

Straits Area Audubon Society March 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Michigan Mushrooms, More than Morels

Demystifying the process of identifying mushrooms.

Eowyn Bates, Speaker

Attendees: Zoom 32 (24 members and 8 guests)

In-person 40 (16 members and 24 non-members including 7 youth)

Speaker Summary:

Eowyn introduced some members of the fungi Kingdom – selected because they were easy to identify: chanterelles, black trumpets, lobster, hedgehog and morel. She later included Puffballs, Chicken of the Woods, Hericium, Oyster, King Bolete, Deceptive Milky, Green-spored Lepiota and Fly Amanita (toadstool).

She noted how fungi differ by season, size, color, smell, habitat and shape – including shapes of cups with and without gills...and how to collect spore prints which can vary in color.

She recommended equipment, gathering techniques and safe identification procedures. She offered guidebook recommendations and website resources.

Eowyn also shared her culinary expertise. She warned that people allergic to shellfish (ketin) will be allergic to mushrooms; and to remember that fungi easily absorb heavy metals and pesticides.

Announcements:

Dale Giddings announced the next program, April 13, 2022 on the Role of Owls in Western Culture with Jamie Platt. He also noted the change to our May program from what was listed on the scheduled prepared pre-season (Karst Geological Formations) to an update on the Mackinaw Straits Raptor Watch hawk banding project.

Dale Landes informed us that the raffle had earned \$35 that night. Winners were Lynn Kadrovach (honey) and Herm Boatin (bird feeder).

Cookies and coffee cake were available.

New Business:

None.