

Next Meeting June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005

# SPORES Afield

The newsletter of the Colorado Mycological Society

June 2005



## Presidents Column

Greetings members,

As you read this, Black morels should be 'peaking' at about the 9,000 ft level. We had our Black Morel Foray on Saturday, May 21 with a pretty good turn-out of about 30 members including a

few new members and renewals. Unfortunately, the Morels did not cooperate and only two were found the entire day. I suspect (and hope) that the unusually warm weather may have 'fooled' the aspens to leaf-out early, and in turn, this has 'fooled' me.

I use Aspen leaf size as an important indicator for the timing for Black Morels in Colorado. I usually find Black Morels when Aspen leaves are about the size of a dime to a quarter. I also use the Pasque Flower as a strong indicator. Right now, both are at the 'right' stage at 7,800 ft elevation, however, none of my 'spots' are producing. If I am correct that the warm weather caused the trees to leaf-out early, then I would expect to start finding Blacks at this elevation by no later than May 26<sup>th</sup> and I anticipate that the aspen leaves will be larger than usual when the Blacks are fruiting. Time will tell!

Check out our new T-Shirts at the next CMS meeting. Tom Ruzika coordinated the production and they turned out really nice.

## Speaker for the June meeting:

Dr. Nancy Weber

"Colorado cup-fungi and the People who have Studied Them"

Colorado's cup-fungi and morels and the people who studied, or are studying, them is our theme for the evening. Amateur mycologists have played a major role in this story; some collaborated with professional mycologists, others worked on their own. Through stories of selected cup-fungi and field expeditions some of these people will be introduced. Shirley Chapman appears to be the first woman residing in Colorado to study these fungi in depth. In the story of her contributions and how they have been brought to the attention of current mycologists you may see some familiar faces.

## Upcoming Forays

**Please note all forays meet at 9:00 am in the northeast parking lot (also known as the T-Rex lot) of the Morrison exit at I-70 unless otherwise announced. If you carpool from that point which is strongly encouraged, due to limited parking at most foray locations; please chip in gas money.**

**June 11<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)** Ed Swanberg will lead an inoculation foray, see the May issue for more info please contact Ed: 303-485-8952 or @ e4swan@aol.com

**July 10<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** Tom Taggart will lead a foray with our guest Dr. Michelle Seidl.

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## Upcoming Events

- June 13<sup>th</sup>** Dr. Nancy Weber "Colorado cup-fungi and the People who have Studied Them "
- July 11<sup>th</sup>** Dr Michelle Seidl will give a lecture on Cortinarius. Also see "Upcoming Forays" on page 3.
- Aug 12<sup>th</sup>** Fair foray, see "Upcoming Forays" on page 3.
- Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>** Fair Setup.
- Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>** Annual CMS Mushroom Fair at Denver Botanic Gardens, The Fair identifier this year is Dr. Else Vellinga.
- Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>** "Introduction to Mushrooms" Dr. Else Vellinga, of the Plant and Microbial Biology Department at the University of California, Berkeley.
- Aug. 18-21<sup>st</sup>** Telluride Mushroom Festival.  
For additional info:  
call 303-296-9359  
www.shroomfestival.com
- Aug. 18-21<sup>st</sup>** Crested Butte Mushroom Festival  
For additional info: call Roger Kahn at 303-322-5532 or 970-349-0238 www.cbmushfest.com
- Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>** Cook & Taste, **Chairperson needed** Contact CMS President William Windsor.
- Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>** Chef Smailer of the Boulder Cork. His restaurant hosts our "End of the Season Fungi Feast".
- Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>** "End of the Season Fungi Feast" at the Boulder Cork.

Bring mushrooms for identification and display to any meeting.

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

(Forays continued from page 1)

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) Tom Ruzicka will lead a foray into the Winter Park area.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>** (Friday) Ellen Jacobsen will lead a foray with Dr. Else Vellinga to collect specimens for the Fair.

Be sure to bring your CMS membership card or your current copy of *SporesAfield* with you. If you are not a member you can become one at the foray for the standard new member fee of \$23, which will also get you copies of *SporesAfield* for the rest of the year.

**Forays may be cancelled in the event of dry weather Call first if in doubt.**

We have a need for people to lead forays. You do not need to be an expert identifier to lead a foray. You only need to be willing to lead a group of people to a location where mushrooms can be found. If you would be willing to lead a foray, please contact Tom Ruzicka 303-447-2740 or via e-mail at: tomruzicka@mindspring.com.

### NOTICE !

A small supply of nifty new CMS T-Shirts are now available for \$15. Come and get them at the June Meeting before they are all gone.

### *Spores Afield*

*Spores Afield* is published from March through October by the Colorado Mycological Society. CMS dues are \$23 for the first year and \$20 thereafter. Send membership dues to CMS Membership Chair, Box 9621, Denver, CO 80209. All CMS members receive *Spores Afield* as part of their membership.

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

CMS website: <http://www.cmsweb.org>

## **Babar**

You probably remember the story of that delightful elephant Babar. He became king of the elephants when his father died. According to Polenc who wrote some music to Babar's story, his father died when he ate some poisonous mushrooms. Now if he had been a member of the CMS he would have known which mushrooms were edible and which were not.

## **Beginning mushroom eating**

When did people begin to eat mushrooms? Since the beginning of time. Remember that early humans were gathers of food. But how did they know which mushrooms were edible? That is another story and one which cannot be answered.. Its interesting to realize that without books and schools people knew a lot. Probably throughout the world today people learn all about mushrooms from their parents and society.

Both articles offered by Ruth Davis

*Spores Afield*

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[www.cmsweb.org](http://www.cmsweb.org)