

NJMA NEWS

NEW JERSEY MYCOLOGICAL ASSN.

SEPT. - OCT. 1989 Vol. 19 No. 5

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DUES: Family: \$15.00 per year,
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check payable to NJMA. to
Grete Turchick,

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINES: Feb.10, April 10, June 10,
Aug.10, Oct. 10, Dec.10



Cantharellus cibarius

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 10 Cheesequake State Park - foray
- Sept. 11 Taxonomy Meeting - Amanitas, Rutgers Univ. see inside
- Sept. 24 Stokes State Forest - annual picnic, see inside.
- Oct. 1 Fungus Fest at SCEEC, see inside.
- Oct. 15 Stephens State Park - foray
- Oct. 29 Weiss Ecology Center
- Nov. 5 First Winter meeting at SCEEC.

All forays begin at 10.00am and full directions were in your May-June newsletter. Remember, all forays take place come rain or shine; always observe the park or forest rules, in particular no alcohol or undue disturbance, we wish to keep on good terms with the park rangers. Dress appropriately for all weathers, **bring a basket** (no plastic bags please!) and your lunch. An identification session will follow each foray.

Do not forget your bug repellent, see the note inside about Lyme disease and be warned.

Directions to SOMERSET COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (SCEEC)

From Route 287 take exit 26-A (Basking Ridge). Make a right turn from the exit ramp onto North Maple Avenue, past AT&T into Basking Ridge. At the center of town veer left onto South Maple Avenue. Take South Maple Avenue past Lord Sterling Riding Stable on the left to Lord Sterling Road and follow about a mile to the Environmental Center on the left.

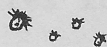
EDITOR'S NOTES:

Welcome to this issue of our Newsletter. I hope you like the new styling, typefaces etc. For better or for worse we have entered the computer age and this issue has been prepared with the aid of a word-processor. I hope that mistakes will be fewer and putting it together easier. Of course there have been a few teething troubles (I am still not quite sure why my printer kept trying to print everything in a small block at the left margin....) but this is to be expected I know and hopefully such problems will be few.

This is an important time of year with upcoming events such as Fungus Fest and now is also the time to start preparing for such events as the Photography contest and the winter Mycophagy meeting by taking photographs and by putting aside a few extra edible mushrooms for use by the club. Fuller details are given of all these events further on, do make a point of reading them and do your best to contribute.

Geoffrey Kibby

LYME DISEASE



With several members having been treated in recent weeks for Lyme disease it would seem an appropriate time to bring the subject to the attention of members. For those who may be unfamiliar with the subject Lyme disease is a bacterial disease spread by the common deer tick *Ixodes dammini* and gets its name from the fact that it was first described from Old Lyme, Connecticut.

The tick is very small - much smaller than the familiar dog tick *Dermacentor variabilis* - being in its adult phase about the size of a poppy seed and even smaller when in the larval phase. The first symptom usually noticed is a red rash in the form of a ring which may expand to several inches in diameter although it can remain small. The rash is slightly raised and usually does not itch. It may be accompanied by other symptoms such as a general malaise, fever, stiff neck or headache and it is important to seek medical attention at this time.

Usually early treatment with antibiotics is very effective but later treatment can be difficult and long-term. Unfortunately the rash does not always appear and if other symptoms go unnoticed then problems which can appear in later months and years include arthritis-like complications of the larger joints, neurological and other more severe complications.

Since our hobby involves tramping through woods and fields a great deal then obviously our risk of exposure is increased and we should all pay greater attention to preventative measures. Use ample amounts of insect repellents such as Cutters or Deep Woods (tests show that although Avon Skin-so-soft does repel insects to some extent it is much less effective than DEET-based repellents) and pay particular attention to your lower legs since these ticks usually start at the bottom and work their way up. Tucking your trousers into your socks is a good idea. You may want to consider using the spray Permanone which is an insecticide which you spray on your clothing (NOT ON YOUR SKIN!) and when dry will kill ticks and other biting bugs on contact. Permanone used along with Cutters etc is almost 100% effective in warding off bites.

Pay particular attention to any bites you do receive and keep an eye open for any of the symptoms described. With care and attention our hobby can remain a safe and enjoyable one.

TAXONOMY MEETING - THE GENUS AMANITA BY ROD TULLOSS, Sept. 11
7.30pm at Martin Hall,
Cook Campus, Rutgers University

Our next meeting of the taxonomy group will be to study the genus Amanita. Particular attention will be paid to defining the important characters that define both groupings and species within the genus. Both macroscopic and microscopic features will be examined and Rod will show us examples from recently collected material.

Rod is an internationally recognised expert on the genus Amanita and this is a chance to learn firsthand some of the latest results of his studies. For further details contact Dr Gene Varney

FUNGUS FEST 1989!

Its time to dust off the signs, put up the posters and get ready for the biggest event of our year - Fungus Fest 1989. On October 1 the doors of the Somerset County Environmental Center will open and hopefully the crowds will come pouring in for this celebration of everything mycological.

As always we will have a wide range of exhibits and activities, displays of edible and poisonous mushrooms, cooking demonstrations and mushroom walks. If this is to be our usual success then we will need our usual bevy of willing volunteers to help us prepare for this busy, bustling day.

We need people to come in on the Saturday and help arrange the exhibits and signs, to bring mushrooms, move furniture, bring more mushrooms, and on Sunday to help out with manning the various tables and to lead walks. Last year the mushroom dioramas which were made by members were a tremendous success and we wish to repeat them again this year, please see the instruction sheet elsewhere in this issue if you wish to make one.

Can you help to sell books? Greet visitors or help to identify mushrooms? Then we can use your input, it is your participation which will help make the day a success.

Please do not hesitate to come forward and volunteer your services, we can always find a job for you to do. Please contact your president or any other committee member and let them know you wish to participate on this fun-filled day.

1989 PHOTO CONTEST

Get out your camera, clean your lenses and buy some film; you should be taking lots of photos of mushrooms or other mycological events ready for our forthcoming Photo Contest. The deadline for your photo entries is our November meeting at SCEEC and the actual contest will be in January.

The photo categories are divided into three parts and details of these with the rules of entry are as follows:-

PICTORIAL

Photographs of mushrooms, preferably in their natural habitat, to be judged on their artistic merits.

TECHNICAL

Photographs showing the important identifying characteristics of a fungus. A series of photos will be accepted as a single entry.

ACTIVITY

Photos of people in serious or humorous mushroom related activities.

CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to NJMA members only. Only colored slides will be acceptable. Previous NJMA photo contest winning slides are not eligible. Slides may be entered in any of three categories. A maximum of 10 slides may be entered in each category. Your name and category must appear on each slide.

Forward all entries to Michael Rubin, 20 Lorraine Terrace, Boonton, NJ 07005 or bring them to the November meeting.

ANNUAL PICNIC - STOKES STATE FOREST SEPT.24

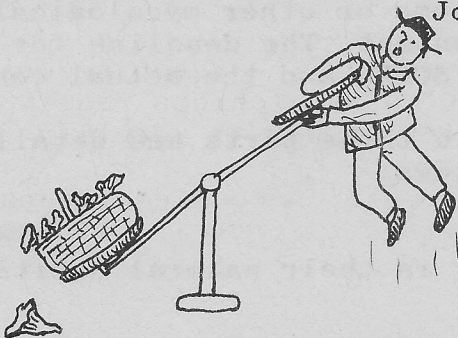
Along with Fungus Fest and the Photo Contest this remains our most popular meeting. It combines a beautiful location with wonderful food and great mushrooming, what more could you want? All members attending are asked to bring a covered dish to share with others and to include a list of ingredients. Don't forget your tableware and serving implements. Stokes has some of the best mushrooming around and this event is highly recommended.

THE "HUNTERDON FUNGUS" WRITES ABOUT CHANTERELLES.

I have just coined a word to describe my collections of chanterelles for the period of July 1 - 31 as simple "Fantabulous." My July harvest, coupled with that of my "foray guests" of the NJMA, totalled 68lbs [he tells me he is now over 80lbs! - Ed]. Collections averaged 5 lbs -an-hour and all locations were a 5-minute drive from my house in Clinton Twp. Now, you must remember that I am retired and can take to the surrounding woodlands as often as I wish.

I found the "golden beauties" in mixed broadleaf forests (no conifers) on well drained slopes with a "leafy" ground cover interspersed with patches of ground-hugging vines and patches of ferns. Also, on the same slopes under spice-bushes (*Lindera benzoin*) an aromatic shrub kin to laurels. If mother nature cooperates, I'm sure to top the 100 lb mark for the 1989 chanterelle season. Oh yes, don't forget your insect repellent.

Joe Latorraca, the "Hunterdon Fungus"



INTERESTING MUSHROOMS OF NEW JERSEY

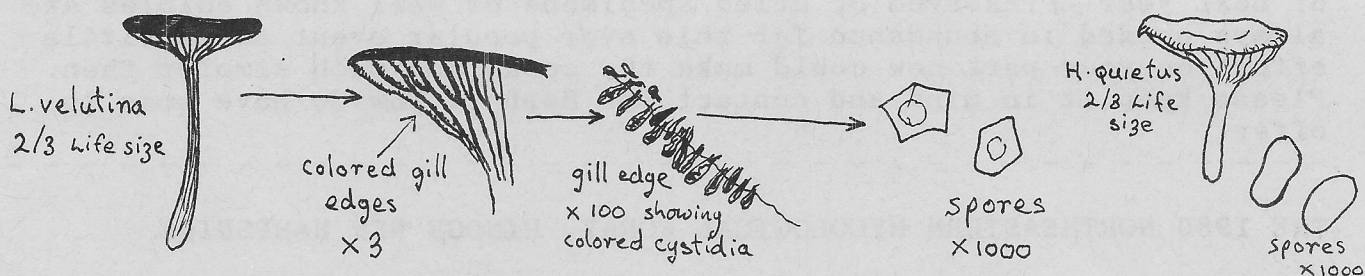
Every once in a while you come across something which you just know is special, something you have not seen before and is so different in appearance or other character that it has to be exceptional. Several such mushrooms have come my way this season and I would like to describe three of them here.

First was a small agaric found in damp woods just below the Merrill Creek Dam near where I live. About an inch across its cap is flat or slightly funnel-shaped and of the deepest black velvet in appearance. Its slender, elegant stem is blue-violet-black while its gills are pale pinkish-blue with a deep blue margin. I knew by the gills that it was a pink spored mushroom and by the depressed cap that it is what is nowadays called a *Leptonia* but is often lumped together with other pink spores in the "supergenous" *Entoloma*.

I knew it was no ordinary *Leptonia* by its black velvet cap, a very unusual feature for the group which usually have slightly scaly rounded caps with a central depression. But which one? It proved to be a difficult search until I came across the monograph by Hesler on *Entolomas* of the Southeast. There it keyed out directly to *E. velutina* a new species described by Hesler from North Carolina and Tennessee.

This was later formally transferred to the genus *Leptonia* by Largent in his monograph on the genus (1977). The species is growing in abundance at the New Jersey site and has been collected twice in good numbers.

I am sure it is not unique to this small area and is so distinctive that anyone should be able to identify it. An illustration is given below of the salient features.



The second species of note is a *Hygrophorus* or *Hygrocybe* as the bright, waxy species are now called. It was collected in two widely separate sites on the recent Meadow Woods foray and was striking for its bright reddish-orange cap, pale yellowish decurrent gills, and when the gills were crushed a strong, pungent oily smell.

It was the latter feature which immediately struck a memory and my mind was thrown back to a beautiful mountain path in Scotland where I had found exactly the same mushroom last year! The smell - described in the literature as that of engine-oil - is characteristic of *H. quietus*, a common mushroom in Europe but never before recorded in America. I suspect that no one had ever crushed the flesh before and smelled it (I am always surprised at how few mycologists really use their sense of smell, it is often the quickest way to identify many species).

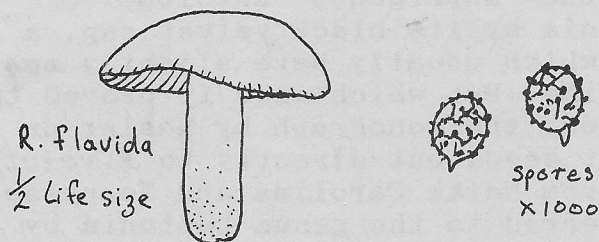
However the story does not end there, for a couple of weeks later the same fungus appeared at the Northeast Foray in New Hampshire and then again at a site near Oldwick which is one of my favourite collecting areas. It seems like that this is a widespread and probably frequent species in the Northeast, but simply unrecognised. Its other

distinguishing feature is its slightly constricted spores.

Thirdly is a species of *Russula* which was also found at the Meadow Woods foray. When the collector first held this fungus out to me I did not believe it could be a *Russula*. Its color was so bright I thought it had to be an *Amanita*; it was a glowing golden yellow on the cap and stem with creamy white gills. I knew it instantly even though I had only read of it - *R. flavida*. This most beautiful of *Russula* species is quite unique in the intensity of its coloration and hardly needed confirming by looking at its spores. However, look at them I did, the deposit was creamy-yellow (C-D) and the spores when stained with Melzer's Iodine had a distinctive ornamentation of warts and fine lines (see the illustration below).

So, three very different species but all beautiful and unique, just three of many I could of picked and hope to cover in future issues. Let me know if you find them too.

Geoffrey Kibby



A REQUEST FOR EDIBLE MUSHROOMS

While the picking is good and you are gathering your edibles please give a thought to the forthcoming Mycophagy meeting in February of next year. Preserved or dried specimens of well known edibles are always needed in abundance for this ever popular event and a little effort on your part now could make the cooks job much simpler then. Please keep it in mind and contact Bob Hosh if you do have some to offer.

THE 1989 NORTHEASTERN MYCOLOGICAL FORAY, RINDGE NEW HAMPSHIRE

Once again this three day mycological Woodstock has come and gone leaving a whirl of memories, mushrooms and multitudes to try and sort through as I sit here composing a report on this meeting.

How can one pinpoint the highlights of such a meeting when there were so many? Was it the Lunar eclipse that many of us stayed out on the hillside to watch (what a masterpiece of planning by the foray organisers!) or was it perhaps the wonderful scenery which surrounded us in every direction? Perhaps it was even the many new mushrooms which appeared at this foray (over 40 new to the records of combined Northeasters).

For me, in the end, it is always the people which make this event so special. It is a chance to see friends you may only see once a year, to swap stories, argue over mushroom names, to learn and to teach, to see friends honored for their work in mycology and to hear lectures and talks on every possible aspect of mushrooming.

How wonderful it was to see the Lubrechts, Harry and Anne, honored and recognised for their unique contribution to amateur and professional mycology in America. What would the foray be without their warm and delightful presence and their ever tempting mushroom books?

I cannot mention everyone who received awards but I feel I must bring to your attention the recognition that was made of three of our members, firstly Linda Meyer, who as Program chairman helped to bring all these wonderful events into being; secondly Barbara Peabody who handled registration, an enormously painstaking and difficult task, and thirdly Ray Fatto for his continuing contributions in amateur mycology. My congratulations to all of them and my thanks for making this foray such a wonderful event.

One of the most notable things at this foray was the weather which was delightfully cool and dry after the humid steam bath we left behind in New Jersey. What a contrast after last year at Rhode Island! The air was clear and the woods were beautiful, if the mushrooms were not as plentiful as some years they were perhaps more varied. a total of about 357 were reported as of Saturday night and species were still coming in. As well as old favourites such as chanterelles and black trumpets we found unusual species such as large *Gomphus floccosus*, and a remarkable *Paxillus*, *P. corrugatus*, growing on wood with amazingly crinkled yellow gills and an odor which no one could agree on.

We found lots of beautiful *Entolomas* but missed the expertise of Sam Mazzer to name them and likewise beautiful *Ramarias* which went unnamed for the lack of Ron Petersen or Currie Marr. Some mushrooms were surprisingly absent, where were the chicken mushrooms and why were the boletes in such poor numbers? This is what makes every foray so unique, the ever changing variety of species which we find and the chance of some unexpected rarity. For example there was the strange grey mushroom like a *Tricholoma* which stained first yellow, then blue and then black! It turns out to be a *Lyophyllum* but probably of species unknown. Then there was the *Hygrophorous* already mentioned in the previous article and several new *Russulas* to the list which Ray Fatto and myself worked on.

As always at this foray there was too much to see and do, especially if you had a job to do as many of us did. I was on presort for arriving mushrooms and this kept me so busy I never did get to taste any of Bob Hosh's wonderful cooked mushrooms, or get to see the beautiful exhibit of watercolor paintings of mushrooms by the late Bunji Tagawa. We didn't even get to visit any of the great social gatherings (parties!) organised by Rhoda Roper. But I don't feel I missed out, far from it, this just reflects the enormous number of other events and activities I was forced to choose between.

In the end it is impossible to convey the essence of a meeting such as this, as they say "you had to have been there!" Roll on the Northeast Foray 1990, wherever it may be, I'll be there.

UPDATE ON ROGER PHILLIPS' MUSHROOM BOOK

The latest bulletin is that Roger's eagerly awaited book has been delayed but should be in print by next Fall. We will let you know as soon as we have a firm date.

MODULAR COURSE ON LARGER FUNGI

Suitable for British and Overseas-based workers.

A 'hands on' course on the classification and identification of larger fungi, especially agarics will be offered next summer at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. The course will consist of 5 x one week modules and will cover forensic, medical, as well as chemical and experimental approaches. Further details from Dr Roy Watling, Senior Principal Scientific Officer, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR Scotland, UK.

Mycophagist's Corner

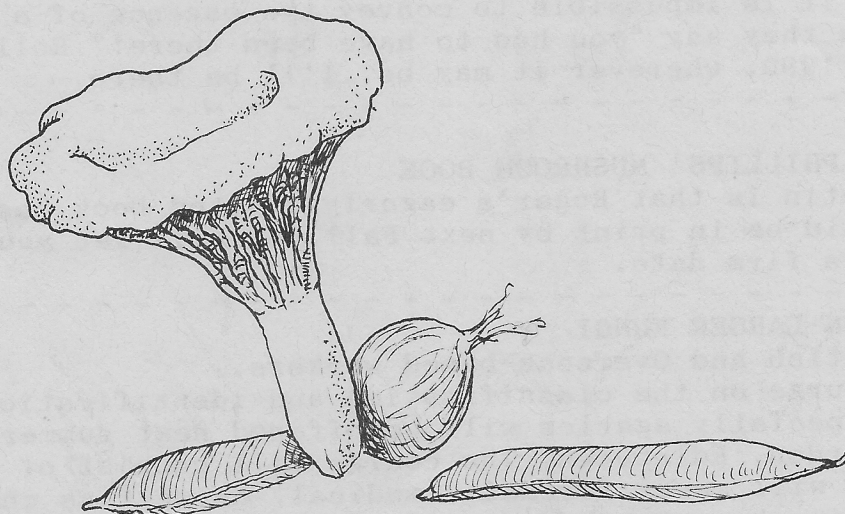
CHANTERELLE AND GREEN BEAN SOUP (Rokagomba leves zoldbabbal)

by Bob Hosh

This is an adaptation of one of my grandmother's favourite soups.

- 1 lb. cleaned green beans cut into 1 inch pieces
- 4 cups stock (chicken or veal or a mixture of them)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 lb. chanterelles cleaned and cut in 1/2 inch dice
- 1 small onion chopped
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons minced parsley
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup sour cream (at room temperature)
- 1/4 cup heavy cream (at room temperature)

Cook the green beans uncovered in the stock and salt at a simmer until the beans are nearly done, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat. Saute chanterelles in 2 tablespoons butter for about 10 minutes and add to the bean pot. Make a roux: heat remaining butter in a 10-12 inch skillet; saute onion until translucent; add paprika, parsley, and flour, cook stirring constantly for about 3 minutes. Dilute this with about 1/2 cup of the bean liquid, then stir in about 3 cups more and pour into bean pot and cook over low heat for about 5 minutes, Stir in the sour and heavy creams; heat through and adjust the seasonings and serve.



the new jersey mycological association
FUNGUS FEST for '89

With
cooking demonstrations -
guided mushroom walks -
your mushrooms identified -
fresh local fungi displayed -
lectures - books - slides

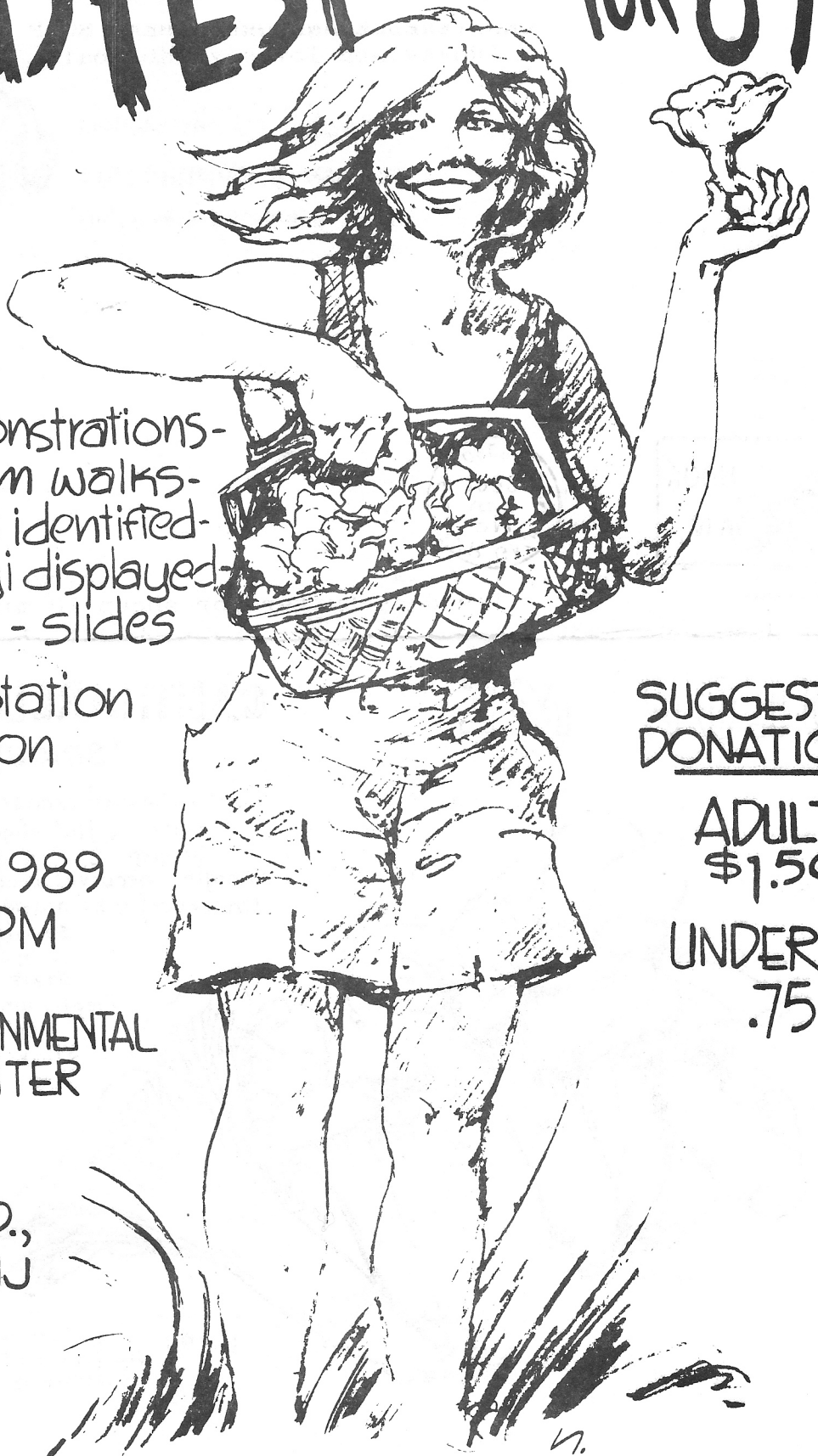
plus Fungus Fest station
cancellation

SUNDAY OCT 1, 1989
11 AM to 5 PM

at

SOMERSET CO. ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER

on
LORD STIRLING RD.,
BASKING RIDGE, NJ



SUGGESTED
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NJMA
C/O SUE KIBBY

COLOR ME

CANTHARELLUS lateritius "smooth chanterelle"



Cap: yellowish orange to orange, fading with age.
1-4" wide, flat, slightly depressed centre to funnel shaped. Surface smooth to finely scaled.

Margin: decurved, becoming wavy.

Undersurface: orange-yellow, paler than cap.
Smooth or shallow, thick, blunt, wrinkle-like folds running down stalk.

Flesh: white to cream, tinted with cap color near surface.

Stalk: Dark to pale orange-yellow, interior white, solid.

1-4" Long, 1/4-1" thick, tapering at base.

Spore Print: pale pinkish-yellow.

Order: often fruity.

Found: singular, scattered or small groups on ground under hardwoods in July in Northeast.