



PVMA Fungi Kingdom Newsletter

Winter 2018 Volume 3/Issue 1

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We'd love your submissions!
Prose, verse, images -- from recipes to scientific observations -- SEND IT ALL TO akatsnelson@gmail.com.
 or dianna.smith@comcast.net

Fungi Kingdom Newsletter is published 2-4 times annually, is distributed to club members, and is also available on the PVMA website www.fungikingdom.net. PVMA is a member of the Northeast Mycological Federation, www.nemf.org & North American Mycological Association, www.namyco.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Pioneer Valley Mycological Association is dedicated to enhancing the public's knowledge and appreciation of the fungal kingdom by providing ongoing educational programming in the form of guided mushroom walks, lectures, newsletters, information on multi-day regional and national forays, and citizen science projects. Because fungi are integral components of complex ecosystems, we are committed to advocating for responsible and sustainable study and collection methods. We focus on, but are not limited to, the three counties of the Pioneer Valley in western Massachusetts (Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden).

POT-LUCK PVMA PARTY!

Join us at our first annual PVMA Pot-luck Party: Eat, drink, schmooze, and play some myco-related games! Mingle with your old PVMA pals, meet some new-to-you mycophiles, and learn about the exciting programs and activities we've got planned for 2018. We will do a short presentation about the group around 6 P.M. Please bring a dish to share! Partners & kids welcome.

Location: Dianna Smith's house
441 Kennedy Rd in Leeds, MA 01053

Date: Saturday March 3.

Time: 4-7pm.

RSVP to Stephanie at vinstrel@yahoo.com and let us know how many you'll be.

PVMA's FUNGI KINGDOM UNIVERSITY WORKSHOPS

Spring 2018 Schedule

Jump-start your understanding and passion for learning and understanding the fascinating world of fungi by taking our 2018 spring series of Fungi Kingdom University workshops. To encourage your participation, we are charging just enough to give our excellent guest speakers a fair honorarium in return for working on and presenting programs made especially for you.

There is limited space available for this popular fungal educational offering. If you are interested in participating in the series you are advised to send in the \$85 fee for all 6 sessions along with your \$15 membership fee immediately (total cost \$100). You can pay by credit card via PayPal at: fungikingdom.net/we-invite-you-to-join-the/index.html or by sending your check to Membership Chair and Treasurer, Michael Ostrowski, 27 East Street, South Hadley MA 01075. We meet on designated Sundays between 9:45 AM and 1:30 P.M. Bring your lunch and something to share for each session. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Five knowledgeable guest mycologists in addition to PVMA mycologist Dianna Smith will be leading a workshop. They include Noah Siegel, Bill Bakaitis, Bill Yule, and mushroom cooking experts known as "The Three Foragers", Karen Monger, Robert Gerulichs and daughter Gillian.

MYCO-SPEAK 2.0

March 25

Dianna Smith will open our series with a review and expansion on one of last year's most useful programs for both beginning and intermediate mycophiles. We will focus on learning the meaning of commonly used terms employed in field guides to describe the parts and characteristics of individual fungi. Participants who study and employ these terms will be better prepared to see critical details, accurately describe them, and identify fungi encountered during our scheduled walks.

CORTINARIUS: Secrets to Learning About Some Common Species of Fungi in the Most Diverse Genus in the Fungi Kingdom

April 8

Noah Siegel is an internationally known mycologist who has investigated, photographed and written many articles on the fungi of New Zealand, Australia, Africa and North America. He is the co-author of the recently released massive and impressively researched field guide, *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast*.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE...CONT.

BEYOND GARLIC & BUTTER

April 22

Karen Monger, Robert Gergulichs and daughter Gillian, popularly known as “The 3 Foragers”, are active members of CVMS and are top on every major foray’s list of mycophagy cooking experts. In addition to their popular blog, the3foragers.blogspot.com/, they are authors of the book, *Adventures in Edible Plant Foraging: Finding, Identifying, Harvesting, and Preparing Native and Invasive Wild Plants* (2016). They will conduct a mushroom preparation and cooking class in Dianna’s kitchen. Mycophagy, the practice of cooking and eating wild fungi, is one reason why many people get into hunting wild mushrooms. The weeks-long chase in the forest seeking out the elusive fruiting bodies of gourmet fungi, the hours of studying field guides and picking the brains of our myco-mentors, and the time spent researching recipes culminates in a feast for dedicated pot-hunters. The 3 Foragers go “Beyond Butter and Garlic” to explore ways to cook and preserve their wild mushroom bounty, focus on combining wild plants with their fungal finds, and enjoy creating new and delicious recipes with these unique ingredients.

BUGS, SLUGS AND OTHER MUSHROOM THUGS

April 29

Bill Yule, naturalist, educator and CVMS club mycologist will lead us on an exploration of various fascinating invertebrate critters (and a few non-human vertebrates, too) that interact with fungi and do their bidding.

ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS OF FUNGI

May 6

Bill Bakaitis, a mycology educator, founder of the Mid-Hudson Mycological Association of N.Y. and frequent writer for fungi magazines and contributor to www.fungkingdom.net/ will offer us an interactive illustrated lecture in which we will examine the role that mushrooms and other fungi play in the ecosystem. Ecosystems concepts will be presented and an examination of the functions served by Fungi, those members of the Fifth Kingdom, will be discussed. It is said, for example, that almost all green growing plants need a fungal partner in order to survive. At the same time fungi are often referred to as nature’s primary decomposers responsible for biological decay and regulation of CO₂ within the ecosystem. And the very soil in which our forests grow has, in a large measure, been created by the fungi we meet on our walks in the park.

COMMON LAWN MUSHROOMS & JELLY FUNGI

May 20

Dianna Smith will present a program on “Common Lawn Mushrooms” and another on “Jelly Fungi”. Additionally, Jessica Evans will discuss the small and often overlooked fungal finds of our area; examples of a colorful rainbow of fungi organisms, with guest appearances by a slime mold or two. We would love for more of you to present a program of any length on any mushroom(s). Please contact Dianna with your ideas or proposals (dianna.smith@comcast.net).

PVMA Members as Citizen Scientists

Who can be a citizen scientist? Each of us can! Our group is embarking on a new adventure: participation in the North American Mycoflora Project. Our project focuses on the documentation and collection of fungi, with the ultimate goal of creating herbarium-quality specimens while learning mycological terminology and responsible collection methods along the way. Our club's specimens will be deposited at the New York Botanical Gardens. Eventually, we will be submitting some of our specimens for DNA sequencing. Our efforts will allow us to create a local mycoflora, or a map of locally occurring fungi.



Junior member Ella Evans uses a smartphone camera for easy specimen documentation

This past fall, PVMA members took part in a pilot project and submitted ten specimens for DNA sequencing. We've included photos and descriptions of these specimens below. Additional specimens were collected and documented on Mushroom Observer, and can be seen here for examples of what this project entails:

http://mushroomobserver.org/observer/observations_for_project/218

Information from the DNA sequencing was used to better determine the species for each of the specimens submitted.

This spring, we will be offering workshops and accompanying walks for members to become more familiar with the Mycoflora project. We'll discuss documentation and collection methods, teach members to navigate the Mushroom Observer webpage, and get out in the field to practice creating voucher specimens. Every member of PVMA can contribute to this project. Your time, effort, and skills can help create a mycoflora for the Pioneer Valley!

Jessica Evans is the Chair of the Mycoflora Project Committee; if you'd like to know more about this project this winter, please feel free to email her at JessicaBensonEvans@gmail.com.

Sue Lancelle and Paul Thomas round out the committee: we're all looking forward to working on this project with you this coming year!

Examples of PVMA contributions to the Citizen Science project:



***Xanthoconium* sp. Singer**

MO Observation #280129

Belchertown, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts
2017-06-25

By Sue Lancelle



Amanita* sect. *Vaginata sensu

Zhu L. Yang

MO Observation #288708

Buffam Falls Conservation Area, Pelham, Massachusetts, 2017-08-30

By Jess Evans



***Amanita* sp. Persoon.**

MO Observation #280278

441 Kennedy Rd., Leeds, Massachusetts
2017-06-24

By Dianna Smith

PVMA Members as Citizen Scientists ...cont.



***Amanita* “Daimoniocantes”**

MO Observation #279994

Cadwell Memorial Forest, Pelham, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts
2017-06-22

By Sue Lancelle



Amanita* sect. *Vaginata sensu
Zhu L. Yang

MO Observation #292645

Buffam Falls Conservation Area, Pelham, Massachusetts
2017-09-28

By Jess Evans



Armillaria gallica
Marxm. & Romagn.

MO Observation #294170

Belchertown, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts
2017-09-18

By Sue Lancelle

An Amateur's Perspective on Timothy Baroni's MUSHROOMS OF NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND EASTERN CANADA

By Jessica Benson Evans

I was gifted Dr. Baroni's new guide just before the annual NEMF foray at Stratton Mountain in Vermont, and its arrival was more than welcome. I'd been mostly relying on my tattered copy of the Audubon Guide, circa 1995. I got my start in amateur mycology with the latter – the standard for amateurs, and still an incredible resource – but was feeling ready for something newer and more specific to the Northeast. This guide is exactly what I had been hoping for.

Mushrooms of the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada begins with a brief but informative introduction to fungi, including notations on eating wild mushrooms as well as descriptions of structures and key features of fungi. From the amateur's perspective, this section offers just the right amount of understandable information to allow for identification without overwhelming the reader.

Following this introductory segment, the guide transitions into sections by spore print and morphology: Gilled Mushrooms with Pale-Colored Spore Prints, followed by Gilled Mushrooms with Pink, Brown, and then Dark-Colored Spore Prints. Then, we are given additional sections on Boletes; Polypore and Chanterelles; Tooth Fungi; Club, Coral, and Fan Fungi; Puffballs and Allies, and Jelly Fungi. Each section contains commonly collected fungi from the area this guide focuses on, and gives detailed information on each species including descriptions of macroscopic characteristics and spore dimensions. A brief comments section rounds out each species page, providing additional interesting details.

After the Basidiomycetes are addressed, Dr. Baroni includes brief sections on commonly seen Ascomycetes of the Northeast, including several *Morchella* species as well as various cup fungi. Most appreciated is the notation in the introduction to Discomycetes and Pyrenomycete allies that states, "The following guide will help you more rapidly select the proper genus to consider, or it will at least give you a starting point." This is an invaluable tip for the amateur. Tim Baroni's book offers a great visual field guide for beginning research into many of the genera included. A good starting point has proved elusive for me many times over the last few months, making this text all the more appealing for everyday use in the field.

Finally, *Mushrooms of the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada* is rounded out with a section on basic microscopy, a glossary of key terms, recommendations for further reading, resources, photo credits, an index, and brief information on the author. At 600 pages, this book is light enough to carry along in the field yet substantive in its address of commonly collected fungi of the region. For the amateur and non-amateur alike, this book would enhance any mycology enthusiast's personal library.

In the field, Dr. Baroni's guide fits perfectly in basket or backpack and features clear photographs and identifying information. Shown on the following page, with specimen collected and identified with its help.

Mushrooms of the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada
By Timothy J. Baroni, Timber Press, 2017

An Amateur's Perspective on Timothy Baroni's MUSHROOMS OF NORTHEASTERN UNITED STATES AND EASTERN CANADA... CONT.



Pseudoboletus parasiticus, collected in Shutesbury, MA in 8/17, and identified using Baroni's guide. The volume fits neatly in basket or bag, making it a great hiking companion.



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP YET?

Join us for another great year of mushrooming, microscopy, multi-day forays, pot-luck parties and friendly gatherings to share our joy in being with each other and sharing our passion for fungi. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, there is no better time than today. We are excited to share new walk locations for exciting weekend and weekday guided walks, educational opportunities and projects, our Fungi Kingdom University classes, newsletters, our mushroom photography gallery display at the Arcadia Audubon Sanctuary in Easthampton and several other spectacular new events with you this year!

Membership is very affordable at just \$15 for individuals and \$25 for families of two or more individuals living in the same household. Renew your membership online at <http://www.fungikingdom.net/we-invite-you-to-join-the/index.html> or by printing out and completing the membership form and sending it with a check to Michael Ostrowski, 27 East St., South Hadley, MA 01075. Or, come to the spring potluck and fill out your renewal there and we reconnect with old and new fungi friends. We hope you'll join us for another year of discovery and wonderment!

Jessica Evans, PVMA President

PVMA FUNGI KINGDOM MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 22, 2018

Plan on helping and joining us at the Audubon Society's ARCADIA Sanctuary in Easthampton for our first ever annual mushroom festival featuring educational talks, mushroom photography, fungi displays and identification posters, tastings, guided walks, and a program on cultivation by Fungi Ally of Hadley!



Club members enjoy a walk at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead, October 1, 2017

CALLING ALL ONE-YEAR+ MEMBERS!

Although we are still deep in winter, it's not too soon to start thinking about the coming mushroom season, which begins in May with morels and segues to the burgeoning varieties occurring in mid-June through to the end of October. The Pioneer Valley has so many perfect little walks for fungal exploration. Is there a trail you enjoy walking where you've spotted mushrooms in the past? We invite you to share it with us by volunteering to lead a walk this spring, summer and fall.

Walk leaders do not need to be mushroom experts – or even to be able to identify mushrooms at all! Other members on the walk will happily contribute their knowledge in that area. All you'd need to do is show us the way. A good mushroom walk site includes woods, water, a trail that most members can manage safely, a parking area and permission to gather there. Our walks are scheduled to last about 2 hours- 1 hr in and 1 hr out, with time at the end to gather to discuss and list our finds. If you have a good place in mind, please get in touch with Pat Diffendale at pdnp13@yahoo.com. She will contact you to discuss specifics and potential dates.

PVMA Membership Application

(January 1 to December 31)

To pay by credit card or PayPal, visit <http://fungikingdom.net/we-invite-you-to-join-the/index.html>. **Please enter your name and email address as you wish it to appear on correspondence for the upcoming year (please print clearly).**

Name(s) _____

Street _____ Apt. # _____ City _____ ZIP _____ Phone # _____

Email Address(es) _____

The Annual Membership fee for individuals is just \$15 or Only \$25 for families of two or more individuals living in the same household. Fees collected are used to pay invited mycologists to lead Fungi Kingdom University workshops and select scheduled guided walks. Fees also pay for our membership in the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), club equipment, such as microscopes, as well as partial scholarships to enable deserving members to attend an annual regional foray. If you prefer, you may address your check to the 'PVMA' and mail it with this form to PVMA Membership Chair and Treasurer, Michael Ostrowski, 27 East Street, South Hadley, MA 01075. **First time membership applicants joining from Oct. 1 of the current year will be granted membership for the next year as well as the remaining months of the current year.** As a member of the PVMA we also recommend you also consider joining NAMA (North American Mycological Association) at a reduced rate www.namyco.org/.

PVMA's continued success as a non-profit educational organization depends greatly on the assistance of its volunteers. Please check any of the following areas in which you would be willing to help the club:

Lead Walks _____

Publicity _____

Facebook Announcements _____

Education _____

Newsletter _____

Post scheduled walk photos on Facebook _____

Become involved in the North American Myco-flora Project as a 'Citizen Scientist' _____.

All members are required to sign a release form as produced below.

I (We) _____ hereby release PVMA and any officer or member thereof from any liability arising out of or relating to any injury, accident or illness of any nature occurring during or because of a field trip, foray, or excursion.