

New Jersey Mycological Assn.

NJMA News
Vol. XI

March 1981
No. 3

President: Rav Fatto

Editor: Melanie Spock

Circulation: Edythe Krape

FROSTY FUNGI - MARCH 8

At the March meeting Anna Gerenday will present a program on the flora of the tundra, including mushrooms, and their interrelationships. It is amazing how the plants and fungi survive in the harsh environment of the arctic. Anna has taken several kyack trips above the arctic circle during the summer thaw and will show some interesting slides. SCEEC auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

MYCOPHAGY MEETING NOTES

At one of our major mycophagy events, professional chefs Paul Leuthard and Max Meister demonstrated their culinary expertise at the February meeting for the 100 plus members in attendance. Using our newly purchased alcohol burners, the chefs prepared various dishes which everyone enjoyed sampling.

The first servings were of *Boletus bicolor*, donated by Bill Rokicki, in brown sauce with white wine, and mixed boletes from Grete Turchick in a heavy cream sauce. *Polyporus frondosus* contributed by Neal MacDonald was cooked in a curry sauce. Jim Richards and Bob Peabody parted with some of their store of dried morels, which were reconstituted and prepared in a thick brown sauce with brandy, flamed. Canned French chanterelles from an anonymous donor were prepared in a thick brown sauce. Al Northup's frozen *Polyporus sulphureus* was served in white sauce with sherry. Dried *Agaricus campestris* supplied by Jim Richards were reconstituted and prepared in a brown sauce with white wine and shallots.

Anonymously donated imported dried morels were served in a white cream sauce with white wine. The imported morels seemed smaller than the morels we find locally. Ray Fatto, Grete and Neal supplied honey mushrooms (*Armillariella mellea*) which were used in a white cream sauce with saffron. Dried *Stropharia rugoso-annulata* from Bill and Ray were cooked in a brown sauce, with white wine and garlic. An Italian rice dish (risotto) was prepared with mixed mushrooms, saffron and other spices. The final culinary treat was *Agaricus campestris*, again from Grete, served in a white cream and wine sauce with shallots and chives.

The basic recipes, reprinted from the June 1979 issue of the newsletter, were available for those who did not have a copy. The chefs have promised to send us the risotto recipe. Although we did not have the variety of mushrooms to cook (because of the poor season), we did have plenty of mushrooms, thanks to the generosity of those who contributed.

Accompanying the mushroom treats, delicious homemade breads and cakes were baked by Fred and Hilde Brachwitz, Jim Richards and Jane Peacock. The chefs have promised to cook for us again during the foray season, using fresh mushrooms collected on a foray (pray for rain), or they may possibly cook at the annual picnic in the fall.

We now have the Jane Grigson cookbook *The Mushroom Feast* available to members at a discount. It contains recipes for wild mushrooms as well as commercial ones. See Glenn Peacock, book chairman, to purchase one.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *by Ray Fatto*

The executive committee - comprised of club officers and chairmen of the various committees listed in the February newsletter - has had its organizational meeting. The program of events for the year was presented and discussed; several decisions on various problems were made, and ideas were generated for a few interesting club projects.

The decisions - purchasing two alcohol burners needed for the annual mycophagy meeting on February 8th at a significant saving from the \$210.00 list price of each. Those will prove invaluable during our other events at which mushrooms are prepared: wild foods foray, PEEC weekend, northeast foray, and the annual picnic.

Secondly, the committee decided to resume using first class postage on our newsletters. The suspense of indiscriminate late delivery and the agony of non-delivery was not worth the \$80 to \$100 annual savings in postage. But in order to obtain the maximum benefit out of first class postage, the newsletter will be limited to five sheets, or one ounce.

The ideas - to put together a tape-slide self-instruction identification course of the N.J. area fungi by genus. Dot Smullen's taxonomy group has been recording and filing most of the dried foray specimens in the herbarium for years. Al Leyenberger has compiled a noteworthy slide library. A comparison of the herbarium list with the slide file index could provide a want list of slides which the club photographers might try to fulfill during the coming season, ergo, the first all mushroom scavenger hunt list. Many members are qualified to assist Neal MacDonald and Vic Gambino of the education committee in organizing a documentary for a tape. It may even be possible to assemble our own genus keys from this data. This is an ambitious idea, but not impossible. All that is required is some intercommittee activity, cooperation, and member commitment. New members are strongly urged to see the committee chairmen of whichever area of mycology interests them the most and get involved.

Another idea is to construct a portable display of fungi information and typical N.J. mushrooms. This could be similar to that of Arnie Benson's of the New Hampshire Mycological Society. The display would be used as an educational

Continued on page 6.

4 possible educational goals

*Tricia Marasmius
Roots*



*Aunt Polly,
tell me again
about our family's
legend of the Fairy Rings.*

TAXONOMY

A taxonomy meeting will be held on Friday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. at SCEEC, classroom #3. There will be no cataloguing. Plan to work on identifying dried unknown mushrooms.

The taxonomy group welcomes new members. If you plan to attend or have any questions, contact Dorothy Smullen at

Cut-Off Point

If you have not paid your dues for 1981, you will no longer receive a newsletter to remind you. Dues are \$7.50 individual or \$10.00 family membership. Mail your check payable to NJMA to Mrs. Margarete Turchick.

Art Anticipation *by Gertrude Espenscheid*

The annual exhibition of drawings, paintings, prints and photographs of fungi will be seen at SCEEC from October 6th through November 1st. Our "Fungus Fest" takes place during that time. We have a theme for this year's art exhibit: Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms. We will have three categories that should interest the public:

- Emminently Edible
- Poisonous to Deadly
- Some Edible Mushrooms and Their Poisonous Look-Alikes.

Please think of the exhibition and plan to use your talents during the mushroom season. It would be good to have more participants. Draw! Photograph!

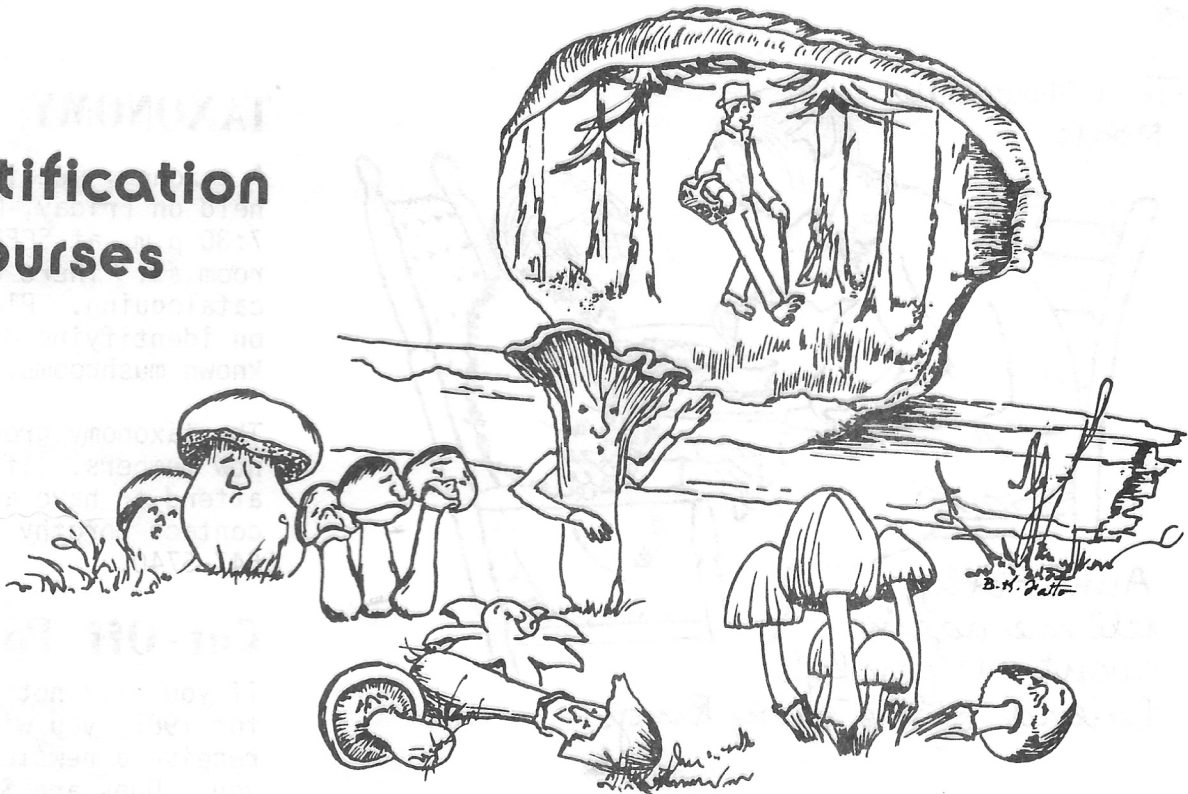
April Meeting

Gary Lincoff will lecture on the Little Brown Mushrooms (LBMs) at next month's meeting. The meeting will be Sunday, April 12, SCEEC auditorium, 2:00 p.m.

ADDITION

Dr. Stan Stiegler has agreed to chair the Toxicology Committee this year. His phone number, which should be added to the list of committee chairmen in last month's newsletter, is

Identification Courses



Five courses on mushroom identification are being offered. Since all classes are limited to 60 people, and the classes will be open to the public at a higher fee, advance registration is advised. As of the February meeting, the classes were already half full. For more information or to register, please call Ray Fatto, Vic Gambino at _____ or Neal MacDonald at _____.

Introduction to Fungi, Saturday, February 28, 1:00 p.m., SCEEC, classroom #3.
Course leader: Vic Gambino.

This is a basic course for beginners. It is non-technical and all terms will be explained. Slides and handouts will be used. The fee is \$1.00.

Introduction to Mushroom Field Identification, Saturday, March 14, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., SCEEC, Classroom #3. Course leader: Robert Peabody.

This course, designed for the beginning or intermediate mushroom hunter, is packed with information on sight identification of mushroom genera. Take home study materials are included. The course fee is \$2.00 for materials and use of the classroom. Bring your own lunch.

Introduction to Mushroom Identification using Microscopic Features, Saturday, March 28, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at SCEEC, classroom #3. Course leaders: Robert Peabody and Dorothy Smullen.

This course, using fascinating 35 mm microscopic slides and Largent's Vol. 3, will guide your entry into the intriguing world of mushroom microscopy. After the slide presentation, microscopes will be set up so you can try your hand

at preparing dried mushrooms for microscopic examination and working on what you have just learned, with the assistance of Dorothy and Bob. The fee is \$2.00. Bring your own lunch.

Advanced Mushroom Identification, Saturdays, April 4 and April 11, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., SCEEC, classroom #3. Course leader: Gary Lincoff.

Gary's two-session course will cover the following topics:

1. Naming mushrooms on field trips: from child's play to gamesmanship.
2. The mushroom book scam - or - "I bought all the books, so why can't I identify these mushrooms?"
3. What the field guides *don't* tell you.
4. The use and *limits* of the microscope and chemical reagents.
5. The use and *limits* of spore print color, gill attachment, fruiting body stature, veil structure, habitat, etc.
6. Making sense of the categories: what is a species, a genus, a family, an order, etc.
7. Levels of precision: what do you want to know; what can you know; the identification of mushrooms vs. flowering plants.
8. A short history of the identifying, naming and classifying of mushrooms:
 - (a) from Adam to Linnaeus to Singer
 - (b) "artificial" vs. "natural" categories
 - (c) from the "primitive" to the "advanced"
 - (d) mushroom development from spore to fruiting body as an aid to identification and classification
 - (e) "Correlation of Characters": the new taxonomy.
9. Mushroom literature: what it is, where it is, and how to use it.
10. Keys: how to use them; how not to use them; how to make your own.

People may attend either or both sessions. The fee, which includes workbooks, is \$10.00 per session. When Gary teaches this course at the NY Botanic Garden, the fee is usually \$50-\$100.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mr. William Brockman
Mr. John L. Edwards
Mr. Ed Frechtling
Ms. Dora K. Henel
Mrs. Jean Shearer
Avis G. Weaver



Sue Hopkins: Layout

Gertrude Espenscheid: Cartoon p. 3

Illustrations p. 7

Bernice Fatto: Illustrations pps. 1, 4

Neal MacDonald: Illustration p. 6

Dan Graham: Illustration p. 5

President's Message continued from page 2.

feature at all fairs at which our organization is invited to participate, as well as a "flip chart" substitute which can be talked around at any function where NJMA is requested to make a presentation. Here again cooperation between mycoaesthetics, photography and education committees is involved.

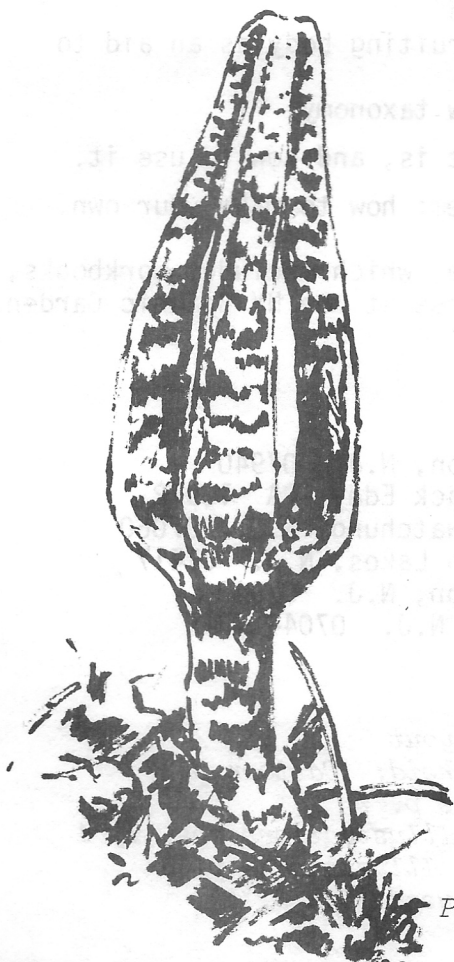
Briefly, several other events will occur this year. The educational courses scheduled prior to this year's foray season offer knowledge both to the beginner and the advanced collector. Since enrollment will be limited to sixty and the courses will be offered to the general public, we urge members to register early.

The old, out of print "new member package" is being reorganized and revised. By-laws may have to be updated. A considerable amount of effort may have to be expended in this area. The package is considered an informative and worthwhile effort in behalf of the new budding mycophiles in our organization.

You'll also hear more from mycoaesthetics and Gertrude Espenscheid about a central theme for this year's art exhibit. It should, with proper publicity, generate much more interest in mycology and this organization.

There may also be a photography workshop foray or two at which I for one, may learn to sharpen up my focusing.

This should be an interesting year, and with a normal amount of rain, it will be; otherwise, we'll find only *Laccaria trullisata*.



Pseudocolus fusiformis

Review Of Phallales Book *by Neal MacDonald*

A Bibliography of North American Phallales by William R. Burk is a well documented and comprehensive book which offers much in the way of research material for those who wish to study the stinkhorns, as well as for those who need a general bibliography of the North American mushrooms.

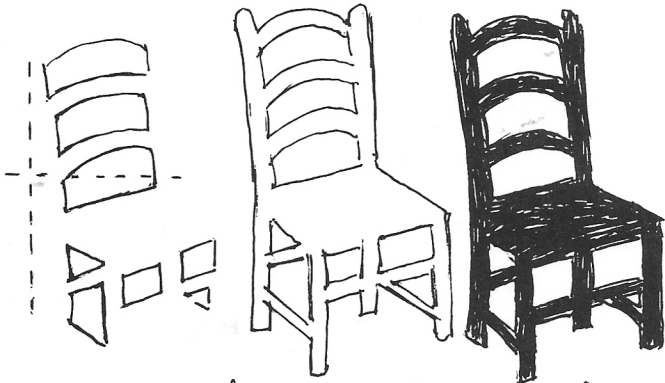
Laid out alphabetically according to author, it systematically references each book, first by author and title, then briefly describes the content. It then lists the stinkhorns both in text and illustration along with a notation of special interest.

Names of the stinkhorns, generic and specific are as they appeared in previous books, which in the case of early editions, tend to be obsolete. Thus this work might be accused of not providing an up-to-date nomenclature. But this is a point that is not significant in view of the book's many assets, nor is it meant to serve the reader in this way.

LEARNING HOW TO DRAW - PART II *by Gertrude Espenscheid*

This is the second of two articles, with some more drawing exercises and aids. The first one is a lot of fun, and is good training for observation. Take any figure drawing or sports photograph and turn it upside down. Copy it. You will be forced to observe spaces and forms more carefully. Take the time to study the areas and contours, and enjoy the exercise. Do several.

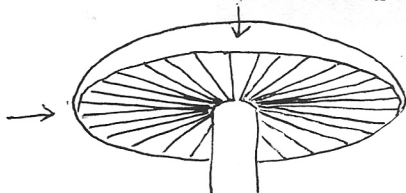
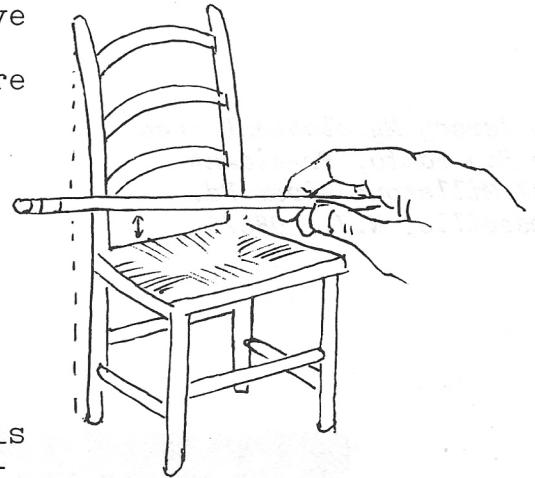
Another very valuable exercise is Drawing What Isn't There. Choose for your model anything that has spaces through it - several spaces. That's all you are going to draw - the spaces. Look at the shapes of the spaces and start drawing them. Try to see only the spaces.



try to see the verticals and horizontals.

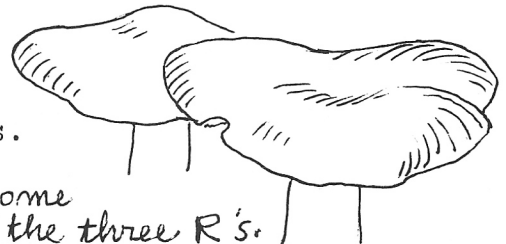
First draw only the interior spaces. Look at the shape of the area between the spaces. See whether the verticals are truly vertical, or is there some degree of variability? Hold your pencil in a true vertical, between you and the model. Then try the same test for any horizontals. After you have the interior spaces drawn, draw the space around the model - the outline, thinking of it as the space around it. Once that is done, you can check on the "rightness" of your drawing by blacking it in.

When you have mushrooms to draw, you have the big advantage of measurable size. For my notebook drawings, I often measure the cap and the overall length from top to bottom, and tick them off onto the page. Then I make my drawing conform to those dimensions. The drawing is then actual size. The diameter of the stipe can also be measured. Try for the precise contours of the model. All along, compare drawing to model and make corrections. Do not be satisfied with an approximation. When making precise drawings I count the number of gills to the inch - another advantage of working at actual size. Observe the differing spaces between the gills as seen in perspective. Those that are in front will appear to be wider than the spaces between those that run from side to side.



When you indicate a change of direction on the surface, do it with lines that follow the form; don't draw straight lines to indicate a curved surface. Sometime look up the woodcuts of that great draftsman Albrecht Dürer. Sometimes he used straight lines to indicate shadow, but never for form.

Again, I want to recommend the very good book for self-teaching "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" by Betty Edwards. Pub. Tarcher \$8.95 paper. It has been on the best seller list for months. P.S. In some countries drawing is taught along with the three R's.



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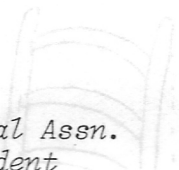
LEARNING HOW TO DRAW - PART II

169 N.J.
46 out of state
29 clubs?
8 new members

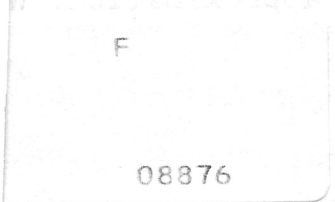
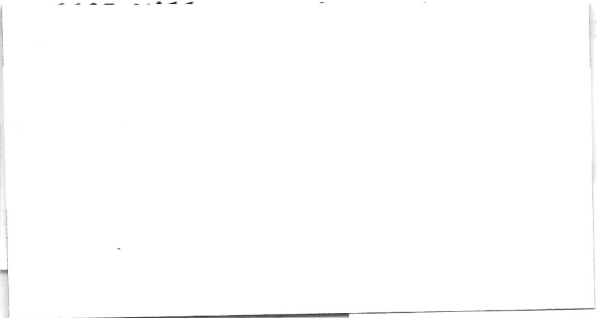
Another very valuable exercise is drawing what you see. For your first drawing, draw a space through it - several spaces. That's all that's going to draw - the space. Look at the space of the space and start drawing them. try to see only the space. First draw only the interior space. Look at the space of the area between the spaces. See whether the verticals are truly vertical or if there some degree of variability. Hold your pencil in a way that the verticals between you and the model. Now try the same test for any horizontal. After you have the interior space drawn, draw the space around the model - the outline, thinking of it as the space around it. Once that is done, you can check on the "rightness" of your drawing by checking it in.



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



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