



Mycorizon

Newsletter of the New Mexico Mycological Society

March - April 2009

President's Message: This n' That

At the March meeting, Spencer Campbell gave a well-prepared presentation describing his and wife Libba's experiences at the November 2008 Gulf States foray in Louisiana. Linda Zobrist provided much appreciated refreshments. On behalf of all in attendance, thank you Spencer and Linda.

We are privileged to welcome the following newly joined members: Jesus Galvan, Marjorie and Dewayne Longenbaugh, Brookes McIntyre, Hope Tran and Hal Nelson, Mary and Jim Young; and Jim Thomas, who joined in December.

Our April meeting will be in mid-month in Santa Fe. The cover article has information on the program and directions to the meeting location.

Board of Directors meets on Monday April 6, 7:00 PM at the Natural History Museum; it's the same room where we hold our Albuquerque general membership meetings and programs. All members are welcome to attend. The BOD values everyone's input while reserving voting privileges to those who have volunteered to serve NMMS on its Board.

NMMS has a small collection of publications relating to mushrooming and we plan to develop a listing of what's available, as well as procedures for borrowing items.

Have you read about the Cibola Nat'l. Forest's concern with its moth damaged trees and its anxiety about potential injuries to forest users from the falling of weakened limbs and trunks? The government is assessing possible

issues of related liability exposure and may decide to close all or parts of the hiking trails. I'll leave for the lawyers a discussion of legal risks, however, the message for all mushroomers and other hikers is to be aware of their surroundings and remain alert for would-be safety hazards. Please look up as well as down. Both the Sandias and the Manzanos are included in the Cibola.

Unless we receive appreciably more moisture, the dry forests coupled with spring winds may result in a forest closure due to hazardous fire conditions. Who can perform a rain dance?

And I checked out our NMMS website. I think its pretty neat as it's loaded with updated and relevant information. Thanks, Dave, for your very worthwhile time and effort.

Respectfully, Mark Kalin

Foray Report

The 25th Anniversary NMMS Annual Foray will be in Taos August 20-23+ at the Best Western Kachina Lodge. Vera Evenson is our featured mycologist, and she will help us set up a vouchersing system to better document the specimens collected each year. They will be stored by the Southwest Museum of Biology's Herbarium at UNM. Vouchersing and microscopy will begin on Sunday August 23rd and will last until we finish, either the 24th or 25th, depending on how many specimens are collected and identified. The registration form will be posted on NMMS' website and will be included in the May-June newsletter. Only those interested in helping with vouchersing will stay past

the morning of the 23rd. We will show a short DVD during the orientation briefing on Thursday night of mycologist Cathy Cripps explaining the voucher system.

We need a two key volunteers for voucher-ing: one to be the recorder, who records the information on the specimens and passes them to the photographer, who takes the photographs and then passes them to the dehydrator or display coordinator. It is a fine line to display while fresh but to be able to dehydrate before the mushroom starts to rot or to be eaten by worms. The key to doing both is for members to collect 4-6 of each specimen, if possible, with one young and others more mature. That way we have specimens to display and others to dehydrate for the Herbarium. Please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to volunteer for either of these jobs. I won't go into the details we need for the photographer, but will share those when contacted.

There is a competition to design a commemorative t-shirt. Entries must be post-marked or emailed no later than April 30. The winner will be selected by the foray committee and the designer gets a free t-shirt. One color designs are much more cost effective to print for a group of our size, so unless you can print the shirts too, please limit your design to one color. Please specify the color of ink and the color of the shirt it is to be printed on. Designs should include the name, date, and location of the event and incorporate the NMMS spore print/Zia logo. Write abqlibba@comcast.net or call 505-275-3071 with questions or to discuss job responsibilities.

As always, I am excited about the foray and looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Mushroomers are my favorite people! I continue to be amazed at how much I learn every year at the foray. Please volunteer! It is your foray and it will only be as good as you make it.

Libba Campbell

Walt Sundberg wrote the following article for the folks in the Missouri Mycological Society. It is the first of a series for publication in their newsletter, the *Earthstar Examiner* (Issue 95, March 2009). We print it here with the author's permission and credit to MoMS.

Building your "Mushroom Memory"

Do you remember when you first went on a mushroom foray? Why did you start? Was it curiosity, love of nature, or just the nature of the hunt? What were your goals? What did you know about mushrooms before going? Answers to these questions probably hinge on where you grew up (city or rural), and your family background, their interests, and activities.

Growing up in San Francisco, and in spite of the fact that for years, we spent parts of our summers among the redwoods near Santa Cruz, I wasn't introduced to wild mushrooms until my Junior and Senior years in College. I was truly surprised to learn (and see) that mushrooms were abundant (but previously unseen by me) in those same places where I spent some of my youth! And, I still vividly recall my first fall/early winter of trying to learn (and recall the names of) the mushrooms I found the past year.

I know that many of us go through various stages and processes in our learning about mushrooms. At first, many are interested in learning which are edible and, for safety's sake, easy to recognize with certainty. For some of us, this is "good enough". But, because of curiosity, mushroom beauty, etc., many of us eventually begin a quest to learn more—to go beyond just the recognition of the "foolproof five" or "sensible seven." At that point, species recognition—remembering and recognizing the salient features and name of each species—becomes more important. This creates problems for many of us since the "prey" is seasonal. How does one accomplish such goals?

For this purpose, I am initiating this "intermittent continuing series" of Newsletter

articles to suggest ways that might enhance success in making personally visible progress.

Many of us think of mushroom learning as something that takes place only (or mostly) during the warmer months—the fruiting season. However, the winter/pre-spring periods offer excellent opportunities to learn—via “arm chair” mycology. Herein I offer two important suggestions. Both should be done frequently at ALL TIMES of year. Start NOW!

1. Whenever possible, review the illustrations of mushrooms and other fleshy fungi in your personal library—books, mushroom magazines, etc. Because of your familiarity with the pictures, etc. it will ultimately be possible for you to sometimes recognize and/or identify fungi you have never seen before when you come across them in the field. This is true “arm-chair mycology.”

2. Begin to make a **personal “life-list”** of fungi you KNOW and/or have seen in the field or at forays. *List by scientific names*; include common names as well—if this helps you. If possible, use a computer spread sheet like Microsoft Excel. Such a list can be continually modified and updated. **PRINT THE LIST OUT.** Review it *over and over again*, and modify it often, whenever as your knowledge of mushroom species increases (as you see and learn new species in the field). **Most important: Carry it with you and use it to jog your memory on field trips!** You will be surprised at how much more you will soon remember with the help of your list.

Have You Paid Your Dues?

NMMS memberships expire on December 31. The address label on this newsletter will indicate your membership status. If you haven't paid your 2009 dues, take this opportunity to do so. Annual dues are \$20, payable to NMMS, and mailed to

NMMS c/o Sharon Chong
23 Piñon Court, Placitas, NM 87043-9251

Please remember that receiving this newsletter is a benefit of **Paid** membership.

NMMS SHOPPING

David Arora's *Mushrooms Demystified*
M \$27.00 / N 30.00

David Arora's *All that the Rain Promises...*
M \$13.00 / N \$15.00

Vera Stucky Evenson's *Mushrooms of Colorado and the Southern Rocky Mountains*
M \$15.00 / N \$17.00 (temporarily out-of-stock)

Toadstool's Interactive CD
The Secret Lives of Mushrooms
M \$15.00 / N \$17.00

Orson K. Miller Jr. & Hope H. Miller's
North American Mushrooms:
A field guide to edible and inedible fungi
M \$20.00 / N \$23.00

**Books available at meetings
or contact Terri Wallis at**
505-262-0830 or twallis@swcp.com

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The purpose of NMMS is to advance the understanding and stimulate interest in the field of mycology.



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NMMS is affiliated with the North American Mycological Association

NMMS Returns to Santa Fe

Our handful of Santa Fe gatherings in 2007 provided an opportunity for our northern New Mexico members to enjoy a club meeting without the long Monday drive to Albuquerque. The Board had decided to alternate meetings again this year, with the first Santa Fe meeting on April 19th.

We are grateful to Barbara Hays, who has hosted our summer Potluck at her clubhouse for the last two years, and has offered to host this year's Santa Fe meetings as well.

The address of Barbara's clubhouse is 360B *Calle Colina*, which is about a half mile north of Fort Marcy Park, about a quarter mile west of the Governor's Mansion, and can be accessed from either Old Taos Highway or Bishops Lodge Road. A map and directions are available on our website (mycowest.org) and a printed

copy is also included with copies of this Mycorizon issue mailed to members in New Mexico.

Jonathan Caldwell, club VP for 2007-8, will be our speaker at the April meeting. The name of Jonathan's talk is "Approaching a new spring season: what I'm seeing now, what I expect to see soon, and why." Jonathan admits that the title "does sound a bit Edwardian-era," but it provides a good representation of his topic.

The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM, and we plan to conclude by 5:00. The April gathering is *NOT* a potluck; Ted Stampfer has volunteered to provide refreshments for this gathering. However, if anyone wants to contribute an additional treat, it would certainly be welcome. We would appreciate a few folks staying after the meeting to clean and straighten up the clubhouse.

NMMS 2009 Taos Foray - August 20-23+ - Details Inside