



**New Jersey  
Mycological Assn.**

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President: Ray Fatto

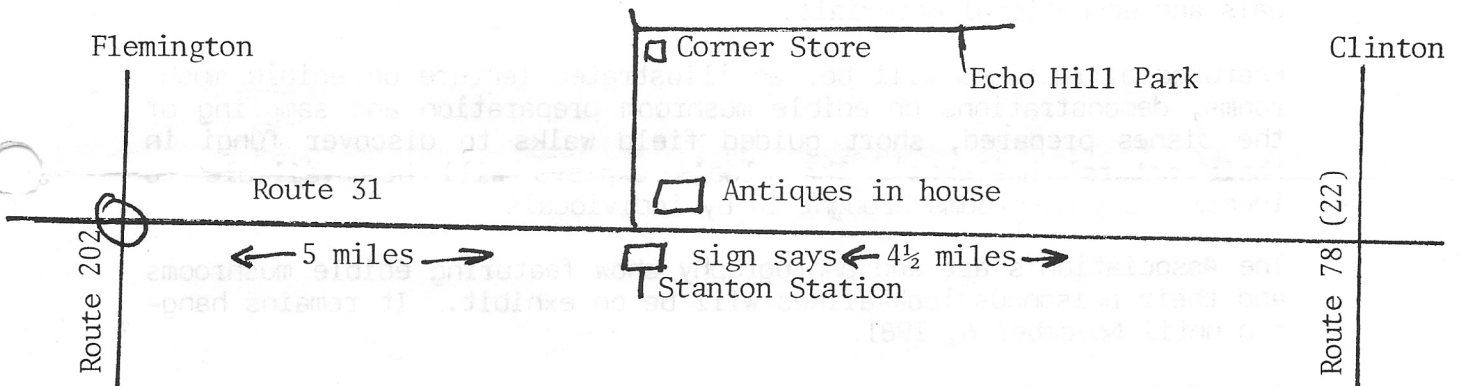
Editor: Melanie Spock

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**ECHO HILL**

The October 4 foray will be at Echo Hill Park which is about midway between Clinton and Flemington at Stanton Station. Gertrude Espenscheid will lead the foray which begins at 10:00 a.m. Photographers from a Hunterdon County photography club will be joining us on this foray.

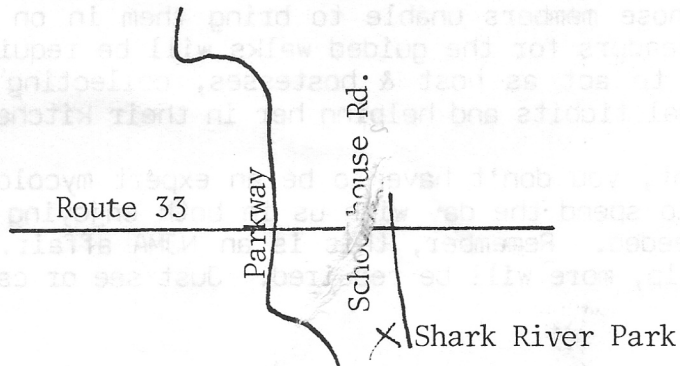
**DIRECTIONS:** From Route 31 take the Stanton Station Road west and make the first right turn at the corner store. Go about 1/2 mile to Echo Hill Park on the right. Park cars in designated areas only. Please do not go near the house which is privately owned.



**SHARK RIVER**

The last foray of the season will be held at Shark River Park on October 18. Bill Rokicki will lead.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 100, Route 33 East. Follow Route 33 East about a mile to School House Road. Turn right on School House Rd. and Shark River Park should be about 1/2 mile on the right. We will meet at the entrance to the park at 10:00 a.m.



# FUNGUS FEST

The following notice was released to local newspapers, selected periodicals, and the publicity outlets of SCEEC:

MYCOLOGY IS MUSHROOMING. MUSHROOMS ARE FUNGI. The New Jersey Mycological Assn. presents an all day "Fungus Fair" as an educational experience in mushrooms for the general public at the Somerset County Park Commission's Environmental Center on Lord Stirling Road in Basking Ridge, NJ, Sunday, October 11, 1981, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Interest in Fungi has been growing as never before. There now exist over 34 amateur mushroom clubs in the United States. Whether this is related to increasing interest in wild foods because of high commercial food costs or just a greater awareness of the environment is unknown.

Exhibits at the fair will explain what fungi are, their importance in nature, how they are collected and identified, and whether they are poisonous or edible.

There will be a large collection of locally gathered fresh fungi; also mushroom related arts and crafts, mushroom cookbooks, field manuals and educational materials.

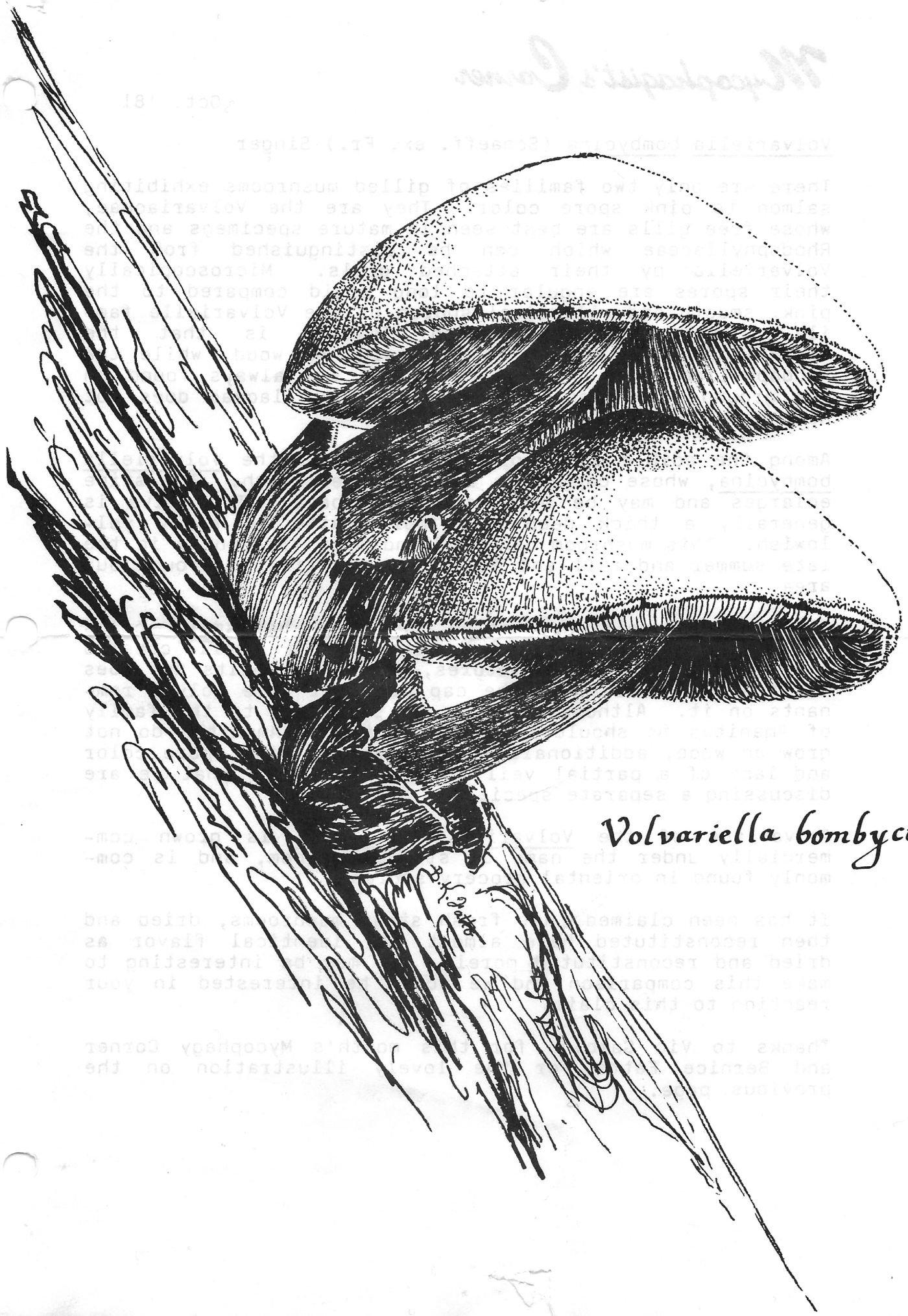
Featured attractions will be: an illustrated lecture on edible mushrooms, demonstrations on edible mushroom preparation and sampling of the dishes prepared, short guided field walks to discover fungi in their natural habitats. The club's experts will be available to identify any mushrooms brought in by individuals.

The Association's art and photography show featuring edible mushrooms and their poisonous look-alikes will be on exhibit. It remains hanging until November 6, 1981.

Now for NJMA to deliver what has been promised will require the cooperation of more than just the few individuals of a committee. On Saturday, Oct. 10, fresh mushrooms should be collected in the morning by members in their own collecting areas. From 1 to 4 p.m. help will be required at SCEEC in setting up tables, taxonomy displays, the craft sales display, posting signs, making admission tickets, identifying and labeling mushrooms collected in the morning, arranging them on the display table, setting up the slide lecture areas, locating and preidentifying the mushrooms for the guided field walks, etc.

On Sunday from 9 to 11 a.m., any finishing touches on Saturday's labors must be completed. Additional specimens should be brought in for the ID tables by those members unable to bring them in on Saturday. At least five foray leaders for the guided walks will be required. Personnel will be required to act as host & hostesses, collecting admissions, serving Grete's fungal tidbits and helping her in their kitchen preparation.

As is evident, you don't have to be an expert mycologist to help at our fair. Try to spend the day with us in both enjoying the event and helping where needed. Remember, this is an NJMA affair. I've gotten a few offers to help, more will be required. Just see or call me at 359-5373.



*Volvariella bombycina*

# Mycophagist's Corner

Oct. '81

## Volvariella bombycina (Schaeff. ex. Fr.) Singer

There are only two families of gilled mushrooms exhibiting salmon to pink spore color. They are the Volvariaceae, whose free gills are best seen in mature specimens and the Rhodophyllaceae which can be distinguished from the Volvariella by their attached gills. Microscopically their spores are angular to long rigid compared to the pink, smooth and elliptical spores of the Volvariella family. Another distinguishing feature is that the Volvariaceae are always found growing on wood, while the Rhodophyllaceae, with central stipes are always found on the ground, never on wood. The Rhodophyllaceae does not have a volva.

Among the edible and choice mushrooms is the Volvariella bombycina, whose cap color is dingy yellowish. The stipe enlarges and may be bulbous at the base. The volva is generally a thick deep cup, dull white to dingy yellowish. This mushroom can be found most frequently in the late summer and fall and is widely distributed around our area.

The universal veil surrounding the button has small scales over the top. The button resembles a small covered thumb. As the mushroom matures, the volva splits and does not fragment, therefore the cap does not have volval remnants on it. Although similar in structure to the family of Amanitas it should be recognized that Amanitas do not grow on wood, additionally the salmon to pink spore color and lack of a partial veil clearly indicates that we are discussing a separate species.

A variant of the Volvariella volvaceae is grown commercially under the name of straw mushroom, and is commonly found in oriental grocery stores.

It has been claimed that fresh straw mushrooms, dried and then reconstituted have almost the identical flavor as dried and reconstituted morels. It may be interesting to make this comparison and we would be interested in your reaction to this claim.

Thanks to Vic Gambino for this month's Mycophagy Corner and Bernice Fatto for the lovely illustration on the previous page.

# TAXONOMY

The taxonomy committee meeting will be held at Dorothy Smullen's house on Friday, October 23, at 7:30 p.m. Those planning to attend, please call Dorothy in advance at [REDACTED]. New members are welcome to come and bring any mushrooms to be identified.



Gerry Miller penned the above cartoon after I described an incident that happened at our Jenny Jump foray in May.

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New Jersey Mycological Assn.  
c/o Ray Fatto, President  
Rd.  
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