



## New Jersey Mycological Assn.

Welcome to the New Jersey Mycological Association. You've joined an organization of individuals whose binding force is a mutual interest in fungi. This attraction varies from gastronomical through technical identification, to photographic and artistic. Whatever your interest, you will find many friendly people within this group with whom you may share your experiences.

This new member package contains a history of our group, some mycological and foray information, and a list of our committees.

We wish to emphasize these committees since the club's activities are a result of their efforts. As in all organizations, a steady infusion of new interest is required to maintain a high level of vitality. If you wish to reap a rich harvest of mycological knowledge, the best way is to immerse yourself in the activities of some of these committees. Don't be content in watching things happen, be involved and help make them happen. Join us in

Happy Mushrooming!

### NEW MEMBER PACKAGE

Prepared by Jim Richards 1978  
Revised & Updated by Ray Fatto 1985



Susan Kibby

FIRST CLASS

## FUNCTIONS OF COMMITTEES

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

- Endeavor to increase the knowledge of our membership and the general public on all aspects of fungi.
- Work with the Mycophagy, Taxonomy, Toxicology and Photography Committees in providing educational materials and courses about fungi.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Consists of the Officers of the Association and all Committee Chairmen.
- Shall convene at the request of the President to provide direction and guidance in the conduct of Association affairs.
- Shall critique the present status of the group, outline priorities, discuss budgetary requirements and advise the officers in the formulation of plans to insure a healthy and vigorous mycological organization.

### FORAY COMMITTEE:

- Plan and schedule a series of forays to areas of mycological interest, both public and private.
- Provide a Foray leader familiar with the trails for each foray.
- Work with Education, Taxonomy, Mycophagy and other Committees on programs and activities at forays.
- Publish a Foray Schedule and Foray Rules in the Newsletter and provide the Editor with detailed directions to each foray.

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

- Endeavor to provide refreshments and a setting to enhance the congeniality of Association activities.

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

- Maintain a lending library of books of mycological interest for the use of members, and control their circulation.
- Maintain a reference library of non-circulating materials.
- Promote acquisition of additional materials for both libraries.

### MYCOAESTHETICS:

- Develop and promote activities with a mycological theme in the areas of painting, sketching, cartooning, prose, poetry, photography (in conjunction with the Photography Committee), arts & crafts, etc.
- Work with the Newsletter Editor with regard to publication, the Publicity Committee on shows of general interest to the public.

### MYCOPHAGY COMMITTEE:

- Plan and develop programs concerning selection, preparation, and preservation of edible mushrooms...and an awareness of their poisonous look-alikes.
- Work with the Newsletter Editor in developing material for the "Mycophagists Corner".
- Work with the Foray Committee in planning and directing the Annual Picnic.
- Collect recipes and publish a mushroom cookbook.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR & STAFF:

- Write or edit, compose, arrange for printing and distribute a monthly newsletter to all members.
- The Newsletter will contain notices of upcoming activities, reports on past events, information of Committee activities, articles on items of mycological interest, educational features, recipes and artistic work.

### PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE:

- Develop programs and activities of general interest to our membership...and of specific interest to photographers ...concerning the capturing of fungi on film.
- Maintain a permanent reference library of slides and prints for use in slide shows, lectures and educational courses. The species identification of this material will be verified by professional mycologists where possible.
- If interest warrants, an annual photo contest will be held.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

- Develop programs of mycological interest for winter meetings, weekend forays, etc.
- Establish contact with professional mycologists, mycophagists, artists, photographers, etc., with a view to providing quality presentations.

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE:

- Inform the public of our Association's programs and activities.
- Seek to promote our organization with the general public.

### TAXONOMY COMMITTEE:

- Promote interest in and develop programs concerning the scientific classification and morphology of fungi.
- Develop, with the Education Committee, mushroom identification courses.
- Establish and maintain a herbarium of New Jersey fungi.

### TOXICOLOGY COMMITTEE:

- Development of programs and information for our membership, the New Jersey Medical Community and the general public, concerning mushroom toxins, hallucinogens, cases of poisoning by fungi, and poisonous mushroom species.

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## The Northeast Foray - An Englishmans view.

As an Englishman (now resident in America) the differences between our two countries, and particularly how they relate to mushrooming has always fascinated me. Nowhere are these differences more obvious than on the Northeast Foray, where all the actions and logistics of a ~~normal~~ normal mushroom foray are somehow magnified tenfold. The first thing which strikes anyone from Britain on an American foray is the sheer fun and enthusiasm which everyone injects into the event. And why not, who ~~xx~~ said science can't be fun or a fun event be scientific? Our own forays although still fun for those attending, do tend to be rather more sober affairs with the emphasis on Science with a capital S. The second is the enormous magnitude of the undertaking - organising 300 plus members into a coherent ~~workable~~ and workable unit. My hat goes off to those who undertake this task and do it so consistently well year after year; the Northeast Foray is still the best foray in America.

In England we would consider 60 people attending a large number, but on the other hand our foray lasts a whole week so the final total of mushrooms would be about the same in both cases. Having attended the majority of these Northeast Forays this one stands out for several reasons. Although there wasn't perhaps the profusion of mushrooms of say the Bennington forays (and particularly edibles) who can remember seeing so many fabulous boletes, and so many unusual ones, including some new to science? American mushrooms are always new and exciting to me of course but I felt that even for the American experts there was a feeling of being somewhere very different with strange and new things to see. Has any foray produced so many odd and beautiful Amanitas? The bright canary-yellow Amanita of the Vaginata group was one of the highlights for me.

Other things which stand out in my memory were the avid precautions taken by everyone after the dire warnings about chiggers, deer-fly, mosquitoes etc. Rarely has so much bug-repellent been used on a foray or so much interest gone into examining ones body on returning from

a foray! However, horror stories apart, it was an attractive and fascinating site to explore. The American emphasis on mycophagy is rather foreign to me and indeed to most British mycologists. The British are mycophobes at best and tend to look on people who eat mushrooms as being more than a little strange. However I am getting used to being asked "Is it edible?" about everything I find and unlike many of my colleagues rather enjoy eating mushrooms.

The heat also stands out in my memory and I can rarely remember being so hot on a foray outside of the tropics. Our first foray - all day to Batsto - walking up a long trail of silvery sand back to the bus, felt more like the Sahara desert than N.Eastern America. Nevertheless it was exciting to *Scleroderma geaster* bursting through the sandy soil in profusion plus *Laccaria trullisata*. The latter is one of Ellis species originally described from that area. I believe someone did eventually find *Scleroderma flavidum* of Ellis on one of the forays. As far as I know none of the other species shown by Bob Peabody on ~~in~~ his "wanted list" of Ellis species was found, although it was nearly impossible for anyone to see all the specimens brought in and they may very well appear in the final listing later. Certainly the Pine Barrens will remain a place I wish to go back to, after all if it was that good in August just imagine what must come up in the fall!

Whatever faults one can find with accomodation or food on a foray (usually very few indeed) they somehow all fade into the distance among the exuberence and camaraderie of this increasingly popular event, and Ray Fatto, Bob Peabody, Gene Yetter and company are to be congratulated on maintaining such high standards of organisation and planning. For me of course this foray had another rather special meaning; having met my wife on a previous foray and gotten married



the day before this one (who says I am not a fanatic mushroomer?) it couldnt fail to have special memories. Top of these must be the kindness and generosity shown to us by everyone present and Susan and I would like to take this oportunity to thank the N.J.M.A. and all the other clubs for their gifts and best wishes.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF N.J.M.A.

- 1971..On May 15th, in response to Hiram Korn's ads in local papers, ten people met at The Tourne, Boonton and the "Mushroom Hunter's Club" was born. At the second meeting of the group on June 12th, in an effort to demonstrate that the interest of the members was not confined to the eating of wild mushrooms, the name of the organization was changed to "The Lakeland Mycology Club". At the same meeting, Hiram Korn was unanimously elected the group's first President. On July 12th, the first formal meeting of the LMC was held and a voluntary contribution of \$1.00 was requested to enlarge the Treasury which contained \$15.00. In this same month, the first newsletter was published under the editorship of Ed Bosman. By December the club had grown to 28 members.
- 1972..In March, the first complete slate of officers was elected; President, Hiram Korn, 1st Vice President, Ed Bosman, 2nd Vice President, Ivan Hammond, Treasurer, Fred Volkenborn, Recording Secretary, Irene Tyler, Corresponding Secretary, Joan Bosman, Membership Secretary, Grete Turchick. A serious discussion was held as to whether or not the membership should be held at its present level (34 members) to avoid crowding of Forays. It was decided, instead, to encourage further growth and to accept the new ideas and challenges commensurate with the hoped-for expansion. In October, the First Annual Picnic was held at Stokes State Forest.
- 1973..In February, in keeping with the theme of club expansion, the Lakeland Mycology Club became affiliated with the North American Mycological Association, with Grete Turchick named the first NAMA Trustee. To further spread interest in mycology, the LMC participated in the Morris Highlands Audubon Society's Nature Fair in Denville. In May, the first Morel Hunt was organized. By this time, the membership of the club had risen to 43 active members. The officers that year were: President, Ed Bosman, 1st Vice President, Neal MacDonald, 2nd Vice President, Victor Gambino, Recording Secretary, Irene Tyler, Corresponding Secretary Joan Bosman, Treasurer, Grete Turchick, Membership Secretary, Hiram Korn. The annual picnic, now called the Honey Mushroom Hunt, was held at Mahlon Dickerson State Park.
- 1974..In January, the offices of President and Corresponding Secretary were left vacant with the transfer of the Bosmans from the area. Neal MacDonald advanced to the Presidency, and Victor Gambino took on the triple task of 1st Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Editor of the Newsletter. In February, the Treasurer's Report showed a balance of less than \$20.00. In an effort to remedy this situation, the dues structure was changed. Dues were raised from \$3.00 to \$5.00 for Individuals and \$7.00 for Families and a wide range of membership categories were eliminated. The 28th of April saw the first Jenny Jump Morel Hunt, with a repeat the following week. The first Club Constitution was passed in May with a simplification of the number of Club Officers. At the elections that month, Neal MacDonald was re-elected President, Victor Gambino was elected Vice-President (the post of 2nd Vice President was eliminated), Grete Turchick was named Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary with Irene Tyler being re-elected Recording Secretary. The Honey Mushroom Hunt was again held at Mahlon Dickerson in October. In November, the first lecture by a professional mycologist, Dr. Sam Ristich, was given at the Morris Country Outdoor Education Center at Chatham. The move to a permanent meeting site, and away from private homes, schools, churches, etc., gave the Lakeland Mycology Club a new sense of permanency. The invitation of professional mycologists to speak to the club indicates a group whose interests had expanded beyond the "pot-hunter" stage.
- 1975..At the January elections, Victor Gambino was named President, Candace Wiser, Vice-President, Grete Turchick and Irene Tyler continued in their offices. LMC became an Associate of NAMA. The treasury had grown to \$90.63. In March, the 42 members of the Lakeland Mycology Club, in order to better reflect the broadening interests and geographic base of the group, became the New Jersey Mycological Association. In May, the first "Mycophagist Corner" was published. In June, in keeping with the increasing interests in taxonomy, the first Field Checklist was printed. In August, a reporter from The New York Times covered the Club's foray at Mahlon Dickerson. As a result of the ensuing article, fifty new members joined the club. In summing up the year's activities, Vic Gambino reported that ten Forays, one club picnic and six indoor meetings (a four-session course in mushroom identification and two lectures by Sam Ristich) had been held.
- 1976..In January, Victor and Grete were re-elected and Paul Meyer became Vice-President with Doreen Schiller filling the Recording Secretary spot. The membership had increased to 117 (94 homes in 9 states) and the club treasury contained \$143.54. In association with the Connecticut Valley Mycological Association, the first joint Weekend Foray was held in June at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, Bushkill Ferry, Pennsylvania. Seventy-three mushroom hunters attended and 83 species of fungi were identified, with the professional help of Dr. Sam Ristich and Gary Lincoff. In September, the first meeting of the Taxonomy (Toxology) Group was held, indicative of an increasing interest in the scientific aspects of mycology. In December, Dorothy Smullen became editor of the Newsletter.
- 1977..THE YEAR OF THE TAXONOMISTS. Robert Peabody is elected President, Dorothy Smullen, Vice-President with Grete and Doreen re-elected to their respective posts. The formation of a permanent NJMA Slide Collection is announced by Al Leyenberger. The Taxonomy group moved in April from the Smullen kitchen to the Sherman Audubon Sanctuary in Bernardsville. In June, the broadening interests of the group were nurtured by a Wild Foods Foray conducted by Gary Lincoff. The Toxicology Committee was established with Dr. Stan Siegler and Gary Lincoff as co-chairmen. In June, the NJMA held a weekend foray at PEEC with the professional guidance of Dr. Sam Mazzer of Kent State University, Dr. Sam Ristich and Gary Lincoff. In September, the joint foray with Mycological groups from three other states, now named The Northeast Foray was held at PEEC. Such noted experts as Dr. Martina Gilliam of Hood College, Dr. Sam Mazzer, Dr. Clark Rogerson, Dr. Sam Ristich and Gary Lincoff providing the expertise. In November, the NJMA moved to winter quarters at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center (SCEEC) at Basking Ridge, which also provided a home for the Taxonomy Group and its Mycological Herbarium.

- 1978..All officers were reelected. Over 200 people attended Gary Lincoff's Mycophagy lecture and tasting. One hundred and fourteen people participated in four courses offered on mushroom identification. The first Mushroom Art Exhibit was held during April at SCEEC under the direction of Gertrude Espensheid. A permanent New Jersey Mycological Herbarium has been established at Cook College, Rutgers. The membership has grown to 170 and the treasury has increased to almost \$800.00. Dues were increased to \$7.50 for individuals and \$10.00 for a family membership. Twenty-two forayers were arrested for trespassing during the Northeast Foray at Frost Valley, N.Y. All the foray time that morning was wasted in explaining the misunderstanding. Dr. Richard Homola of the University of Maine at Orono made a presentation on Boletes at a special holiday meeting during his Christmas vacation. This was the first of what has become an annual event.
- 1979..Another Hackettstowner, Jim Richards became president and Bill Rokicki, Vice President. Rounding out the slate of officers were Brenda Bianco as secretary and Grete Turchick, Treas. Melanie Spock assumed the duties of Newsletter Editor. A February Mycophagy meeting was conducted by the professional head chef, Paul Leutard, of Avon Corp. headquarters, who converted all the donated wild mushrooms into gourmet treats. Gertrude Espenscheid began publishing the escapades of her delightful character, Tina Marasmius. The Fourth Northeast Foray with 7 Mycological organizations participating was held at Willimantic, Conn. and NJMA conducted its first Mushroom Fair at SCEEC. Sales of mushroom books to members was inaugurated. Dave Patterson published his identification guide to Boletes and Russula in our newsletters. The first annual photo contest was organized by Al Leyenberger with Richards' slide of *Schizozytes* sp. on *Mycena hematopus* garnishing the Best in Show Award.
- 1980..Officers for the year were Jim Richards-president, Ray Fatto-vice president, Anna Gerenday-secretary, and Grete Turchick-treasurer. Professional chefs Paul Leuthard and Max Meister repeated their mycophagy demonstration. Membership totaled 253 in April. A record 23 forays were scheduled, alternate to alternate between north and south-central Jersey. Dave Patterson expanded his *Russula* identification keys to include both macroscopic and microscopic features in additional newsletters. The Fifth Northeast Foray was held at Bennington College, Vermont. NJMA assumed responsibility for getting the mushrooms thru the identification process onto the exhibit tables and established a procedure which brought order out of the chaos that prevailed at Willimantic. Dr. Alexander D. Smith was the Chief Mycologist. The second annual Fungus Fest was held in October. Bulk mailing of the newsletter was tried to save money but the delivery service was far from satisfactory and discontinued as soon as the year's permit expired.
- 1981.. Officers elected were: president-Ray Fatto, vice-president-Anna Gerenday, secretary-Melanie Spock, treasurer-Grete Turchick. A series of five mushroom identification classes were conducted at SCEEC by instructors Gambino, Peabody, Smullen and Lincoff. These were followed with a polypore workshop by Dr. Sam Ristich. Over 1250 morels were collected in N.J. by Peabody, Turchick, Fatto and Richards. The Northeast Foray was repeated at Bennington since many foray sites were unexplored the previous year. A club project, to construct a portable permanent fungal information display for use at various events was undertaken and completed in time for the Fungus Fest. About 500 people attended this annual event which is proving to become a major source of new members. All mushrooms identified on the club forays were tabulated in a 1981 Foray Finds list and published in the newsletter.
- 1982..All the officers and the membership dues remained the same as the previous year. Three ID classes were given by Smullen and Peabody. A Culinary class on mushroom cooking was conducted by Jim Richards. April membership at 282. The annual NAMA Foray was hosted by the Northeast Foray. It was conducted at East Stroudsburg State College, PA. and honored Dr. Sam Ristich. In answer to a reader's question about morels, Cuisine Magazine referred the writer to NJMA. Over a hundred requests for information were received. The publicity resulted in the Fattos discussing wild mushrooms for an hour talk show on the Plainfield radio station. The Fungus Fest featured a month long fungi art show, and a major mycophilatelic event. The Postal Service operated a "Fungus Fest Station" featuring a special one day mushroom pictorial cancellation. Len Frank sold an official cachet envelope and stationery picturing a *Boletus edulis* designed by Bernice Fatto. The Newark Star Ledger did a feature story on our mushroom foray picnic the week prior to the Fest which, combined with the publicity from the other activities, resulted in almost 1000 visitors at the Fungus Fest. A 1982 Foray Finds list was published.
- 1983..A first for the club - all female officers: Anna Gerenday-president, Sue Hopkins-vice president, Grete Turchick-treasurer, and Bernice Fatto-secretary. Anna also edited the newsletter which because of increased costs became a bi-monthly publication. The education program of the previous years was again offered. The now traditional February mycophagist's meeting was presented by our own chefs - Grete Turchick and Jim Richards who won the accolade of the tasters. A new club patch competition was won by Rhoda Roper with a life membership as the prize. A culinary group was formed and the first banquet was held April 23 at All Saints Episcopal Church, Millington. The Northeastern Foray was in lobster land, Dr. Homola's University of Maine at Orono. Our Fungus Fest again hosted the Postal Service with a cachet and cancellation designed by Rhoda Roper.
- 1984..Officers were: Anna Gerenday-president, Bob Simmons-vice president, Bernice Fatto-secretary and Grete Turchick-treasurer. Dues increased to \$10 Individual and \$15 Family membership. In May, Vic Gambino once again became newsletter editor. Seventeen members were selected to assist poison control centers in N.J. in the event of mushroom poisonings. One *Amanita* poisoning was reported and several members of the committee assisted in ID. The Northeast Foray was held for the first time in New Jersey in the Pine Barrens with events originating at Glassboro College. 'Twas also a special event - the beginning of Sue Hopkins and Geoffrey Kibby's honeymoon.
- 1985..Officers are: Selena Whitefeather-president, Geoffrey Kibby-vice president, Rhoda Roper-secretary, Grete Turchick-treasurer. Fourteen years young, membership at 237 in March, and the slide library grown to over 3000 slides. All events - culinary group, photo contest, Fungus Fest, book sales, mycophagy meeting, still going strong. The Northeastern Foray will be at State University College, Oneonta, N.Y. ANOTHER exciting year is just beginning. Morel fever is starting.