



Spore Print

2008 No.1 Quarterly Newsletter of the Alberta Mycological Society

Fourth Annual Photo Contest May 30, 2008

Yes, it has been four years now for our photo contests and what has it brought us? Thanks to the photo contest we have two mushroom posters produced and a third one on the way. We also have a series of bookmarks and a limited edition print depicting the bookmark series. But by far the most valuable is a collection of photos, which we have used many times in the programs we present to you, our members. In the near future we will also be launching our database on the Society's website, where in due course these photos will be found attached to the listed mushrooms. The photo contest has been and will continue to be, in my estimation, the greatest single project we have done.

I would like to encourage people to continue taking photos and submitting them to us. As well I would like all our members to think of adding photography to their regular mushroom picking habits. As many of you know, some of the mushrooms you may come across when you're out picking, whether or not it is an official AMS foray, may be one of those rare fungi doing a rare fruiting. For example in Leni Schalkwijk's *Mushrooms of Western Canada*, she includes the *Amanita Virosa* - The Destroying

Angel - one of the few truly deadly poisonous mushrooms in the province. This is one we have found only once in over twenty years of foraging in large groups (I can't imagine how many man hours we have spent in the woods and not seen this mushroom). We have no photographic record, nor do we know when or if we may see it again. So, when you are out and have your camera with you.....

This year's Photo Contest 2008 will include our regular categories of "**Best Overall Photo**" and "**Best Documentary**". The category we will feature this year will focus on "**Poisonous Mushrooms**".

I would again like to announce and thank **Sorrentino's** restaurants for their continued support, as they will once again sponsor our first prize, which will be a "Dinner for Ten" at any of the **Sorrentino's** restaurants.

Which Mushrooms are Poisonous?

Good question! For those of you who attended the talk I gave on poisonous mushrooms, these range from the few well-established deadly

poisonous mushrooms, through to others that give us a good case of the runs. I am still wondering if the *Chanterelle* (*Cantherellus tubaeformis*) is a poisonous mushroom, or was it all the sauerkraut we ate at the Alberta Foray in Crimson Lake that created all the gastro-intestinal distress. Should we call the sauerkraut poisonous?

What poisonous mushrooms do we want to include in our photo contest entries? We will certainly focus on the deadly poisonous ones or ones that can be deadly. We will also include some of those mushrooms that can cause permanent damage, as well as those that can make us very sick. The few that are mildly digestively upsetting we will probably not include. Nor will we include sauerkraut! Please don't forget to look on your lawns as well. We can often find poisonous little brown *Concybes* and sometimes *Clitocybes*, such as *delabata* - "the sweating mushroom". Use the opportunity to learn of the nasty ones outside your front door. See the list attached for groups of mushrooms you should be looking for.

(Photo contest ...continued on page 3)



Photo Contest (continued from page 1)

While many mushrooms are poisonous, few are really nasty. In general many little brown mushrooms are poisonous especially those growing on wood. The inocybes or fiber heads are also mostly all poisonous. So don't hesitate photographing these little brown jobs, they might not win you a prize but we will appreciate them on our database.

Amanitas: While we don't have many deadly poisonous Amanitas in Alberta we can always hope that we find some this year. If in doubt photograph it!

Lepiotas: Similar to Amanitas in that they have white spores and free white gills. The smaller Lepiotas are often deadly.

Clitocybes: White spored funnel shaped mushrooms found both on the forest floor as well as around your yards.

Paxillus: Brownish mushrooms with crowded gills running down the stalk. The gills seem to join to form pores as they attach to the stalk. Nasty liver toxins!

Cup Fungi: These include the false morels - Gyromitras and elfin saddles - Helvellas.

Tricholomas: While there are two good edible "trichs" that come to mind, the "Man on Horseback" and Matsutake, most of the rest of them are poisonous. Usually they are large robust fungi with white spores and notched gills. Many of them have disgusting odors.

Entolomas: Similar looking to tricholomas, but they have pink spores. We often find a fairly poisonous one out at Ashland Dam in July.

Some Russulas: The larger blackening russulas or ones that look like big lactarii are usually poisonous.

Lactarius: Other than the "deliciosus" most Lactarius are poisonous, so take lots of pictures of those. Don't forget to break them open and capture the colour of the latex.

Hebeloma: The larger nondescript version of the LBM, which often smells like a radish and have what appears to be a tiny water dots on the stalk. With apologies to Bob Ipema who eats these regularly.

Cortinarius: All those many mushrooms with the cobweb-like veil. Sometimes slimy, sometimes with colourful gills, sometimes with big bulbous bases.

Pholiotas: Brown spored mushrooms that often group in clumps similar to honey mushrooms.

While there are many more genera with poisonous mushrooms, these are worth a brief review in your field guides to know what you should be watching out for.

When in doubt take the photo!  Martin Osis

ENTRY FORM

Name: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Entry Category: _____ Date: _____

Entry Category: _____ Date: _____

Entry Category: _____ Date: _____

Entry Category: _____ Date: _____

Entry Category: _____ Date: _____

Entry Category: _____ Date: _____

Entry Category: _____ Date: _____

Entry fee enclosed:

Initial entry fee: \$ 5.00

PLUS

Additional entry fees ____ x\$1.00 \$ ____

Total \$ ____

(Enter as many times as you wish. The \$5.00 entry is for the first entry only)

NOTE: Payment for additional entries should be in by closing date of November 1, 2008

Submit entries by mail to EMS or by Email to: photocontest@wildmushrooms.ws

Send entry fee to :

Alberta Mycological Society
1921 - 10405 Jasper Ave.
Standard Life Building
Edmonton AB T5J 3S2





It was a Wonderful Weekend but Weak on the Morel End

Spring had sprung and the mycophiles were all geared up for a superb morel foray in the Rocky Mountain House area. Being optimistic we decided to make the annual Alberta Mycological Society Morel Foray a weekend event on May 24-25 2008. A group campsite was reserved within the Open Creek Dam Campground which is managed by the Rimbey Fish & Game Association. We were in some of the best looking morel habitat I have seen west of Edmonton. Conditions appeared to be right. We even had a visiting mycologist from Newfoundland, Andrus Voitk, his wife Maria & sister. Even the rain showers were cooperative. As it was to be a weekend campout, several groups showed up Friday evening to occupy the site and to be close to the action. However that was not to be. The lack of morels diminished the "superb" quality of the foray with the final the count at close of Saturday being 0.3 mushrooms per participant that is just 9 morels for the 30 people who attended. However, there was much fungi diversity (see side bar on page 5 for the species list.)

There was also an unfortunate incident when one of our members fell breaking some bones in her wrist. After we were all safely out of the woods she was taken to Rocky Mountain House for an x-ray which confirmed the break. She reports that she is doing well, but not quite over the embarrassment of being literally manhandled by a bevy of men who assisted her to her feet after the unfortunate slip.

Not fully understanding why there are no morels we went out on a second foray

this time taking a soil thermometer. After wandering into the best of the best looking habitat I took readings in several sites and was astonished to find that the soil temperatures were 3 to 4 degrees C colder than the 11 degrees C which I assume is optimum. This cool soil temperature may be the reason why there were no morels but who knows for sure?

As this was a weekend outing several groups decided to have a communal breakfast in a restaurant in Rimbey instead of the wet campsite, (oh did I mentioned it rained over night). After a late and leisurely breakfast we stopped at several locations. One of the foray spots was on an eighty acre parcel straddling Rose Creek. The Rose Creek site is owned by one of our newer members Kathy Schwengler who reports that many species of fungi have been collected there.

However there were no morels to be had here either.

The Morel Seekers



**Species List
For
Rocky Mountain
House Foray
May 24, 2008**

<i>Species name</i>	<i>Habitat</i>
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	dead aspen
<i>Bovista plumbea</i>	soil
<i>Chlorociboria aeruginascens</i>	rotting wood
<i>Chondrostereum perpureum</i>	birch twig
<i>Exidia glandulosa</i>	rotting wood
<i>Fomes fomentarius</i>	dead birch
<i>Fomitopsis pinicola</i>	dead hardwood & conifers
<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>	dead balsam poplar
<i>Gloeophyllum sepiarium</i>	dead conifer
<i>Gyromitra esculenta</i>	soil
<i>Gyromitra gigas</i>	soil
<i>Inonotus obliquus</i>	dead birch
<i>Microstoma protracta</i>	soil
<i>Morcella elata</i>	soil
<i>Mycena alcalina</i>	soil
<i>Omphalina ericetorum</i>	soil/possibly wood
<i>Peniophora rufa</i>	twigs
<i>Phellinus igniarius</i>	dead birch
<i>Phellinus tremulae</i>	living aspen
<i>Polyporus alveolaris</i>	deadwood
<i>Psathyrella uliginicola</i>	soil
<i>Ptychoverpa bohemica</i>	soil
<i>Trametes elegans</i>	elder
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	wood
<i>Trichaptum bifforme</i>	birch
<i>Tyromyces chioneus</i>	wood
<i>Verpa conica</i> var. <i>conica</i>	soil
<i>Xeromphalina campanella</i>	rotting wood

Alberta Foray 2008

August 22,23 & 24, 2008

This year's Alberta Foray will be held just outside Calgary on and in cooperation with the Tsu Tina First Nations. This is very exciting, as we will be doing the first survey of fungi on Native band lands in Alberta. These will be areas where the public is not usually able to visit. The Reserve stretches into the foothills west of Calgary near the Bragg Creek area.

The foray will be held starting with registration Thursday evening August 22nd with foraying on Friday and Saturday concluding with an open house mushroom exhibition on Sunday August 24. Evenings will have a mushroom related

programming as well as the usual socializing. Band members will join us, so the sharing of knowledge and culture will certainly be an education for all of us.

The final details are still being sorted out as to foray sites and accommodations. Please stand by for those details coming soon. But at minimum book these dates in your calendars. We encourage all member to attend as these events are not only very educational expanding our individual knowledge but greatly add to the science of mycology in our province. Oh yeah, they are a really good time as well.

 Martin Osis

NAMA Foray –2008

For the keener enthusiast, the North American Mycological Association is holding their annual foray, September 4 to 7 in McCall, Idaho. This is easy striking distance for us in Alberta and will show off many similar mushrooms that we would find locally.

One of the featured speakers who was scheduled to come to Hinton in 2006 was Orson Miller Jr. His name may be known to many of you being the author of two well known field guides. The latest "North American Mushrooms" being published in 2006, is commonly seen at many of our forays. Regretfully Dr. Miller passed away just before the Hinton Foray. This year's foray in McCall, Idaho is being held in his honour, bringing many of his former students to the foray both as speakers and as foray mycologists. These forays are both educational and entertaining, giving one an opportunity to meet with mushroom enthusiasts from all over North America. The foray addresses the needs of beginners as well as for those interested in identification, using mushrooms to cook, dyeing fabric, photography, paper making and other crafts. For more information go to the NAMA website – www.namyo.org.

AMS Hosts Member Meeting in Calgary

AMS held its first member meeting in Southern Alberta on Friday May 23rd in partnership with the Calgary Area Outdoor Council (CAOC).

We were fortunate to have Andrus Voitk, President of Foray Newfoundland and Labrador with us to deliver an entertaining presentation and slide show titled: "Mushrooms: What's in it for us?" Andrus talked about the various reasons that people might be interested in fungi and about the benefits associated with mushrooming. And his mushroom photos were indicative of the wide variety of fungi one might encounter during a walk in the woods.

The evening was an opportunity for people who were developing an interest in mushrooms to learn about AMS and about the benefits of joining a mushroom club, as well as to meet both Andrus and Suzanne Visser from the University, who is Calgary's mushroom expert.

The feedback from those present was that they'd like to see more mushrooming events of this type and forays in this area.

On the day following the presentation, Andrus and Maria along with family from Calgary ventured out to participate in the AMS morel foray in the Rocky Mountain House area. This will remain a memorable mushrooming experience for them, in that in 6 hours of driving, they found 1 morel (which may be more than they'd have found in Newfoundland in any case, given the scarcity of morels on the island).

 Ethel Luhtenen

Poplar Creek Natural Area June 14 & 15, 2008

There will be a weekend get together & foray at Poplar Creek Natural Area on June 14 & 15 2008. We have been invited to campout on Pieter van der Schoot's property which offers easy access to the Natural Area. Please refer to the map on page 7 for directions.

There be a communal roast pig for Saturday supper time. So if we could bring some **not** meat dishes to share for supper that would be wonderful. If we could break it out like this:

Those whose last names begin with A to G if you could bring some healthy snacks;

Those whose names begin with H-N if you could bring salads or bean dishes: and

Those of you whose names begin with O-Z if you could bring some thing light for disserts.

(For breakfast we can all sleep in.)

For additional foray info contact Bill
at
emsforays@wildmushrooms.ws

 Bill Richards

Recipe

Morel Pate

Ingredients

20g dried morels
1/2 clove garlic, chopped fine
A bit of dill weed chopped
Salt, Pepper to taste
1/2 pint whipping cream
Fresh Dark Bread

Directions

Rehydrate the morels for 1/2 hr and boil in water used for rehydration. (I prefer using fresh water just in case someone has an allergy to the toxins). Reduce the liquid to a minimum by boiling, add salt, pepper, garlic and dill weed at the end. Add whipping cream and simmer until thick. Serve hot or cold on toasted dark bread. The mixture takes on a new delicious characteristic when let to sit overnight in the fridge.

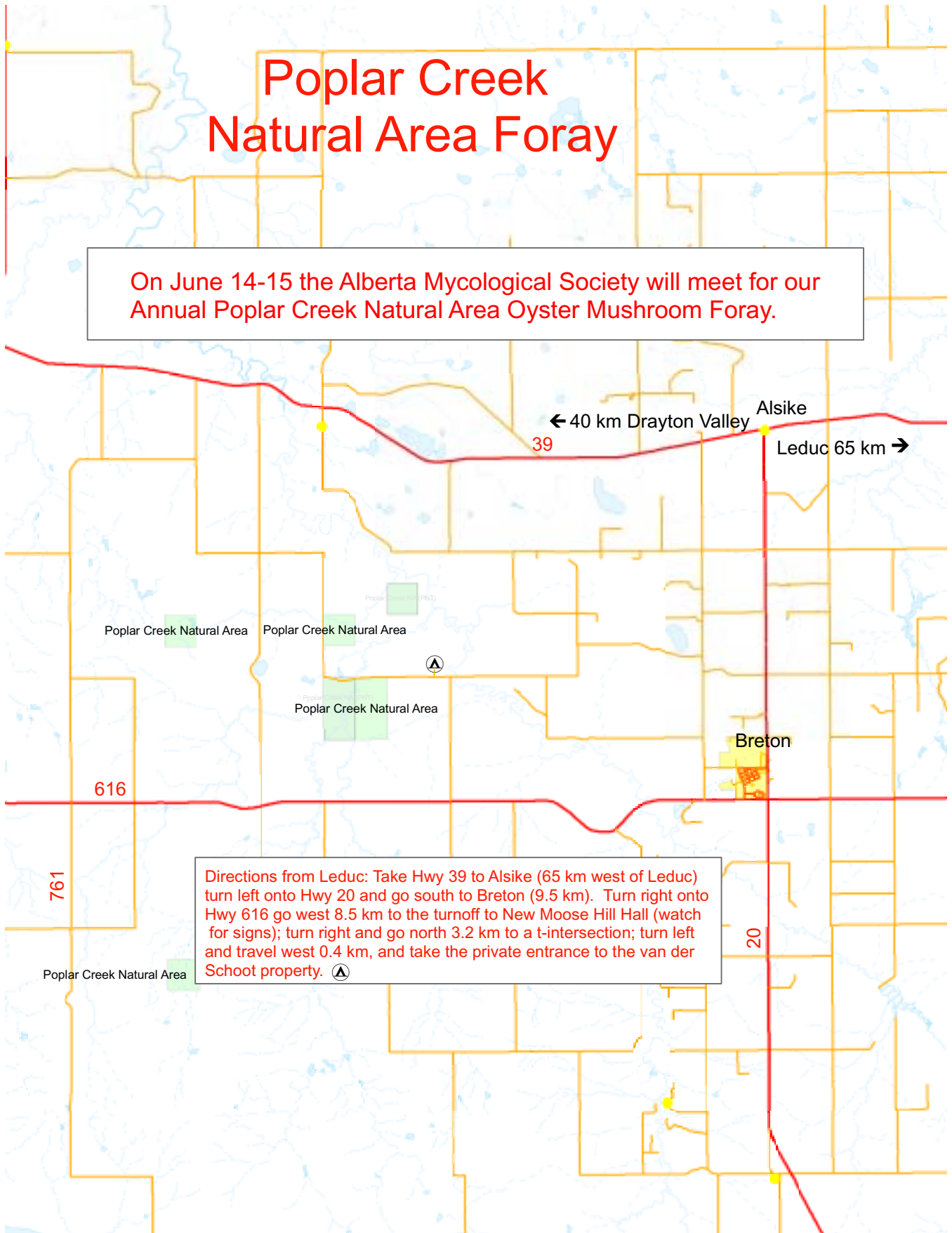
Interesting Idea

In a forest in the South of England people were picking *Boletus edulis* and calling them "Penny Buns" because the shape is like rising bread.



Poplar Creek Natural Area Foray

On June 14-15 the Alberta Mycological Society will meet for our Annual Poplar Creek Natural Area Oyster Mushroom Foray.



← 40 km Drayton Valley
39
Alsike
Leduc 65 km →

Poplar Creek Natural Area
Poplar Creek Natural Area
Poplar Creek Natural Area

616

761

Poplar Creek Natural Area

Directions from Leduc: Take Hwy 39 to Alsike (65 km west of Leduc) turn left onto Hwy 20 and go south to Breton (9.5 km). Turn right onto Hwy 616 go west 8.5 km to the turnoff to New Moose Hill Hall (watch for signs); turn right and go north 3.2 km to a t-intersection; turn left and travel west 0.4 km, and take the private entrance to the van der Schoot property. ▲

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AMS Calendar of Events for 2008

Please Join Us!!

All forays are undertaken at your own risk. You are responsible for transportation and accommodation.

June

04

Summer Evening Foray

Mushrooms: *Pleurotus* and other seasonal fungi

Location: Edmonton River Valley

14/15

Volunteer Steward Commitment and Foray

Mushrooms: *Pleurotus* and other seasonal fungi

Location: Poplar Creek Natural Area

25

Meeting
Presentation: "Pink-spored mushrooms and allies"
Speaker: Martin Osis

July

09

Summer Evening Foray

Mushrooms: Various seasonal fungi

Location: Edmonton River Valley

19/20

Lower Foothills Foray

Mushrooms: Various Seasonal Fungi
Location: Cow Lake Area

23

Meeting
Presentation: "Microfungi - the forgotten fungi"

Speaker: Markus Thormann

August

01

Pre-Mushroom Exposition Foray

Mushrooms: Anything and everything

Location: various locations

10

Mushroom Exposition

Mushrooms: Display of regional fungi

Location: Devonian Botanic Garden, Pine Pavillion (Open to the public)

22-24

Fourth Annual Alberta Foray

Mushrooms: *Leccinum*, *Russula*, *Lactarius*, and other agarics

Location: Tsuu T'ina First Nation Reserve near Calgary (tentative)



27

Meeting
Presentation: "Medicinal lichens"

Speaker: Robert Rogers

September

13/14

Lower Foothills Foray

Mushrooms: *Armillaria*, *Boletus*, *Hydnum* and others

Location: Lambert Creek area

24

Meeting
Presentation: TBA
Speaker: TBA

26-28

Rocky Mountain Foray

Mushrooms: *Cantherellus*, *Hypomyces*, and others.
Location: Shushwap area, BC

October

24

Meeting
Presentation: TBA
Speaker: TBA

November

President's Dinner - time and date TBA



General Member Meetings

Fourth Wednesday of every month -

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Riverbend Library

