

IN THIS ISSUE: REMEMBERING GERTRUDE ESPENSCHIED

NJMA news

VOL. 23 #4

JUL-AUG 1993

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY
MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



Marasmius oreades

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Dorothy Smullen, Vice President
Grete Turchick, Treasurer
Michele Stewart, Secretary
Sue Hopkins, Box 291

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EDITORS:

Alex Adams & Carol Titus

DEADLINE:

DUES:

10th OF EACH EVEN-NUMBERED MONTH
CALENDAR YEAR: \$10 EACH OR \$15/FAM
Mail checks (payable to NJMA)
to: Grete Turchick

* * * * *

CALENDAR

JUL 11 MEADOW WOODS (RAY FATTO)
JUL 25 MAHLON DICKERSON RESERVATION (ARTIE GRIMES)
AUG08 HOLMDEL (JOE K)
AUG22 CULINARY GROUP: PICNIC (MAURICE RUSSI)
AUG29 STEPHENS STATE PK (ALEX ADAMS)
SEP 12 CHEESEQUAKE STATE PK (BOB HOSH)

THE REGION--THE NATION--THE WORLD--THE GALAXY!!

AUG 12-15 NORTHEAST MYCOLOGICAL FORAY, SOUTHBOROUGH MASS
AUG 26-29 TELLURIDE CONFERENCE, COLO.
SEP 04-06 COMA FORAY, HEBRON CONN.
OCT 14-17 NAMA FORAY, OLYMPIC PENINSULA, WASH.

HAPPENINGS!

CULINARY GROUP NEWS & SCHEDULE

Recipes will be provided by the co-ordinator, Maurizio Russi,

_____/s. Members will have first dibs, and guests must be approved, NO SOONER THAN two weeks prior. Limited to 32. Goers provide their own place setting, wine, glasses, and serving utensils. Keep track of your expenses, which will be shared among the group. **This ain't pot luck;** it is important that all members follow through on their assignments. If there are problems, questions, or changes, let Maurice know so they can be dealt with. **Also**, starting with the picnic, a suggestion box will be present for you to comment on the format, schedule, and possible improvements.

Directions: Take South Maple Av past SCEEC. Cross river, uphill to blinker and turn right; site is Millington Firehouse, on left at bottom of hill (Railroad is too far.) **For picnic**, pass firehouse. At RR, go left on Division Av, right on Stonehouse, and left to 141 River Rd. From I-78, exit 36 and north on King George Rd. Right on Haas, cross river and right on River Rd. Lost? (908)

Aug 22 93: classic French picnic
Oct 93: Oktoberfest
Jan 94: Soups-breads-dessert
Mar 94: Scandinavian
May 94: France (Provence)
Picnic 94: Texas barbecue
Oct 94: Italy (Piedmont)

NEMF FORAY SOUTHBORO MASS

12-15 AUGUST '93

St. Mark's School and Boston Myco Club hosts this year at St. Mark's School, about 5 mi from I-495 between

Boston & Worcester. Chief Myco is Don Pfister of Harvard Reg. form in issue 23-3, May-June. After July 17, call Jura Strimaitis at _____ availability.

FUNGUS FEST SCEEC

03 OCT '93

Mark your calendar now for NJMA's biggie of the year. Ursula Pohl will again be the co-ordinator; call her to volunteer your talents or get planning meeting date(s).

NAMA FORAY OLYMPIC PENINSULA, WA

14-17 OCT '93

Puget Sound MA will host at Fort Worden State Park, on the strikingly beautiful Peninsula. Theme: Mushrooms and their Natural Habitats.

INTERMYCOCONG VANCOUVER, B.C.

14-21 AUGUST '94

Quadrennial International Mycological Congress, scheduled to transpire in Vancouver. Call (416) 445-0680, day & eve or INTERNETe-mail: mst1@zoid.guild.org.



Craterellus fallax

Remembering Gertrude Espenscheid

Gertrude Espenscheid, a beloved past member of *NJMA* and *NAMA*, died at her home in Maine April 23, 1993. Many of you who belonged to *NJMA* during her active years, 1975-1985, will remember her cartoon using a beginning female mycologist whom Gertrude Named "Tina Marasmusius".

Gertrude Laverne Elliot was born May 15, 1911 in Dannemora, NY. Later the family moved to Queens, NY and she attended art school at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn for three years. She was married to Carl Espenscheid of Brooklyn on May 30, 1935. They had one daughter, Martha Gottlieb of Whitefield, Maine, four grandchildren: Daniel, Stephen, Noah and Sarah Gottlieb, and a great grandson, Benjamin Gottlieb.

In her earlier years, Gertrude illustrated children's books using Gertrude Elliot as her pen name at first and later her married name. Over the years she published with Harper and Rowe and Random House. Some of her books include The Golden Book of Nursery Rhymes, The Little Golden Book of Words and an all time best seller The Golden Dictionary.

P.L. Travers, author of Mary Poppins books, liked Gertrude's drawings and requested that she illustrate the popular Stories From Mary Poppins, Two Little Gardeners, The Tall Book of Christmas, and The Orange Fairy Book are others.

In 1966, after illustrating The Oh Ball, she decided to try other things. She painted for a while and took up gardening and gradually developed an interest in mushrooms. Gertrude then threw her formidable array of talents into becoming a mushroom expert. She studied mycology and even formed a small group who called themselves *The Central Jersey Mycological Society*. However, in 1975, Gertrude joined *The New Jersey Mycological Association (NJMA)*, and *The North American Mushroom Association (NAMA)*.

At this time she began compiling an illustrated book of mushrooms (never published).

whenever she brought home a mushroom found near her home in Stanton Station in Hunderdon County, she would do a colored drawing of it, jot down its description, where she found it, and other data. Then she would dry some of it and examine it through a microscope to study the spores and identify the mushroom scientifically. She took the notebook along when teaching beginners how to recognize poisonous mushrooms or giving lectures for the association.

Gertrude made several trips with *NAMA*. She gave a program January 1979 on *Mushrooms Around the Arctic Circle*. She wrote brilliantly for our newsletter (Oct. 1983 issue) of her trip to China. Other projects were two Art Exhibits, one for *NAMA* in 1975 at Pinkham Notch, NH and another for *NJMA* at *SCEEC* in April 1978.

There was a two part series in our newsletter in Feb. and March of 1981 titled *Learning To Draw*. Echo Hill Park in Hunterdon County was the site of the forays Gertrude led. She also lectured to local groups, including a slide show on mycology and mycophagy.

Martha is carrying on her mother's interest in mushrooms. She attended mushroom classes at Eagle Hill Camp in Maine and *North East Mushroom Federation (NEMF)* with her mother and alone when her mother's health would no longer permit her to take part.

It is wonderful to reflect on all these fine accomplishments of Gertrude Espenscheid, but for those of us who knew her, there was something more. She had a delightful sense of humor, a keen mind, an effervescent enjoyment of life and a deep love of nature and humanity. We are glad she passed our way.

On July 31 friends and family will gather near the seashore, probably in Maine, to scatter the ashes. All would be welcomed. If more information is desired, contact Martha Gottlieb,

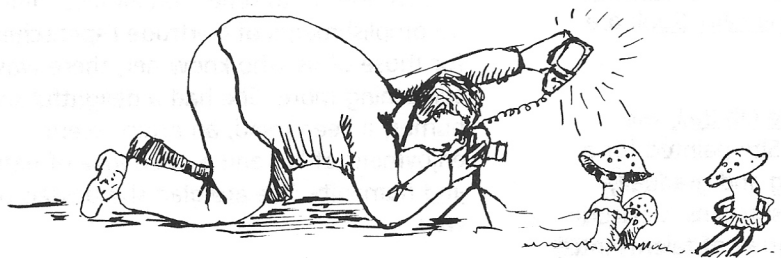
Janice Vansant

??? WHODUZIT ???

MANY OF THE USUAL SUSPECTS, OF COURSE; BUT A HEALTHY DOSE OF NEWBYS!

BOOK SALES
BYLAWS
CULINARY GROUP
CULTIVATION
EDUCATION
FORAY RECORDER
FUNGUS FEST
HISTORIAN
HOSPITALITY
LIBRARY
MEMBERSHIP
NAMA REP.
NEWSLETTER
NOMINATING COMM
PEEC WEEKEND
PHOTO CONTEST
PUBLICITY
SLIDE LIBRARY
TAXONOMY
TOXICOLOGY
TREASURER

MARJORIE FLORY, JAN VANSANT
GENE VARNEY, RAY FATTO
MAURIZIO RUSSI, BOB SAUNDERS
RAY FATTO, GENE VARNEY
MIKE RUBIN, DOROTHY SMULLEN
RAY FATTO
URSULA POHL, CAST OF DOZENS
HIRAM KORN, OUR FOUNDER
PAUL MEYER
JAN & BRUCE VANSANT
SUE HOPKINS
URSULA POHL
ALEX ADAMS & CAROL TITUS
JANICE VANSANT
BARBARA & BOB PEABODY
GENE VARNEY
DOROTHY SMULLEN
RAY FATTO
RAY FATTO & GENE VARNEY
HANNA TSCHEKUNOW
GRETE TURCHICK



PHOTOG ALERT: Gene Varney reminds us to pack a camera along with the bug repellent and machete. Photo contest isn't 'till the end of the year, but by then it's not too easy to run out & snap off a few brilliant shots. Also, your humble editors might be able (desperate!) to use a good black & white photocopy of **your** work. Pencil artistes take note as well. Thanks.

MYCENA & COPRINUS—TWO VALUABLE NEW SETS OF BOOKS

Rod Tulloss

P. O. Box 57, Roosevelt, New Jersey 08555-0057

In mid-April, I had the pleasure of being in Leiden for a few days and attending a meeting of the Dutch Mycological Society. During my stay at the Rijksherbarium in Leiden, I was made a gift of a copy of the two volume set on *Mycena* in the Northern Hemisphere by Dr. R. A. Maas Geesteranus. At the Society meeting, I purchased the first four pamphlets in a series on *Coprinus* in the Netherlands by Mr. C. B. Uljé. These books, complete with valuable keys, are of direct interest to American mycologists. Dr. Maas Geesteranus' volumes are receiving notice in the professional journals and has been the basis of an extended series of articles on British mycenans in *The Mycologist* (the British Mycological Society's publication for its members who are not professionals). Mr. Uljé's series is less likely to be heard of in North America because it is self-published and in Dutch—although this should be no excuse for ignoring the work. The mycological vocabulary is easily learned and, at least at first, there is no need for knowing correct pronunciation.

R. A. Maas Geesteranus. 1992. *Mycenas of the Northern Hemisphere*. (North Holland, Amsterdam). Volume I: *Studies in Mycenans and other papers*. vi+391 pp. Volume II: *Conspectus of the Mycenans of the Northern Hemisphere*. vi+493 pp.

These volumes represent the published results of over sixteen years work. The work appeared in installments in *Persoonia* and, for the greater part, in the somewhat more difficult to locate *Proc. Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen* (Series C). Most working mycologists with an interest in *Mycena* probably had incomplete sets of photocopies (perhaps photocopies of photocopies) before these two volumes appeared. Offprints of the original articles are quite scarce.

Dr. Maas Geesteranus' goals in this work were to do a thorough set of type studies of mycenans of the Northern Hemisphere, to attempt to interpret old and forgotten names in a useful way, to determine which names could be given no unambiguous interpretation, and to provide a conspectus of *Mycena* for the region of study. He notes that he did not attempt a full monographic

study because he wished to define a task that he could finish in his lifetime.

Dr. Maas Geesteranus' search for type material was extensive. It is a sad comment on the state of herbaria and the study of the systematics of agarics that he had to abandon the study of some types because of lack of response from the relevant herbaria after more than one request for loan of material.

The first volume of this work is devoted to type studies and the attempt at interpreting old names. These studies are amply illustrated with relevant drawings of microscopic detail important to the determination of species in *Mycena*. When an original description is unlikely to be easily accessible to the reader, a translation of the original into English is often included. Descriptions of the author's microscopic observations are thorough and concise. The work of previous authors is scrutinized and thoughtful critiques are offered. Reasoning behind decisions with regard to synonymy, the status of a name, etc. is clearly stated. A review of the supraspecific names in the genus is also undertaken.

Maas Geesteranus treats 177 previously existing names and proposes (alone or with co-authors) several new species. The first volume closes with two papers of "additions and corrections".

The second volume (the conspectus) organizes the data distilled from his earlier studies into treatments of the taxa of the genus organized at the level of section. Dr. Maas Geesteranus accepts 38 sections in *Mycena*. In the second volume, the description of new species continues; and studies on types not reported in volume one make their appearance as well.

As a final note, with regard to completeness and utility of this work, the second volume closes with a sixteen and one half page index to specific epithets treated in Dr. Maas Geesteranus' study (presented in two column format).

This is a monumental work that belongs in the library of advanced amateurs and will be found to be very valuable to them. Since western species of

A. H. Smith are treated as are northeastern species of Peck and southeastern species of Murrill, it is reasonable to believe that these volumes will be found to be useful across our continent. Those familiar with Smith's monograph of *Mycena* for the U.S. will find that it has been carefully analyzed by Maas Geesteranus, and the two volumes of the present work contain many corrections to the earlier monograph based on meticulous anatomical comparisons.

I noted that the contents of these volumes has been available for some time; and the reader of this review may find it valuable to examine the keys to British *Mycena* species and the accompanying color illustrations that have recently appeared in the *The Mycologist*. This work by Ernest E. Emmett makes extensive use of Dr. Maas Geesteranus' publications that are gathered in *Mycenas of the Northern Hemisphere*. Emmett offers some comments on collecting and examining mycenas that North American amateurs will find useful, and his keys partially summarize the studies of Dr. Maas Geesteranus.

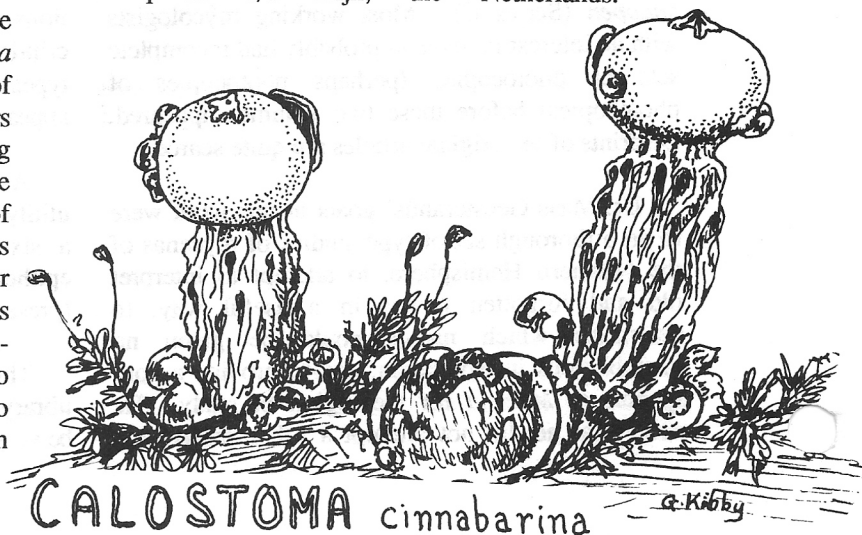
C. J. Uljé. 1989-92. *Coprinus*. (privately published, Alphen aan de Rijn). Part 1. *Subsectie Auricomis & Subsectie Glabri*. 16 pp. Part 2. *Subsectie Setulosi*. i+43 pp. Part 3. *Subsectie Vestiti 1*. 32 pp. Part 4. *Sect. Micacei subsect. Vestiti 2*. 20 pp.

Mr. Uljé is an advanced amateur mycologist who has worked closely with Dr. C. Bas (of the Rijksherbarium) over a number of years. Together they have published several new species of *Coprinus*. Mr. Uljé held a number of jobs including that of bricklayer until troubles with his back permanently sidelined him. His interest in mycology began to deepen and he started to focus on *Coprinus*. His work is remarkable for Europe because he has identified *so many new taxa in a long studied genus*. According to Dr. Bas, part of Uljé's advantage is that he forays several hours before most mycologists wake up and finds fruiting bodies that would have disappeared by the time the "normal work day" begins. He learned the use of a personal computer with the assistance of his brother; and Mr. Uljé's pamphlets are prepared for publication on his PC with the addition of his superb, professional-journal-quality line illustrations. There is more than a passing resemblance to the style of drawings that would be familiar to anyone knowing the journal *Persoonia* of which Dr. Bas has been editor in recent years.

Part 1 begins with an introduction to the genus, directions on taking field notes that are suited to the modern study of *Coprinus*, an explanation of the techniques of microscopy used by Uljé in his studies, and illustrated definitions of some basic terms. There follows a key to what Uljé treats as subsections of *Coprinus* section *Pseudocoprinus* and a key to the species treated in Part 1. Each species is presented on a single page with an illustration of one or more fruiting bodies and important anatomical features. The text gives a condensed macroscopic and microscopic description which is usually quite thorough. Some comments (for example, on habitat) close the descriptions.

Each of the subsequent parts contains at least two (sometimes three) keys to the species covered; and, in Parts 2 and 3, one of the keys is synoptic. The general form of the descriptions and the quality of the drawings are maintained. A key to the sections of *Coprinus* recognized by Uljé in 1990 is offered near the beginning of Part 3. It should be noted, however, that, in the existing Parts, Uljé does not treat supraspecific taxa as anything other than previously described boxes in which to place species. Specifically, he does not try to assign rank to supraspecific taxa based on his amassed knowledge. I understand from Dr. Bas, that we may expect a self-consistent treatment of supraspecific taxa from Uljé in the future.

The price of the pamphlets is set so as to cover Mr. Uljé's costs—two and one-half guilders each or about \$1.43 as of mid-April 1993. Since there is often a very large charge for cashing a foreign currency check in the Netherlands, I suggest that you write to Mr. Uljé concerning manner of payment (or barter?): Mr. C. J. Uljé, v. Dijkstraat 21, 2405 XE Alphen a/d Rijn, the Netherlands.



CALOSTOMA cinnabarina

FORAY NAKED!

You need a reason? Check this out. The article is a letter to the editor of JAMA, vol. 269 no. 4, 1-27-93. It was reported in the March issue of the NYMS newsletter.

To the Editor—Following a case of erythema migrans at a Connecticut nudist camp, a request was made to the University of Connecticut Health Center for a physician who was willing to come(sic) to the camp and discuss Lyme disease. Not one to miss such an opportunity, I picked a Saturday in August to visit, a time when the camp population swells to over 300 nudists. The nudists come from all over Connecticut to spend weeks or weekends at the camp. Are nudists more vulnerable to tick bites but, perhaps, less vulnerable to developing undetected rashes?

The nudist camp had abundant deer, woods, rocks, and grass— an ideal environment for the deer tick (*Ixodes dammini*.) Tick repellent was not used by the nudists. Over the past year there had been one case of physician-diagnosed erythema migrans acquired at the nudist camp. There were no other cases of Lyme disease. What was surprising was that deer tick bites were very unusual occurrences at the camp. This was not because nudists could not identify deer tick bites, as many of the nudists reported deer tick bites that occurred at their permanent homes. These bites frequently occurred when the nudists were wearing clothes, but not the recommended long sleeves and long pants (with the pants being tucked into socks.) In fact, long pants not tucked into socks may offer ticks an ideal place to get under clothing.

Why are deer tick bites unusual at this Connecticut nudist camp? One explanation is that although deer are present, deer ticks are not yet established. A second explanation is that deer ticks do not like nudists, as ticks prefer to do their biting under cover. A tick surveillance study is being planned for next year.

Henry M Feder Jr. MD
University of Connecticut Health Center
Farmington

Who said doctors can't write???—ed.

WARNING: MUSHROOM PICKING MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR LIFE

Thinking of traveling to the bountiful mushroom habitats of the Pacific Northwest? Read on before you pack your bags. — The demand for American mushrooms thrives abroad, especially in Japan, where the residents prize the spicy-scented, large, thick-fleshed white matstake mushroom (*Armillaria ponderosa*). This choice edible grows wild and abundantly from December through February in the Pacific Northwest, spawning the latest get-rich-quick scheme.

Japanese gourmets reportedly will spend several hundred dollars for one matsutake mushroom! Exporters are paying pickers up to \$100 a pound for the matsutakes, and, while the supply lasts, pickers may easily earn a thousand dollars a day. With prices such as these, collectors are coming out of the woods! The Cascade Mushroom Company, a Portland, Oregon exporter, reportedly buys 10,000 pounds of mushrooms a day from the local pickers.

Sounds like an entrepreneur's and mycophile's paradise - right? **NOT!** As if gathering mushrooms wasn't difficult enough, some mushroom pickers in Oregon find themselves dodging rifle bullets fired by fellow pickers shooting from the back of pickup trucks. Union county, Oregon, reported three shooting incidents in one wee, among mushroom pickers. A Cambodian man was killed while picking mushrooms in the Southern Oregon Winema National Forest. His body was found, but not his mushrooms. Sheriff Steven Oliver of Union County, Oregon, warns visitors that trying to gather mushrooms in the Pacific Northwest during this frenzy is not worth the possible penalty; it could cost you your life.

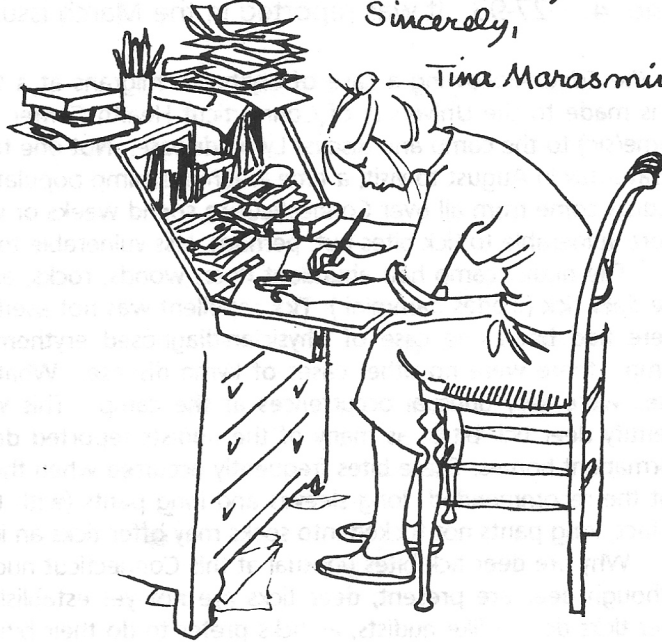
-adapted by Judy Swanson from the *Wall Street Journal* May 11, 1993

IN THIS ISSUE: REMEMBERING GERTRUDE ESPENSCHIED

Dear senators Bradley and Lautenberg,
Acid rain is ruining mushroom hunting
in New Jersey. Please do something.

Sincerely,

Tina Marasmius



CARTOON BY
GERTRUDE
ESPENSCHIED

NJMA news
c/o Sue Hopkins
PO Box 201

First Class Mail