

Next Meeting March 9th, 2009

# SPORES Afield

The newsletter of the Colorado Mycological Society

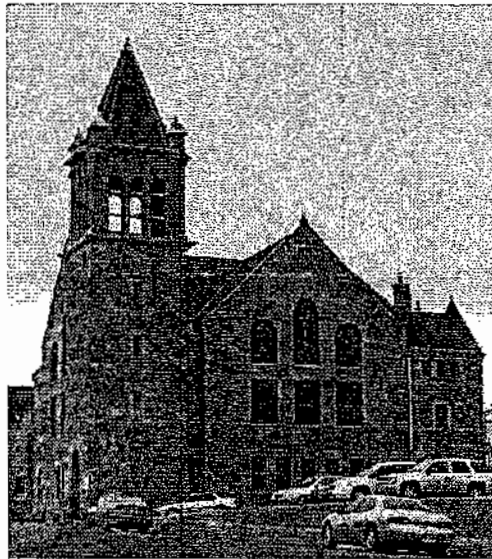
February 2009

## New Meeting Location for CMS in 2009

The Colorado Mycological Society has a new meeting location for 2009! At the end of the 2008 season the Denver Botanic Gardens notified CMS, and other plant societies, that they would not be able to meet there in 2009 because of the extensive construction work being carried out at the Gardens. CMS therefore appointed a committee to come up with a new meeting location.

In 2009 the Colorado Mycological Society will be meeting in the Asbury Event Center at 3011 Vallejo Street in historic North Denver. The Asbury Event Center is in the old Asbury Methodist Church (built in 1890) complex which is today privately owned and no longer functioning as a church.

We are quite excited about the new meeting location. The main meeting room is large and will comfortably accommodate our members. There are also adjoining rooms where we can hold Board meetings and conduct classes. And a very big plus for us: CMS will have use of a kitchen adjoining the main meeting room. There is also off street parking in a lot across the street from the Center.



Directions: To reach the Asbury Event Center from east of I-25 take Speer Blvd. north. After crossing I-25 turn right on Zuni Street. Proceed north to 30th Street. Turn right and go two blocks to Vallejo Street. Asbury Event center is on the northwest corner of 30th and Vallejo.

From I-25 take the Speer Blvd (north) exit and proceed to Zuni Street. Turn right on Zuni Street. Proceed north to 30th Street. Turn right and go two blocks to Vallejo Street. Asbury Event center is on the northwest corner of 30th and Vallejo.

Entrance: There are several entrances into the facilities. The door to our meeting room is on the south side of the building. We will have signage to direct you.

We look forward to seeing you in our new location at the first meeting of the Colorado Mycological Society on March 9th.

*Spores Afield*

## 2009 Membership Renewal

It's a new year and time to renew your membership in the Colorado Mycological Society. Don't miss guided mushroom forays, gourmet mushroom tasting, SporesAfield, and wonderful lectures, videos and slide shows - not to mention all your CMS friends!

Now is the time to pay your CMS dues for 2009 if you have not already done so. If you're not sure if you've already paid, check your membership date in the upper right hand corner of the mailing label on the reverse side of this flyer.

To renew your membership, send the form on page 3 and a \$25 check, payable to CMS, to:

Linda deLeou  
CMS Membership Chair  
14310 W Fifth Ave.  
Golden CO 80410.

Questions about your CMS membership should be directed to Linda deLeon, 303-278-9582 or [ldeleon@comcast.net](mailto:ldeleon@comcast.net).

# *Morchella tomentosa*, A newly named Morel that is found in Colorado

By Rob Hallock

Michael Kuo (CMS fair identifier in 2007, Rocky Mountain Mycoblitiz chief identifier in 2008) recently named a morel species that occurs in Western North America. This species is formally described in the fungal journal *Mycotaxon*, volume 105, pp. 441-446, 2008, and is summarized here. This morel is found during the spring in coniferous burn areas from Colorado to Northern California and Alaska. This species is colloquially referred to as the 'black foot morel', 'fuzzy foot morel', or 'gray morel'.



Kuo named this species (thankfully) for one of its primary defining characteristics. The species name *tomentosa* comes from the Latin word *tomentose*, meaning 'hairy'. You may recognize the root word from two other species that are commonly found in Colorado. First, *Suillus tomentosus* is a common suillus that has a densely fibrillose (hairy) cap. Second, *Inonotus tomentosus* is a

polypore with a hairy cap. When young, both the cap and stem of *Morchella tomentosa* are densely covered with fine hairs. Although the hairs lose their color with age, they are still present and turn brownish with 2% KOH (potassium hydroxide) and can be visualized microscopically.

**Cap:** Like a typical morel of the genus, this mushroom is pitted and has ridges, and the pits are completely attached to a hollow stem. When young, it is gray to black, but turns gray, brownish, pale tan, yellowish, or even whitish when mature. This color change likely depends on ecological considerations (e.g. sunlight, temperature), but this is not completely understood. The cap is 3 to 11 cm (~ 1 to 4 inches) tall and 2 to 5 cm (~ 1 to 2 inches) wide.

**Stem:** The stem is dark gray to nearly black and densely fuzzy when young, becoming white to yellowish or grayish with brownish patches of remaining fuzz when mature. The stem is hollow, 1-2 inches high and about 1 inch thick, and is similar in size to our common black morel, *Morchella angusticeps*.

**Edibility:** This species is edible and commercially harvested in the mountain west under the name 'gray morel'.

**Growth:** This mushroom can be found alone or gregarious, and are most numerous in the spring after a burn, but also occurs in dwindling numbers in subsequent years. Kuo noted that just because these morels are frequently noted in burn sites does not exclude the possibility of finding them when there is *not* a burn.

#### References:

Evenson V.S. (1997). *Mushrooms of Colorado*, Westcliffe Publishers.

Kuo, M. (2005). *Morels*, Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press.

Kuo, M. (2008, November). *Morehella tomentosa*. Retrieved from the MushroomExpert.Com Web site: , 17 January, 2009.

## Cathy Cripps is the 2009 CMS Annual Mushroom Fair's Chief Identifier



Cathy Cripps, Assistant Professor of plant sciences at Montana State University

Cathy received her PhD in mycology from Virginia Polytechnic Institute under Dr. Orson Miller. She has received funding from the National Science Foundation to study alpine mushrooms of the Rocky Mountain tundra, and publishes regularly on the topic. One of her recent publications, *Snowbank fungi of Western North America: cold but not frozen*, is reprinted with kind permission on our website, <http://www.cmsweb.org/articles.htm>

# Membership Renewal Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to renew my membership, I've enclosed a \$25 check payable to CMS.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I want to help CMS even more. I've added a contribution of \_\_\_\_\_ to my dues check.

Please check all items that describe your interests, skills or talents:

_____ Administrator organizer	_____ Bring refreshments to a meeting	_____ Serve on a Committee
_____ Computer	_____ Organize pot-lucks or restaurant dinners	_____ Chair a Committee
_____ Envelope stuffer	_____ Lead a foray	_____ Serve on the Board
_____ Write for the newsletter	_____ Help with the mushroom fair	_____ Make phone calls

By attending CMS events and signing this Sign-up and Release, I state that I am a current member, or a guest on this day of a member, of the Colorado Mycological society (CMS). I am aware that cooking or eating wild mushrooms may be hazardous to my health, including sickness, permanent injury/impaired senses, even death. I also understand the risks associated with hunting wild mushrooms, including but not limited to: getting lost in the woods, or possibly suffering life and limb threatening injuries as a result of exposure or slipping, falling, stumbling, etc. Knowing the foregoing and assuming all risks, I especially release and waive any claims that I may have or may have had and I agree to hold harmless the CMS, its members, officers, and any other persons involved with the CMS from liability which I might assert because of this event or the results of this event. I willingly assume all of the above risks.

Further, In registering for or attending CMS events, I agree to assume total responsibility during this event for my own safety and well being, and that of any minor children under my care, and for the protection of my and their personal property. I release the Colorado Mycological society (CMS), its trustees, officers, and any other persons involved with the CMS, and all other persons assisting in the planning and presentation of this event from liability for any sickness, injury or loss I or any minor children under my care may suffer during this event or as a result of attending and participating.

This release and promise are part of the consideration I give in order to attend CMS events. I understand that it affects my legal rights. I intend it to apply not only to me but to anyone who may have the right to make a claim on my behalf. I promise not to file a lawsuit or make a claim against any of the persons listed above, even if they accidentally cause me or my minor children injury or loss.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names and ages of all children:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's signature on behalf of minor children: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's signature on behalf of minor children: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Upcoming Events

**March 9th, 7:30 PM - *A Short History of the Colorado Mycological Society*** - At this meeting Marilyn Shaw will present a brief history of CMS. Marilyn's presentation will be followed by a panel discussion with Vera Evenson, Tom Ruzieka, Manny Salzman and Tom Taggart — CMS — Then and Now.

**April 13th 7:30 PM - *In Search of Cordyceps: A Review of a 2008 Trip to China and Nepal*** - CMS President Mare Donsky will share with us his experiences visiting China and Nepal last summer in search of mushrooms with Daniel Winkler.

**May 11th, 7:30 PM - *Snowbank Mushrooms***- In preparation for his springtime snowbank mushroom foray CMS member Rob Hallock will take a look at a little known group of

mushrooms commonly found at the foot of melting snowbanks in our high country.

**June 8th, 7:30 PM - *Amanitas: From***



*Deadly to Delicious* - Debbie Viess - otherwise known as "Amanitarita" - will share with us her passion for the Amanita mushroom species. We will learn that they are not all to be shunned.

**July 13th, 7:30 PM - *Truffles, Squirrels, and Trees*** - Dr. Jack States, adjunct professor of University of Wyoming and fungal ecologist talks up the truffle.

**August 16th, 7:30 PM - *CMS Annual Mushroom Fair*** - Chief Identifier: Cathy Cripps

**August 17th, 7:30 PM - TBA**

**September 14th, 7:30 PM - *CMS Annual Cook 'n Taste*** - The annual CMS "smorgasbord" of mushroom dishes served up by CMS members is always greatly anticipated. However, this year CMS member Pete Marczyk will be preceeding the fungi feast with a talk on cooking with mushrooms and choosing the right wine for your mushroom dish.

**October 12th 7:30 - *CMS Annual General Meeting***

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