



Among Fungi

Cascade Mycological Society Newsletter

April 2007 Vol. 8 Issue 2

WHERE IS THE MOREL MAJORITY?

Spring Morel Foray

Mark your calendars and get out your baskets, it's time for Spring morels. The annual Jack Creek foray is scheduled to take place on Saturday, May 12. We meet at the usual place, the South Eugene High School (north east) parking lot. And at the usual time, 9 am. It is a long drive, so be sure to get there early because we intend to leave at 9 sharp.

Our foray coordinator, Grace will lead us over the pass. Several people are planning on camping over night and foraging again on Sunday.

Last year about ten of us shared a camp ground and socialized the night away. We gathered around a camp fire and told scary mushroom stories. Have you heard the one about the milky red stump of a the *Lactarius rubrilacteus*? Or the *Gyromitra esculenta* that looked like a giant succulent brain?

One advantage of camping over, besides the camaraderie of the campfire, is that the following day we can start earlier and foray for longer because we're already there. Many morels were found on Sunday last year. And fun was had by all.

I hope everyone can join us, at least on Saturday. Last year, though it was a little cold overnight, both days were partially sunny and bright. See you there!



Meredith and Jerry around the fire 2006.

Morels of Western North America

This just in from David Pilz

Free new publication: Morels Western/North America.

It has been years in the making and is now available on-line for free downloading at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/gtr710/>

It is large, so it is divided into 4 segments and might take a while to download. If you do not have software to combine Adobe PDF files, you can download the entire document at my web site below. This combined document is 11.7 MB total.

<http://www.peak.org/~pilzwald/TemporaryDownload/MorelGTR/>

The PNW Research Station posts such General Technical Reports on their website first and then sends the publication to the printers. Currently, the hard copies are due from the printer April 25, 2007. These are also free (including mailing). You simply need to contact the Research Station at the contact information on this web page:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/publications/order.shtml>

Be sure to stipulate the title and GTR (General Technical Report) number = 710, as listed in the citation above. They mail overseas too.

We anticipate high demand for a limited number of printed copies, so if you do want a printed copy, it behooves you to contact the PNW Station quickly and get your name on their waiting/ mailing



list for distribution of printed copies. These will be mailed

when they become available, first request, first served until they run out.

Feel free to disseminate this information to anyone else whom you think might be interested.

I value the support all of you have given me over the years. This publication wraps up the projects I undertook during my tenure with the Pacific Northwest Research Station. It was a wonderful phase of my career. I still don't know what the future will bring, but I am cleaning off my shades in preparation!

Thanks all,

David Pilz

pilzwald@peak.org

<http://www.peak.org/~pilzwald/>

May Speaker:

Dr. Ammirati on corts

The Cascade Mycological Society welcomes all to a presentation by Dr. Joe Ammirati, University of Washington Mushroom Lab professor and supervisor. Dr. Ammirati will be speaking about the genus Cortinarius on Thursday, May 10th at 7:30 in room 115, building 16 (Science & Math) on the Lane Community College

main campus. The talk is free and open to the public.

For more information, please call Kyle at 463-5447 or send email to hammonk@lanecc.edu.

Spring Mushroom Class

This just in from Dan Luoma

A Spring Mushroom class is offered by the Siskiyou Field Institute of Mycology at the Deer Creek Center in Selma, Oregon.

Discover the vital role wild mushrooms play in the growth and health of the forest. Study the biology and ecology of forest fungi through a combination of lab time and hikes through the diverse habitat of the Deer Creek area. Learn the identification of edible, commercial and poisonous mushroom species. Our findings will contribute to the inventory and monitoring of the mushroom resources at the Deer Creek Center.

Dates are: June 2 and 3, 2007.

Location: Deer Creek Center, Selma, Oregon



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Dan Luoma

Course code: FUN7

Naturalist Certificate and college credit pending.

CMS Considering Scholarship Program

Recently, the CMS board has been discussing ways to use some of our educational monies to fund a scholarship program or scholarly research projects. A subcommittee has been formed to explore options.

Anyone with ideas, suggestions or donations can send them along to Michele or Meredith at intrepids2003@yahoo.com

Lichen in Space

As we all know, Lichen is actually two types of creatures rolled into one — the algae provides the fungi with food while the fungi offer the algae a cosy living environment. In an article on NewScientist.com, Kelly Young reports that a European Space Agency experiment discovered that Lichens can survive unprotected in the harsh conditions of space.

In an experiment led by Leopoldo Sancho from the Complutense University of Madrid, two species of lichen — *Rhizocarpon geographicum* and *Xanthoria elegans* — were sealed in a capsule and launched on a Russian Soyuz rocket on 31 May 2005.

Once in Earth orbit, the lid of the container opened and the samples were exposed to the space environment for nearly 15 days before the lid resealed and the capsule returned to Earth.

The lichens were subjected to the vacuum of space and to temperatures ranging from -20°C on the night side of the Earth, to 20°C on the sunlit side. They were also exposed to glaring ultraviolet radiation of the Sun.

“To our big surprise, everything went fine after the flight,” says Rene Demets, ESA’s project scientist for the Foton project. “The lichens were in exactly the same shape as before flight.”

In space, the lichens turned dormant and did not metabolize, but once returned to Earth, they returned to their normal activity and their DNA appeared not to have been damaged, Demets said. All of the lichen appeared to endure the ultraviolet radiation, even those receiving the most exposure.

The experiment adds weight to the theory of panspermia — that life could somehow be transported between planets, perhaps by hitching a ride on an asteroid. It also indicates that organisms similar to lichens or mushrooms might be able to survive on the surface of Mars — at least during the planet’s summer.

Next year CMS hopes to have at least one foray on a nearby planet. No planet has been picked and we are still open to suggestions or ideas for the foray. See you there!

CMS Board meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of the month in the home of a Board member. Contact Kyle Hammon (463-5447) or Chris Melotti (746-7548) to learn the time and place for meetings.

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This is the newsletter of Cascade Mycological Society. It is published four or five times a year, on a mycologically oriented schedule so expect them in late summer, fall, winter and spring.

PLEASE send articles, poems, drawings, announcements and corrections to Matthew Johnson at intrepids2003@yahoo.com

CMS is a non-profit under 501(c)(3). Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed under the law.

E- Mail Lists

CMS sends out meeting, event and foray reminders via e-mail, if you are not getting these and wish to be on the e-mail list, please send an e-mail to cheshire@efn.org, saying in the subject line "add to CMS e-mail" and you'll be put on the e-mail list. CMS does not share its e-mail or mailing list with any other groups or organizations and messages are sent out "blind copy".

If you have any questions about your membership, contact Cheshire Mayrsohn at cheshire@efn.org or 689-8189

Cheshire Mayrsohn

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Please make checks out to the Cascade Mycological Society. Thank you!

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Is this a renewal? _____ (thanks) new membership? _____ (welcome!)

Change of address? _____