



Among Fungi

Cascade Mycological Society Newsletter

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2007 Mushroom Show sets new records!

CMS at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum Mushroom Show and Fall Festival

By Dave Thomas

This year's show and festival, on Sunday, October 28th, was a great success. With an attendance of more than 4,200 (a record) it was gratifying to see such community interest in all things mushrooms. The focus of the show was a series of displays of local mushrooms — more than 350 distinct taxa — as well as lichens and other “lower” fungi. Specific exhibits that explained edibility, medicinal and other uses of mushrooms were particularly well-received. An ID lab with microscopy and video viewing was set up, and provided a chance for the public to bring in their finds and learn more about taxonomic methods. The CMS booth was quite active with interest in membership, information on CMS activities and brisk sales of the newly-designed T-shirts. (*As an aside, do you have yours? They are going fast.*)

Beyond mushrooms — yes, there is life



Sparassis crispa

besides fungi — there were a variety of booths offering related publications, information on other environmental groups, crafts vendors of various products likely to appeal to the audience, and a plant sale. There was also live music, a pumpkin carving contest, wine tasting and generally enough going on to keep the whole family entertained. Several food booths provided some excellent mushroom-focused offerings.

The production of all this fell to a small number of hard-working, a little stressed, volunteers from CMS, Marcia's mushroom class and the Arboretum. These stalwarts were responsible for gathering the specimens, setting up the show, manning various booths and, inevitably, taking everything down, all in a relatively short period of time.

As this show is *the* major event in the CMS calendar, and certainly one of our most visible community outreach, we really need more members to support this activity. There are plenty of tasks for everyone to participate, regardless of their mycological skill (or lack thereof), so keep this in mind for next year's show. You will very likely learn a great deal, have fun participating with those who share your fungal interests and enjoy eating some great mushroom grub. *See you then!*

THE STATS:

From Bruce Newhouse

We left the show with a count of about **350 species**, with about 28 of those never having been identified at the show before. Of those 28, 9 were Ramaria! Note that total number is second highest only to 2004, when we had a phenomenal 379 species. In 2003, we had virtually the same number, just a couple of species lower. (Note that this year's number may climb a bit higher after Marcia passes to me the late additions.) We will get the updated show list on the web site this winter, hopefully.