

L.I. SPOREPRINT

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FINDINGS AFIELD

With an estimated 500 species worldwide, *Inocybe* is the most commonly encountered genus for which microscopic features provide the only certain means of identification, leading to their avoidance by most amateurs. So it is refreshing to come across a species which provides macro



Inocybe pyrotricha?

characters which, although appearing unique at first blush, are not completely so, but nevertheless allow the field to be limited.

Rather colorful for this genus, our specimen (portrayed above) has a violet to lavender stipe which contrasts nicely with its tawny ochraceous cap. It was found on our Edgewood foray on Oct.15, and measures only about 1.5 inches across with a stipe only slightly longer, its width about one cm or less. It is slightly expanded at the base, the surface of which is a deep yellow-orange in color. Overall, the stipe is densely fibrillose to shaggy.. The stipe interior is pale

(Continued on page 3)

THE SEASON'S BOUNTY: 2011

And what a year it was! Rainfall was the second wettest on record, with New York City amassing an amazing 73 inches, compared to the record 80 inches in 1983 (most of which fell in winter months) while in 2011 August alone recorded almost 19 inches, only 8 of them attributable to Hurricane Irene. In Suffolk County, Brookhaven National Lab reported a total of 52 inches, only slightly above the average, but with the crucial months of August (10"), September and October being significantly above average. Nevertheless, despite local variations, collecting overall was good to very good.



Yellow Morels, a rare sight on Long Island

Morels do not favor the sandy, acid soil of Long Island, but this was one of the best seasons for us, with our early opening forays at April's end producing record amounts of *Morchella elata* (Black Morels). Moreover, Yellow Morels (*Morchella esculenta*) usually rare here, were found by several collectors in fair numbers. [Since rainfall in 2012 has been below normal (about 60%), a repeat is not to be expected, although this year's mild winter and early spring weather may cause premature fruiting of some species.] On the other hand, the anticipated fruiting of Spring Oysters (*Pleurotus populinus*) was so poor that the foray was cancelled. This was more than made up for by the prodigious fruiting of the Common Oyster (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) throughout the autumn.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It feels like spring has been around for awhile now even though the calendar says it just started. It will be interesting to see what the early warmth will bring us. So far it has been dry but some rain has fallen in the last few days. Will the morels be early and will the oysters appear with large fruitings? We have to wait and see. (John Yenick recently found quite a large batch of *Pluteus petasatus* that were absolutely beautiful. Very early indeed.)

This is a good time to remind everyone that ticks are out and we must protect against them. (I've found two already.) Spray clothes, use tick repellent, tuck pant legs into socks, and check yourselves for these creatures. They can truly be dangerous.

At this time, I want to thank all the board members for their time and input to the club to

make it more interesting and enjoyable for all members. We could not function without them.

Lastly, I want to encourage members to be on the lookout for new foray sites. Nassau has been mostly explored and probably has no more wooded areas to find, but it may be worth returning to previously productive sites, e.g., Belmont S.P. and Hempstead S.P. However, Suffolk still has places that remain unexplored. (Remember that Tony Mish found a great place in Manorville near Grumman's a few years ago.) Joel and I have hiked along the trails there recently and see some good potential. We are also looking further south of our new Rocky Point foray site to see what mushrooms will be coming up. Notice that I'm being optimistic that mushrooms will appear.

I can't wait to see you all at the upcoming forays. See you along the trails.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Our Long Island checklist contains all 910 species that we have documented and continues to grow each year. For beginners, it is difficult to use since there is no logical or taxonomic order so one cannot easily find, e.g., a coral mushroom or jelly whose name escapes us. To address this issue, we have issued a new list, which is not comprehensive, but which lists the fungi by group. Firstly, the list (Commoner LI Mushroom Species by Group) is divided into Basidiomycetes (the bulk of the list) and Ascomycetes, which in itself is not helpful to everyone. But the next division in the former is to gilled and non-gilled, which everyone can comprehend.

The non-gilled are further divided into the familiar groups of chanterelles, coral and clubs, puffballs, toothed mushrooms, etc., which makes searching for a forgotten name much easier. The ascomycetes are a relatively short list, which a beginner can easily familiarize himself with. A copy of both checklists is included in this issue and will also be available on our website for download and printing. Remember that seasonal (Spring & Summer) lists may also be found there. For field use, these pdf's can be loaded onto iPods and other portable devices.

Any suggestions for further improvement, please contact me.



**MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER, 2012 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY
MAY 31**

(Submissions may be forwarded by email in any format or typed.)

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(All unsigned articles authored by editor.)

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NEW LONG ISLAND SPECIES 2011

Amanita praecox (nom. prov.)
Amanita S-1 (Tulloss)
Boletus lignicola
Boletus ochraceoluteus
Boletus vermiculosoides
Bovistella radicata
Callistosporium luteo-olivaceum
Clitocybe americana
Collybia cookei
Coprinus insignis
Cortinarius bolaris
Cortinarius castanellus
Cortinarius malicorius
Cyptotrama asprata
Dacrymyces stillatus
Entoloma farlowii *
Gymnopilus picreus
Gyromitra korffii
Hydnellum ferrugineum/pineticola
Inocybe flocculosa *
Inocybe infida
Inocybe prominens
Laccaria bicolor
Lactarius chelidonium v. chelidonioides
Leccinum carpini
Leucopaxillus laterarius

Lycoperdon coloratum
Marasmius epiphyllus
Metatrachia vesparium *
Mycena fusco-ocula
Mycena metata
Mycena praedecurrans
Phellodon confluens
Pholiota highlandensis
Psathyrella duplicata
Psathyrella incerta *
Russula cystideosa
Russula dadmunii
Russula flaviceps
Russula parvovirescens
Russula viridella
Suillus decipiens
Thelephora anthocephala
Thelephora vialis
Tricholoma argenteum
Tricholoma luteomaculosum
Tricholoma squarrulosum
Tylopilus griseocarneus
Tylopilus rhodoconius
Xanthoconium affinis v. reticulatum

*Species found and I.D.'d by Aaron Norarevian

FINDINGS AFIELD

(Continued from page 1)

lavender. The gills are dull yellow brown, close, broad, the edges fimbriate, with several layers of lamellulae. The odor was slightly spermatic.



Spores & pleurocystidea

Microscopically, pleurocystidea were thick walled, fusoid-ventricose, about 70 X 14 µm, with crystalloid apex, while the cheilocystidea were smaller, more various, lageniform to clavate. Spores smooth, ellipsoid, about 8-10 X 5-6 µm.

Known *Inocybe* species with violet tones in the stipe are limited to a handful: *I. griseolilacina*, *I. cincinnata*, *I. pusio*, *I. geophylla* var. *lilacina*, *I. violaceoalbipes*, and *I. pyrotricha*, names which were mostly unfamiliar to me prior to this quest. Some could be rapidly eliminated because of obvious differences; e.g., *I. geophylla*'s cap is silky and lilac to near white; *I. griseolilacina* has duller colors, a thinner stem and cystidea without encrustation; *I. violaceoalbipes* a whitish stipe. *I. cincinnata* and *I. pusio* are closer in description, but the former has longer spores and cys-

tidea, and the latter has a uniformly brown cap and a stipe only lilac at the apex.

So that leaves *I. pyrotricha* by default. In fact, I was led to that species by P. Brandon Matheny, the US *Inocybe* expert, who suggested that possibility after viewing photos, despite its being thought of as a West Coast species. However, that remains only a suggestion until further testing is carried out. I believe it may be correct based on a preponderance of the data, but have some reservations; our specimen lacks rufous in the cap and a peronate stipe, but these may better be seen in young forms. The most striking defining character was the deep yellow color of the stipe base, reflecting the original description* of "ochraceous orange" in young specimens. No other in this group has such a color.



Cheilocystidea

So, an exciting possibility, but not yet verified.

* *New or Noteworthy Fungi from Mt. Rainier Nat'l Park*, A.H. Smith & D.E. Stuntz, *Mycologia*, Vol. 42, No.1 (Jan-Feb.1950)



■ **IS THERE HARM IN RAKING?** Definitely yes, according to a recent Japanese study. Some of us, particularly our president, Peggy, have made the observation that a reduced harvest of mushrooms was the result of overzealous clearing of leaf litter in some parklands; this conclusion has been verified by the researcher's comparison of the ectomy-corrhizal biomass of differentially treated plots in *Pinus densiflora* stands. Removal of litter and humus decreased pine ectomycorrhizal biomass in the surface-soil layer and altered the structure of the mycorrhiza (as indicated by ergosterol content) as compared to unmanaged secondary forest. Mere cutting of the understory without removal had less effect. (*Mycoscience, Difference of pine EM biomass in relation to forest conditions, 2011, 52: pp.59-64*)

■ **THE NEW CHAMPION POLYPORE:** Up to now, the specimen of *Rigidoporus ulmarius* found growing in Kew Gardens, UK, in 2003 was deemed to be the largest known. Britain has now been surpassed by China, where a giant polypore, *Fomitiporia ellipsoidea* was found in Hainan Island in southern China. Detailed examination revealed it to be a resupinate fungus about 5 cm. (2") thick, 88 cm. (34") wide, and 1058 cm (35 feet) long, on a fallen trunk in a virgin forest. The total estimated weight was between 400-500 kg (880-1100 lbs.), the total number of pores 452 million, capable of theoretically producing one trillion spores per day. After sampling, this phenomenon was left intact. (*Fungal Biology 115 (2011) 813-4, Fomitiporia ellipsoidea has the largest fruiting body among the fungi.*)

■ **PORTABLE DNA SEQUENCING DEVICE ARRIVES:** What was science fiction just a few short years ago is now reality. The device, named MinION, is the size of a USB memory stick, plugs into a laptop computer to generate results, and will sell for less than \$900. Using a technique known as strand sequencing, it uses pores made from bacterial proteins which differentially interrupt an electric current that flows through the DNA bases. It is said to permit small sequencing jobs to be done by researchers who cannot afford the larger \$50,000 to \$750,000 sequencing machines. The drawbacks are its 4% error rate and the limitation of only being able to be used once. So while myconerds are a step closer to a portable DNA fungal identifier, the ultimate goal is still not in sight. (*NYTimes, Feb. 17, 2012*) However, more traditional morphological field examination will soon be enhanced by the release of the Cellscope, a device that attaches to a cell phone camera that transforms it into a 5x-60x microscope.

■ **THE AUTUMN OYSTER RENAMED:** Not a new development, but a change that slipped by us. On the basis of DNA analysis, our old standby, the Autumn Oyster, also called the Green Oyster, the Late Oyster, and the Olive Oysterling and placed in the *Mycenaceae*, (as *Panellus serotinus*) has been removed to the *Hygrophoraceae*. Therefore, another genus had to be found to accommodate it, and by precedence that was accorded to the genus *Sarcomyxa*, dating to 1891 when the Finnish mycologist Karsten so christened it. Thus: *Sarcomyxa serotina*. Although accepted by Index Fungorum, the new name has not been universally adopted in any of the newer field guides or apps.

■ **DISHWASHER SAFE?** Wet areas in our homes provide niches for sometimes destructive or pathological fungi, from wet rot to black mold, but a recent study focused on the fungal flora of dishwashers, more precisely the rubber seal on their doors. Samples were obtained from six continents and their DNA analyzed. Despite high temperatures and caustic environment, a variety of what are known as red, white and black yeasts were found, as well as *Fusarium dimerum*, an opportunistic human pathogen. Two black yeasts, *Exophiala dermatitidis* and *E. phaeomuriformis*, found in 62% of households are known agents of human disease. The author concludes that these extremeophilic fungi have found a man-made habitat that could pose a significant risk to human health in the future. (*Dishwashers- A man-made ecological niche accommodating human opportunistic fungal pathogens, P. Zalar et al, Fungal Biology 115 (2011) 997-1007*)
(Compiled by editor from indicated sources.)

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Walter Burak

Patricia Durnin

Larisa Kundozyorova & V. Artyukhov

Anthony Sblendorio

Annie Heroux & Matt Cowan

John Gallieti

Joseph DeSario

Liane Gunther & Bill Davis

Sal & Maria Saffioti

Robert Wagner

TREASURER’S ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2011

<u>Balance from 2010</u>			\$2963.26
Membership Dues	1035.00		
Interest	.18		
Book Sale	<u>30.00</u>		
Sub-Total		1065.18	\$4028.44
 <u>Disbursements</u>			
NEMF Dues (2010 &2011)	30.00		
Donation to Edgewood	50.00		
Newsletter expenses (includes printing, mailing, supplies, & misc. notices)	451.04		
Treasurer’s expenses (postage, supplies, sale items, misc.)	161.15		
Luncheon ,Picnic & Mushroom Day	<u>166.66</u>		
Sub-Total		<u>-858.85</u>	
 <u>Balance as of Dec. 31, 2011</u>			 \$3169.59

*Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Horman,
Treasurer*

PROPOSAL: AN UPSTATE OVERNIGHT FORAY OF OUR OWN?

If there is sufficient interest on the part of our membership in a upstate foray, the board of directors will make the necessary arrangements for such an outing. We are considering the New Paltz area, where NEMF held its annual foray in 2010 at Soyuzika, a charming Ukrainian resort with five miles of wooded trails. Rates for standard rooms are \$65 per night, sin-

gle or double occupancy, after Labor Day, and include breakfast. There are also other productive forested areas nearby.

If you are interested please send an email to Peggy owls2@otponline.net with the subject line as “LIMC Proposed Foray” and any comments in the body. Thank you.

MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND

The Western PA Mushroom Club is again hosting their public morel foray on April 28– 29, rain or shine, in Mingo Creek Park, located in the southwest corner of PA near the Ohio and WV borders. The event is open to non-members for a fee of \$5; \$10 if you wish to camp there for the next day’s hunt. One must pre-register with the Park, even if not camping: Call Christine (724-228-6867) .

Check-in and registration will be from 11 AM to 12 at roadside near the “Henry House”, and after an instructional talk and slide show, morel hunting will commence at 1 PM, on your own or with a group leader. Collection show-time and I.D. at 4 PM and evening slide show at 8:30 PM. On May 1st, morning morel hunt at 9 AM after breakfast at 8 AM.

LIMC members are welcome. For driving directions, access their website at <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/directions>

**2012 SAM RISTICH NEMF FORAY
AUG. 2-5 EAST STROUDSBERG S.U.,PA**

Hosted by four regional NJ, NY & PA clubs in the E.Stroudsberg State University, with a rate of \$340 pp double occupancy for a Thurs-Sun. stay. Chief mycologist will be Dr. Else Vellings , assisted by Dr. Alan Bessette, Dr. Roy Halling, Gary Lincoff, Dr. Rod Tulloss, Walt Sturgeon and others. After June 15, the late registration fee is \$30. Refunds (only before July 15) subject to \$30 cancellation fee. Lodging is in a brand new air conditioned dorm. Wifi should be available throughout. Commuter fee is \$150 incl. all activities but no meals, which can be purchased individually. One day walk-in registration fee is \$40.

For further information contact John Dawson or Cheryl Dawson at nemf2012@comcast.net, by phone at 717-846-1225 or visit www.nemf.org/files/2012/2012.html

*The Season's Bounty**(Continued from page 1)*

The Chanterelle season was a definite improvement over the previous year, and Black trumpets were both abundant, sizable and their harvest spread through the summer and fall. But July was dry, causing all but the first of that month's forays to be cancelled. On that occasion good amounts of the Summer Bolete (*Boletus reticulatus*) were collected, and the following month, August, continued to produce Boletes, with over 20 species collected on the Blydenburgh foray, where undaunted foragers proceeded despite steady rain. For the first time in my experience, the *Boletus ornitapes* collected were not bitter.

Speaking of edibles, as the season progressed *Lactarius hygrophoroides* and *L. corrugis* made a fair showing, and the prolific Hen-of-the-Woods was welcomed with wide open arms. Both species of *Laetiporus* did not disappoint, but Honey mushrooms failed us, with few found despite the rains. Late autumn found our forays almost exclusively conducted in the pine barrens, including several new sites that were substituted after some traditional spots were unproductive or depleted by their mammalian residents. Productivity was high, and full bags of *Coprinus comatus*, *Tricholoma equestre*, *T. portentosum*, *T. niveipes*, *Hygrophorus ponderatus*, *H. hypothejus*, as well as several species of *Suillus*, were enjoyed by all. The season ended, as it began, at Wellwyn, with both Oyster species in evidence on a windy November day.

Departing from edibles, the 2011 season was notable for the collection and identification of 50 species previously unrecorded here, including some new to New York state, although this is not a certainty, as no official checklist exists. Nevertheless, these wanderers were outside their normal range, most being confined to Gulf Coast and Southern states, and others usually thought of as Western species. Unfortunately, the distribution of fungal species in the United States is poorly known, and will remain so until a strenuous cooperative effort is made that enlists individual amateurs and clubs, together with the professional community. Some stirrings in that direction are recently evident, and we look forward to cooperating in such an endeavor.

With the addition of these 50 species, our cumulative Long Island checklist now stands at 910.

*Coprinus insignis**Russula parvovirescens**Xanthoconium affine v. reticulatum**Leucopaxillus laterarius**Cortinarius cylindripes**Boletus ochraceoluteus*

THE LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB: FORAY RULES

(Reprinted for member's information because of recent changes)

Forays take place on Saturday mornings, starting at 9:30 or 10:00 AM, in parks and forests on Long Island, from Muttontown to Riverhead. Please read "Foray Directions" carefully for time, place and directions. Forays are free to all LIMC members; non-members may attend one foray for a fee of \$5 -which is applicable towards membership- but must become members thereafter in order to continue to attend. Members are permitted two free guest visits per season. THE 1ST TWO (WELLWYN) FORAYS AND THE MAY FORAYS IN PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM ARE OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS- NO GUESTS PERMITTED). No member should visit any scheduled site for collecting purposes in the week prior to the scheduled foray. Some parks may charge an entry or parking fee.

Email notification of foray cancellations or changes will be sent to all members who supply their email address. Make sure to check your inbox by Friday evening. Those without email should call the walk leader, check with someone who has email or call Peggy or Joel when conditions are questionable.

Forays will leave the meeting place at the scheduled time, so be prompt. Bring collecting equipment (paper bags, knife), which if inconspicuous is less likely to draw attention. For safety, all foragers are cautioned to remain with the group, and notify the foray leader if they wish to leave early or collect on their own. The foray leader will take attendance, collect any fees and have guests sign in; and arrange for an alternate if necessary. Parts of the terrain may be hilly, rocky, muddy, and difficult to traverse. Poison ivy is widespread, as are biting insects including mosquitoes, chiggers and ticks that cause Lyme disease. Precautions should be taken against the latter, including insect repellent and protective clothing. (Access the Resources tab on our website for more detailed information.) Forays end about noon, at which time any questions about the day's finds can be addressed.

Try to be conservation minded. Do not gather more than you can use and do not deplete the resource by harvesting an entire fruiting of a species or by selecting immature specimens.



15th Annual Wildacres Regional Foray September 20-23 Wildacres, N. Carolina

Held at Wildacres Retreat, a conference center on 1600 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the foray will be limited to 40 NAMA members at \$225 per person, double occupancy; no single rooms.

Dr. Coleman McCleneghan will serve this year as Chief Mycologist. Dr. Brandon Matheny will also attend the foray as mycologist.

The ambiance of Wildacres is unsurpassed. Early registration is advised. For more information and to register, contact Glenda O'Neal by email glen-dakoneal@yahoo.com or by phone at 423-246-1882. An application form may be found in the Mar/April 2012 edition of the Mycophile.

FORAY NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR 2012 Sept 28-30

The Nova Scotia Mycological Society once again hosts this northernmost foray in Terra Nova National Park at the Terra Nova Hospitality Home & Conference Centre with seating for 75 people, so space is limited. Details are not yet available, but last year's prices varied from \$215 pp. double occupancy to \$330 for a single. Tentative guest faculty includes Renée Lebeuf, Todd Osmundsen, Steve Trudell, and others.

Information will be updated in the Spring and can be accessed at: <http://www.nlmushrooms.ca/> or for more information, send email to: foray@nlmushrooms.ca



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