LONG ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL CLUB

http://limyco.org

L.I. SPOREPRINT

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3, AUTUMN, 2007

MUSHROOM DAY 2007

PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM

OCT. 14, 1-4 P.M.

photo© Bruce Eberle

All LIMC members are invited to join us at our annual public mushroom exhibit at Planting Fields Arboretum, Oyster Bay. **The public display will run from 1 to 4 PM, but if you wish to assist, arrive around 12 noon to help in setting up the exhibit**. Remember that the entrance fee now applies to LIMC members also. Bring any interesting specimens that you find for exhibition and identification. (You do not need to identify it yourself.) Spread the word, and let everyone you know who has even a passing interest in mushrooms or natural history of this event.

Our annual meeting will again be held at our end-of-the-season luncheon, in order to assure a voting quorum.

LIMC'S NEW SCIENCE ADVISOR

We are very pleased to announce that Benjamin Wolfe, PhD candidate, has graciously accepted the post of science adviser to the Long Island Mycological Club. As most of you know, Benjamin is currently researching the status of *Amanita phalloides* in the United States, and our club has been assisting him in the hunt for specimens of that species, as well as for *Amanitas* of section *Lepidella,* for another aspect of his research at the Harvard University Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. After graduating *magna cum laude* from Cornell University in 2003 with a B.S. (honors) in Natural Resources/Plant Science, he attended the University of Guelph, Ontario, receiving a M.Sc. in 2005. His thesis was entitled "Structural and functional spatial heterogeneity of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi."

Among his many awards and scholarships, he has received two from the Mycological Society of America: the Forest Fungal Ecology Research Award in 2004, and the Clark T. Rogerson Student Research Award in 2007. Other awards include a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and John L. Harper Young Investigator's Prize from the Journal of Ecology.

Despite his age, he has already published extensively in many professional journals, including Mycorrhiza; Journal of Ecology; PloS Biology; Ecology Letters; BioScience; and Nature, on topics such as mycorrhizal fungi and soil communities to invasive plant ecology. He was one of the authors of the study demonstrating the deleterious effects of the invasive wild garlic mustard on native seedlings, which received wide media attention, and which we featured in a previous edition of the LI Sporeprint (Summer,'06). Additionally, he has been a reviewer for a number of peer reviewed publications, such as Ecology Letters, Ecological Entomology, New Phytologist, Plant & Soil, and Ecology.

His photographs of plants and fungi have appeared in The New York Times, Harvard Magazine, The Harvard University Gazette, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation website, NPR's All Things Considered website, PLoS Biology, and on the cover of the

(Continued on page 7)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This has been the worst August-September season that I can remember since I became a member of this club 15 years ago. Everything is dry and fruiting has been rare. Other areas have similar results so it is not just Long Island.

There is some good/ bad news though. Honey mushrooms are up and running, producing beautiful tight buttons and caps with hardly any bugs. What a bounty for us. Unfortunately, it comes at a price: dead oaks. So if you want to collect, look for areas of dead oaks and look for honeys at their bases or nearby.

Also, once in awhile a juicy chicken mushroom can be found. In August, *Laetiporus cinncinatus* was found at the base of oaks and then *L. sulphureus* appeared. We only found a few but they were choice. A few *Grifola frondosa* have been seen, but for the most part they have been small and dried out. I'm not giving up yet- Fall is just starting.

Mushroom Day at Planting Fields is coming up. If conditions don't improve, we may have to cancel. This would be a first! Please watch your email or call Joel and me to see what's happening.

Now it is time to think about our annual luncheon. We are looking at a lot of places and there is still time to suggest a new venue. Just call or email me at : owls 2@ optonline.net with any new place you think may work. Again, as last year, it will be held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If the weather stays warm into December, we may continue into that month that in coming years.

Lastly, be aware that it is tick time. Some of us have been attacked by larval ticks. You must use a hand lens to see and remove them. There are chiggers around which also bite. They both itch like hell, especially at night. Some of us are really allergic to these creatures and must see a doctor. (I still have scars from last year.) Be careful: tuck pants into socks or wear boots and use spray. It doesn't always work so you must be vigilant.

EDITOR'S NOTE

What Roger Tory Peterson said about birding, that it was more than simply a pastime, that it could be an art, a sport, an esthetic, a passion, and a science applies equally to the pursuit of mushrooms. It can be enjoyed on many different levels, and can accommodate both gastronomes and taxonomists. Many of us consider ourselves to have a foot in each camp. We enjoy the bounty of fragrant delicacies as much as the vision of pleasing forms or the surprise of a newly seen species. But the keystone for all these things is the science behind it, which we must all master at one level or another. It is for this reason that our club cooperates with researchers who are expanding our knowledge and perfecting the study of mushrooms, and whose request for assistance we feature as part of this newsletter. We also participate in the inventorying of the species of particular sites. Amateur efforts have aided immeasurably in documenting the species ranges and distribution of many different taxa, from birds to butterflies to flowers, and it is incumbent on us to do our small part in the field of fungi.

MATERIAL FOR THE WINTER, 2007 EDITION SHOULD REACH THE EDITOR BY NOVEMBER 30TH

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

13th SAMUEL RISTICH NORTHEASTERN MYCOLOGICAL FORAY or MAINE REDUX

Gary Lincoff discourses at the collection roundup.

From August 9-12 several hundred avid mushroomers descended upon the University of Maine in Orono to attend this year's NEMF Foray, among them seven members of LIMC, namely, Jacques Brochard, Roger Eklund, Bruce Eberle, Aaron Norarevian, and Piroska Szabo and Peggy & me. For Bruce and Roger, this was their first regional foray, and they took to it like fungi to rain, of which, alas, there was a negative balance, this region having received less than the average amount, in contrast to the NYC area. This resulted in a low count of species collected, with foragers peering under logs and in damp corners in order to glean some specimens.

Nevertheless, while nature remained obdurate, we made the most of what was available, taking advantage of lectures, workshops and socials, which filled the days and made the time speed by. One very welcome innovation consisted of scheduling the talks sequentially, making it possible to proceed from one lecture to another without missing any. Previous forays scheduled these side by side, with consequent conflict resulting. Topics were varied and innovative, with titles such as: Fungal Sex; Uncommon Backyard Macrofungi; Killer Fungi; Tricholomas Revisited, etc. Speakers included Laurie Leonard, Walter Sturgeon, and John Pliscke III.

Workshops varied from 1 1/2 to 3 hours, and included an Ascomycete update by Roz Lowen, an interactive phylogeny workshop by P. Brandon Methany, and an interactive computer workshop by Rod Tulloss on how to use his *Amanita* Studies Web Site. This website has a picturebook of all the *Amanita* species occurring in the pine barrens of L.I. and NJ, and is an invaluable source for anyone interested in identifying LI species; it can be accessed at

Taxonomists in contemplation at the tables.

http://eticomm.net/~ret/amanita/key.dir/njpblist.html

Foraging sites varied from boreal Northern Spruce forests to mixed hardwood and and conifer (hemlocks & pines) forest, bogs, and upland areas with oak, birch and beech as well as conifers. As usual, not everything that was collected made it to the final collection display, and the lack of air conditioning in the collection hall did not enhance the longevity of the specimens. Although more informal than the NAMA forays, amateurs are still not encouraged in the manner that I have been informed they are in the British associations. As I mentioned above, foragers had to scrutinize closely to collect, with the result that many of the finds verged on the microscopic or the frequently ignored. As a result, the nightly awards for interesting finds reflected this, with such obscure organisms as *Pseudomerulius, Sebacina* and *Henningomyces* being singled out. More familiar species that garnered awards were *Pleurotus dryinus, Cordyceps militaris,* and *Amanita aureosolens,* the latter apparently not yet found outside of Maine. Neither *Polyozellus multiplex* nor *Amanita ristichii,* the designated holy grails of this foray, was found.

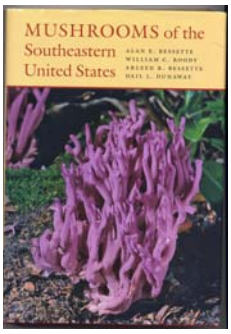

A. ristichii v.styriformis

This is the second NEMF foray that we attended in Maine, the first having taken place in 1999 in Sugarloaf; that one was just as dry. At this point, 277 species were identified and are listed in Gene Yetter's database on the nemf.org website. The Sugarloaf foray yielded 296 species, slightly better, but far below productive forays, which have produced more than 400 species. The next NEMF foray will take place at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, from August 8-10. We encourage all our members to participate, and will publish registration information as soon as it is made available.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Steve Trudell– from The Mycophile, Sept/ Oct 2007, reprinted by permission

***Mushrooms of the Southeastern United States*, by Alan Bessette, William Roody, Arleen Bessette, and Dail L. Dunaway. Syracuse University Press, 2007. ISBN 0-646-44674-6 cloth (not available in paperback as of Sept. 2007)**



At this year's NAMA Foray in West Virginia, there may be no need to rely solely on the professionals for identifications. This newly released volume, along with team Bessette's earlier Mushrooms of the Northeastern United States and Bill Roody's Mushrooms of West Virginia and the Central Appalachians, will provide a well-illustrated arsenal for everyone's use in putting names on the fungi to be found on the field trips. As it happens, West Virginia falls within the territory covered by each of these three guides.

The newcomer, Southeastern Mushrooms, is the same size (7 x 10 in.) and very similar in content and appearance to Northeastern Mushrooms, but is considerably shorter (484 illustrated species-by my count-in 375 pages, versus about 640 illustrated species in 582 pages). The front matter is relatively brief (only 11 pages), consisting of introductions to mushroom facts and fallacies; mushroom anatomy; mycorrhizal relationships; when, where, and how to collect mushrooms; guidance for using the book; an explanation of the material in the species descriptions; and a dichotomous key to the groups of fungi: Chanterelles and Allies, Gilled Mushrooms, Boletes, Cup and Saucer Fungi, and so on. In Northeastern Mushrooms, a photographic picture "key" with brief descriptions, was used for this purpose.

The back matter includes brief appendices on microscopic examination of mushrooms, use of chemical reagents for identification purposes, fungal classification, and mycophagy, including a handful of "artery-clogging" (according to an anonymous source) recipes, plus glossary, list of recommended readings, and indexes to common and scientific names. Between the front and back matter are the photographs (all grouped together at the beginning of the section) and species descriptions. A departure from the Northeastern Mushrooms content is the lack of additional keys in this volume. Once you've determined the major group, identification is a matter of description-reading (the only option for the handful of species that aren't illustrated) and picture-matching. This lack of keys to genera and species also means that far fewer species are covered in total, compared to the number in Northeastern Mushrooms (where 800-900 species were keyed, but not illustrated or described, so nearly 1500 species were mentioned altogether). The descriptions are pretty much the same as in the previous book, including the scientific name; common name if there is one; extensive macroscopic features including spore print color; brief listing of key microscopic features such as spore size and shape and cystidium shape; fruiting habit, substrate, habitat, and time-of-year; and assessment of edibility. Brief comments add information about synonyms, look-alikes, etymology, and uses.

The photographs are formatted in the same manner as in Northeastern Mushrooms, mostly eight per page in horizontal orientation. Some vertically oriented photos are included, and these occupy the space that two horizontals would otherÂ wise occupy. Their larger size noticeably improves their utility for identification and makes me wish the horizontal photos were larger. The quality of the photos is, with only a few exceptions, very good to excellent, as is typical for books by the Bessettes and Roody.

All in all, another top-notch book. . . but it's $95,* with no chance (at least currently) to opt for a less expensive paperback version. So it could be a tough decision for those whose disposable income is mostly being diverted to the gas tank. To help in your deliberations, I did some species counting, comparing Mushrooms of the Southeastern U.S. to Mushrooms of the Northeastern U.S., Mushrooms of West Virginia and the Central Appalachians, and A Field Guide to Southern Mushrooms, by Nancy Smith Weber and her father, the late Alexander H. Smith. From my westerner's viewpoint, I consider these to be the major regional guides for the eastern U.S. They describe and illustrate 484, 641, 402, and 241 species, respectively. Among the 484 species in Southeastern Mushrooms, there are 282, 329, and 340 that aren't in the three other books, respectively, including 186 that are not covered in any of the others. Thus, although it comes at a price, Southeastern Mushrooms adds substantially to the list of eastern species described and well illustrated in available guides. So give some thought to carpooling on a few forays; save two or three fill-ups and expand your library!

** (Available online at Amazon for less than $60, including shipping. Editor.)*

Gleanings

■ **MEGAMUSHROOM:** A 42 pound specimen of *Macrocybe titans* has been found in a forest in Mexico's southernmost state of Chiapas, Colegio de la Frontera university officials reported in July.

The mushroom, found near Tapachula, near the Guatemalan border, measured 27 inches tall. Originally called *Tricholoma titans,* it was first described from the state of Florida. (*Info & photo from the website mycos.blogspot.com)*

■ ***AMANITA* REFOUND:** *Amanita recutita*, which has not appeared in any collections since 1915, was collected during this year's COMA foray in Connecticut. Rod Tulloss reports that he compared the specimen to Coker's original material, and that the match is almost certain. He describes it as a "very curious member of the Vaginatae with broad, tear drop shaped gills and a stem that is almost woody….The sac is small, there is a little annulus, and the grayish cap has very short marginal striations and no umbo...Rod speculates that it may be distributed along the Atlantic coastal plain from Cape Cod to Florida, and asks all collectors to keep their eyes open. Photo and further details can be accessed at < http://eticomm.net/~ret/amanita/species/recutcok.html (*Rod Tulloss, pers. comm.)*

■ **GLOWING HONEYS:** Most of us are aware of some mushroom species that glow in the dark, such as *Panellus stypticus* and *Omphalotus olearius,* but *Armillaria* species also glow, but in a different manner: it is not the fruiting body that glows, but only the mycelia. Recent research has demonstrated that different *Armillaria* species glow in different ways, with the necrotrophic species *A. gallica* having its bioluminescence enhanced by both mechanical disturbance and prolonged light exposure, while the more parasitic *A. mellea* and *A. tabescens* had the bioluminescent effect quenched and responded little to disturbance. These differences are thought to reflect "a diversity of selection pressures" and to have a "distinct ecological context for each of these fungal species." (*Dynamics of bioluminescense by A.gallica, A.mellea, and A.tabescens, JDMihail & JNBruhn, Mycologia, 99 (3), 2007, pp. 341-3 50.)*

■ **ERNST BOTH HONORED BY NEW GENUS OF BOLETE:** Ernst Both, who is fond of describing himself as a "boletologist" and is universally liked and admired, has been honored by having a newly erected genus "*Bothia"* named after him. This genus has but one member, *Bothia castenellus,* formerly known as *Suillus castenellus,* aka *Xerocomus castenellus, Phylloporus castenellus, etc.* This confusion has come about because this mushroom has features of all these genera. Now, DNA analysis reveals that this entity falls into none of these niches, being *sui generis,* although it is nearest to *Xerocomus. (A new genus of Boletaceae from e. NA, Halling, Baroni, & Binder, Mycologia, 99 (2), 2007, pp. 310-216.)*

(Compiled by editor from cited sources.)

Easy Mushroom Wreath *by Peggy Horman*

It has been my habit to collect polypores and other small mushrooms to dry to make a wreath……someday. With all the dry weather this season, I finally decided to do it.

If you'd like to try, all you need are the following: premade wreath, glue gun, matte glaze and dried fungi. I used *Polyporus elegans, Daedalea quercina, Trametes, Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* plus some small mushrooms that kept their shape after **air drying**. Try to keep them flat. (Some freeze or microwave their mushrooms for a short time to be sure that all bugs are gone after they are air dried. I found out the hard way after having some stored for years in a big jar and tossing in some new ones. Insects ruined a great portion of them)

Put wreath down on newspaper and arrange fungi to make a pleasing arrangement. Glue on mushrooms for the outside ring, then the inside and finally the center ring. Add small mushrooms where needed. Spray lightly with matte glaze. Easy!

To see this wreath in color go to this edition on our web site.

Wanted: *Suillus pictus* Locations!

"I am a member of CNYMS and also Assistant Professor for Molecular Ecology at SUNY-ESF in Syracuse. I have recently received funding to study the population structure of *Suillus pictus* in continuous and fragmented forests across NY state and beyond. I am asking for help from mycological societies in identifying suitable populations for sampling. What we need are locations with 25+ independent fruitbodies (i.e. fruitbodies growing in clusters only count as one sample). We will be sampling around Syracuse as well, but we are particularly interested in other areas including the Adirondacks, where we are less familiar with good sampling locations. So whenever you come across lots of S. pictus sporocarps on your trips, please send an email to kretzera@esf.edu. We will need a very good description of the location and how to get to it so we can find it for sampling. I hope that's not asking too much." Prof. Annette Kretzer

(Since receiving the above request, we have received a sampling kit from Prof. Kretzer, relieving her staff of the task of traveling to Long Island. If you come across a location which fits her specifications, kindly notify me, and I will be able to collect the specimens, preserve them, and forward to her. Thanks. So far, we have found one such location in Southaven, under White Pine.) **Editor**

Wanted: The notorious Trio: A) *Entoloma abortivum*, B) aborted *Armillaria*, C) *Armillaria*

The honey mushroom (*Armillaria)* is a common fall mushroom and a delicious edible. However, it has a parasite *(Entoloma abortivum)* that causes it to form aborted fruiting bodies that look like convoluted lumps. Not much is known about how the parasitism occurs or what species are involved worldwide. I'm hoping to answer some of these questions and desperately need more specimens, so if you come across any *Entoloma abortivum, Armillaria* or aborted fruiting bodies while out in the woods, please send a few to me.

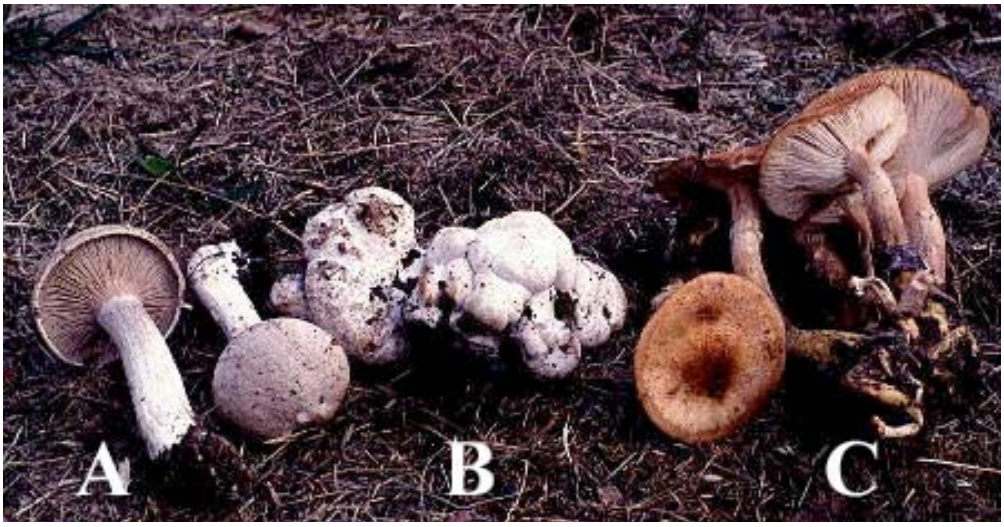
When collecting please:

- Note date, collector's name and site data (GPS a bonus)
- Keep mushrooms from different sites separate
- Include a photo if possible (but not necessary)
- Send fresh on ice or dried

Send to:

Bernadette O'Reilly
Duke University Biology
Box 90338
Durham, NC 27708

Email: bdo2@duke.edu



Thanks!

Science Adviser

(Continued from page 1)

Journal of Ecology.

Born in Dallas, Pennsylvania, Benjamin is now twenty-six years old and, beyond science, is interested in hiking, canoeing, Nordic skiing, and gardening. His favorite mushroom is *Cortinarius iodes*.

In his own words:

"My interests in science and more specifically with botany, microbiology, and mycology formally started as an undergrad at Cornell. I was fortunate to work in the lab that studied the ecology and biogeochemistry of calcareous fens. These beautiful wetlands are where my curiosity for biological diversity developed and was nourished. Since those original days of tromping around in fens, I have followed opportunities that have allowed me to explore this fascination with the natural world.

I am interested in the ecology and evolution of symbiosis and am currently using the genus Amanita to explore this area. I am also working on projects exploring the impacts of invasive plants on soil microbial communities, the biogeography of lichens and their algal partners, and the invasion biology of saprotrophic and symbiotic fungi."

We look forward to a long and mutually fruitful relationship with Benjamin, and wish him all possible success in his future academic career.

FORAY RESULTS SUMMARY

June 30, Muttontown Eq: Forty Species, a great improvement over the previous week's foray. Low number of edibles, with a bit of Winecap and Sulfur Shelf. There were good numbers of *Agrocybe* and Psilocybe, and four previously unrecorded (or overlooked) species: *Russula pusilla, Polyporus arcularis* (darker than elegans, no black on stipe base, small hairs on cap edge and stipe base), *Phellinus rimosus,* and *Conocybe subovalis* (much like C. *tenera* but with a distinct bulb at stipe base).

July 7, Heckscher S.P: Thirty-five species, with a preponderance of Russulales and Amanitas. There were 16 Russula species and 3 Lactarius; one new Russula, *R. raoultii,* a cream to yellow colored, acrid species.

July 14, West Hills South: Thirty-seven species, again with Amanitas and Russalas dominating the mix. A small number of Chanterelles (yellow and red), as well as *Lactarius gerardii* and *hygrophoroides,* and Black Trumpets for the edibles. Two new species: *Ramaria pusilla and Volvariella pusilla;* the species epithet means small in Latin.

July 21, Bethpage S.P: Forty-two species, Amanitas and Russulas diminishing, but still leading the pack. A few Agaricus finally seen. Large numbers of *Inocybe caesariata,* and hordes of the inedible *Russulas, ochroleucoides* and *flavissicans;* some good crustosa, variata, and heterophylla. One new species: *Lycoperdon oblongisporum,* first described from Cuba.

July 28, Caleb Smith S.P: Fifty-one species, a nice forest mix and display: logs covered with *Xeromphalina* and *Callistosporium,* and colorful ground species such as *Cortinarius iodes, Hypholoma fasciculare, Tylopilus plumboviolaceus,* etc. A notable find was a newly described species of Russula, *R. parvovirescens.*

August 4, Muttontown N: Although only 24 species were collected, this foray was notable for a large number of a *Boletus edulis* look-a-like, *B. atkinsonii,* most, unfortunately, beyond the edible stage. *Boletus pallidus,* which has been scarce of late, was also present. One new species, *Marasmiellus praeacutus,* ID'd on the spot by Aaron Norarevian.

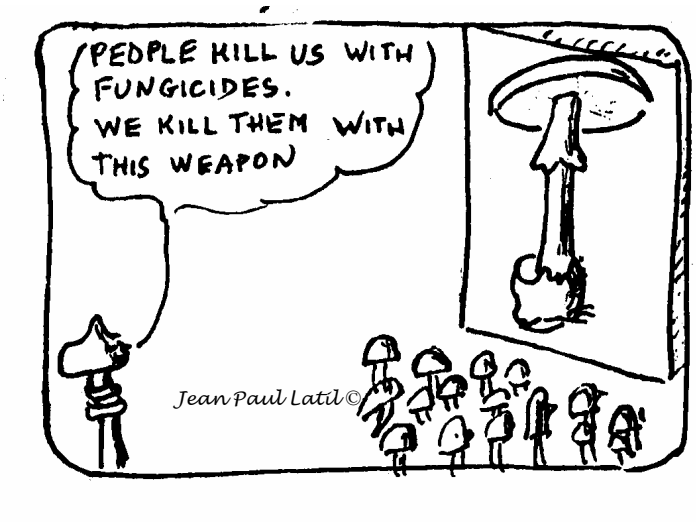
Marasmiellus praeacutus

Aug. 11 & Aug. 18, Planting Fields & Rocky Pt., respectively: Cancelled for lack of fungi

August 25, Christie: A grand total of 76 species, representing over 40 genera. Some boletes made an appearance, including the interesting *B. parasiticus. Cortinarius iodes* was everywhere, glimmering in the shadows. There were many Marasmius and Mycena species scattered on chips and logs, and 4 kinds of Lycoperdon, one not identified. A possible *Hemimycena* needs further study. One new Mycena, *M. amicta.*

Sept. 1 & 15, Cunningham Park & Rocky Pt, respectively- Cancelled

Sept. 14, Caleb Smith BioBlitz: (Notification received too late to be on the official Foray List): Fifty-eight species, a good array, with some interesting finds, including the infrequently seen *Nolanea muraii*, and several new species: *Hericium coralloides, Gloeoporus dichros,* and *Stereum hirsutum*. Edibles included a small Hen and Sulfur Shelf, and a load of Ringless Honeys.



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