

## DEBRA SCOTT REPORT ON SCHOLARSHIP USE.

NOVEMBER 2009

IN THE FALL OF 2007, I WAS INVITED TO JOIN A DEDICATED SMALL FORCE OF MYCELIAL DEVOTEES TO ORCHESTRATE AND ACCOMPLISH THE AMBITIOUS VISION OF BRINGING THE 13<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL FUNGI AND FIBRE SYMPOSIUM TO OUR SMALL NORTHERN CALIFORNIA "VILLAGE" OF MENDOCINO.

THE COMMON THREAD AMONGST THIS BUSY GROUP OF WOMEN WAS OUR LOVE AND LEARNING OVER 20+ YEARS WITH MIRIAM RICE AND LOLLI JACOBSEN. THE 13<sup>th</sup> SYMPOSIUM WAS TO COINCIDE AND HONOUR MIRIAM RICE'S 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY.

I WAS ASKED TO COORDINATE THE EVENTS FOCUSING AROUND TWO TALKS TO BE GIVEN BY RENOWNED MYCOLOGIST PAUL STAMETS, ONE FOR THE SYMPOSIUM ATTENDEES AND ANOTHER FOR THE PUBLIC.

NEXT THING I KNEW, I HEARD MYSELF VOLUNTEERING TO CREATE A 'GREEN' SYMPOSIUM, WITH THE GOAL OF ASPIRING TO A 'ZERO WASTE' EVENT. I HAD ATTENDED SUCH EVENTS AT BIONEER CONFERENCES, WHERE STAMETS' WORK HAD OFTEN BEEN FEATURED.

SO MANY FOLKS ROSE TO THE OCCASION TO BRING LOCAL STYLE TO THESE CONCEPTS.

NICK SCHWARTZ WAS VERY GENEROUS IN CRAFTING 200 BEAUTIFUL, ONE OF A KIND, WOOD FIRED, COMMEMORATIVE DRINKING VESSELS, STAMPED WITH A MUSHROOM, TO BECOME SPORES OF CREATIVITY, SENT OUT TO THE FOUR DIRECTIONS.

THE SYMPOSIUM WAS A TRULY FABULOUS WEEK! THANKS TO ALL, ESPECIALLY THOSE ON THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

PAUL STAMETS, HIS WIFE DUSTY YAO AND THEIR ALLY DAVID SUMERLIN ENJOYED A WEEK AMONGST INTERNATIONAL FUNGI LOVERS AND WERE MUTUALLY INSPIRED

THANKS TO ROBERT JAMGOCHIAN, HIS STUDENTS OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES WERE WELCOMED FOR FREE.

THE PUBLIC EVENING TALK BY PAUL STAMETS WAS A SOLD OUT

SUCCESS AND CREATED A TREMENDOUS POSITIVE GROUND SWELL OF EXCITEMENT ABOUT THE VAST HEALING POTENTIALS OF OUR FUNGAL ALLIES.

MANY OF US, INCLUDING THE CITIZEN BASED, NORTH COAST ACTION, WERE VERY EXCITED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE FRUITING OF A LONG HELD DREAM, HAVING WORKED FOR YEARS ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REGARDING THE EXTENSIVE CONTAMINATION OF A 400+ACRE COASTAL MILLSITE IN NEIGHBORING FORT BRAGG.

DURING THE SYMPOSIUM, A STRIDE TOWARDS OUR DREAM WAS ENACTED WHEN WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN STAMETS VISIT<sup>TO</sup> THE MILLSITE, TO INITIATE A DIALOG ON THE PROSPECTS OF USING MYCELIUM TO CLEAN UP THE DIOXIN AND NUMEROUS OTHER CONTAMINANTS.

AT THIS TIME WE INTRODUCED PAUL STAMETS AND ANTONIO WUTKE, A LONG TIME LANDSCAPE RESTORATION DESIGNER.

AS THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM CAME TO FRUITION, WE TOOK AN EMBER AND FED THE FLAME OF BRINGING STAMETS' TEACHING MORE DEEPLY INTO OUR COMMUNITY.

IN APRIL OF 2008, THAIS MAZUR, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF NORTH COAST ACTION, ANTONIO WUTKE + I WERE ACCEPTED IN THE SOLD OUT INTRODUCTORY COURSE OF STUDY @ FUNGI PERFECTI'S STATE OF THE ART LABS AND TEACHING FACILITY. THIS WAS POSSIBLE, FOR ME, THANKS TO THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF MOON CAROL FRANCIA.

WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS INTRODUCTORY COURSE WAS ESSENTIAL TO BE PART OF THE ONCE A YEAR MYCOFILTRATION AND REMEDIATION WORKSHOP, HELD IN JUNE OF 2008.

THE INITIAL COURSE WAS A CHALLENGE TO RISE TO THE RIGORS OF A STATE OF THE ART LABORATORY AND GROW ROOMS WITH STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE.

THE INTENSE IMMERSION INTO THE WORLD OF SPAWN AND THE MANY CONSIDERATIONS AROUND GROWING CONDITIONS FURTHER EXPANDED OUR SENSE OF WONDER AND POTENTIAL.

## PAGE 3. DEBRA SCOTT SCHOLARSHIP REPORT.

DURING OUR TIME AT THE FUNGAL PERFECT FACILITY, THE SUNDAY NEW YORK TIMES CAME OUT WITH AN ARTICLE, IN WHICH WE WERE QUOTED, ON THE FORT BRAGG MILL SITE AND MUSHROOMS AS ~~THE~~ POTENTIAL DETOXYFYING AGENTS.

WHEN WE DEPARTED FROM THE 1ST TRAINING, WE KNEW THAT WE MUST RETURN TO STUDY THE ADVANCED MYCOREMEDIATION TECHNIQUES AND BRING THEM BACK TO OUR CONTAMINATED BIOREGION.

ONCE HOME THE QUESTION WAS WHERE TO GET THE FUNDING TO CONTINUE — I WAS ALREADY IN DEBT FOR THE 1ST TRAINING. GENEROUS MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CAME FORWARD TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS AND I WAS BROUGHT TO TEARS WHEN MIRIAM RICE, DOROTHY BEEBEE, AND NANCY DENISON OFFERED THIS SCHOLARSHIP. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY INSPIRING AS THESE THREE WOMEN HAVE DEDICATED THEIR EFFORTS, OVER THE LONG HAUL TO ADVANCING MUSHROOM AWARENESS.

AT THE COMPLETION OF OUR PRACTICAL MYCOREMEDIATION WORKSHOP, IN JUNE, TRAVIS, ANTONIO AND I SPOKE WITH PAUL STAMETS AND ASSOCIATES REGARDING A POTENTIAL "BENCH TEST" TRIAL TO EXPERIMENT WITH USING MYCELIUM TO MYCOREMEDIATE KNOWN DIOXINS @ THE GEORGIA PACIFIC MILL SITE IN FORT BRAGG. THE GEORGIA PACIFIC ~~MILL SITE~~ CORPORATION HAD BEEN PURCHASED BY THE PRIVATELY HELD KOCH FAMILY, WHICH FURTHER COMPLICATED THE SCENARIO.

UPON RETURNING TO OUR COASTAL HOMES, WE WERE INVOLVED IN MANY MEETINGS WITH STAKE HOLDERS AND CONCERNED COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES.

I, FOR ONE, LEARNED WAY MORE THAN I ASPIRED TO, REGARDING BEAURACRACY AND AGENCIES, HOWEVER WE DID CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXICS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS.

THIS CLARIFIED FOR ME THAT MY WORK IS "ON THE GROUND," I WAS

PAGE 4 DEBRA SCOTT SCHOLARSHIP REPORT.

FORTUNATE TO BE BEFRIENDED BY DAVID AND PRISCILLA SAMAS, WHO WELCOMED ME INTO THEIR FLOURISHING LOCAL ORGANIC MUSHROOM BUSINESS WHERE I WAS ABLE TO FURTHER MY LAB WORK + EXPERIMENTS WITH GROWING BLUE OYSTER AND SHIITAKES, IN OUR CLIMATE. THEIR SUPPORT IS IMMENSURABLE.

JOHN RICHARDSON, OF NOYO HILL FARM, ~~IS~~ A LOCAL VERY SKILLED MYCOLOGIST/GROWER JOINED IN AND THIS RESULTED IN SOME VERY FUN WORKSHOPS WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, TO FURTHER DEVELOPING GROWING PRACTICES HERE AT HOME.

IT'S NOW AUTUMN OF 2009 AND AFTER MANY DIVERSIONS, WE ARE WITNESSING THE CITY OF FORT BRASS ACKNOWLEDGING A CONTRACT BETWEEN GEORGIA PACIFIC AND NEW FIELDS LAB, TO "BENCH TEST" MYCELIMUM TO REDUCE MILLSITE DIOXINS TO NON TOXIC COMPONENTS.

NEW FIELDS, IS THE STATE OF THE ART LABS THAT STAMERS INTRODUCED US TO, IN WASHINGTON, TO FORWARD THIS WORK IN CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH THAT THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING.

I WISH TO THANK MIRIAM, DOROTHY AND NANCY FOR SUPPORTING ME IN PLAYING THIS MINOR ROLE IN THE HEALING OF OUR BEAUTIFUL HOME. MAY WE CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR FUNGAL ALLIES!

Debra Scott