

New Jersey

NJMA NEWS

Mycological Assn.

January - February 1983
Volume XIII No. 1



President: Anna Gerenday

Meeting Schedule

Sunday, January 9, 2:00 P.M. at SCEEC

At our January meeting Dr. Clark T. Rogerson, Senior Curator of Cryptogamic Botany of the New York Botanical Garden, will give a slide illustrated lecture on *Mycena* and related genera (*Collybia*, *Clitocybe*, *Marasmius* etc.). *Mycenae*, which are predominantly fall fungi, are most likely to be noticed for their delicate colors and their graceful forms. They are small fungi and, edible or not, are not collected for the table. Many of them bear distinct *Mycena* characteristics, but many are difficult to tell apart from species of the related genera.

In his presentation Dr. Rogerson will illustrate the distinguishing macroscopic characteristics, and he will provide us with outlines for use in the field.

Sunday, February 6, 2:00 P.M. at SCEEC

Traditionally, the February meeting is a mycophagists' session. This year two of our own gourmet cooks, Grete Turchick and Jim Richards, will demonstrate the preparation of several mushroom dishes which will be made available for tasting. To make this meeting successful, and to provide for the hundred or so members who usually turn out on this occasion, we need mushrooms. In case your pantry is over-flowing with dried, frozen or fresh specimens of the edible variety, please let us know. If you cannot bring it to the meeting, we will make arrangements to gratefully collect whatever you can contribute. To allow us plenty of time for planning, please call one of the following people as soon as possible: Grete Turchick on 201-827-7926; Jim Richards on 201-852-1674; Anna Gerenday on 201-822-1465.

Sunday, March 13, 2:00 P.M. at SCEEC

Dr. Roy Halling of the Farlow Herbarium will speak on the Genus *Collybia*.

Sunday, April 10, 2:00 P.M. at SCEEC

Gary Lincoff will be our lecturer; topic will be announced in our next newsletter.

December Meeting

By the time I arrived at SCEEC, the Christmas party was in full swing. Two tables were full of goodies. In spite of the poor road conditions in this area, at least forty members turned out, every- contributing to the holiday cheers and to the goodies.

Grete was at hand, ready with a very thorough and detailed treasurer's report. She was also accepting dues for 1983 which is, by the way, \$7.50 for individuals (Oops! Did I say 8.00 the last time?) and \$10.00 for families. If you sent in \$8.00 because of my error, my apologies. Refund may be claimed during our regular meetings.

We had a few items for sale, a few of which may still be had. These are: the calendar, Mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest by Tatiana Roats at the price of \$10.00; tote bags from the 1982 NAMA Foray selling for \$3.50, and the very popular and beautiful book, Mushrooms, by Roger Philips at \$14.00 for paperback and \$17.00 for hard cover.

After some routine announcements by President Ray Fatto, the general meeting began. Bob Peabody, our president of six years ago, presented the slate of candidates. No objection was audible from the floor, and the following candidates were unanimously "ayed" into office for 1983:

President	- Anna Gerenday
Vice President	- Sue Hopkins
Treasurer	- Grete Turchick
Secretary	- Bernice Fatto

Our congratulations to the re- and newly elected.

After the elections the slides entered into the photo contest were viewed, and the winners were announced.

This year there were two categories: pictorial and technical. The slides were judged based on composition, exposure and definition. As we were viewing them, Gary Lincoff, our judge, commented on the favorable and the not so favorable aspect of each slide. Gary admitted to his fallibility in selecting the winners, and he promised to let us know if he changed his mind about them. So far we have not heard from him, and the winners of the contest remain:

Technical Category

Honorable Mention: Bob Peabody, Amanita Daucipes
Neal MacDonald, Mutinus Elegans
Ray Fatto, Gymnosporangium Juniperi-Virginiae

First Runner Up: Neal MacDonald, Cantharellus Cinnabarinus

First Prize: Neal MacDonald, Boletus Bicolor

1983 NAMA Foray

The Colorado Mycological Society will be the host club for the 1983 NAMA Foray, August 19-23, 1983, at Snow Mountain Ranch, near Granby, Colorado.

The foray program will follow the successful NAMA format of previous years. Early-bird check in will be available August 19. The official program will begin at noon on August 20, continue for two full days, August 21 and 22, and adjourn at noon on August 23. A few rooms will remain available for the remainder of the week for those who wish to enjoy the Rocky Mountains on their own.

Summer days are warm, but morning and evenings are often cool and sometimes cold at this altitude, 8,500 ft. Afternoon showers are common. Warm clothing, comfortable walking shoes, hiking boots and raingear are recommended. Informal dress is always in order.

Snow Mountain Ranch is 75 miles from Denver via Interstate 70 and U.S. Highway 40. Special chartered buses are planned to leave and return to Denver's Stapleton Airport at pre-arranged times.

The Colorado Mycological Society looks forward to being your host for a scenic, spectacular and successful 1983 NAMA Foray. Complete registration details will be announced shortly.

And a Rhizopogon in a Pitch Pine Tree !

On October 18, while I was leading a nature mushroom walk in SW Harbor, ME., Ann Schwartz located some tan, oblong "puffballs" protruding from the sand-gravel path that was lined with blueberries and pitchpine. A close inspection of the "puffballs" revealed mycelial netting covering the "skin", a tell-tale diagnostic character of the Hypogeous Gasteromycete Rhizopogon. When the ball was cut we found a firm, felty and olive colored texture. A ¼ mile further some one noticed a large ball in a pitchpine tree (3 needles and recurved needles on the scales). When I retrieved the 2" subspherical ball out of the 10' tree, it was another Rhizopogon! How did the Rhizopogon become perched in a pitchpine tree - enterprising rodent or mischievous man? The literature is replete with records of rodents eating hypogeous fungi.

Sam Ristich

Know Your Mushrooms

The collection of wild foods has become a popular pastime in recent years, and more and more people are collecting wild fungi for the table. Some use field guides, others follow "old wives' tales" to determine edibility. Though a field guide can be a useful aid, in many cases it is inadequate, and the tests prescribed by the "old wives' tales," such as testing with a silver coin, checking if slugs have nibbled on the mushroom and so on, are absolutely worthless. There is no substitute for experience which, when acquired on your own, can have unpleasant if not fatal consequences.

A letter which Ray Fatto received recently and his reply to it are printed here to illustrate the kind of problem a new collector may run into.

Pictorial Category

Honorable Mention: Fred Huykman, Polyporous Squamosus
Melanie Spock, Lepiota Americana
Al Northup, Humaria Hemispherica
Al Northup, Amanita Strobiliformes

First Runner Up: Al Northup, Bolbitius Callisteus

First Prize: Al Northup, Russula Species

Best in Show: Rudy Peterson, Dehydrating Fungus

Our congratulations to the winners.

Education Program

The following courses in mushroom identification are being offered this spring:

Introduction to Mushrooms - Dorothy Smullen

Monday, February 28, 8:00 P.M. at SCEEC; Fee: \$4.00

In this course, thru a slide illustrated lecture, Dorothy will present an over-view of Kingdom Fungi. She will describe the most frequently encountered groups and will introduce the student to the basics of mushroom identification.

Identification of Mushrooms to Genus - Bob Peabody

Part A - Saturday, March 5, 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at SCEEC;
Fee: \$5.00

Part B - Saturday, March 12, 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at SCEEC;
Fee: \$5.00

When registering for both parts the fee is \$8.00.

In this slide illustrated course Bob will describe the major genera of fungi and will explain the system of classification now in use. In part A the Ascomycetes, or sac fungi (morels belong to this group), and the Basidiomycetes (jelly fungi, mushrooms, stinkhorns etc.) with the exception of gilled fungi will be covered. In dealing with the genera of gilled fungi, part B will follow the format of part A. In this section (B) the method of identification described in David Largent's How to Identify Mushrooms to Genus will be also studied.

Introduction to Microscopy - Dorothy Smullen and Bob Peabody

Saturday, March 26, 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at SCEEC; Fee: \$8.00

In this course microscopic characters used in the identification of fungi will be studied. No prior microscope experience is necessary.

Bring lunch to the Saturday sessions. To register, send check, payable to NJMA, to Sue Hopk

Dear Mr. Ray Fatto,

I read about your Mycological Association in the N.J. Outdoors magazine.

I've been picking and eating wild mushrooms for the last few years without much know-how and without any ill affects. But about a month ago I got sick on some that grew around and oak stump. I went to the library, got books by Alexander Smith, Christensen and Von Frieden. I found about eight different varieties, mostly growing around stumps, that I couldn't positively identify in any of the the books I had. Either the color, caps, gills or stems were different. I'm confused. I would appreciate any information on where I can get information on N.J. mushrooms and would like you to tell me about your club. Thank you. M. P.

Dear Mr. P.,

Your letter was extremely interesting, so much so that I am thinking of publishing it, anonymously, in our newsletter.

Consider yourself very lucky that you are alive, or haven't been very sick sooner. The deadly Amanita phalloides is becoming very common in N.J., and the equally deadly Amanita virosa has always been common.

There probably are as many poisonous mushrooms growing in stalked clusters on logs and stumps as there are edible. Some of the commonly found fungi which quickly come to mind as being poisonous include the deadly Galerina autumnalis and the sickening Omphalotus olearius, Naematoloma fasciculare, Gymnopilus spectabilis and some of the Pholiota species. Edibles would be Armillariella mellea, Armillariella tabescens, Naematoloma sublateritium and Pholiota squarrosoides.

A spore print and a good reference manual should in most cases help with identification. Only after a positive identification should the fungus be eaten. And then only after completely cooking the mushroom since many of the edible will still make you sick if consumed raw.

Two field guides which I heartily recommend are The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms by Gary H. Lincoff published by Alfred A. Knopf, N.Y., and Mushrooms of North America by Orson K. Miller Jr., published by E. P. Dutton, N.Y.

Enclosed is a copy of our newsletter and information about our association.

Cordially

Ray Fatto

Association
The following information is for your information and is not intended to be a substitute for the newsletter.

The next newsletter is scheduled for March. The hardshp on anyone. Please make note of the meeting dates. The schedule far enough in advance so that this change will not impose two months. We will be publishing our meeting notices and foray starting with January our newsletter will be issued once in every

Attention All Members

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New Jersey Mycological Association
c/o Anna Gerendav, President

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