LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB **http://limyco.org**

L.I. SPOREPRINT

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1, SPRING, 2006

FINDINGS AFIELD

Because Long Island has both extensive sand dunes and sandy soil, I had expected to come across the Common Stalked Puffball sometime in my foraging afield, since it is a denizen of desert-like areas and is known to occur in the northeast (Bessette, 1997, *Mushrooms of NE North Amer.).* Alas, it never happened, and the possibility receded to a dim corner of my mind. However, news of its historical occurrence recently reached me via an unusual source.

Long-time member and previous species recorder for the club, Bunny Eisenson, at one of our forays, presented me with a letter dated December 7, 1986 from Jean Paul Latil, our late co-founder, whose witty cartoons continue to grace our publication. In it he states, " In November, at Jacob Riis Park, on a lawn, we saw two dozens of rabbit droppings, in an area of a square yard. When I picked one, brown spores came out. When I pulled this small puffball out, it had a stem, hidden in the sand. I had never seen it. It is described in some books, '*Tulostoma brumale*'."

Jacob Riis Park is a beachfront state park on Rockaway peninsula in Queens bordering the Atlantic Ocean to the south and Jamaica Bay to the north, and its soil

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THE SEASON'S BOUNTY

The long summer drought followed by the September deluge of a foot of rain, made this a very poor year for most of the NY region, and worst of all for Nassau and Suffolk counties, which suffered the most, with rainfall minimums setting a thirty year low. Nevertheless, there were some bright spots, particularly our first record of "Summer Boletes" *(B. reticulates)* in July, which appeared in those public parks holding venerable specimens of Oaks, often along with great outcroppings of undesirables such as *B. subluridellus,* but sometimes with the edible *Tylopilus alboater* and *B. bicolor.* (To illustrate the difference resulting from just a small remove of geography and climatology, see the excerpts from Dennis Aita's report of the NYMS's year on page 3.)

Morels also made a scant showing throughout the region, including NY and PA. Spring Oysters (*P. populinus)* made their expected May appearance, but in reduced numbers. The same holds for Winecaps, which seem to have exhausted their usual substrate of woodchips in many areas. In terms of edibles, even Autumn was lackluster, with Hen-of-the Woods, Chicken, and Oysters all being much reduced.: not until December, after our official forays ended, did some of us find nice quantities of *Pleurotus Ostreatus.* The exception to the Autumn's negatives was the Peconic Hills foray, which yielded plentiful Gypsies and Flame-colored Chanterelles (*Cantherellus ignicolor).*

Amanita excelsa v. alba

Despite this, our list of new species for the area keeps growing, thanks in measure to those members who call my attention to interesting and unusual specimens, among them Tony Mish, John Yenick, and others. Thanks also to Dom Laudato, our former president, who continues to find and identify new species; and particu-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is officially here even though winter still lingers . There are a few mushrooms to be found, though. One of my indoor flower pots has produced an ongoing crop of very tiny *Coprinus* and *Concybe* species. Since the soil was bought in a bag, it is hard to figure out where these came from. I can't wait to find some mushrooms 'springing' up outside. (Small oyster mushrooms were found on a aspen twig this month, so that is a start.)

As I stated in the last issue, we are looking for a new restaurant for our annual luncheon. Western Suffolk or Nassau county is the area that seems to be optimal for our membership. Ken and Monique are looking into a few places but if anyone has a favorite that is not too expensive, please let me know. I'll personally go there to check it out.

On another topic, the Caleb Smith BioBlitz is in June this year. As this is a very important biodata survey, I encourage all to attend. (You DO NOT have to identify mushrooms but it would be great to have extra "eyes.")

Morel season is coming up and maybe we'll find a few more this year. Long Island doesn't seem to have too many sites, but there are other places to look. There is a new book out about hunting these delicacies. It is titled simply "Morels" and is written by Michael Kuo. It has beautiful pictures, hints as to how to find them and maps showing states in which they have been DNA classified. (Amazon has this book at a discounted price if you are interested.)Even if you're not interested in getting the book, the author also has an online site for more on the subject along with other mushroom identifications. The URL is: mushroomexpert.com. Hope to see you all soon!

EDITOR'S NOTE

To indulge our Spring wanderlust, this edition includes information about the regional forays available to footloose mycophiles this year. Some, while being far removed, offer foraging possibilities in a variety of habitats not easily accessible locally. Those who wish to brush up their schoolbook French may wish to join the NEMF's Samuel Ristich foray north of Quebec, where presentations will be given in English and French.

Avid Morel hunters may opt for the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club's open foray. Last year's hunt was less than optimal, so they are hoping for a rebound effect this Spring. But exploration does not have to entail distant travel; there are many woodland habitats here that are overlooked or infrequently visited. With that in mind, our foray chairman has included several new sites on this years schedule: Prosser Pines is one of the oldest and most extensive area of (planted) White Pine on LI; Southaven CP a pine barren area the club has not visited before; Tiffany Creek Preserve and Cunningham Park, previous favorites that have long gone unvisited.

Also, please note that an application for DEC access is included with this edition, for those who do not possess the permit, which is required to access those DEC areas we will visit this season. We also encourage you to visit new areas on your own and inform us of any promising sites.

MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER, 2006 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY MAY 30TH

(Submissions should preferably be typed or submitted in Rich Text Format on PC floppy disk or by e-mail)

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2005-The Mycological Year in Review

*by **Dennis Aita**, Walk Leader, NY Mycological Society - condensed from original by permission of the author.*

2005 was unseasonably chilly and rainy from late winter into early spring in the NYC region. The spring blossoms and early spring mushrooms were about 2 weeks late – one of the latest beginnings of springtime flora that I can remember. Morel hunters had great expectations… But while we waited for it to warm up, the early spring rains and showers practically stopped in most of our region. It turned out to be a very short and not wonderful morel season especially to the north where the soil quickly dried out in many places.

Late spring rains continued into June, and a small group of club members took part in the mid-June BioBlitz survey of a section of the Bronx along the Bronx River. Some chicken mushrooms were up and so were enough springtime mushrooms to make it an interesting day. In wood chips (I was told they are locally produced) we found some blue-staining *Psilocybes* that key out in Guzman's monograph to *P. subaeruginascens* which happens to only be recorded from temperate Japan and subtropical Indonesia! I now think it quite likely that this fungus may well have hitchhiked from Asia with other imports to the New York Botanical Gardens (which is just "next door") and spread to the Bronx River habitat. Closely related *Psilocybes* growing in similar habitats but from the West Coast have be found in the NYC region. They include *P. cyanescens* which occasionally pops up in the NYBG and on Long Island and also *P. baeocystis* which has been found in a few arboretums.

Smooth chanterelles (*Cantharellus lateritius)* are one of the first major summer mushrooms – certainly for pothunters. (*Not found on LI-Editor.)* And they were definitely up by the end of June and early July as were the *Lactarius hygrophoroides*. In one area of central New Jersey I found lots of young chanterelles but surprisingly some of them were already old and starting to dry out! This tells me that they started to come up quite early in June and then dried out before the later June rains brought up fresher batches (These smooth chanterelles can often grow quite slowly and do not decompose as easily as do the boletes. It is important to understand that old smooth chanterelles - small or large - that have lost their bright yellow - orange color and are pallid in color get tough and taste bitter or peppery). All reports from central and northern NJ indicate a very good early harvest of these chanterelles. Collectors were surprised how free of insect larvae they were (quite possibly because the early summer weather was pleasant – not hot –and without heavy rains). But mushroomers who usually collect smooth chanterelles further north in parts of upstate NY (Rockland, Orange, and Ulster) found the ground to be getting dry by mid to late July, the pickings slim, and the beginnings of the summer drought.

In the same central NJ area, not a lot of species were up besides the smooth chanterelles (no black trumpets for example) in mid-July so I was surprised to have found not far away a substantial amount (the most that I have ever seen) of choice summer boletes – *Boletus variipes** and *Boletus (aka Xanthoconium) separans* growing in moist oak woods… and so early in the summer season.

In another part of central NJ around Jamesburg, just south of New Brunswick, there were more species of mycorrhizal mushrooms in the mixed deciduous forest around the middle of the month. The choice *Lactarius volemus* and *L.corrugus* were just starting to come out as were some of the boletes, Russulas, and Amanitas.

And then the rains came to Middlesex County – flooding rains centered on this same Jamesburg area. Rainfall amounts of up to 10 inches of rain in a short period were recorded. We went back there towards the end of the month expecting a bonanza. Instead, we were very surprised to find far fewer species of mushrooms compared to the walk two weeks earlier! With the exception of good numbers of *Lactarius volemus* and *L.corrugis* there were practically no other mycorrhizal mushrooms in sight. And there was practically nothing in nearby pitch pine woods. Too cool for July? Too much rain??

By far the best of this year's club walks was along Stony Brook in Harriman State Park. The ground was already starting to dry out on July 24 but we found plenty of *Lactarius volemus* and *L. corrugis* for the table along with about 20 different boletes - some of them good edibles. We found plenty of Amanitas species (10), Russulas (9), Cantharellus (5) and even Cortinarius (3), that are more often found in the fall. But the summer mushroom season was really coming to a close since the rains in most places had stopped earlier in July. Record heat was coming with little to no rain for the next two to three months. The drought was beginning.

Finally, by the beginning of the second week of October conditions had changed. Lots of subtropi-

(**Editor's Note: The very similar* Boletus reticulatus *was found at this time on Long Island)*

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larly to Aaron Noraravian, whose wide experience and expertise has been a great addition to our club. While some finds continue to elude precise identification, we have added 35 new taxa, both species and subspecies (forms or varieties) to our list, the most auspicious being the previously unknown *Amanita*, now temporarily called # 53 by Dr. Rod Tulloss, and most closely related to *Amanita incarnatifolia* of China. Still unidentified is the *Cordyceps* and *Rhizopogon* found in Peconic Hills, but I hope to have some news of them shortly from the experts.

Stereum striatum

Hebeloma mesophaeum grp.

Phlebia radiata

Dacrospinax spathularia

Cortinarius glandicolor grp.

Russula flavissicans

Of the new species, 3 were varieties of *Amanita* species, 2 were Boletes, 5 Cortinarius, 2 Entoloma, 2 Pholiota, 3 Russula, and 1 each of Agrocybe, Conocybe, Coprinus, and Mycena. (For the complete list, including non-gilled species, see the insert on p.6.) Remember that all illustrations in the printed edition may be seen in color on the website edition of this newsletter.

(Continued from page 1) ***Findings Afield***

is mostly sand, and therefore a suitable habitat for this species. However, according to Bessette, two other species also occur in the Northeast, *Tulostoma simulans* and *Tulostoma campestre*. All three species are quite similar in size, color and habitat, and best distinguished by their spore characteristics.

Jean Paul Latil's drawing

The spore case opening can sometimes provide identification hints, but Jean Paul's drawing show young specimens with unopened pore mouths. He describes the spores as being brown in color, which most closely matches *T. campestre*, but that species has a scaly stalk, which is not evident in his drawing.

So although we cannot be completely certain of the species, there is no doubt that the drawing and accompanying notes describe a member of the *Tulostoma* genus. We therefore feel justified, on the basis of this historical information, in adding *Tulostoma sp.* to our checklist. Please be on the lookout for members of this genus, and get in touch with us if you do find any.

TREASURER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2005

Balance from 2004		$2218.79
Membership Dues	905.00	
Interest/Sales	223.76	
Total	1128.76	3347.55
Disbursements		
NAMA affiliation 2005	30.00	
Newsletter expenses (includes printing, mailing, supplies, & misc. notices)	551.03	
Treasurer's expenses(raffle, postage, supplies, sale items & tribute)	257.38	
Luncheon	140.00	
Total	1028.41	
Balance as of Dec. 31, 2004		$2319.14

NAMA FORAY 2006

The Edmonton Mycological Society will host a foray in conjunction with the North American Mycological Association on Aug. 17-20, 2006. The foray will be held at the Hinton training Centre, Hinton, Alberta, Canada and will attract mycologists and mushroom-lovers from all over North America and beyond. Registration details are not available yet, so watch the NAMA website: www.namyco.org. Remember, if you do not belong to NAMA, you are eligible to participate in this foray as a member of LIMC.

COMA's 27th Clark Rogerson Foray

This Conn. Mycological Association event will be held August 24-27, Thurs.-Sun., at Cave Hill Resort, Moodus, CT, with Gary Lincoff as chief Mycologist. Other myco-experts include Roz Lowen, Sam Ristich, and others.

Last year the fee for a full four days was $290 pp, including 3 night's lodging and all meals from dinner on Thursday to lunch on Sunday. This years fees have not yet been published. Only a limited number of double occupancy units are available, with priority to be given to couples. The remainder are apparently multiple occupancy units which hold up to 4 persons. It is suggested that reservations be made by April 27 in order to insure a space. Day participation is not limited. Updated information soon to be available at the COMA website:

http://www.comafungi.org/

Or, for further information, contact Don Shernoff at 914-761-0332 or donshernoff@yahoo.com.

(Cont'd from page 3) ***Mycological Year in Review***

cal and tropical rains drenched our entire area. Almost all areas got at least a foot of rain, most of it falling within a one week period (NYC recorded almost 17 inches of rain for the entire month of October.). Once again great expectations!

About 8 days after the first of the heavy rains (also see above in Jamesburg) the club held a walk in Woodlawn Cemetery. Normally – even in somewhat dry years – we find some mycorrhizal mushrooms such as Amanitas, Russulas, and even Boletus species as well as a good assortment of other mushrooms. Again, we were surprised to find very few species and just a few smallish puffballs - *Calvatia gigantea* and *C. craniformis*

But that day in the cemetery we did find a large number of Agaricus – most of them unknown to us . While we did find a few young white specimens... (of *A.campestris)* most looked very, very different. Some had gray caps with brownish/grayish hairs, some had brownish scales (*A. campestris var. squamulosus?*) and some were firmer mushrooms with reddish brown scales (*A. porphyrocephalus*: very small spores and no cheilocystidia, sterile cells on the gill edges; Roger Phillips' "Mushrooms of North America" has a picture and description of it). We also found a few horse mushrooms which weren't uncommon this past October on into November. More often than not – as in the cemetery - we are probably finding *A. macrosporus* and not *A. arvensis*. Unlike *arvensis, macrosporus* has unusually large spores (over 10 microns), is a bigger mushroom, the cap and stem do not turn (stain) yellow when touched, the ring is single-layered, smell of anise is often less intense (and with age often disagreeable) and with noticeable hairs on the cap and lower stem which with age (and dryness?) often turn increasingly yellow.

Besides Agaricus, mushroom hunters in October were mostly finding giant puffballs (*Calvatia gigantea)* sometimes in huge numbers and giant sizes. A friend from Essex County in NJ reports that one was 3 times the size of his head.

The New Jersey Mycological Association invited our club on a November walk in the NJ Pine Barrens with the truffle expert Jim Trappe. Not unexpectedly they didn't find any choice truffles (Tuber species) but they did uncover - close to the surface – two or three small, inedible *Rhizopogon* species ("false truffles") growing with the pitch pines. Unlike the deciduous woods of our region which hardly produced mycorrhizal mushrooms this past fall there were quite a few mushrooms in the pitch pine/oak woods that day: *Leccinum aurantiacum, Rozites ca perata* (the Gypsy), *Russulas, Hebelomas, and Amanitas* - including a couple of varieties of A. citrina, one of which looked at first very much like *A. phalloides* (the Death cap). On the way home we came across a huge collection of bright yellowish *Armillaria mellea* – the only ones that I saw the whole season (In normal years *A. mellea* is the first of the ringed honeys and can be often found starting in August).

In November I found - both in Middlesex County, NJ as well as in the Bronx – another uncommon Agaricus that I had never seen before. A large and very firm mushroom that stained red when cut! It had a sheathing veil on the stem (remnants of the universal veil) that extended down from the ring enveloping the lower stem. The problem with identifying this mushroom was that the very few books that mention it usually describe its habitat as the sandy coastal areas of the west and east coasts. But the two collections (one of them a large fairy ring) were on the side of roads in the sandy bare spots in otherwise grassy areas which were not in coastal locations. Several of us ate it before knowing what it was or that it is considered by some to be one of the best of the edible Agaricus! With the help of an expert agaricologist it turned out to be *Agaricus bernardii = A. halophilus* Peck. The "Salt – Loving Agaricus" is the common name that David Arora has given to this mushroom in his "Mushrooms Demystified".

New LI species 2005

Agrocybe erebia	Entoloma sericeum
Amanita #53	Hebeloma mesophaeum grp
Amanita vaginata v. alba	Hypoxylon cohaerens
Amanita volvate v. elongata	Marasmiellus albuscortis
Amanita excelsa v. alba	Marasmius graminum
Boletus reticulatus	Mycena copiosa
Boletus rubellus	Phlebia radiata
Conocybe filiaris	Pholiota limonella
Coprinus radiatus	Pholiota spumosa
Cortinarius luteus	Plicaturopsis crispa
Cortinarius vibratilis	Russula flavissicans
Cortinarius obliquus	Russula primaverna
Cortinarius mucifluus	Russula sericeonitens
Cortinarius glandicolor	Spongipellis pachydon
Calocera cornea	Stemonitis axifera
Coltrichia montagnei	Stereum striatum
Dacrospinax spathularia	Trametes hirsuta
Entoloma griseum	Tulostoma sp.

MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND

The Western PA Mushroom Club is again hosting their public morel foray on April 30th– May 1st, rain or shine, in Mingo Creek Park, located in the southwest corner of PA near the Ohio and WV borders. The event is open to non-members for a fee of $5; $10 if you wish to camp there for the next day's hunt.

Check-in and registration will be from 11 AM to 12 at roadside near the "Henry House", and after an instructional talk and slide show, morel hunting will commence at 1:15 PM, on your own or with a group leader.

Directions: Take I-70 west to Exit 9, then proceed North on Rt.519 for 2 miles. At a red light, turn right onto Route 136 and go 4.4 miles and turn left at the sign for Mingo Creek Park (just across from sMingo Inn). Follow signs to the park and registration area roadside near Henry House.

LIMC members are welcome, and if you have any questions email John or Becky Plischke at Morelbp@aol.com or call 724-834-2358. Be sure and drop by to say hello to them.

See their website for more information: www.wpamushroomclub.org

Exotic Mexican Forays in 2006

Mexican Mushroom Tours (Excursiones de Hongos Mexicanos) now in their 6th year of organizing small group tours for "fungi aficionados with a taste for the exotic" are offering two tours this year. Ex-Toronto fungi enthusiasts, Gundi Jeffrey and Erik Purre have, since 2000, organized small groups of intrepid foragers to explore the mushroom treasures, both taxonomically and gastronomically, of their adopted country. The first foray takes place in the Sierra Gorda area of Querétaro, from July 9-16, and will be led by mycologist Dr. Joaquin Cifuentes, head of mycology studies at UNAM in Mexico City; the second, in Oaxaca from August 6 - 13 has as leader/mycologist Dr. Arturo Estrada-Torres. The price, from the starting point in Mexico, includes lodgings, all meals, and guide services is $1,685 pp double occupancy. Group size is limited to a maximum of 18.

For further information, visit their website at www.mexmush.com., or email them at gundi@mexmush.com

The 2006 Sam Ristich NEMF Foray will be held at Saint Anthony's Hermitage, in Lac-Bouchette, from Friday September 1st to Monday September 4th 2006. The meeting will be organized by the Cercle des mycologues de Montréal (CMM) and the Société de mycologie d'Alma (SMA). The foray will be a joint event with the annual meeting of the «Association de mycologie du Québec» (AMQ) -- this includes seven Quebec mycological associations.

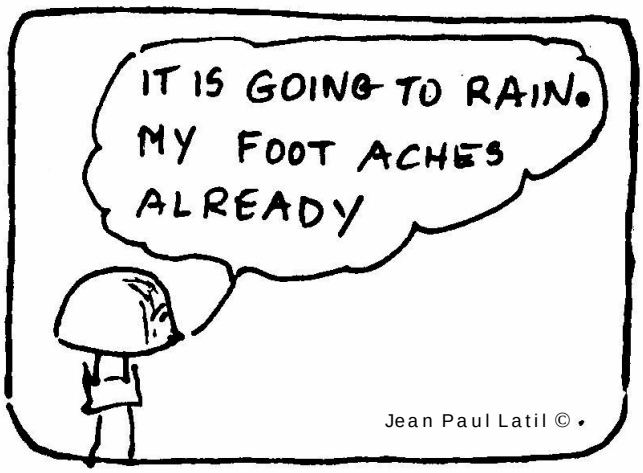
Lac-Bouchette is in a very small locality a few miles from Lac Saint-Jean, a huge lake in Quebec's Blueberry Region. The principal natural formation here is the boreal forest, dominated by coniferous trees, mostly Balsam Fir and Black Spruce and occasionally White Spruce and in its southern part Tamarack and Jack Pine. Leafy trees are White Birch and Trembling Aspen. This environment is particularly favorable to mushrooms in the late summer. Fauna includes Moose, Black Bear, Wolf, Lynx, Beaver, Marten, Mink and Mountain Hare.

The number of participants is limited to 200 who will be lodged either at the Hermitage or in one of 3 motels that are within one mile away. All meals and activities will be in the Hermitage; forays will leave from and return to the Hermitage. There is also space for mobile homes.

Among other things, there will be bilingual forays, conferences and workshops, in French or English or in both languages. Several mycologists have already confirmed their presence, with more to come: From USA: Gary Lincoff, Walt Sturgeon, Bill Roody From Canada: Yves Lamoureux, Yolande Dalpé, Réjean Gagnon, Mohamed Hijri From France: Bart Buyck.

By car, the foray's site is approximately a 3 hours' drive north from Quebec.

More information will be added on the CMM website, where a map and the registration forms will also be posted.
CMM phone: 514-872-7239
CMM e-mail: mycomtl@mycomontreal.qc.ca
CMM website: http://www.mycomontreal.qc.ca
NEMF website: http://www.nemf.org/
(Registration forms can be downloaded here; if you need one contact the editor.)



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April and the sun advancing, the disk rising each day to the north of where it leaped from yesterday's ocean and setting north of yesterday's setting, the solar disk burning, burning, consuming winter in fire. ***The Outermost House, Henry Beston, 1928***

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