

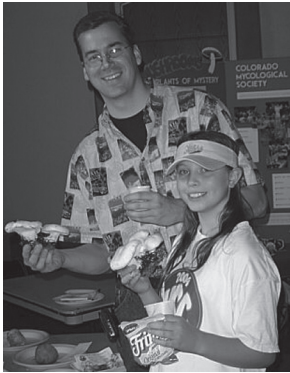
Next Meeting June 11th, 2007

SPORES Afield

The newsletter of the Colorado Mycological Society

June 2007

President's Column



Mushroom Update:
People have been finding an abundance of yellow morels *Morchella esculenta* and oyster mushrooms *Pleurotus ostreatus* at lower elevations! By the time you read this, it will probably be near the end of the yellow morel season and nearing

the beginning of the black morel *Morchella elata* season. At my house in Bailey, Colorado at an elevation of 8700 feet, the snow has finally melted. Last week we had a foot of snow and I'm sure all of the moisture will make for a great spring mushroom season. As many of you know, if you happen to miss the morel season at lower elevations, you can follow the morels up the mountain, since higher elevations have a later season than the Denver area. So far the only mushrooms that I have found around 9000 feet are LBMs (Little Brown Mushrooms), although others have found oysters at this elevation.

The next big 'group' of edible mushrooms to show up should be mushrooms of the genus *Agaricus*, a large, diverse group of mushrooms, often difficult to identify to species. However, I'm really looking forward to the 'prime' mushroom season in mid July through mid September when most of the mycorrhizial species appear.
(continued next column)

Speakers for the June Meeting:

Rob Hallock and Mary-Ann Guthrie

The June meeting will be divided into two parts. First, CMS member Rob Hallock will outline an article that's called "The Taste of Mushrooms" that is being published in the journal the *McIlvainea* in the fall. He will discuss what mushrooms taste like, and how the taste of a given mushroom can vary from individual to individual. In the second part of the talk, Rob will be joined by member and Le Cordon Bleu certified chef Mary-Ann Guthrie. Together, they will host a roundtable discussion on how to cook and prepare mushrooms.

(President's continued from previous column)

This year I have been lucky to find some friends in the medical device field who have access to a SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope)! A SEM will provide a three dimensional digital photograph of very small objects such as mushroom spores. I'm currently in search of spores to mushroom species on my 'personal list of known mushrooms' on this web page: <http://www.capsandstems.com/specieslist.htm>. If you happen to find a species of mushroom on this web page and have a spore print, I would love to have it!

See you at the next meeting, pray for rain, and happy mushrooming!

The Presidents photo this month was taken at the CMS mushroom fair.

Upcoming Events

- 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 Boletes".
- 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".
- Aug. 16-19th Crested Butte Wild Mushroom Festival. Visit the festival web site at www.cbmushfest.com.
- Aug. 25-26th Buena Vista King Boletus Festival. More info on page 3.
- Sept. 10th Cook & Taste.
- Oct. 8th Annual meeting and Election of Officers. Speakers: 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 the second Monday of each month from Mar. to Oct. at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Mitchell Hall at 7:30 pm unless otherwise announced.

Upcoming Forays

Note: NEW MEETING PLACE!! Due to the large number of cars now using our normal meeting place we have moved to another parking lot just down the road. See below.

Please note all forays meet at 9:00 am in the SE parking lot (Stegosaurus) at Exit 259 (I-70/Morrison). 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.

You must be a member of CMS to take part in the forays.

Sunday June 10th, 9am. -- Denver mushroom foray -- This foray will focus on mushrooms that are common in parks and other urban areas in and around Denver. We can expect to bring in *Agaricus* and *Coprinus* species, hopefully *Flammulina velutipes* and some other common city mushrooms. This foray will be particularly dependent on rainfall in the few weeks leading up to June 10th, so you must contact me between June 6th and 9th to make sure the foray is on and to get the meeting location. We will meet at 9 AM at a centrally located Denver park. After a short briefing, I will send small groups of 6-8 people to individual locations (no more than 15 minutes away).

(continued on page 8)

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

Buena Vista King Boletus Festival

By Ellen Jacobson

The Buena Vista King Boletus Festival was started 12 years ago by a local resident, Jim Sanford, who never took "no" for an answer. He first contacted former CMS members, Kris and Terry Philbin, and Ellen Jacobson who said, among other things, that Buena Vista was too dry, no one knows the territory and how in the world will you get 65 people who know nothing about mushrooms to attend a King Boletus Festival in Buena Vista. Jim proved us all wrong and the Festival will celebrate its 13th year in 2007.

Other than learning about mushrooms and having a very good time, the primary purpose of the Festival is to raise money for the Buena Vista Heritage Museum in support of their local projects which have included the restoration of the Turner Farm and help in rebuilding some of the structures in St. Elmo after a damaging fire several years ago.

The Festival begins on Saturday morning at the Community Center with coffee and donuts and an introductory lecture and slide show. After a question and answer period and discussion of the mushrooms on display, we proceed to the Turner Farm, (where there are always city mushrooms), for a picnic lunch. Then it's off to Cottonwood Pass for some serious mushroom foraging; the forays are led by CMS members and local residents.

We return to the Community Center in the late afternoon for identification and discussion of our finds. In the early evening, we have the opportunity to visit the Heritage Museum for a wine and cheese party and sample homemade wild mushroom soups.

On Sunday, shroomers may choose between attending one of several forays or staying at the Community Center for a class in Intermediate mushroom identification. The day ends when we all gather at the Community Center for a final

discussion and identification plus excellent wild mushroom pizza.

The Buena Vista King Boletus Festival has always been a small town's celebration of wild mushrooms with many members of the community involved and I speak for both students and staff when I say that we all have an educational weekend with a thick frosting of good times and new friends.

The cost for all activities is \$65.00 per person. Please contact Cara at the Buena Vista Heritage Museum website: buenavistaheritagemuseum@msn.com The dates of this year's Festival are August 25 and 26.

“Not to be missed!”

Go to www.youtube.com and search for “Cordyceps”. You can watch the most incredible video shot by the BBC for its Discovery Channel series, Planet Earth. It shows Cordyceps species parasitizing ants and various other insects. This brief was submitted by Marilyn Shaw.

Editors note: the whole 11 part series was amazing and is re-run occasionally on the Discovery Channel. It also has time-lapse footage of mushrooms growing and one with a net like partial veil that flows out and touches the ground in slow motion. I believe you can purchase the whole series on the Discovery Channel web-site.

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(Forays continued from page 2)

We will then meet back at the central location to identify the mushrooms. Ellen, our resident Agaricus expert will be on hand to help out with identification.

Saturday, June 16th, 2006 -- Morel Foray — We will be hunting for black morels in this foray. The foray will be in the mountains so come prepared for cool temps and possible rain showers. The leader of this foray will be announced later.

Sunday, July 8th 2007 -- Leon Shernoff, editor of Mushroom, The Journal of Wild Mushrooming and our guest speaker for Monday night's meeting, will join CMS for a mountain foray.

Saturday, August 4th, 2007 -- Winter Park Foray — Tom Ruzicka will lead this foray in search of *Boletus edulis* and other edibles. Details to be announced later.

Friday, August 10th, 2007 -- Fair Foray — This foray will focus on collecting specimens for the CMS Mushroom Fair which set-up will take place the following day.

Saturday, August 18th, 2007 -- President's Foray — Our CMS President, Chris Hardwick, has kindly offered to lead a foray in the vicinity of his property in Bailey, CO. The foray will begin at Chris's house at 10:00 a.m. The foray will be preceded by a Board meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. Note that the usual CMS foray procedure of meeting in the parking lot off of Exit 259 on I-70 will NOT be followed for this foray. Chris has provided directions so proceed directly to the foraying location. Due to limited space this month directions to the foray location will be in next month's *SporesAfield* or go the CMS web-site and get directions now.

Spores Afield

Page 8



June 2007

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