

NJMA NEWS

New Jersey Mycological Assn.

November - December 1983

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, December 28, 7:30 P.M., SCEEC

Dr. Richard Homola of the University of Maine will be our visiting lecturer. The topic will be the genus Lactarius. Once learned, this genus can be recognized in the field, and it is a good candidate for an amateur desiring to specialize in a genus. So far our club does not have a specialist in this group. Any takers?



Sunday, January 8, 2:00 P.M., SCEEC

NJMA member Rod Tulloss will give a presentation on Amanita. Rod has been concentrating on this group of fungi for several years, and his expertise in it is recognized by amateurs and professionals alike.

Sunday, February 12, 2:00 P.M., SCEEC

The February meeting is traditionally a mycophagist session. It will be presented by our resident mycophagists Grete Turchick and Jim Richards. To make it a worth while sampling event, we will need mushrooms. Please check your pantry and let Grete Jim know what contributions you can make so that they can plan according to the available supply. Phone - Jim: [REDACTED]; Grete: [REDACTED]

Sunday, March 11, 2:00 P.M., SCEEC

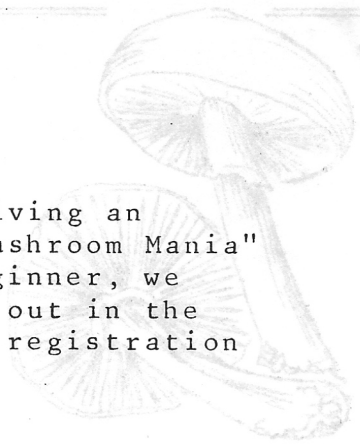
Our March meeting will bring a new guest into our area. Dr. Allan Bessette, Utica College of Syracuse University, will be our visiting lecturer. Boletes, a familiar but inexhaustible topic will be the subject of his presentation.

Sunday, April 8, 2:00 P.M., SCEEC

Dr. Tim Baroni of the State University of New York at Cortland will be concluding our lecture series with a presentation on the pink spored agarics, a new topic in our lecture series, specialty of Dr. Baroni.

MUSHROOM IDENTIFICATION

On April 7th, 9:30 - 12:00 Dorothy Smullen will be giving an introductory mushroom identification course called "Mushroom Mania" at Watchung Hill High School. Well suited for the beginner, we highly recommend it to those members who are starting out in the field and need some guidance. For further detail and registration information call Dorothy on 647-5740.



CULINARY EVENT

October 22nd, at All Saints Church in Millington was the date and location of the October Fest staged by our member culinary enthusiasts. The hors d'oeuvres and the holiday punch were followed by the main course, sauerbraten with potato dumplings, string beans and cauliflower salad. This was rounded off by walnut cake and Black Forest cake for desert. Wine was individually supplied, along with the fine china and table decorations. Those who attended shared the cost of the dinner, and it strained no pockets. It was wonderful evening out, good food in good company.

Our next culinary group meeting will be held on Saturday, February 18, at 7:00 P.M. We will celebrate the Chinese New Year with wok cooking and what not. As before, everyone will be asked to contribute to the meal and the cost will be shared by all participants. For further details call any or all of the following organizers:
Barbara Ecker - 947-9579; Bob Hosh - 738-7473; Jim Richards - 852-1674.

CORRECTION

Is my face red! In the September issue of our newsletter I have inadvertently omitted the author of the Culinary Group report. The reportage, for which I have been receiving many compliments, was the work of Trudy Pask. My apologies to Trudy.



NEW NJMA PATCH

The elegant new NJMA patch, the award winning design of Rhoda Roper is now on sale. The price is only \$4.00, and the supply is limited.



OBITUARY

It is with great sorrow that we note the sudden death of Dorothy Northup on Sunday, September 25th. Members of NJMA wish to extend their heartfelt sympathy to her husband, Al.

THANK YOU DR. RISTICH.

Members of NJMA wish to thank Dr. Ristich for the gift subscription to "Mushroom, The Journal of Wild Mushrooming", a new magazine of mushroom specialty which first appeared in print in October. "Mushroom" is a welcome addition to our library.

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

The first issue of "Mushroom" arrived at my home early in November. I was delighted with its quality and the variety of topics it covered. In one article Dr. Sam Ristich presented the ins and outs of spore print art: how to begin, how to achieve variations in pattern, and how to fix the image. Another article explored the life of Charles H. Peck, the man who helped to make mushrooming popular. Then there was Gary Lincoff's amusing account on how to author a field guide - a real insider's view. He suggested that in case you were thinking of writing one, you ought to consider buying the Brooklyn Bridge instead. In other words: "the author questions whether you can win". For the vacationing mushroomer Judy Rogers of Oregon explored mushrooming possibilities in the Pacific northwest, a unique area "because of its dense cluster of rugged, remote mountains, the low population of people and the high population of fungi". She included a list of helpful contacts as well. I was also very happy to discover in this issue the article "Evaluating Field Guides". It described what to look for and it evaluated the nine most popular ones.

These articles are just a few selections from those contained in the first issue of "Mushroom", the magazine all mycophiles have been waiting for. Will it be successful? That depends on the number of subscribers it will get. I certainly feel it is worth my support! For those who are interested in examining it, the club copy will be available at meetings.

How to subscribe: the address is Mushroom, Box 3156, University Station, Moscow, Idaho, 83843. Subscription price is \$12.00, and it begins with the first issue while the supply lasts.

CLIPPINGS

The following articles have been taken from "The Mycophile", newsletter of the North American Mycological Association.

FIELD NOTES: Many of the older texts urge collectors to make spore prints on a sheet of paper which is half black and half white in order to show up faintly colored spore. Later manuals instructed one to use non-glossy white paper only and to circle the print if it did not show up well. Now David Wolfthal, a member in New York, has come up with the Wolfthal field note which has seven black stripes, spaced equally apart, on white paper. A spore print will be forced to deposit on at least two stripes and thus aid the collector to define color by contrast. (May - June 1983)

UNIQUE NEW SOCIETY: The North American Truffling Society, Inc. (NATS) is a newly formed scientific, non-profit organization in Corvallis, Oregon. It may be the only one of its kind in the world. The purpose of the society is to enhance the knowledge of North American truffles and their allies. A library of data is maintained on locations of fruiting, identification and edibility of collections. Dr. James Trappe, renowned mycologist specializing in hypogeous and mycorrhizal fungi, serves as advisor. Since beginning NATS has data on 1295 collections representing 47 genera and 107 species. Of these 12 were new species of hypogeous fungi. ... Membership is made up of persons with a variety of interests in natural history subjects such as forestry, agronomy, soils, chemistry, plant pathology, horticulture, toxicology, botany, biology and food science. ... NATS has members in many states as well as Canada and West Germany. More information may be obtained from Mrs. Pat Rawlinson, Secretary, 805 N.E. Colorado Lake Drive, Corvallis, Oregon 97333. Phone 503-752-2243. (May - June 1983)

INFORMATION NEEDED: Cultivation of the Wood Blewit and the Red Stropharia by a non-sterile technique is wanted by the NAMA Cultivation Committee. Anyone having success with growing *Lepista nuda* or *Stropharia rugoso-annulata* please contact Rick Gamble, 522 Sixth Street, Annapolis, Md. 21403. (September - October 1983)

WANTED: We badly need about 20 copies of the last issue of *McIlvainea*, Volume 6, #1. Due to a number of new members joining at printing time, we are short this number. Since the journal is expensive to print, we try to keep extra copies to a minimum. This time we cut it too short. If you have a copy of this issue you do not plan to keep, please mail to the Mycophile office. We will refund your postage or send an older copy in exchange, whatever you desire. (September - October 1983)

COLORFUL CHARACTERS IN THE DEEP SOUTH OR HYGROPHORUS SINGS THE BLUES

(From "Capitol Mushroomers", newsletter of the Mycological Association of Washington, Nov. - Dec., 1983)

A group from the New Orleans Myc. Soc. made an "exhilarating" find last winter while roaming the dunes & loblolly pine groves of Horn Island, part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore. Growing in clumps around seaside rosemary was an as yet unnamed *Hygrophorus* (*Hygrocybe*) species with very colorful characters. "It was densely cespitose & almost colorless beneath the sand, with the caps acquiring a brilliant orange to red color as they emerged; all the stems were white & stem bases were colorless."

Chromatography from extracted pigments (this of course from Dr. Cibula later) showed a separation of two major pigments, one yellow and a second, purple. This is consistent with other chemical analyses on *Hygrocybes*. In addition, a colorless, blue-fluorescing compound was also observed, which had also been previously observed by WGC in a collection of *H. puniceus* where half the cap was covered by leaf debris. It was suggested that the blue fluorescing compound is perhaps a precursor to the yellow & purple pigments. Also this might be the light sensitive compound (UV) responsible for morphological development of the primordial pileus. The Horn Island collections substantiate these hypotheses."

FAIRY RINGS IN HAIR CAP MOSS AND FLAVODISCUS
CHRISTMAS TREES

I walked out to my baronial estate in quest of willow twigs. The fields have been mowed each fall for the last 40 years. Most of the ground cover includes blueberries, wintergreen, goldenrod and an abundance of hair cap moss Polytrichum sp. The grayling Cantharellula umbonata was everywhere. And then lo and behold a genuine fairy ring about 3' in diameter. Moreover not far off was a fairy ring of Collybia sp. about 2/3 complete. This amazing event at this late date i.e. Nov. 11 is a result of 7" of rain within 8 days and unseasonably high temperatures.

And on to Mimi's forest primeval - majestic white pine 150' tall and 2' DBH. In many areas there were hundreds of glutinous Hygrophorus flavodiscus pushing through the thick needle duff. Then Mimi shouted "come here! What are all those mushrooms doing in the trees?" Some trees with 5. Without hyperbolizing - I counted 23 trees festooned with flavodiscus!! Either the red squirrels are getting ready for an early Christmas or "wisely" drying for the winter larder.

Sam Ristich

P.S. Remember last year I called attention to a Rhizopogon in a pitch pine tree! Maine's red squirrels have a high IQ!!



AN AMAZON FORAY FOR 12 PARTICIPANTS

DATES: February 25 - March 8 1984

COST: \$1849

(subject to slight change)

The Amazon basin of Peru, Columbia, and Brazil remains one of the largest unexplored areas of the world. In this land of mystery and primeval jungle, the gigantic rain forest is abundant with exotic birdlife, tropical wildlife, beautiful orchids, and flora; much of which is unrecorded including the fungi. The trip begins here in the upper Amazon River on a 75 ft., 90 ton vessel the "Margarita", continues with a flight to Cuzco, site of Indian markets and Inca ruins in the heights of the Andes Mountains and finally proceeds to the breath-taking Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.

The foray will be led by Gerry Miller. Gerry has traveled extensively throughout the South American rain forest, lived in Guatemala for several years, lived in remote areas of the upper Amazon in Ecuador and Peru, stalked mushrooms with Rolf Singer in Brazil, and is past president of the Connecticut Valley Mycological Society. He has also taught Painting and Sculpture at various colleges and universities for 10 years and exhibited his art internationally.

For further information contact Gerry Miller

FUNGUS FEST '84

For months preceding the fair we were experiencing severe droughts, and as the date of the fair approached we were apprehensive. What if there will be no mushrooms? When the day came, fungi were scarce relatively speaking (105 species are recorded in the "Ray Fatto list"), but over 400 visitors attended. Our survey indicates that most came in response to the announcement in the "New Jersey Outdoors". To our pleasant surprise, many of our visitors had been mushroom enthusiasts for a long time, and many were knowledgeable about fungi.

The response of NJMA members to our call for help was overwhelming and enthusiastic. Close to 40 members came to lend a helping hand with the event. I wish to thank all those who came and helped to make the Fungus Fest '84 another success.

Special thanks is due to Sue Hopkins who has coordinated this year's event, to Dorothy Smullen who helped to hammer out the problems which had arisen in the last few days of planning and who has also organized the taxonomy table; Ray Fatto and Jim Richards who took charge of identification of fresh specimens; Bill Rokicki and Paul Meyer who organized the field walks, Linda Manailovich who took charge of admissions, Bob Peabody who was giving presentation of his "Foolproof Four" slide show. Many thanks to Grete Turchick who spent many hours cooking and preparing for the tasting sessions, one of the most popular event at the fair, and to Len Frank who arranged the mycophilatelic exhibit and postal station.

Among the many visitors of the fair was a friend from North Carolina, Joan Zeller, editor of "Fungifile", the newsletter of the Triangle Area Mushroom Club. The following is an article which appeared in the last issue of their newsletter.

NEW JERSEY MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION FUNGUS FEST REPORT

Plagued by the same drought we experienced in NC, the NJMA's Sixth Annual Fungus Fest on October 2 nonetheless provided enough activity and variety to satisfy the novice and experienced mycophile alike. The one day fair is held to educate the public to the delights of wild mushrooms: the uninitiated are introduced to the basics, while much is available to interest the more advanced.

The identification tables, thanks to the very recent rain, were covered with specimens collected by club members as well as public attendees, and other tables displayed more specimens in dried form. Most crowded was the tasting table, where a kitchen crew continuously supplied samples of wild mushrooms. Also popular was the slide lecture given 2 to 3 times an hour by indefatigable NJMA (and TAMC) member Bob Peabody on the Foolproof Four (shaggy-mane, puffball, morel, and chicken mushroom) and basic collecting information. Two other slide/tape shows ran every hour in nearby rooms, while mushroom walks left periodically to inspect what the current rains were pushing up in the grounds around the Fest area. There were tables of books and crafts for sale, a large display of mushroom stamps and

covers, a post office station with a special earthstar cancellation, and two "hands-on" booths - a microscopy set-up, and a "key-it-out-yourself" booth, as well as several other poster displays. To absorb all that was available would have taken more time than the allotted 6 hours.

The success of a program of this sort obviously depends on the variety of skills and interests of many individuals who are willing to work hard, and the NJMA certainly has what it takes.

DUES ARE DUE

Due date for membership renewals is January 1. With the 1984 membership year our fees have increased. Family membership is \$15.00, individual membership is \$10.00. Also, please note for future reference that half year membership has been eliminated. We now enroll new members starting in October with full membership privileges for the remainder of the year.

NJMA is an affiliated club of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA). As such, members of NJMA are now entitled to a \$3.00 discount on their membership. If your membership is up for renewal or if you wish to become a member of NAMA, please mark the appropriate box on the NJMA renewal application form below.

Please note: to simplify our record keeping, we need separate checks for NJMA and for NAMA.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

NJMA Renewal (checks payable to NJMA)

Individual (\$10.00) _____

Family (\$15.00) _____

NAMA Renewal or new membership
(checks payable to NAMA - \$12.00)

Renewal New Member _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

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New Jersey Mycological Association
c/o Anna Gerenday, President



08858

Renewal New Member

(Checks payable to NAMA - \$12.00)

NAMA Renewal Membership

TOTAL ENCLOSED

FIRST CLASS