

L.I. SPOREPRINT

VOLUME 17, NUMBER 1, SPRING, 2009

FINDINGS AFIELD

Tricholoma is not a huge genus, so we do not find new species for our L.I. list very often, but this year, despite the poor autumn harvest, we found two, both known North American species: *T. fulvimarginatum* and *T. olivaceobrunneum*. The third, which we have not as yet added to our list, is a rare European species with only a handful of NA records, which have not as yet been critically scrutinized. The reason why it has not been added will be made clear during the course of this article.



a *Tricholoma* close to *T. collosus*

Peggy & I encountered this mushroom, a group of two, while collecting in the Rocky Pt. Natural Resources Area in October, and immediately recognized it as a previously uncollected *Tricholoma*. A robust and handsome specimen, it was originally light tan in color, with a thin, peronate veil initially presenting as only a slight ridge and soon becoming almost imperceptible. It was very solid and sturdy, with a slight spicy aroma and mild taste. Photos were taken, (see

(Continued on page 3)

THE SEASON'S BOUNTY

By Joel Horman

Notoriously, memory can be deceiving, and no doubt everyone's recollection of the past season differs not only from everyone else's, but from the objective record, were one to exist. Psychological studies have shown that we remember only in part the details of a particular incident, many times remembering falsely, and extrapolated to an extended period of time, memory can be entirely misleading, with the proximity of near past events skewing our recollection in their direction. E.g, a short spell of dry weather can lead to a general impression of the entire season being rain deficient. In this case this is easily corrected by consulting the weather records, but alas, in the case of mushrooms, we have only our own faulty memories to consult. Even if we keep records of the species we find, these are not sufficiently quantified to be an accurate basis of comparison. So the following account of the past season, although based in part on the club's records, is not more than an impressionistic picture of the past season, and may differ from your personal remembrance.

Rainfall was near normal, (52" Islip, 46" JFK) compared to the previous year's abnormal high of 60 inches (NYC), but despite this, it was not a good year overall, with the Autumn failing to produce its usual harvest, and most of the normally productive pine barrens spots remaining dismayingly depauperate. This may have been due to unseasonably early fruiting, as for example occurred with the Peconic Hills Gypsy mushrooms. Even *Suillus* species and *Leccinum* made an unexpectedly early appearance in some pine barrens spots. However, Spring collecting was not bad, with the Morel harvest returning to normal (for L.I.) and early Oysters (*Pleurotus populinus*) did not disappoint. (This after about 10" of rain in April and May.) Boletes were fairly good early in the Summer, with many more *B. pseudosensibilis* encountered than usual. (Edible, but easily confused with *B sensibilis*, which is toxic.) Several Bolete species new to our list were found, including *B. morrisii*, *Boletus speciosus* v. *brunneus* and *Boletus pseudosulfureus*. (See complete list p. 5.) A copious autumn fruiting of Shaggy Manes, which gloriously sprang up by the hundreds, delighted that day's lucky collectors.

A total of 42 new species were positively identified, and a few others are pending further investigation; some will likely remain unidentified. A tolerance for ambiguity is a desirable characteristic

(Continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings of spring to all of you. Leaves, buds and flowers are popping out all over Long Island. **Let's keep a good thought that our "little friends" in the forest follow suit. Right now it is perfect April weather with gentle rains and moderate temperatures which does hold promise for the upcoming season.**

We recently had a board meeting and welcomed Roger Eklund as our newest member. Most of the discussion was about upcoming events.

A new feature will be an all day foray to Fahnestock State Park in Putnam County(we need to expand our horizons.) Our picnic will be held in **late September when we can better avoid July's heat.** We have a Friday and a Saturday foray to gather specimens in anticipation of Mushroom Day.

There will be an exploratory afternoon foray to Fox Hollow Preserve following the October 10th morning foray. Lastly, our Annual Luncheon will be held earlier this year to accommodate more members. **(We'll see if this works out.)**

Just as a reminder, ticks and/or chiggers are a fact of life on Long Island. Some people have already encountered a tick or two this season. I encourage you all to use a repellent on yourselves or spray your clothes with permethrin...that includes socks. I noticed some mushroomers in the eastern end wearing rubber boots which might also help.

In closing, I hope more of you will turn up at forays. Even when it is a bad day, there are always other interesting things to see: not to mention very nice fellow members. See you soon!

EDITOR'S NOTE

Another Spring, another travel issue, with enough destinations to keep a mushroomer active **throughout the season.** This year's NEMF foray in October on Cape Cod should be particularly interesting, and Gary Lincoff is offering a pre-foray course at Eagle Hill (see page 6). For those not given to traveling, some additional variety has been added to our local forays. Is there a productive area nearby that you can share? Let us know.

Our web site will soon feature a list of Spring and early Summer mushrooms, which we published in these pages previously, and which members report they have found useful. Also, remember that all the photographs herein can be viewed in full color on

our website, after signing in with the new password, which will be emailed to all with an electronic address.

We do try to keep everyone up to date with the latest developments in fungal science in our "Gleanings" column, **but if you become aware of some interesting news or developments, be sure to get in touch and inform us so that we may share it with everyone.**

Regretfully, no one has yet submitted any articles in response to our plea so how about sending us your favorite mushroom photos or recipes for publication? Support your local editor!



MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER, 2009 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY
MAY 31ST

(Submissions can be submitted by e-mail in any format or may be typed.)

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DISCOVERY AND COLLECTING

The excitement of discovery cannot be bought, or faked, or learned from books (although learning always helps). It is an emotion which must have developed from mankind's earliest days as a conscious animal, similar to the feeling when prey had successfully been stalked, or a secret honeycomb located high in a tree. It is one of the most uncomplicated and simple joys, although it soon becomes mired in all that other human business of possessiveness and greed. But the **discovery of some beautiful new species provokes** a whoop of enthusiasm that can banish (discomfort) from consideration, and make a long day too short. It is not just the feeling that accompanies curiosity satisfied-- it is too sharp for that; it arises not from that rational part of the mind that likes to solve crosswords, but from the deep unconscious. It hardly fades with the years. It must lie hidden and unacknowledged beneath the dispassionate prose of a thousand scientific papers, which are, by convention, filleted of emotion. It is the reason why scientists and archaeologists persist in searches which may even be doomed and unacknowledged by their fellows.

The urge to collect is different. It is clearly a deep urge also, because collected objects have been a part of human culture almost from its beginnings. There is even a Grotte du Trilobite, near Les Eyzies in France,

a cave in which one of the earliest Europeans secreted a trilobite as a revered relic. Collecting is more than hoarding. Children will collect seashells from the beach, and rigorously sort them into types, by colour and design. They feel it is important, somehow, to get it right and, having done so, to keep the result. This kind of personal museum is part of the way we define ourselves, an archive of self; and is not mere covetousness or "stamp collecting." **Children need to classify** things in order to get a grasp upon the world. Discrimination and identification have value beyond the obvious separation of edible from poisonous, valuable from worthless, or safe from dangerous. This is a means to gain an appreciation of the richness of the environment and our human place within it. The variety of the world is the product of hundreds of millions of years of evolution, of catastrophes survived, and of ecological expansion. To begin to grasp any of this complexity the first task is to identify and recognize its component parts: for biologists, this means the species of animals and plants, both living and extinct. And to begin to negotiate this astonishing diversity a reference is needed, a sample of one species to compare with the next: in short, a collection. We start to understand our history by seeking to collect and classify.

From, "Life, A natural History of the First Four Billion Years of Life on Earth", by Richard Fortey, 1997.

FINDINGS AFIELD

(Continued from page 1)

above) measurements made, and microscopic examination undertaken. Based on these, no North American *Tricholoma* fit the bill, although Clark Overbo, Professor of Biology at the University of Central Oklahoma, and the foremost scholar of the genus in NA, initially thought of *T. focale* upon first viewing the photos, but subsequently discounted that based on my information re spore size and the presence of cystidea.

After receiving the exsiccatum (dried specimen) Prof. Ovrebø wrote: "I have had a look at the *Tricholoma* that you sent and it is indeed interesting. For *Tricholomas* with brown pigment (sect. *Genuina*) it is unique in having hymenial cystidia. The spores are also quite large for this section. So, microscopically, it does not fit any taxa that I have seen. It looks like from your photos the the stipe discolors yellow as well which is different. The pileus surface microscopically appears to be dry so it does not fit the **focale group which have a veil.**" DNA examination was performed by Dr. Karen Hughes, after which I was informed that the sequence results showed that "Your fungus aligns close to *Tricholoma colossus*. Some of the DNA was bad so she has to do a reverse sequence on it, so I would not yet feel totally confi-

dent in applying this name."

Prof. Ovrebø explained that although this mushroom is molecularly close to *T. colossus*, further research must be done to show that it is identical, and this involves accessing some *European* collections. For example, the reader will recall that the common *Megacollybia platyphylla*, previously thought to be identical to the European species it was named after, has recently been found to be a very similar (new) species and renamed *M. rodmani*.

Whatever its ultimate identity, this is a very rare mushroom, even in Europe. Because of its large size, it was at one time placed in its own genus, *Megatracholoma*, but this was later rescinded. The account in *Flora Agaricina Neerlandica* by Nordelöf & Christensen states that it is found singly or in small groups, associated with Pine in dry forests on nutrient poor, sandy soil; a good description of the pine barrens habitat we encountered it. Considered widespread in Europe, but very rare; in the Netherlands, found only three times in the period between 1915-1923, and thought to be extinct.

A comprehensive project sequencing the genus *Tricholoma* worldwide is being undertaken by Professors Clark Ovrebø & Karen Hughes, and we look forward to its future publication with great anticipation.



Season's Bounty*(Continued from page 1)*

for collectors to develop. Of the new species, *Inocybe* and *Boletus* were tied for first place with four, followed by *Russula* and *Lactarius* with three each; *Agrocybe*, *Clitocybe*, *Cortinarius*, and *Tricholoma* had two each. As well as adding species to the list himself (see p.5) Aaron Norarevian steered me to several other identifications; Dom Laudato, our former president, also added several.

Our new list total is 830 species.

*Tricholoma olivaceobrunneum**Boletus morrisii**Clavariadelphus lingula**Boletus speciosus v. brunneus**Helvella crispa**Inocybe hystrix*



■ **CLEISTOCYBE, A NEW GENUS:** This Northwestern species, formerly known as *Clitocybe gomphidioides*, has been relocated to this newly erected genus, where it joins a newly discovered species, *Cleistocybe vernalis*, on the basis of both morphological and molecular evidence. It is placed in the *Catathelasma* clade, which includes the related *Callistosporium*, *Catathelasma*, *Pleurocollybia*, and *Macrocybe* and is not closely related to *Clitocybe*. The distinguishing characteristics are a distinct veil and graying gills (*Mycoscience*, 2007, 48:282-289, *Cleistocybe*, a new genus of Agaricales. Ammirati, Parker & Metheny.)

■ **A MUSHROOM HARVESTING ANT:** While the New World hosts Attine ants, that farm their own food in the form of cultivated *Lepiota* species, an ant species, *Eurenolepis procera*, in the tropical rain forest of Malaysia, has been discovered that lives almost exclusively by harvesting and collecting mushrooms. Six weeks of field observations in each of the years 2006-8, plus bait station experiments and relocation of nests to the laboratory where differential feeding was undertaken, demonstrated that this species efficiently exploits various naturally occurring fungi. Other food sources such as plants or animals were of negligible importance, with fungi providing over 99% of their food; the researchers do not list all the fungal species consumed, although captive ants were fed with *Pleurotus* and *Agaricus spp.* Interestingly, the mushrooms are processed by continued chewing, which eventually turns them into a dark mass with an odor of fermentation; however, they do not spoil, in contrast to unprocessed material, which becomes unpleasant and overgrown with bacteria. (*Mushroom harvesting ants in the tropical rain forest. Volker Witte & Ulrich Maschwitz, Naturwissenschaften (2008) 95:1049–1054*)

■ **FUNGI vs. DEPLETED URANIUM:** The controversial use of DU in munitions in recent wars (Iraq, Balkans) has resulted in the “dispersion of thermodynamically unstable DU metal into the environment” according to the authors, who studied the effect of both mycorrhizal and independent fungi on this material. All the tested fungi (including *Rhizopogon rubescens*, and *Hymenoscyphus ericae*) were tolerant of the radioactivity and colonized its surfaces, forming moisture retaining mycelial biofilms and mycelial structures which corroded and decomposed DU, with extensive uranium biomineralization occurring throughout the fungal colonies. The authors conclude that they have demonstrated for “the first time that fungi can transform metallic uranium into meta-autunite minerals, which are capable of long-term uranium retention. (*Role of Fungi in biogeochemical fate of DU, M. Fomina et al, Current Biology, vol. 18, Issue 9*)

(Compiled by editor from indicated sources.)

NEW LONG ISLAND SPECIES 2008

<i>Agaricus subrufescens</i>	<i>Inocybe calospora</i>
<i>Agrocybe arvalis</i> (historical data from Aaron)	<i>Inocybe hystrix</i>
<i>Agrocybe putaminum</i>	<i>Inocybe nodulosa</i>
<i>Bankera fuligineo-alba</i>	<i>Inocybe subochracea</i>
<i>Boletus morrisii</i>	<i>Inonotus circinatus</i>
<i>Boletus rubropunctus</i>	<i>Lactarius allardii</i>
<i>Boletus speciosus v. brunneus</i>	<i>Lactarius rimosellus</i>
<i>Boletus pseudosulfureus</i>	<i>Lactarius thejogallus</i>
<i>Clavariadelphus ligula</i>	<i>Leptonia (Entoloma) rhodocylicioides</i> (I.D.'d by Aaron Norarevian)
<i>Clitocybe candida</i> (I.D.'d by Dom Laudato)	<i>Mycena abramsii</i>
<i>Clitocybe robusta</i>	<i>Peniophora albobadia</i> (I.D.'d by Aaron Norarevian)
<i>Collybia cirrhata</i>	<i>Phallus rubicundus</i>
<i>Conocybe plicatella</i>	<i>Phellinus viticola</i> (I.D.'d by Aaron Norarevian)
<i>Cortinarius camphoratus</i>	<i>Polyporus craterellus</i>
<i>Cortinarius mucosus</i>	<i>Russula modesta</i>
<i>Crepidotus crocophyllum</i>	<i>Russula operta</i>
<i>Dasyscyphus virgineus</i>	<i>Russula velenovskyi</i>
<i>Entoloma subquadratum</i> (I.D.'d by Aaron Norarevian)	<i>Scleroderma aereolatum</i>
<i>Globiformes graveolens</i> (“ “)	<i>Tricholoma fulvimarginatum</i>
<i>Helvella crispa</i>	<i>Tricholoma olivaceobrunneum</i>
<i>Hericium ramosum</i>	
<i>Hydnellum spongiosipes</i> (I.D.'d by Dom Laudato)	



TWO NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION FORAYS (NAMA members only)

Wildacres Regional Foray | Wildacres, North Carolina | September 24-27, 2009

Registration will be limited to 40 people, double occupancy, \$210 per person. This NAMA Regional foray is first come, first served. You must be a NAMA member to attend. For more information, contact: Glenda O'Neal by email (gkoneal_mrshc@yahoo.com) or write her at 1038 Wateree St, Kingsport, TN 37660
Download the registration form at <http://www.namyco.org/events/index.html>

NAMA Annual Foray | Lafayette, LA | November 26-29, 2009

Hosted by the Gulf States Mycological Society NAMA's 2009 Annual Foray is in the heart of Cajun country, at Lafayette, Louisiana, November 26-29, 2009. This will offer us a rare opportunity to collect subtropical and tropical fungi that we are unlikely to see anywhere else in the United States.

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We will be staying at a Holiday Inn, so we can be assured of comfort. Arrangements are being made for reduced rates for NAMA members. Come early or stay late to avoid the holiday traffic.

Registration opens soon, check back with NAMA at <http://www.namyco.org/events/index2009.html>

COMA's 27th Clark Rogerson Foray

This Conn. Mycological Association event will be held August 27-30, Thurs.-Sun., at Cave Hill Resort, Moodus, CT, Gary Lincoff as chief Mycologist.

The fee for the full four days is \$360 pp, including **3 night's lodging and all meals from dinner on Thursday to lunch on 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.) Day visitors are limited to 10 and pay a fee of \$70 per day, including all activities and dinner. A \$10 discount is offered for registrants prior to June 1st. For complete information and to download a registration form visit the COMA website: <http://www.mushroomthejournal.com/coma/RogForay.html>

MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND

The Western PA Mushroom Club is again hosting their public morel foray on May 2nd & 3rd, 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 driving directions, access their website at <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/directions.htm#mingo>

EAGLE HILL SEMINARS

The Humboldt Research Institute in Steuben, ME offers several 5 day mycology courses, including:
Aug 2-8: Mushrooms & Other Fungi 1, Roz Lowen & L. Leonard

Aug 2-8: Intro to NA Truffles, Matthew E. Smith
Sept 6-11 Biodiversity & Biological Surveys for Studying Mushrooms & Other Fungi, David Porter
Oct 10-15 Mushrooms of Coastal Maine during Fall Foliage Season, Gary Lincoff

Approximate costs are \$465 for tuition, \$165 for rooms (with lounge) in lab building, double occupancy, and \$ 242 pp for meals.

Other courses in Natural History Science are offered, including seminars in field botany, (lichens, mosses, sedges, lichens, etc.); zoology (fishes, amphibians, etc.); ecological restoration; and scientific illustration.

For a complete list of courses and costs, access: <http://www.eaglehill.us/>

TREASURER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2008

<u>Balance from 2007</u>		\$2729.34
Membership Dues	990.00	
Interest	7.12	
Raffle	19.00	
Total		3795.46
<u>Disbursements</u>		
NAMA affiliation 2008/9	60.00	
Newsletter expenses (includes printing, mailing, supplies, & misc. notices)	524.39	
Treasurer's expenses(raffle, postage, supplies, sale items)	137.61	
Luncheon & Picnic	<u>269.14</u>	
Total		<u>-1056.41</u>
<u>Balance as of Dec. 31, 2008</u>		\$2754.22

*Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Horman*

FUNGUS GNATS



“You have to be a special kind of person to love fungus gnats, but if you look at mushrooms growing in woods you will certainly see these tiny insects flying around the fungi. They are abundant. Most of us encounter

these particular creatures as irritating **“wormholes” occupied by their larvae that might spoil** an otherwise nice-looking field mushroom. But they still fulfill an important function in nature, and they provide a foodstuff for insectivores in their turn. They are a link in the chain. But how many species are

there? And how do you tell them apart? Do they feed on lots of different fungi or are there specialists for particular kinds of fungi? All these questions require the attention of a knowledgeable taxonomist, a microscope and skill. Tiny differences in the wings or the hairs on the legs may be crucial in the identification of a species. With luck, expertly identified specimens will finish up as collections in a cabinet marked **Family Mycetophilidae (mushroom lover)...**

(from “Dry Storeroom No. 1”, by Richard Fortey)

Their larvae are the white 5 mm maggots with shiny black heads that we frequently encounter, particularly in the most desirable mushrooms! They also inhabit the soil of house plants, and the adults can be seen flying about damp places in kitchens and bathrooms. (Editor)

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR FORAYS

Inasmuch as mushroom fruiting patterns are unpredictable, *our Foray Schedule must be considered tentative.* Last year, 10 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 for notification of any 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.

Assigned leaders are reminded to try 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 9 and June 7, usually slow times, and for Oct. 17, the date of the NEMF foray.

Our annual picnic always a great success, is being moved to Sept 26, to avoid the summer heat. . All participants are asked to bring a dish to share; LIMC will provide a hero lunch, as well as beverages and snacks.

To reach us on foray mornings, call our cell phones at 631-681-3229 or 631-355-2856.



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Foray List & Directions	Insert 1
LI Species Checklist	Insert 2
LIMC Membership List	Insert 3
NEMF Registration Form	Insert 4

If a man will begin in certainties he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin in doubts he shall end in certainties.

—Francis Bacon (1620)



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