

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778448203321
Autore	Fine Gary Alan
Titolo	Morel tales : the culture of mushrooming
Pubbl/distr/stampa	[Place of publication not identified], : Harvard University Press, 1998
ISBN	0-674-03685-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (336 p.)
Classificazione	MS 1700
Altri autori (Persone)	FineGary A
Disciplina	304.2/7
Soggetti	Human ecology - Social aspects Edible mushrooms Nature Anthropogeography & Human Ecology Anthropology Social Sciences
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- CHAPTER ONE Being in Nature -- CHAPTER TWO Meaningful Mushrooms -- CHAPTER THREE Sharing the Woods -- CHAPTER FOUR Talking Wild -- CHAPTER FIVE Organizing Naturalists -- CHAPTER SIX Fungus and Its Publics -- CHAPTER SEVEN Naturework and the Taming of the Wild -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	In this thoughtful book, Gary Fine explores how Americans attempt to give meaning to the natural world that surrounds them. Although "nature" has often been treated as an unproblematic reality, Fine suggests that the meanings we assign to the natural environment are culturally grounded. In other words, there is no nature separate from culture. He calls this process of cultural construction and interpretation, "naturework." Of course, there is no denying the biological reality of trees, mountains, earthquakes, and hurricanes, but, he argues, they must be interpreted to be made meaningful. Fine supports this claim by examining the fascinating world of mushrooming. Based on three years of field research with mushroomers at local and national forays, Morel Tales highlights the extensive range of meanings that mushrooms have for mushroomers.

Fine details how mushroomers talk about their finds--turning their experiences into "fish stories" (the one that got away), war stories, and treasure tales; how mushroomers routinely joke about dying from or killing others with misidentified mushrooms, and how this dark humor contributes to the sense of community among collectors. He also describes the sometimes friendly, sometimes tense relations between amateur mushroom collectors and professional mycologists. Fine extends his argument to show that the elaboration of cultural meanings found among mushroom collectors is equally applicable to birders, butterfly collectors, rock hounds, and other naturalists.
