



**New Jersey
Mycological Assn.**

NJMA NEWS May 1979
Vol. IX No. 5
President: Jim Richards

Editor: Melanie Spock

Every mushroom hunter has eagerly been awaiting this month - the beginning of the mushroom season. Surprise! Bob Peabody and Jim Richards have informed me that they picked 81 Morchella esculenta and several Verpa Conica's in late April. The morel season seems to be two to three weeks early this year, as members of the New York club also mentioned finding morels.

Three forays are listed this month. Review the foray guidelines found in last year's newsletter or in the new member packet. All forays begin at 10 a.m. unless otherwise noted and last until lunchtime. Bring a lunch.

JENNY JUMP - MAY 13

Stropharia rugosoannulata 3
Morchella esculenta 40

The season begins with our annual Jenny Jump Morel Hunt, lead by Paul Meyer and Bill Rokicki. Take Route 80 to the Hope exit (Route 521 South). In the center of Hope, take Route 519 North to the small sign on the right side of the road indicating JENNY JUMP STATE FOREST (about one mile). Turn right and proceed to the large white house on the right. Turn right on the road in front of the house. Continue past the swings to the parking field on the right.

HACKLEBARNEY - MAY 20

The second foray has been changed to Hacklebarney Park, with Bill Rokicki leading us.

From southern areas, take Route 206 North to Chester. Turn left from Rte. 206 onto Rte 24. Follow 24 to the Black River. Once over the bridge, make a sharp left. This is Hacklebarney Rd. Stay on this hardtop road to the park. Follow signs to main parking area.

From a northern direction, follow Rte. 24 from Hackettstown down Schooley Mt. Rd. Turn left at Long Valley. Follow Rte. 24 towards Chester until the Black River Bridge. Turn right before the bridge onto Hacklebarney Rd.

STEPHEN'S STATE PARK - MAY 27

Jim Richards will lead us through Stephens State Park, near Jenny Jump, a new site for the club to explore. Stephens is located on Route 604, 7 miles south of Rte. 206 and 1½ miles from Rte. 46 in Hackettstown.

From the East: Route I-80 West to Exit 25 (Route 206 North - Newton), turn left at second traffic light (¾ mile) onto Route 604 South. The Park entrance is located 7 miles on the left. (Watch for House of Good Shepherd sign)

From the South: At the intersection of Routes 46 and 183 in Hackettstown, turn right onto Rte. 604 (Willow Grove St.) at David's Country Inn. Stephens State Park is 1½ miles on the right.

1/5th of a mile after entering the Park, make a right turn over the bridge at the stop sign. We will meet at the lower picnic area which is the second right turn.

MEETING NOTES

Gary Lincoff presented an excellent overall view of readily identifiable edible mushrooms at the April meeting. Noting that the difficulty of identifying mushrooms is that it's easy to know what it's not, but not what it is. He mentioned that of all the species of mushrooms in a given area, only a few are in the common books.

Gary said that mushrooms are those things which we think kindly of and everything else is a fungus. He showed slides of selected mushrooms and gave tips on their preparation, noting that certain kinds have to be well cooked so as not to cause digestive upsets. Some mushrooms covered were morels, chanterelles, oysters, puff balls, some polypores, coral mushrooms and others.

In explaining identification, Gary stressed the fact that few people rarely take spore prints regularly on all of the mushrooms they are going to eat. They are too careless and do not take the time to positively identify the species they are about to eat. Cautioning against being too greedy when gathering or eating mushrooms, Gary said that too much of anything might cause digestive upsets, as well as the method of preparation. Books say certain mushrooms are edible, but give no information on how to prepare them; consequently, some people experience reactions from mushrooms which are undercooked, or eaten raw.

Frances Neal's Sicilian Eggplant

2 cakes <u>soft</u> bean curd	2 Tbs. tapioca or other starch
2 cans Campbells concentrated chicken broth	1-3 lbs. mushrooms
mushroom juice (from defrosted wild mushrooms)	1 large onion
3 Tbs. Tamara soy sauce	1 large green pepper
1 cup brown rice	2 Tbs. olive oil
1 Tbs. olive oil	1 tsp. dry basil or 1 Tbs. fresh
1 large unpeeled eggplant	1 can tomato paste 2-1/2-3 oz.
	1/3 cup Romano cheese

Dice bean curd cakes and add chicken broth and juices from defrosted wild mushrooms and soy sauce. Marinate several hours or overnight. Heat 1 tbs. olive oil in skillet and toast the rice until it starts to jump. Add the bean curd broth and simmer until rice is almost cooked. Drain and thicken excess broth with the tapioca or other starch.

Dice and steam one large unpeeled eggplant until soft. Chop green pepper and onion and saute until transparent in the 2 Tbs. olive oil. Season with basil. Defrost or saute wild mushrooms and add to peppers and onions. Mix in tomato paste and most of grated cheese and eggplant.

Alternate layers of the vegetables with the rice-bean curd mix. Pour thickened broth over all. Sprinkle with cheese and bake until bubbly. Makes about 10 cups.

Fran brought this dish to the February meeting and everyone loved it. For the wild mushrooms she used "old man of the woods" Strobilomyces and various other boletes.

Our mushroom field guides, with some exceptions, describe only those mushrooms that are commonly found throughout the country. Any particular area is likely to abound in species undescribed in the popular books. For reasons that have to do with mountain barriers and specific habitat requirements, e.g., a sphagnum bog or an association with hop-hornbeam or some other tree, many mushrooms are limited in their distribution. What are the mushrooms of SCEEC? It is likely that we'll find a large number of familiar mushrooms there and just as likely that we'll find many that none of us knows, at least not without much time spent examining the mushrooms microscopically and searching through books and monographs for clues to their identities.

What NJMA is in a good position to do is to hunt the SCEEC area to see just what its mushroom flora is like. What is required is that at least one person make the rounds of the area each week; the more who look, of course, the more we're likely to find; and it is certainly better if five people check the area each week in a given month than if twenty foray the site together only once that month.

All you need to do to help with this project is to walk around the SCEEC area and hunt for mushrooms. What you collect and fill out simple data cards for, the NJMA Taxonomy Committee will struggle to identify. The mushrooms will be deposited in the NJMA herbarium, reports will appear in the newsletter, and the project will be a worthy NJMA contribution to American mycology.

How to Proceed.....Any day that you are free to spend an hour or two walking around the SCEEC area, take with you a basket, waxed paper, and 3x5" index cards. It is not necessary or even desirable to collect every mushroom you see, but it is preferable, if possible, to collect several specimens of each kind of mushroom you find. Take field notes of your mushrooms by noting on the index cards, using one card per species, the following information: (1) the date found; (2) the general weather, e.g., cool and rainy all week or very hot and dry; (3) the location, i.e., where found in relation to the nature center; (4) the habitat, e.g., on wood or on the ground - and be as brief but complete as possible - on willow or on the ground near willow or in lawn fronting nature center, etc.; (5) the habit of the mushroom, e.g., solitary or gregarious or caespitose; (6) the relative number of specimens seen, e.g., very common or 25 seen, etc.; (7) the color or colors of the mushroom and the color change, if any, on bruising; (8) the odor; (9) the taste - although this is optional, in any case, do not swallow anything; (10) the cap size, shape, and surface features, e.g., smooth, scaly, fibrillose, etc.; (11) the stalk size and shape; (12) the gill attachment, if relevant; (13) the spore print color; (14) the color of the latex, if present; (15) the partial veil, if present; (16) the annulus, if present; (17) the volva or remains of the universal veil, if present; (18) any remarks you think relevant; (19) the name of the mushroom, if you can identify it; (20) your name.

It is not necessary for you to take more than five minutes in jotting down the data requested above. If you are collecting mushrooms within three days of a taxonomy meeting, just bring the mushrooms, the spore prints, and the data cards to the meeting; otherwise, try to dry the mushrooms yourself, and let somebody on the Taxonomy Committee know that you have them.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Gary Lincoff c/o Dept. of Education, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458.

Sample of information requested for the project:

NJMA PROJECT SCEEC 1979

collected by:	cap color:
date found:	gill color:
weather:	stalk color:
location:	color change, if any,
habitat:	on bruising:
habit:	color of latex, if any:
quantity:	partial veil:
odor:	annulus:
cap size:	volva:
cap shape:	spore print color:
cap surface:	remarks:
gill attachment:	
stalk size:	name of mushroom:
stalk shape:	NJMA Herbarium No.:
stalk surface:	

BOOK REVIEW BY BOB PEABODY

The Mushroom Trailguide by Phyllis Glick; published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1979; 247 pages; forward by Dr. Harry Thiers; paperback \$5.95, cloth \$9.95

At long last a participatory mushroom identification book has been published. This guide invites you to get fully and actively involved with the mushrooms you find. When you go into the field take along this book, pencils, pens, colored pencil set and/or watercolors. Add your comments and more details to the line drawings in the book. Color in the black and white sketches as you find each one of the more than 400 species in over 100 genera that are described in macroscopic detail, including habitat and season (in non-technical language) and, illustrated in black and white with color labels written in.

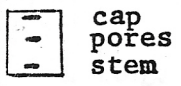
Designed to be taken into the field to identify edible mushrooms and their poisonous lookalikes by hikers and novice pothunters, the guide fulfills its intent admirably with one note of caution and one note of reservation. First, the threat posed by mushroom poisoning is perhaps not stated strongly enough especially when several species of Cortinarius, Clitocybe and Collybia are suggested for the table. These genera are difficult enough for the professional mycologist to identify to species and several poisonous and/or untested species could very easily be confused by a novice mycophagist for the described edible species. I would suggest reading a more complete treatment of mushroom poisons which describes the types of toxins, their effects on the human system and discusses lethal species more completely (such as Lincoff, A Guide to the Poisonous Mushrooms in the Greater New York Area) to properly balance one's experimental confidence.

Secondly, the picture keys to gilled genera seem oversimplified and I feel would be much more usable and understandable if the reader has gained a structural framework of generic concepts beforehand by being familiar with, for instance, Largent's Mushroom Identification to Genus, Vols. I & II.

Inevitable but lamentable is the dependence on spore color to key out genera since this presents difficulty in the field. Speaking of using spore colors to key genera it is interesting to note that Lepista is included amongst the Rhodophylls in the pink-salmon spore color section.

Overall I highly recommend this book to the amateur mycologist for use in the field. If the reader will write and color in it and make it his personal notebook as well, he will find it invaluable and great fun.

A=50 or more specimens per season; B=26 to 49; C=10 to 25; D=3 to 9; F=2 or less.



a tendency toward

	frequency	COLOR CHANGE ON BRUISE			stem dotted/ scabrous	COLORS FOR CAP, PORES AND STEM										
		cap	flesh	pores		stem	Brown	Tan	yellow	Orange	red	pink	purple	grey	black	white
bicolor Boletus	B	1	1	1												
calopus Boletus	F	1	1	1												
chrysenderoides Boletellus	C	1	1	1												
chrysenderon Xeroocomus	A	1	1	1					cap cracked, showing red							
cyanescens Gyroporus	D	1	1	1												
fraternus Boletus	D	1	1	1												
frostii Boletus	C	1	1	1								reticulate stem				
glabellus Boletus	D	1	1	1												
miniato-olivaceus Boletus	D	1	1	1												
peckii Boletus	D	1	1	1								stem reticulate				
pulverulentus Boletus	D	1	1	1												
subvelutipes Boletus	C	1	1	1												
badius Xeroocomus	B		1													
impolitus Boletus	F	1	1													
merulioides Gyrodon	A	1	1									a distinct type				
pallidus Boletus	C		1													
porphyrosporus Porphyrellus	D	1	1	2												
ravenellii Pulveroboletus	D	1	1									annulus present				
spadiceus Xeroocomus	D	1	1													
speciosus Boletus	D	1	1									stem finely reticulate				
alboater Tylopilus	C	8	8	8-10												
aurantiacum Leccinum	D	8	8	8					stem punctate or scabrous							
atrostipitatum Leccinum	D	8	8	8					stem punctate or squamulose							
eximius Tylopilus	C	8		8					stem coarsely granular							
affine Xanthoconium	C		2													
ballouii Tylopilus	D	2-8	2-8													
castaneus Gyroporus	A		2						hollow chestnut colored stem							
edulis Boletus	B		2-1													
indecisus Tylopilus	B		2						stem reticulate near top							
felleus Tylopilus	A	7														
snellii Leccinum	F		6	6					inside stem apex red							
albellum Leccinum	D				X											
atrostipitatum Leccinum	D				X				see color change section							
aurantiacum Leccinum	D				X				see color change section							
chromapes Leccinum	C				X				a distinct species							
eximius Tylopilus	C				X				see color change section							
hirtellus Suillus	D				X				see glutinous cap section							
holopus Leccinum	D				X											

FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF BOLETES

by Dave Patterson

This simple rating chart is the first of two articles on the topic. A supplementary article will contain brief descriptions and comparisons of look-alikes and, for ready reference, will be strictly alphabetical. The chart must, therefore, be used to serve the dual purpose of choosing the correct group and selecting from among the various competitors.

This is a color chart and can be easier understood if one will put in the colors before reading the discussion. To the right of the species and genera are a series of numbers from 1 to 10. Color in the areas according to the following code:

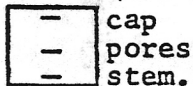
- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. blue | 3. tan | 5. orange | 7. pink | 9. gray |
| 2. brown | 4. yellow | 6. red | 8. purple | 10. black |

In order to instantly pick off a desired color, do the following: at the top of each page (Colors for Cap, Pores and Stem) extend a single thin line of that color down the center of the column to the bottom of the page. Notice that each of these lines now intersects all the dashes (except white).

The species are listed first, and alphabetical order (generally the best mnemonic) is maintained within the same group. A change in alphabetical order indicates a change of grouping. The main groups are the following: 1. all parts turn blue on bruising; 2. some, but not all, parts turn blue on bruising; 3. some other color changes occur on bruising; 4. the stem is dotted or scabrous; 5. the stem is reticulated; 6. the cap is glutinous or viscid - and the stem may also have an annulus; 7. miscellaneous.

The column headed "frequency" is intended to give an indication as to how often a species might be encountered per season by an observer searching an area from the lower Catskills to Cape May and from Montauk Point, L.I. to Stokes Forest in New Jersey. The frequency is graded from A to F as follows: A=50 or more specimens; B=26 to 49; C=10 to 25; D=3 to 9; F=2 or less. Some subjectivity must, of course, be allowed. As an example, consider another group, the Amanitas. Several members of the Club know where to find over 100 specimens of *Amanita phalloides*; yet this is a very uncommon species and would be given an F grading.

The colors at the top of the page are intended to approximate the colors of the cap, pores and stem. For each species there are dashes located at the top (for cap color), middle (for pore color) and the bottom (for the stem color) of the rectangles; hence:



A tendency is indicated by hash marks:



An X means a species has the characteristic indicated at the top of the column.

Example 1. Which bolete will bruise blue on the cap, pores and stem and is entirely white? From the chart we note that the fifth species on the list, *Gyroporus cyanescens*, has all parts bruising blue, and under the color white we see that the cap, pores and stem have dash marks; note also, however, that the cap may be brown (2), the pores yellow (4) and the stem tan (3).

Example 2. Which bolete has a reticulated stem and is entirely brown? Looking down the column for "stem reticulate" we note that the only entry that is brown (2) throughout is *Tyloporus tabacinus*. It can also be seen that the species has a D frequency (we find 4 or 5 specimens a year in the N.J. Pine Barrens).

The primary reference source for these articles is Snell and Dick. Those who use works by Coker and Beers or by Alexander Smith will notice some variations.

CLASS

Dorothy Smullen will talk on the major groups of fungi. This will be a slide-lecture and display for beginners on Saturday, May 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at SCEEC. The class will be held for a minimum of 10 people and a maximum of 20, and there will be a \$2.00 charge. Please call Dorothy to register. 201-647-5740.

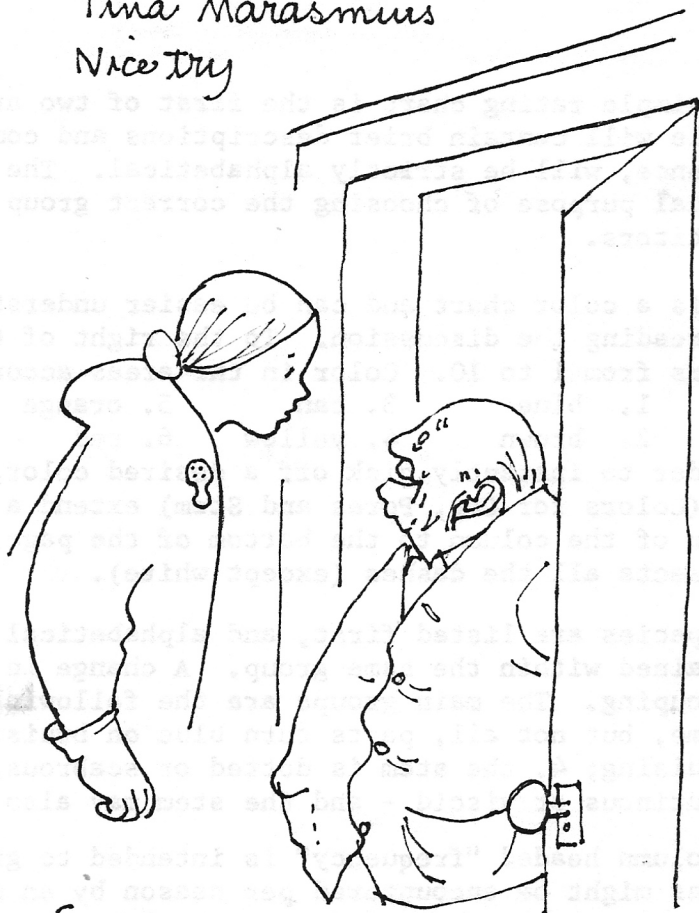
*Tina Marasmius
Nice Try*

TAXONOMY

The Taxonomy group will meet on May 8th and May 22nd at SCEEC, 7:30 p.m.

MORELS ANYONE?

On Mayday, Bob, Barbara and Graham Peabody claim to have danced around an apple tree Maypole and where their feet touched the ground, morels sprang up. Bob has already collected over 200 morels so far this season. Does anyone want to take part in a project to keep a 24 hour watch on Bob and family and Jim Richards during the morel season?



Sure you can walk in the orchard when it's in bloom—AFTER my daughter gets the morels.

A WIFE'S VIEW by Barbara Peabody

After taking my husband's course on mushroom identification this past Saturday, I would like to offer my comments.

Of course, from where I sit, one could say I am prejudiced, but from my husband's point of view, I am also his most severe critic.

It is from this last point of reference that I wish to offer my comments.

Robert Peabody's mushroom identification course is a rare find. Where else can one, in five hours, go from being a complete amateur mushroom hunter who finds mushrooms in the field and typically asks "What is it?" to a mushroom hunter who can have most mushrooms down to genus in 10 minutes flat.

Bob's course was very clear, concise, and thorough, and it made me, and others feel good about ourselves as mushroom identifiers when we passed his "Which mushroom is this" quiz with flying colors, which he gave at the end of his course.

Overall opinion from his worst critic is this: It was a dynamite course and a must for anyone who wants to learn mushroom identification the easy way - Just sit back and listen.

REVIEW

Several NJMA members attended Dr. Howard Bigalow's NYMS lecture on April 30th. Dr. Bigalow explained mycorrhizal relationships and showed slides of some mushrooms which are believed to have mycorrhizal relationships with specific trees. Some trees he mentioned were red oak, sugar maple, sweet birch, white ash, American elm, apple, European linden, Chinese chestnut, lombardy poplar, Norway spruce, larch, hemlock and white pine. He thought we need more research and careful observations by amateurs in the field as to the habitat in which a species of mushroom is found, specifically under what tree.

NORTHEAST EVENTS

Plans for the Northeastern Foray in Connecticut are coming along nicely. Several additional professional mycologists will be included in the program. Lectures and slide shows on just about every aspect of mycology are scheduled. This weekend promises to be the biggest Mycological event on the East coast ever.

Reservations are filling up fast - if you don't want to be left out, hurry and send in your registration. In case you've misplaced your registration form, Northeastern and PEEC registration forms will be available from the editor or at our May forays.

PHOTOGRAPHY SPOTLIGHT

NJMA is sponsoring a photography contest. Prizes will be awarded in three categories: technical, pictorial, and people or activities. Open to members only, the contest will end in the fall. Each contestant can submit a maximum of 10 slides. Five judges will select the winners and prizes will be awarded at the December meeting.

PEEC WEEKEND

Over 30 people have registered for the PEEC weekend. Though the limit was 50 people, there will be a waiting list and Bill Rokicki said we may be able to get additional cabins. Those who have not sent in their registration, please do so. The full fee for the weekend is due the end of May.

A Foto Foray is planned during the PEEC weekend. On this foray, people will not be picking mushrooms, just taking pictures of them. Club photographers will be on hand to assist novices with technical advice on achieving professional looking pictures.

1979 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

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MUSHROOM SURVEY

Dave Patterson has published a three year report on mushrooms of the New York - New Jersey vicinity, including the area from Long Island to South Jersey. The report contains record of over 1,000 species found in New Jersey and what time of year they were found. A copy is in the club library at SCEEC.

Also in our library are back issues of the NJMA newsletter and newsletters of corresponding societies.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Alexopoulos on Nomenclature FROM AL LEYENBERGER

"You should understand, above all, that living organisms are constantly evolving, and that any attempt to pigeon-hole them into a system of classification is bound to meet with difficulties. All systems of classification are nothing more than the attempts of man to organize his knowledge, and are strictly man-made. Even when our knowledge of fungi becomes much greater than it is at present, any attempt to draw hard and fast lines between taxonomic categories will be futile, because the categories themselves are only human concepts and intermediate forms are bound to exist..... If you keep these facts in mind, you will be more tolerant toward taxonomic idiosyncracies and will find it easier to control your temper when the specimen at hand does not quite fit the key which at the moment you are using as an aid to identification."

C.J.Alexopoulos, "Introductory Mycology" 1963

- From Vic Gambino

The Butler County Mushroom Farms, Inc. produces 120,000 to 130,000 lbs. of mushrooms each each day, which is 12% of the Nation's supply. The mushrooms are grown in abandoned limestone mines in about 200 miles of tunnels. The mushroom pickers are members of a United Steel Workers Union Local and were on strike this year.

MUSHROOM EXTRAVANGANZA -

Jim Richards reports that plans are developing rapidly for the first NJMA Mushroom Fair (any suggestions for a better name for the event are welcome) to be held September 16th at SCEEC. Gertrude Espenscheid and Gary Lincoff have agreed to serve along with Jim as co-chairmen of this event.

A partial list of events planned include slide shows, lectures, a craft exhibit and sale, displays of identified specimens, short forays to observe fungi in their natural surroundings and a booth where the public can bring mushrooms to be identified.

In conjunction with the September 16th Fair, NJMA will be holding our second display of Mushroom Art at SCEEC for the month of September. Volunteers are needed to help with both projects. Please contact one of the chairmen if you are able to help in any capacity.

Mycophagist's Corner

Clitocybe robusta Pk. syn. Clitocybe alba (bat.) Sing. , is known as the stout clitocybe. The thick, firm, white convex cap becomes plane, sometimes depressed, bald, with a decurved margin. The flesh is white; the gills, narrow, close, decurrent, whitish; the stem, stout, short, solid, bald, tapering upward slightly, often bulbous at the base; white elliptical spores, 8 x 4-5 u. The cap is 3-4 inches across, the stem measures 1-2 inches long by 1/2 to 3/4 inch thick. C. robusta can be found in woods among debris from September to late fall, even after frosts. Charles McIlvaine says "this fungus is wuite plentiful in Pennsylvania and in open oak woods in New Jersey. Its size and sometimes gregarious growth give it a permanent food value. Its texture is coarse, but when cooked it is highly satisfactory."

Graham's Gratin

Graham Peabody (age 8) comes back for seconds on this one. Rub a shallow baking dish with a fresh slice of garlic and then grease generously with sweet butter. Slice thinly one pound of new potatoes with skins on. Place half the potatoes overlapping in the bottom of a dish, season with freshly grated pepper and finely chopped parsley. (Also salt if you must) Slice a half pound of C. robusta (or any other coarse mushroom) and arrange on top of potatoes. Season again and arrange remaining potatoes on top of mushrooms. Pour a mixture of one cup light cream and 1/4 cup water over contents. Grate several table-spoons of your favorite hard aged cheese and sprinkle over top. Dot with butter and bake at 350° for 75 minutes.

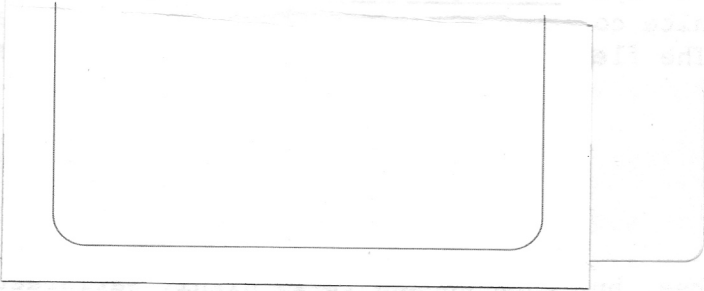
Thanks to Bob Peabody for this month's Mycophagy Corner and Neal MacDonald for the illustration.



Clitocybe robusta Peck.
C. alba (Bat.) Singer

08876

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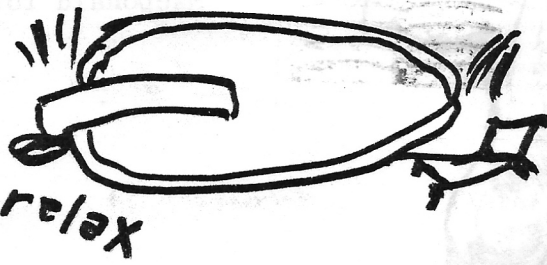


JIM RICHARDS
NU MYCOLOGICAL ASSN.



JUNE 22/24 - 79

Dance



Swim



Forays

Learn

PEEC WEEKEND

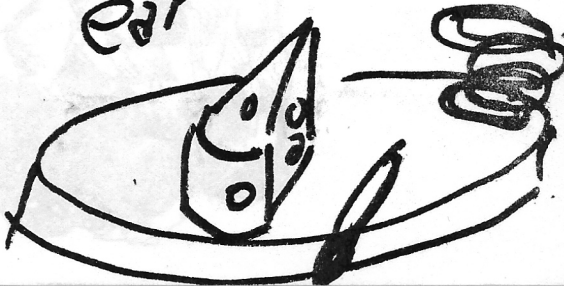
DRINK



Great OUTDOORS



eat



MAKE IT !!!