

Next Meeting September 8th, 2008

# SPORES Afield

The newsletter of the Colorado Mycological Society

September 2008

## President's Column

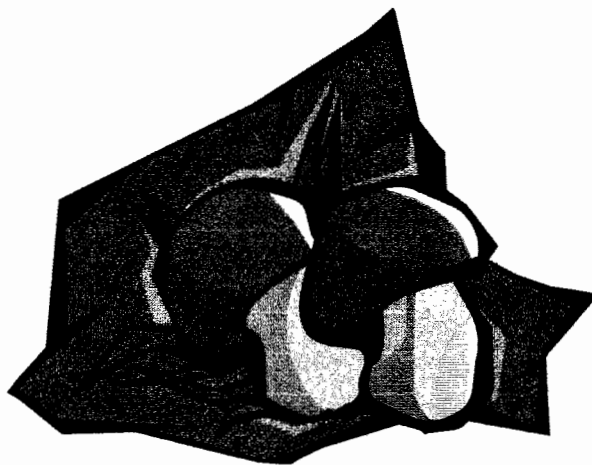
By Rob Hallock



### Annual Fair Summary:

Our annual mushroom fair was quite a success. We were very pleased to have Else Vellinga join us from August 15th through the 18th to be the chief identifier at our annual mushroom fair. Together with our own Vera Evenson, 133 species were identified and an additional 6 were identified down to genus. Of this total, 12 were species that were new to the fair. Included in these 12 were two new genera! The two new genera represented at our fair were *Pseudoplectania* and *Spinellus*. For those of you who are more advanced members, some of the new species we found that you can look up and read more about include *Sarcodon stereosarcinon*, *Rhodocybe nitellina*, *Geastrum nanum*, *Cortinarius evernius*, and *Albatrellus avellaneus* to name a few.

One of the most exciting things about the fair this year is that we got 15 new members. This is certainly higher than usual, and I'd like to take a moment to welcome you to the club. I heard one person who was passing through the fair say to his wife "these people are really into their mushrooms". While that statement is most certainly true, I think we are just as excited to teach a new person something we know as we are to learn something new ourselves. Please don't hesitate to ask one of us to point out key features of a mushroom that we are checking out at the beginning of a meeting. I know that it is easy to become overwhelmed when you are a beginner, but my advice is simply to take it slow. Take things one step at a time. Spend a little time reading the first chapter of your mushroom book. This usually goes through the parts of a mushroom, explains how your book is organized, and tells you how to take a spore print (and even what spores are). Then, go find yourself a distinctive mushroom (i.e. not a little brown or white mushroom, or something so fragile that you need a magnifying glass just to look at it) and try to find it in your book. Even if you



(continued on page 2)

*President, continued from page 1*

can't find it in your book yet, you will familiarize you with the book. If you've found something that looks like your mushroom, and has the same color spore print, then you've done a good job. Also check out our schedule of forays on our website and the ones listed in this newsletter. My personal expectation is that everyone (beginners and experts alike) can learn one new mushroom on each foray. When you find your mushroom, really check it out. Notice what trees are growing nearby, if it has any smells, and take a spore print.

The fair would not have been possible without the generous hard work of many CMS members. First, Linda DeLeon was a superb organizer of the fair this year. The event went smoothly and the setup, sorting, and identification process seemed less stressful than in some years. Also, the fair had several additions this year that most certainly improved the fair. I would also like to thank Christy Honigman who headed setup on Saturday evening and served as the 'unofficial assistant deputy', as Linda put it. Pete Marczyk of Marczyk Fine Foods ([www.marczykfinefoods.com](http://www.marczykfinefoods.com)) donated lunch for the volunteers on Sunday. CMS thanks Pete for the food. Marilyn Shaw did the lion's share of work with regards to toxicology and set up of the vast majority of placards and signage we displayed. We thank her for her kind assistance and continued support of the club. We would also like to thank the numerous CMS volunteers who worked on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to make the fair possible (I apologize that I am unable to recall and list everyone individually). We recognize that the fair would not be possible without your work. Greg Sanchez has volunteered to be the new CMS librarian. Greg will hold the CMS library and loan books to CMS members as they request. Many thanks for filling this important position.

#### **Mycoblitz:**

Unfortunately, this column is headed to the printer a few days before the mycoblitz in Rocky Mountain National Park. I'll most certainly give a summary of it in my next column.

See you at the Cook & Taste at the September regular meeting.  
Rob

*Spores Afield*

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## **Save a Tree and Help CMS at the same time**

Did you know that you could get our monthly newsletter in an electronic form instead of the paper version?

Here are some advantages:

- The email version goes out a full week before the paper copy. This gives you more of a notice of when the forays are.
- You will help save trees because we won't need to print you a paper copy of the newsletter.
- You will save CMS some money because we won't need to buy the paper you would be using, or spending money on the postage to mail you the newsletter.
- You will be given access to a PDF version of the newsletter – and can print it out yourself if you want to save the club money from postage but still want a paper version.

If you currently receive the paper copy of this newsletter, but would like to switch to the electronic version, please email the CMS membership chair Linda DeLeon; [ldeleon@comcast.net](mailto:ldeleon@comcast.net)

Thank you



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## *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](http://www.cmsweb.org)



## Call for Mushroom and Soil Samples

Marc Donsky is pleased to announce that Ms. Christy VanCampen will be joining our research group as a Master's student this fall semester. Christy currently works for Environmental Resource Associates. She will be working on collecting data about heavy metal accumulation in Colorado mushrooms. We are requesting your aid in obtaining samples of mushrooms and the substrates they were collected from (growing in). We are (of course) especially interested in mushrooms collected near old mines. We are also interested in city collections and pristine environment collections. Please contact Marc Donsky at 303-556-3201, email: [marc.donsky@ucdenver.edu](mailto:marc.donsky@ucdenver.edu) with any questions or for more information. Thank you for your help!

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## CMS Officers for 2008

### President - Board

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[Rob.Hallock@UCHSC.edu](mailto:Rob.Hallock@UCHSC.edu)

### Past President - Board

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### Past President - Board

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### CMS Forays

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### Toxicology

Marilyn Shaw  
303-377-1278  
[marihshaw@aol.com](mailto:marihshaw@aol.com)

# September Mushroom Tasting

Monday, September 10th, 2008

We are planning a wild mushroom Cook & Taste for the September meeting. The Cook & Taste will be held September 10th at 7:30 in Gates Hall at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Members are encouraged to bring a mushroom dish to share with other members. Only the following mushroom species may be used:

*Boletus barrowsii*

*Boletus edulis*

*Cantharellus cibarius*

Commercial mushrooms from a grocery

*Coprinus comatus*

*Hydnum repandum*

*Flammulina velutipes*

*Sarcodon imbricatum*

*Lactarius deliciosus*

*Marasmius oreades*

Matsutake -

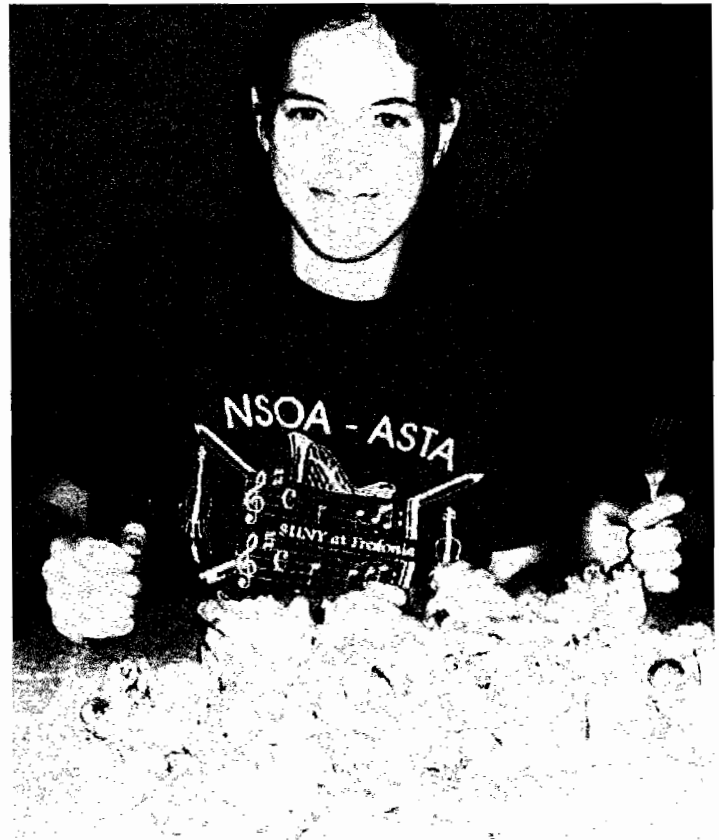
*Tricholoma magnivelare*

*Tricholoma caligatum*

*Morchella angusticeps*

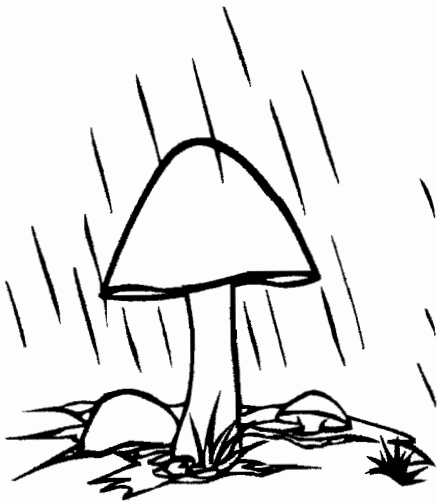
*Pleurotus ostreatus*

*Tricholoma flavovirens*



All the dishes brought to the Cook & Taste must follow these rules:

- All mushrooms must be well cooked. Raw mushrooms will not be allowed in any dish.
- Use only one species of mushroom in each dish.
- A written recipe prominently showing the species of mushroom in the dish and the cook's name MUST accompany each dish. Please e-mail your recipes in advance to Rob Hallock (Rob.Hallock@UCHSC.edu)
- Leccinum species are not allowed!
- If you have a supply of a good, common edible species of mushroom that you would like to use in a dish, but it isn't on the list above, call Marilyn Shaw at 303-377-1278. All exceptions must be approved in advance of the Cook & Taste.
- Those who have no time to cook or cannot cook may bring drinks, desserts, salads, or bread (prepared food from the grocery is fine.) The Cook and Taste is being organized by Rob Hallock. Please contact Rob with what you are planning to bring to have a balanced menu. Everyone planning on attending should plan on contributing in some way. Rob.Hallock@UCHSC.edu or call 720-480-4452



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## Foray Schedule

**Saturday, September 20th at 9:30 - Location TBD**

Jennifer Frazer will lead this foray. More information will be available on the website as details are finalized. The meeting place will be in the Safeway parking lot (NE corner) in Boulder at 28th and Arapahoe. Please contact Jennifer by email at [ranatrafusca@yahoo.com](mailto:ranatrafusca@yahoo.com) or Christy Honigman at 303 522-1402 for more information.

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## End-of-Season Mushroom Feast

Due to the very high demand the dinner on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> has only a few open seats. The remaining seats will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. When the final seats are booked you may still submit a reservation and will be placed on a waiting list. You'll be notified in the event of a cancellation. At the CMS Web site at you can add your name to the waiting list by visiting [www.cmsweb.org/fungi\\_feast.htm](http://www.cmsweb.org/fungi_feast.htm). where you will find a downloadable reservation form.

*Spores Afield*

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## How to find where it is raining:

By Jennifer Frazer

I did a little research and found two great websites that might help us determine where to go mushroom hunting based on recent precipitation. Rain is key to finding good mushrooms, so here are some tools to find where it has been raining ...

First, we have this: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/precip/realtime/GIS/USMEX/USMEX-precip.shtml>.

This website shows precipitation at a national level over the last 7, 30 and 90 days. Just use the drop box at the bottom of the map to change the time interval. This gives a good rough idea of rainfall.

Second, and a little bit better, we have this:

<http://water.weather.gov/>

You can choose the state of Colorado, and a specific time frame to see raw precipitation, whether this precipitation is a departure from normal, and the total percent of normal precipitation. If you click on percent of normal, you can see the areas of the state that are below normal and thus probably not the best hunting grounds.

For mushroom purposes, the last-7-day data may be most useful. Do with this information as you will.



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## Upcoming Events

**September 8<sup>th</sup> -**

**7:30 PM - Cook & Taste -** A 10-minute introduction will be given by Rob Hallock on the mushrooms we will be eating.

**October 13<sup>th</sup> -**

**7:30 PM -** To be announced

**October 19<sup>th</sup> -**

CMS Mushroom Dinner  
Contact Tom Ruzicka at 303-447-2740 or [tomruzicka@comcast.net](mailto:tomruzicka@comcast.net) to make a reservation.



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## 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.

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.

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



In September 2007 I attended my first CMS meeting and joined the club that night. I'd been collecting and eating a couple varieties of mushrooms from the land around my family's cabin as long as I can remember. My parents started the trend, but to say that my knowledge was limited was a vast understatement. I could tell the difference between gills and teeth and that was pretty much the extent of my knowledge. I was intimidated and felt like I was in a foreign country. I didn't understand the language these really smart people were speaking!

In real life I work with learning. How we learn, what we learn and when we learn and I know that the very best way to learn something new is to immerse yourself in it. Right in the middle. And to spend as much time there as possible so when I saw the notice that the CMS needed a new newsletter editor I applied for the job. I had no idea at the time how lucky I was to get it.

Now remember, I knew effectively NOTHING about mushrooms. I was pretty sure that everyone would realize that in about ten seconds and dread dealing with me every month. Just the opposite happened. I was taken by the hand and introduced to the world of fungi by a group of experts. They have all explained something to me over and over, with immense patience, until it finally clicks. They have invited me on trips to the hills and shown me how to look for mushrooms. They've shared the interesting personality quirks of species we find and they've done it with joy.

In the last year I've been surrounded by a group of people who are passionate about mushrooms and love to share that passion. While I'm sure that they would be happy to help any member of our club learn

about mushrooms, being a volunteer puts you in situations ordinary club members never see and offers opportunities to immerse yourself in the language of mushrooms. It's been a lot of work and I've made a lot of mistakes (see any newsletter from 2008) but the encouragement and help of my new friends have made it work. I've learned so much more in just one year than I imagined I would in five years as a club member.

If you have the time and truly desire to become an educated mushroom hunter, I strongly suggest you get your application in for one of the following positions before someone beats you to it.

## Treasurer

The role of Treasurer is to track the CMS budget and to report on financial matters at some of the board meetings. Bill Windsor has developed an Xcel spreadsheet that tracks income and expenses together with a deposit and check log. The spreadsheet also tracks the CMS budget. Most of the deposits are made by the Membership Chair and the Book sales Chair, but the Treasurer does need to make deposits as well from time to time. The treasurer is also responsible to pay 4 or 5 checks a month, often less than that. The Treasurer is a Board position.

Skills needed to perform the job include:

- Must be able to work with Xcel Spreadsheets. The spreadsheet is already set up and only needs to be updated.
- Must be able to write checks, accept and pay CMS billings.
- Ideally, the treasure should attend CMS meetings to collect deposits from Book and T-shirt sales.
- Must be able to read and understand monthly bank statements

Must be able to balance the CMS ledger spreadsheet with the monthly bank statements.

Anyone interested in this important role for CMS should contact Bill Windsor at [wnwindsor@comcast.net](mailto:wnwindsor@comcast.net).

## Secretary

Joanna Seward has filled this position for the past seven years and has used the opportunity to bring great energy to the board as well as implement novel ideas. Joanna will train the new Secretary, passing on the shortcuts and procedures acquired in her time as secretary. This position is a board position and requires that you:

- Attend 4 CMS board meetings a year.
- Keep official records of CMS. These include:
  - Bylaws
  - Minutes
  - Membership Roll
  - Official correspondenceSuch archives as exist
- Prepare for the President's approval a draft of the minutes for each of the required four board meetings per year
- Distribute copies of approved minutes to board and any other CMS members who attend the board meeting

Keep updated The List of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Active Volunteers

Skills required for the Secretary position include:

- Ability to organize and maintain files
- Comfortable with email and attachments

Being responsive and a bit proactive

Anyone interested in providing this service to CMS is urged to email Joanna at [sewardj@aol.com](mailto:sewardj@aol.com) or call her at 303-455-3519. She will be happy to assist in transitioning into the position. The last board meeting of the year will precede the October meeting of CMS and would be a good opportunity to experience one of the major tasks of the position.

## 2009 Mushroom Calendars are here

Our 2009 mushroom calendars are available for sale. The calendars we sold last year at this time were a big hit and sold out quickly. By the very nature that these calendars are dated merchandise, we get a very limited quantity produced, so get yours at the next meeting! These are 13 month calendars with 13 full color high quality pictures of mushrooms. The calendar also shows holidays and depicts the dates of our CMS meetings.

This calendar is meant to beautifully depict native Colorado mushrooms in their natural habitat. The mushroom pictures in the calendar were the result of sorting through hundreds of photographs, and I tried to do three things to make this calendar serve as a

learning tool. First, I included some common Colorado mushrooms that are not in several popular field guides. Second, I've only included photos of typical specimens that clearly depict key features of the mushroom that are used for identification. Third, I've provided additional information about the fungus in the caption.

There were so many submissions this year that it was difficult to narrow it down to the best 13 photographs. I also had the pleasure of having access to hundreds of mushroom photos that were posted online. We were unable to include some great photographs, but I have saved them for consideration for the 2010 calendar. Additionally, there were multiple submissions with pictures of the same mushroom. This afforded me with the opportunity to pick out the picture that best depicted the characteristics that are key for

identification, as well as select those that were particularly artistically appealing.

In addition to many photographs by CMS members, some friends of the club also contributed pictures. Some well known names that contributed to the calendar include Michael Kuo (the 2008 chief identifier at our annual mushroom fair and 2008 chief identifier at the Rocky Mountain Mycoblitz, and mushroom author), Michael Beug (chairman of the North American Mycological Association's Toxicology committee), and Debbie Vies (AKA amanita-rita, an amanita expert).

I hope that you enjoy this calendar as much as I enjoyed putting it together, and don't forget to pick up your copy.

Rob Hallock



*Cyathus striatus*



*Polyporus squamosus*



*Arrhenia sp.*



*Ustilago maydis*



*Hydnellum aurantiacum*

### Colorado Mycological Society 2009 Calendar



*Morchella angusticeps*



*Hygrophorus purpurascens*



*Lycoperdon perlatum*



*Hygrophorus piceae*



*Floccularia straminea*



*Amanita nivalis*



*Helvella corium*

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## Election of New Officers

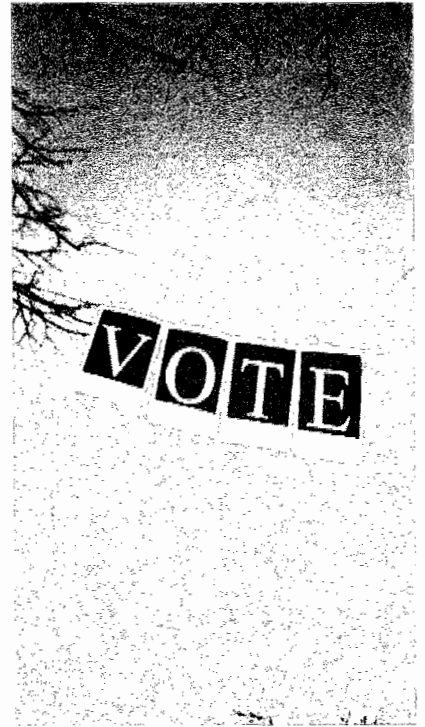
Election of New Officers will occur at our October 13th meeting. The following individuals have agreed to run for office yet nominations will be accepted from the floor at the Oct. meeting, the nominee must have agreed to be nominated. Several of these spots are open. Please consider getting more involved with our group - we are a fun group and the very continuance of CMS depends solely on volunteers like you to fill these spots.

### Nominee

President  
President Elect  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Member-at-Large

### Office

Marc Donsky  
Ed Lubow  
Open  
Open  
Open  
Linda deLeon



*Spores Afield*

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P.O. Box 9621  
Denver, CO 80209

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COLORADO  
MYCOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

