

# MushRumors

The Newsletter of the Northwest Mushroomers Association

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October - December 2008

## 2008 Fall Show Caps Off Wonderous Year For Mushrooms And Mushroomers Alike

photo by Jack Waytz



Marjorie Hooks' awesome centerpiece

The Northwest Mushroomers Association Fall Mushroom Show was perhaps the biggest and best show in the club's history. The viewing public, as well as we merry mushroomers, were the beneficiaries of a mushroom season as unusual and unique as it was plentiful.

Fungal foragers of the NMA really produced this year, arriving at 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 18th with large and varied collections in tow. The Saturday evening sorting process was seemingly more efficient this year than in the past due to a terrific and coordinated effort by all, and by 10:00 pm, the mass amount of mushrooms brought in were more or less all set up into their respective spore colors and genres. We had a great team of identifiers this year, featuring Fred Rhoades,

Margaret Dilly, Buck McAdoo, Larry Baxter, and new club member and *Russula* expert Christine Roberts of the Pacific Northwest Key Council. This stout hearted crew was destined to have their hands full. When the dust finally settled, the collectors had brought in nearly 250 species of the local fungal populace for recognition! This is by far more species than ever before assembled by our humble group.

This year, we fielded a brand new method for labeling the mushrooms for display in their respective trays.

Initially, this proved to be quite a challenge for those involved, but thanks to supreme efforts by Linda Haynes, architect of our new automated approach to creating the labels, the challenge was met with grace and aplomb. (Well, perhaps there were a few white-knuckle moments in there...) Karen Kelly also contributed with her expertise and experience from past shows.

The collection of northwest Washington species not only featured impressive quantity, but also a number of mushrooms never before seen in our area, and some that are perhaps unknown to science. Microscopic studies and other efforts toward identification are yet ongoing by Buck McAdoo and some of the dried materials and microscopic studies have already been passed along to the world's foremost experts in their respective genres for analysis.

photo by Jack Waytz



Exciting new *Leccinum*s on display!

Once the doors opened to the excited throngs who came to view our cache, everything went like clockwork. The first thing everyone saw upon entering the display room was the customary show centerpiece. This year Doug's mother Marjorie offered to put it all together, and the result was nothing short of breathtaking.

Everyone who came in raved about it, and we of the club were equally impressed. I for one, hope she will return next year to reprise her masterpiece. It would be a very tough act to follow. It was excellence per the usual for the identification table manned by Fred Rhoades, Buck

photo by Fien Hulscher



The start of great events in the kitchen

happily sold the club's store of various books and publications, to an eager public.

We had a brand new crew in the kitchen, and the transition was absolutely seamless. Stas Bronisz, Tokiko Yasuge, Keith and Marianne Phelps, Louis and Alyne Anzalone, and our president, Doug Hooks, formed the new crack team of culinary specialists, with assists from Charles Hooks, Doug's dad, and a

photo by Jack Waytz



special guest appearance from Deb Glover. Also, special thanks to Fien for providing her famous bolete soup, which remains the Club's culinary benchmark for the Fall Show, scrumptious and unique, with a taste like some savory mushroom magic potion of the ofdays of yore.

Thanks also to Nadine Lihach for her diligence at the door,

greeting the eager throngs for the second consecutive year. She has done a great job putting forth a wonderful first impression the Norhtwest Mushroomers. A heartfelt thanks as well to all who helped with the sorting on Saturday night, the set-up of the display trays, and the staging of the real stars of the show, the mushrooms; to all who cleaned up afterwards; and to everyone who contributed to our after show dinner, which as usual, was world class.

It was my privilege to chair this years' Fall Mushroom Show.

photo by Fien Hulscher



McAdoo, Christine Parks, and Tim Johnson.

Harold Meade and Maggie Sullivan thrilled the adoring visitors with the well mushroomed touch and feel table, and Fien handled the vast task of the membership table as though she had done it for years. She was witness to an all time show record of 54 new members signing up to join our no longer diminutive mushroom club. Jack Whittemore stepped up for book sales, and

photo by Fien Hulscher



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## Reflections on the 2008 Mushroom Season

By Jack Waytz

Healthy rains, which began on August 19th this year, got things going in a big way in the mushroom world. Chanterelle buttons were bursting forth en masse by the end of the following week all over the modest mountains around Lake Whatcom, and there was a freakish flush of *Russulas*, including the normally somewhat elusive *Hypomyces lactuoflorum*, the lobster mushroom. Matsutake mushrooms were out by the last week of September, and the fruiting continued with ferocity until the beginning of December. In a local spot which revealed itself to me 8 years ago, I harvested more than 12 pounds of this fungal favorite. I am generally happy to get 6 good mushrooms from this spot.

photo by Vince Biciunas



Peninsula plenty, Vince's tasty lobsters

only from the eastern side of the Cascades, *Leccinum fallax* and *Leccinum ponderosum*, were collected. Still others have yet to be identified.

For myself, this was an incredible season for many reasons. For one, I finally decided to eat *Phaeolepiota aurea*, to the protestations of Margaret Dilly. I prepared it in a great Chinese style stir fry and it had a unique and earthy flavor. According to Buck, if I was going to have an adverse reaction, it would have been within the first hours after eating it. No such reaction came. The next morning, however, I was confined to the bathroom for several hours! All I can say about this mushroom is, quite a purge...

Mystery was also found in the seemingly mundane. *Agaricus praeclarasquamosus*, nee *A. moeleri*, nee, *A. praeclarasquamosus* has been discovered to be neither of the aforementioned mushrooms, but an entirely new species found in our area. Here is an email sent to Buck from R.W. Kerrigan, one of the world's foremost *Agaricus* experts:

Hi Buck, Well, I hate to be the ant at your picnic but the dried specimen you sent me (in my note's as "B49"; the material is not at hand) is no way, no how *A. moelleri* or any of its synonyms including *A. praeclaresquamosus*. Hopefully this sad news will be leavened by the news that your remarkable-looking specimens are also phylogenetically remarkable, branching off somewhere near the *A. phaeolepidotus/freirei/pseudopraetensis* lineages, but not super close to any of them. In other words, it's nothing my colleagues and I have ever dealt with before in Europe or North America. Unless it is some obscure, seldom-seen Euro-named species, it is both new and special.

photo by Jack Waytz



Myriad of matsutakes uncovered

Unusual weather played a significant role in shaping the eventual outcome of the 2009 mushroom season. Just when it seemed that it was going to be warm and wet through the fall, insuring a banner crop of the usual suspects in the mushroom kingdom, we had a cold snap at the end of the first week of October which saw temperatures dip into the 20s for four days. It seemed that tragedy had struck at the worst possible time, just days away from the fall show. But as we have learned, the unexpected is the norm from mushrooms. The chanterelles seemed unphased by the cold, and likewise the *Agaricus* and the *Russulas*. The boletes and other high country species took a fall, however, and were casualties of the early frosts. At lower elevations, the return of warm, wet weather sparked a renewed flush of fungus seldom seen, allowing us to assemble easily more species than ever before collected for the Fall Show. Some species that are generally common in our area, such as the oyster mushroom, were virtually unseen, and others, that are very rare, like the candy cap, were pervasive. Two species of *Leccinum* mushrooms known

photo by Jack Waytz



*Phaeolepiotas* for the pan: a culinary adventure or gastro-intestinal misadventure?

Double bingo. That's better than *praeclaresquamosus* any day, IMO. And I hope this underscores my point that there are a lot of species around with 'this general look' and we don't know enough about them yet.

Thanks so much for the collection. I don't recall that photos or notes were available -- I'll check the files later -- but more info on this one will always be welcome. Best wishes -- Rick

R. W. Kerrigan

Finally, we observed two separate fruitings of the extremely rare, *Tricholoma apium* after not seeing this mushroom since we discovered it on the Galbraith Mountain in 2005. This mushroom has been found only 5 times in North America, now Buck and I have three of those collections.

All in all, this has been my most memorable mushroom season in the Pacific Northwest, more will follow in future issues.

Leading up to the show this fall, I was apprehensive. There had been a hard frost in early October that ran for two days. The mountains were done, but even in Bellingham I was not seeing any fungi out of my car window. Usually in the Geneva district you can see the fat *Suillus caeruleus* and the Cow's Nose (*Gomphidius oregonensis*) in the needle duff in peoples' yards. None of those were there. But a strange thing must have happened. The conifer canopy must have shielded the ground cover from the frost because the woods themselves had fungi, lots of fungi, and some that weren't supposed to be found in this part of the country at all.

First of all, a giant thanks for all who helped set up the show. Watching the tables fill up with trays of mushrooms is like watching the flowers emerge from winter. Suddenly it's all there when just an hour before all was sheer chaos with folks careening back and forth from the War Room hoarsely shouting for more labels. This year we had both Karen Kelly and Linda Haynes working on the labels, and let me tell you... we needed them both as we were flooded with new names like never before. In the War Room itself it was strangely quiet as Margaret mowed through the taxa and Fred went non-stop with his microscope. I was in and out because I had guests that weekend, but Larry Baxter and Christine Roberts helped immensely to fill that gap. The cooks, an all-new crew, rallied from ground zero to put out terrific mushroom hors d'oeuvres, while above the din, Jack Waytz enthusiastically encouraged us all.

photo by Jack Waytz



Buck braces for the coming onslaught of mushrooms

In a season like this, with so many mushrooms coming in, we are still undermanned. I remember emerging from the War Room with Fred Rhoades to finally observe the fruit of our labors. We got up to the tables and there was an entire tray of coral fungi with no label on it. Fred, meanwhile, was standing next to me facing a tray of polypores with the same problem. As I struggled with the Key Council key to put names on these *Ramarias*, I became aware that there were folks standing all around me. There wasn't one whom I knew. The doors had opened and the public had swarmed in like the tide. Thanks to Linda and Karen we were able to eventually get labels for some of the fungi on these trays. The problem is dire enough that it deserves its own lines.

We need more volunteers to help key out the species.

Hopefully some of these folks will graduate from Fred, Lee, and Margaret's classes on identification.

And now on to the species themselves: Just before the end of each show, a bell is rung and the participants are allowed to grab up the edibles from the tables. While this is going on, I am wandering around the tables in search of the weird and the unusual. Even this is arbitrary. I might not feel like spending the next three weeks with *Cortinarius* or *Clitocybe*. But a large *Pholiota* that smells like oriental 5-spice, might interest me. What I'm saying is that with so many fungi out there, some really interesting species are bound to be left out.... or just plain lost in the bedlam.

There were two finds this year that really stood out. The first was *Pachyphloeus melanoxanthus*, a tiny dark green truffle found by Fred Rhoades near Silver Lake. First described early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Tulasne brothers from Italy, this may be its first appearance in the Pacific Northwest. Fred will be checking with Dr. Trappe in Oregon. It might even be a first for the United States. The other really bizarre find had to be a solitary, fleshy mushroom that might have been placed on the Stropharia tray. This entity had dark brown spores, a cap 8 ½ cm. wide with an ochre-tawny disc and cream colored margin. Flattened pale ochre scales adorned the surface. The gills were emarginate, pale grayish-tan with white crenulate edges. The stem was 1 ½ cm. thick at the apex with a 3 ½ cm. thick bulb at the base. It was white at the apex becoming pallid straw colored below. Velar material consisted of streaks of dark tawny brown fibrils. The odor was mild and the taste was bitter. It looked like a *Cortinarius*, but they don't have smooth walled spores dark brown in color. The pileipellis was a cutis of

repent hyphae, so that eliminated whatever giant *Psathyrella* that might have been a prospect. To add to the mystery, the gill trama were composed of parallel hyphae that became divergent at the gill edge. No matter what key I use, a genus won't emerge. This is one case where DNA testing would be extremely useful.

We, of course, have no idea who brought it to the show. This is the Achilles heel of post show mushroom identification. There is no way of knowing where it came from and what the habitat was. Without those criteria, a professional mycologist might lose interest in following it up.

photo by Buck McAdoo



Anyone recognize this mushroom?  
We couldn't even pin a genus to this one!

photo by Buck McAdoo



Stay tuned for an update on this mushroom in the next issue.

And there were other great finds.... Jack Waytz brought in *Leccinum fallax* from a kinnick-kinnick field near Concrete. The species was first described from the Idaho Rockies and is supposed to thrive between 4,000 to 6,000 feet of altitude. It had a dark brick colored cap and flesh that bruised directly violet-gray when scraped with a knife blade. Could global warming be bringing it down to near sea level? It's another mystery for bolete pundits everywhere.

It was a great year for *Cortinarius*, and for the first time ever we had the pale yellow capped *Cortinarius emunctus*. This had a viscid cap and dry stem, and so is a member of Section Phlegmacium. Another *Cortinarius* mislabeled by me at the show as *Cortinarius privignus* turned out to be *Cortinarius cacao-color*, another first for our county. This was a large, cespitose clump with dark brown caps that were so fibrillose as to look 'stringy'.

A lady from Anacortes brought in a tiny ochre mushroom that she reported fruiting from rotting conifer humus. Microscopic features showed that it had a cellular pileipellis and might be the rare *Conocybe aberrans*, transferred from *Galera* to *Conocybe* by Kuhner in 1935. It more or less keys out to that, but we would have to locate Kuhner's French description or maybe Singer's subsequent description in 1950 to see if there is any mention of what kind of pileipellis it has. She also brought in a huge *Pholiota* with a spicy aroma that she found on a dead cherry trunk. (Haven't gotten around to it yet. The *Pholiota* monograph is another Key from Hell.)

Other interesting species were the rare *Ramaria claviramulata* with branches and tips much thicker than the typical *Ramaria*, *Hydnellum zonatum*, a tooth fungus in a rosette shape with dark tawny zonate margins (see color plate 157 in Arora), and *Climacodon septentrionalis*, a thick-fleshed, shelving polypore with grayish caps and pale yellow pore surface. It was the first time I had ever seen it.

Finally, there was a very large pale orange *Lactarius* that could not be keyed in the Key Council keys. It simply vanished from the tables and hopefully Christine snagged it for a closer look later. There are quite a few more species to report on. If I had to wait on figuring out those, I wouldn't be able to write this article until March. That's the kind of season it was.

- Buck McAdoo

Gary McWilliams, long time friend and cohort of Buck McAdoo, has published a book which is available in the Marine Exchange on Holly St. and probably at Village Books by now. The book includes short stories on 30 years of traveling adventures from Peru to Alaska, and even Siberia. Mushrooms play a part in 4 stories that take place in Peru, Siberia, Alaska, and Mexico. The title of the book is *Hot Coffee and Other Wild Goose Tales* by Gary McWilliams. Check it out.

**Mushroom of the  
Month:  
*Russula parazurea* var.  
*ochrospora* ( Nicolaj ex  
Quadraccia & Rossi)**

photo by Dan Digerness

By Buck McAdoo

In the olden days Dr. A.H. Smith would often entitle a contribution to a scientific journal with 'New or Unusual North American Agarics'. The species pictured here is certainly new to the Pacific North-

west and possibly the most unusual find ever for Whatcom County. It took the unwitting collaboration of two passionate mushroom seekers who most likely never met to get it to identity. One is Dan Digerness, a local legend, who spends his spare time roaming Skagit and Whatcom Counties in search of the edible and the unusual. He can often be spotted loping through the Bow Cemetery in search of fungi associated with Norway spruce. A great mushroom artist, he turned out to be pretty accomplished with a camera lens as well. The other is the late Ben Woo, a founding member of the Pacific Northwest Key Council, and much beloved by all who knew him. Ben has long been considered the *Russula* authority for the western United States. He loved to teach what he knew as well, and made two trips up to Bellingham to lecture on *Russula* for our club. When I first met Ben, he motioned me aside to show me a tiny *Russula* with a cap the size of my thumbnail. Then he led me over to his microscope. There, under the lens, was a fully mature spore, complete with spiny warts and reticulations. The implication was clear. Here was a diminutive but mature *Russula* probably never described by science. There was still work to be done.

But back to the subject at hand... In the summer of 1986 I decided to sail with an old college buddy up to Desolation Sound. I didn't know how long we would be gone, so in a moment of weakness decided to loan my camera to Dan. It was like an alarm finally activated. Being artistic, he would proceed in the next few weeks to line up every shot aesthetically and in the same plane, conquering depth of field problems. Even looking through my album today, you can spot the Digerness photos. They are the clearest on the page. Dan spotted this *Russula* group sometime in July of 1986 under cedar in Cornwall Park. Realizing instantly that it was an unusual species, he took the shot that you see here. He managed to record the most beautiful *Russula* I'd ever seen.

Later, in September of the same year, I found a solitary specimen of it at Berthusen Park near Lynden. It was also under cedar. The following description was made from that specimen. The cap measured up to 11 cm. wide, convex at first becoming plane with sunken discs in age. The color was slate blue-gray becoming pinkish-ochre at the discs. The margins were not striate and the cap cuticle peeled only ¼ of the way to disc. The context was white but lavender under the cuticle. The gills were yellow-ochre from the spores, adnate, crowded, and equal. They were forked near the stem and intervenose near the margins. The stem measured 3 cm. thick and 9 ½ cm. long. It was white flushed with pink and bruised slowly brown when rubbed. It was equal or tapered slightly towards the base. Odor and taste were mild. The spore deposit was pale yellow-ochre, and the spores were amyloid in Melzer's. There was no flesh change with ammonia.

Problem was it wouldn't key out anywhere. Not even in Moser. Dan wanted to know the name. Every time I ran into him, he would shift weight from foot to foot, grin and say, "Any luck with that *Russula* yet?"

It was over my head. I doubted something this stunning could be a new species, but not even in Grund's incredibly complete thesis on northwestern *Russula* did it appear. It was time to invite Ben Woo to the party.

The problem was that he was such a great authority on the genus that you didn't want to mail him a common one by



**Radiant *Russula*, unique beauty on the local forest floor**

mistake. He had a dry wit that could turn scathing around fools. On the other hand, Dan deserved to know what it was. He had never met Woo, had no idea of the risks. So on January 14, 1987, I bit the bullet and mailed Ben the entire specimen.

Finally, on June 2, 1987, I got a letter from Ben. Here is how it went:

Dear Buck,

Four and one half months to answer a letter is not too bad for me. Most folks are lucky to get a reply at all. The *Russula* you sent was an excellent collection and your notes were very good. I can understand your not being able to key it out in Moser, as the choices are somewhat difficult, but it does appear there under Section Heterophyllae. The species is very close to *Russula parazurea* J. Schaeffer. If you have a copy of 700 Pilze by Dahncke & Dahncke, the photo on page 492 is a striking copy of one of the prints you sent. Yours is the first report of this *Russula* from our area, and for all that I can find, the first collection in North America.

I have only one reservation at this point. I have a new scope and do not have it working well as yet. I tried to check out the spore ornamentation (the size is correct), but was unable to see the almost complete reticulation reported for this species. When I can confirm it, I will let you know.

Thanks very much for sending it to me. I assume you will let me keep the specimens and photos.

Sincerely,

Ben Woo'

There is a reason, of course, why Ben didn't pin it down to *Russula parazurea* specifically. It was the same reason I couldn't key it out in Moser. *R. parazurea* has white spores. Our collection had yellow-ochre spores. Spore deposit color is a big deal in determining a *Russula*. It is usually the first or second keying option you run into. It is a big genus. If you take the wrong fork, you can be a dozen pages apart. It is therefore a testimony to Ben's skill that he was able to get to the species complex even with the wrong spore color.

Back at my all-purpose office, I decided to check if there might be any varieties to *Russula parazurea* by looking in my index. There were two.... a var. *dibapha* and a var. *ochrospora*. Bingo! The var. *ochrospora* was reported in Bollettino del Gruppo Micologico G. Bresadola di Trento, Anno 27, Vol.3-4, 1984. And there was an excellent photo of it. A further search revealed that Count Bruno Cetto also described it in I Funghi dal Vero, Vol.6. In this description, also in Italian, we learn that cap margins can be lightly striate in humid weather, and that cap colors are extremely variable. The photo depicts bluish-gray to olive greenish caps with yellow-ochre centers. Colors can also vary from rosy violet to grayish. Stems were described as whitish (no mention of the pinkish flush, nor the brown bruising reaction). With the application of iron sulfate, the flesh would turn rosy. Spores were rounded-ellipsoid and finely verrucose reticulate. They measured 7.6-9 x 6.3-7.2 microns. According to Cetto, the species had been found in the garden of his own villa in Emilia and also by Zuccherelli in a public garden in Ravenna under oak. It is considered edible.

One has to wonder if Dan ate the whole collection or left one behind for future generations. It is not often in the Pacific Northwest that one runs into a species usually encountered in Adriatic Italy.

The closest look-alike, according to online sources, is *Russula cyanoxantha*. It is a species well known for the great variety of its cap colors. It differs from *Russula parazurea* var. *ochrospora* by having a mottled red and yellow cap with sometimes greenish colors and a greasy texture of the gills.

Unbeknownst to Ben Woo and myself, one of the authors of the taxon, the late Livio Quadraccia, upgraded the variety to species status in Documents Mycologiques 14 in 1985. It is now called *Russula ochrospora*. The Index Fungorum, however, is sticking with the variety concept we use here, and so for the time being are we.

Why a *Russula* rarely found in the public gardens of Ravenna should suddenly appear in Cornwall Park is a distributional mystery for the ages. Dr. Fred Rhoades has just finished appraising Ben Woo's *Russula* collections for the herbarium at the University of Washington and found no references to other findings of this species. For all I know, it hasn't been spotted since.

Thanks go out to Dan Digerness for making the once in a century discovery, to Fred Rhoades for checking the regional records, and posthumously to Ben Woo for making the breakthrough on the identification.

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## Rockport State Park Foray photo by Fien Hulscher September 13th, 2008

The Rockport State Park foray was the first official foray of the 2008 fall mushroom season and it got the season started off with a bang. Hosted by Fien Hulscher, the club's new foray organizer, it turned out to be a grand day for mushrooming.

Margaret Dilly and Buck McAdoo were both along, forming a very strong team of identifiers, and also featured the maiden foray for Pacific Northwest Key Council member, *Russula*



photo by Fien Hulscher



expert Christine Roberts, who just moved to Bellingham from Vancouver Island. We are fortunate to have her.

At the end of the day, game foragers had assembled nearly 60 species and settled down to flavorful snacks and mushroom stories.

Many thanks to Ranger Al Nickerson

who went out of his way to move picnic tables for us and was very positive about the mushrooming in general. It's just the reverse in California.

Thanks also to Dave Tobias who managed to get the stove to work and thus saved lunch for everyone there.

The most interesting mushroom found was *Pluteus granularis* which has a radially wrinkled cap with a granular to velvety surface. The only published color photo of it may be found on page 306 of *Mushrooms of Northeastern North America* by Bessette, Bessette, & Fischer.



photo by Fien Hulscher

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The Northwest Mushroomers Association meets at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central Ave., Bellingham, in the Lecture Room, at 7:00 pm on the second Thursday of the months April, May, and June and September, October, and November. *Note:* This year April and November meetings will be held at the Re-store. We will inform you in advance of any changes of venue. Membership dues are \$15 for individuals and families and the special price of \$10 for students. Please make checks payable to NMA and forward to:

Cris Colburn, Membership, at the mailing address above.

Fien is our new field trip coordinator. Field trips are scheduled for the Saturday after each meeting.

MushRumors is published every other month (roughly). Deadlines for submissions are the 15th of odd-numbered months. (Of course, exceptions will be made in the event of fungal finds of unusual import!)

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## Schreiber's Meadow Foray

September 27th, 2008

Another fine day for a foray at the familiar fungal stomping grounds of Schreibers Meadow. Fien was host and T. J. Olney took on duties as identifier, with a late assist from Margaret Dilly. In the mild weather, a customary conflagration of fungi greeted 25 avid forayers, including many NMA newcomers.

photo by Fien Hulscher



photo by Fien Hulscher



The Scott Paul and Railroad Cut trails have long been one of the most fruitful of the areas that we as a group, or at times, individually frequent in search of our most beloved edibles, such as *Boletus edulis* and *Boletus mirabilis*. Many the beautiful bolete has been harvested from these tranquil alpine vistas, as well as the occasional oddity. In 2004 Cris Colburn turned up a huge clump of *Polyozellus multiplex*, the famed blue chanterelle at Schreiber's Meadow.

## Lake Paden Foray

October 25th, 2008

photo by Vince Biciunas



photo by Vince Biciunas



An enthusiastic crowd gathered at Lake Paden's eastern picnic shelter for a foray on October 25th, 2008. The weather was mild and partly sunny, and the forest was flush with Hairy Leg *Collybias*! One lucky forayer found a bounty of chanterelles that she generously shared with us for cooking on the spot, a welcome addition to our lunchtime pot luck. Also found were large white *Leucopaxillus albissimus*, but

we resisted the urge to try those, since they can be poisonous. Dick Morrison did a great job identifying the catch, Buck stopped by for

photo by Vince Biciunas



part of the day. Fien and Vince hosted, . While there were high school athletes running races around us that day, we had a very enjoyable foray out in the semi-wilds next to the lake.

photo by Vince Biciunas



The day started out rather overcast with a few rain drops here on Whidbey Island so I wondered if many people would show up because weather north of us is usually worse. I was pleasantly surprised though when we showed

photo by Fien Hulscher



up at Bowman Bay and were met by Jack Whittemore and his friend who helped carry all the supplies down to the shelter and get things set up for the day. People soon began filtering in, in spite of the long slog through the soggy grass from the boat launch area. Some already had mushrooms in their baskets ready to be identified, and were adding more from just around the shelter.

More people arrived, some with their finds, and some new to the game and wanting help in knowing areas. Claude, Vince, Harold and others obliged and by lunch time we were overwhelmed with mushrooms.

photo by Fien Hulscher



I was blessed to have my friend Larry Baxter from Camano Island who identifies for the Puget Sound Mycological Society staying with us and helping out for the day as well as Buck McAdoo with his great knowledge of the obscure fungi and Harold Mead who gets better with ID every trip.

With the exception of a few *Russula* and *Inocybe* we identified 95 gilled and 30 non-gilled species for a total of 125 and that's a lot for one day.

The finds of the day were two rare fungi for the Pacific Northwest. One was a tall slender mushroom with free gills, a ring on the stem, a brownish cap and white spores, and staining orange red on the cap and stem but not on the gills. This led us to believe it was *Lepiota* but no one was sure so we took notes, photographed and dried it and sent it to Brian Luther, chief identifier for PSMS. He came back with the report that it was *Lepiota flammeatincta*, described by C.H. Kauffman in 1924 from a collection he made in Oregon two year earlier. "Google this species and the very first CalPhoto website has a couple of nice specimen photos. The large one comparable to the one you sent me."

photo by Fien Hulscher



For the other rare one we also called upon Brian who tells us it is *Lactarius indigo*. The cap surface is smooth, viscid when moist, then dry; indigo blue when fresh but fading to silver blue, sometimes with greenish stains; often zoned concentrically. The flesh pallid to bluish, slowly staining greenish. Latex (milk) bright dark blue slowly staining wounded tissue greenish. The stalk is indigo blue becoming silvery gray blue and equal... It is known from the Southwest and California but this is the first Brian has seen from Washington State. He will write an article about it in the PSMS *Spore Prints* monthly newsletter. This mushroom was brought in with a *Stropharia aeruginosa*. If any one knows of its origin and remembers where they found it please let us know.

Lunch time turned out to be a yummy time as always. To Fien's delight someone brought in a basket of *Lepista nuda* (Blewitt) and with her culinary she touch turned them and other edible mushrooms into a delectable treat. Wonderful soups and rice dishes

photo by Fien Hulscher



along with salads and Claude's ever present applesauce were devoured by the hungry hoard of foragers.

Overall the 38 people who shared this outing seemed enthusiastic and eager for more mushroom hunting. Even the young folks who came to photograph and interview us for a school assignment seemed caught up in the frenzy of the day. We will all look forward to the next season.

*photo by Vince Biciunas*



**Bowman Bay: a fitting final foray**

### Northwest Mushroomers 2009 Calendar Of Upcoming Events

\*Annual Survivor's Banquet

Bellingham VFW Banquet Chair Vince Biciunas  
March 21st, 2009

Morel Madness

Tall Timbers Retreat Hosted By Linda Haynes  
May 8 - 10th, 2009

Northwest Mushroomers Association

Annual Fall Mushroom Show Show Chair Jack Waytz

October, 18th, 2009

Northwest Mushroomers Association Monthly Meetings

\*April 9th, 2009

May 14th, 2009

June 11th, 2009

September 10th, 2009

October 8th, 2009

\*November 12th, 2009

Guest speakers and programs to be announced, look for some surprise visitors!

\*These meetings to be held at the Re-Store, look for details in the next newsletter.

Northwest Mushroomers Association 20th Anniversary Celebration

Cama Beach Host Vince Biciunas

November 6th & 7th, 2009

Dear Northwest Mushroomers,

Welcome to 2009 and the 20th Anniversary of the founding of our club. Yes, we were a bit younger in 1989, and yet we're as strong as ever!

Fred, Buck, Lee, Vince, and Sam are some of the early members still active in the club today. In fact, the first meeting was at Sam Leathers' home in July of 1989. We'll have to re-collect and expound on the history later. Meanwhile, we are planning to celebrate with a 20th Anniversary Weekend at Cama Beach State Park on the weekend of November 6 and 7, 2009, and everyone is invited.

Cama Beach is a newly designated state park on the beach on the western side of Camano Island. Besides the pebble beach, it has extensive wooded walking trails and connects to Camano Island State Park and Campground.

Also, I should say, we have a special connection because our club member Karen Hamalainen and her sister grew up at that site, which was historically their parents' fishing camp and livelihood. Karen and her sister recently donated the land to the State of Washington for the purpose of creating the state park. So a big thank you, Karen!

I have confirmed an initial reservation of seven cabins in my name (Biciunas) and they will be held exclusively for our group for two weeks, or until January 30th. We have reserved two bungalows that sleep 6-8 max and have a bathroom in the cabin. We have also reserved four small cabins that sleep a max of four or six. These small cabins are really inexpensive, and we are getting the post-season, post Oct 16th rates. The camp also has seven deluxe waterfront cabins that sleep four, with indoor bathrooms, a bit of a walk from the central area, but very nice. You can call in a reservation for the cabin of your choice (except the bungalows).

Bungalow: One bungalow reserved for the Dillys. Talk to Margaret if you want to share this bungalow.

Second bungalow: If you want to save the most money and share costs for this bungalow, please let me know. It contains one full bed, one bunk bed, one daybed, and one trundle bed. Not much privacy, but the price is right. Bathroom in cabin. Sleeps 6-8. Call Vince (671-1559) or reply to this email to make this choice. And, be forewarned, this may be the 'party-room' if we need to gather indoors or on the porch if the big tent doesn't work out. \$107.09 per night, \$214.18 for the weekend (\$214.18 divided by 6 equals \$35.70 per person if we have six in the bungalow).

Deluxe Waterfront Cabin:

Sleeps max of 4. Two full beds, bathroom in cabin.

\$68.45 per night

\$136.90 for the weekend

Waterfront Cabin, First or Beach-Front Row:

Sleeps max of 4. One full bed, two twin beds. No bathroom, use bathhouse.

\$51.89 per night

\$103.78 for the weekend

Waterfront Cabin, Second or Back Row:

Sleeps max of 6. One full bed, 2 sets of bunk beds, no bathroom, use bathhouse.

\$37.54 per night

\$75.08 for the weekend

All cabins have small table and chairs, kitchenette with sink and microwave and small countertop. No cooking stoves. You can bring a camp stove for cooking outside. There is a common bbq/grilling area outside.

We plan on setting up a large group tent in the common lawn for group activities, or alternatively, in one of the bungalows. Bring your outside/camp chairs. These cabins are quite small, you'll have to pack light and simply. But the location on the water can't be beat. And if you want to just come for the day, for Saturday's activities, that is ok too, since it's only a bit over an hour's drive from Bellingham. Or you can camp out at nearby Camano Island State Park.

So, visit the Cama Beach State Park website, [www.parks.wa.gov/camabeach](http://www.parks.wa.gov/camabeach), to see the layout and views and then make the call to make your reservation. Call 360-387-1550, they are open seven days a week, and say you are with the Biciunas/Mushroom Club group. And do it soon, because the cabins are filling up fast for 2009.

Also, if you would like to help plan the activities for this weekend event, please let me know.

Vince Biciunas

Membership Chair

## 2008 Fall Show Species List

*Listed by genus*

### GILLED MUSHROOMS

#### SPORES WHITE

*Amanita gemmata*  
*Amanita muscaria*  
*Amanita pachycolea*  
*Amanita pantherina*  
*Amanita porphyria*

*Armillaria nabsnona* (A. mellea)  
*Armillaria ostoyae* (A. mellea)

*Calocybe carnea*

*Clitocybe avellanealba*  
*Clitocybe clavipes*  
*Clitocybe dealbata*  
*Clitocybe deceptiva*  
*Clitocybe dilatata*  
*Clitocybe gibba*  
*Clitocybe nebularis*  
*Clitocybe odora*  
*Clitocybe prunulus*  
*Clitocybe subditopoda*  
*Hygrophoropsis* (*Clitocybe*) *aurantiaca*  
*Lepista harperi*  
*Lepista* (*Clitocybe*) *inversa*  
*Lepista* (*Clitocybe*) *irina*  
*Lepista* (*Clitocybe*) *nuda*

*Gymnopus* (*Collybia*) *acervatus*  
*Gymnopus* (*Collybia*) *confluens*  
*Gymnopus* (*Collybia*) *peronata*  
*Rhodocollybia* (*Collybia*) *butyracea*  
*Rhodocollybia* (*Collybia*) *maculata v.occidentalis*  
*Strobilurus occidentalis*  
*Strobilurus* (*Collybia*) *trullisatus*

*Cystoderma granulosum*

*Hygrocybe* (*Hygrophorus*) *conica*  
*Hygrocybe* (*Hygrophorus*) *eburneus*  
*Hygrocybe* (*Hygrophorus*) *miniatus*  
*Hygrophorus agthosmus*  
*Hygrophorus bakerensis*  
*Hygrophorus piceae*

*Laccaria amethysteo-occidentalis*  
*Laccaria bicolor*  
*Laccaria laccata*

*Lactarius alnicola*  
*Lactarius deliciosus*  
*Lactarius fallax*

*Lactarius glyciosmus*  
*Lactarius hepaticus*  
*Lactarius luculentus*  
*Lactarius obscuratus*  
*Lactarius pallescens*  
*Lactarius rubrilacteus*  
*Lactarius rufus*  
*Lactarius scrobiculatus*  
*Lactarius subviscidus*  
*Lactarius uvidus*

*Chlorophyllum* (*Lepiota*) *rachodes*  
*Lepiota clypeolaria*  
*Lepiota cristata*  
*Lepiota rubrotincta*  
*Leucoagaricus* (*Lepiota*) *naucinus*

*Leucopaxillus gentianeus* (L. amarus)

*Macrocyttidia cucumis*

*Lyophyllum decastes*  
*Lyophyllum multiceps*  
*Lyophyllum sp.*

*Marasmius oreades*  
*Marasmius plicatulus*

*Melanoleuca angelesiana*  
*Melanoleuca verrucipes*

*Hemimycena* (*Mycena*) *delicatella*  
*Mycena adonis* (M. amabilissima)  
*Mycena amicta*  
*Mycena atroalboides*  
*Mycena aurantiidisca*  
*Mycena aurantiomarginata*  
*Mycena epipterygia*  
*Mycena filopes*  
*Mycena haematopus*  
*Mycena pura*  
*Mycena purpureofusca*  
*Mycena quinaltensis*  
*Mycena rosella*  
*Mycena sanguinolenta*  
*Mycena stipata* (M. alcalina)  
*Mycena strobilinoides*  
*Mycena vulgaris*

*Chrysomphalina aurantiaca* (*Omphalina luteicolor*)  
*Lichenomphalia* (*Omphalina*) *umbellifera* (O. ericetorum)

*Panellus serotinus*  
*Pleurocybella* (*Pleurotus*) *porrigens*

*Russula bicolor*

Russula brevipes  
Russula crassotunicata  
Russula decolorans  
Russula dissimulans  
Russula eleaodes  
Russula exalbicans  
Russula fragilis  
Russula isabelleiceps  
Russula murrillii  
Russula occidentalis  
Russula queletii  
Russula silvicola  
Russula stuntzii  
Russula venternosa  
Russula xerampelina

Tricholoma auratum  
Tricholoma flavovirens  
Tricholoma focale (T. zelleri)  
Tricholoma magnivelare  
Tricholoma pessundatum  
Tricholoma saponaceum  
Tricholoma sejunctum  
Tricholoma sp.  
Tricholoma sulphureum  
Tricholoma vaccinum  
Tricholomopsis decora  
Tricholomopsis rutilans

Xeromphalina brunneola  
Xeromphalina campanella

**PINK SPORES** (see also Lepista in Clitocybe)  
Volvariella speciosa

#### BROWN SPORE

Cortinarius acutus  
Cortinarius alboviolaceus  
Cortinarius anomalus  
Cortinarius cacaocolor  
Cortinarius camphoratus  
Cortinarius cinnamomeus  
Cortinarius emunctus  
Cortinarius fasciatus  
Cortinarius glaucocephalus  
Cortinarius glaucopus  
Cortinarius glaucopus var. olivaceus  
Cortinarius griseoviolaceus  
Cortinarius mutabilis  
Cortinarius obtusus  
Cortinarius orichalceus  
Cortinarius paleaceus  
Cortinarius sanguineus  
Cortinarius scaurus  
Cortinarius sp.  
Cortinarius traganus  
Cortinarius turmalis  
Cortinarius varicolor  
Cortinarius vanduzerensis  
Cortinarius varius

Cortinarius violaceus

Hebeloma crustuliniforme

Inocybe calamistrata  
Inocybe cinnamomea  
Inocybe geophylla  
Inocybe griseoilacina  
Inocybe kaufanii  
Inocybe lacera  
Inocybe liacina  
Inocybe napipes  
Inocybe pudica  
Inocybe sororia  
Inocybe sp.

Paxillus involutus  
Tapinella (Paxillus) atrotomentosa  
Phaeolepiota aurea

Pholiota astragalina  
Pholiota flammens  
Pholiota limonella  
Pholiota sp.  
Pholiota squarrosoides  
Pholiota terrestris

Rozites caperata

#### **CHOCOLATE OR PURPLE BROWN SPORES**

Agaricus augustus  
Agaricus campestris  
Agaricus hondensis  
Agaricus moelleri (A. praeclarisquamosus)  
Agaricus nivescens  
Agaricus purpurellus  
Agaricus semotus  
Agaricus silvicola

Hypholoma capnoides  
Hypholoma dispersum  
Hypholoma fasciculare  
Hypholoma sublateritium

Stropharia aeruginosa  
Stropharia ambigua

#### **BLACK OR GRAY SPORES**

Coprinus comatus  
Coprinus silvaticus

Chroogomphus tomentosus  
Gomphidius oregonensis  
Gomphidius subroseus

**NON GILLED FUNGI**  
**CHANTERELLES**

Cantharellus formosus  
Cantharellus subalbidus  
Craterellus (Cantharellus) tubaeformis  
Gomphus floccosus

**CORALS & CAULIFLOWER**

Clavariadelphus truncatus  
Clavulina cinerea  
Clavulina cristata

Ramaria acriscenscens  
Ramaria claviramulata  
Ramaria cyaneigranosa  
Ramaria flavigelatinosa  
Ramaria flavigelatinosa v. fragrans  
Ramaria stricta  
Ramaria sp.

Sparassis crispa (S. radicata)

**BOLETES**

Boletus calopus  
Boletus chrysenteron  
Boletus edulis  
Boletus tomentosus  
Boletus zelleri

Leccinum aurantiacum  
Leccinum fallax  
Leccinum holopus  
Leccinum scabrum

Suillus caeruleus  
Suillus fallax  
Suillus lakei  
Suillus luteus  
Suillus sp.

**PUFF BALLS**

Bovista plumbea  
Geastrum saccatum  
Lycoperdon perlatum  
Lycoperdon pyriforme  
Vascellum pratense  
Scleroderma cepa

**BIRD NEST FUNGI**

Nidula candida  
Crucibulum laeve

**JELLY FUNGI**

Dacrymyces chrysospermus (D. palmatus)  
Pseudohydnum gelatinosum

**TOOTHED FUNGI**

Hydnellum aurantiacum  
Hydnellum subzonatum  
Hydnellum zonatum  
Hydnum (Dentinum) repandum  
Hydnum (Dentinum) umbilicatum  
Sarcodon (Hydnum) imbricatus

**POLYPORES & ALLIES**

Climacodon septentrionalis  
Coltricia perennis  
Fomitopsis (Fomes) pinocola  
Ganoderma applanatum  
Ganoderma tsugae  
Janoporus (Polyporus) hirtus  
Laetiporus conifericola (L. sulphureus)  
Phaeolus schweinitzii  
Phlebia tremellosa  
Telephora palmate  
Trametes (Coriolus) versicolor

**ASCOMYCETES**

Aleuria aurantia  
Bisporella citrina  
Chlorociboria aeruginascens  
Cudonia circinans  
Gyromitra infula  
Helvella crispa  
Helvella lacunosa  
Hypomyces chrysospermus  
Hypomyces lactifluorum  
Otidea onotica  
Pachyphloeus melanoxanthus  
Peziza badia  
Peziza sp.—

**Truffles**

Pachyphloeus melanoxanthus  
Truncocolumella citrine  
Tuber oregonense

**September 13, 2008**  
**Rockport Species List**

Gomphidius subroseus  
 Ganoderma applanatum  
 Phaeolus schweinitzii  
 Polyporus badius  
 Coltricia perennis  
 Coltricia cinnamomea  
 Geastrum saccatum  
 Sparrasis crispa  
 Peziza sp.  
 Amanita sp.  
 Gymnopus peronatus  
 Mycena amicta  
 Mycena pura  
 Coprinus plicatilis  
 Coprinus silvaticus  
 Strobilurus trullisatus  
 Paxillus sp.  
 Phylloporus rhodoxanthus  
 Suillus caeruleus  
 Chalciaporus piperatus  
 Boletus fibrillosus  
 Boletus coniferarum  
 Boletus chrysenteron  
 Boletus smithii  
 Lepiota sp.  
 Lepiota cristata  
 Lepiota rubrotincta  
 Lepiota rachodes  
 Otidea onotica  
 Inocybe grammata  
 Inocybe sororia  
 Inocybe calamistrata  
 Entoloma rhodopodium  
 Entoloma sericatum  
 Lycoperdon perlatum  
 Lycoperdon pyriforme  
 Kuehneromyces lignatilis  
 Lactarius pallescens  
 Lactarius luculentus var. laetus  
 Hygrocybe laeta  
 Ascocoryne sarcoides  
 Clitocybe odora  
 Clitocybe scleroidea  
 Pluteus granularis  
 Pluteus cervinus  
 Russula adusta  
 Russula veterosa  
 Russula xerampelina  
 Russula murrillii  
 Russula chamaeleontina  
 Russula laurocerasi  
 Russula occidentalis  
 Russula brevipes  
 Hypomyces lactiflorum  
 Agaricus moelleri 'group'  
 Pholiota flammans  
 Cantharellus formosus

**October 25, 2008**  
**Foray at Lake Padden, Bellingham, WA**  
**Species List**

Boletus chrysenteron Cracked Cap Bolete  
 Cantharellus cibarius Chantarelle  
 Clitocybe dealbata  
 Gymnopus peronatus Hairy Legs Collybia  
 Coprinus sp. Inky Cap  
 Ganoderma applanatum  
 Gomphidius glutinosus Hideous Gomphidius  
 Gymnopilus croceoluteus  
 Helvella lacunosa  
 Inocybe sp.  
 Hygrophorus sp.  
 Lactarius sp. Milky Cap  
 Lactarius rubidus Candy Cap  
 Lepiota rachodes Shaggy Parasol  
 Leucopaxillus albissimus  
 Naematoloma fasciculare Sulfur Tuft  
 Paxillus sp.  
 Paxillus atromentosus  
 Pseudohydnum gelatinosum  
 Pluteus cervinus Deer Mushroom  
 Pluteus magnus  
 Pholiota aurivella Golden Pholiota  
 Russula sp.  
 Stropharia ambigua Questionable Stropharia  
 Suillus caeruleus Fat Jack  
 Xylaria hypoxylon Matchstick Fungus

The three most interesting species at this foray were *Gymnopilus croceoluteus*, a rather rare *Gymnopilus* with tawny-orange cap centers and golden yellow, lobed margins, smooth with bitter taste, *Pluteus magnus*, a huge 20 cm. version of *Pluteus cervinus*, and a probable *Paxillus* sp. nov. This was pointed out to me by Richard Morrison. It had a rusty spore deposit, smooth dark brown cap and stem, and dingy ochre gills that one could peel with a fingernail. Dr. Ammirati has already laid claim to this one. I just have to get caught up so I can send it off.

- Buck



**Species List Bowman Bay  
2008**

GILLED MUSHROOMS

Agaricus arvensis  
Agaricus campestris  
Agaricus comptulus  
Agaricus molleri (A. praeclaresquamosus)  
Agaricus nivescens  
Amanita smithiana  
Armillaria ostoyae (A. mellea)  
Chlorophyllum (Lepiota) rachodes  
Chroogomphus tomentosus  
Clitocybe cyanthiformis  
Clitocybe dealbata  
Clitocybe deceptiva  
Clitocybe dilatata  
Clitocybe fragrans  
Clitocybe inversa  
Clitocybe nebularis  
Clitocybe odora  
Coprinus comatus  
Cortinarius cinnamomomeus group  
Cortinarius olympianus  
Cystoderma cinnabarinum  
Cystoderma granulatum  
Galerina autumnalis  
Gomphidius glutinosus  
Gomphidius oregonensis  
Gymnopilus punctifolius  
Gymnopilus sapineus  
Gymnopus (Collybia) acervatus  
Gymnopus (Collybia) confluent  
Gymnopus (Collybia) dryophila  
Hebeloma crustuliniforme  
Hygrocybe (Hygrophorus) conica  
Hygrocybe (Hygrophorus) minuiatus  
Hygrocybe chlorophana  
Hygrophoropsis (Clitocybe) aurantiaca  
Hygrophorus agthosomus  
Hygrophorus bakerensis  
Hygrophorus eburneus  
Hygrophorus penarius  
Hypholoma capnoides  
Hypholoma dispersum  
Hypholoma fasciculare  
Inocybe geophylla  
Inocybe liacina  
Inocybe pudica  
Inocybe sp.  
Laccaria laccata  
Lactarius deliciosus  
Lactarius olympianus  
Lactarius pseudoindica  
Lactarius repraesentaneus  
Lactarius rubrilacteus  
Lactarius scrobiculatus  
Lactarius subflammens  
Lepista (Clitocybe) nuda  
Leucopaxillus gentianeus (L. amarus)  
Lichenomphalia (Omphalina) umbellifera (O. ericetorum)  
Marasmiellus (Marasmius) candidus (M. magnisporus)  
Marasmius oreades

Marasmius plicatulus  
Melanoleuca polioleura  
Melanoleuca sp.  
Mycena sp.  
Mycena epipterygia  
Mycena haematopus  
Nolanea sericea  
Omphalina ericetorum  
Panaeolus acuminatus  
Panellus serotinus  
Panellus stipticus  
Paxillus involutus  
Pholiota spumosa  
Pholiota terrestris  
Pleurotus ostreatus  
Pluteus cervinus  
Psathyrella longistriata  
Psathyrella piluliformis (P. hydrophila)  
Pseudocoprinus plicatulus  
Psilocybe cyanescens  
Russula atropurpurea  
Russula bicolor  
Russula brevipes  
Russula sanguinea (R. rosacea)  
Russula sp.  
Russula xerampelina  
Stropharia aeruginosa  
Strobilurus trullisatus  
Stropharia ambigua  
Tricholoma albobrunneum  
Tricholoma flavovirens  
Tricholoma pessundatum  
Tricholoma sp.  
Tricholomopsis rutilans  
Xeromphalina campanella  
Xeromphalina caudicinalis

NON GILLED FUNGI

Albatrellus hirtus  
Aleuria aurantia  
Boletus brevipes  
Boletus chrysenteron  
Boletus zelleri  
Cantharellus formosus  
Cantharellus infundibuliformis  
Clavaria purpurea  
Clavariadelphus pistillaris  
Fomitopsis (Fomes) pinicola  
Helvella lacunosa  
Hericium abietis  
Lycoperdon perlatum  
Otidea onotica  
Phaeolus schweinitzii  
Pseudohydnum gelatinosum  
Suillus brevipes  
Suillus caeruleus  
Suillus lakei  
Tremella mesenterica

The Internet abounds with scores of mushroom-related Web sites. Below is a list of sites that may interest you, whether you are new -- or not -- to mushrooming.

Explore and enjoy!

<http://www.northwestmushroomers.org/>

Northwest Mushroomers Association's new Web site. Visit to learn dates and locations for next NMA meetings, mushroom forays, spring's Survivors Banquet, and NMA's annual Morel Madness weekend east of the mountains.

[http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/biodiversity/matchmaker/index\\_e.html](http://www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/biodiversity/matchmaker/index_e.html)

The famed Matchmaker: where to go to identify gilled Pacific Northwest mushrooms. This site is sponsored by the Canadian Forest Service.

<http://www.mykoweb.com/>

MykoWeb: one of the first mycology Web sites, created by San Francisco's Michael Wood. More than 3700 mushroom photos, plus articles and recipes.

[www.mushroomobserver.org](http://www.mushroomobserver.org)

Visit this site by California's Nathan Wilson to report weird, unidentifiable mushroom finds, or to see what oddities others have found recently.

<https://www.lsa.umich.edu/slavic/mushroomlore/>

Delightfully quirky site, developed by University of Michigan's Snezana Tempest, replete with Russian mushroom lore. A must-see.

[http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms\\_fungi/](http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/)

Tom Volk of University of Wisconsin hosts this long-time classic, which includes Tom's regular feature, Fungus of the Month.

[http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~fredr/3D\\_Photo\\_Main.htm](http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~fredr/3D_Photo_Main.htm)

3-D visions of mushrooms, slime molds, cryptogams (lichens) and other organisms, captured by NMA's own Fred Rhoades. Fred hosts a 3-D mushroom presentation for NMA each year in Bellingham.

<http://www.fsl.orst.edu/mycology/poster/poster.html>

Edible Pacific Northwest forest mushrooms. The Northwest is an important source of commercially harvested wild mushrooms, and this U.S. Forest Service site describes the latest efforts to manage these valuable resources.

<http://www.psms.org/>

Web site of Puget Sound Mycological Society. PSMS is based in Seattle (and associated with the University of Washington), but their meetings and events are well worth a foray from Bellingham.

<http://www.natruffling.org/>

Web site of the North American Truffling Society, in Corvallis, Oregon. Discusses truffle identification and hunting, while tackling the big questions: pigs v.s. dogs? truffle farming or truffles au naturel? (If interested in truffles, check out the new Ten Speed Press book, Field Guide to North American Truffles.)

<http://www.fungiphoto.com/>

Famed fungi photographer Taylor Lockwood's Web site. Visit to view enchanting high-resolution photos of morels, chanterelles, boletes, medicinal mushrooms, mushroom cookery, more.

[http://naturalhistory.uga.edu/~GMNH/Mycoherb\\_Site/main.htm](http://naturalhistory.uga.edu/~GMNH/Mycoherb_Site/main.htm)

Mushroom art (including mushroom art on everyday objects), mushroom stamps (amazing miniatures), and more

beauties from University of Georgia's Julian H. Miller Herbarium Web site.

<http://www.mycolog.com/>

Dr. Bryce Kendrick's in-depth Web site, with fabulous photos from The Fifth Kingdom, his encyclopedic work on mushrooms and other fungi.

<http://www.scmsfungi.org/>

Snohomish County Mycological Society's Web site. Again, more mushrooming activities with yet another mushroom club within shouting distance.

<http://www.wildmushrooms.org/>

When in Oregon, do as Oregonians do – hang out with the Oregon Mycological Society, founded back in 1949.

<http://www.vanmyco.com/>

North to Canada, and well-worth a trek: B.C.'s Vancouver Mycological Society.

<http://www.namyco.org/>

North American Mycological Association (NAMA), the Big Daddy of mushrooming in North America, has over 2000 individual members and some 70 affiliated clubs in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

<http://www.mushroomthejournal.com/index.html>

Web site of Mushroom, the Journal, quarterly of mushrooming. Read selections from the Journal, or subscribe.

<http://www.biology.ed.ac.uk/research/groups/jdeacon/microbes/armill.htm#Top>

Armillaria mellea and other wood-decay fungi: fascinating illustrated introduction to the role fungi play in rotting wood, by University of Edinburgh's Jim Deacon.

Northwest Mushroomers Association (NMA) meets in Bellingham, Washington, the second Thursday of the months April, May, and June as well as September, October, and November. NMA's annual mushroom show is held each October. New NMA members eagerly welcomed!

CHICKEN, SPINACH, & MUSHROOM LASAGNA

*Doug Hooks' 2008 Survivors Banquet Prize Winner*

1 stick butter

1 # mushrooms thinly sliced (here's where you can use your favorite collected edibles, or even reconstituted ones) (For the banquet I used boletes, oyster, and some morels, you can use 1 or all 3 or more, if you like)

1 Cup finely chopped onion

3 T minced garlic

1/2 Cup Flour

7 Cups of milk

2 t salt

1/2 t pepper

1/4 t nutmeg

1 # spinach

3 cups parmesan

2 T olive oil

2 # chicken breasts

1 # lasagna noodles (cooked)

1 T butter

Melt butter, saute mushrooms (5-7 minutes), add garlic and onions, add flour (2 min), add warmed milk, S & P, nutmeg, spinach, 1/2 of parmesan cheese. Heat through and then cool and cover. Saute chicken (I actually browned it a little with flour and oil). Heat oven to 350 F. In a large 3-5 qt casserole dish, layer 1/2 cup sauce, lasagna pasta (don't forget it needs to be cooked first), 3/4 cup sauce, 1/4 of chicken, 1/4 cup parmesan & repeat until you run out of room or ingredients.

# One Final Tale of Mushroom Karma To Wrap Up This Extraordinary Mushroom Season

By Jack Waytz

As if there had not been enough surprises this year, little did I know, that after I had rounded up the last of the matsutake mushrooms in my trusted spot close to Sudden Valley, and thinking that the season was finally over, one more delicious morsel was about to be discovered.

photo by Buck McAdoo



Candy caps to elate the palate!

This odyssey began with a phone call from new club member Dan Bacharev, who has really been bitten hard by the mushroom bug. Dan is an avid kayaker and has made a recent habit of kayaking around Lake Whatcom and taking off into the surrounding hills in search of mushrooms. On one such excursion in early November, he turned up a mushroom which he keyed out as the candy cap. (*L. rubidus* is the variety found here in the Pacific Northwest). He wanted me to verify his identification and brought a few caps down to my house. Upon inspecting the specimens it

was clear to me that his identification was indeed correct. I thought this to be a magnificent find, I had always wanted to try this mushroom out on the table. I sheepishly asked him if he had any extra the he might be willing to part with, and much to my surprise, he said he could do better than that, he would take me to the spot where he had found them. The following day we set out on a journey that would take us all the way to the other side of Sudden Valley, not 6 minutes drive from my house. Despite the fact that a few days prior, Dan had harvested all the mushrooms there, the area was filled with these diminutive candy caps, and I had a good basket full. Many thanks to Dan for sharing this fungal wonder with me.

I was naturally thrilled with this aquisition and called Buck to tell him about it and he said that he had never found it in Whatcom County and to his knowledge, had never been observed here before. I made some inquiries to long-time club members and sure enough no one had remembered finding it except for Fred Rhoades, who had a small collection turn up in the fall of 1983. I made a donation of a few caps to Fred's herbarium.

photo by Jack Waytz



Candy caps about to be cooked!

I went back up to the spot where we found them about a week later, and it was filled again! This was a prolonged and frantic fruiting.

Here is where the Mushroom Karma comes in. I wanted to rave to Buck about how phenomenal the recipe he gave me for persimmon and candy cap pudding tasted, and I pulled off the road here in Sudden Valley to call him on my cell phone. As I was talking to him, I glanced out the window of my car and there before me under some young Douglas fir, the ground was completely covered with, yes, none other than *Lactarius rubidus*, the candy cap! This is a mushroom small and light in stature, and I collected a total of almost 3 1/2 pounds of these scrumptious morsels. This is in the vicinity of 150 - 200 caps; mind staggering! I had enough of them to

make 4 different recipes, one twice, and still have half of a quart jar dried for a rainy (or snowy) day.

Just 10 days later came the snows of December to Sudden Valley, ending what has been perhaps the most evocative and storied mushroom season ever.