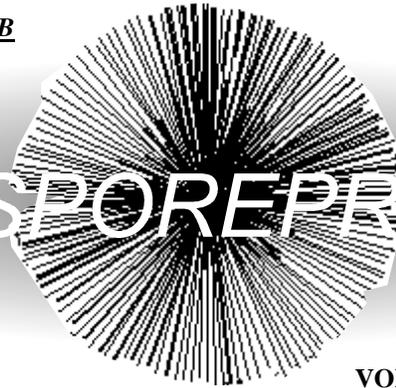


L.I. SPOREPRINT



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1, SPRING, 2004

Findings Afield

by Joel Horman

“Hiding in plain sight” is an accurate commentary on this species, which has been overlooked for many years because of its close resemblance to its common congener, *Strobilomyces floccopus* (now apparently reverting to its historic name of *Strobilomyces strobilaceus*) and its not-so-common look-a-like, *Strobilomyces confusus*, both commonly called Old-Man-of-the-Woods. Because it is lighter in color than both of these, it has probably been passed over as a younger or perhaps sun-bleached specimen. But when we encountered it last year, Peggy suspected that its appearance was different enough to spur further investigation. Sure enough, her suspicion was justified, and the specimen was



Strobilomyces dryophilus)

The Season's Bounty

by Joel Horman

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times”.... So commences Charles Dickens’ oft quoted first sentence of “A Tale of Two Cities” and while our tale is not as dramatic, the sentiment could not be more apt. The year 2003 produced a record rainfall in the region, measuring 58.5 inches in NYC, and 62 inches at the Brookhaven National Lab in Upton, L.I. Average yearly rainfall is about 45 inches, which makes the NYC figure the sixth wettest on record.

Although mushroomers, like farmers, fervently pray for rain, this watery abundance did not produce a corresponding fungal plenitude. On the contrary, it was the worst autumn mushroom season in memory, as far as the biomass of edible species was concerned. However, what 2003 did produce was a profusion of new species for our LIMC checklist, over 50 in all, not including those that could not be identified beyond genus level. One might conjecture that the abundant fruitings of the 2002 autumn season depleted the resources available to those species the following year (a documented phenomenon) while not having the same effect on other, rarer species, resulting in 2003’s seemingly paradoxical production.

At any rate, whatever the underlying dynamic, a total of 53 new documented species on L.I. is very gratifying. Our new checklist (see insert) incorporates all these species, which are identified by the bold exclamation point (!) preceding them. Our total species count now numbers approximately 555. Gilled mushrooms provided the bulk of the new species, 41, while non-gilled totaled 11. Of the latter, only four were *Ascomycetes*: *Xylaria hypoxylon*, *Helvella leucomelaena*, *Trichoglossum hirsutum* and *Podostroma alutaceum*. Closely related to *Cordyceps*, and strongly resembling it, *P. alutaceum* differs in its growth on wood, rather than being para-



Lepiota acutesquamosa/
Cystolepiota aspera

(Continued on page 6)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you're like me, you can't wait to get out there and find some "stuff." Judging from the calls we've received about the schedule, Spring can't come too soon for our members. Right now the cold wind and snow patches make it hard to believe we'll be out there soon.

There have been a few changes in the new schedule. We will have a joint foray at Bethpage with the New York Club and LIMC will provide some food as it is a whole day foray. (We also encourage everyone to bring a dish to share, which would be greatly appreciated.)

Jacques has dropped some sites that have been over-managed to the point of reduced productivity. West Hills and Rocky Point will be explored more; both these natural areas are vast and should be quite interesting to investigate. Moreover, they aren't raked, so the mycelium can do what comes

naturally.

Many of us were quite disappointed that our 2003 end-of-season luncheon was cancelled due to bad weather. In addition, it was a lot of work to call each person and to write refund checks. This year the luncheon will be held earlier, just before Thanksgiving. We'll see how this works out.

At this time, I would like to remind all designated foray leaders that should they not be able to lead on a scheduled day to please either ask someone else to take over or call me. I don't mind phone calls.

Many thanks to Rita for providing not only her home but lots of goodies for our recent board meeting. What a gracious hostess. Also thanks to all attending board members; I need you!

As always, should you have any concerns or ideas, please let me know. Happy Spring!

EDITOR'S NOTE

At our pre-Spring meeting, the LIMC board made some changes re our foray procedures everyone should know about. For more efficient cancellation notification, our webmaster, Dale, will erect a message center on our website, where cancellation and other notices will be posted; email notices will inform you when this is in place. **All members with Web access are requested to visit our website on the Friday evening prior to the foray to check whether a cancellation has been posted.** This will work only if assigned lead-

ers take their job seriously and reconnoiter the site before the foray date. They should then email or phone Peggy or me with their decision by Friday afternoon. Those without web access should contact the leader or someone with access.

We would also like to know whether any members would prefer some forays to be held on a Sunday, instead of our traditional Saturday, due to work or other conflicts. If there is sufficient demand, we will do our best to accommodate it. If you have such a preference, please communicate it to us. A more



**MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER, 2004 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY
MAY 30TH**

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

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RAYMOND FATTO 1929-2003

On Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2003 Raymond M. "Ray" Fatto died at his home in Hillsborough, NJ., at the age of 74.

A member of the NJ Mycological Association for 24 years, and a past president, he was the author of ten papers naming new species of mushrooms. Together with Geoffrey Kibby, he coauthored, "Key to the species of *Russula* in Northeastern North America" an indispensable guide to the identification of this genus. His professional career was as a chemist, and he originated a program for matching color by computer.

He was honored for outstanding contributions to amateur mycology by receiving the Northeastern Mycological Foray Recognition Award in 1989, and in 1996 with the North American Mycological Association Award. Those of us who met him found him to be unassuming, unpretentious and gracious, happily sharing his knowledge with all.

He inventoried the fungi of Hutcheson Memorial Forest in Somerset from 1990-2002. He also inventoried the fungi of Rutgers Creek Wildlife Conservancy in N.Y. where the Fungal Herbarium was named after him. His private herbarium was donated to the New York Botanical Garden, where it is available for mycological study and research.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the "Raymond Fatto Rutgers Scholarship Fund," c/o Robert Peabody, 50 Alfalfa Hill, Milford, 08848-1726.

BARBARA ALVAREZ: IN MEMORY

It is with sadness that we say good-bye to Barbara Alvarez who recently passed away. She deeply loved nature and the outdoors. Mushrooming was dear to her heart because it reminded her of her childhood in Germany, where she picked as a girl.

Despite her illness, Barbara joined our foray to France last November. Since she kept pace with our busy itinerary, few of us really knew how ill she was at the time. A very fond memory I have of her is of the two of us getting lost in the Paris subway. It wasn't funny at the time, but afterwards we had a good laugh. She never complained and always had a smile on her face.

She was an wonderful person and we will miss her.

Peggy

FINDINGS AFIELD (Continued from p. 1)

proven to be a valid species in its own right: *Strobilomyces dryophilus*. The only general field guide to include it is "Mushrooms of Northeastern North America" by Bessette, Bessette & Fisher. It has not yet been "validly published" according to Alan Bessette's comments in "North American Boletes," and only as recently as 1985 did it make its appearance in "Field Guide to Southern Mushrooms" by Weber & Smith. It differs from its congeners in the color of the pileus, which is covered with grayish-pink, pinkish-tan, or pinkish-brown wooly or cottony scales. The context stains orange-red to orange when cut, but does not blacken as do *S. floccopus* and *S. confusus*. It differs from them microscopically as well, with shorter spores, 7-9 X 9-12 μm , exhibiting a complete reticulum.

Ernst Both's compendium of North American Boletes lists it as being mostly southern in distribution, in association with southern live oak. Bessette expands this distribution, indicating that it can occur as far north as Cape Cod, in sandy soil and associated with oaks. Rated as edible, and no doubt consumed by those of us who have misidentified it as one of its look-a-likes.



MYCO-MISPRINT OF THE YEAR

From an article in the Oct-Dec '02 edition of "Mycelium", newsletter of the Mycological Society of Toronto:

"John Kane, a U.S. Federal Court judge, gave a talk on the so-called 'War on Drugs' which we have lost. His feelings are so strong in this area that he refuses to hear drug-related cases."

No problemo, Judge. Next case up is a bad trip.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Edward Batcheller

Katherine Meyer & David Falkowski

John & Rose Marie Monaco

Piroska Szabo

TREASURER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2003

| | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| <u>Balance from 2003</u> | | \$1956.85 |
| <u>Receipts</u> | | |
| Membership Dues | 380.00* | |
| Interest | <u>26.88</u> | |
| Total | 406.88 | 2363.73 |
| <u>Disbursements</u> | | |
| NAMA affiliation 2004 | 30.00 | |
| Newsletter expenses (includes printing, mailing, supplies, & misc. notices) | 486.42 | |
| Treasurer's expenses | <u>97.50</u> | |
| Total | 813.92 | |
| <u>Balance as of Dec. 31, 2003</u> | | <u>\$1749.81</u> |

(* Amount shown represents funds rec'd in 2003 and does not reflect dues rec'd in 2004.)

THE LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB: FORAY RULES

Forays take place on Saturday mornings, starting at 9:30 or 10:00 AM, in parks and forests on Long Island, from Glen Cove to Southampton. 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 (MOREL) FORAYS ARE OPEN ONLY TO MEMBERS. 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.

Forays will leave the meeting place at the scheduled time, so be prompt. Bring lunch and collecting equipment, which if inconspicuous is less likely to be questioned. 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. PRIOR TO THE FORAY, THE LEADER SHOULD CHECK THE AREA, IF POSSIBLE, AND CANCEL IF NECESSARY. 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 ticks that cause Lyme disease. Precautions should be taken against the latter, including insect repellent and protective clothing. Forays end at noon, at which time we have lunch and discuss the day's finds.

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.

Lastly, sharing of any abundant find is strongly encouraged.


Cleanings

■ **GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YOU:** That all plant species harbor endophytes (microscopic, interior dwelling fungi), which are assumedly symbiotic and beneficial, is widely accepted. Although the nature of the relationship is only incompletely known, it was thought to contribute little to host defense. A new study carried out in the rainforests of Panama with *Theobroma cacao*, the source of cocoa and chocolate, now reveals that leaves harboring endophytes are better able to survive infection by a pathogen (*Phytophthora*) than un-noculated plants. Defense was localized rather than systemic, and greater in mature leaves, which have less intrinsic protection. (Arnold *et al*, *Proceedings, Nat'l Acad of Sciences, December 23, 2003, vol. 100, no. 26. Published online in PubMed.*)

■ **HYPOMYCES, SPECIALIST OR GENERALIST?** Although the "Lobster" mushroom, *Hypomyces lactifluorum*, is avidly sought by fungiphores, this quest was for many years accompanied by the caution that the host species was unknown, and could possibly be an inedible Amanita, until it was concluded that hosts were limited to *Russula* and *Lactarius* species. Although not considered edible, *Hypomyces chrysospermus* (which we see on LI) has in a recent California DNA study been determined to be a generalist, infecting three bolete hosts: (1) *X.(Boletus) dryophilus*; (2) a *Xerocomus* species with affinities to *X.(Boletus) chrysenteron*; and (3) a *Xerocomus* species related to the *X.(Boletus) ssssssubtomentosus* group. *Hypomyces microspermus* (yet to be collected on LI) was found to be more of a specialist, infecting species with affinities to *X.(Boletus) chrysenteron* and a species related to the *X. subtomentosus* group. (Greg W. Douhan & David M. Rizzo, *Mycological Research, Volume 107, Number 11, Nov. 2003*)

■ **HONEYS AND RABBIT EARS:** *Armillaria* species have long been known to be associated with *Entoloma abortivum*, and since 1984 also with ' sclerotia ' of the discomycete genus *Wynnea* (Rabbit Ears). Japanese researchers using DNA analysis identified *Armillaria* species associated with *Wynnea* species (*W. americana* and *W. gigantea*) and *Entoloma abortivum*. Based on this, all four isolates from *W. gigantea* were identified as *A. mellea*, two from *W. americana* as *A. cepistipes*, and all three from *E. abortivum* as Nag. E., a newly discovered Japanese species of *Armillaria*. The authors conclude that additional sampling from geographically diverse areas is need to elucidate the relationship between these species and *Armillaria*. [*Mycol. Res. 107 (12): 1435-1441 (December 2003).*]

COMA's 27th Clark Rogerson Foray

This Conn. Mycological Association event will be held August 26-29, Thurs.-Sun., at Cave Hill Resort, Moodus, CT, with Gary Lincoff as chief Mycologist. Other myco-experts include Roz Lowen, Sam Ristich, and Rod Tuloss.

The fee for a full four days is \$275 pp, and includes 3 night's lodging and all meals from dinner on Thursday to lunch on Sunday. For Friday arrivals the fee is \$220 per person. Only a limited num-

ber of double occupancy units are available, with priority to be given to couples. The remainder are apparently multiple occupancy units which hold up to 4 persons. It is suggested that reservations be made by April 27 in order to insure a space. Any questions, contact Don Shernoff at 914-761-0332 or donshernoff@yahoo.com.

If you wish to attend, contact the editor in order to be provided with a reservation form.

MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND

The Western PA Mushroom Club is hosting a morel foray on April 24th, rain or shine, in Mingo Creek Park, located in the southwest corner of PA near the Ohio and WV borders. Last year, 175 attendees collected over 1500 morels. 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

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 1:15 PM, on your own or with a group leader.

Directions: Take I-70 west to Exit 9, then proceed North on Rt.519 for 2 miles. At a red light, turn right onto Route 136 and go 4.4 miles and turn left at the sign for Mingo Creek Park (just across from Mingo Inn). Follow signs to the park and registration area roadside near Henry House.

LIMC members are welcome, we have been assured, so ask for John or Becky Plischke, who will introduce you to the W. PA club members.

See their website for more information: www.wpamushroomclub.org



The Year's Bounty

(Continued from page 1)

sitic on insects or truffles. The gilled species were taxonomically widespread, with a greater number of species in the larger genera, such as *Amanita* and *Russula*, which each contributed four new species. Other large genera such as *Clitocybe*, *Collybia/Gymnopus*, *Coprinus*, *Inocybe* and *Mycena* produced two each, as did *Boletus* and *Tylopilus*.

The illustrations on this page depict some of the more interesting forms, many of which are not included in the major field guides. **To see them in color, access the on-line edition of this newsletter on the club's web page.**



Lyophyllum semitale (note gill blackening)



Steccherinum pulcherimum



Thelephora palmatus

(If any documented species were omitted, please bring them to my attention.)



Clavaria vermicularis



Mycena corticola



Sarcodontia setosa (on apple)



Marasmius capillaris

SPRING MUSHROOMS

The following list, based on LIMC and personal records, is made up of the mushrooms most frequently encountered in our area during the early spring months. Some appear only at this time, while others may fruit throughout the year. At times, unusual weather patterns may “fool” species into making an exceptionally early or late appearance. Global warming has been documented as being associated with increasingly early appearance of many plant species, but documentation for fungi is lacking.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Agaricus arvensis | Coprinus disseminatus |
| Agrocybe acericola | Coprinus micaceus |
| Agrocybe dura | Coprinus plicatilis |
| Agrocybe pediades | Collybia dryophila |
| Agrocybe praecox | Conocybe tenera |
| Amanita muscaria var. formosa | |
| Armillaria tabescens | Entoloma strictius |
| Chlorociboria aeruginescens | Entoloma verna |
| Clitocybe trullaeformis | Exidea glandulosa |
| Coprinus atramentarius | |
| Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae | |
| Hebeloma crustuliniforme | Polyporus squamosus |
| Inocybe lacera | Psathyrella condolleana |

- Laccaria laccata
- Laetiporus sulphureus
- Leccinum aurantiacum
- Lentinus strigosus
- Lentinus torulosus
- Lycogala epidendrum
- Marasmiusoreades
- Stropharia semiglobata
- Marasmius scordonius
- Megacollybia platyphylla
- Melanoleuca melaleuca
- Morchella elata
- Morchella esculenta
- Morchella semilibra
- Mycena galericulata
- Mycena inclinata
- Paneolus foenisecii
- Peziza badio-confusa
- Peziza vesiculosa
- Pholiota veris
- Pleurotus ostreatus
- Pleurotus populinus
- Pluteus cervinus

- Psathyrella veluna
- Psilocybe cyanescens
- Psilocybe montana
- Pycnoporus cinnabarinus
- Schizophyllum commune
- Stropharia rogusoannulata
- Tremella mesenterica
- Trichaptum biformis
- Tricholomopsis rutilans
- Volvariella speciosa
- Xylobolus frustulatus



Lentinus strigosus

Mushroom Excursions in Mexico

Mexican Mushroom Tours (Excursiones de Hongos Mexicanos) is now in their fifth year of organizing small group tours for “fungi aficionados with a taste for the exotic” and have asked us to include a notice of their upcoming tours in this newsletter. Ex-Toronto fungi enthusiasts, Gundi Jeffrey and Erik Portsmouth have, since 2000, organized small groups of intrepid foragers to explore the mushroom treasures, both taxonomically and gastronomically, of their adopted country. This year, they offer three different 7-day tours in Copper Canyon (Aug. 15- 22); Tlaxcala/

Puebla (Sept. 12-19); and Veracruz (Oct.10-17). Prices, from the starting point in Mexico, include lodgings, all meals (with wines at dinner) bilingual, local mycology experts as guides and technical presenters and vary from \$1,420 to \$1,540 pp double occupancy. Group size is limited to a maximum of 20. (A discount of \$150 is offered to club members on the latter two tours.)

For further information, visit their website at www.mexmush.com., telephone/fax 011-52-246-461-8829, or write to APDO #73, Tlaxcala, Tlax., 90000 Mexico.

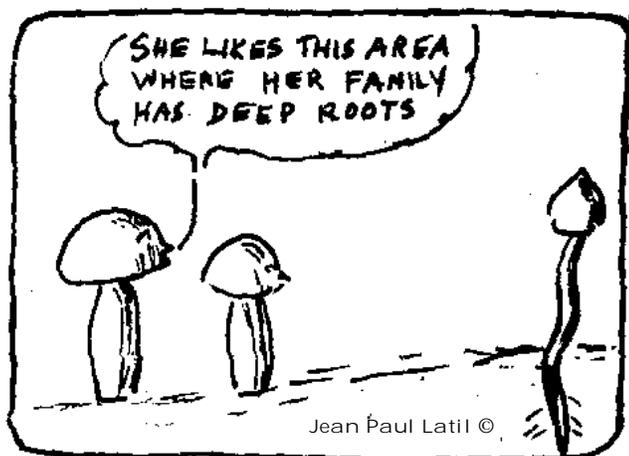
NEMF, THE NORTHEAST MYCOLOGICAL FEDERATION, is comprised of over 19 member clubs from Montreal to Western Pennsylvania to Rhode Island. Since 1978, it has hosted a regional gathering of mushroom enthusiasts, complete with professional, amateur, and novice mushroom collectors, to gather and identify as many as 400–500 species of mushrooms at one time during a single weekend! The 2004 gathering will be the third New Hampshire visit in 20 years, and will provide an unprecedented opportunity for mushroom lovers to collect, learn about, taste, and enjoy hundreds of species of fungi.

The 10th Annual Samuel Ristich Foray, sponsored by NEMF and the following New Hampshire Mushroom Clubs:

- Monadnock Mushroomers
- Montshire Mushroom Club
- Sandwich Area Mushroom Club
- NH Mycological Society

will be held Sept. 9-12 in the Geneva Point Conference Center at beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee, in the heart of the Lakes Region, NH.

The NEMF website (nemf.org) does not at this time have application forms, but we will make them available to LIMC members



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I am ...a mushroom on whom the dew of heaven drops now and then.
John Ford, 1633, The Broken Heart, Act 1



LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB
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