

# New Jersey Mycological Assn.



NJMA NEWS

March - April 1983  
Volume XIV No. 2

President: Anna Gerenday

## Meeting Schedule

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

Dr. Roy Halling of the Farlow Herbarium Harvard University will be the speaker at our next meeting. His topic will be the genus Collybia. In a slide illustrated lecture he will discuss the Microscopic and macroscopic features which distinguish Collybia from other related genera, and he will describe the identifying characteristics of some of the species. He will also present a brief historical view of the genus. A field key which was prepared by Dr. Halling will be available at the meeting.

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

At our last indoor meeting Gary Lincoff, president of NAMA, will be our speaker. His topic will be Mushrooms and Mushroom Habitats. When I called Gary to obtain information about it for the newsletter, he was incommunicado, attending a foray in Los Angeles, no doubt, studying the habitat for his upcoming lecture. If it measures up to his usual, the lecture will be instructional, entertaining and certainly worth attending. I trust he will be back on time.

## Foray Season Begins

Bill Rokicki has been busy preparing our foray schedule for the year. Morel hunt in Jenny Jump State Park is going to usher in the season. It will be followed by the morel hunt in Hacklebarney. In June we will have two popular events: the wild food foray at Sundance Stables and the PEEC weekend. The schedule is as follows:

Sunday, May 1, Jenny Jump State Park - Morel Hunt  
Saturday, May 7, Hacklebarney State Park - Morel Hunt  
Sunday, June 5, Sundance Stables - Wild Foods Foray  
Friday, June 24 thru Sunday, June 26, Pocono Environmental Center:  
Dr. Samuel Ristich - Bolete workshop;

The PEEC weekend is a mostly social weekend, featuring mycophagy, wine and cheese party and square dancing. This year we will have the added attraction of a workshop on Boletes, given by Dr. Sam Ristich who will be travelling here from Maine for the occasion. Bill Rokicki will be taking reservations at \$50 per person, all inclusive for the weekend. Join us in this beautiful area of the Poconos to walk on the scenic trails with waterfalls and views of the Delaware river, to get to know your fellow mushroomers, and to learn about Boletes from the Mushroom guru of the Northeast.

To reserve a place send check or money order (\$50 per person), made out to NJMA, to William M. Rokicki

## Special Lecture by Dr. Homola

Once again, in what has become an annual Christmas treat, Dr. Richard Homola of the University of Maine presented a slide lecture program to NJMA members. Always an engaging speaker, his lectures are as accessible to the novice as to the more advanced students among us.

This year Dr. Homola spoke on two topics. The first was on spore dispersal and the unique adaptations of each genus to insure survival. He stressed the importance of wind as the primary dispersal agent, demonstrating with an eyedropper how even a single raindrop can eject a cloud of spores from a puffball.

A curious revelation was that while it is known to require the combination of two kinds of spores to produce a fruiting body, no observable structural difference has been noted between the two types.

The second topic was the Cantherellales which include the Clavaria as well as the much sought-after Chantarelles. Dr. Homola showed beautiful slides of the various species, discussed their identifying features and edibility, and finished with a selection of look-alikes.

The University of Maine will be the site of the 1983 Northeast Foray. Dr. Homola promised us that weather cooperating August should be the height of the Chanterelle season, giving yet another inducement to attend the four day event.

Rhoda Roper

# Lecture on Mycena

On January 9th Dr. Clark Rogerson of the New York Botanical Garden was our guest lecturer. His topic was the genus Mycena. Dr. Rogerson introduced the lecture by a description of the genus as we would see it in the field, and he noted its status in North America.

When in 1947 Alexander Smith published his monograph on Mycena, he listed 230 species for North America. Since that time changes have taken place in the classification. Some of the species have been transferred out of Mycena, others were transferred into it. Dr. Rogerson estimates that there may be some 250 species of this genus in North America.

As far as it is known, a list for the Northeast has not been compiled. Pomerleau, the author of Flore des Champignons au Quebec, listed eighty two species, but since he collected in Quebec only, this list might not be accurate for this area.

Mycenae are very small species, some are so small that a hand lens is needed for seeing it. They can be found in all sorts of habitats: on dead leaves, on rotting logs, in swamps above the water level, on sedges and grasses. They have cartilagenous stipes, and a margin which is not inrolled, in fact, the gills extend beyond it. Most grow in clusters, a few are solitary. In identifying Mycena the spore print is very important; it has many look-alikes, but Mycena always has a white spore print which may be pure white, chalk white, cream white, milk white, but it is always white.

Field indentification is not always possible, and the help of an expert with a microscope may be necessary. For this reason it is very important that the specimen be carefully observed and described in the field. Characteristics, such as size, color and odor, should be noted, and the specimen should be quickly dried.

## Mycophagist Session a Great Success

Sunday, February 6th, was our traditional Mycophagists' meeting. This year two of our own members, Grete Turchick and Jim Richards, were the chefs. Bob Peabody announced the features, while Sue Hopkins, Dorothy Smullen and Linda Manailovich ladled out the great mushroom dishes which Grete and Jim were preparing for the anxiously waiting audience.

Over fifty members attended, a small gathering compared to other years, but the weather was not with us this year. Those who braved it did not regret it. The dishes were excellent and varied. Our thanks to all those who helped to make the meeting a great success, to Melanie Spock, Ray Fatto, Bill Rokicki and Bob Peabody, who contributed mushrooms. Special thanks to Grete and Jim who, in addition to mushrooms, so generously shared their time and expertise with us.

Our members express their sincere thanks to Campbell Institute which has sent us generous amounts of Agaricus bisporus and A. bitorquis for the occasion. All those who attended sampled both and made comparisons of the two. Most preferred A. bitorquis, but they admitted that had they bought them in the supermarket, they would not have known the difference.

## Education Program

An Introduction to Field Identification of Mushrooms by Bob Peabody

PART I: An overview of the classification of fungi (or how to tell a truffle from a blighted potato); home study materials included.

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

PART II: How to identify gilled mushrooms to genus (theme song: Gills & Stipes Forever); home study material included.

Saturday March 12 11:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at SCEEC. Fee \$5.00

Mushroom Identification with the Microscope by Dorothy Smullen & Bob Peabody

A fascinating slide lecture will guide your entry into the intriguing world of mushroom microscopy. This will be followed by hands on lab work with dried specimens & microscopes; home study materials included.

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

## New Patch Design Open Competition

**DESIGN:** Any shape, to fit within 4" x 4", any color(s) not to exceed 5 colors, including background color, the fabric itself. **MUST SAY NJMA.** Submit finished design.

**JUROR:** Toshiko Takaezu

**Deadline:** April 10, 1983 (Sunday - hand deliver to Mrs. Espenscheid) or send earlier to G. Espenscheid R. D. 5 Box 107, Flemington 08822.

**PRIZE:** Life membership in NJMA.

Winner will be announced in our May - June newsletter.



# Northeastern Mycological Foray 1983

The Eighth Annual Northeastern Mycological Foray will be held this year at the University of Maine, in Orono, Maine, from August 11 through the 14. Tentative plans call for a Wine and Cheese Party to greet the arrivals on Thursday evening (the 11th), and festivities will end with Brunch on Sunday, the 14th.

Your reporters, who live only 60 miles from there, have had the opportunity to thoroughly inspect the site and check the facilities. UMO (University of Maine, Orono) offers a combination of good siting, excellent dorms, fine collecting areas, excellent facilities for sorting and displaying the collections, and when you add the inducement of really good food, courteously served, we think this foray will set a standard for all future ones to aim at.

We are impressed with the co-operative attitude of the authorities in charge of the arrangements at the school. They are justifiably proud of their school, and with reason. There is no graffiti in evidence, the buildings are cared for by students and college personnel, and it shows. We met and talked with maintenance people, food handlers, students and the people in charge. We can assure you that we will be welcomed, and treated as honored guests.

If there are any memories of forays with poor food, mediocre quarters, surly dispensing of food at mealtimes: FORGET IT! There'll be none of that at UMO!

The campus is a big one, but with most of the activities confined to a limited area, and with excellent maps provided by UMO, there should be no difficulty in finding ones way around. The collecting areas include some of the most scenic spots in the state; Acadia National Park, on Mt. Desert Island, extensive paper company woodlands, and a large area burned a few years near Mt. Katahdin, where fungi are flourishing in abundance.

A Lobster (or steak) Dinner on Saturday night is one of the high spots of the foray. (Those who met at UMO a few years ago for a meeting of professional mycologists are still talking about the great lobster dinner they received).

If all this sound like a paid plug for UMO and the Foray, it isn't. It's just a very enthusiastic report by two Mainiacs:

Ann and Bud Schwartz

## Thank You

Members of NJMA wish to thank Harry Lubrecht for his help in obtaining for us books, which we purchased recently, at a generous discount. We are also grateful to him for all his help in the past and for his providing us with issues of Mycologia for our library.

# Wild Mushrooms/China

## A Mushroom Study Tour of the People's Republic of China

October 3-24, 1983

Wild Mushroom/China is a study tour designed for persons interested in expanding their knowledge of wild mushrooms. The program will focus on the wild mushroom flora of China, including the identification of edible and poisonous species. Consideration will also be given to commercial and experimental mushroom cultivation and the use of mushrooms and herbs in traditional Chinese medicine.

Ample time will be provided for sight-seeing and other leisure activities.

China is a country of mushroom lovers. The people eagerly gather wild mushrooms for food. A wide variety of cultivated mushrooms as the paddy straw mushroom (Volvariella volvacea), the ear fungus (Auricularia polytricha), and the jelly fungus (Tremella fuciformis) pervade Chinese cuisine. In response to the intensity of this interest, outstanding mycologists hold appointments in the major universities and extensive commercial and experimental cultivation programs exist near the larger urban centers. Herbal and fungal medicine play a major role, along with western medicine in many Chinese academies and hospitals.

Exchange lectures will be conducted with Chinese mycologists in the cities visited, comparing the mushroom flora of China with the United States. Forays will be held to explore the mushroom flora in the areas surrounding the cities. The group will also visit herbaria, centers of mushroom cultivation, and academies of traditional medicine.

For further information contact: Dr. Emanuel Salzman  
% Fungophile  
P.O. Box 5503  
Denver, Colorado 80217 -5503

TOUR LEADERS: Gary Lincoff, President, North American Mycological Association. Author, Audubon Field Guide to North American Mushrooms.

Andrew Weil, M.D., Research Associate, Botanic Museum Harvard University. Author, The Marriage of the Sun and the Moon.

Emanuel Salzman, M.D., Past President, Colorado Mycological Society. Co-editor, Mushroom Poisoning.

## Note from Grete

I wish to thank the members of NJMA for the beautiful gift, the copper frying pan, which was presented to me at the February meeting. Thank you all.

Grete Turchick

# First Culinary Banquet Scheduled

The newly formed culinary group will be having a dinner at 7 P.M. on Saturday, April 23 at All Saints Episcopal Church, Millington near SCEEC. Wild mushrooms will be featured as part of the menu. The cost of the dinner will be divided among the participants.

Not a cooking class, but an opportunity to sit down to a delightful dinner - an enjoyable evening out for mushroom food and mushroom conversation with fellow mushroom people.

Any NJMA member may join the group and may bring a guest (a great way to attract new members).

Reservations will be limited.

A short meeting of those interested in attending will be held at our March 13 meeting. Interested members who are not able to attend the March meeting, should fill out the following form and mail it by April 1 to either:

Jim Richards

or

Melanie Spock

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

WILLING TO:            COOK            SET UP            CLEAN UP

First Culinary Banquet Scheduled

Membership fee is \$7.50 for individuals and \$10.00 for families.  
to Grete Turchick, R.D. 1, Box 166, Franklin, N.J. 07416.  
newsletter. To continue receiving it, send check or money order  
if you have not paid your dues for 1983, this could be your last

Last Newsletter

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fill it in by mail to either

Melanie Spock  
Box 1553  
Brookdale Dr.  
Martinsville N.J. 08836

Jim Richards  
311 Moore St.  
Hackensack, N.J. 07640  
825-1674

New Jersey Mycological Association  
c/o Anna Gerenday, President

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
PHONE NUMBER AT:	