



Spore Print

Newsletter of the Connecticut Valley Mycological Society
Affiliate of the North American Mycological Association
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Founder: Ed Bosman
President: Beth Karwowski
email: president@cvmsfungi.org
Vice President: Bill Yule
email: education@cvmsfungi.org
Treasurer: Terri Hungerford
email: mother_natures_son@yahoo.com
Secretary: Dinah Wells
email: dinahwells@hotmail.com
Membership Secretary: Karen Monger
email: membership@cvmsfungi.org
Spore Print Editor: D.E. Palm
email: speditor@cvmsfungi.org

Membership: Dues per calendar year are \$15 individual; \$20 family (two or more persons at one address and requiring only one copy of club mailings). Lifetime memberships are \$200 individual and \$250 family. Make checks payable to CVMS and send to: CVMS/Karen Monger, 32A Perkins Ave., Norwich, CT 06360. CVMS members may pay for NAMA membership yearly by visiting:
<http://www.namyco.org/join.php>
for application and payment information

The Sporadic Spore Print newsletter is published *about* three times per year: Winter/Spring, Summer, and Fall. It is distributed to all members of the club in good standing, and on an exchange basis to the newsletter editors of other mushroom clubs. Submissions to this newsletter can be sent to the editor; if you would like to get your newsletter copy online, in full color and with working links, send your email address to: speditor@cvmsfungi.org

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Hello CVMS members, I'm your new Spore Print editor:

D.E. Palm.

I joined CVMS late last spring with my wife Lisa. Both of us spend a great deal of time appreciating the earth; touching it, playing with it, letting it get between our fingers. So with both feet we jumped in for all it was worth. We attended nearly every event. We asked questions. We promoted CVMS to just about every person willing to listen, and may have even landed a couple of new members, and now I get to provide service for this wonderful club of Fungi Fiends.

Lisa and I have always been interested in mushrooms, yet, it wasn't until joining CVMS last year that we began to understand the vastness; the environmental coverage it inhabits: knowing something and grasping it aren't always equals. That being said, I hope as your editor to get a better grasp of fungi. I know Spore Print helped Lisa and I over the last year thanks to Karen Mongers hard work, my hope is to follow in her footsteps.

Please...

Any questions, comments or concerns; shoot me out an email so we can address it.

Coming Events

June 16 Peoples SF, Barkhamsted- A joint foray with PVMS

June 23 TBD

June 30 Gay City SP, Hebron

July 7 Goodwin SF, Hampton

July 14 Steep Rock Preserve, Washington Depot

July 21 Chatfield Hollow SP, Killingworth

July 28 Salmon River SF, East Hampton- This foray is a potluck event.

Aug 4 NEMF Foray, Lock Haven PA- for more information check-out <http://www.nemf.org/>

Aug 11 Winding Trails, Farmington- No Dogs Allowed!

Aug 18 Meshomasic SF, East Hampton

Aug 25 Devils Hopyard SP, East Haddam- This event is The Ed Bosman Educational Foray, which is Open To The Public.



The Presidents Letter

Hello CVMSers,

Morel season was kind to many of our members this year. Some lucky members found more than a hundred! But that time has passed, and we are looking forward to July and August when (hopefully) the mushrooms will be everywhere. So far this season, most forays have been fairly well attended and species counts have been good. The rainy weather, while putting a damper on our spirits, has been good for the fungi counts.

NEMF is coming up in Pennsylvania on August 1st-4th. For those who are registered, we look forward to seeing you at Lock Haven University. We also have the COMA Clark Rogerson Foray coming up on Labor Day weekend at Camp Hemlocks in Hebron, CT. Details are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of CVMS member, Rosemary Call, who passed away in March after a long illness. Rosemary enjoyed using fungi to create fabric dyes. She was an inspiration to me as she attended forays through the end of the 2018 season, even when her illness was posing a great challenge for her. CVMS offers its condolences to Rosemary's family and friends.

I wish you all continued success this season and hope to see you at future forays.

Beth Karwowski
President, CVMS

COMA's 41st **Clark Rogerson Foray** is scheduled for the Labor Day weekend (8/30 to 9/2) at Camp Hemlocks, in Hebron (Amston), Connecticut. In addition to the regular crew of wonderful mycologists and expert identifiers (Dianna Smith, Dr. Roz Lowen, John Plischke III, Bill Yule, Leon Shernoff), our Chief Mycologist will be the internationally-renowned mycologist *Alan Bessette*, aided and abetted by his superstar wife, *Arleen*. The time-tested venues of parks surrounding the camp always provide plenty of fungi to collect, and we will be offering a terrific series of evening and afternoon programs for the benefit of your edification. We will have scheduled swim times (in the heated indoor pool), and the convenient parking, comfortable accommodations, and everything-under-one-roof feature makes this facility truly outstanding.

Of course, we will still have our famous potluck and mycophagy sessions, and this year, the "regular" meals will be *catered*. Because of this (along with tighter restrictions on the advance booking of overnight guests from the camp), the logistics involved in ordering meals and food supplies will be a bit tricky, so it is imperative that if you wish to participate in the "Crown Jewel" of COMA's activities for the year, you should sign up *as soon as possible*.

There is no downside to signing up early; if your plans change, you can always cancel or modify your attendance days without penalty. As usual, you can sign up for the full (4 day) foray, 3 days, 2 days, or individual days— as either an overnight guest or a "day visitor"— and in spite of increased costs, the 2019 registration fees have been kept at the same low rates as they were last year. Especially if you've never experienced anything more than a weekend mushroom walk, you should certainly consider attending. Yes, we get it— it's the Labor Day weekend, and you might be busy— but if you can see your way clear to attend— even if only for a day or two— we can guarantee an expansion of your mycological knowledge, and an experience that you'll be talking about for the rest of the year. There are certainly larger forays (NAMA, NEMF) and smaller local forays, but COMA's *Clark Rogerson Foray* strikes the perfect balance, and is considered by many to be one of the best forays in the country. Please check the COMA website's foray registration area for details:

[\(http://www.comafungi.org/special-events/clark-rogerson-foray/\)](http://www.comafungi.org/special-events/clark-rogerson-foray/)

MUSHROOMS

by Margaret Atwood

In this moist season,
mist on the lake and thunder
afternoons in the distance

they ooze up through the earth
during the night,
like bubbles, like tiny
bright red balloons
filling with water;
a sound below sound, the thumbs of rubber
gloves turned softly inside out.

In the mornings, there is the leaf mold
starred with nipples,
with cool white fishgills,
leathery purple brains,
fist-sized suns dulled to the colors of embers,
poisonous moons, pale yellow.

Where do they come from?

For each thunderstorm that travels
overhead there's another storm
that moves parallel in the ground.
Struck lightning is where they meet.

Underfoot there's a cloud of rootlets,
shed hairs or a bundle of loose threads
blown slowly through the midsoil.
These are their flowers, these fingers
reaching through darkness to the sky,
these eyeblinks
that burst and powder the air with spores.

They feed in shade, on halfeaves
as they return to water,
on slowly melting logs,
deadwood. They glow
in the dark sometimes. They taste
of rotten meat or cloves
or cooking steak or bruised
lips or new snow.

It isn't only
for food I hunt them
but for the hunt and because
they smell of death and the waxy
skins of the newborn,
flesh into earth into flesh.

Here is the handful
of shadow I have brought back to you:
this decay, this hope, this mouth-
ful of dirt, this poetry.

Hyphae
Sonnet by: D.E. Palm

Our earth; filled with unsung mycelium:
systems unseen and never fully done;
complex screens never seen want to nurture
with leggy filaments set to capture

and communicate to the not so tall;
providing the perfect cemented wall
at our feet; lengths strewn inches to miles
linking more like locks, a floor made of tiles.

Fungi News, Blogs, and Videos

On page 5 I discuss 'Spore Print'; yeah, since it's our newsletter's moniker I thought it would only be right for my first issue as your editor it be a discussion. I used this page as my guide; which I found very informative. For those interested in how a mushroom reproduces from the get go will want to take a read here for sure:

<https://www.britannica.com/science/fungus/Reproductive-processes-of-fungi>

For those interested in mushroom photography, or something even more intense known as Microscopy and Photomicrography I would greatly recommend this page from First-Nature:

<https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/~microscopy.php>

First-Nature's site also has a great glossary for the beginners and experts alike called a Glossary of Mycological Terminology

<https://www.first-nature.com/fungi/~glossary.php>

I'm into photography and since joining CVMS I've also become very intrigued by the designs and patterns created when collecting Spore Prints. The link below is a video I created. I collect spore prints on colored papers- each one is so distinctly different and beautiful.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQh2p4vezZM>

Science Stuff?



So, I'm new to CVMS as I know many of you are also, meaning; beginning at the beginning ought to be alright.

One way to begin identification of a mushroom is through examination of the 'Spore Print'. Sounds difficult- or maybe simple; which it is. For those of us that don't remember from school how this is done: get a piece of paper, snip the stem off if there is one and place the specimen bottom side down on the paper for at least a few hours. As the mushroom releases its reproductive cells they collect on the paper resulting in a powder-like asexual material. When in the wild it depends on many, many factors as to when and if a 'Fruiting Body' will form, commonly known as a mushroom, after it's spores are released.

Now what? We have a piece of paper covered with mushroom spores and more questions possibly. Well, now that you know how to acquire the spores you must decide what you hope to gain from collecting them: information or art. You see collecting spores from mushrooms is easy, fun and can be used for helping to determine whether or not a particular fungi is edible or not, or maybe you want to know because you want to check it off your list of specimens you've personally come across. Going out and finding the fungi is for many of us a big part of the journey, but can also be just the beginning.

So think about this and let me know your biggest reason for being a part of CVMS- you're allowed to have more than one.

1. Social
2. Exercise
3. Food
4. Science
5. Hobbyist
6. Art
7. Money
8. Photography



All Photos by D.E. Palm



Mirror Art by: Lisa Elder-Palm

