

Spores Illustrated

FALL 2012

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REFLECTIONS ON TEN YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING Dianna Smith

By the time you read this, I will have moved from Croton on Hudson to the suburbs of Northampton, MA. Why am I moving when I have so many wonderful mushroom friends here? My husband and I want to retire closer to my daughter and her husband who are planning to have kids in the near future. The area is also home to the five schools: Smith College, Amherst, Mt. Holyoke, Hampshire College, and U. Mass at Amherst, where my daughter works. I am personally looking forward to auditing lots of courses, teaching basic mycology, and starting up a mushroom club for the area.

These past ten years have so far been among the most challenging and the most creative of my life. Volunteering in so many capacities to help COMA thrive has been a most satisfying accomplishment. It gave me the opportunity to develop various management skills, enhance the club's offerings, and make lasting friendships with COMA members.

The first COMA member I ever met was Don Shernoff, my initial mentor. Our friendship evolved from his being

the star of my first mycology video series to my soon assisting him with the annual foray, selecting the foray site, inviting mycologists, working with the display room set up, and our equipment.

About 50 of my half-hour shows are devoted to mycology and aired through the years on a weekly basis on community cable channels in NY and CT until about a year ago when I decided I was too busy with COMA to keep up with taping and editing. All of these DVDs are available for you to borrow, as are roughly 50 books on mycology I recently donated to COMA to establish a library for members. Naturalist Taro Ietaka, my nominee to replace me as club president, is setting up a system for lending both DVDs and books, which will be housed at Cranberry Lake Preserve in White Plains.

Many others have helped me through the years, including former president Dave Rose, who encouraged me to become membership chairperson, my first volunteer position for COMA. Although I was initially hesitant to take on this important responsibility, I was soon glad I

could be talked into it. I appreciated the opportunity it gave me to be of service. As a side benefit, typing everyone into my address book and subsequently in weekly e-mails, I rather quickly learned everyone's name. After two or three years at that, I was and still am grateful to Beverly Leffers who took over the job. She gave me the break I needed to become involved in initiating our photo and our educational websites. The www.pbase.com/comafungi site listed the mushrooms discovered on each walk, included informative commentary and exposed my mushroom photography to Internet surfers. Making the site even more relevant, I posted the teaching slides of Peter Katsaros, Eleanor Yarrow and Sam Ristich after Jerry Sheine spent many long sessions digitizing the originals. Over the past eight years, the site received roughly 1,200,00 hits and exposed my photos to mycologists Michael Beug, Michael Kuo, Gary Lincoff and others who subsequently published many of them in their books. More recently, www.fungikingdom.net became an outlet for my educational lessons on Mushrooming Basics, Edible Mushrooms and Their Toxic Lookalikes, Lactarius, Russula, Amanita, Boletes, Polypores and Mushroom Photography. These lessons are based on my studies with Gary Lincoff as my principle mentor during eight years of Mushroom University. In addition, the site also is a great source of articles on a variety of mycological topics written by Bill Bakaitis. We both intend to keep adding to the site and hope you will continue to avail yourselves of this valuable resource.

My proudest accomplishment is the creation of Mushroom University. My motivation for starting the annual late winter class was to increase the number of members who were good at mushroom identification, so that at every walk we could be assured that someone

was able to provide accurate information especially for newcomers. Our first class with Gary Lincoff had about ten students. As interest in learning more about fungi has grown, so has our student participation. In the past couple of years we've had around thirty students attend each year's session. Most importantly, interest in and knowledge of fungi has spread far and wide among the membership. With Taro and Stephanie at the helm, I am confident that Mushroom University will continue to be an important part of COMA, and that our club will do more to educate the community at large.

One of the final activities I have been engaged in is finding excellent people to do the various jobs I previously tackled on my own. Over the years, as a representative of COMA, I have been asked to give several talks and guided identification walks for state and county parks and for various nature preserves in New York, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Taro letaka is equally capable of providing the public with educational programs. Other excellent speakers include Stephanie Scavelli, who was the recipient of this year's scholarship to attend the Eagle Hill course and the person I am nominating for the role of Vice President. In fact, both Zaac and Stephanie have given well-received educational presentations and guided walks for several different organizations this year and will continue to do so in the future. From the many comments I have heard as well as from personal observations, I sincerely doubt there is anyone better in any club who provides so much information on COMA and on fungi in the news than Djerba Goldfinger. She has been doing a more thorough job than I ever did. I also expect that other members I have encouraged to play leadership roles in COMA will work to enhance your membership experiences. Peter Russell, an expert on *Hygrocybes*, for example, has agreed to post the lists of

fungi found on our walks and to post our best photos from walks on <http://www.pbase.com/comafungi>. Lisa Solomon will serve as the sole administrator of our Facebook presence. The new core of COMA operations, however, will be in the capable hands of a younger generation including Djerba, Zaac Chaves, Stephanie Scavelli and Taro letaka. Zaac not only works hard as our walk scheduler, he has also been focused on strengthening his already excellent identification skills. This summer, for example, he was a student at the Eagle Hill Institute course Roz Lowen and I taught. This is in addition to being a student at COMA's Mushroom University for several years. I expect he will be your go to expert, assisting newcomers and experienced mushroomers with identification of more difficult species encountered. Taro letaka, the naturalist at Cranberry Lake Preserve and my nominee to replace me as COMA President, is proficient at Slime Mold identification, is experienced with microscopy and is fast absorbing information on mushroom identification. He is also a great organizer, and is interested especially in COMA's role as a source of mycological information for both COMA members and the community at large. With the continued support and guidance of the club's longest serving volunteers, including Sandy Sheine, Jerry Sheine, Don Shernoff, Dave Rose, Sue Rose, Rena Wertzer, Morris Palmer, Beverly Leffers, Joe Brandt, Kathy Brandt, Ursula Hoffmann, Kathy Americo, Lou Tartaro, Lisa Solomon, Roger Willson, Georange Johanson, Damon Brunette, and many other members who give generously of their time, Taro and Stephanie will make a dynamic team for the club.

You may be wondering what I plan to do without COMA. Knowing the day would come when I would feel comfortable enough to hand over my responsibilities to others in COMA, I volunteered this past January to serve as NAMA's Mycophile editor. I have also been invited to return to Eagle Hill Institute in Maine to teach another mycology course. In addition to teaching, leading walks and starting up a club for the Pioneer Valley of western Massachusetts, I promise I will come down to join you for the annual Clark Rogerson COMA foray and for the occasional scheduled walk. Please keep in touch with me.

My new e-mail address is <mailto:diannasmith@fungikingdom.net> or <mailto:diannasmithl@mac.com>. Please update your address book so that I don't miss any communications from you.

COMA'S ANNUAL BANQUET - NOV. 14TH

See enclosed insert or attachment for details and reservation form.

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Membership is due now.

Stay current with your emembership to receive all your COMA benefits.

See enclosed insert or attachment for the membership application.

COMA'S New Lending Library

is up and running at the nature lodge at Cranberry Lake Preserve. Details and a catalog are available at our facebook page and our Yahoo Groups page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/comafungi/files/> and <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/comafungi/files/>.

SAVE THE DATE!

COMA'S 35th annual Rogerson Foray has been tentatively arranged for the weekend of August 30th - September 2nd, Labor Day.
Details to follow.

CONTRIBUTE TO SPORES ILLUSTRATED

Send in an article , a recipe, a description of a beautiful walk, an interesting photo or unusual find. Let's aim for some more participaton by club members.

MUSHROOM UNIVERSITY CLASSES 2013

More information will follow soon for registration for MU 2013. Gary will be back at Muscoot for classes in March and April. Save the dates: March 2, 9, and 23 - and April 6, 12, and 27.

New York Botanical Garden Herbarium Tour by Rena Wertzler



Barbara Thiers showing COMA members a mounted specimen from the yam family which had been sent from Japan



On a lovely Saturday in early June twenty COMA members met at the New York Botanical Garden's herbarium, officially known as the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium. David Rose, COMA program chairman, had arranged this wonderful treat, a tour led by Barbara M. Thiers, director of the herbarium where she manages almost seven million collections of algae, bryophytes, fungi, lichens, and vascular plants. The herbarium is the largest in the Western Hemisphere and one of the five largest in the world. It is also one of the most active in terms of loans from around the world and numbers of visitors from the scientific community. Barbara has a staff of thirty and is currently undertaking the mammoth task of digitizing all of the collections and making them available on line.

Samples of plants and fungi are sent to the herbarium from all over the world and are initially frozen as a method of pest control. Their largest pest problem is beetles that may not even get eliminated with the freezing. 50,000 samples come in each year and are kept in a cold storage room until they can be named. Shivering COMA members were able to view the stacks of waiting specimens, many wrapped in newspapers from around the world. The collections are held in this room until they can be named, and from there they go to the mounting room. This journey can take as much as three years.

The final stop for the fungi specimens is their own separate floor which is kept at a lower temperature than the plant areas. The fungi are kept at a temperature of 50 degrees F to keep any insects which may have survived the original freezing from reproducing.

After viewing the storage facilities, we sat around a table and were shown samples of some of the more amazing collections. It was like taking a tour through history. We actually saw a specimen of a dried liverwort that had been collected by Charles Darwin in southern Chile, as well as collections of George Washington Carver and a specimen from Captain Cook's first voyage.

Modern fungi collections are kept in boxes which contain the spore print, notes, photos, and dried specimen.

Our last stop was the top floor which houses the largest botanical library in the country. Roy Halling was our host there and had many old treasures out for us to see.

Many thanks to David Rose for arranging this wonderful tour, and of course, our gratitude to Barbara Theirs and Roy Halling for all they did for us.



Specimen from Japan, as it arrived, pressed in newspaper



Roy Halling (left) showing COMA members some of the treasures of the Herbarium Library

Two COMA Members Attend Eagle Hill Institute

The Eagle Hill Institute, located on the east coast of Maine, formerly known as the Humboldt Field Research Institute, is known for its advanced natural science seminars and scientific illustration workshops. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to contributing to scholarly and educational pursuits, especially in the natural history sciences.

This year COMA awarded a scholarship to Zaac Chaves to attend the Institute. We hope to make this a yearly event. Stephanie Scavelli also attended the summer session at Eagle Hill. She had won a scholarship which was awarded by The Eagle Hill Institute.

Following are articles by Stephanie and Zaac about their experiences at the Institute.

A Report on the Maine Mushrooms and Microscopes Foray by Zaac Chaves

This past August, I had the opportunity to attend the Maine Mushrooms and Microscopes Foray at the Eagle Hill Institute. There I sat amongst a small, focused class with highly varied backgrounds including a professional soil scientist, a curatorial assistant from Harvard, a college professor, a member of a committee that advises the Canadian Government about forestry, a field biologist, and a few talented artists. Our marvelously organized classroom was nestled within a conifer-blueberry-huckleberry forest. We embarked on a week of steady curriculum and dynamic presentations, bringing us from the field back to the lab with baskets full of specimens.

As amateur microscopy students, we all had a lot to learn. The class was taught by Dianna Smith and Dr. Roz Lowen. At this course we covered amanitaceae, ascomycetes, dark spored fungi, Russulaceae, Polyporaceae, photography, field identification, mushroom names, role of herbariums, microscopy techniques, edible and poisonous species, and mushrooms as friends and foes.

Roz Lowen, who holds a PhD in mycology, offered her expertise in both the lab and field. She told us her own story about her initial exposure to microscopy in a formal school setting. Hearing this, I could appreciate the lab exposure I was getting in this more informal setting without the time and expense of graduate study.

Dianna presented a remarkable amount of material for us as well. Even having worked with Dianna for years in COMA, I once again found myself impressed with her knowledge and her uncanny ability to continually acquire and share new information. Her new presentations, offered at Eagle Hill, are available to the public, and I recommend that those interested in the curriculum look through the course slides at <http://www.fungikingdom.net>, to be posted soon.

My purpose here is to discuss my own experience and share some of the things I learned at Eagle Hill. I experienced many enlightening moments throughout this week as I developed my own lab techniques and

applied them to my field work. Rather than recounting the curriculum verbatim, which is already online, I want to share a couple of powerful learning experiences.

The first had to do with the Jelly Babies, *Leotia lubrica*, that we were finding. We found a sample of these at nearly every collection site, and at the lab we had an assortment that we could easily divide into two different groups, green and yellow. However a few of the yellow ones had greenish tints in them. I have provided pictures of two specimens below.

Jelly Babies



Was something growing on top of yellow Jelly Babies turning them green? Could the yellow Jelly Babies be maturing to green? In the lab I prepared a microscope slide to compare the spores. They looked different in color and size. I took photographs of them so that I could use these images to identify these specimens more accurately. Two of these photographs are displayed below.

Jelly Babies spores



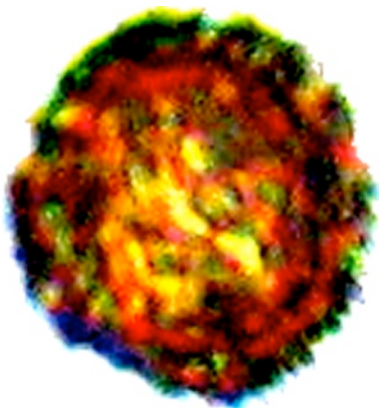
As I looked at these spores, counting their segmentation and the oil droplets within, measuring features while noting variations, I discovered that they both fit into the definition of Jelly Baby species, *Lubrica*, as described in the field book that we had available. I saw microscopic and macroscopic differences.

Gazing over one our most common finds in Maine, I felt the excitement of looking at something so closely

for the first time. I quickly realized that others in the class shared in this fascination.

I then turned to *Strobilomyces*, also known as Old Man of the Woods, a familiar and easily identified mushroom that I know well enough to often identify with a glance. I now had a chance to turn that glance into a longer gaze and observe this mushroom in more detail than I had ever seen it before.

The National Audubon Society Field Guide to Mushrooms of North America suggests that to identify *Strobilomyces floccopus* I needed to look for a “full network of ridges” as opposed to *Strobilomyces confusus*’ “spiny spores with an incomplete network of ridges.” I prepared my slide and looked under the microscope at the spores of the *Strobilomyces*. I expected this to be obvious but the more I looked at the brownish lumps, the more I got to see these spores as neither spiny, nor reticulated but to appear like little pizzas with a messy and cheese-colored center with bites missing from the outer crust. I photographed the spore and one of these photographs is displayed below.



Strobilomyces floccopus spore

Roz helped me look at this spore and recognize the messy pattern as the incomplete network of ridges in *Strobilomyces confusus*. And here I was again looking closely at an Old Man of the Woods that I had seen many times before. I marveled at this new view of a common mushroom, staring intensely as if I were seeing it for the first time.

Throughout my involvement with COMA, discoveries like these have reinforced my passion for mushrooms. These delightful experiences have continually sharpened my identification skills, compelling me to further study the realm of amateur mycology. During the Maine Mushrooms and Microscopes Foray I saw that a small investment of patience yields a fascinating view of the incredible complexity of the natural world.

I look forward to bringing this new understanding to our walks, forays, and meetings for the benefit of COMA.

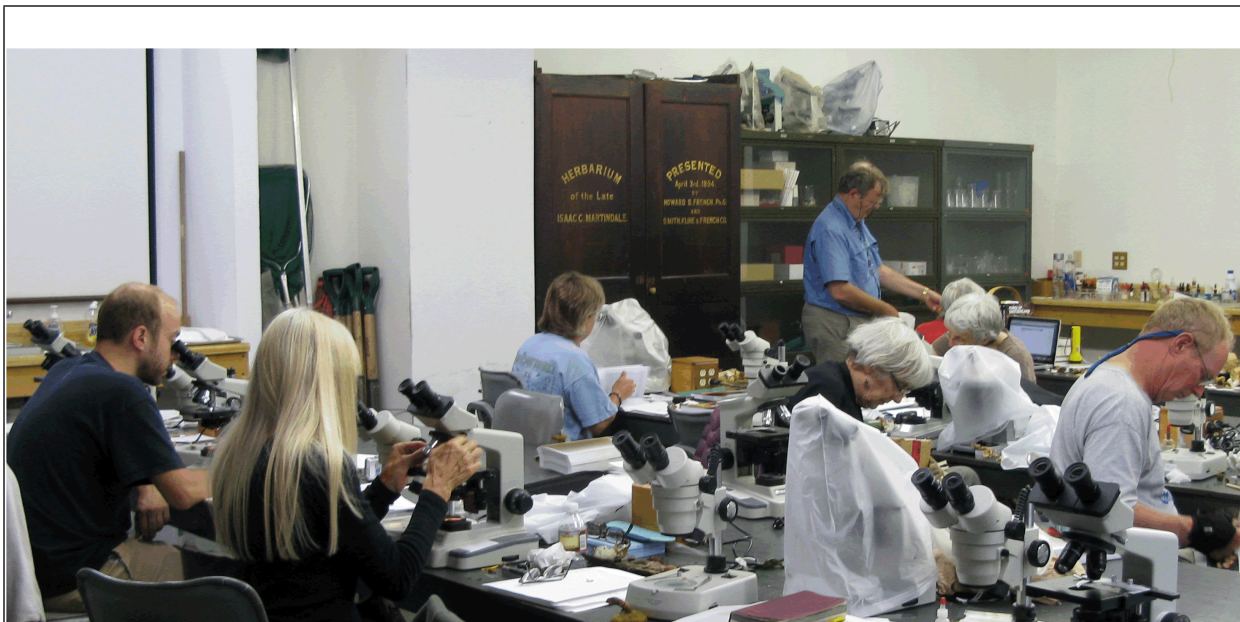


A Cortinarius in Maine

My Experience at the Eagle Hill Institute

by Stephanie Scavelli

In August I attended an intensive mushroom course at the Eagle Hill School in Steuben, Maine. Morning lectures began at eight o'clock and evenings finished near nine. I acquired an organizational framework for sorting out the myriad mushrooms of amanitas, boletes, russulas, lactarii, polypores, as well as the often overlooked ascomycetes. This course exposed me to sights at the microscopic level, making for a whole new fascination with fungi. How easy it was to be seated patiently, to peer through a glass and simply observe. I imagined I was Elias Magnus Fries or Carl Linnaeus, diligent at the microscope, relying upon basic and direct observation to name and describe my environment. It felt empowering.



We spent full mornings in a laboratory where an old wooden chest read, "HERBARIUM of the Late ISAAC C. MARTINDALE" on one door and "PRESENTED: April 3rd. 1884 BY HOWARD B. FRENCH Ph.G. AND SMITH, KLINE & FRENCH CO" on the other.

Microscopy is a gateway into a world all of its own. The compound microscope enabled a glimpse of the long "needle-shaped" spores of *Spathulariopsis velutipes*; the bright red cystidia lining the orange gills of *Mycena leaiiana*; and the divergent cell arrangement of the gills in *Amanita rubescens*. Under the dissecting scope I could easily see spores bursting off the hymenium of *Leotia lubrica* like miniscule fleas in a frantic dispersal. No longer are "club-shaped basidia" and "sac-like asci" simply terms for me to remember. Now they are real and easily identifiable structures of basidiomycetes and ascomycetes.

In an eclectic class of twelve taught by longtime COMA member and ascomycete expert, Roz Lowen, and current COMA President, Dianna Smith, we found an abundance of *Leotia lubrica* on our daily forays. I was pleasantly surprised to see my favorite little Jelly Babies in such great abundance because they are smaller, in fewer clusters, and less common in our area. One hundred year plus old cemeteries made for the ideal hunting grounds. I couldn't help but gasp at the rows of headstones that read the ages of the departed in the 1850s, 1840s and 1830s!

Eyeing the gnarled tree trunks on an afternoon foray through the forest I was informed that the ascomycete, *Nectria coccinea* var. *faginata*, the Beech Bark Disease, is killing off *Fagus grandifolia*, the American Beech, throughout New England. It was a somber moment to peer about and witness the dying of these trees.

Presently, mycology in North America is undergoing a radical transformation. Roz and Dianna explained that many of the Latin names we agonize over remembering really belong to European look-alikes, while here we have genetically distinct North American species. Only 5% of all fungi are thought to be named and described. In 1990 Roz, wearing her professional hat, described and named the ascomycete *Pronectria anisospora*. How exciting!

Even though the gap between amateur and professional mycologists has widened since the adoption of genetic analysis within professional mycology, amateurs still play a crucial role in the study of mushrooms. While many professionals are in the lab, amateurs are exploring the landscape making direct observations in the field. The *North American Mycological Association* (<http://namyco.org/>) is developing a continent wide fungal survey called the North American MycoFlora Project (<http://www.northamericanmycoflora.org/>). Protocol is still under development so stay tuned. Local clubs will play a crucial part in this ambitious project.

It turns out that the six-book series *Fungi of Switzerland* are wonderfully useful to us here and as I explore deeper into mycology my Audubon Field Guide just isn't enough. I spent my down time reading *Mycophilia* by Eugenia Bone and eating fresh wild picked huckleberries while pondering over the question, "Why do I study mushrooms?"

I came to mushrooms awe-inspired by mycorrhizal fungi and the crucial ecosystem function of wood decomposers. I believed that mushrooms really could save the world through their direct use and act as exemplary models upon which to base social principles. I now believe neither. It was at Eagle Hill that I realized this. Specifically, it was through microscopy that I realized that there are no secrets to the Universe to be unlocked through the study of mushrooms as I once thought. Through the aid of a magnified lens, my eyes witnessed a microcosm of a world, otherwise hidden if not for the microscope. I study mushrooms simply because I enjoy studying mushrooms.



*I discovered a personal fondness for the brilliant orange, confidently clustered *Mycena leaiana*, the gills of which are bright orange lined with distinctly red cystidia.*



*Visible under the compound microscope at 400x magnification are the asci (top), paraphyses (middle), and ascospores (bottom) of *Microglossum fumosum*.*

Report from the 34th Annual Rogerson Foray

By Taro Ietaka

Where else but at the Rogerson Foray can you closely examine over 350 species of fungi, eat cookies made from mushrooms, rub elbows with luminary mycologists, and hear our beautiful woodland wildflowers referred to as ‘welfare chisellers?’ The foray, held from September 13-16 at Camp Hemlocks in Hebron, Connecticut, was surprisingly successful – while the knowledge, talent, and passion of our chefs, mycologists, and collectors are well known to returning foray participants, it was the mushrooms that were unexpectedly good. In 2011 we were blessed with abundant rain and our collection of over 300 species reflected that. In 2012 rain was scarce which is why the preliminary tally of over 350 species, cataloged with another 50 unidentified, is noteworthy. Kudos to the collectors and the efficient mycologists (Gary Lincoff, Roz Lowen, John Plischke, and Bill Yule) and recorders (Ursula Hoffman and Paula DeSantos).

There was a lot of variability in the productivity of the parks visited and even within locales in individual parks. The collection from Devil’s Hopyard was the largest based on the number of sorting tables covered. Day Pond, Salmon River, and the other locations visited yielded a nice variety of mushroom species while Gay City proved too dry for fungi. Not a single Hen made it onto the weekend’s list, but there were many interesting mushrooms such as a trio of colorful Cortinarii: *Cortinarius sanguineus*, *C. luteus*, and *C. iodes*. Laccarias were abundant, as were Mycenas, Thelephoras, *Cantharellus cinnabarinus*, and Lactarii. On the flip side, Amanitas were not as well represented as in 2011 (perhaps reflecting Rod Tulloss’ absence), and the supply of edibles from the sorting table to the kitchen was a trickle.

In addition to the educational opportunity the display tables offered, each evening featured a lecture from at least one of the guest mycologists. The playful “welfare chisellers” tease was made by Gary Lincoff, returning again as Chief Mycologist, during his Saturday evening presentation “Mushrooms and Wildflowers: the Understory Story.” His slide show shed light on some unexpected relationships in our local forests, such as that between Southern Flying Squirrels, the orchid Helleborine, and Pecan Truffles (*Tuber lyonii*). The orchid is partially dependent on the truffle, which is then sniffed out and dispersed by the flying squirrel. Complete or partial dependence on fungal partners is not limited to just the orchids; Indian Pipe, Screwstem, and some members of the blueberry family do not photosynthesize enough to support themselves and rely on a fungal “welfare system.”

John Plischke gave the Thursday night presentation, and despite its coming shortly after dinner, he still had everyone drooling over the piles of morels and other delectables in his slide show “Edible Mushrooms and How to Prepare Them.” A few tips from his lecture: cover the cut stumps of your hens-of-the-woods if you don’t want poachers to beat you to them the following year, you can get many people to eat stinkhorns if you only use their Latin names on the menu, and don’t eat all the black trumpet dip (he knows of an engagement that was broken off due to that sin). John was also a great walk leader, pointing out that *Pholiota squarrosoides* smells like corn flakes, for example.

Roz Lowen’s Friday evening lecture was “The Morchellaceae: What’s New?” Genetic sequencing has resulted in the overhauling of classification of our North American morels to

make them distinct from their European counterparts. To further complicate the matter, dueling papers by Michael Kuo and Philippe Clowez with different names and concepts have made using pencil, when labeling our local morels, advisable. The good news is they still taste good.

Bill Yule followed Roz and hopefully had everyone looking at the woods differently on Saturday morning. In addition to offering hints on Bolete identification (his specialty) in his “99 Boletes on the Wall” slide show, Bill explained how the natural history and geology of Central Connecticut lends itself so well to fungal diversity.

An evolutionary tour of the plant kingdom was given on Saturday afternoon by Carol Levine beginning with Lizardskin Liverwort (*Conocephalum conicum*) and progressing through dozens of collected specimens. We were also treated to showings of Dianna Smith’s *Scapes* mushroom documentaries on Saturday evening. DVDs of *Scapes* will be available to borrow from the COMA library based at Cranberry Lake Preserve’s nature lodge – don’t miss the chance to hear Leon Shernoff describe our local fungi or to see Don with a buzzcut.

Special awards were given out on Saturday night for Most Beautiful Mushroom (Rhoda Roper for her amazing sketch on a *Ganoderma applanatum*), Incredible Collector (Josh Hutchins for finding a variety of unusual fungi), and Long-distance Calostoma Collector (Carol McLeod - talk about specializing!).



Calostoma cinnabarina

Kirk, the cook at Camp Hemlocks, had the unenviable task of following our club’s chefs and feeding already full bellies. Friday’s potluck showcased the talents of members who produced such delicacies as Black Trumpet Eggrolls, Mushroom Dumplings, Truffle Cheese, Farro Cassarole, and Candy Cap Cookies. Joe and Kathy Brandt, with the help of dedicated volunteers, served up an amazing meal on Saturday night including Spinach and Lobster Mushroom Quiche, Puffball Lasagna, Chicken Mushroom Falafels, Mushroom Pizza, Fried Parasols, a spicy Jambalaya, and a delicious assortment of spreads and dips. Joe Brandt did double duty, following his stint as head chef with a follow up as the auctioneer for our Saturday fund raiser.

Thanks to all who participated in the foray and especially to our mycologists and volunteers. Next year’s foray has already been booked at Camp Hemlocks over Labor Day weekend. Put it in your calendars now!

NEMF 2013 - Rimouski - Québec

By Raymond Archambault

Cercle des Mycologues de Montreal will once again host the Northeast Mycological Federation Sam Ristich Annual Foray. This time we will be going to Rimouski, the south side of the Saint Lawrence River, at the University of Quebec. Rimouski is about 680 miles, or twelve hour drive from the north of New York, NY. While a pre-foray day will take place one day ahead (Tuesday), the official foray will be from August 7 – 10 (Wednesday to Saturday) 2013.

Rimouski Foray is packed with special activities, for example, picking mushrooms in the north shore. We will cross the Saint Lawrence by ferry, and hopefully, we will see whales if we are lucky. Because commercial picking is widespread in this area, commercial picker organizations may send representatives to explain their perspectives in our bilingual presentations. In addition to our familiar experts from past forays, there will be experts from Quebec and Europe. Similar to the past joint CMM/NEMF forays, we make sure that events will be in both French and English.

Requirements for crossing the national border have been changed since the last Quebec foray. Citizens of the United States MUST show either a passport or a pass card at the border. If not, entry into Canada will be denied. Remember, the application takes at least six weeks. For the foray, get your valid passport in June 2013 the latest. Applications and related information are generally available at the post office or other federal offices, and should be available on-line. Wish our American friends the best of luck and see you all at the Rimouski.



Stephanie and Zaac identifying the collection at a walk at Ward Pound Ridge

COMA

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