LLS7 Introductory Mycology for the Curious Naturalist

Hello participants: I am glad to see that we seem to have a full class for this spring presentation which will be held on Tuesday afternoons beginning April 30 from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. at Locust Grove.

The illustrated Power Point presentations are as follows:

Week 1 April 30 The Biology and Life Cycles of Fungi.
Week 2. May 7 Morels and Other Spring Mushrooms. *
Week 3. May 14 Ecological Functions of Fungi
(*Mid-May is usually the best time for Morels in the Mid-Hudson region. I have accordingly scheduled the Morel presentation for the second class. Should there be sufficient interest I would be glad to lead a mushroom walk at a time/place convenient for class participants.)

This is a course for beginning or casual Mushroomers. No prior knowledge is required or assumed but you may wish to look over a field guide or two prior to the classes. I recommend The Audubon Society Field Guide to Mushrooms written by Gary Lincoff. It is often referred to as the ‘Bible’ for Northeastern Mushroomers, is very user friendly, a true field guide, and contains more mushrooms per dollar or page than any comparable text.

Should you be interested, some of my on-line articles can be found at http://www.fungikingdom.net/articles-by-bill-bakaitis/index.html and http://leslie.land.com/2008/07/collecting-wild-mushrooms-part-1-morels/
You may browse these sites for various ‘how-to’ articles, (at leslie.land.com) or for those with a more scholarly/academic/philosophical slant (at fungikingdom.net)

This diagram, from our first program, illustrates the basic Life Cycle of a typical Mushroom. Spores germinate, engage in a prolonged sex life with multiple partners, maintain a vast genetic storehouse, digest their food outside of
their body, and only when mature and ready, do they consummate the sexual union and produce a new generation of spores. Beyond this it gets really exciting with complexities galore. Welcome aboard, for a fascinating and fun journey.

Bill Bakaitis 3/15/17