

Next Meeting March 12th, 2007

SPORES Afield

The newsletter of the Colorado Mycological Society

March 2007

President's Column



Last fall was one of the best seasons for mushrooms in more than 35 years! And it was a season of new finds for myself.

I recently moved

to a new house in Bailey, Colorado and harvested some mushrooms from my property for the 2006 CMS fair. I brought in a new species of *Leccinum* that had never been found before in Colorado. I also found an abundance of a new species of blue staining *Lactarius* that has never been previously described! Being in a new area I also found a wealth of species that I scarcely find such as the White King Bolete *Boletus barrowsii* and troops of Man on Horseback *Tricholoma flavovirens* which has recently become my favorite mushroom (tastes like *Agaricus bisporus* with an added lemon flavor when sautéed). I also found a new way to prepare the Stump Mushroom *Lentinus ponderosa* making 'Postich', sort of a hot pickled mushroom that is to die for! Last year was a very exciting season and I'm even more excited about this year. A good prior mushroom season always stirs creativity and interest in the club and brings in new members with a plethora of new ideas.

I urge members to be involved in the club in an area of personal interest. A favorite of mine is leading a foray and photographing mushrooms for my web site www.capsandstems.com.

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Topic for the March meeting

by Rob Hallock

The first meeting of 2007 kicks off the year with an informative panel of speaker; we'll start with the basics of mushrooming, then progress to mushroom morphology, then a PowerPoint presentation of common edible mushrooms in Colorado, and finish off with a more in depth discussion about mushroom habitats. The goal of this talk is to first of all welcome new mushroomers into the club and give them the basics of mushrooming, but also to further educate our long-time members.

Before we start the panel discussion, we will have a two short Committee reports. First, Christy Honigman will give a brief introduction to the newly formed Development Committee, which has a focus on fund raising. Second, Marilyn Shaw will give a report on the Education Committee. The Education Committee provides an outlet where people can immerse themselves in the scientific study of mushrooms.

To start the panel discussion for the evening, long-time CMS member Ellen Jacobson will start out with a talk entitled "Preparing to go on a foray". This will cover the basics of what you need to go on a foray, and what to keep in mind while on the foray. This will be followed by a description of "Mushroom Morphology" by former CMS president Norm Birchler. This will teach you some key features to look for on mushrooms once you find them, such as the general parts of a mushroom, gill attachment, the universal and partial veil, other macro-characteristics, and spore prints.

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Upcoming Events

- March 12th "Panel Discussion"
See page 1 for more information.
- April 9th Visit to DBG Herbarium (7-7:30)
Dr. Stephen Miller
"Russulas".
- May 14th William Windsor, "Morels and other Spring Mushrooms". Also Vera Evenson on Herbarium of Fungi requirements.
- June 11th Rob Hallock, "The Taste of Mushrooms: An Individual Matter". Moderated Discussion: Preserving and Cooking Wild Mushrooms--How do "You" do it.
- July 9th Leon Shernoff, editor, Mushroom: The Journal of Wild Mushrooming. "Those Wacky Eastern Bolete".
- Aug. 11th Fair Setup.
- Aug. 12th Annual CMS Mushroom Fair at Denver Botanic Gardens, The Fair identifier this year is Dr. Micheal Kuo.
- Aug. 13th Dr. Micheal Kuo, "Why Identify Boletes".
- Sept. 10th Cook & Taste.
- Oct. 8th Marilyn Shaw, "Mushroom Toxicology". Also Ed Swanberg, "Sand Mushrooms, Extend the Season".

Bring mushrooms for identification and display to any meeting.

All meetings are held at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Mitchell Hall at 7:30 pm unless otherwise announced.

Welcome to CMS!

This is the first issue for 2007 of *SporesAfield*, the newsletter of the Colorado Mycological Society. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a forum for members to share experiences, information, and insight on mushrooms of Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.

The Colorado Mycological Society is a nonprofit corporation established in 1967 to advance the understanding of, and to stimulate interest in, the field of mycology. Our members collect specimens for identification, preservation and study. CMS is affiliated with the North American Mycological Association (NAMA). CMS provides consulting services to the Denver Botanic Gardens and the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center.

Monthly Meetings

CMS meetings provide an informal opportunity to socialize and exchange information with others interested in mycology. Meetings are usually held the second Monday night of each month, from March through October, at 7:30 pm at the Denver Botanic Gardens, 1005 York Street, Denver, CO. The meetings are held in Mitchell Hall. There is no charge to get into the Botanic Gardens to attend the meetings. Members and visitors are welcome.

SporesAfield

SporesAfield is published from March through October by the Colorado Mycological Society. CMS dues are \$28 for the first year and \$25 thereafter. Send membership dues to Linda deLeon, CMS Membership Chair, 14310 W. Fifth Ave. Golden, CO 80401-5226. All CMS members receive *SporesAfield* as part of their membership

CMS is an affiliated member of the North American Mycological Association.

CMS web site: www.cmsweb.org

CMS Officers for 2007

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Webmaster	Bernie Seward 303-455-3519 bhseward@mindspring.com

Other Society Activities

Forays:

When the mushroom season gets going, mushroom forays are led by experienced members of CMS to different locations around the state. We usually hold forays on Saturday and Sunday. *These forays are limited to members only.* Forays are probably the best way to learn to recognize different kinds of mushrooms.

Mushroom Fair:

A mushroom fair is held each year in August at the Denver Botanic Gardens. August is the height of the mushroom season in Colorado, and members from around the state bring in a large variety of mushrooms for identification and display. The fair is open to the general public on Sunday. It is a great time to learn about mushrooms!

Resources: CMS Library

CMS offers free use of the mycology reference library to CMS members. Please contact Jeffrey Dann at 303-449-9395 to check out a book or to find out more about the collection.

Books For Sale:

We also offer a variety of books for sale at each meeting. The books are usually available to members at a discount.

CMS Web site

CMS is on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.cmsweb.org>. The web site is full of information on the society's events, forays, and links to other sites in an easy to use format.

Revision of the CMS Bylaws

by The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors have made some revisions to the CMS Bylaws. They have been updated to reflect the changes which were made both to direct CMS regarding its original purposes, and also to reflect its current state. As written in the bylaws a vote shall be taken with the members attending a CMS meeting, all members must have a “one meeting in advance” notice. **This is notice that at the April meeting a vote will be held to accept the revision of the bylaws.** The Board did vote to approve the revised bylaws.

They include:

Dropping from Purposes the “efforts to preserve open spaces”.

Dropping the Photography committee, inactive for years (a photo interest group may develop instead).

Acknowledging the addition of the Webmaster as a Board member bringing the total to ten.

Increasing to five the number needed to constitute a quorum (at least half of the Board members).

Clarifying the dates of the President’s term of office (and by implication that of the entire Board).

Bylaws of the Colorado Mycological Society

Article I - Name

The name of the organization shall be the Colorado Mycological Society.

Article II - Purposes

The purposes of the Society are to advance the understanding and to stimulate the interest of the members by:

1. Providing opportunities for students, holding conferences, facilitating cooperative research, arranging forays, and exchanging information among members.
2. Collecting specimens of Colorado fungal flora for preservation in the Herbarium of Fungi of the Denver Botanic Gardens for identification and study.
3. Interchanging specimens and information with

other interested parties and organizations.

Article III- Membership

Membership is open to any person interested in the field of Mycology. Applications shall be submitted to the membership chairman. Memberships are divided into the following categories:

1. Regular Member - One who is entitled to all the privileges of the Society and is permitted to vote.
2. Associate Member - An individual under the age of eighteen who is entitled to all the privileges of the Society, but cannot vote.
3. Honorary Member - One who, for some special reason, is granted membership which confers all the privileges of the Society but entails none of the obligations, such as payment of dues. An Honorary Member may vote and hold office.
4. Family Member - A family member consists of a parent or parents with all children under eighteen years of age. Every member entitled to vote shall have one vote.

Article IV- Dues

The board of directors shall determine the amount of dues for each fiscal year, which begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. Any change in dues shall be discussed with and voted on by the membership. Membership dues are not refundable. A Family Member shall be assessed a single fee and shall be entitled to one vote.

Article V - Officers and their Election

The officers of the Society shall be recommended by a duly appointed Nominating Committee and elected by a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting in October. Term of office shall be for one year beginning after the election and lasting until the following election. The President may not immediately succeed himself or herself. The President-Elect shall succeed to the presidency. The officers of the Society shall be the President, President-elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers, together with the editor of Spores Afield, the Webmaster, and one other club member, appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors, shall constitute the full Board of Directors.

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The last two past Presidents shall be ex-officio members of the Board. In the event of the death, resignation or inability of a director to perform the duties of office, the Board of Directors shall select a successor for the remainder of the term.

Article VI - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall meet at least four times a year at the call of the President. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to develop and approve the administrative and functional policies of the Society. A quorum at Board of Directors meetings shall be five.

Article VII - Meetings

The Board of Directors shall set the date and time and designate the place of all regular, special, and annual meetings.

Article VIII - Committees

The President shall not only appoint all committee chairs with the approval of the Board of Directors, but shall also have the right to appoint any special committee deemed necessary. Standing committees shall be Auditing, Education, Forays, Membership, Nominating, and Program.

Article IX - Fiscal & Administrative Policies

No part of the net worth of the Colorado Mycological Society shall at any time inure to the benefit of any individual or member. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, all funds and property remaining to its credit shall be given to the Denver Botanic Gardens. This distribution shall be accomplished at the direction of the Board within six months of dissolution.

Article X - Amendments and Revisions

The Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed at any meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of approval of the members present. The members must be notified at least one meeting in advance of a proposed change. The notification must also contain the opinion of the Board of Directors concerning the endorsement or disapproval of the proposed change.

Revised February 2007

Adopt a Mushroom

by Ellen Jacobson

I would like to form small groups for the study of some of the genera of Colorado fungi. Many species have been poorly studied and documented and we have a wealth of fungi here, some perhaps new and un-described.

I would like to be the administrator of these groups and would provide guidelines and suggestions. These studies would take place primarily in the field and collectors could work alone, in pairs, or in small groups. Three excellent genera to consider working on would be Lactarius, Russula and the Puffballs. Groups and individuals may also choose any other genus that they are particularly interested

These study groups will provide not only an excellent opportunity to broaden your mushroom expertise, but also to expand our knowledge of the Colorado species. If you are interested, please see Ellen Jacobson at the March meeting.

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I plan to lead a couple forays this fall to share my knowledge of fungi and to learn a few species as well. My personal goal has always been to learn at least one new mushroom to species (preferably more than one) per season and to keep a running list of what I know and review those mushrooms each year before the season starts. So far I'm up to 70 mushrooms that I know to species! Being involved in the club not only helps to increase your knowledge of fungi and culinary skills but also helps to keep the club active. Without the time, effort, and leadership of all of our volunteers, the club would cease to exist! We currently have a need for someone to lead the T-shirt sales (since the current T-shirt sales volunteer is moving out of state). If you would like to volunteer, please send me an e-mail to c2hardwick@hotmail.com, call me at (303) 838-4978, or talk to me at one of the monthly CMS meetings. We appreciate all of the effort of our volunteers. I hope to see you at the meetings and forays, and lets pray for rain!

Mushroom Calendars!

by Rob Hallock

At this time, the club would like to assess whether there is interest in making a calendar featuring mushroom pictures to raise money for the club. This idea recently came up when brainstorming about fund raising ideas. Last year, I tried to find a calendar with mushroom pictures on it, and found out that none existed. Our calendar would be for the year 2008, and ready and available at our annual mushroom fair in August, probably for \$20. The calendar would feature photographs from CMS members and friends of the club (e.g. past speakers, other mycologists, etc...), and would depict the mushrooms in the order that people find them (e.g. morels in May, boletes in August, matsutake in September).

This calendar will not come to fruition, however, without a few volunteers (I will be happy to help out, but will be too busy as the chairman of the fair this year to spend time with this project). Specifically, we could use two helpers; one to be in charge of soliciting and organizing the photographs, and another to research the best (good quality for low price) calendar printer and be in charge of dealing with them. This is a unique volunteering experience, as there is not actually a lot of work involved and you don't have to be a mushroom expert! Please e-mail me at rob.hallock@UCHSC.edu if you would like to help out with this project.

New Committee- You are invited!

Resource Development Committee

This is what we are about: To actively support CMS's mission and introduce a development program that will serve to increase member and/or foundation/corporate contributions and/or gifts.

We need your creative ideas and support. If interested, please contact Christy at 303 388-5541 or Christy@strategicdirections.us

Photography Interest Group in CMS

We hunt mushrooms for study. We hunt mushrooms for the pot. How about hunting mushrooms to photograph them? I would like to organize an informal study group devoted to mushroom photography. The photography interest group would occasionally have a meeting at someone's home or prior to a CMS meeting to discuss and share knowledge of mushroom photography, photographic techniques, and equipment. But the main activity of the group would be to get together for photographic forays in and around the metro area and in the mountains. The group's photographs could even be posted on the CMS Web site or on the CMS Forum to share with other members. If you would like to join a group of CMS members interested in photographing mushrooms, please contact Bernie Seward at 303-455-3519 or by e-mail at bhseward@mindspring.com.

Bernie Seward

Membership Dues are Due

If you have not paid your CMS dues for 2007, please pay as soon as possible. If you are not sure if you have already paid, check your membership expiration date in the upper right corner of the mailing label of this issue. To renew your membership, send a check for \$25 and a note to:

Linda deLeon
CMS Membership Chair
14310 W. Fifth Ave.
Golden, CO 80401-5226

(Note: New membership is \$28)

If you have any questions as to the accuracy of the expiration date on the label or change of address, please contact:

Linda deLeon
14310 W. Fifth Ave.
Golden, CO 80401-5226
ldeleon@comcast.net
303-278-9582

March Mushroom Madness:

by MaryAnn Guthrie

With spring just around the corner it is time to look forward to forays! Reportedly, the heavy snowfall this winter will help produce many morels!

FEATURED MUSHROOM OF THE MONTH:

Morel mushrooms are considered the king of mushrooms; the morel has an intense, musky flavor that makes it highly sought after. This uncultivated mushroom has a dark, elongated, sponge-like cap and hollow stem. The crevices tend to fill with sand and insects, so you may want to treat them as an exception to the no-washing rule: Immerse them briefly in a large bowl of water and agitate to dislodge all the sand. You can halve them lengthwise for easier cleaning. Morels are especially delicious in cream sauces and scrambled eggs.

Creamy morel sauce with wild duck breast and rice:

A friend returned from the holidays with fresh wild duck breasts; we shared this lovely meal with friends and neighbors recently.

First wash the duck breasts and marinate them in red wine with 1/4 cup of soy sauce. Generally, marinate them for at least two hours. It is fine to prepare this step the day before. I also soak some wood chips (Hickory works well) in a bucket of water at this point.

45 minutes to an hour before eating; start a fire on your grill; when the fire is burning strong, place the soaked wood chips on the fire, to begin a good smoke.

(Begin the rice according to instructions. I use rice that takes 40 minutes to cook and I like to let it sit for five minutes before serving. Time the rice so that it is ready when the duck breasts are ready to serve.)

Transfer the duck breasts to the grill and cover to let the breasts cook and smoke slowly. The cooking should take 10-15 minutes depending upon the

size of each breast and the heat of the coals. During this time prepare the morel sauce:

My mother was raised as an only child on a Wisconsin farm; it was a cherished spring tradition to hunt for morel mushrooms and asparagus with her father. They would take a red, hand painted egg basket into the nearby forest for spring delicables.

This simple recipe is delicious and creamy. If you add a little more milk to the basic recipe below, you have morel soup! One of my mother's favorite treats to this day!

1/4 pound of dried morels (or as many fresh morels as you can find!)
half a stick of butter
1/4 cup of flour
salt and white pepper to taste
1 cup of milk
1 Tbs. of sour cream

Hydrate the dried morels in one 1/2 cup of chicken bullion

In a sauce pan on medium heat, melt half a stick of butter add 1/4 cup of flour and stir to make a roux. Next, add salt and white pepper to taste.

Add a little milk to thin the roux, and then add a dollop of sour cream and blend. Continue to warm on medium heat, adding the milk and the chicken broth until all of the ingredients have been added. If the sauce is too thin, you may mix 1 tsp of corn starch in 1/4 cup of cold water. Once mixed add this to the sauce and stir until it becomes thicker.



Place the duck breast with rice on each plate and pour the creamy morel sauce over! Enjoy!

Please submit your comments, favorite recipes or quick tips to: maguthrie@gmail.com

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The Colorado Mycological Society depends on the generosity of donors to help build programs to support the promotion of educational activities related to fungi. We need your help-----your tax-deductible donation supports our essential programs, bringing the best minds, hands and hearts for Colorado Mycology.

Thanks to "Friends of Fungi - 2007"

Amy Bennett and Eric Rau

Marianne Hewitt

Christy Honigman

Bernie Seward

Gabriela Vlcek

Join the Fungi Club! Make your donation to:

Colorado Mycological Society

P.O. Box 9621

Denver, CO 80209

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Next, I will talk about "Common Colorado Mushrooms" and will focus on the good edibles in the state. I will cover the most common edibles we find, which include the delectable Chanterelles, Boletes, Lactarius species (e.g. *Lactarius deliciosus* and *L. rubrilactius*), and Hawk's wings *Hydnum imbricatum* to name a few. I will also talk about some less common edibles like Dryad's saddle *Polyporus squamosus*, *Gomphidius glutinosus* and *G. subroseus*. These are common, easy to identify, and yummy.

We will finish off the meeting with a talk by habitat expert Bill Windsor. He will give more specific information about where to hunt for and find particular species of interest. We hope to see you there to welcome in the season.

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Denver, CO 80209

P.O. Box 9621

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