

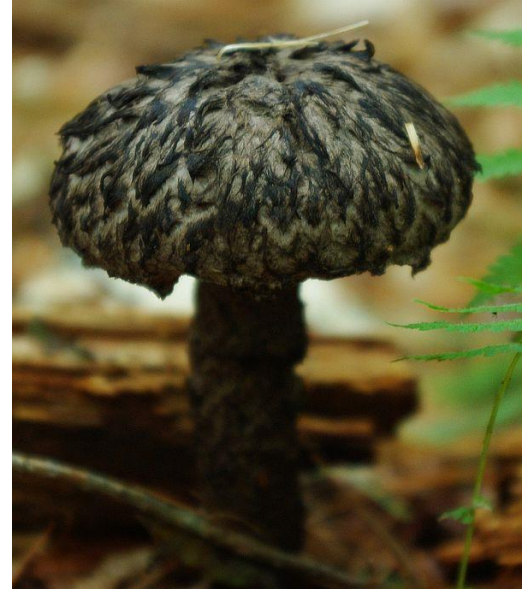
April 2022

## HALIFAX NEWS

### FLOWERS OF THE FOREST UNDERGROUND

– William Oglesby and Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

For many who roam the forest, where we tread is seen as a floor. But to much of the essential life of a healthy forest, this “floor” is a ceiling. Fungus is a substantial component of this underground, its mycelium growing thread-like throughout the soil and leaf mold and extending into dead or dying trees and fallen logs. There it works to break down and recycle the nutrients in organic matter. In the soil, the mycelium tips, called hyphae, form symbiotic—or occasionally pathogenic—relationships with the roots of many plants, especially trees. Termed *mycorrhiza* from the Greek words for “fungus” and “root,” this symbiosis lets plants share some of their products of photosynthesis with the fungus, an organism that cannot do photosynthesis for itself. In return, the fungus provides minerals processed into a form the plants’ roots can absorb, drawing on its extensive mycelium to pull from a much wider area than reached by the plant roots themselves. The plants also benefit from water drawn in by the mycelium. The mycorrhiza also forms a network of connections among the roots of plants and promotes transfer of resources and information (in the form of molecules) between plants, causing it to be dubbed the “woodwide web.”



*My guess is this is Old Man of the Forest (nonpoisonous but not choice) - Laurel*



Mushrooms are a reproductive portion of the mycelium, analogous to flowers and fruit in plants; they produce spores for dispersal, as plants produce seeds. And like flowers, they come in many wonderful shapes, sizes, and colors. They are the flowers of the forest underground.

In the woods of Halifax, you can find mushrooms of a variety of colors, forms, shapes, and growth patterns. Some are identified, some mysterious. The form may be stemmed with a cap, or shelf-like, or frilly. You are invited to browse the forest floor with these photographs.



*My guesses: Viscid violet cort (do not eat) & Orange moss agarica (do not eat) & Golden spindles (do not eat) - Laurel*







A mushroom & moss tableau ... a scarlet sentry ... a staircase of mushrooms



Photographs: William Oglesby



Unidentified white mushrooms with petticoats



Amanitas: poisonous









## Daily lunches

|                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Monday–Friday at 11:30 A.M.        | Bellows Falls Area Senior Center,<br>18 Tuttle Street, Bellows Falls, VT<br>05101       | Contact: Teagen Kosut, 802-463-3907,<br><a href="mailto:bfasc@sover.net">bfasc@sover.net</a> . Menu at<br><a href="http://www.bfasc.org">www.bfasc.org</a> . |
| Monday–Friday 12:00 Noon           | Brattleboro Senior Center: Gibson<br>Aiken Bldg, 207 Main St.,<br>Brattleboro, VT 05301 | Contact: Chris McAvoy, 802-257-1236.<br>Menu at<br><a href="http://www.brattleboroseniormeals.org">www.brattleboroseniormeals.org</a>                        |
| Tuesday, Thursday at 12:00<br>noon | Whitingham Municipal Center,<br>2948 Rte. 100, Jacksonville, VT<br>05342                | Contact: Terrie Dumaine, 802-368-7567  |
| Every Wednesday at 12:00<br>noon   | Grafton Church Chapel, 4 Main<br>Street, Grafton, VT 05146                              | Contact: Dennis Hunt, 802-869-2674. All<br>ages welcome. Vegetarian option<br>available.   |

## Monthly lunches

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 4th Tuesday at 12:00 noon                           | Putney Community Cares Kimball<br>Hill Road, Putney, VT 05346                        | Contact: Abby Jacobson, 802-387-5593,<br><a href="mailto:coordinator@putneycommunitycares.org">coordinator@putneycommunitycares.org</a> .<br>Menu at<br><a href="http://www.putneycommunitycares.org">www.putneycommunitycares.org</a> |
| 2nd Wednesday at 12:00<br>noon                      | Readsboro First Baptist Church<br>7030 Main Street, Readsboro, VT<br>05341           | Contact: Sandra Goodermote, 413-424-<br>5446   |
| 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at<br>12:00 noon               | Dummerston Center: Evening Star<br>Grange, East-West Road,<br>Dummerston, VT 05301   | Contact: Ruth Barton, 802-254-1128   |
| 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 12:00<br>noon                | Townshend Church, UCC 46<br>Common Rd, Townshend, VT<br>05353                        | Contact: Alice Gausch, 802-874-4276  |
| 2nd Thursday at 12:00 noon                          | Jamaica Community Church 100<br>Route 30, Jamaica, VT 05343                          | Contact: Ms. J. Stone, 802-874-4847  |
| 2nd Thursday at 12:00 noon                          | Newfane Congregational Church<br>Street, Newfane, VT 05345                           | Contact: Winnie Dolan, 802-365-7870  |
| 2nd Thursday at 12:00 noon                          | Westminster Congregational<br>Church Route 5, Westminster, VT<br>05158               | Contact: Westminster Cares, 802-722-<br>3607   |
| 4th Thursday at 12:00 noon<br>(Closed Nov. – March) | Williamsville Community Hall<br>Dover Road, Williamsville, VT<br>05362               | Contact: Nancy Rysz, 802-348-6301  |
| 1st & 3rd Fridays at 12:00<br>noon                  | Guilford Community Church-UCC,<br>38 Church Drive, Guilford, VT<br>05301             | Contact: Peg Curtiss, 802-254-9774   |
| 3rd Friday at 12:00 noon                            | Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook<br>Road (at Branch Road), West<br>Halifax, VT 05358 | Contact: Joan Courser, 802-368-7733  |

## Dinners

|   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| DINNER on Wednesdays,<br>5:30-7:00 P.M. (Closed May –<br>Sept.) | Blue Door Community Suppers,<br>Christ’s Church, 24 Main St.,<br>Saxtons River, VT 05154 | Contact: Wanda Salter, 802-869-2582 |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|

Newsletter  
P O Box 27  
West Halifax VT 05358



March Sunrise



Walking Iris blooms in my indoor pot

# Halifax News

APRIL 2022

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