

This is scarlet cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*). It was found in Tenhave quite by accident when someone on an early spring walk stepped on the fallen leaves that hid it, uncovering the fungus in the process. It is one of the earliest fungi to appear in the spring, growing on fallen branches and covered by leaves. The spores are produced inside the cup.



Although widespread, blushing rosette is rather uncommon. It is also rather hard to track down in guidebooks, perhaps because there are 55 variations of its scientific name. If you want to learn more about this fascinating “aborted” mushroom, skip the guide books and look for *Abortiporus biennis* on mushroomexpert.com.



I have known about big black foot polypore (*Polyporus badius*) for a long time, but I had never seen it until I found it in Cummingston last fall. Although already quite mature, it made an impressive display. The stems of both the big black foot polypore and the little black foot polypore (*Polyporus varius*) have distinctive black bases.



Lacquered polypore is not uncommon in Cummingston where it can be found on a stump or a dead or living oak tree as a shelf just above the ground. (See below.) This past fall I discovered it also takes on another, more unusual form, looking like a flattened terrestrial fungus or, as one guidebook describes it, a pizza dropped on the grass and left to molder. (See right.) It does, however, grow from buried tree roots. The first one I saw was just outside the fence at Tenhave where a tree had been removed several years ago.

