

MISSOURI MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1989

Winter Meeting

Our winter meeting at UMSL will be at 2:00 pm on Sunday, February 12th in Stadler Hall. This is the same place we have had our two previous winter meetings; also, John Mruzik will have a sign up inside the door so you won't get lost.

Due to our smaller membership and the disappointing turnout last year, we will have an NAMA slide show rather than a live speaker. I presented one of their slide shows at a Native Plant chapter meeting. The pictures were beautiful although I thought there was room for some argument with the text. Even if the slide show is not completely up to date, I'm sure we will all learn something.

Membership

I was greatly encouraged by how many of you renewed your memberships -- they just kept trickling in. We are now a smaller group which may make it easier to telephone people. It was very difficult before.

If your address label has asterisks (*) on it, this will be your last newsletter since you didn't pay your dues. If you believe I made a mistake and you did pay your dues, let me know. If you forgot to pay your dues, send me \$8.00 (\$3.00 poverty or if you also belong to another local club [e.g.,] Kaw Valley or Arkansas) and you will stay on the list. The practice of sending free newsletters to all local NAMA members, even if they don't belong to a local club, will cease for the time being.

There's no room for the treasurer's report in this issue; it will appear in the next one.

Fall Forays

We continued to suffer from the drought this fall. I did not attend either of the joint forays with Arkansas or Kaw Valley. Both were pretty dry. The one in Kansas, since it was earlier, appeared to have been the less productive of the two. Ken Olson suggests that our joint foray with Arkansas be located at the last moment since Harrisonville was even drier than Branson. Since the rain is so spotty in the Ozarks, it may work better there than with the Kansas joint foray.

My foray prior to the fair in Missouri River City also yielded mostly non-fleshy fungi. However, a number of people stopped at the card

table to chat and one joined.

Since the fall newsletter came out late, no one showed up for the foray at Citicorp. I forgot my books so didn't do any identification but there were a fair number of mushrooms. I picked blewits, shaggy manes, meadow mushrooms, and two kinds of *suillus*. Since this, and similar, areas are irrigated, they have mushrooms without regard to rainfall. Hunting is quite reliably productive at the end of September and beginning of October. You folks who live in St. Louis, and other places with such "office parks," can pretty well bank on fall mushrooms, particularly if the parks contain white pine.

Jack and Marty Toll and their son, and Leland von Behren, joined me in the late foray at St. Joe State Park near Farmington. The younger Toll has a real nose for mushrooms; he found lots. We were able to identify a few. There was a rosy-colored *Russula* that I hadn't seen (which is no news) but which also didn't appear in any of our books despite its distinctive appearance.

A. theirsii

When the previous newsletter was in the mail to Buddy Samuels, I received my copy of *The Mycolog*, the Kaw Valley newsletter. It contains a long discussion of *A. theirsii*. The sticky, lacy remnants of the universal veil are particularly distinctive.

It is described, with a picture, in Weber & Smith's *Field Guide to Southern Mushrooms* (pp. 158f, no. 136). After the last newsletter, John Mruzik called to say that he had collected it in St. Louis several times. Don Dill wrote that he collected it in 1971 at Lake of the Ozarks. Don misidentified it as a *Lepiota*, as did I. It does not have a cup or sheath as do most *Amanitas*. In my two summers in Jeff City, it has been common on lawns in hot weather after heavy rains. Since it is such a large and distinctive mushroom, you should all be aware of it.

I was justifiably criticized for eating it. While no harm befell me, it should not be eaten. This newsletter includes one of Sherry Kay's beautiful line drawings which will help you identify it next summer.

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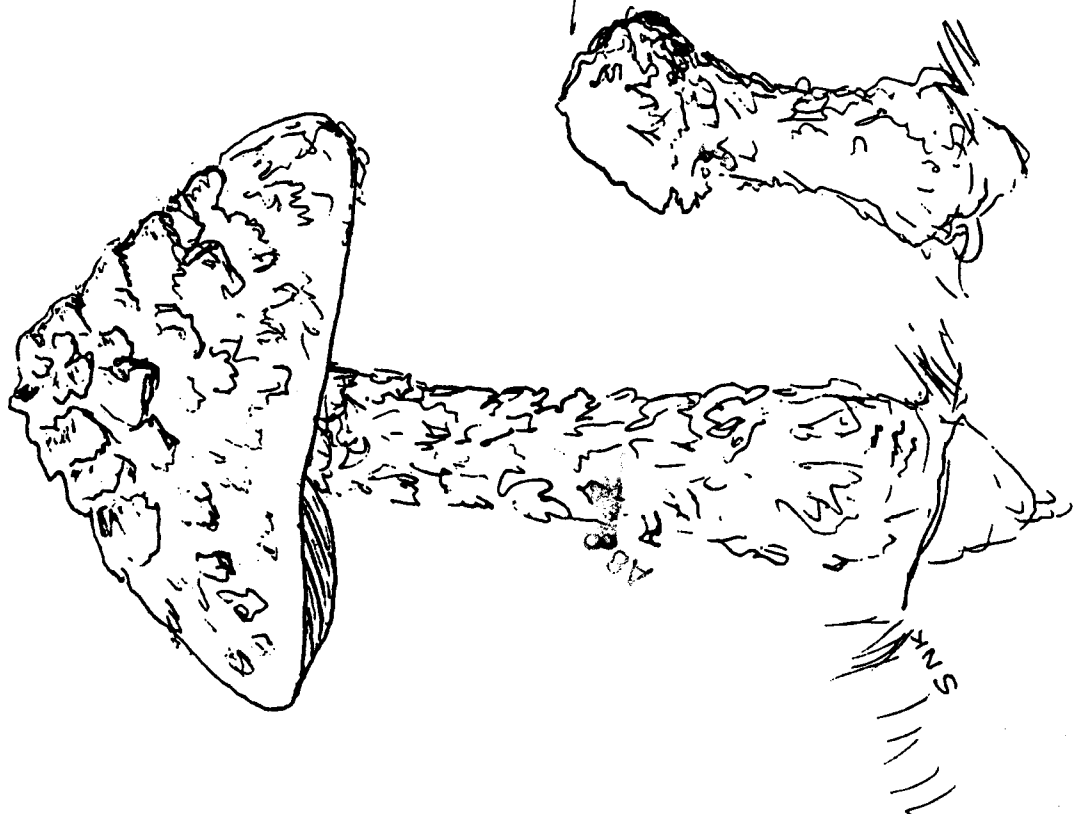


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CELEBRATING THE
WILD MUSHROOM
FRIEDMAN



Amanita thiersii
The Sticky-Lace Amanita