

MushRumors

The Newsletter of the Northwest Mushroomers Association

Volume 28, Issue 2

April - June 2017

Emerging From the First Actual Winter in Three Years, Northwest Washington Shows Its Fungal Stuff

In the weeks preceding the NMA's first club foray in April, there was plenty of activity in the Fifth Kingdom. Beginning with the first warm days in March, a myriad of *Mycenas* presented themselves, along with a robust fruiting of the wood loving *Polyporus badius* and also a smattering of *Coprinellus micaceus*, the edible mica cap.

Photo by Jack Waytz



Mycena sp.

As March gave way to April, there was an even greater variety of *Mycenas*, and a few mushrooms associated more with fall than spring, such as *Stropharia ambigua*, *Keuneromyces*, and *Helvelas*. Then came one of the largest area-wide flushes of *Verpa bohemica* that I have seen in my 16 years in northwest Washington. Generally a few can be found at the foot of Galbraith Mountain around the larger cottonwoods there; but this spring, there were hundreds of them, extending significantly up the mountain.

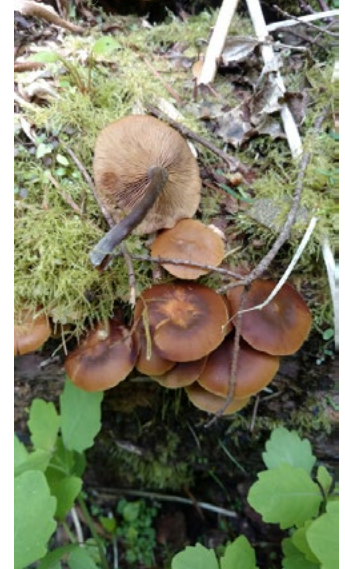
Clearly, after record amounts of monthly rainfall in every month from September through March, and the first substantial winter season since 2013, the mushrooms were chafing at the bit to send forth fruiting bodies into the early season forests as they began to awaken from winter dormancy.

These conditions would continue to hold throughout the spring chapter of the Northwest Mushroomers foray season, as evidenced by the bounty found in each of the club's early season forays.

Once again, mushrooms lead the way as illustrators of a healthy forest ecology. As spring stretched into the long days of summer, the moisture brought by an unusually persistent stormy weather pattern shifted dramatically, and the result was less than 1 inch of measurable precipitation from the end of the first week of June until the beginning of the last week of August.

We now find ourselves watching the weather, and wondering when the first rains of fall will come to ignite the mushrooms of fall, and our own passions to find them.

Photo by Jack Waytz



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Some of the Early Season Observations

All photos by Jack Waytz



Verpa bohemica



Helvella sp.



Keuneromyces sp.



Mycena sp.



Coprinellus micaceus

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The Northwest Mushroomers Association meets 7–9 p.m. on the second Thursdays of Apr, May, June and Sept, Oct, and Nov. Meeting location is the downtown Bellingham Public Library.

We will inform you in advance of any changes in time or venue. Fungal forays and field trips are scheduled for the Saturday after each meeting. To stay apprised of forays, events and more, please join our googlegroups email list by signing up as a member.

Membership dues are \$15 for families and individuals and \$10 for students. Please make checks payable to NMA and mail "Attn: Membership" to the address above, or use Paypal online at northwestmushroomers.org/join-or-renew-membership/

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NEWSLETTER

MushRumors is published in the months of March, June, September, November, and January online at northwestmushroomers.org. Club members are encouraged to submit stories, photos, recipes, and artwork. Submissions should be made two weeks prior to the month of publication.

For newsletter content or comments, contact editor Jack Waytz above or mail to:
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For this foray we were honored by the presence of Lawrence Millman. Larry is a man of many talents. As an author, he has written 16 books, including such titles as Last Places, A Kayak Full of Ghosts, An Evening Among

Photo by Vince Biciunas



Headhunters, Lost in the Arctic, and Fascinating Fungi of New England.

As a mycologist, he has studied fungi all over the world, but especially in his own backyard of New England. And as an explorer, he has made over 40 trips and expeditions to the Arctic and Subarctic. It was a pleasure to have him with us.

The facility at Fairhaven Park was wonderful, we even had our own bathrooms! A true luxury for this crowd. We had 26 participants including several members of the Snohomish County Mycological Society. Thanks to Diann for all of her help.

Both Buck and Larry were kept busy identifying our collection. As usual on these spring forays, we found significantly more mushrooms than expected. Larry, however, was not surprised by the overall number; in fact, he expected it. However, he was surprised to find the following:

Hypholoma fasciculare - Sulphur Tuft (not known to have spring fruitings)

Piptoporus betulinus - Birch Polypore

Pseudoplectania nigrella - ebony cup or black false Plectania

April Fairhaven Park foray species list

Aleurodiscus amorphus
Botryobasidium sp.
Cerrena unicolor
Chlorociboria aeruginascens
Coprinellus micaceus
Coprinus silvaticus
Crepidotus mollis
Fomes fomentarius
Fomitopsis cajanderi
Fomitopsis pinicola
Ganoderma applanatum
Hyalorbilia inflatula
Hyaloscypha albohyalina
Hygrocybe flavescens
Hypholoma fasciculare
Inocybe sp.
Kretschmaria deusta
Lachnum virgineum
Lamproderma carestiae
Lichenomphalia umbellifera
Marasmiellus filipes
Mollisia cinerea
Mycena filipes
Mycena haematopus

Mycena pura
Nolanea sp.
Nolanea sp.
Nolanea cetrata
Peziza repanda
Peziza varia
Phellinus ferruginosus
Piptoporus betulinus
Pleurotus populinus
Pleurotus pulmonarius
Pluteus exilis
Polyporus badius
Psathyrella longistriata
Psathyrella rugocephala
Cyathus sp.
Rhodocollybia maculata
Stereum hirsutum
Stropharia coronilla
Tapesia fusca
Trametes hirsutum
Trametes versicolor
Tremella aurantia
Trichaptum abietinus
Xerompalina sp.

Photo by Vince Biciunas



The final species list for the foray includes a total of 49 species, which is about four times more than we have found at this site before in April. The reason must be intermittent rains all through the winter months. Both Buck McAdoo and Larry Millman produced the list above. It includes a number of miniature ascomycetes not often recorded. Larry would like to point out that *Piptoporus betulinus* has maybe been found only once before by Dr. Lorelei Norvell in the Pacific Northwest, so this was a major discovery. Two specimens made it to the tables.

Buck was especially impressed by the *Xeromphalina* which had orange gills with obvious cross-veins, a mild flavor, and a slightly darker stem. Sadly, the stem base was broken off, so we didn't get a look at the basal mycelium. And in case you were wondering, *Pluteus exilis* is our new Northwest name for *Pluteus cervinus*, which also is found here, but only on wood chips. It was a real pleasure working with Larry. He is taking some of the collections home with him, so we could expect more names or revisions at a later date.

Photo by Mark Johnson



Mushroom Mayhem 2017 Report *By Linda Magee*

The Northwest Mushroom Association's annual spring foray in eastern Washington--Mushroom Mayhem 2017 (for many years called Morel Madness) took place over the weekend of May 19-21. Seventeen of us camped at or near Wenatchee State Park. The weather was perfect for camping and foraging.

Photo by Mark Johnson



We met Friday evening to make plans for Saturday foraging. We were up early Saturday to form groups and set out. Some of us were out all day; others took advantage of the beautiful weather to hike around Lake Wenatchee and relax by the lake.

The seven of us who foraged on and around Chiwawa Lake Road found about 10 pounds of morels and a few spring boletes. On Chiwawa Lake Road we foraged areas where there

had already been some collecting and found that a "new crop" of morels were peeking out and ready to harvest. Next, we checked out some sites up a logging road off Chiwawa Lake Road and found some areas full of morels and no signs of harvesting. These morels were not in burn sites, but were found in areas that had been cleared last year or the year before. *Gyromitra*--false morels--were easy to spot at these sites and often were signals that true morels were very near. Others members of our group who went up into the Entiat area found only a few morels.

This year's foraging was more successful than last year's. The weather conditions were much better. The soil was moist, and the weather was cool, with snow at low elevations. It was a joy to watch members new to the event find and harvest their first morels. Their delight and excitement was contagious.

Saturday evening we all got together at the Lake Wenatchee Picnic Shelter to enjoy an al fresco potluck dinner. The food was plentiful and delicious, and we could enjoy our wine with impunity. Everyone was excited to see the big basket of morels and to hear reports and view photos of the day's foraging. We sauteed some of the morels to top Vince and Migo's excellent salmon and make certain that everyone got some morels to take home.

Sunday some of us continued the foraging in different areas, while others

Photo by Tom Wilmore



enjoyed the beautiful day as we made our ways home.

Thanks to Evan Sanford for his work on identifying the fungi that we collected during our foraging. We did not find as many species as last year, perhaps as a result of the cooler weather.

We are already looking forward to the 2018 Mushroom Madness event and hope to see you there. Come join us next year to enjoy the beauty and gifts that nature bestows on us.

Mushroom Mayhem 2017 Species List *Prepared by Linda Magee; thanks to the identification efforts of Evan Sanford. Page references are to Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest By Steve Trudel and Joe Ammirati*

Genus and species/common name/comments (for clarity)

- Boletus rex-veris/Spring Bolete (classic, red-brown cap)
- Calbovista subsculpta/Puffball, p. 268
- Cryptoporus volvatus/the bug hole one, on bark (on logs, many specimen complete with host beetles)
- Fomitopsis pinicola/Red-Belt Conk, p. 258-9
- Gyromitra esculenta/False Morel, p. 280
- Gyromitra melaleucoides/False Morel, p. 280
- Gyromitra montana/False Morel, p. 281
- Morchella (a couple of different species; a lot of variety in coloration and size)
- Ramaria rasilispora/Spring Coral p. 247-8 (not gelatinous)
- Tricholoma –either vernaticum or saponaceum, p. 106

Photo by Mark Johnson



June 17, 2017, NMA Foray at Silver Lake Park *By Vince Biciunas*

There were 17 of us who joined in the June foray at Silver Lake Park on Saturday, June 17, including two members of the Snohomish Mycological Society.

Photo by Vince Biciunas



Tremetes versicolor

The spring weather and peaceful location were beautiful, but would there be any mushrooms? After fueling ourselves with caffeine, sugar, and conversation we split up into groups to foray. Some went up the trails; others went to the horse camp. Since autumn, not spring is supposed to be the best foraging in our region, we weren't expecting to find much. But, as people returned to the shelter, the specimen table was soon covered with our found treasures.

The reward for foraging is the potluck lunch. As always, the food was varied, healthy, and delicious. We even had a "quality-control specialist"--a little squirrel who sampled a tiny bit of Christine's scrumptious cobbler and tried in vain to drag away a bag of muffins.

As we munched, conversed, and hovered over our identifiers, they worked hard and soon declared our collection not only diverse, but containing some interesting, rare specimens.

Check out the species list and the photos for more foray details. Maybe you can spot the rare finds. Look for the beautiful log of "turkey tails" to make a showing at our fall mushroom show.

And many, many thanks to our identifiers Buck McAdoo, Fred Rhoades, and Christine Roberts, who took time out of their busy lives to make this foray successful and to enlighten us all.

17 June 2017 NMA Foray at Silver Lake Species List

Fungi

Clavariadelphus pistillaris
Clavulina coralloides
Fomes fomentarius
Fomes igniarius
Fomitopsis pinicola
Ganoderma applanatum
Guepiniopsis chrysocomus (possibly "alpine jelly" that we have called *Heterotextus alpinus*) ?
Gymnopus dryophilus
Gymnopus peronatus ?
Hypomyces hyalinus
Inocybe curvipes ?
Inocybe lanatodisca?
Kuehneromyces lignicola
Lactarius luculentus var. laetus
Lasiobolus diversisporus ?
Marasmius oreades
Mycena acicula
Mycena haematopus
Mycena pura
Mycena sanguinolenta
Mycena sp (small whitish gray)
Mycena sp (different, small whitish gray)
Mycena stipata
Mycena stylobates
Oligoporus fragilis syn. *Tyromyces fragilis*
Panaeolus antillarum

Panaeolus campanulatus
Pleurotus pulmonarius
Pluteus cervinus
Pluteus compressipes ?
Pluteus exilis
Polyporus badius
Polyporus leptocephalus
Pseudolaccaria pachyphylla
Rhodocollybia maculata
Rhodocollybia butyracea
Scutellinia scutellata group
Stereum sp.
Stropharia rugosoannulata
Tremella aurantia
Trametes versicolor
Tubaria furfuracea
Vascellum lloydianum

Lichen

Hypogymnia apinnata
Hypogymnia inactiva
Lobaria pulmonaria
Platismatia glauca

Slime mold

Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa
Lycogala epidendrum
Stemonitis fusca
odd *Stemonitis*? (yellow plasmodium stage)

Photo by Vince Biciunas



Photo by Vince Biciunas



Long-time NMA member Lee Kincaid has passed away after a lengthy illness. He was a very enthusiastic and keen fancier of fungi. Condolences to Ronalee, and the rest of his family and friends.

Mushroom of the Month: *Leucocoprinus straminellus* (Baglietto) Narducci & Caroti

By Buck McAdoo

Junko Ferrera had come in from the cold. Upon entering her husband Jeremy's office down by the waterfront, she spotted a few pale and twisted mushrooms arising from the potted palm in the corner. The stems were twisted because they had emerged from a heap of rounded stones that covered the dirt. She had no way of knowing this at the time, but she may have discovered the second fruiting of *Leucocoprinus straminellus* in North America. This may be a preposterous statement, but the only North American literature I could find on it was an article by Dr. Helen Smith in *The Michigan Botanist* in 1981. Helen had found her collection in a greenhouse in Michigan. She noted that it must have been the first find in North America. At the time, it was known as *Leucocoprinus denudatus*, which is now considered a synonym of *L. straminellus*. Her description differs from that of Dr. Else Vellinga's in a few microscopic characters, which may or not be significant. Since I couldn't find it in any North American mushroom guide, I keyed it out in Dr. Vellinga's 2001 key to *Leucocoprinus* in *Flora Agaricina Neerlandica* 5. Her description is used here.

Photo by Buck McAdoo



Caps – 1 ½ - 3 ½ cm wide, paraboloid-cylindrical expanding to plano-convex with small umbo in a central depression. Pale lemon yellow fading to cream color at the sulcate margin. Caps are covered with floccose granules that wear off in age.

Gills – Free, subventricose, white to pale lemon yellow. Edges eroded to finely fimbriate.

Stipe – Up to 5 cm long and 1-3 mm thick, slightly expanded at base. Pale lemon yellow, hollow, and entirely pruinose to granulose.

Velar material – A pale yellow membranous ring at mid-stem, often disappearing in age.

Odor – Fungoid, unpleasant.

Taste – Unknown. (Others report 'mild')

Habitat – Found in clumps or groups in potted plants, greenhouses, wood chip mulch, and compost heaps. Widespread in Europe.

The microscopic characters include white, smooth, thick-walled, ellipsoid spores with no germ pore. They are dextrinoid in Melzer's solution and measure 5-8.5 x 4-7 microns. The basidia are slenderly clavate, 4-spored, and usually surrounded by 4-6 pseudoparaphyses (structures I am not familiar with in agarics). The cheilocystidia are polymorphic, meaning they come in many shapes ranging from cylindrical to clavate or even lageniform. There are no pleurocystidia and no clamps. There were globose elements in the cap granules, and it was this feature that cinched the identification. *Leucocoprinus birnbaumii* and other close relatives have more elongated elements in these granules.

Dr. Helen Smith also found subglobose elements in the cap granules. She also noted pyriform shapes and clusters of pileocystidia tapering to a point and measuring 75-225 x 7-10 microns. Her caps were pale greenish-yellow with paler margins. She reported basidia with granular contents and smaller, subglobose spores at 4-4.8 x 3.6-4.5 microns. These characters appear to differ from those of Dr. Vellinga, so could Junko's find be a first for North America? Maybe yes, maybe no. There are several look-alikes. *Leucocoprinus straminellus* var. *albus* is an all-white variety. *Leucocoprinus medioflavus* is a European species that looks a lot like it except for a much more pronounced striation at the cap margin. The caps are white to cream, the ring is white, the stem base is subclavate, and the spores are thinner, measuring 3.2-3.9 microns wide, and have one oil drop in the contents.

Moser mentioned that *L. denudatus* liked to fruit on dung. Beyond this, there is not much more information.

Junko's husband, Jeremy, ever the optimist, has kept a desiccated specimen in the palm pot. With any luck and careful watering, it could strike again.

Bibliography:

Margit Babos, *Studies on Hungarian Lepiota Species VI: Glasshouse Species in Agarica* 6, No. 12, (197-218), 1985.

M. Candusso & G. Lanzoni, *Lepiota S.L. in Fungi Europaei* 4, 1990.

Guillaume Eyssartier & Pierre Roux, *Le Guide des Champignons – France et Europe*, 2011.

Henning Knudsen, *Leucocoprinus in Nordic Macromycetes* 2, (223-224), 1992.

Meinhard Moser, *Keys to Agarics and Boleti*, 1978.

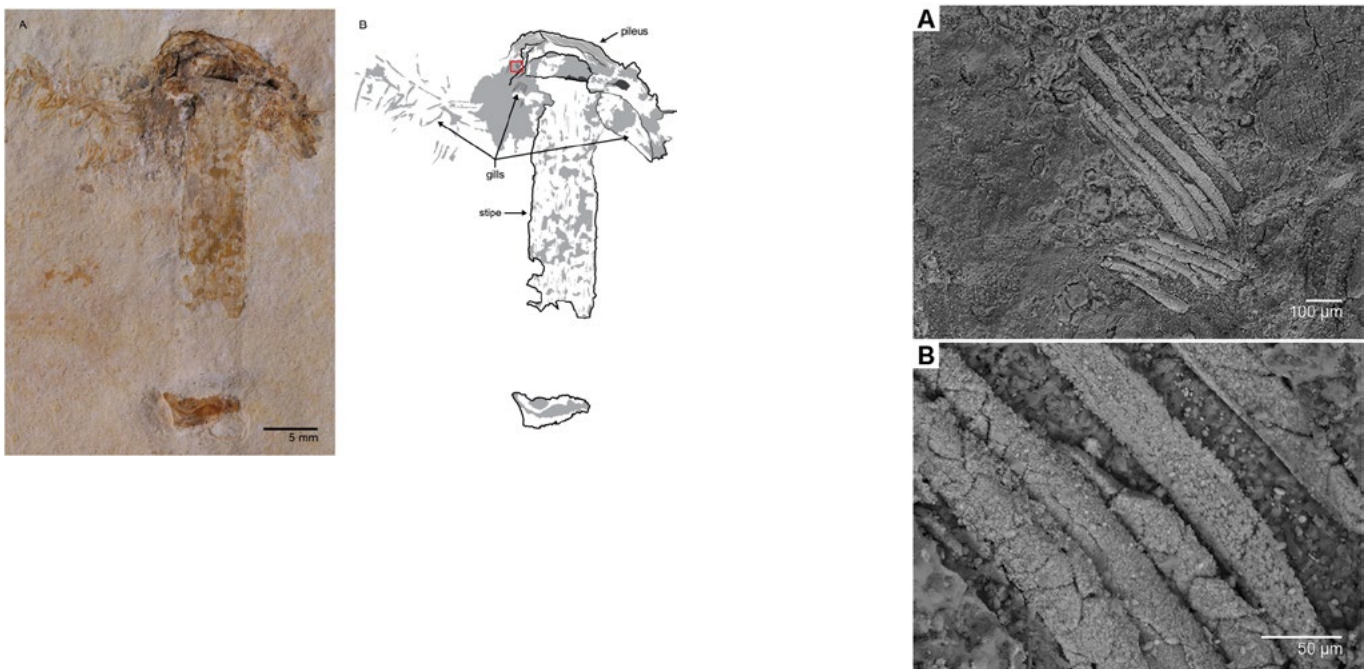
Helen V. Smith, *Some Species of Leucocoprinus Which Grow in Greenhouses in The Michigan Botanist* 20, (45-52), 1981.

Else Vellinga, *Leucocoprinus in Flora Agaricina Neerlandica* 5, (76-84), 2001.

Oldest Known Fossil Fungus Discovered

From "The Oldest Fossil Mushroom" by Sam W. Heads, Andrew N. Miller, Leland Crane, M. Jared Thomas, Danielle M. Ruffatto, Andrew S. Methven, Daniel B. Raudabaugh and Yinan Wang. Published: June 7, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0178327>

A new fossil mushroom is described and illustrated from the Lower Cretaceous Crato Formation of northeast Brazil. *Gondwanagaricites magnificus* gen. et sp. nov. is remarkable for its exceptional preservation as a mineralized replacement in laminated limestone, as all other fossil mushrooms are known from amber inclusions. *Gondwanagaricites* represents the oldest fossil mushroom to date and the first fossil mushroom from Gondwana. This fungus is approximately 1.2 billion years old!



A Note From Fred Rhoades-

The Club ID Class is almost full and we are changing the sign-up procedure slightly to make it fair. If you are still interested in registering for one of the identification class sessions, email Fred Rhoades: fmrhoades@comcast.net If the session you are interested in is still open, he will send you a link to the new registration location. If the session is closed, you will be placed on a waiting list and notified.

Briefly; the first session, for rank beginners September 19, 26, October 3; the second session for old-timers, October 10, 17, 24; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the ReStore. Single session - \$15; Both sessions paid together - \$25. Contact Fred for more information.

An alternative to the club class sessions is the class, The Fungus Amongus presented by Fred Rhoades through the Academy for Lifelong Learning, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Garden Methodist Church Thursday, September 28, October 5 (Field Trip), October 12, 19, 26 (Field Trip), & November 2. \$90 for ALL members, \$109 for non-members. This class is for anyone interested in learning to identify local mushrooms. Students will collect different kinds of mushrooms during the week and bring them to class for further study. Classes combine 15 to 30 minute talks by the instructor with hands-on practice identifying the mushrooms people bring in. Characteristics of the best edible species and the worst poisonous species will be discussed. Two optional field trips with easy walks at times arranged by the class will be offered.

Registration deadline is September 21, 2017:

<https://ee.wvu.edu/academy-lifelong-learning-bellingham/programs/fungus-amongus>

A Note From the Editor-

I would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank all those who have read and enjoyed this newsletter during the 13 years that I have had the privilege of being the editor. With the advent of digital copy, we have enjoyed not only nationwide, but global, readership. We have built a reputation among those who write national mycological journals.

Photo by Jack Waytz



The deadly *Amanita smithina*

I want to thank Fred Rhoades for his contributions over the years, and Dick Morrison for his contributions. And very special thanks to Buck McAdoo, my mentor of the knowledge of the fungi of the Pacific Northwest, and author of the highly acclaimed *Mushroom of the Month* segment of the newsletter. A great portion of the knowledge of the Fifth Kingdom that I have amassed over my 16 years here in Bellingham, Washington, is attributable to Buck. Lastly, and certainly not least, special thanks to Erin Moore for her steadfast proofreading and final edit of these volumes over the years. Without her diligence and directed efforts, this newsletter would never have achieved the level of professional polish that the readers have come to appreciate.

It is my intention to continue to write articles for the newsletter, focusing on research collaborations with some of the big names in mycology, people whom I have had the good fortune of getting to know over my time as editor of this publication. Best of fortunes to incoming editor Amelia Thompson. -Jack