The MSA Auction: From 0 to 8K per year in 26 years

The Mycological Society of America (MSA) Auction was based on the successful Phycological Society of America (PSA) model. The idea was brought to one of the earliest midyear meetings of the Executive Committee Meeting held 19-20 February 1987 at Louisiana State University (LSU), Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In particular Roger Goos had been interested in establishing an MSA endowment, and it was seen that an auction could be a new source of income. Russ Chapman, LSU colleague of Meredith Blackwell, gave the MSA committee background information on the PSA endowment, including information on how to conduct an auction.

Russ Chapman had talked so much about the PSA auction that the MSA secretary simply decided to try it at the next meeting. Before wide use of the Internet, she wrote friends using homemade postcards from photographs of each recipient. The response was great and lots of items were promised in a relatively short period of time. The first auction came at the Davis meeting in 1988 and was held in the Rec Pool Lounge, Wednesday 17 August, 6:30-9:30 PM, billed simply as “Award Presentations and Social” (Newsletter, Vol. 39, No. 1, June 1988). A number of fungal substrates were packaged as “donkey poop,” “lizard caca,” “saguaro crud,” all carefully labeled by Bob Gilbertson with locality data in case a rare or even a new fungus might be discovered. In hilarious, perhaps drunken, bidding frenzies several of the dung substrates brought as much as $60. The saguaro crud (dead, dried saguaro cortex) was a favorite because it yielded a predictable succession of slime molds discussed in an accompanying reprint on Sonoran desert slime molds. Sixty-three items were contributed, including...
fossil Antarctic wood with pocket rot contributed from Tom Taylor, mushroom kitsch, a set of electron micrographs for teaching from Charles Mims, The Cramer reprint of the Thaxter Laboulbeniales monograph from Dick Benjamin, and many other books and prints, raised a little over $1,000 for the fledgling endowment.

By the next year at Toronto the Auction gained equal billing with the Wednesday evening social and awards presentation on the program as “MSA Social, Awards Presentation, and Auction” (Newsletter, Vol. 39, No. 2, October 1988) and brought $1,405 for the endowment. Soon after the second auction at Toronto, the Executive Committee suggested placing auction income in the General Fund of the MSA Endowment in 1989:

*The General Fund is a restricted sub-fund in which only the interest may be used for support of special activities such as workshops, symposia, and travel grants to international congresses, and it is supported by gifts “not otherwise designated for other sub-funds and be funds raised by MSA activities such as the tee-shirt sales, auctions, etc.”* (Newsletter, Vol. 40, No. 2, October 1989).

There have been a number of memorable auction items donated over the years. Hope Miller made a quilt that Rytas Vilgalys bought for over $1000. Another $1000 plus item, a book with a hand embroidered cover, *Mushroom Girls Virus: A Guide to the Identification and Study of Our Commoner Fungi with Special Emphasis on the Edible Varieties*, contributed by Hodge and the author Deanne Cheuk, was purchased in Baton Rouge by Lorelei Norvell for over $1000. See the separate article (this issue of *Inoculum*) on the “The Truffle Fork Conspiracy.” On another occasion auctioneer David Geiser whipped the crowd into a bidding frenzy upping the bid to $600 for a set of handcrafted, mushroom theme place-mats at Austin. Among the items sold at East Lansing was the two volume set, *Mushrooms in their Natural Habitats* by A. H. Smith (with 33 Viewmaster reels of stereo full color photographs and Viewmaster in volume 2, a fake book). The set went for $600, a bargain compared to a complete set sold at an earlier auction in Puerto Rico (donated by Emory Simmons and bought by Gary Samuels for $800) and another currently listed on the Internet for $1500. Amy Rossman bought an unpublished textbook at Asheville for $400; Amy also bought a poster of a genealogy of North American mycologists <http://lsb380.plbio.lsu.edu/Genealogy/genealogy.html> for $300.

At Fairbanks in 2011 incoming president David Hibbett made the mandatory purchase of the mushroom embellished “new president’s tie,” signed by Orson Miller, for $470. Jean Lodge got off cheaply (probably because she won’t wear it often) when she bought the used tie at East Lansing for the bargain rate of $325; it looked really great on her after John Taylor showed her how to tie a Windsor knot, but is it time for a gender neutral presidential symbol?

Over the years a number of other items each brought $300 or more. “Doctor Thaxter’s Laboulbeniomycetes,” then undergraduate member Nhu Nguyen’s boxed set of infected insects, brought $300. Kathie Hodge donated a set of porcelain mushroom king cake trinkets from France (see below). Tom Volk bought them for about $300 after which he generously gave one to Cathy Pfister, who had lost the bid. The mother of current Purdue graduate student, Rachel Koch, made a mushroom theme quilt that sold for $300...
in 2014. Other items of interest include David Farr’s amazing images of rust fungi, hand turned spalted wood bowls by Jeff Stone and Don Hemmes, a Thai mushroom lamp hand carried all the way from Bangkok to the auction in Baton Rouge by Jennifer Luangsa-ard, and a railroad hat stolen from Tom Bruns on several occasions. Every now and then a photocopy of an unpublished volume of the Great Buller appears. CDs also are sometimes on sale such as “Parasites” by Diane Labrosse and Martin Tétreault featuring “Flying Fungus” and Alphaville’s “Lady Bright” with lyrics by A.H.R. Buller. Two original photoprints “Odyssey” and a new one called “Coprinus” by accomplished mycologist/artist Dirk Redecker have been popular items.

Auctions are now eagerly anticipated as part of the fun of the final evening of meetings. (once again— be sure to see the “The Truffle Fork Conspiracy” that follows in this issue of Inoculum), but also they are essential to the growth of the endowment. We love to watch David Geiser, John Taylor, and other great auctioneers. We love to watch Don Hemmes keep track of the bids. We love to see those mushroom chef pants that Andy Methven wears. The graph below shows the

“Odyssey” and “Coprinus,” art with mycological themes, created by Dirk Redecker. “Odyssey” now hangs in the South Carolina home of Meredith Blackwell.
The truffle fork involved conspiracy from the start and was worth this effort because it was a cherished relic of North American mycology. It was first owned by Sanford Zeller, then Helen Gilkey, and was given to Jim Trappe by Gilkey when she was packing up to leave Oregon State at retirement. In addition to its history it is a well-made, classy tool, one that Jim still used occasionally in the field. All of Jim’s many students, post docs, and longtime associates knew this fork and its history well, and they each coveted it dearly. I figured they would all be at auction because it was at Corvallis, and so I made a simple suggestion to Jim: “Make them pay for it”. I pointed out that the money would go to a good cause, and it would solve his problem of having to choose whom to give it to. This sounded like a good idea to Jim, so he donated it to the auction.

Meanwhile John Taylor and I conspired to buy it and agreed to split the cost. The justification (given to John) was that Gilkey was a Berkeley student and therefore the fork was a Berkeley icon. But the real reason was that I too coveted the fork – who wouldn’t? I figured it would cost a few hundred, but probably no more. Part of my calculation was that I had counted on the Trappe associates to be cheap. I knew this was true for Mike Castellano (Caz), the one who coveted the fork most, and I figured that if he out bid me in the end that alone would be worth the seeing.

But, there were three factors I had not considered and these turned out to be game changers: 1) that John Taylor would be the auctioneer – and a damned good one; 2) that Jim Trappe himself could not stand to see the fork move to Berkeley – especially after Taylor’s nagging; and 3) that there would be an open bar. The latter was Joey Spatafora’s idea, and the flowing beer certainly lubricated the bidding on all fronts.

When the bidding opened the price shot up to a few hundred dollars pretty quickly, and just as predicted Jim’s crowd started to chicken out one by one. Caz dropped pretty early with some disgruntled protests if I remember correctly, and I think it was Randy Molina (fronted by a few others) who held out the longest. But just about the time they were pooping out, Taylor – serving as auctioneer, starts to fan the fire by saying things like Berkeley is going to put it in a display case where OSU will be free to come and visit it (occasionally), and it was a proud day for Berkeley with the fork returning home. It was around this time that Trappe started to enter the bidding and take off the slack from the faint-hearted OSU crowd. Then it came down to Jim and me bidding against each other. When Jim went to a thousand, I felt a worried tightening in my guts, but the ample application of beer helped to quell any intrusion of sanity, and I pushed it up to $1100. I was not about to give up! This is when John Taylor must have realized that he was in for half of this damned thing. So when Trappe made the bid of $1200, Taylor turned away from me so he could not see my final bid, and he did a quick “going, going, gone” move, which returned the coveted fork to its rightful owner. I was bummed and relieved at the same time, but I have no doubts that Taylor’s move may have saved both our marriages from unnecessary strife. In any case it was certainly the most fun I ever had at MSA auction, although I almost came away a broke, single, proud owner of the Zeller/Gilkey/Trappe truffle fork. All I can say is that I hope it comes up for auction again.

You can see another MSA auction item dealing with the truffle fork owners at [http://nature.berkeley.edu/brunslab/ftp/Endogonaceae.pdf](http://nature.berkeley.edu/brunslab/ftp/Endogonaceae.pdf). Be sure to look for the inscriptions on the title pages. It still is a useful reference posted for all to use.

—Tom Bruns

Plant & Microbial Biology
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Whenever he is not thinking about fungi, Hai Nguyen is a swimming pool collector and a computer geek. He is currently a 4th year PhD student at the University of Ottawa with Keith A. Seifert, and will defend his thesis at the beginning of May.

His PhD research focuses on the Wallemiomycetes (Basidiomycota). More specifically, Hai is working to resolve the *Wallemia sebi* species complex. *W. sebi* is a ubiquitous extremophile found in indoor environments that can potentially cause food spoilage and allergy symptoms.

Another component of Hai’s thesis examined heat resistant and xerotolerant soil fungi in the genera *Basidioascus* and *Geminibasidium*. He taxonomically characterized a new lineage of these fungi, which are related to *Wallemia*. In addition, Hai sequenced, assembled, annotated, and analyzed the genome of *Basidioascus undulatus*. Hai’s work has been published in *Mycological Progress* and *Mycologia*.

Last year, Hai was awarded the O. K. Miller, Jr. Mentor Travel Award to attend the 2014 MSA Annual Meeting at Michigan State University. The Mentor Travel Award helped pay for his travel costs to present his work with *B. undulatus*. The talk was titled “Genome analysis and confocal microscopy of the heat resistant and xerotolerant basidiomycete *Basidioascus undulatus* reveal insight into its basic biology.” At the meeting Hai was also awarded the prestigious MSA Graduate Fellowship. Funds were used for fungal genomics research and to advance bioinfomatics analyses.

After he defends his PhD thesis, he plans on continuing in Keith Seifert’s lab as a postdoc for an additional year. During that time, he will wrap up a few unpublished manuscripts and get his feet wet in a different area of mycology: studying ochratoxin-producing species of *Penicillium*. He will soon be looking for other opportunities that will allow him to expand his research on the fascinating lineages of heat resistant fungi in soil or to focus his research on other fungi in the Basidiomycota.

Q: *How did you become a mycologist?*
A: I think it was a fluke. I had always wanted to work in arts, communications, or media, and becoming a mycologist was never something I initially intended to do. When I graduated high school, my parents insisted that I earn my undergraduate degree in biology, so I could be a dentist or doctor. I did as they asked, but my heart was just not in it…until I arrived in Keith Seifert’s lab as an undergraduate student. He told me to work on a fungus called *Leohumicola*. For the first time in a long time, I actually felt genuinely interested in what I was learning. Today, I don’t actually see myself doing anything other than mycology. I also feel so lucky that MSA has supported me in pursuing my passion for mycology through these awards.

Q: *What is your favorite edible mushroom, and what do you like about it?*
A: I love shiitake mushrooms. I’m not really sure what I like about it other than it tastes really good. I once made an omelette with shiitake mushrooms for a friend and he thought it was some kind of weird chicken.

Q: *What do you do in your free time?*
A: I used to play computer games a lot. World of Warcraft was a big part of my life for some years. These days I don’t have that kind of time anymore so I mostly spend my time at the gym or at the swimming pool.

Q: *Do you have any pets?*
A: Several years ago, I had a big white cat. We used to take afternoon naps together. It was the best!

### Contribute to MSA Award Funds

Now is a good time to contribute to a Mentor Travel Fund or Research Fund so the Society can offer awards to our young investigators. Just go to the MSA website, click on MSA Business, then click on Allen Press, and you will see the byline in black that states DONATIONS. All the Mentor Travel Funds and Research Categories are listed. If you want to make a contribution by phone or mail, contact the MSA Business Office at 1-800-627-0326.

To make a Mentor Travel award this year, we would like the fund to be close to $10,500 so we can make a $500 award and still retain $10,000 in principle. The Kramer, Thiers, Trappe, Fuller/Emerson/Whisler, Butler, H. Bigelow, and Korf funds are all close to that amount. Thank you for your contributions.
Sarah Livingston Dean was born and raised in the suburbs outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She found her passion for ecology in high school, when she attended the Maine Coast Semester program. There, students immersed themselves in the ecology of the Maine coast not only through science and literature classes, but also through farm and campus labor.

Sarah obtained her BA from the alternative learning institution, Hampshire College. There, she developed an interdisciplinary major that focused on the intersection between human and environmental ecology. Her thesis, titled “Ecology of the Home,” explored the changing relationship between a Karen hill tribe and the forest in northern Thailand. Sarah’s thesis included a creative writing component consisting of several short stories illustrating the Karen’s relationship with the forest, as well as a scientific component that examined soil and tree regeneration during the fallow years of slash-and-burn agriculture.

Later at Woods Hole Marine Biological Lab, Sarah studied how invasive plants alter soil biogeochemistry, solidifying her interest in soil ecology. She found something romantic about the idea of learning the secret life of soil. After college Sarah took an internship at Archbold Biological Station in Venus, Florida, and conducted research on the effects of fire and vegetation structure on soil biogeochemistry. She eventually landed in Dr. Robert Sinsabaugh’s lab at the University of New Mexico. Sarah worked on several research projects on plant-associated fungi before entering a program with Dr. Sinsabaugh as her advisor.

During her PhD program Sarah has employed Next Generation Sequencing techniques to explore the effects of anthropogenically induced environmental changes on plant-microbe relationships, with a focus on root associated microbes. She has conducted research in alpine tundra at the Niwot LTER site in Colorado, and in the pinyon-juniper woodlands of New Mexico. MSA generously awarded her the Denison Mentor Student Travel award on two occasions. These awards defrayed the costs of travel to MSA 2012 in New Haven, CT, and to MSA 2014 in East Lansing, MI, where she gave a poster and an oral presentation respectively. Sarah successfully defended her dissertation, titled “Root Associated Microbes as Mediators of Plant-Soil Interactions,” this February and will graduate in May, 2015. Her work has been featured in *Molecular Ecology* and *Environmental Microbiology*.

Immediately following graduation, Sarah will work as a part-time lecturer at the Community College of New Mexico, and as an adjunct faculty member at the University of New Mexico. These positions will provide a high amount of schedule flexibility, ideal for the time being given her most immediate projects: raising a toddler and infant.

Sarah also feels drawn to research on the human microbiome, as new discoveries in that area are dramatically changing the way western medicine views patients: as a colony rather than a single organism. Whether of plant or animal, a microbiome represents the interface between environment and individual. There could not be a more literal representation of linking the individual to a larger environmental context.
Greetings! As I write this column in late April, the morel season is already in full swing in the Inland Northwest, at least two weeks early. This is my second-to-last column for Inoculum as your Executive VP; with the Spring Ballot scheduled to close in early May, we will soon have a new slate of officers and councilors for the upcoming year, including a new Executive Vice President. Stay tuned—election results will be announced in the next issue of Inoculum.

**Council Business:** The Annual Council Meeting will be held July 25 from 9-2 pm at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta (see **Annual Meeting** below). Council activities have been light since my last column in the March/April issue. One email poll was completed in which Council approved a request for a discounted membership. Executive Council held a phone conference on April 13 to discuss the services provided by Allen Press and the needs of the Society in preparation for an upcoming phone conference (April 30) with Nick Dormer, Manager of Business Development for Allen Press. The agenda for the conference call includes a discussion of service-related concerns such as email communications and online manuscript submission through Allen-Track. MSA relies on email to communicate with our members on important issues including membership renewal, ballots, and annual meeting abstract and registration deadlines. It has become apparent that some of our members are not receiving Society emails sent out by Allen Press. The problem may in part be due to MSA emails getting caught by institutional spam filters, and the challenge is how to alert members to this issue if we rely almost exclusively on email communication.

**Spring Ballot:** The Spring Ballot included elections for six Council positions—Executive Vice President, Vice President, and Councilors for the four areas of expertise (Cell Biology & Physiology, Ecology & Pathology, Genetics & Molecular Biology, and Systematics & Evolution). The deadline for voting was extended to May 8, and results will be announced in the next issue of Inoculum.

**Annual Meeting:** MSA will meet with the Botanical Society of America (BSA) and 12 other societies at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta, July 25-29. Abstract submission is now closed, and early registration runs through May 30. Some of the events planned include a Mycena Identification Workshop (8 am to 5 pm, Saturday, July 25), the MSA field trip to Elk Island (8 am to 4 pm, Sunday, July 26). For more information including a complete list of submitted abstracts, field trips, and preliminary program, see [http://2015.botanyconference.org](http://2015.botanyconference.org)

**New Members:** I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new and returning members who joined MSA since February. Their membership will be formally approved at the 2015 Annual Business Meeting in Edmonton:

- **Canada:** Asma Asemaninejad, Logan Gray, Sydney Morgan, Monique Sakalidis
- **China:** Anzhi Ren
- **Germany:** Ursula Eberhardt
- **Japan:** Sarasa Amma, Kenji Mibe
- **Serbia:** Bojan Seguljev
- **South Africa:** Stephen Tauerem
- **United States:** Maryam Ahmad Almatruk, Laura Bogar, Tom Carlberg, Anny Chung, Willie Anderson Dos Santos Vieira, John Gregory Gibbons, Margaret Elizabeth Hartman, Chris Hittinger, Kenneth Kassenbrock, Sabrina Ossisander, Pedro Pablo Parra Giraldo, Nicole Reynolds, Ella Samuel, Jackie Shay, Sean Oma Imanishi Swift, Sarah Unruh, Natalie Vande Pol, Nicholas Zemp.

**2015 Membership Renewal:** If you haven’t already renewed your membership for 2015 and are planning to attend the Annual Meeting in Edmonton, you will want to renew before the early registration deadline (May 30).

**REMINDER: MSA Directory Update:** Did you receive the email notices on the 2015 membership renewal and on the call for nominations? If not, it may be because your email address is not up to date in the MSA directory. The Society relies on email to bring you timely information on MSA news, awards, elections, meetings and other activities. To ensure that you receive those important Society blast emails and Inoculum, take a few minutes to confirm the accuracy of your contact information in the online directory. This can be accessed via our website ([www.msa.org](http://www.msa.org))—look for the “Member Services” box in the bottom left corner of the page. If you have renewed your membership and don’t find your name in the online directory, contact me for assistance. If you need assistance with updating any of your membership information, contact our Association Manager at Allen Press, Taylor Hrabe ([thrabe@allenpress.com](mailto:thrabe@allenpress.com)). If you are a current MSA member and your contact information is correct in the directory, but have not received any emails from MSA this year—for example, on the 2015 Spring Ballot or on upcoming deadlines for the annual meeting in Edmonton—please contact me!

Also feel free to contact me about MSA business, or any other questions you have about the Society. If I don’t know the answer, I can generally find someone who does. And don’t forget to recommend MSA to your colleagues, and particularly to students and postdoctoral associates who are interested in fungi. Remember, there is now a postdoctoral member rate!

—*Lori Carris*

MSA Executive Vice President
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Collecting Myxomycetes in the Namib Desert of Southern Africa

During the first two weeks of March 2015, an international team consisting of Steve Stephenson (University of Arkansas), Carlos Lado (Real Jardín Botánico in Spain), Arturo Estrada-Torres (Universidad Autonoma de Tlaxcala in Mexico), Diana Wrigley de Basanta (United Kingdom), and Randy Darrah (West Virginia) carried out the first survey for myxomycetes in the Namib Desert of southern Africa (Fig 1). The survey was funded by a grant from the National Geographic Society. The Namib Desert, thought to be the oldest desert in the world, is an exceedingly dry environment. Most of the region receives only about an inch of rain each year.

Myxomycetes are usually associated with moist habitats, but the team was able to find approximately 50 specimens that had formed fruiting bodies in the field on various types of dead plant material (Fig 2). They also collected a large series of samples of plant material to be cultured in the laboratory, and these samples are expected to yield numerous additional specimens of myxomycetes. All members of the team have carried out previous research on myxomycetes in deserts and other arid areas around the world, including such places as Argentina, Australia, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, and the southwestern United States. The results from Namibia will expand what is known about the taxonomy, distribution, and ecology of these microorganisms in exceedingly dry environments.

While in Namibia, the team was based at the Gobabeb Research and Training Centre (Fig 3), a facility dedicated to dryland research and located 120 km from the nearest town, Walvis Bay. The Centre uses solar power, extremely efficient water conservation practices, and recycling methods to limit their impact on the fragile desert environment. Gobabeb is located at the intersection of tall red sand dunes with virtually no vegetation (Fig 4), gravel plains with sparse compact dwarf shrubs and the dry riverbed of the ephemeral Kuiseb River, which is flanked by the only full-sized trees found in this region of Namibia. During their stay at Gobabeb, Stephenson presented a seminar on the biology and ecology of myxomycetes, including how to collect and study these organisms.

Welwitschia mirabilis, one of the most unusual plants in the world, is found in the Gobabeb region, and it was a real thrill for members of the team to observe it in the field. This plant is pretty much considered as a “mecca” for botanists, few of whom ever have an opportunity to visit the small region of southwestern Africa where it occurs.

Members of the team gratefully acknowledge that their project could not have been carried out without the infrastructure and assistance provided by the people at Gobabeb.

—Steve Stephenson
slsteph@uark.edu
Diana Wrigley de Basanta

Fig 1. Members of the survey team (left to right): Diana Wrigley de Basanta, Arturo Estrada-Torres, Randy Darrah, Steve Stephenson and Carlos Lado. A small specimen of Welwitschia can be observed in the foreground.
Theme: Mycorrhizal Integration Across Continents & Scales

The Eighth International Conference on Mycorrhiza (ICOM8) seeks to stimulate a productive exchange of information and ideas among mycorrhizal researchers from around the world, including physiologists, geneticists, taxonomists, ecologists, inoculum producers, and land managers. Conference sessions will be designed to find common interests and cut across traditional hierarchical divisions of science.

The International Mycorrhiza Society selected Northern Arizona University to host ICOM8, which will take place at the university’s High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, Arizona, USA. The International Mycorrhiza Society is a scientific organization that advances education, research, and development in the area of mycorrhizal symbiosis between plants and soil fungi. In addition to an engaging scientific program, attendees will enjoy Flagstaff and the region’s many attractions.

August 3–7, 2015
http://nau.edu/Merriam-Powell/ICOM8/com8@nau.edu

US Culture Collection Network Workshop:
Preserving, storing and maintaining microorganisms

Fungal Genetics Stock Center, Kansas State University Manhattan, Kansas USA

Presented by the USCCN as an activity of the US National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network for a community of ex situ microbial germplasm repositories. This workshop will feature a curriculum and instructors from CABI. The two-day program includes lectures and practical demonstrations of techniques, including: Preservation and maintenance methods for bacteria, fungi and yeasts; Cryopreservation; Freeze-drying and storage on Silica gel; Methods for assessing the success of preservation methods; Information sources and management of Culture Collections; Microbial characterization and data generation; Quality management systems in microbiology; Regulatory issues; Shipping/IATA; Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol.

August 13 –14, 2015
www.usccn.org
Bound Volumes of Mycologia

Bound volumes of Mycologia are available for donation to any institution: Years 1942–2005, each volume is bound and printed with Mycologia and the year and volume number. Please contact Arvind A. Padhye at aapadhye@msn.com.

Fifth Kingdom

The Fifth Kingdom on CD-ROM is now available in an extensively updated form for teaching purposes. Available for class orders at $25 per copy. The book “The Outer Spores of Haida Gwaii” is also available. Check details at: www.mycolog.com

Biological Control, Biotechnology and Regulatory Services

Center for Regulatory Research, LLC specializes in regulatory permit application services for biological control and biotechnology organisms/products. Let us evaluate your research discoveries for commercial potential and environmental impacts. We also offer assistance with writing proposals for SBIR grant programs (Small Business Innovation Research) that fund new commercial ventures. Contact Dr. Sue Cohen by email (sdcohen@regresearch.com) or by phone (612-246-3838). For more information about our company, visit our website at www.regresearch.com.

Editor’s Note

Readers, please submit those articles! We can always use feature articles and contributions in the following categories:

Fungi in the News: Please forward articles with timely or compelling news stories.
Member News: Keep the membership updated and pass along information and photos about your colleagues and self.
Back page: The image will change each issue. If you have an image or two you would like to grace the back page, please send it to me. Note it must be high resolution (preferably around 1 Mb and not re-formatted to increase file size). All copyright permissions must be followed.

—Julia Kerrigan
Inoculum Editor
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REMININDER: MSA Directory Update

Is your information up-to-date in the MSA directory? The Society is relying more and more on email to bring you the latest MSA news, awards announcements and other timely information, and our newsletter. To ensure that you receive Society blast emails and the Inoculum as soon as it comes out, and so that your colleagues can keep in touch, please check the accuracy of your email address and contact information in the online directory. This can be accessed via our website at www.msafungi.org. If you need assistance with updating your membership information, or help with your membership log-in ID and password, please contact Allen Press at msa@allenpress.com.
MYCOLOGIST’S BOOKSHELF

We have two reviews for this Bookshelf installment. And though there are no new books on the list, there are still a few that are in need of reviewers… not to mention those for which reviews are still outstanding (you know who you are!). If you are interested in reviewing one of these books, or know of one that should be reviewed in the Bookshelf, please contact me (robert.marra@ct.gov) and I will have the book “drop-shipped” directly from the publisher; this will streamline the process at my end and will save our Society from racking up considerable shipping expenses. A book goes to the first person requesting it, and I ask that you get your reviews to me in a reasonably timely manner. We also have more than a few books that have been out with reviewers for some time, but for which we are still waiting for reviews. If you are among those who have had a review copy for an extended period of time, please contact me.

—Bob Marra

Books in Need of Reviewers


Books with Reviewers Assigned


(**New this issue)

Continued on following page
Fossil Fungi


This book is a comprehensive and wonderful review of the literature on fossil fungi. The authors are uniquely qualified to explain and interpret paleobotany and by extension, fossil fungi. They write in a highly readable and approachable style. Their writing is not dogmatic, but reflective and open to multiple views, enigmas, and hypotheses. The book is organized with chapters on general topics (e.g., How Fungal Fossils are Formed, How Old Are Fungi, and Fungal Spores) and by fungal classification (phyla within the kingdom Fungi, as well as Lichens, and Bacteria and Fungus-like Organisms). Color photos and black-and-white photos and line drawings are excellent and illustrate some of the most amazing fossils, e.g., Dubiocarpon and Traquairia under the subheading, “Fossils of uncertain affinities,” and lichen ascoma in amber. In addition, the authors include a large number of photographs of mycologists and paleobotanists, most of whom are not yet fossils. This focuses attention on the process of paleomycology and documents the human element in asking questions and interpreting fossils. It will stand as a landmark to the history of paleomycology.

A major value of the book is in explaining how fossils have been reinterpreted with advances in the field of paleomycology. This is the clearest explanation for Protaxites southworthii (no relation) that I have read. It remains an enigmatic fossil of three types of hyphae arranged in a log up to a meter in diameter. Truly boggles the mind.

Fungi are generally considered to have soft, non-fossilized tissues that are decayed by other fungi. Yet fungal spores and melanized hyphae are as durable as plant parts. The literature on fossil ectomycorrhizas is shockingly scant considering that they occur in association with woody roots. And where are the fossil truffles? Has not one been found? Clearly, paleobotanists have missed fossil fungi perhaps because they were unfamiliar with fungal structures or because they preferred the “best” specimens, those least likely to be degraded by fungi. As mycologists with an emphasis on morphology are replaced by those with molecular skills, we may gain in knowledge of molecular clocks, but lose the ability to interpret fossil structures.

So, you mycologists, read this, and if you recognize the structures, email the authors. And contact your paleobotany colleagues to see what they see. Only greater collaboration between mycologists and paleobotanists will lead to further discoveries.

—Darlene Southworth
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southworth@sou.edu

Guide to Common Fungi of the Semiarid Region of Brazil


This book on mushrooms from the subxerophytic zone of the north-east of Brazil is a good treatise, in English and Portuguese, of the known species in the only dry zone of this humid country, which has one of the most impressive jungles in the world. The book was created with the contributions of 16 specialists from Brazil along with Leif Ryvarden from the University of Oslo, Norway. It is a review of 80 species of macromycetes with good descriptions and excellent color illustrations on the fructifications; the descriptions and illustrations of the microscopic features, however, are somewhat lacking in detail. The identification of the species, at least those that I know (e.g., Scleroderma nitidum), are accurate. However, this reviewer would have liked to see a discussion, or at least some comments, for all 80 species, but particularly in the case of Daldinia, Ganoderma, Panaeolus and others, where there are several criteria in their identification, according to those who specialize in these genera. Also useful would have been at least a few comments on ecological distributions, especially for those species not otherwise known to be xerophytic, such as the Phallaceae and some agarics. Despite these criticisms, I highly recommend this book by Neves et al. One additional observation: it is difficult to know from the list of “authors,” which are actually authors which are editors.

—Gastón Guzmán
gaston.guzmán@inecol.mx
Fungal RefSeq Curator

Computercraft seeks a highly motivated individual who will use his or her biological expertise to support RefSeq sequence standards and to contribute functional annotation of both the sequence record and the companion resource, NCBI’s Gene database. The NCBI Reference Sequence (RefSeq) project provides reference sequence standards that are used internationally for genome annotation. RefSeqs provide a stable reference for gene characterization, mutation analysis, expression studies, and polymorphism discovery.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the RefSeq project while using state-of-the-art computational tools and databases. Curators work on-site at the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in Bethesda, Maryland.

Requirements:

Ph.D. in molecular biology and/or genomics of Fungi, or a related field Postdoctoral experience. Extensive experience with functional genome annotation of Fungi. Extensive experience with evaluating structural annotation of Fungi genomes. Experience in phylogenetic analysis of fungal sequences. Strong logic, problem-solving, and organizational skills. Excellent verbal and written communication skills. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team. Ability to adhere to established procedures. A detail-oriented perspective. A strong desire to support public scientific databases such as RefSeq and Gene. This is an intellectually challenging, detail-oriented position which will provide an excellent opportunity to use your biology expertise in a non-laboratory position.

For more information about the RefSeq project and Gene, please see: RefSeq: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/RefSeq, Gene: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/. To apply for this position or learn about other Computercraft job opportunities, please visit the Careers section of our website. Computercraft offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package including health insurance with 100% company paid premiums, 401K program with matching, paid time off and holiday pay, life insurance, flexible spending and disability coverage. We offer an excellent work-life balance with a standard 40 hour work week and the chance to work alongside accomplished scientists at NIH/NCBI. Computercraft is an equal opportunity employer.

Postdoc: Population Genomics

The Corradi Lab is currently seeking a postdoctoral fellow in Bioinformatics to work on projects related to Comparative and Population Genomics. The research will be led by Dr. Nicolas Corradi and carried out in a CIFAR (Canadian Institute for Advanced Research) – affiliated laboratory located in the Department of Biology of the University of Ottawa, Canada.

Website: http://corradilab.weebly.com/

The position is initially funded for one year, with the possibility of renewal for up to three years, depending on performance. The candidate is expected to work on two ongoing lab projects:

1) Populations genomics of global samples of the bee-pathogen Nosema ceranae

2) Population genomics of global isolates of the model plant symbiont, Rhizophagus irregularis

Applicants are expected to have a strong background in either comparative genomics or populations genomics

Basic training in bioinformatics (Perl, Python, or R) is desired. Experience in either population genetics, environmental genomics, metagenomics, or ab-initio gene annotation and programming will be seen as an asset for the final selection of the candidate.

A complete application package includes a CV, a one-page description of past research accomplishments and future goals, and the names and e-mail addresses of at least 2 references. The position opens immediately, and evaluation of applications will continue until a suitable candidate is found. The University of Ottawa is a large, research-intensive university, hosting over 40,000 students and located in the downtown core area of Canada’s capital city (http://www.science.uottawa.ca/fac/welcome.html). Ottawa is a vibrant, multicultural city with a very high quality of life (http://www.ottawatourism.ca/fr/)

Applications can be sent to Dr. Nicolas Corradi (ncorradi@uottawa.ca).

MYCOLOGICAL JOBS

Postdoc: Population Genomics

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This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to the RefSeq project while using state-of-the-art computational tools and databases. Curators work on-site at the National Institutes of Health, National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) in Bethesda, Maryland.

Responsibilities:

Evaluate and analyze sequence data from Fungi to provide the most complete and accurate reference sequences to define coding and non-coding transcripts, protein products, and genomic region. Analyze phylogenetic trees supporting functional annotation and verifying species identification of genome data. Communicate with other scientists to ensure the highest quality data content for RefSeq records and the Gene database. Coordinate with model organism databases and other organism-specific interest groups to ensure timely processing of genomic sequence data and accurate display of annotation in NCBI resources. Collaborate with other scientists to expand the content for RefSeqs fungal genome ITS and rRNA records. Contribute toward NCBI initiatives to improve Fungal genome resources
**Postdoc: Evolution of Fruiting Body Development**

Postdoctoral position anticipated in the laboratory of Dr. Frances Trail at Michigan State University, Department of Plant Biology. The project is in collaboration with Dr. Jeffrey Townsend, Yale University. The project explores the evolution of phenotypes across related species by examining the evolved changes in gene expression in diverse species. Previously, using comparative transcriptomics, we have identified genes involved in differences in perithecium morphology in *Neurospora* versus *Fusarium* species. The majority of genes were involved in generating structures present in only one of the genera, such as the beak in *Neurospora* and the stroma in *Fusarium*. The expanded project will explore shifts in regulatory networks that drive evolution of diverse additional morphologies across six genera.

Candidates must have a Ph.D. with experience in fungal molecular biology and/or fungal genomics. In addition, good communication skills are essential to the project. Funding is available for three years with adequate progress. Starting date is negotiable.

Please submit a current C.V., letter of introduction and contact information for three references to Prof. Frances Trail, trail@msu.edu.

**Postdoc: Comparative Genomics and Bioinformatics**

Applications are invited for a bioinformatics postdoctoral position in the research group of Laszlo G Nagy (Synthetic and Systems Biology Unit, Biological Research Center, Szeged, Hungary). We are now looking to hire new people with a background in bioinformatics, phylogenetics or fungal evolution. The lab offers excellent training opportunities in fungal comparative genomics, cutting edge projects, abundant funding, an inspiring atmosphere and extensive collaborator network.

The primary focus of the lab is understanding the general principles of convergent evolution and fungal multicellularity through comparative genomics, transcriptomics and single-cell transcriptomics of multicellular fruiting bodies in Basidiomycetes. Fruiting bodies represent some of the most complex morphological structures found in fungi, yet, their developmental and evolutionary origins are hardly known. Complex fruiting bodies have evolved independently several times in the Basidiomycetes, offering an excellent model system to study the genetic mechanisms of convergent evolution.

The successful Candidate has: PhD in bioinformatics, evolutionary biology, mycology or other relevant field. Experience in genomics, Perl and/or Python scripting. Good team player traits. Experience in working with fungi is a plus.

Contact and application – The starting date of the project is September 2015. The position will last for one year with the possibility of extension up to 4 years. If interested, send a motivation letter along with your CV to Laszlo Nagy (lnagy@brc.hu).

Dr. Laszlo Nagy
Fungal Evolution & Genomics Lab
Synthetic and Systems Biology Unit, Institute of Biochemistry
Biological Research Center, HAS
Hungary
http://group.szbk.u-szeged.hu/sysbiol/nagy-laszlo-lab-index.html

Contribute to the MSA Auction

Donations and purchases are both an option
Make bids high
For items to buy
But if an open bar proceed with caution
In depth information about the genus *Amanita* [www.amanitaceae.org](http://www.amanitaceae.org)

A New Web Page About Tropical Fungi, Hongos Del Parque "El Haya" (58-5) [hongosdelhaya.blogspot.com](http://hongosdelhaya.blogspot.com/)

ASCOFrance.com, a very useful site for illustrations of ascomycetes including anamorphs (accessible in both French and English) [ascofrance.com/?lang=us](http://ascofrance.com/?lang=us)

Bibliography of Systematic Mycology [www.speciesfungorum.org/BSM/bsm.htm](http://www.speciesfungorum.org/BSM/bsm.htm)

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; Meetings & Courses Programs (58-2) [meetings.cshl.edu](http://meetings.cshl.edu)

Collection of 800 Pictures of Macro- and Micro-fungi [www.mycolog.com](http://www.mycolog.com)

Cornell Mushroom Blog (58-1) [http://blog.mycology.cornell.edu/](http://blog.mycology.cornell.edu/)

Cortbase (58-2) [andromeda.botany.gu.se/cortbase.html](http://andromeda.botany.gu.se/cortbase.html)

Corticoid Nomenclatural Database (56-2) [www.phyloinformatics.org/](http://www.phyloinformatics.org/)

The Cybertruffle internet server for mycology seeks to provide information about fungi from a global standpoint (59-3). [www.cybertruffle.org.uk](http://www.cybertruffle.org.uk)

Cyberliber, a digital library for mycology (59-3). [www.cybertruffle.org.uk/cyberliber](http://www.cybertruffle.org.uk/cyberliber)

Cybernome provides information about fungi and their associated organisms, with access to over 548,000 records of scientific names (59-3). [www.cybertruffle.org.uk/cybernome](http://www.cybertruffle.org.uk/cybernome)

Dictionary of The Fungi Classification [www.indexfungorum.org/names/fundic.asp](http://www.indexfungorum.org/names/fundic.asp)

Fungal Environmental Sampling and Informatics Network (58-2) [www.bio.utk.edu/fesin/](http://www.bio.utk.edu/fesin/)

German Mycological Society DGIM [www.dgfm-ev.de](http://www.dgfm-ev.de)

Glomeromycota PHYLOGENY [amf-phylogeny.com](http://amf-phylogeny.com)

International Society for Human and Animal Mycology [www.isham.org](http://www.isham.org)

Medical Mycology journal [www.isham.org](http://www.isham.org)

Mycologia [mycologia.org](http://mycologia.org)

Humboldt Institute — Located on the eastern coast of Maine, the institute is known for the series of advanced and professional-level natural history seminars it has offered since 1987, along with ecological restoration seminars and expeditions to the neotropics. It publishes the two peer-reviewed journals, *Northeastern Naturalist* and *Southeastern Naturalist*. [www.eaglehill.us](http://www.eaglehill.us)

Taxonomy of the Hysteriaceae & Mytilinidiaceae (Pleosporomycetidae, Dothideomycetes, Ascomycota) to facilitate species identification using a set of updated and revised keys based on those first published by Hans Zogg in 1962. 59(4) [www.eboehm.com/](http://www.eboehm.com/)

Index of Fungi [www.indexfungorum.org/names/names.asp](http://www.indexfungorum.org/names/names.asp)

Interactive Key to Hypocreales of Southeastern United States (57-2) [nt.ars-grin.gov/sbmlweb/fungi/keydata.cfm](http://nt.ars-grin.gov/sbmlweb/fungi/keydata.cfm)


JSTOR (58-3) [jstor.org](http://jstor.org)

McCrone Research Institute is an internationally recognized not-for-profit institute specializing primarily in teaching applied microscopy. 59(4) [www.mcri.org](http://www.mcri.org)

Mountain Justice Summer (58-3) [www.MountainJusticeSummer.org](http://www.MountainJusticeSummer.org)

Mycology Education Mart where all relevant mycology courses can be posted. [www2.bio.ku.dk/mycology/courses/](http://www2.bio.ku.dk/mycology/courses/)

Mycokery [www.mycokery.com](http://www.mycokery.com)

The Myconet Classification of the Ascomycota [www.fieldmuseum.org/myconet](http://www.fieldmuseum.org/myconet)

New Electronic Journal about mushrooms from Southeast Mexico (61-4) [http://fungavera.blogspot.com](http://fungavera.blogspot.com)

Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) foray database (58-2) [http://www.nemf.org/forays.htm](http://www.nemf.org/forays.htm)


Pleurotus spp. [www.oystermushrooms.net](http://www.oystermushrooms.net)

Rare, Endangered or Under-recorded Fungi in Ukraine (56-2) [www.cybertruffle.org.uk/redlists/index.htm](http://www.cybertruffle.org.uk/redlists/index.htm)

Registry of Mushrooms in Art [http://namyco.org/art_registry/index.html](http://namyco.org/art_registry/index.html)

Robigalia provides information about field observations, published records and reference collection specimens of fungi and their associated organisms, with access to over 685,000 records (59-3). [www.cybertruffle.org.uk/robigalia](http://www.cybertruffle.org.uk/robigalia)

Tree canopy biodiversity project University of Central Missouri (58-4) [http://www.discoverlife.org/nh/tx/Fungi/canopy_biodiversity.html](http://www.discoverlife.org/nh/tx/Fungi/canopy_biodiversity.html)

Trichomycete site includes monograph, interactive keys, a complete database, world literature, etc. (61-4) [www.nhm.ku.edu/~fungi](http://www.nhm.ku.edu/~fungi)

The TRTC Fungarium (58-1) [bbc.botany.utoronto.ca/ROM/TRTCfungarium/home.php](http://bbc.botany.utoronto.ca/ROM/TRTCfungarium/home.php)

U.S. National Fungus Collections (BPI) Complete Mushroom Specimen Database (57-1) [www.ars.usda.gov/ba/psi/sbml](http://www.ars.usda.gov/ba/psi/sbml)

Valhalla provides information about past mycologists, with names, dates of birth and death and, in some cases, biographies and/or portraits (59-3). [www.cybertruffle.org.uk/valhalla](http://www.cybertruffle.org.uk/valhalla)

Website for the mycological journal *Mycena* (56-2) [www.mycena.org/index.htm](http://www.mycena.org/index.htm)

Wild Mushrooms From Tokyo [www.ne.jp/asahi/mushroom/tokyo/](http://www.ne.jp/asahi/mushroom/tokyo/)

**MYCOLOGY ON-LINE**

Below is an alphabetical list of websites featured in *Inoculum*. Those wishing to add sites to this directory or to edit addresses should email jkerrig@clemson.edu. Unless otherwise notified, listings will be automatically deleted after one year (at the editors discretion).
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTE TO MEMBERS:
Those wishing to list upcoming mycological courses, workshops, conventions, symposia, and forays in the Calendar of Events should include complete postal/electronic addresses and submit to *Inoculum* editor Julia Kerrigan at jkerrig@clemson.edu.

May 18-21, 2015
CROPS – Genomics Enabled Crop Breeding and Improvement
Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology and the University of Georgia
Huntsville, Alabama
http://hudsonalpha.org/crops/

May 30-Jun2, 2015
American Society for Microbiology 2015 General Meeting
New Orleans, Louisiana
http://gm.asm.org/

June 16-17, 2015
Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
Boston, Massachusetts
http://newphytologist.org/symposiums/view/37

July 24-30, 2015
Mycological Society of America and the Botanical Society of America joint meeting
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

August 1-5, 2015
American Phytopathological Society annual meeting
Pasadena, California

August 3-7, 2015
Eighth International Conference of Mycorrhiza (ICOM8)
Flagstaff, Arizona
http://nau.edu/Merriam-Powell/ICOM8/icom8@nau.edu

August 24-27, 2015
International Plant Protection Congress
Berlin, Germany
http://www.ippc2015.de/

September 21-25, 2015
XVII Congress of European Mycologists
Madeira, Portugal
http://www.euromould.org/

October 7-10, 2015
Asian Mycological Congress 2015
Goa University, Goa, India
http://www.amc2015goa.com/

November 29-December 1, 2015
36th New Phytologist Symposium: Cell biology at the plant-microbe interface.
Eden Hotel Wolff, Munich, Germany
http://newphytologist.org/symposiums/view/38

June 2016 (dates TBD)
Cellular & Molecular Fungal Biology, Gordon Research Conference
Holderness School
Holderness, New Hampshire

July 30-August 3, 2016
American Phytopathological Society annual meeting
Tampa, Florida

August 7-11, 2016
Mycological Society of America annual meeting
Berkeley, California

2016 (dates TBD)
Brazilian Mycological Congress, Congresso Brasileiro de Micologia
Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
Florianópolis, Santa Catarina, Brazil

July, 2017
Mycological Society of America annual meeting
Athens, Georgia

July 15-21, 2018
International Mycological Congress: IMC11, hosted by the Mycological Society of America
San Juan, Puerto Rico
MSA Sustaining Members 2015

The Society is extremely grateful for the continuing support of its Sustaining Members. Please patronize them and, whenever possible, let their representatives know of our appreciation.

Fungi Perfecti
Attn: Paul Stamets
PO Box 7634
Olympia, WA, 98507
(360)426-9292
info@fungi.com

Mycotaxon, Ltd.
Attn: Richard P. Korf
PO Box 264
Ithaca, NY, 14851-0264
(607) 273-0508
info@mycotaxon.com

Triarch, Inc.
Attn: P.L. Conant - President
PO Box 98
Ripon, WI, 54971
(920)748-5125

Sylvan, Inc.
Attn: Mark Wach
Research Dept Library
198 Nolte Drive
Kittanning, PA, 16201
(724)543-3948
mwach@sylvaninc.com

Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
Attn: Rita Kuznia
Dept Head, Plant Pathology
317 330th Street
Stanton, MN, 55018-4308
(507) 663-7631
rita.kuznia@syngenta.com

Genencor Internation, Inc.
Attn: Michael Ward
925 Page Mill Rd
Palo Alto, CA, 94304
(650)846-5850
mward@genencor.com

Novozymes, Inc.
Attn: Wendy Yoder
1445 Drew Ave
Davis, CA, 95618
(530) 757-8110
wty@novozymes.com

BCN Research Laboratories, Inc.
Attn: Emilia Rico
2491 Stock Creek Blvd
Rockford, TN, 37853
(865)558-6819
emirico@msn.com

You are encouraged to inform the Membership Committee (Andy Wilson, Chair, awilson@chicagobotanic.org) of firms or foundations that might be approached about Sustaining Membership in the MSA. Sustaining members have all the rights and privileges of individual members in the MSA and are listed as Sustaining Members in all issues of Mycologia and Inoculum.
Inoculum 66(3), May 2015

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MSA Homepage: msafungi.org

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