

Next Meeting Aug.23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004

# SPORES Afield

The newsletter of the Colorado Mycological Society

August 2004

## The President's Corner



I'm back from the Bahamas! During my stay in the Bahamas, I only found one small dried up polypore on an old, dried up branch (type of wood unknown). The locals said that they don't find many mushrooms.

Perhaps it's because the island is made up of mostly coral reef – not a very inviting habitat for mushrooms!

Back in Colorado, it's that time of year again and the mushrooms are beginning to arrive in magnificent splendor! Hopefully, we will continue to get the beloved rain and with the 'timing of perfection' for the fungi season. I've seen quite a few mushrooms at lower elevations, but have yet to find many in the mountains. Two weeks ago, I went up north of Idaho Springs and didn't find a single mushroom while at lower elevations, mushrooms were found in abundance. By the time you read this, it will probably be perfect timing to start looking in higher elevations. Getting moisture in the next few weeks will be essential for a bountiful harvest. I'm convinced that this year will be one of our best years ever!

The last meeting was fantastic! Many species of mushrooms were brought to the meeting to be identified and I was able to bring home some *Lepiota rachodes* and *Agaricus campestris* for lunch!

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## Speaker for the August meeting Tom Volk

"The impact of fungi on humans and history."

Tom Volk is a Professor of Biology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, located on the Mississippi River in western Wisconsin. He teaches courses on Mycology, Plant-Microbe Interactions, Plant Biology, Medical Mycology and Latin & Greek for Scientists and is a 2003 recipient of the Mycological Society of America's William H. Weston Award for excellence in teaching mycology. His internet web page, Tom Volk's Fungi <<<http://www.wisc.edu/botany/fungi/volkmyco.html>>TomVolkFungi.net> has more than 1000 photos of fungi from all taxonomic groups, a popular "Fungus of the Month" feature, many holiday related fungi, and an extensive introduction to the Kingdom Fungi. Tom got his Ph.D. in Botany in 1988 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and then worked at the Center for Forest Mycology research at the Forest Products Lab in Madison for 6.5 years before moving to La Crosse in 1996. Besides dabbling in mushroom cultivation, Tom has worked on the genus *Morchella* and on the forest pathogens *Armillaria* and *Laetiporus*, as well as the mycorrhizal genus *Hydnellum* and the human pathogens *Blastomyces*, *Candida*, and *Penicillium marneffeii*. He also conducts various fungal biodiversity studies in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Alaska and Israel and researches various biochemical, ecological, and industrial aspects of fungal growth. He is a popular lecturer for both amateur and professional groups.

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## Upcoming Events

- Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>** Tom Ruzicka will lead a foray
- Aug. 12-15<sup>th</sup>** Crested Butte Wild Mushroom Festival
- Aug 20<sup>th</sup>** Ellen Jacobsen will lead a foray with Dr. Tom Volk
- Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>** Fair Setup
- Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>** Annual **CMS Mushroom Fair** at Denver Botanic Gardens
- Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>** Dr. Tom Volk,  
Subject to be announced
- Aug. 19-22<sup>nd</sup>** Telluride Mushroom Festival
- Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>** Cook & Taste, **Chairperson needed** Contact CMS President Chris Hardwick.
- Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>** "The Beauty and Diversity of Mushrooms", winning slides from NAMA photo competitions.
- Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>** End of Season Fungi Feast

Bring mushrooms for identification and display to any meeting.

All meetings are held at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Mitchell Hall at 7:30 pm unless otherwise announced.

Program Co-chairs  
Vera Evenson and Marilyn Shaw.

### *Spores Afield*

*Spores Afield* is published from March through October by the Colorado Mycological Society. CMS dues are \$23 for the first year and \$20 thereafter. Send membership dues to CMS Membership Chair, Box 9621, Denver, CO 80209. All CMS members receive *Spores Afield* as part of their membership.

CMS is an affiliated member of the North American Mycological Association.

CMS website: <http://www.cmsweb.org>

## Foray News:

**Please note all forays meet at 9:00 am in the northeast parking lot (also known as the T-Rex lot) of the Morrison exit at I-70 unless otherwise announced.**

August 14 - Tom Ruzicka will lead a foray into the Winter Park area. If the weather is dry, he has proposed alternatively meeting at a nearby bar.

August 20 (Friday) - Ellen Jacobsen will lead a foray with Dr. Tom Volk to collect specimens for the Fair.

Be sure to bring your CMS membership card or your current copy of *Spores Afield* with you. If you are not a member you can become one at the foray for the standard new member fee of \$23, which will also get you copies of *Spores Afield* for the rest of the year.

**FORAYS MAY BE CANCELLED IN THE EVENT OF DRY WEATHER. CALL FIRST IF IN DOUBT.**

We have a need for people to lead forays. You do not need to be an expert identifier to lead a foray. You only need to be willing to lead a group of people to a location where mushrooms can be found. If you would be willing to lead a foray, please contact Ed Lubow at (303) 680-7724.

### **APOLOGY...**

From March through October, it's my "volunteer job" to put the address labels and stamps on your monthly CMS newsletter, *SPORESAFIELD*. Due to several problems, (delay at the printer's; having the newsletters delivered to me after dinner on Thursday, July 2nd and mainly some labels inadvertently not printing out on the sheet) the July newsletters were late or missing.

I sincerely apologize to all CMS members for the delay and inconvenience. Hopefully, all future newsletters will reach you at least one week prior to the meeting (our goal) -- and if you have any comments/concerns/complaints, please call me or contact me at my new e-mail address: [djochim@msn.com](mailto:djochim@msn.com)

Thank you and I'm so sorry for the delay! Dorothy Jochim

# CMS Mushroom Fair

*Saturday, Aug. 21 and Sunday, Aug. 22, 2004*

## Volunteer Sign-up Sheet

### **We need your help!!!**

You do not need to be an expert to help with the fair. This is an excellent way to learn more about our favorite subject, MUSHROOMS. Beginners are welcome!

**IMPORTANT** – For free admission to DBG, please bring your AUGUST SPORES with your mailing label on it and show it at the gate. We will also try to have an updated roster there.

**Saturday, 1PM to 5 or 6PM:** Bring your collections of mushrooms to Mitchell Hall. Plan to help with sorting if you have some time. No experience necessary!

**Sunday:** Set-up begins at 8AM. Fair open to public from 11AM to 5PM. Clean-up: 5PM to 6PM.

Choose where you want to help from the committees listed below. Check as many as you wish. Sign up now, or mail (email):

William N. Windsor, CMS Fair Chair  
735 20<sup>th</sup> St., #3  
Boulder, CO 80302

wnwindsor@comcast.net

**Set-Up** – Tom Taggart and Gary Pickett will need lots of help with display tables, etc., Sun. 8-11AM.

**Arts & Crafts** – *Relief “sitters” are needed.*

**Book Sales** – *Will need 3 or 4 people.*

**City Mushrooms** – *Collect city mushrooms, display on fresh turf grass (Complete Mushrooms, Cap, Stem and any other structures). Norm Birchler has volunteered*

**Clean-up** – *A very important and low stress activity. 5PM to 6PM on Sunday.*

**Cultivation** – *Need one or two knowledgeable locals, obtain kits for display?*

**Dyeing and papermaking** – *Need local person for questions.*

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**Food - Snacks and Drinks for Saturday and Sunday**

**Forays** - collect specimens during days before Fair. (Complete Mushrooms, Cap, Stem and any other structures)

**Edible/Poisonous display** – *Need help setting up.*

**Kiddie Korner** – *Ruth Davis will hold sway over this popular area. Check to see if she needs help.*

**Membership** – *Linda deLeon could use some help here.*

**Natural Habitat** – *Collect natural materials on which to display mushrooms in their habitats.*

**Photography** – *Need equipment and knowledge of close-up photography to record selected specimens.*

**Preservation and Cooking** – *Give advice on what to do with those 'shrooms once you've found them.*

**Publicity** – *Write press releases and distribute to the media.*

**Signage** – *Check on Fair Signs several times per day*

**T-Shirt Sales** – *help with set-up and sales.*

**I'LL HELP - Your name, address, phone #, e-mail address here, please:**





## BRING EM BACK ALIVE!

Some suggestions for collecting mushrooms for further study and identification FROM THE HERBARIUM OF FUNGI AT DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

When you find a mushroom that you want to show to an expert for identification (and possibly have it preserved for further study), here are some reminders:

Collect only fresh, moist, whole specimens. Unless you believe it to be very rare or unusual, do not bring in a “singleton”. Try to get buttons along with other young to mature individuals. Use good collecting techniques, getting base of stipes. Brush dirt off lightly and make sure too much dirt doesn't damage the specimen. Include a few notes. On a small piece of paper to include with the specimen, record habitat, putting sprig or leaf of host plant or tree in with the specimen as a reminder. If the mushrooms are small and in moss or other bryophytes, leave that plant material around the specimen to help keep it moist. If possible, write down obvious features that might disappear, such as veil attachment, colors, odor, or taste. Make a note where you found the mushroom. Put specimen in a container using a firm container for small, delicate specimens and waxed paper for larger ones. Keep each collection separate from other kinds. Place it in a firm container such as a cottage cheese box or other small, lidded box (if the mushrooms are small). We find compartmented boxes used by fly fishermen excellent. Place a piece of damp paper towel in the bottom to keep the specimens moist. Desiccated specimens are hard to identify. Make a spore print for assessment of spore color to help with identification. Slip a piece of white paper under the gills. By the time you get home, you may have a usable print if you arrange the paper just below the gills. RosaLee uses the shiny side of freezer paper!

### A FEW 'DO NOT' SUGGESTIONS:

Do NOT freeze or wash or put specimens in water.

Do NOT leave specimens in a hot car. Refrigerate or put in cooler.

Do NOT collect specimens in plastic bags. They sweat!

If you give a properly collected specimen to an expert (or bring it in to the Fair in August), your specimen may be preserved “in perpetuity” for science! We at the Herbarium are always grateful for your contributions. You may bring us a new Colorado record, or a new species! We have hundreds of great specimens (and some very rare ones) donated by members of CMS. Come see them!

By Vera Evenson, Curator  
RosaLee Brace, Volunteer

*(Speaker continued from page 1)*

The impact of mushrooms and other fungi on humans and history. For many millennia, members of the fungal kingdom have had both positive and negative associations with humans. There have been many delicious fungi enjoyed by millions of people, but also many poisonings. There have been many cases where humans have harnessed the power of fungi to produce many kinds of foods, adult beverages, and other kinds of chemicals, but there have also been many cases where rogue fungi produce unwanted spoilage and even chemicals, such as the mycotoxin aflatoxin, in our foods. Some fungi, such as yeast infections and ringworm, even grow directly on human tissue, and many cause plant disease—although without root inhabiting fungi (mycorrhizae), there would probably be no plants on land!. This talk will explore both the good and the bad of fungi, including “Fungi that must be overcome to have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner” and “Fungi that are necessary for a merry Christmas.”

## WANTED!

A copy of the paperback *How to Identify Mushrooms to Genus III: Microscopic Features*, Large, Johnson, & Watling, Mad River Press, 1977. I have my own well-used copy, but would like to get one for the Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center. Contact Marilyn Shaw, <MariHShaw@aol.com>, 510 Dexter St., Denver, CO 80220-5036, tel. 303-377-1278.

*(Presidents continued from page 1)*

Thanks Ellen for a wonderful presentation on Agaricus. I have a much better understanding of what I can eat and what I can't. I appreciate your most excellent suggestions!

Be sure to check out my website for details on our upcoming CMS events at <http://www.capsandstems.com>. We have a few forays coming up (don't miss these!) as well as our annual CMS fair on August 22, 2004. And don't forget our last few monthly meetings for great lectures on fungi, door prizes, refreshments, library books, t-shirts, books you can purchase, and great fellowship with other fungi enthusiasts! And of course, bring your mushrooms for our experts to (try to) identify! Hope to see you at the next foray!

**Please Note:**

Do not post fair flyers on telephone poles, street signs, etc. it is illegal. Post them at stores that have bulletin boards or in your car.

*Spores Afield*

**New or changed e-mail address?**

Do you have a new or changed e-mail address? As you may have noticed in the Membership Roster printed in last month's newsletter, e-mail contact information is listed for those members whose addresses we know. CMS does not send out broadcast e-mail to members, but it is sometimes helpful to have addresses. Last year, for example, we needed to be flexible in scheduling our morel forays, and it was cumbersome to telephone everyone who had expressed interest in participating.

So if you have recently created an e-mail account, or if your address has changed, please let us know. Just write a message to the CMS Membership Chair, Linda deLeon, at [ldeleon@comcast.net](mailto:ldeleon@comcast.net). Please do write "CMS E-mail Address" or something like that in the subject line so your message won't be mistaken for "spam." Thank you!



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