



A Day of Real Mushrooms and Fake Gems by Elizabeth OuYang



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Updated Event:

The CMC Annual Meeting is now scheduled for 1/11/2004

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What a surprise we had waiting for us on the trails of Tom Jones and Parker Cabin Mountains!! While many had climbed this trail before, no one had seen what we were lucky to see this time-thanks to the wet summer! Because of the rainy days and humid weather, many of us had not been hiking for a while so this five mile hike, planned by Henry Ji-ang was meant to be a leisurely stroll to Lake Skenonto.

While it drizzled on the ride down, by the time we hit the trails, it was clear and cool-perfect hiking weather. With Su leading the pack of 15 hikers, we climbed up Tom Jones Mountain (which by the way bares little resemblance to the singer!). It was hilly in the beginning, but few of us really noticed. What distracted us instead were the amazing variety of mushrooms we saw all along the trail. Some were the size of salad plates, golden brown like pancakes, others the size of a dime in yellow, rose, purple, white and green hues. They were everywhere-in umbrella like clusters encircling rocks and trees or standing by itself-a single mushroom in the grass or between

rocks. The mushroom caps were smooth like ice, others were wrinkled, one was spotted like a leopard, a few were porous like sponges. They grew in all different positions- inverted upside down, standing straight or top-pled over. Whether perfectly round, oval, disfigured or the shape of an uneven shamrock, they were mushrooms!!

What started out as a hiking trip soon turned into a mushroom siting adventure! Hidden or in plain view, we spotted them. Several times whether going up or down a hill or turning the corner on a flat terrain, you could see Kady, Terry, Kelly and Liz dispersed and bent over with their nose almost to the ground, John with his digital camera zooming in, and Su, Josephine, Mr. Jwo, Mr. and Mrs. Lui, Anne, Bobo, Bohu, Mary and Jenny in clusters admiring the mushrooms at a distance. Who would have thought fungus could be so interesting!! Strangers passing us by must have thought we were on a scientific exhibition, not a hike!! For his fungus collection, John captured the moments on digital camera. One photo he de-

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CMCNY 2004 WINTER/SPRING OUTING SCHEDULE

January 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Celebrate the
Year of the
Monkey on
January 22, 2004

February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						



Saturday, 1/3/2004 - 7 Miles Day Hike / Level C

North Hill at Harriman State Park, New York

Start from Reeves Brook at the Visitor Center, pass Raccoon Brook Hills. Lunch by Pine Meadow Lake to enjoy the beautiful winter scenery. Return path via Pine Meadow trail.

Meeting Time / Place: 8:00 A.M. at 39th street and Broadway, Manhattan

Leaders: Kelly Ko / Marjorie Leung



Sunday, 1/11/2004 / The 19th CMC Annual Meeting 2003

Community Hall at Confucius Plaza, Chinatown

Meet with members and friends, and share your outdoor experiences.

Activities include: Board Member Re-election, Games, Slide Show, Year Highlight Posters, Buffet.

For more information or to contribute your ideas to make this annual event more interesting, please contact the coordinators.

Meeting Time/Place: 2:00 PM for leaders / 3:00 PM for all members at the activity room of Confucius Plaza, Chinatown

Coordinators: Joe Jwo / Nancy Liang



Saturday, 1/31/2004 - 6 Mile Day Hike / Level C

Norvin Green State Forest at North Jersey

Climb up Carris Hill; pass Yoo-Hoo Point and High Point. Lunch will be at the Shelter, then come back on OH trail.

Meeting Time / Place: 8:00 A.M. at 39th street and Broadway, Manhattan

Leaders: Leo Ngan / Marjorie Leung



Saturday, 1/31/2004 & Sunday 2/1/2004

2 Day Cross Country Skiing and Snow Shoes Trip in Southern Adirondacks.

Enjoy the winter scenery in the Adirondacks, suitable for all levels of experience, equipment rental available at ski center. Please contact leader for further information and details.

Meeting Time / Place: Meeting place T.B.A., departing at 7:00 A.M. on Saturday and returning around 7:00 P.M. on Sunday.

Leader: Peter Lau



Saturday, 2/7/2004 - 7 Mile Day Hike / Level C.

Harriman State Park - From Rt. 106 to Black Rock Mt. up to Fingerboard shelter.

Please prepare winter hiking gear, hat, gaiters, gloves, waterproof boots, scarf, warm clothes (layers). Contact leaders for further details and information.

Meeting Time / Place: 8:30 A.M. at 39th Street and Broadway, New York.

Leaders: Nancy Liang / Cam Luc

CMCNY 2004 WINTER/SPRING OUTING SCHEDULE



Saturday, 2/21/2004 – 26 Mile Hike Training Section # 1 / Level F

14 – 16 Mile Day hike at Harriman State Park, NY

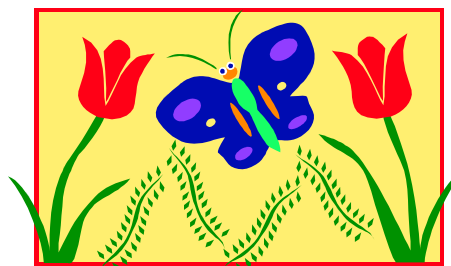
Follow Blue Disc, pass Daters Mt. and Pound Mt., change to RD Red, climb Black Ash Mt., Parker Cabin Mt., and Tom Jones Mt. Cross Rt. 106 continue on RD Red until we reach Time Square. Change to ASB Red to Lemon Squeezer and follow White Bar all the way back to the parking lot. Expect lots of up and down hills in the morning changing to a gentle pace in the afternoon. Experienced hikers only.

Meeting Time / Place: 7:00 A.M. at Johnstown Circle.

Leaders: George Li / Chi Chan

March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	8	9	10	11	12	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u>	15	16	17	18	19	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u>	22	23	24	25	26	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u>	29	30	31			



Saturday, 3/6/2004 – 6 Mile Day Hike / Level B

Pound Mountain, Harriman State Park

Start from Tuxedo train station and cover the Pound Mt. and Daters Mt. Area. Please dress warm for winter and bring winter hiking gear.

Meeting Place / Time: 8:30 A.M. at 39th Street and Broadway, New York.

Leaders: Rwei Su / Leo Ngan



Sunday, 3/7/2004 – 26 Mile Hike Training Section # 2 / Level F

16 – 18 Mile Day Hike at Harriman State Park, NY

Follow Blue Disc, pass Daters Mt. and Pound Mt., change to RD Red, climb Black Ash Mt., Parker Cabin Mt. and Tom Jones Mt. Cross Rt. 106 continue on RD Red, Ramapo-Dunderberg until reaching AT. Follow AT until it meets Long Path (B) to Lemon Squeezer. Follow White Bar all the way back to the parking lot. Expect lots of up and down hills in the morning, climbing 2 steep hills in the afternoon and then changing to a gentle pace. Experienced hikers only.

Meeting Place / Time: 7:00 A.M. at Johnstown Circle.

Leaders: Wade Zhang / Mr. Chen.



Saturday, 3/13/2004 - 6 Mile Day Hike / Level C

Bear Mountain at Harriman State Park, New York

Climb up from Major Welch to Perkins Tower; then pass the Appalachian Trail and have lunch. Return by red mark (1777).

Meeting Time / Place: 8:00 A.M. at 39th street and Broadway, New York.

Leaders: Cathy Huang / Marjorie Leung



Saturday, 3/20/2004 – 8 Mile Day Hike / Level C

Harriman State Park - From Bear Mt. Inn to West Mt. Shelter.

Please prepare winter hiking gear, hat, gaiters, gloves, waterproof boots, scarf, warm clothes (layers). Contact leaders for further details and information.

Meeting Place / Time: 8:30 A.M. at 39th Street and Broadway, New York.

Leaders: Nancy Liang / Kelly Ko

CMCNY 2004 WINTER/SPRING OUTING SCHEDULE



Saturday 3/27/2004 – 26 Mile Hike Training Section # 3 / Level F

16 – 18 Mile Day Hike at Harriman State Park, NY

Follow Blue Disc, pass Daters Mt. and Pound Mt., change to RD Red, climb Black Ash Mt., Parker Cabin Mt. and Tom Jones Mt. Cross Rt. 106 continue on RD Red, Ramapo-Dunderberg until reaching AT. Follow AT until it meets Long Path (B) to Lemon Squeezer. Follow White Bar all the way back to the parking lot. Expect lots of up and down hills in the morning, climbing 2 steep hills in the afternoon and changing to a gentle pace. Experienced hikers only.

Meeting Place / Time: 7:00 A.M. at Johnsonstown Circle.

Leaders: Mr. Chen / Michael Tam

April 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Saturday, 4/3/2004 - 12 Mile Day Hike / Level E

Minnewaska State Park, 3 Lake and 3 Falls, New York

Highlights: sweeping view, high mountain cliffs, glacial lakes, water falls, wide carriageways, narrow cave on the LP. Enjoy scenic view of Lake Minnewaska.

Meeting Time / Place: 8:00 A.M. at 39th Street and Broadway, Manhattan

Leaders: George Li / Marjorie Leung



Sunday, 4/4/2004 – 26 Mile Hike Training Section # 4 / Level F

18 – 20 Mile Day Hike at Harriman State Park, NY

Follow Blue Disc, pass Daters Mt. and Pound Mt., change to RD Red, climb Black Ash Mt., Parker Cabin Mt., and Tom Jones Mt. Cross Rt. 106 continue on RD Red to Ramapo-Dunderberg, Fingerboard Mountain to water tower. Cut across to Long Path (B) until reaching Lemon Squeezer. Continue hike to Island Pond and follow Island Pond Rd to White Bar all the way back to parking lot. Expect lots of up and down hills in the morning, climbing 2 steep hills in the afternoon and changing to a gentle pace. Experienced hikers only.

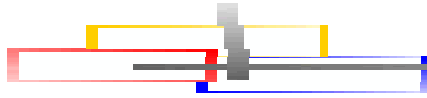
Meeting Time / Place: 7:30 A.M. at Johnsonstown Circle.

Leaders: Wade Zhang / George Li.



CMCNY HIKING RATING SYSTEM

"A" very easy, flat, 3-5 miles	"B" easy, some hills, 4-7 miles
"C" moderate, some steep hills, 5-8 miles	"D" challenging, steeper hills, 8-10 miles
"E" tough, strenuous hills, 9-15 miles	"F" very tough, 15 miles plus



(Continued from page 1)

serves to brag about is a shadow of leaves on top of a mushroom cap making it seem like the shadow of the leaves are part of the mushroom cap. (If you saw the photo, you'd know what I mean. It's one of those things where words can't quite capture the image. If you're nice to him, John might e-mail you the photo).

There were also funny moments to break up our total captivation with the mushrooms. To rest or take a photo opportunity with a mushroom, Su would announce periodic 2 minute water breaks. One time she asked Mr. Liu if he needed to go to the bathroom. He responded, you only said "this was a water break" to which Terry quipped, "That is a water break!!!" On another break, Bobo entertained us with a mini tai-chi demonstration.

Mr. Jwo picked a wonderful spot overlooking Lake Skenonto for lunch. Perched on rocks, we had a perfect view of the lake as it branched into three tributaries. We had the entire place to ourselves. The lake was so peaceful-the water was so still you could hear a pin drop in it. No boats, no swimmers, just a few ducks paddling in the water. It was delightful.



Against the stunning array of mushrooms and the placidness of the lake, John starts handing out beautiful pierced earrings made of a variety of fake colored gems to the women hikers for free. While many asked what was he doing with all these earrings, he kept it a secret! He was outnumbered twelve women to three men on this trip, but rather than chase the women, he chased a tiny leaping frog on a rock almost to the water!!

Eventually we had to leave this heavenly spot. On the way back, we started on a simple unpaved road paralleling the lake. But Terri's laser eyes spotted the trail in the mountains so since we promised the hikers a level B experience, we hiked back onto the mountain trail admiring mushrooms all along the way. (We just couldn't get enough of them).

It was a perfect day! We couldn't have asked for more. Great weather, great company, mushrooms galore, beautiful lake, few mosquitoes, free jewelry, and plenty of "Water Breaks". When I returned home, I began to read Friday's *New York Times* and guess what the leading headline was in the Metro Section- "A Perfect Summer, if You're a Fungus, Record Rainfall Transforms City Into a Wonderland of Mushrooms!!"

The End.



CMCNY 2003 Financial Report

Income

- Membership Fee:	\$ 1502.00
- Activity income:	\$ 126.00
TOTAL	\$ 1628.00

Expenses

- Activity Expense	\$ 28.58
- Trail Maintenance	\$ 186.72
- Newsletter	\$ 611.29
- Web & Software	\$ 365.00
- Meeting Refreshment	\$ 61.86
- Misc Expense	\$ 90.90
- Annual Meeting	\$ 855.93
TOTAL	\$ 2200.28

2003 CASH FLOW \$ -572.28

