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cc: Dave Catlin
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Dear fellow "mushroom experts";
I have now received about 88 letters.
I have tried to distribute them about
the state as follows:
St. Louis area 26
Kansas City area 10
Northern MO 7
Central MO 21
Southeastern MO 7
South Central MO 9
Southwestern MO 7

I think our only "true expert" is
Ken Olsen who is, unfortunately,
at some miles from most of the rest of us.
We have a veterinarian, a dentist, a
microbiologist but, unfortunately, no
biochemist or M.D. (internist). Many people

are interested in toxins, and they are usually the folks best
prepared to do the explaining.

I would like to ask people to do some things; if you can't
please let me know soonest. I would like John Mruzik to get
together with Charles Morgan and Don Dill and set up a time
on a weekend, perhaps in February, when we can have a meeting
at UMSL, have Charles show his slides and Don bring his books,
and look and talk. If it were well enough planned, we could
get a public service spot on KUMR and also the public radio
station in Edwardsville. (I think it is WSIU)

I am going to send out a longer letter to everyone soliciting
membership. So if only half of those expressing interest join,
we will probably still have 50, state-wide. I propose a
"regular" dues of \$20. and a "poverty" dues of \$5.00. It is
clear from the letters that some of the interested people have
little money. These dues would reimburse me for duplicating
and postage costs and make the beginning of a newsletter.

I am thinking of no spring forays since everyone
interested no morels and false morels. However, starting
labor day weekend and continuing until mid-October, I would
like to have a foray almost every weekend (given decent weather
working from Northwest through Southeast through the state.
I am fairly lucky with you "experts"; I have at least one
person in all parts of the state except the Southeast.

Let me introduce myself briefly. I am an Applied
Sociologist/Program Evaluator. I work for the Dept of
Mental Health. I have a lot of experience in organizing and
have picked mushrooms for over 20 years. I decided to do
this after my wife died unexpectedly of a massive coronary
on May 24th, and I had to start my life over, in many ways,
at the age of 50. I have belonged to the Mycological Societies
in San Francisco, Denver, and Boston, and have attended one
NAMA National Foray in the North Carolina Smokies. I was
fortunate to teach briefly at a college which allowed you
to teach your "hobbies" and the natural scientists let me
use their lab for a course where we hunted in the South
Jersey pine barrens.

As you can tell, I am thinking of some "regionalization"
though I may not have put everyone in the right spot. This
is so we can think of putting our forays closer to the interested
people, though people from all over the state (and neighboring
states) can attend. I am out of room. You'll hear from me again.

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS & OBJECTIONS!!

Phil Roos

Sincerely,