

## 2016 Annual Duff Sale of the BMC

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the BMC held its annual Duff Sale for members to commune with fellow fungiphiles and immerse themselves in all things Fungi. The room at the Herbarium was packed with an assortment of interesting people from all walks of life who share a love of mushrooms. Thanks to our President, Susan Goldhor, and all the volunteers who provided cheer in the form of food and drink, and plenty of offerings including calendars, Larry Millman's fantabulous books, t shirts, Russ Cohen's donations of mushroom "stuff", a new Morel game and the ever popular Maleson family's wonderful varieties of mushrooms.

The night began with a mingling and buying spree, and I had a chance to speak with many of the wonderful members of the BMC. Larry Millman, our club treasure, has written lots of wonderful mushroom books. One of this fascinating man's books, of course, is the Fascinating Fungi of New England. I rave about it to my family and friends, as it's perfect for all ages and should be required reading in school! James Mitchell became interested in fungi through his biology class with Professor Pfister at Harvard. He is interested in the science of mushrooms. Greg Giannone told me that he was a nature buff first, then began to notice mushrooms and once his curiosity was piqued, he found his way to the BMC. On the other hand, Jacob Kramer loves the eating of mushrooms, and also looks for Chaga for his tea concoction. He is the "go to" source amongst his friends who send him pictures to help identify mushrooms. Beverly Seavey had an interest in mushrooms beginning in high school, and likes to explore in the Lake Winnie area, where she finds lots of specimens.

Peter and Marie Elwyn joined the club this past year, and as Marie so eloquently states, the study of fungi "stretches your brain". How true!! All things fungi combines science, Latin, nature, and sustenance. For John Avault, it's more of a spiritual experience. He believes it has been a lovely means to bond with his children and instill in them the circle of life through mushrooming. Jackie Chados and Richard Kramer have been mushrooming for a long time, and also have shared their interest with their daughters as they have grown.

And did I tell you about the delightful mushroom cookies made by our lovely Ingrid Gallagher? NO, they weren't Psilocybin mushroom cookies; although they were so delicious I was getting a little ecstatic. She found the recipe in an old Lithuanian cookbook and they are called appropriately honey mushroom cookies. Ingrid loves mushrooms because they give her a new way of looking at living, and she proved it tonight!

The Malesons were kept busy all evening selling their delightful inventory of goods, and Mei-Ling remained charming and gracious throughout all the frenzied buying. Ben delighted the crowd with his black trumpet playing.

The evening was perfectly "capped" by the movie Know Your Mushrooms, which was a documentary of the Telluride Mushroom Festival, featuring segments with some of the leading mushroom "gurus" including Gary Lincoff and Larry Evans. By the end of the movie, I wanted to ditch

my conventional lifestyle and hitch a ride with one of these guys, exploring various habitats studying mushrooms.

I'm so pleased that there are such wonderful organizations to promote the love of fungi. Here's to more learning for 2017!!

Lisa Mediano

BMC Member









