

A young man with a green cap and blue shirt is crouching in a lush green forest. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. His hands are resting on a large, smooth, white, egg-shaped object on the ground, which is identified as a mushroom in the text. The forest floor is covered in dense green vegetation, and several tree trunks are visible in the background.

What's that mushroom?

Penny Firth and Robin Firth

A person wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, khaki pants, and a green baseball cap is crouching in a dense, green forest. They are holding a large, white, oval-shaped object, which appears to be an egg, with both hands. The background is filled with lush green foliage and trees.

DISCLAIMER: We are amateurs!

Penny Firth and Robin Firth

# Frequently Asked Questions

What is it?



Can I eat it?

# Frequently Asked Questions

What is it?

*Amanita bisporigera*

“Destroying Angel”



Can I eat it?

**Only once.**



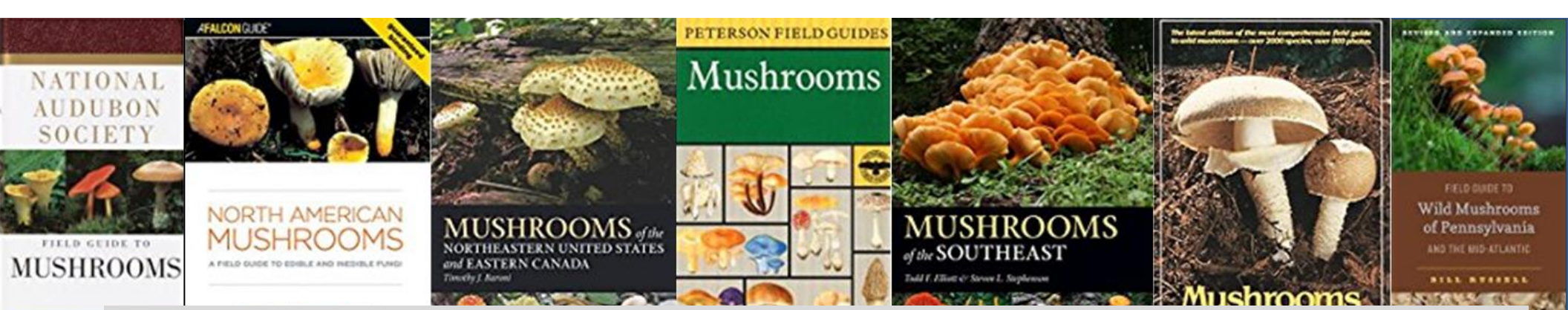
Too many to know them all...

**75,000 known species. A million or more undescribed.**



What is the *least* successful method of identifying mushrooms?

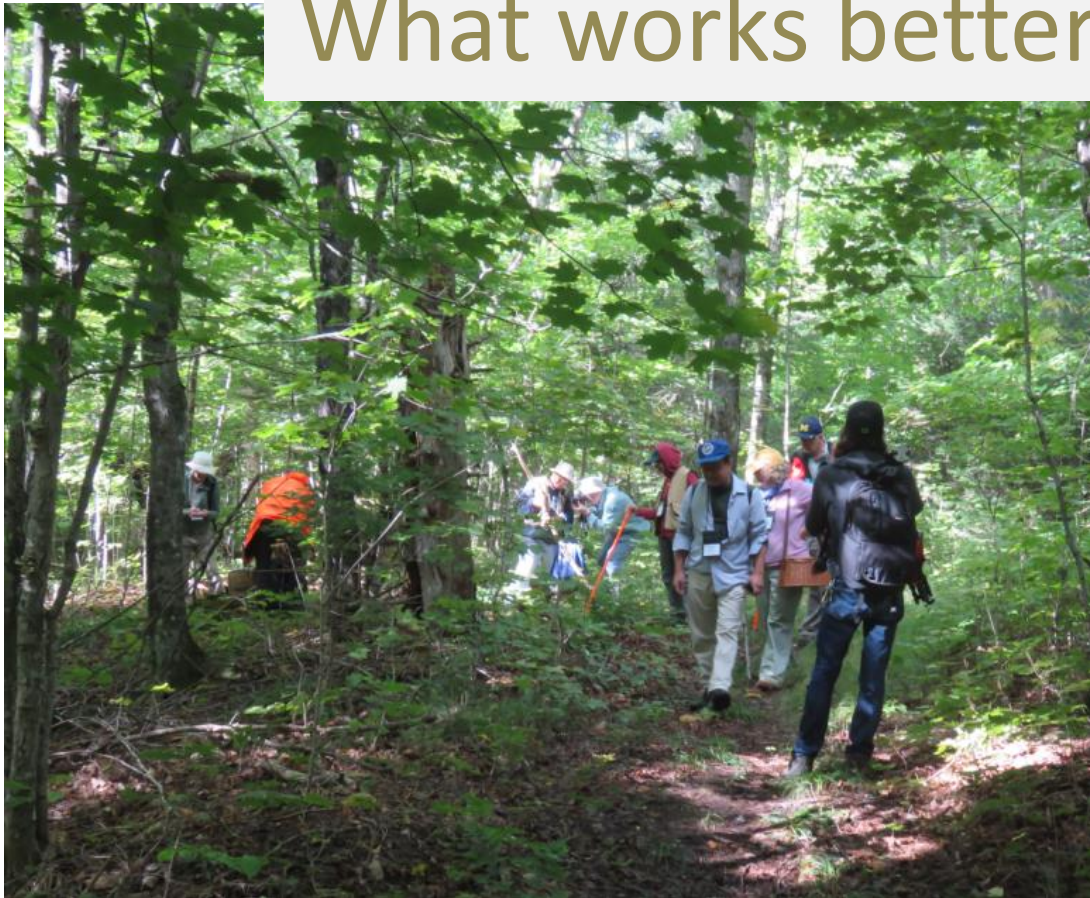




**Comparing them to photos in a field guide.**



# What works better?



## Keying them out Learning from experts Crowdsourcing

- North American Mycological Association (NAMA)
- Mycological Association of Washington (MAW)
- MushroomObserver.org
- MushroomExpert.com
- Keys in various field guides
- Many Facebook pages
- iNaturalist







**“If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.”**

# What to do?

Take notice and take pictures

**When is it fruiting?**



**Spring**

*Morchella* “morel”



**Fall/Winter**

*Pleurotus* “oyster”



**Summer**

*Cantharellus*  
“chanterelle”

# Shape, size and color?



*Amanita muscaria*  
“fly agaric”



*Strobilomyces*  
“old-man-of-the-woods”



*Artomyces pixidatus*  
“crown coral”



*Marasmius capillaris*



*Laccaria ochropurpurea*

# What is the substrate?

Dead tree or log



Wood chips



Living tree



Stick or twig



Pine needle



Grassy lawn



# What is the substrate?

Forest floor: hardwoods



*Craterellus* "black trumpet"

Forest floor: pines



*Suillus* "slippery-Jack bolete"

Forest floor: mixed woodlands



*Urnula* "devil's urn"



*Clavaria* "amethyst coral"



*Coltricia cinnamomea*  
"cinnamon funnel"

# What is under the cap?

**Gills**



**Pores**



**Teeth**



**Gill-like folds**



# Check for bruising, milky latex, color of spore print...



# Does it have a skirt? What is at the base of the stem?





Be careful... and have fun!



*Entoloma murrayi*



*Cortinarius iodes*



*Sarcoscypha occidentalis*



# Unmistakable and edible...



*Fistulina hepatica*  
"beefsteak"

*Lactarius indigo*  
"indigo milky"

*Hericium*  
"hedgehog"

# Local “medicinals” ...



*Trametes versicolor*  
“turkey tail”



*Ganoderma*  
“varnish shelf”

# Is it a mushroom?



*Cladonia*  
“reindeer moss”



*Fuligo septica*  
“dog-vomit slime mold”



*Ophiocordyceps melolonthae*  
“zombie fungus”

# Challenging...



*Russula*  
"brittle-gill"



*Omphalotus illudens*  
"jack-o-lantern"



Photo by Tom Volk

*Galerina autumnalis*  
"deadly galerina"

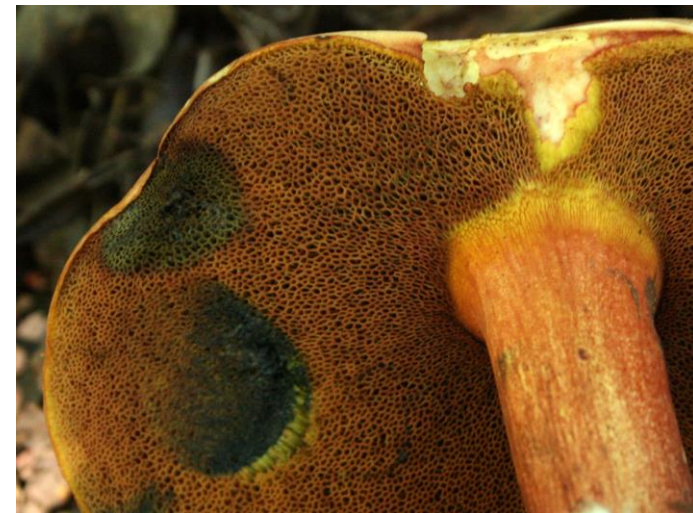
# Challenging...



*Baorangia bicolor*  
“bicolor bolete”



*Boletus subvelutipes*  
“blue-stain bolete group”



# Lookalikes...



*Trichaptum*  
“violet-toothed polypore”



*Stereum*  
“false turkey-tail”



*Trametes versicolor*  
“turkey tail”





# More lookalikes...



*Scleroderma*  
“pigskin poison puffball”



*Lycoperdon pyriforme*  
“stump puffball”



*Lycoperdon perlatum*  
“gem-studded puffball”

# What's that mushroom?



*Calvatia gigantea* “giant puffball”

Arlington BioBlitz 2017

Thank you!

