LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB

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L.I. SPOREPRINT

1973-2016

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FINDINGS AFIELD

The National Weather Service was right on target when it predicted warmer and wetter weather for the Winter of 2015-2016 in the Northeast. On Long Island, records at Islip establish the warmest winter on record with a temperature 6°F above normal, and the 8th rainiest, with precipitation almost 3" above normal. This benign weather permitted us to continue collecting into early winter, when Peggy and I visited a newly dedicate preserve, the Overton Preserve in Commack on Jan 9th. A mostly scrubby area, it seemed to show little promise, but Peggy spotted the array of small, clustered white polypores illustrated above on a Juniper *(Juniperus virginiana),* where the common *Dendrothele nivosa* also grew.

Oxyporus cuneatus

My first impression was that it might be a species of Trametes, but my collection obligingly produced a white sporeprint, whose spores were to broadly ellipsoid to subovate, whereas all species of Trametes bear spores that are allantoid— sausage shaped. Using the keys in Gilbertson & Ryvarden's (henceforth G&R)

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THE SEASON'S BOUNTY

"You cannot step twice into the same river as the waters are always flowing" the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus said. Likewise we cannot expect any two seasons of mushroom collecting to be the same, and some years seem to be so disparate as to suggest that their differences mightily outweigh their similarities, so that even a bad season is bad in its own way. Last year was indeed a case in point, a diminished season which seemed never to begin, but then crescendoed in Autumn to make up for it. To quote Emerson, "For every defect an excess, for every excess a defect."

Our Morel forays once again proved to be a non-starter here, and quite poor elsewhere in the region, based on scattered reports. But some of our dedicated collectors located Eastern Yellow Morels in a couple of spots not previously known to produce them on Long Island. A lack of timely rains resulted in the Summer season being greatly diminished, so that all forays from mid-July through the beginning of October were cancelled, with the exception of Sept. 12, the date of our annual picnic, when we collected 24 species at Southaven County Park (compared to a normal amount of about 50). However, the Spring Oyster hunt was the best ever, with Oysters being collected at three separate sites for the first time. Early summer forays were about average, the Bethpage July 11 one being the best, with Black Trumpets, Chanterelles, and a few Summer Boletes, *Boletus reticulatus.* Again, those who ventured out on their own reported finding Winecaps, Chicken, Oysters and Mica Caps *(Coprinellus micaceus).*

Amy & Cornucopia.

A mini-drought reigned in 2015, with only 39 inches of rainfall being recorded at Brookhaven Nat'l Lab, the fourth lowest on record in the past 46 years. Luckily, September and October amounts were close to normal, saving the season for us when the fungi responded with alacrity, particularly in the pine barrens. By Oct. 19, when we returned to Southaven, 47 species were collected, including good amounts of edibles such as Meadow Mushrooms, Honeys, Hen-of-the-Woods, Sulphur Shelf, etc. Thereafter, we con-

(Continued on page 7)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is mid March right now but it seems as though we have experienced spring since December with some lilacs putting forth blooms prematurely. Most of my daffodils are blooming now and further west I have seen plum trees in full flower. We expect snow on Sunday. What crazy weather we have! I would like to think this bodes well for our mushrooms, but predictions are chancy.

As you can see on the enclosed 2016 foray schedule, we will revisit some of our most productive areas. At this time, I want to bring up our Flash Forays. If anyone sees enough interesting fungi for the club to discover and the site is not scheduled to be visited or not on our foray list, please let Joel or Jacques know. This is in the interest of sharing which is what we endeavor to do. (All our sites have been donated by past and current members.) If you do find such a productive place, we will then try to have a Flash Foray.

Moving on, we had our annual board meeting last week and barely made the quorum needed. Some board members' terms will expire this year, so we need to fill these vacancies in order to have a full complement. We thank Cathy Cresko for her diligent work as our recording secretary, Bob Cresko for his ideas and Bruce Eberle for his input and generosity. Carol Capaldo has volunteered for and will be appointed our new recording secretary. We are now in need of two additional members who will be picked sometime this year. If you are interested, please let me know.

I hope to see you all this year and wish for very interesting trails to meet on.

EDITOR'S NOTE

"Phenology" is a term that has escaped the confines of Academe and is being widely used, thanks perhaps to global warming. Simply put, it means seasonality; that is, the particular time of year when a phenomenon occurs: plants flowering, birds migrating, leaves falling, etc. We are all aware that mushrooms have their own phenology, certain families or genera appearing (or not) in particular months, most famously the Spring arrival of Morels and other ascomycetes. Despite the generalized effects of global warming, local climate still plays a great part in fungal phenology, and if previous research is borne out, and this winter's early warming continues into Spring, we may expect early appearances of the Ascos. Which is why Jacques has scheduled our Morel foray a week earlier than usual, but an even earlier arrival is possible, so watch for Flash Forays, as mentioned above.

Just a word about this issue: as usual, the Spring is our travel issue, listing most of the NA regional forays, which we hope our members will consider, particularly NEMF. This issue's enclosures do not include the Commoner LI Mushroom list, as this is unchanged, and can be accessed on our website. Also not included is the membership list, so as to allow for late renewals; next issue will contain it.

MATERIAL FOR THE SUMMER, 2016 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY JUNE 1ST.

(Submissions may be forwarded by email in any format or typed.)

(All unsigned articles authored by editor.)

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NEW SPECIES 2015

Amanita praelongispora
Botryobasidium aureum
Clitocybe diatreta
Cortinarius evernius
Dacrymyces minutus
Dendrothele nivosa
Geastrum schmidelii
Inocybe curreyi
Lactarius affinis
Lactarius badiopallescens
Lentinus lepidus
Lepista densifolia
Leucogloea compressa
Meruliopsis corium
Mycena filopes
Nidularia farcta
Nolanea avellanea
Psathyrella annulata
Tapinella panuoides
Trametes cervina
Trametes conchifer
Tricholoma scalpturatum
Xerula (Hymenopellis) megalospora
(Erratum: Boletus appendiculatus, erroneously included in checklist, has been removed)

Lepista densifolia

Nolanea avellana

Trametes conchifer

Psathyrella annulata

Nidularia farcta

Dendrothele nivosa

Inocybe curreyi

Lactarius affinis

TREASURER'S ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2015

Balance from 2014			$2816.59
Membership Dues	1105.00		
Interest/Misc. .	.36		
Sub-Total		1105.36	$3921.85
Disbursements			
NAMA Dues 2016	30.00		
Newsletter expenses (includes printing, mailing, supplies, & misc. notices)	602.02		
Treasurer's expenses (postage, supplies, picnic, board meeting, Mushroom Day, misc.)	104.15		
Sub-Total		-706.17	
Balance as of Dec. 31, 2014			$3215.78

Respectfully submitted, Margaret Horman, Treasurer

FINDINGS AFIELD ***(Continued from page 1)***

"North American Polypores" leads us to the section dealing with species that are without clamp connections on their hyphae. In that section a further dichotomy is between those species that display cystidea in the hymenium (fertile layer) or trama and those that do not; our specimens did. The next differentiation is between differently colored species, and ours were whitish, which leaves us with the one remaining genus: *Oxyporus.*

To shorten a long story, there are seven species of Oxyporus, only two of which are possibilities, by size and being pileate, i.e., not resupinate: *O. populinus* and *O. cuneatus*. The former, which is on our checklist, occurs only on hardwoods, while *O. cuneatus* occurs only on gymnosperms, which the host of our specimen, Juniper or Red Cedar, is. Further confirmatory evidence is provided by their small size, imbricate habit, rather large pores (3-4 per mm per G&R) 1-3 per mm, broadly ellipsoid spores (5X4), non-stratified tubes (annual), thin-walled hyphae and cystidea of two types, encrusted and cylindric.

Oxyporus cuneatus is described by G&R as a mostly Western species whose major host is Western Red Cedar, and which ranges to Illinois, where its host is Bald Cypress. Mycoportal lists additional specimen sites in North Carolina, Virginia, Florida & Ontario. There are also NY specimens, but these are either on hardwood or originally labeled *Poria corticola*, which is not considered a synonym of *O. cuneatus* by Index Fungorum or Mycobank, so their authenticity is open to question.

Oxyporus cuneatus will be added to our LI checklist, and the collection donated to the NYBG.

AN OVERLOOKED EDIBLE?

Strange as it may sound, if we were to visit a SE Asia market, we would see, alongside cultivated Shiitake (*Lentinula edodes)*, Splitgills (*Schizophyllum commune),* which are also cultivated and consumed there. *Schizophyllum* is also eaten in Central Africa, where it is gathered from the wild. Nutritional studies have shown that protein value (of the dried product) is high, 23% in Shiitake and 16% in Splitgills, but fat content low. Carbohydrates were about 65% for both, and mineral levels (Phosphorus, Magnesium, etc) similarly rich. Animal nutritional studies demonstrate that Shiitakes are more completely digested and contribute to a higher weight gain. However, all these parameters were easily overshadowed by those animals on a casein (milk product) diet. So it is safe to conclude that *Schizophyllum* is a low-level food, i.e., starvation fare.

The March issue of the Mycophile contains an African recipe for Splitgill from David Arora: boil for 2 hours, pinch off the tough base, then fry with ground peanuts and one small chili. Said to be delicious, by the guy who touted thrice-boiled *Amanita muscaria.* If you are brave enough to try it, be sure to let us know.

GLEANINGS.. from the research literature

■**AN ORCHID THAT MIMICS MUSHROOMS:** Orchids entice pollinators by mimicking other plants, food or even (insect) mates. Now it has been shown that one orchid, *Dracula lafleuri,* deceives fungus-loving flies *(Drosophilidae)* into pollinating them by mimicking their favorite mushrooms. This species has one petal, called a labellum, that is cup shaped and "gilled", resembling nearby Mycenas..The research team used 3D printing to construct replicas of the orchid, which they planted nearby, infusing different models with various scents to test their hypothesis. Even those artificial orchids that were perfect replicas did not attract as many flies as real ones, but those infused with the orchids mushroom aroma (due to a type of alcohol) did. The flies benefit by gaining shelter, food, and a rendezvous location from the flowers. *(Science Mag, Feb, 2016 based on "Disentangling visual and olfactory signals in mushroom-mimicking Dracula orchids using realistic three-dimensional printed flowers." T.Policha et al, New Phytologist, 15 Feb 2016.)*

■**THE MARRIAGE OF RUSSULA & MONOTROPA:** It has previously been established that *Monotropa uniflora* (Indian Pipe) an achlorophyllous plant is a mycoheterotroph, dependent upon the mycorrhizae of various fungi, usually of the Russulaceae family, for its sustenance. A new Mexican study delves into the particulars of this relationship by extensive sampling in an Evergreen (Fir) forest and a mixed conifer-broadleaf forest, obtaining molecular sequence (ITS) data from the plant roots. It was found that the roots of each plant were associated with a single fungal sequence, the Monotropa in the Fir (Abies) forest were dominated by a single Russula species, while in the mixed forest it was associated with eleven species, seven of them linked to single plants, four others with two plants. This brings the known species of Russula associated with Monotropa to 44. Interestingly, all the subsections of Russula associated with Monotropa are also involved in orchid associations, and contain species that have evolved gasteroid (truffle-like) forms. (*Russulaceae Associated with Mycoheterotroph Monotropa uniflora (Ericaceae) in Tlaxcala, Mexico: A Phylogenetic Approach. Alejandro Kong,et al, Cryptogamie, Mycologie, 2015, 36 (4): 479-512)*

■ **ARE THERE MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS?** A much needed skeptical approach is evident in Nicholas Money's review and evaluation of the available evidence in his recent article in Fungal Biology, of which he is editor. Credulous acceptance of the so-called immunological and health enhancing properties is widespread in many amateur journals and newsletters, not to mention online blogs, websites and hashtags. But the available scientific evidence, as Money clearly and persuasively argues, points elsewhere, with not one rigorous study demonstrating the efficacy of any species as effective in this regard. Neither the much vaunted Chaga (*Inonotus obliquus),* Lingzhi (Ganoderma lucidum), Shiitake (*Lentinula edodes)*, Turkey Tail (*Trametes versicolor),* nor Caterpillar Mushroom *(Ophiocordyceps sinensis)* have been demonstrated to be medically effective in the treatment of any disease or disorder. It is however, true that fungi contain compounds that have shown promising effects *in vitro* or when injected into lab animals. Money suggests that these compounds are worthy of more rigorous and systematic inquiry, in the hope that valid discoveries akin to existing fungal-derived drugs such as cyclosporin (anti-rejection) and lovastatin (cholesterol lowereing) can ensue. (*Are Mushrooms medicinal?, Nicholas Money, Fungal Biology, online 21Jan 2016. Open access at: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1878614616000180*

■ **AN UNDERGROUND FEAST:** Small mammals have long been thought to disperse hypogeous (underground) fungi, and this recent study in the central Adirondacks of New York demonstrated this phenomenon in an old growth mixed forest of conifers and deciduous trees. Fecal samples from Deer Mouse, Southern Red-backed Mole, Eastern Chipmunk, and Short-tailed shrew were analyzed microscopically and identified to family or genus using spore keys. Spores of *Glomus* spp. were found in 24 of 47 fecal samples, with 6 samples containing more than one species. Interestingly, an equal or greater percentage of *Russulaceae* spores were also present along with *Glomus.* Chipmunks and Voles made greater use of hypogeous fungi than Deer Mice or Shrews, but they all appear to have an "important role in the dispersal of mycorrhizal fungi in northeastern US forests" *(Small-Mammal Consumption of Hypogeous Fungi in the Central Adirondacks of New York. RT Meyer et al, Northeastern Naturalist,2015, 22 (3): 648-651)*

(Compiled by editor from above-cited sources.)

16th Annual Gary Lincoff Mushroom Foray
September 24, 2016 | North Park, Pennsylvania

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club would like to announce the 16th Annual Gary Lincoff Mushroom Foray. This one-day event starts with a walk on Friday in Cook State Forest, an 8,500 acre old-growth forest near Clarion. On Saturday activities in North Park, Pearce Mill Rd. McCandless Township includes walks, presentations, auction, sales, and a mushroom feast. Guest mycologists are Gary Lincoff and Nicholas Money, researcher and author. This event does not include lodging, for which you must make your own arrangements

Details (but no prices) are posted on the club website: http://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/ If interested, contact the Foray Chair, Barbara DeRiso: 412-252-2594 LincoffForay@wpamushroomclub.org

2016 NEMF
40th Annual Samuel Ristich Foray
Fitchburg State Univ., Fitchburg, MA
July 28—31

Registration is now open for 2016 NEMF, hosted by the venerable Boston Mycological Club. The Chief Mycologist will be David Hibbett and faculty include Gary Lincoff, Noah Siegal, Reneé Lebeuf, John Plischke III, etc.

Accommodations are in the college dorms' four-bedroom suites with a common bath and sitting room at a rate of $365 double occupancy.

Registration information and forms are now available at:

http://www.nemf.org/2016-nemf-foray.html

2016 NAMA ANNUAL FORAY
Sept. 8—11
Front Royal, VA

The Mycological Association of Washington, DC and the New River Valley Mushroom Club are cohosting this annual NAMA foray. The foray will take place at the Northern Virginia 4H Center with Walt Sturgeon as Chief Mycologist. The conference center is situated near Shenandoah National Park and 200,000 acres of protected forest land. Registration forms will be available in May at:

www.namyco.org

(NAMA membership is required to attend this foray but can be paid at registration.)

2016 Annual Wildacres Regional Foray
August 18-21, Wildacres, N. Carolina

Held at Wildacres Retreat, a conference center on 1600 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains, the foray is limited to 40 NAMA members. Priced at $240 per person, double occupancy (no single rooms) for food and (3 nights) lodging.

This year's faculty has not yet been announced but will be available shortly.

The ambiance of Wildacres is unsurpassed. Early registration is advised. An application form may be found by accessing http://namyco.org/wildacres_foray.php and clicking on "Registration form here!" under the Wildacres Regional Foray. For more information and to register, contact Glenda O'Neal by email glendakoneal@yahoo.com or by phone at 423-863-2742.

17th International Fungi & Fibre Symposium Oct 17-22, 2016
Madeira Park, British Columbia

For die-hard mushroom dyers, this adventure involves taking a ferry from Horseshoe Bay, Vancouver to the Sunshine Coast, where accommodations will be in the "upscale waterfront condo" the Painted Boat Resort. The emphasis is on collecting mushrooms in the rain forest, dyeing wool with them, attending workshops and mushroom related classes, etc. Guest speakers will be Daniel Winkler, of Mushroaming, and Paul Kroeger, author of "Mushrooms of Haida Gwai". Cost is estimated to be around $600 Canadian ($488 US). Lodging is an additional $257 Can ($194 US) in two-bedroom units.

Further information and registration is available at https://fungiandfibre2016.org/

UPDATE: ***Pine Beetles have infested more than 2500 acres on Long Island, and more than 8000 Pitch Pines have been felled with many more scheduled. The scheme to invite commercial harvesters to aid in the task fell flat, and state legislators are now asking for $3.5 million to be added to the budget to help the eradication effort.***

EAGLE HILL INSTITUTE MYCOLOGY WORKSHOPS STEUBEN, MAINE

July 3-9 Lichens & Lichen Ecology David Richardson & Mark Seaward $525

Suitable for beginners, this seminar emphasizes both fieldwork and laboratory studies, focusing on identification of specimens using books, keys and chemical tests. The emphasis will be on macrolichens although crustose lichens will be included. Taught by two eminent and widely published professors of biology..

July 10-16 Crustose Lichen Identification Irwin Brodo

A repeat of last year's course taught by the world authority. Using modern keys and demonstrating techniques for sectioning, staining, and interpreting the tissues of crustose lichen.

July 31-Aug 6 Mushroom Identification for New Mycophiles: Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms- Greg A. Marley and Michaeline Mulvey– A field identification course of the macrofungi focusing on the skills needed to identify common mushrooms using field characteristics, keys and guides while also addressing preparation of edible fungi for the table.

Aug 7-13 Slime Molds: Miniature Marvels of Nature Steven Stephenson

This seminar aims to provide the basic information needed to collect, study and develop an understanding of the biology, taxonomy, ecology and global distribution of these fungus-like organisms. Taught by the world authority and author of *Myxomycetes: A Handbook of Slime Molds.*

Aug 21-27 Polypores and other Wood-inhabiting Fungi Thomas Volk

Course description not yet posted, but Tom Volk, Prof of biology at the Univ of Wisconsin-La Crosse, is a name universally know among NAMA members as a popular, witty and learned lecturer and researcher, and host of the website http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/

(Other Natural History seminars range from Birding, Wild Plant Foraging, to Seaweeds, Mosses, Sedges, etc. Unless otherwise noted rates are $475 for the seminar; $195 for accommodations (double); and $245 for the meal plan. Access http://www.eaglehill.us/ for more detailed information and to apply online.)

COMA's Clark Rogerson Foray
Sept 22-25

Details are unavailable at press time, but this annual foray will once again be held at Camp Eisenberg in Copake, NY where Gary Lincoff usually heads the mycological staff assisted by Bill Yule, Dianna Smith, and others. Housing is in hotel style rooms, air conditioned and with en-suite bathroom. All meals included. Last year's cost was $325 per adult for the entire 4 days; children 3-12 years old $245. Day visitors $65-$75 adults, $35 children.

This year's rates and registration details will shortly be available on the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association website by accessing comafungi.org/special-events/ and clicking on "Clark Rogerson Foray".

2014 NAMA ANNUAL FORAY
Sept. 24-27, 2015
Black Mountain, North Carolina

The Asheville Mushroom Club and the Mushroom Club of Georgia are co-hosting the next annual NAMA foray. The foray will take place September 24 -27, 2015, at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, North Carolina, with Alan Bessette as Chief Mycologist. It will be based at a beautiful conference center situated on 1,200 acres of wooded mountainside. This section of the Appalachians is one of the most biologically diverse forest communities in the world. Accommodations include hotel style rooms with private bath and air conditioning.

Registration forms will soon be available at www.namyco.org

(NAMA membership is required to attend this foray but can be paid at registration.)

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

tinued to collect the seasonal specialties such as Leccinum, Gypsies, Suillus, Albatrellus, various Tricholomas including *T. equestre,* and a favorite of many, *Hygrophorus ponderatus.*

We ended the season with our traditional Welwyn foray, where we collected 25 species of mostly wood dwelling fungi, among them satisfying amounts of Brickcaps and Oyster Mushrooms. Moreover, warm and rainy weather continued through December, and reports of Oysters continued to pour in from our members, ending the season on a positive note.

IN THIS ISSUE

All of today's DNA, strung through all the cells of the earth, is simply an extension and elaboration of the first molecule.

Lewis Thomas, The Medusa and the Snail, 1969

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