

NJMA.....Celebrating 20 Years!!!

NJMA news

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS: Gene Varney, President
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CIRCULATION: Sue Kibby

EDITOR: Michael Rubin

DUES: Family: \$15.00/year
Individual: \$10.00/year
Mail checks (payable to NJMA) to:
Grete Turchick.

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

Echo Hill Foray Canceled

Due to renovations at the park we are forced to cancel the August 16th foray. We will try to find another site and notify our members by mail. If you know of any sites we could foray please contact Mike Rubin.

CALENDAR

July 19	Meadow Woods
July 23-26	Northeast Foray
August 2	Holmdel
August 16	Echo Hill----CANCELED
August 30	Stephens State Park
Sept. 13	Cheesequake
Sept. 27	Stokes State Forest
	Annual Picnic
	Please bring a dish to share with others!
Oct. 4	Fungus Fest

See previous newsletter for directions.

Wanted dead or alive

Hombres to participate in a barbecue, **oriental** barbecue that is. The barbecue will be held at the Smullen's home on August 9 (sunday) at 2:30 pm. For more information or to make reservations please contact our new culinary group leaders Maurice Russi
Bob Saunders

Book Review by Joe Rapp

Ishmael. by Daniel Quinn

People concerned with ecology have had a large choice of reading matter in recent years. Some authors write with such clarity and purpose that some of what they write assumes the status of "classic" or at least "milestone". Consider the likes of Rachel Carson, Bill McKibben, John McPhee, or Pete Dunn.

Daniel Quinn has written a novel called Ishmael which is at the very least another "milestone". This is a small easy-to-read book. Yet it is big with ideas and questions and challenges as to how we perceive, use, share, and think about this earth.

The principal character is our "teacher". Ishmael leads us on an intellectual adventure where humankind are identified as "takers" or "leavers". The journey into history and back is fun but, it forces us to rethink our place in relation to the harmony of the earth.

One writer thinks Ishmael will become "the environmental bible of the 90's", perhaps. Like a bible, it is re-readable. And with each reading, the concepts take on more depth. Ishmael does focus for us the often over-lapping goals of the many nature, environmental, and population

organizations.

If you could read only one book about man and nature, Ishmael is the one.

Black Truffles Being Counterfeited in France

by K.M. Reese

(Chemical and Engineering News, June 15, 1992)

Scoundrels in France are dyeing white truffles and selling them as the much superior black variety, according to the *New York Times* for Feb. 29. The black species of the underground fungus was selling in France in February for about \$230/lb ten times the cost of the white truffle of France. (A white truffle found in Italy, apparently, is first-rate if you like truffles.)

Black truffles smell like a pig in rut, according to *Times* reporter Marlise Simons, which explains why pigs traditionally have been used to find them [but not why people eat them]. But in Provence, at any rate, most people now use specially trained dogs, says local Mayor Jean Piguët. Because of its weight, the pig often crushes the truffle. Besides, he told Simons, the pig is "unscrupulous." "You look away for a second and it will eat the truffle."

RE: The New Member Package Mailing.

by Ray Fatto

Much information was included, and much was excluded. We attempted to glean only the highlights from the club's newsletters; however the newsletters do not contain reports on all activities.

One of the club's prize possessions is the slide library. While it was originally started and organized by Al Leyenberger, many people have contributed to its present status.

Subsequent custodians were Bob Peabody and Ray Fatto. Sam Ristich played an important roll in that he, for many years, verified the identification of the species depicted on the slides. He also contributed many slides and was instrumental in obtaining the Charles Coffill Collection as an addition to the library.

The slide library is continually being improved and expanded by adding copies of the annual slide contest prize winners (and also occasionally some of the non-winners). However, donations are the prime source of expansion. For instance, Dr. Homola has recently donated many of the duplicates from his extensive collection.

In recognition of the activities of many photographers, we have extracted from the records a list of those that have donated more than two slides and wish to thank them for their generosity. Jim Driscoll, John Durkota, Gertrude Espenscheid, Raymond Fatto, Glenn Freeman, Ed Hansbury, Cornelius Hogenbirk, Richard Homola, H.R. Johnson, Geoffrey Kibby, W.B. LaChance, Al Leyenberger, Gary Lincoff, Neal MacDonald, Margret Morris, NAMA Round Robin, Al Northrup, Robert Peabody, Ann Petersen, Rudy Petersen, Jim Richards, Sam Ristich, Donald Simons, Dorothy Smullen, Leo Tanghe, Harry Thiers, Rod Tulloss, and Eugene Varney.

Fungus Fest Oct. 4

We need volunteers to setup on Saturday Oct. 3 and to help at Fungus Fest. Please Keep your calendar clear.

Making Latex Models of Mushrooms

by Donna N Schumann

Science and Children 9(8): May 1972

{reprinted from The Fungifile 11(2): March/April 1992}

[Many of us wish we could draw like Bernice Fatto and Neil MacDonald but lets face it we can't. Rudy Petersen and Al Northrup take outstanding photographs, after many years of trial and error. Here is a simple way to make a permanent exhibit of the mushrooms that we collect that requires minimum talent and good specimens.]

Mushrooms are difficult specimens to find when you want them and difficult to maintain when you do. More over many of them are poisonous and therefore dangerous to have around young children.

A permanent collection of life-like mushroom can be made using latex rubber painted with harmless watercolors. With a bit of time and patience, the replicas of latex can be perfect down to the last gill.

Materials:

1 bag plaster of Paris

Disposable cardboard cartons such as shoe-boxes or milk cartons

Freshly picked mushrooms

1 can white rubber latex

Watercolors or acrylic paints

1 small jar petroleum jelly

Cotton batting

Miscellaneous tools such as paring knife, tweezers, toothpicks, small scissors, metal hair clips

Directions:

1. Mushrooms should be fresh and firm for best results. Carefully cut stem from mushroom close to cap.

2. Mix a small portion of plaster of Paris with water and pour into small cardboard carton. Press mushroom stem horizontally onto wet plaster so that it is half imbedded. Allow to set (about 30 minutes). [repeat with other half]

3. Pour more plaster into another carton (the cut-off lower portion of a milk carton is ideal) to a depth of about an inch. Press the mushroom cap gill side-up into the plaster just to the edge of the cap. Do not allow plaster to run into gills. Allow to set.

4. When plaster has hardened, coat top surfaces with petroleum jelly. Mix new batch of plaster and pour a layer over the top of the stem and over the gill surface of the cap. Plaster should be of rather thin consistency to flow easily along gill surfaces. Allow to set until cool and dry, overnight if possible.

5. Tear cartons away from plaster molds and gently separate molds at petroleum jelly-coated interfaces. Remove and dispose of mushroom stem and cap, leaving molds as clean as possible.

6. Pour a thin layer of liquid latex into each of the mold halves. Allow to set about one hour. The time can be shortened by placing molds into a warm (275°F) oven. When first layer is firm add a second and then additional layers until rubber cast can be removed and handled easily without tearing or losing shape.

7. Remove casts from molds and trim and excess rubber away from edges of latex

8. Stuff centers of stem and cap with loose cotton batting and "glue" stem halves and cap halves together by painting edges with liquid latex. (Metal hair clips are ideal to hold edges together until the latex sets.) Attach stem to cap with liquid latex also.

9. Seam-edges on stems and other such "flaws" can be concealed by painting smooth with liquid latex. Wooden dowels, lollipop sticks, or lengths of coat-hanger wire can be inserted into stem halves before joining if support seems to be needed in large specimens. Average-size mushrooms rarely require such support.

10. Paint or spray-paint the rubber specimen with appropriate colors. For best effect, mount on cardboard of wooden base designed to duplicate natural habitat.

An Encounter with *Dermocybe subcroceofolia*

by John Minot

At the Northeast Mycological Foray of 1991 in Orono, Maine on August 11, we had on the table two fine specimens of a *Cortinarius* nobody could recognize. Fortunately I had Ammirati's account of the species of *Dermocybe* (considered a new genus by some) he'd found in Michigan with Dr. Smith in "the Michigan Botanist, vol.11,1972. I checked the spores, and quickly found our plant to be what Ammirati named *Dermocybe subcroceofolia*, on page 14.

The caps were about 3 cm. broad, broadly umbonate, "old gold" (Ridgway) with cinnamon fibrils (darker than "Ridgway"), dry, and with the margin of the cap extending beyond the thin, inturned margin. The gills were moderately broad, adnate, thin, deep saffron-orange with an even edge,

The spores were brown, slightly rough, and about $7\mu\text{m} \times 5\mu\text{m}$. It had no distinctive taste. The stems were about 5cm. long, 7mm. wide, "old gold", with cinnamon fibers forming a cortina near the center, and being scattered toward the slightly enlarged and darker base. Ammarati reported it from Marquette County and Chippewa County.

Checking my records of *Cortinarius croceofolia* (Pk). I located one report which I believe qualifies as "*Dermocybe croceofolia*". I collected it near Crooked Pond in the Boxford State Forest, in Massachusetts, September 29, 1971, "in black earth at the edge of sphagnum moss, near hemlock".

Dermocybe croceofolia (Peck) Moser is more common in New England. I've collected it several times in Maine (in sphagnum at Orono Bog and Pushaw Lake), in New Hampshire at Annett State Forest, and at the Rutland Brock Bird Sanctuary in Barre, Massachusetts; always in sphagnum moss.

Compared with *D. subcroceofolia*, *D. croceofolius* had the caps more convex, sometimes almost hemispheric, old gold color, too, but silky fibrillose, and without the cinnamon fibrils. The gills are pale saffron-yellow at first, not orangey, thin, closer, and moderately broad. The spores are smaller, about $6\mu\text{m} \times 4\mu\text{m}$, and almost smooth. The stems are about as long, but seem to be less wide on the mature plants. They are equal, hollow, and saffron yellow, fibrillose, with a saffron cortina. The color is uniform, and the base is not swollen. Peck's account of *Cortinarius croceofolius* may be seen in the North American Flora, page 323. His type was found at North Elba, Adirondack Mountains, New York, "on mossy ground, in coniferous woods". This plant seems to be close to what Cetto calls

"*Dermocybe malicoria*", on page 54 of Der Gross Pilzfuhrer, but is more "delicate".

[John is a member of The Boston Mycological Society as well as a member of NJMA]

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

Be on the look out for *Aleuria aurantia*. Dr. Phillip Kelleher is very interested in this cup fungi. *A. aurantia* produces a compound called a lectin. Lectins are proteins that bind to other substances. The lectin *A. aurantia* produces binds to a sugar called fucose. Apparently fucose is produced in greater quantities as cells become malignant. Dr. Kelleher is investigating the use of this lectin in diagnosing early stages of cancer (especially ovarian, testicular, and liver) and we all know how important it is to catch cancer as early as possible.

If you find *Aleuria aurantia* please mail it **overnight delivery** to Dr. Phillip Kelleher, C 307 Given Building, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0068. Mail it so it arrives by a Friday. If it is not convenient to do so please refrigerate or freeze the sample until it can be mailed. Do not dehydrate. Dr. Kelleher will reimburse you for the cost of mailing. He thanks you for your help in this matter. Who knows we could be saving our own lives!

Al Northrup Honored

The NJMA would like to recognize the many contributions of Al Northrup to the club by presenting him with a gift. The gift consists of the club's old microscope to which Al has grown very fond. Al has graciously identified mushrooms at various club functions such as Fungus Fest, PEEC, and forays. In addition Al has led many forays. The club thanks Al and hope he continues to enjoy the microscope.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NJMAnews
c/o
Sue Kibby

Do you or someone you know want to become a member of NJMA?

If so fill out the form below and mail it to: NJMA c/o Grete Turchick

Enclose a check (\$10 for individual or \$15 for family membership).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I hereby release the New Jersey Mycological Association from any liability that may occur as a result of meetings, forays, or any other club related activities. I also acknowledge that eating wild mushrooms is inherently dangerous and that each member and guest is responsible for their own actions.

Signature: _____