

Mendocino Coast Mushroom Club  
March 12, 2018 Meeting

Attendees:

Mary-Ellen Campbell  
Nancy Denison  
Pat Ferrero  
Alison Gardner  
Craig Hathaway  
Ken Sasaki  
Eric Schramm  
Harolde Searles  
Billy Sprague  
Jill Surdzial  
Mary Williams

The meeting opened with a discussion of what mushrooms were being found locally. Alison reported that Merry found one big black morel at her place growing in woodchips that had been brought in from a local source. Billy reported finding black trumpets, hedgehogs and earth tongues. Eric said that when the earth tongues show up it is usually a sign that there are only a few more weeks left for the black trumpets. Harolde reported that he planted a couple of species of oyster mushroom, but hasn't seen any bloom yet.

For show-and-tell, Eric brought some bouquets of black trumpets, 2 morels - one black, one yellow, and a bag of dried candy caps that also contained 4 lookalikes. The group had fun trying to figure out which were the 4 imposters.

Eric gave the group additional information about morels. He said that yellow morels should be coming up now in Covelo in the madrone forest. He said you'll also find them near redbud trees along the creeks. Another place to look is in the burned areas, where the burn wasn't severe, i.e., where the trees didn't die. Grey morels often follow the bloom of the black morels. They seem to favor the severely burned areas and can be found in stump holes. Morels generally start blooming at the 3,000' level and move up the mountain as the season progresses. Morels do tend to get wormy, but those that show up after a burn don't seem to.

We also talked about the Mushroom Dye event in April.

Harolde brought a box of Dyer's Polypore and some sarcodons. Nancy says that the sarcodon can yield a blue green dye by altering the pH.

Nancy is going to drive down to Dorothy's place to pick up the exhibit materials so that we'll have them for the next meeting. Dorothy will spend some time at the next meeting showing us the materials and getting us acquainted so that we can be docents for the exhibit.

Alison will probably bring her teas and cookbooks for sale at the event.

A sign up for volunteers will be distributed via email. We'll need volunteers to help guide people to the exhibit on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Pat brought some turkey tail and Alison gave a recipe for using it to make tea. Alison said to prepare turkey tail for tea or tincture one should pick off the dirt and maggot poop and wood bits, then cut or tear them into pieces then shred them in a blender. Do not add any liquid to the blender - you want a dry shredded end result. Blend in small batches so you don't overload your blender's motor.

There are both water and alcohol soluble components in the turkey tail. Making tea will extract the water soluble elements. Making a tincture will extract the alcohol soluble ones.

Alison's advice for making tea:

Combine 1 Tablespoon of turkey tail with 1 Quart of water. Bring to a boil then reduce heat and simmer, covered, for at least 20 minutes. Strain the tea and drink. Any unused tea should be refrigerated and used within 3-4 days.

Billy shared some fun books and a set of slides with an audio cassette narration of edible mushrooms. We'll look into playing the slides/cassette for the May meeting.

Billy also shared that he is a leather worker and would like to create a patch for club members which could be sewn onto a backpack, etc. What a fun idea - thanks, Billy!

Next meeting is on Monday, April 9 at 5:00 at the Ford House. We'll be focusing on the Dye Event which will take place later that week.