LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB

http://limyco.org

L.I. SPOREPRINT

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 1, SPRING, 2008

FINDINGS AFIELD

Our return to Edgewood on last Nov. 17 was very successful, with 3 new species identified, including *Cortinarius nigrellus,* shown below.

Originally discovered by Peck in 1873, in the vicinity of Albany, NY, this species seems to be infrequently encountered, not appearing on the NEMF checklist, and with only 3 records in the Dept of Agriculture specimen database. Perhaps its late fruiting date contributes to this; not many collectors are out in November.

Our specimen was 6.5 cm, 1.5 cm larger than Peck's, but otherwise matched well, with a dark chestnut cap when fresh, subequal stipe, close, cinnamon gills, and unusually tiny spores of 6-7 X 3-3.5 µm. Kaufman (Gilled Musrooms of Michigan, 1918) adds that the dried specimen is peronate (sheathed), and if one looks closely at the stipe base, it is possible to see the "rolled sock" effect this sometimes produces.

Cortinarius nigrellus has been added to our updated LI checklist, a copy of which is included in this issue.

THE SEASON'S BOUNTY

By Joel Horman

Looking back to last year's mushroom fruiting, it is tempting to quote Dickens' "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times…" but that mixed characterization falls short of a very complex reality. For the second year in a row, we experienced a total rainfall of about 60 inches: Five feet- about 20% above normal. On the face of it, this would seem to be a good thing, indicative of plentiful fruiting. However, the rainfall pattern appears to be more influential than the total, so that fruiting was counter-intuitively low at many points, particularly during dry spells in the Autumn, the same as last year. (Another theory is that the mycelium had been "exhausted" by prolific blooming in 2006 and requires time to recover.) In fact, we had to cancel many forays due to a lack of fungi, and for the first time in LIMC's history, we had to cancel our annual Mushroom Day exhibit at Planting Fields Arboretum.

Boletus tenax

A recent study of Morel fruiting suggested that abundance was positively correlated with rainfall events in the preceding 30 days. However, although rainfall totals were about 6 inches in April, Morels were absent, so some other factor must have been operating. While April's weather was cool, soil temperature is thought to affect only the onset of fruiting, and not abundance. From reports received, it was not a good Morel season anywhere in the northeast.

We cannot point to the really ample fruiting of any desired edible in 2007. Neither spring species such as Winecaps or old fall reliables such as Hen-of-the-Woods appeared in anything like their usual numbers. We came across a good flush of *Boletus atkinsonii* in July, but unfortunately, about a week too late. Another old standby, *Boletus bicolor,* was but a shadow of previous years. Only the spring oyster, *Pleurotus populinus,* did not fail us, although the

(Continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another winter has come and gone. While we didn't have significant snowfall, we did and are having a lot of rainfall. Here's hoping!

Our Board of Directors met in March and discussed the upcoming season. (Thanks to Rita for offering to host again.) It was well attended and I thank all who came: Monique, Cathy (and Bob), Dale, Tony, Bruce, Joel and Jacques. At this point, efforts are underway to apply for a DEC permit so that we can access certain sites.

We are still looking for the perfect place for our annual luncheon and will be sampling a few new places again to see if we can find a venue that can offer more mushroom dishes. If you have any suggestions, please contact us.

This time of year there isn't much going on mushroom wise. I do look under the leaves while I'm raking to see if any are hidden under them. (None so far, but we did have Tubaria in January.) When I get around to it, I will go through all my fungi pictures from Central and South America to put a name to some of them. It is not so easy as there are very few guides to those areas; the web may help out a little. If successful, we may publish some for everyone to enjoy.

For now, I wish you all a pleasant spring and encourage you all to attend our upcoming forays. One new site has been added, and we request everyone to be on the outlook for new areas to explore.

Like many of you, I need to hit the books and lists to relearn all the names of fungi and what they look like. One way to start is to look at the spring checklist in this issue and see how many you can recognize.

Pretty soon we'll find out what Nature has in store for us. No predictions from me this time. I give up!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Zugunruhe, a word of Germanic origin, is used by biologists to describe the restless behavior of animals triggered by the migratory urge. It seems that a version of this descends upon mushroomers in springtime, forcing them outdoors even when there is little hope of encountering their much sought prizes. Our spring issue is a modest attempt to alleviate these urges with images of fungal journeys near and far. Here you will find a registration form for the NEMF foray, which happily more of our members are attending, to their delight. For the more adventuresome, some are further afield, even as far as Idaho. For stay-at-homes, our Foray Schedule will provide local adventures. A list of spring species included herein will hopefully help to make these wanderings more fruitful. This list will be permanently posted to our website.

And for those who prefer virtual journeys, our website will soon feature a links section to direct them to the best the web has to offer. A new password to the "Members Only" section will be mailed to all email recipients in the near future.

MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER, 2008 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY JUNE 1, 2008

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

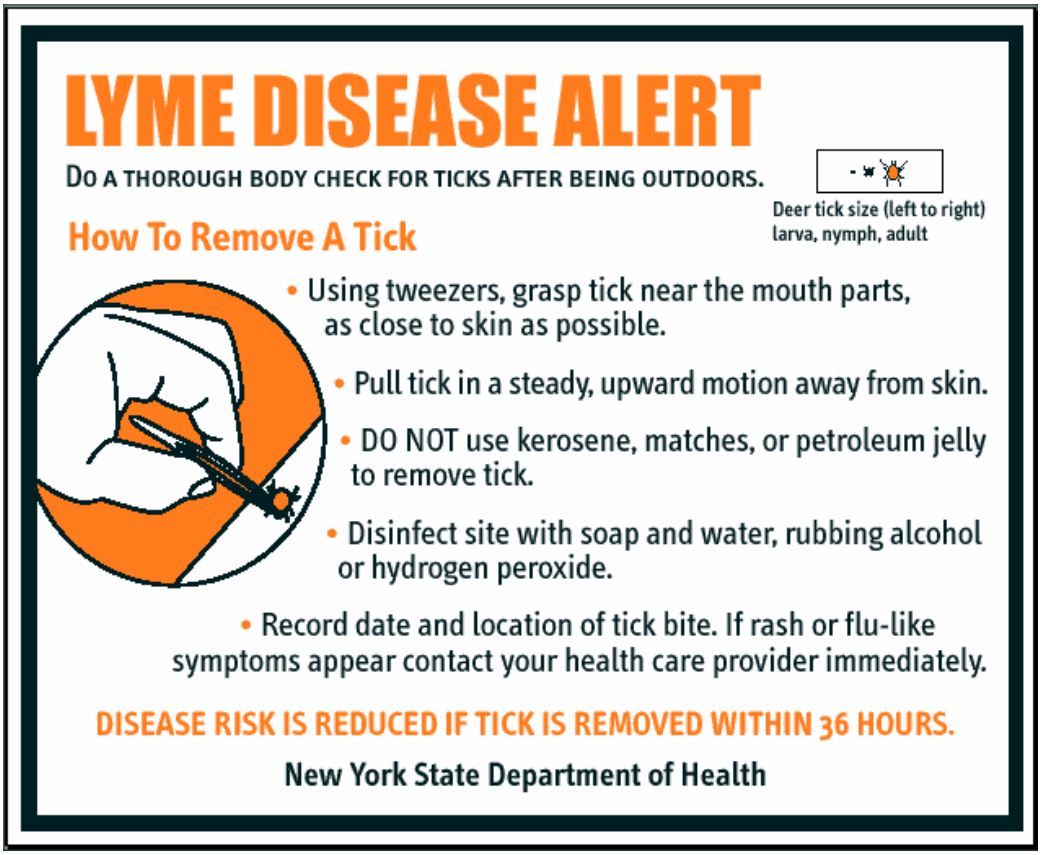
SAMUEL RISTICH Dec. 26,1915 — Feb. 11, 2008


Photo courtesy Greg Marley

Sam, as he was know to everyone, passed away peacefully at his home in Maine at the age of 92. "The Guru of Sligo Road" is survived by Ruth, his wife of 63 years, and his five children, six grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Although age had enfeebled him, he was active and lucid to the last, as those who attended the eponymous NEMF Sam Ristich Foray last year are aware. A roast held there was a tribute to the inspiration he provided for generations of mycologists, including Gary Lincoff and Rod Tulloss.

Born to Serbian immigrants, he early came to a love of nature, and had an infectious passion for the complex interconnections of the natural world. After earning a Ph.D. in entomology from Cornell University, he worked as a research scientist for Squibb and Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research. He also taught classes at the NY Botanical Gardens for 15 years. As the founder of the Maine Mycological Association, Sam contributed a regular article of his musings on matters mycological and ecological which in 2002 were published in book form as "Sam's Corner: the public journal of a mycological guru." In his review, Gary Lincoff said, "Sam sees what most of us miss, and he knows what most of us see but can't identify. What a treasure!"

The depth of his knowledge was equaled by his desire to share it and his natural love of people. His name is immortalized by* Amanita ristichii*, which he discovered and which Rod Tulloss named in his honor.



FACTOID

The first mushroom in orbit was *Flammulina velutipes,* the velvet foot, which in

1993 was cultured as part of the Columbia/Spacelab D-2 mission. Normally, it bends the stipe near the base so that the spores drop straight down. But in space, the growth was in random directions, proving that gravity provided its orientation.

SEASON'S BOUNTY ***continued from Page 1***

harvest was below historic expectations.

Not until well into the autumn did the pine barrens begin to produce Suillus, Brickcaps, Laccaria, Graylings, Tricholomas, and Hygrophorus. *Armillaria* was delayed and also less than expected. A late flush of Gypsies (*Rozites caperata)* in Peconic Hills on Nov 10 was very welcome, as was *Tricholoma flavovirens (*which has now reverted to its old name *T. equestre)* on our very last foray on Nov 24.

The season's highlight was the privilege of foraging with European Hebeloma expert Prof. Henry Beker, particularly as this permitted a return to Edgewood Oak Plains Preserve, from where we have been absent for a few years. The Hebelomas found were certainly new and continue to be scrutinized by Prof. Beker. His findings will be published in the Sporeprint as soon as they become available.

New finds were about average, about 38 identified, as compared with the previous year's high of 50. **(See 2007 list on page 5)** As usual, Russulas led, with 6 species identified (and probably an equal number left unidentified) followed by Cortinarius and Mycena, with 3 species each. I was pleased to run across a specimen of *Tulostoma brumale*, (Stalked Puffball) which should be plentiful in LI's sandy environs, but which was on our checklist only on the basis of historical records. Our checklist now numbers about 788 species. Thanks to all those members of LIMC who helped to add to our growing list.

Psilocybe subviscida

Tulostoma brumale (dried)

Inocybe radiata

Ramaria pusilla

Lepista tarda

Gumnopus(Collybia) earleae

Gleanings

■ **WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR SALAD?** Endophytic fungi, microscopic fungi which live within plants and establish symbiotic relationships with them, have been found within the leaves, bark and roots of a large number of trees and shrubs. Previous studies have shown that they occur in cultivated crops as well, including tomato, wheat, eggplant and cauliflower, among others. A new study has isolated 23 species of endophytic fungi from healthy fennel, lettuce, chicory and celery plants in southern Italy. Celery had only a low percentage, perhaps due to the presence of antifungal compounds. Interestingly, some known pathogenic species were found, leading the authors to conclude that they may behave as endophytes in certain plants. *(Endophytic fungi occurring in...commercial crops..M. D'Amico et al, Mycological Research, Vol.112 , Jan. 2008*)

■ **A MURDER OF MUSHROOMS:** Cystidea are mushroom cells found on gill, stipe, and cap that project beyond surrounding cells; although used as microscopic characteristics to help identify species, their function has remained mysterious. An ingenious series of experiments by Japanese researchers has demonstrated that in certain species, they function as a defense against minute fungiphores known as collembolans (Springtails), which can assemble in the thousands on attacked mushrooms. The experiment showed that these insects consume and destroy spores, which do not pass intact through their digestive tracts. Two species of mushrooms were used, *Russula bella* and *Strobilurus ohshimae,* both with widespread cystidea. The *R. bella* cystidea were seen to exude a droplet, which is presumed toxic. Differential collembolan death rates were demonstrated for lab feeding experiments which varied the presence of cystidea. In the field, dead collembolans were found adhering to those areas of the mushroom where cystidea were thickest. While the cystidea of other species may have non-defense functions, the authors think that cystidea with crystals on the apices may also be harmful to fungiphores. (*Defensive role of cystidea...T.Nakamori & A. Suzuki, Myco. Res.V.111, p.1345-51)*

Dead Springtail on cystidea.

■ **FUNGI ON/IN THE ROCKS:** A review article reminds us that a decade ago tunnels probably formed by mycorrhizal mushrooms were found inside mineral grains. While the circumstantial evidence is very strong, with hyphae found colonizing these tunnels, a direct causal relationship cannot be established. Nevertheless, rock-eating fungi are believed to play an important role in plant nutrition, biogeochemical cycles, and soil creation. (*Rock-eating mycorrhizas...L. van Schöll et al Plant & Soil, 2008, V. 303, No 1-2, Feb. 08,)*

(*Compiled by editor from indicated sources*.)

NEW LONG ISLAND SPECIES 2007

Amanita murilliana (= spreta sensu McIlvaine)
Boletus atkinsonii
Boletus tenax
Conocybe subovalis
Coprinus patoullardii
Cortinarius nigrellus
Cortinarius leucopus
Gloeporous dichrous
Gymnopus (Collybia) semihirtipes
Hericium coralloides
Inocybe radiata
Inocybe tubariodes (found by Debbie Persampire, on wood)
Laccaria proxima
Lactarius hibbardae
Lactarius subvernalis v. cokeri
Lepista tarda
Lycoperdon marginatum
Lycoperdon oblongisporum
Marasmiellus preacutus (ID'd by A. Noraravian)
Mycena amicta
Mycena citrinomarginata (ID'd by Prof. H.Beker)
Mycena mirata
Phellinis rimosus
Psilocybe subviscida
Polyporus arcularis
Ramaria pusilla
Rhizopogon fuscorubens
Russula aurantialutea
Russula fulvescens
Russula integra
Russula pseudolepida
Russula pusilla
Russula raoultii
Stereum hirsutum
Suillus subalutaceus
Tremella foliacea
Tulostoma brumale
Volvariella pusilla

COMMON SPRING MUSHROOMS

The following list, based on LIMC and personal records, is made up of the mushrooms most frequently encountered in our area during the early spring months. Some appear only at this time, while others may fruit throughout the year. Those which usually appear later in the year, or overwinter, are marked with an asterisk. At times, unusual weather patterns may "fool" species into making an exceptionally early or late appearance. Global warming has been documented as being associated with increasingly early appearance of many plant species, and documentation for fungi has recently been demonstrated for Britain.

Agaricus arvensis *
Agrocybe acericola
Agrocybe dura
Agrocybe pediades
Agrocybe praecox
Amanita muscaria var. formosa *
Armillaria tabescens
Chlorociboria aeruginescens
Clavicorona pyxidata
Clitocybe trullaeformis
Collybia dryophila
Conocybe tenera
Coprinus atramentarius
Coprinus disseminatus
Coprinus micaceus
Coprinus plicatilis
Entoloma strictius
Entoloma verna
Exidea glandulosa
Galerina autumnalis
Gymnosporangium juniperi-virginianae
Hebeloma crustuliniforme
Inocybe lacera
Irpex lacteus *
Ganoderma lucidum *
Gyromitra esculenta
Laccaria laccata
Laetiporus sulphureus
Leccinum aurantiacum *
Lentinus strigosus
Lentinus torulosis
Lycogala epidendrum
Marasmius cohaerens
Marasmius oreades
Marasmius scordonius
Megacollybia platyphylla
Melanoleuca melaleuca
Morchella elata
Morchella esculenta
Morchella semilibra
Mycena galericulata
Mycena hematopus
Mycena inclinata
Paneolus foenisecii
Paneolus semiovatus
Peziza badia
Peziza badio-confusa
Peziza repanda
Peziza succosa
Peziza vesiculosa
Phlebia radiata *
Pholiota veris
Pleurotus ostreatus
Pleurotus populinus
Pluteus cervinus
Polyporus elegans
Polyporus squamosus
Porodisculus pendulus *
Psathyrella condolleana
Psathyrella velutina
Psilocybe cyanescens
Psilocybe montana
Pycnoporus cinnabarinus
Russula primaverna
Schizophyllum commune
Stereum complicatum *
Stropharia rogusoannulata
Stropharia semiglobata
Tremella mesenterica
Trichaptum biformis
Tricholomopsis rutilans
Volvariella speciosa
Xeromphalina campenella
Xylobolus frustulatus

MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND

The Western PA Mushroom Club is again hosting their public morel foray on April 26th– 27th, 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. One must pre-register with the Park, even if not camping: Call Christine (724-228-6867) .

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. Collection show-time and I.D. at 5 PM and evening slide show at 8 PM. On April 29th, morning morel hunt at 9 AM.

LIMC members are welcome. For further details and driving directions, access their website at www.wpamushroomclub.org

EAGLE HILL SEMINARS

The Humboldt Research Institute in Steuben, ME offers several 5 day mycology courses, including:
July 27-Aug 22: Myxomycetes. Dr.SLStephenson
Aug3-9: Polypores, Tooth & Crust Fungi. Dr. T. Volk
Aug.31-Sept6: Mycology for Naturalists; instructor, Prof.D.Porter
Aug 26 - Sep 1: Advanced Mycology: Freshwater & Marine Ascomycetes. Dr. C. Shearer

Approximate costs are $465 for tuition, $165 for rooms (with lounge) in lab building, double occupancy, and $ 215 pp for meals.

Other courses in Mycology are offered, as are a variety of seminars in field botany, (lichens, ferns, liverworts, etc.); zoology (fishes, amphibians, etc.); Ecological restoration; and scientific illustration.

For a complete list of courses and costs, access their website at:

http://www.eaglehill.us/

TREASURER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2007

Balance from 2006		$2687.20
Membership Dues	1085.00	
Interest	13.55	
Total	1098.55	3785.75
Disbursements		
NAMA affiliation 2006	30.00	
Newsletter expenses (includes printing, mailing, supplies, & misc. notices)	539.38	
MS Publisher software (discount)	60.00	
Treasurer's expenses(raffle, postage, supplies, sale items)	59.65	
Luncheon & Picnic	172.38	
Lecture Hall	100.00	
Board Expenses	95.00	
Total	-1056.41	
Balance as of Dec. 31, 2007		$2729.34

COMA's 27th Clark Rogerson Foray

This Conn. Mycological Association event will be held August 21-24, Thurs.-Sun., at Cave Hill Resort, Moodus, CT, with Gary Lincoff as chief Mycologist. Other experts are unannounced at this time.

The fee for the full four days is $330 pp, including 3 night's lodging and all meals from dinner on Thursday to lunch on Sunday; $280 for Friday through Sunday. 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. Total accommodations limited to 70 persons. Day vistors are limited to 10 and pay a fee of $60 per day, including all activities and dinner. It is suggested that reservations be made by July 1, but earlier is always better. For complete information and to download a registration form (shortly to be available online) visit the COMA website:

http://www.comafungi.org/

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

ANNUAL NAMA FORAY 2008

Little information is available at this point, but the foray will be held in McCall, Idaho, hosted by the S. Idaho Mycological Assoc., Sept. 18-21, at Camp Pinewood, a rustic site. Check later this spring for updated information at: http://www.namyco.org

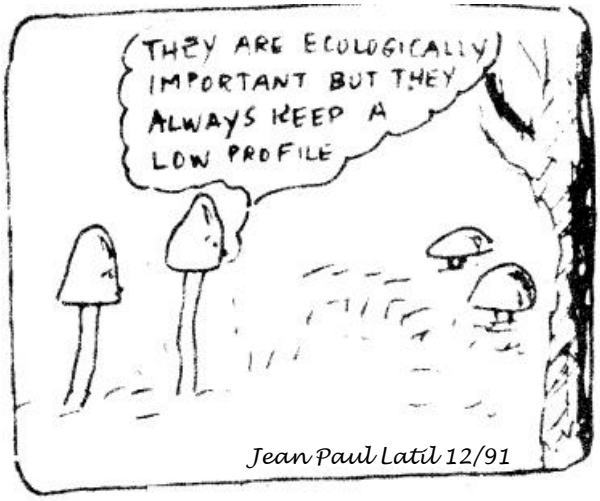
A NOTE ABOUT OUR FORAYS

Inasmuch as mushroom fruiting patterns are unpredictable, ***our Foray Schedule must be considered tentative.*** Last year, 8 forays were cancelled for lack of fungi, and while the hope is that this year will be an improvement, some cancellations are likely. Some forays were moved to a more likely spot, based on reports from the assigned walk leaders.

For these reasons, it is important to check your email on the Friday before a foray to check for notification of changes. Only in the event of change will an email be sent. Those members who do not have email access should telephone someone of their acquaintance who does, the walk leader or us. (Our membership list contains telephone numbers and email for all members; updated version soon in members-only section on web.)

Assigned leaders are reminded to reconnoiter the area and report back to us regarding conditions. We depend upon these reports to decide whether or not to hold a foray. No forays are scheduled for May 10 and June 7, usually slow times, and for August 2, the date of the NEMF foray, which many walk leaders attend.

Our annual picnic was a great success, and it will be repeated on July 19. All participants are asked to bring a dish to share; LIMC will provide a hero lunch, as well as beverages and snacks.



IN THIS ISSUE

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous..... ***Aristotle***

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