

NJMAnews

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November-December 2000

The official newsletter of the New Jersey Mycological Association

NJMA Officers

President - Glenn Freeman
Vice-President - Frank Addotta
Secretary - Terry Horvath
Treasurer - Bob Peabody
Dues: Calendar Year \$10. each or \$15. family. Mail checks (payable to NJMA) to
Bob Peabody

NJMAnews

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Send submissions to the editors.
* All other correspondence to NJMA should be sent to the secretary.
Terry Horvath

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Fungus Fest 2000 a Cooperative Success

It couldn't have been better weather for the Fungus Fest this year. Three hundred eighty people woke up to a dry, warm fall day and said, "Let's go look at some mushrooms." So they came, curious or knowledgeable, and all went home with a little something they didn't know before about the world of fungi. Publicity was exceptional. The subject caught the interest of several local newspapers and color photos caught the public's eye. Sixty volunteers worked Saturday and Sunday to make the event work like clockwork, and kudos to Grace Barbagallo for holding it all together. A special thanks to the folks who volunteered for the first time this year. We must also thank the coordinators from previous years who have each added some aspect or modification that makes up the successful "template" for the event - & to Joe K's family for the "butterscotch".

Fungus Fest is a valuable outreach program that educates the public about the wonders of mushrooms. We did a fine job this year meeting that goal - and had 40 new members sign up besides! Let's all be sure to welcome them warmly. They will be the future of the club.

Calendar of Events - NJMA

Nov 5	Chef Patrick Verre	SCEEC
Nov 26	Holiday Party - Election & Slide Photo Show and Contest	
Note: This is a different date than printed in last newsletter.		
Dec	No meeting. Enjoy the holidays.	
Jan 7	To be announced	
Feb 11	Mycophagy	

Directions to SCEEC (Somerset County Environmental Education Center)

(908) 766-2489 Route 287 to Exit 30A (North Maple Ave/Basking Ridge). Follow N. Maple Ave as it bends left and becomes S. Maple Ave in town. Follow S. Maple Ave past Lord Stirling Stables. Go left on Lord Stirling Rd (Great Swamp sign on the right). SCEEC is about a mile. Park in the lot. NOT in front. Meetings start at 2 p.m. Contributions to refreshments (snacks or \$) are appreciated.

NJMA NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Nov 5 - Chef Patrick Verre



Patrick Verre is the executive chef at Jasna Polana, an exclusive country club in Princeton. He is experienced in all culinary aspects of food preparation and has a special fondness for mushrooms. Come hear how Patrick prepares and uses mushrooms in various dishes. Also, Patrick will share his philosophies of maintaining a proper diet and how food preparation integrates with appreciation of the natural environment. This promises to be an unusual and interesting program. (any similarity between the drawing and Patrick's appearance is purely coincidental).

Nov 26 - Holiday Party-Election-Slide Show and Contest (Note the date. No Dec meeting)



Relax with the good folks of NJMA at our annual party to celebrate a good year and each other.

You have time to **enter your slides in the contest**. Even if you have one slide to offer for consideration, you may give it to Gene Varney at the Nov 5 meeting or send it to him at 17 Hadler Dr. Somerset, NJ 08873. Contest rules are in the Sept/Oct newsletter. **Plan your refreshment offering**. Goodies are especially anticipated at this meeting. Bring snacks and finger foods to share. Hot beverages are provided. This meeting is a good time to thank the out-going officers for a job well done and welcome the new. **The slate that will be presented** to the club by the nominating committee is:

President - John Horvath
Secretary - Ania Boyd

Vice President - Sang Park
Treasurer - Bob Peabody

DUES DUE

It's time to share some of your "green energy" with the club for another year of all the activities that make our club the success it continues to be. And what a bargain! \$10. one year individual membership and \$15. one year household membership gives you admission to all programs and activities, plus the newsletter to let you know what's happening near and far. Pay treasurer Bob Peabody at the Nov 5 meeting, or send it to him (address on front page). You may include a separate check for \$35. made out to NAMA if you would like to join the North American Mycological Association and receive their beautiful newsletter, informative journal and membership benefits. You might want to consider a life-time membership of \$500. to this worthwhile organization.

Item

From Mushroom: The Journal of Wild Mushrooming 69/18/4
I have decided to quit marketing "Discover Mushrooms" until I finish the new version. In the meantime, I have decided to allow anyone to download a free copy of the current version from www.mushroom.cc on the Internet. Charles Samuels Anchorage AK (chuck@fvx.fairweather.com)

William Greiner

NJMA and NYMS member William Greiner died early this year at age 87. Although in a wheel chair, he and his wife Ina attended several of our winter meetings over the last few years. NYC has dedicated a trail and bench in honor of his public service as a nature instructor and guide.

Harry Thiers

Harry Thiers, teacher, author, mycologist and mentor, died the early morning of August 8, 2000 at age 81. Harry spent the day of August 7 collecting and studying mushrooms with his friends and family. For 30 years, he taught biology and mycology at the San Francisco State University. During his lifetime, he was the first to describe 150 species of mushrooms and became a leading authority on boletes. Thiers also wrote eight books as well as many monographs and research papers. He earned his Ph.D. as a student of pre-eminent American mycologist Alexander Smith and, in his turn, mentored many others into professional mycology. Dr. Thiers was honored by many, including NAMA, MSA and finally, the California Academy of Sciences Fellows Medal, the first time the award was ever given to a mycologist. Harry Thiers' name was lent to fourteen species, a genus (Thiers), two scholarship, and the largest herbarium in the West, the Harry Thiers Herbarium at SFSU, containing more than 100,000 species, more than half collected by Harry. For more information or to donate in Harry's name, you may visit the NAMA web page:
<http://www.mykoweb.com/boletes/index.html>.

Mushroom Poisonings in Russia & Ukraine

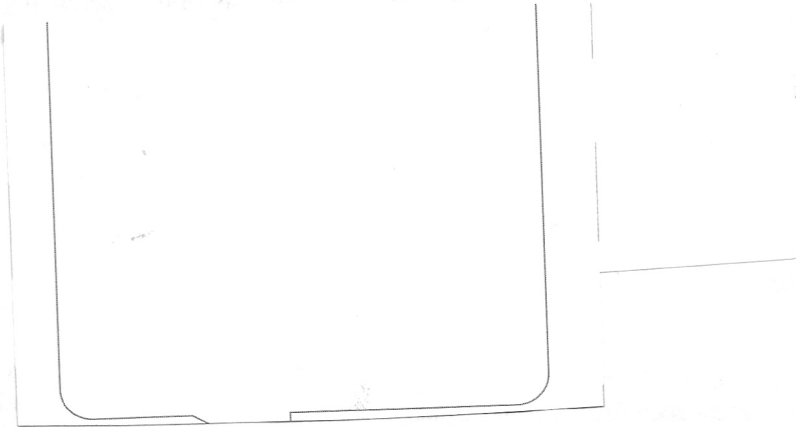
excerpted from the Wall Street Journal 10/11/00

Most Russians have been picking, pickling and devouring mushrooms since they were children and they don't appreciate having their expertise questioned. However, their confidence has proven fatal. Nearly 200 persons died this past season from poisonous mushrooms. As a result, mushroom sales have been banned in several regions. Yet, the risk isn't enough to stop an activity that defines the national cuisine and identity. For generations, grandparents have been teaching grandchildren to delight in the hunt. Maxim Safonov, biologist and mushroom specialist said most mushroom poisonings are caused by overconfidence and careless preparation (not boiling mushrooms long enough or failing to pour off the soaking water). Officials often blame poverty. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, many rely more and more on wild food for sustenance. Others fault pollution, saying safe mushroom species can become dangerous if they grow on contaminated soil. Surgeon General Gennady Onishchenko said recently that a variety of the death cap had mutated to look like an ordinary variety. Most poisonings occur in rural areas, where the nearest medical care is poor and some distance away. Police are patrolling markets where sales are banned and health officials are examining the mushrooms that pickers are bringing out of the forests.



NJMA news
c/o Sue Hopkins

First Class Mail



MY FOOT FUNGUS

*from <http://dehar.tripod.com/p-fungus-project.html> via Fungifama
South Vancouver Island Mycological Society, May 2000
Author unknown.*

I'm growing fungus on my feet. To tell the truth, it's kinda neat.
I grew it for my science class. It's got so big, I'm sure to pass

But it's not easy growing mold. You must keep it dark and from the cold.
Put your socks on when they're wet. And feed your fungus lots of sweat.

It's been a month since I last showered. And because of this, it's truly flowered.
It's amazing just how fast it grows. You've never seen such fuzzy toes!

It has the most delightful hue. It's sorta green and sorta blue.
But there are drawbacks to its fungal riches. You won't believe how much it itches.

The smell is gross, I have to say. But it's worth it all to get an "A".