

There are three ways to search. You can step your way through the key system by clicking "Identification keys." For, say, *Boletus luridus* this is a four-step process and leads to Kuo's page [four photos]. For *Boletus flammans* you get moved to RogersMushroom with only one photo.

The second way to get to a species is to select a scientific name from a drop-down box. If you choose *Boletus bicolor* you get to Kuo's page. Oddly, if you go through the keys and decide this is your species there is no link to any further page.

The third method is to go to a search box and type in turkey tail and this will take you out to Google with a link back to MushroomExpert! This will also happen if you enter *Boletus flammans*, and the link will be the page with the link to RogersMushrooms. This all seems a little odd, but it does work. I think this is a reflection on the incomplete status of the site. The author, for example, states "We have not yet completed a key to North American polypores, but we have started the ball rolling with a key to the pale-fleshed, stemmed polypores".

I explored the site further and found it covers Collecting for Study, Making Spore Prints, Descriptions & Journals, Identifying Mushrooms, Determining Odor and Taste, Pronouncing Latin Names, Testing Chemi-

cal Reactions, Preserving Specimens, Using a Microscope, Mushroom Taxonomy, Introduction to Mushroom Photography, Digital Photography Tips, Scanning Mushrooms, Eating Wild Mushrooms, Mushroom Toxins, Meixner Test for Amatoxins.

I read a few of these sections and found them informative and remarkably well done. Where required they have excellent illustrations or photographs, including step-by-step sequences. If you intend not to heed the author's warning in paragraph two above, then read the section on toxins. Under Amatoxin he states, in part, "But the remission is a cruel hoax; in the meantime, the victim's liver and kidneys are being destroyed." A very unpleasant thought.

Kuo is currently writing, with Andrew Methven, *100 Cool Mushrooms*, [University of Michigan Press] and *Mushrooms of the Midwest* [University of Illinois Press.]

I have often been frustratingly confused by mushroom field guides. This is the first time I have actually enjoyed the process of resolving identification issues. This site is now in my list of "favourites" – a rare event as I only have 20 or so favourites.

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Between Earth and Sky: Our Intimate Connections to Trees

By Nalini M. Nadkarni. 2008. University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704-1012. 322 pages. 24.95 USD Cloth.

Nalini Nadkarni, forest ecologist and author of *Between Earth and Sky*, has written a natural and social history of trees, a tribute to the strong and influential global inhabitants she dearly loves. As she writes in the introduction to *Between Earth and Sky*, "I love trees: how they look, how they behave, how they smell and sound, and how I feel when I am around them." The first dedication of her book is to the "maple trees outside the front door, where this book began."

Nine chapters exploring the relationship between humans and trees cover topics as diverse as "what is a tree"; tree goods and services; trees as shelter and protection; trees and health and healing; trees in play and the human imagination; trees and the expression of time; trees as signs and symbols; trees in spirituality and education; and trees and mindfulness. Woven throughout the chapters is scientific fact, personal reflection and narrative, and a variety of visual material.

It is a compelling combination. I found the generous sprinkling of tree quotes, poems and other passages particularly intriguing. Passages from Shakespeare's *Othello*, Homer's *The Odyssey*, and a Woodie Guthrie song. Poems by Wendell Berry, William Blake, John Clare, E. E. Cummings, Jane Hirschfeld, Pablo Neruda, Li Po, Rumi, Christina Georgina Rossetti, Percy

Bysshe Shelley, and Rabindranath Tagore. Quotes by Hermann Hesse, Federico Garcia Lorca, and Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. One of my favourites is a line from *The Power of Myth* by Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers: "God is the experience of looking at a tree and saying, 'Ah!'"

Creative writings aside, the book contains no shortage of scientific and other facts. I discovered "arboreal soil" situated on large branches in certain forests, spaces that epiphytes, insects, earthworms, and spiders call home. I learned about "witness trees," which bear permanent marks carved by settlers of forested lands to marks territorial boundaries. I was interested to read that the sacred architecture of Greek temples and Gothic cathedrals is thought to be inspired by sacred groves, and that Hindu and Buddhist temples are in fact associated with living trees.

Anyone who loves trees, who admires their steadfastness, who finds in their presence a certain peace and calm, will love this book. As Nadkarni writes in the introductory chapter, "When I place my own strong brown hand on the trunk of a tree, I feel connected to something that deserves my curiosity, care, and protection." Reading *Between Earth and Sky* makes you want to rush outside and follow her example.

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