments were celebrated throughout the four days of the gathering, with remembrances and tributes by those he had touched and influenced. Ed Bosman and Ray Fatto, both of whom passed on recently, were also honored.



LIMC attendees: Sitting, l. to r: Jacques Brochard, Joel & Peggy, Bruce Eberle. Standing: Gloria & Dom Laudato, Claudine Michaud, & Roger Eklund

The foray was held at Connecticut College, two miles north of New London, Connecticut, an attractive setting with its own natural areas, including an arboretum. It is unfortunate that it could not have been greeted by better (by which mushroomers mean worse) weather, although there was some rainfall one evening. In addition to the now established faculty which included Tom Volk, Gary Lincoff, Roz Lowen, Walt Sturgeon, Bill Roddy and Rod Tulloss, we were privileged to welcome Roger Phillips, famed British author of guides for both North America and Europe. He proved to be an amiable and captivating personality, who graciously signed copies of his books.

There was a plethora of choices throughout the foray, with lectures and workshops competing with scheduled forays. I was disappointed that last year's practice of repeating presentations so that

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Its fall again and the trees will soon put on their autumnal show. Now is the time for *Leccinum* and *Tricholomas* to show their presence and perhaps fill our baskets to the brim. Wouldn't that be wonderful for a change? (We certainly are due a nice quantity of mushrooms after a somewhat disappointing season.) As a matter of fact, *Leccinum* have already been popping up in nice numbers in the pine barrens. If you have the time, get out there and look for them. We have found enough to fill several jars and that has been in the last three weeks. Happy hunting!

To keep everyone up to date, our club will be joining three other clubs, Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association, New York Mycological Society and Mid-Hudson Mycological Association, to host the 2010 NEMF foray. Locations mentioned so far are the Catskills, Albany area, Deposit, New

York and New London, CT. If anyone has another location that is large enough for 300 plus people and has near-by accommodations, please let me know.

Mushroom day will be on October 19th this year. I encourage everyone to come with specimens and to stay awhile. We have a few people who help out every year and it would be great to see some new faces, too.

As a reminder, our annual luncheon is scheduled for November 29th. If anyone has a small item to donate for a prize, please get it to me before that date. Also, should you find items under three dollars, I will reimburse you for the purchase. Of course items should all be mushroom related.

That's all for now. I hope to see many of you on the next foray and, if not, sometime soon. Stay well.

EDITOR'S NOTE

A new feature, "Member Milestones" is inaugurated in this issue (see page 7) with a birth announcement. Active members who wish to share significant life events with other members should send an email with details (weddings, engagements, graduations, etc) to the editor. Photos welcome.

On another note, our long awaited permit to collect specimens for scientific research, particularly *Hebeloma* for Prof. Henry Beker, has finally been approved for DEC property in Edgewood & Rocky Pt. We will be expected to provide specimens for the

NYS Museum of other species collected as well. This has been made possible through FERN, Foundation for Ecological Research in the Northeast, whose president, Timothy Green, PhD, is Natural Resources Mgr. at Brookhaven Nat'l Lab. We are also inventorying the fungi at BNL as part of this project.

Although no foray is listed for Edgewood this year, we expect to conduct one now that we have the DEC permit, and will advise members of the date as soon as it is scheduled.



MATERIAL FOR THE WINTER, 2008 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY
NOVEMBER 30TH

(Submissions should preferably be typed or submitted in
Rich Text Format on PC floppy disk or by e-mail)

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FLOWERPOT FUNGI

By Peggy Horman

In late July and early August I found mushrooms in the oddest places: my flower pots. Most of the pots had the same potting mix. However, each plant had a different species of fungus growing in it. These are their names and pictures:

Adenium obesum (Desert Rose) with *Cyathus striatus*, the same birds nest fungi we find in the woods. →



Clivia miniata with *Conocybe plicatella* (with half inch caps) growing along side it. →



Stapelia (carrion plant) with *Hohenbuehelia petalooides* in the same container. ↓



Ceropegia woodii (Rosary bead plant) with a beautiful light yellow *Lepiota lutea* aka *Leucocoprinus birnbaumii* growing with it. →



Pothos with an unidentified small white spored mushroom. →



Snapdragons with *Conocybe subovalis*. →



Bolete Flavoring Recipe (submitted by Ken Gobrigh, based on Lidia's cooking show)

Pulverize dried boletes in a food processor until they become small particles (not dust). Dust steak, chops or fillets with the dried mushrooms, add salt and pepper and cook in a pan or grill until done to your liking.

Note: This is such a great idea! The pulverized boletes can be stored in an airtight jar for future use. They can then be used for flavoring soups, sauces, hamburgers, meatloaf or veggie dishes. I'm sure there are many more ways that you can think of.

Peggy



Glossary of Color Terms used in Mycology

For those of us who delve into descriptions from older publications (such as McIlvaine, Kaufman, Hesler, etc.) and bump up against obscure and archaic color terms, the following will be of some help. The definitions are taken from "Matchmaker: Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest". The full color list may be accessed on the web at http://www.pfc.forestry.ca/biodiversity/matchmaker/coloursummary_e.html where one may also find a glossary of almost all the terms one is likely to encounter in mushroom descriptions.

aeruginose verdigris-green, (malachite-green), the color of oxidized copper
 alutaceous light leather colored, usually interpreted as light tan or medium yellow brown
 argillaceous clay color, resembling ochraceous-cinnamon-brown
 avellaneous dull grayish brown, hazel-brown or light gray yellow brown closer to drab
 badius dark red brown
 bister blackish brown, a warm dark brown color, like sepia, dark yellow-brown
 caesious pale bluish-gray
 cinereous ash-colored, dirty white
 eburneous white, like ivory

ferruginous rusty red
 fulvous fox-colored, deep orange to reddish orange, reddish cinnamon brown
 fuscous color of a very dark storm cloud: variously described as combinations of gray, brown, purple, or black
 gilvous a bright yellowish brown, yellowish leather colored
 incarnate flesh-colored
 isabelline color of unbleached linen, dingy yellowish brown, pale tan, similar to alutaceous
 livid a dark blue-gray color
 mummy brown very dark brown with no violet tinge
 ochraceous ochre-yellowish, yellow-orange with a brownish tinge
 pallid very pale in color, almost a dull whitish
 plumbeous lead-gray
 rufous brownish red
 russet reddish-brown
 snuff-brown same as tobacco-brown, a dark sepia
 tawny approximately the color of a lion, between yellow brown and rusty brown; used by some as more orange, fox-colored, equivalent to fulvous
 umber a deep dull dark brown, smoky brown; earth brown sometimes with a very slight reddish tinge
 vinaceous the color of red wine or red wine stains; a paler or grayish red; dull pinkish brown to dull grayish purple

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one had another chance to sample them was not repeated. But this is nitpicking- by judicious scheduling, one could experience both field forays and class-



Collectors sorting their finds.

room activities.

Again, as last year, the dry spell forced collectors to peer and pry, resulting in the finding of many

minute forms which are normally overlooked in favor of their fleshier brethren. This fit right in with Tom Volk's presentation regarding *Phanerochaete* chryso-sporium, a wood crust fungi which he and his researchers demonstrated can decay Bakelite- a tough plastic classified as a phenolic resin polymer, used in many everyday products. Further investigation is required to understand how this process might be utilized for large scale recycling.

An evening address by Roger Phillips compared North American and European species, emphasizing that much DNA work remains to be done before we can be certain that similarly named species are indeed identical. Gary Lincoff, with the assistance of eager volunteers- including our own Bruce Eberle, who was paired with Roger Phillips in a dialogue that was the funnier for Bruce's idiosyncratic pronunciation of Latin names-presented his skit, "The Faustian Mycologist", a comedic exploration of the perils of taxonomy & phylogeny.

A respectable, if not overwhelming, total of 330

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Cleanings

■ **DEATH BY AMANITA:** The Journal News (Westchester, NY) reported that a 61 year old White Plains resident, Zoila Tapia, died after consuming a large amount of *Amanita bisporigera* (aka *A. virosa*) which she collected at a rest stop on Route 684 in Bedford. By the time she sought medical attention her kidney and liver function were already compromised. The specimens were identified by Dr. Roy Halling of the NY Botanical Garden, who was surprised that they made an appearance so early in the season, as they usually do not show up until the fall. Indeed, they were quite plentiful early on L.I. as well.

■ **SOUTHERN TREES BESEIGED:** USDA Forest Service scientists have announced the discovery of a new fungal species, *Raffaelea lauricola*, the only known tree pathogen in its genus, which is spread by the Asian ambrosia beetle *Xyleborus glabratus*. The pathogen is deadly to members of the laurel family, including redbay, sassafras, spicebush and avocado. It has caused massive mortality among redbays in South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia which has caused concern since it is the source of food and shelter for many species of wildlife. It is feared that it will spread to other forest across the U.S. and may infect avocado crops in Florida, where it has already been found in Jacksonville. (*Mycotaxon*, Apr-Jun 2008)

■ **HORSE WHISPERER AUTHOR POISONED:** The TimesOnline reported that Nicholas Evans, author of *The Horse Whisperer*, and 3 other family members were poisoned after picking and eating the deadly poisonous *Cortinarius speciosissimus*, or **Fool's Webcap**, at his brother-in-laws estate in the Scottish Highlands. While their lives were saved by kidney dialysis, kidney function remains impaired requiring continued dialysis, and previous similar cases required kidney transplants. Apparently, there has been a rash of poisonings in Scotland, including one death, as a result of a rainy, warm summer that resulted in prolific fruiting. The economic crisis is also said to have encouraged the gathering of free, wild comestibles.



(Compiled by editor from cited sources.)

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species were collected, including 26 that were new to the cumulative NEMF list. Among the rarer was a *Glibellula sp.* found on spiders, *Cordyceps michiganensis* parasitic upon ants, and *Camerops petersii*, a *Daldinia* look-alike. Most interestingly, the *Cordyceps* was identified by a 15 year old, Todd Elliott, a special guest by virtue of an NEMF scholarship, with an amazing grasp of fungal identification. Even more amazing, he entertained the attendees one evening with his bluegrass fiddle playing and singing of his **humorous composition aboutmushrooms, what else!**

Local collectors were surprised by the appearance of what are usually considered southerly forms, such as *Amanita subsolitaria*, *Amanita canescens*, and *Strobilomyces dryophilus*, which had not previously been recorded in the state. *A. canescens* is found occasionally on L.I., while the others are common here.

In all, everything was well organized, gemütlich, and thoroughly enjoyable, with an informal inter



Gary's troupe: Gary in black T-shirt, Bruce to his right, Roger Phillips, extreme rt., and others.

change between attendees and identifiers that is unrivaled at any other organized foray. We urge more **of our members to attend future forays.** Next year's will take place on Cape Cod, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Eastham, MA, Oct. 15th – 18th.



FINDINGS AFIELD

Stinkhorns can pose their own problems of identification, with an ongoing debate as to the presence of *Mutinus caninus* in the USA, and minor differences between *M.ravenelli* & *M.elegans*. But the stinkhorn discovered by Tony Mish at the Aug 16 Planting Fields foray was distinctive enough as to be immediately recognizable.

As can be seen in the accompanying photograph, this stinkhorn resembles species of the genus *Mutinus*, but is distinctive in having a head that is separate from the stalk, a feature shared by species of *Phallus*. It is *Phallus rubicundus*, a southern species found in few of the popular guide books, including the newer publications dealing with southeastern species. Of the many that I have, it is mentioned only in Arora and in the Smith & Weber Guide to Southern Mushrooms. Arora states that it is found in southern and eastern North America (to at least New Mexico) but is “not common”. The Smith book mentions it only in passing, and lacks an illustration, as does Arora.



Phallus rubicundus

“Gasteromycetes of the Eastern United States

Morel Poisonings?

Here is an interesting case that came up last weekend at the NEMF Foray. A mushroomer whom many of us have known for 35 years, became ill last fall and lost 80 pounds! Through many tests they found that his arsenic and lead levels were very high.

The doctor questioned him about his job and his hobbies. He mentioned that, for years, he had been picking and eating morels from old apple orchards. He is being treated for arsenic and lead poisoning. many years ago, I read that apple orchards were sprayed with chemicals that contained arsenic and lead. They are still not banned from use. Most mushroomers believed that if they picked in old apple orchards that were not sprayed for twenty years, they were safe. Some people in the east picked thou-

& Canada” by W.C.Coker & J.N.Couch, 1928, has more detailed information, but reveals that such is based on an article by Long in Mycologia, 1917, they themselves having never collected it. It is classified here as *Ithyphallus* and was apparently uncommon or even rare at that time. Long’s specimens were from Texas.

From all indications, it is now more widely found and has been recently reported from Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. A good account can be found on the web at http://mushroomexpert.com/phallus_rubicundus.html which states that while originally described from South Carolina in 1811, it has since been found in west Africa as well. More recently Gary Lincoff reported finding it in Central Park for several years running since 2006, “dominant in wood mulch nearly everywhere”. Probably spread by wood mulch imported from more southerly regions, it is not impossible that whatever insects (flies and beetles) dine upon it have also moved northward with increased temperatures. It is now common in northern Illinois. A web search will also turn up photos from Spain, Australia and Hawaii. It seems to have a dozen synonyms, including *Phallus libidinosus*!

The illustration depicts its spike-like body, which can be up to 20 cm. tall and 2.5 cm thick, and vary in color from orange to pinkish. The body is roughly pitted so as to appear almost reticulate. As mentioned, the attached cap is separate from the body and covered with an olive-brown to dark brown slime. The spore is small, oblong, about 4 X 2 μ . *Phallus rubicundus* will be added to our species checklist.

sands of morels under the apple trees and ate many of them. They also dried them and stored them for future use. Gary Lincoff is now urging people who picked in apple orchards to get tested for heavy metal poisoning. He also suggested buying arsenic testing kits for stored morels. Our club, COMA, rarely picked under old apple trees but rather under tulip poplar and dying elm trees. In southern Michigan, we pick under dying elm trees. In northern Michigan, we pick under aspen and ash. Mike Beug knows about the problem because of all the apple trees in Washington State. Have you heard of this before?

(Adapted from the Fall 2008 Spores Illustrated article by Sandy Sheine. Although troubling, note that a crucial evidentiary link is missing: the presence of arsenic in the morels. A different source may be to blame. Editor.)

FORAY RESULTS SUMMARY

JUNE 28, PLANTING FIELDS: A slow day, only a dozen species, but one new polypore, I.D.'d by Aaron Norarevian, *Globiformes graveolens*.

JULY 5, MUTTONTOWN: Cancelled, due to poor conditions.

JULY 12, HECKSCHER: Details unavailable, but middling results: some Chanterelles, a few Boletes (including *B. frostii*) and many Russulas.

JULY 19, BETHPAGE: was dry with soaring temperature and low species numbers, but the picnic was a success. The following week's foray at W. HILLS was similarly disappointing.

AUGUST 9, MUTTONTOWN NORTH: An improvement, with 25 species collected. Several new species: *Scleroderma aereolatum* aka *Lycoperdoides*, and *Inocybe nodulosa*.



***Agaricus subrufescens*. Note staining reaction on cut surface.**

AUGUST 16, PLANTING FIELDS: A productive and interesting day, with a grand total of 55 species, including the newly arrived *Mutinus rubicundus* and *Agaricus subrufescens* (found by Cathy Cresko).

AUGUST 23, ROCKY PT: An even greater species count of 62, with many good edibles, including 10 species of Boletes, good numbers of *Leccinum*, some Chanterelles and Black Trumpets, and a few edible Lactarius. (The following 2 forays at Christie, Oyster Bay, Aug.30, and Cunningham Park, Queens, Sept. 6, were both cancelled due to adverse conditions.)

SEPT 13, PROSSER & CATHEDRAL PINES: Another fine day, with 53 species, including the area specialties, *Asterophora lycoperdoides* and *Baeospora myosura*. Edibles included a pristine specimen of *Hericium ramosum*, not often encountered in our area, and a large *Laetiporus sulfurous*. New for the list was *Collybia cirrhata*, parasitic upon the remains of what was probably *Russula dissimulans*.



Pseudoboletus parasiticus* on *Scleroderma citrinum



Hericium ramosum



Collybia cirrhata* on *Russula dissimulans

MEMBER MILESTONES

Mr. & Mrs. Debbie and TJ Persampire proudly announce the successful home birth of their first-born Evan Thomas, on July 19th, 2008, who, at 7 lbs, 5 ounces, already has a career as a mycologist mapped out for him. Congrats to Grandma Rena and Aunt Christine.





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Looking at natural forms close up is an exercise in awe....
Janet Malcom, NY Review of Books, Aug. 14, 2008



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