



Mushrooms and Other Fungi with Rosalind Lowen and Dianna Smith

August 8-14, 2010

This seminar will help participants to develop skills in the identification of mushrooms and other fungi, using both macro and microscopic features, and will provide a broad overview of the vast Kingdom Fungi and its biology and ecology. Participants will be encouraged to look at the morphology of all groups of fungi and to identify most of them at least to the level of order and many of them to the level of genus. Emphasis will be placed on mycorrhizal fungi, such as the Amanitaceae, Boletaceae and Russulaceae, as well as ascomycetes and polypores. There will be an opportunity to learn about mushroom photography as an aide in studying and documenting mushrooms, so cameras are welcome. Aspects of the biology of mushrooms and other fungi will be covered in lectures and discussions. Daily field trips will be taken to gather mushrooms, polypores, mildews, myxomycetes, as well as ascomycetes. Dissecting and compound microscopes will be available. Participants will learn important gross and microscopic anatomical features necessary to identify different fungal groups. This seminar will benefit university students, amateur mycologists, and field biologists who are interested in expanding their knowledge and learning new skills for pursuing the study of fungi. Independent study interests are welcome during this seminar.

Dr. Rosalind Lowen is a retired mycologist who was an honorary research assistant at the New York Botanical Garden. She had maintained an office and conducted research there for years. Her doctoral research was on the ascomycete genus *Nectriella*. Among her interests are ascomycetes that occur on lichens and more recently mold that occurs in buildings. She has given programs on general mycology and on ascomycetes to the Connecticut Mycological Association, to other mushroom clubs, at local New York nature areas and at the Northeast Mycological Federation Forays. She has written about 2 dozen publications on ascomycetes. She serves as a consultant for mushroom poisoning to the Northern New England Poison Center.

Dr. Dianna Smith is an amateur mycologist and mushroom photographer, whose photos are featured in several recently published field guides and websites (www.pbase.com/comafungi and www.fungiphotos.net). Her doctoral studies were at Tufts University and MIT in the history of science and technology. She has given presentations to nature centers and mushroom clubs in the New York and Connecticut region. She produces an educational half-hour community cable show on environmental subjects, including fungi. She is a poison control consultant for Westchester County, NY and surrounding counties, president of the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association, and 2010 foray chair for the Northeast Mycological Federation of clubs.



Information is available on . . .

- other natural history science seminars
- graduate and undergraduate university credits
- continuing education units/recertification credits

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