

MISSOURI MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 1987

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NAMA Members

If you are an North American Mycological Association member, please send your dues notice and a check for \$12.00 made out to NAMA to Phil Roos. By joining NAMA as a member of MMS, you save \$3.00. If you are not an NAMA member but wish to join, do the same but include a sheet of paper with your name, address and phone #.

Sorry to be so late with this announcement; I wrote Ann Hart giving her the list of our members who are NAMA members and asked her to return your checks. I don't know if she can do that.

Good Book Cheap

Mushrooms and other Fungi of Land Between the Lakes is now available for the low price of \$4.00 including shipping. Land Between the Lakes is close to the Bootheel. The fungi are common, particularly in southern and eastern Missouri. A good book for beginners; however there is no information on edibility so it shouldn't be your first book. Send \$4.00 to

Prof. Walter Sundberg
Department of Botany
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale IL 62901

Walt also has a new book which was previewed in the NAMA newsletter. It would be great if someone reviewed it for the next newsletter.

Mushroom Magazine

At least some of you will receive an ad for *Mushroom* with this newsletter. While it is interesting and informative, at \$4.00 an issue, it is expensive. Please consider this an item of information rather than an endorsement.

Can Forest Service Spell?

The following item, from the *Forest Service Daily News Digest* for July 6, 1987, comes to us courtesy of an anonymous source.

MUSHROOMS THRIVE AFTER FIRES -- Fires in the Northwest Oregon mountains last summer have led to the biggest crop of golden Morrell mushrooms in recent years, according to FS officials.... About 600 pickers have been working on the hillsides where fires burned at about this time last year. The rush to pick the mushrooms has caught the FS somewhat off guard. A Umatilla NF spokesperson said guidelines for commercial harvesting will be developed this winter in anticipation of next year's Morrell harvest.

Comment: Maybe the commercial pickers disguised themselves as dry lightning storms this summer to increase the "Morrell" harvest in 1988.

Membership List

An up-to-date membership list is enclosed. For you beginners, these are the folks to call for help. Ed Becka and Dave Gerwitz have volunteered to be the phone tree coordinators. Please let them know if you can be a phone chain link. Buddy Samuels is our Newsletter Editor. If you write, or come across, juicy items, send them to her. Note that the membership list has been revised to include space for a work phone number. If your data is incorrect, or if you have a work phone you can be reached at, please send a card to Phil Roos. This is particularly important for those who have no phone number at all on the membership roster.

Foray Reports

This is what you have all been waiting to hear: Our adventures and misadventures.

Spring foray led by Dave Skaer. This was a plain and unmitigated disaster although we tried several times. It was not a good year for morels in the lower Midwest. There were discouraging reports from Arkansas, Kansas and Indiana and few people in Missouri did well, or at least told about it. Roy Jerden was, of course, the exception with a bag-full.

Aug. 29th, Babler State Park, Roy Jerden leader. Things were hot and dry. There were about 6 forayers. We found little in Babler Park Then Roy took us to a St. Louis County Park where we did a bit better, with a few chanterelles and a couple pounds of meadow mushrooms.

Sept. 13th, Pere Marquette State Park, Leland von Behren, coordinator. This was the loneliest foray with only Leland and your faithful correspondent. It is a beautiful park and we found some *Polyporus sulphurus*, some *Hygrophorus*, and a large (13" across) white soft polypore which we couldn't identify. Leland decided later that it was an albino sulphur mushroom but I'm still not convinced. We had an encounter with sweat bees and I barely made it back to Jeff City.

Sept. 19th. This was the weekend of weekends for fall mushrooming. Unfortunately, the foray leader (who shall remain nameless) had not chosen a good spot. Many mushrooms were found and few identified. There were ten participants.

Sept. 26th was the first annual Missouri-Kansas foray. (Next year it will be the Kansas-Missouri foray and will occur in Kansas.) Ken Olson gave an excellent presentation along with slides and helped identify our pitiful finds. It had been hot and completely dry since the previous foray and very little was to be found despite the fact that the Bureau of Reclamation had rounded up some boy scouts to help search. We found two *Lepiota procera*. Dick Kay, president of the Kansas club, originally disputed the identification but later changed his mind. Apparently, this relatively common mushroom in Missouri is uncommon in Kansas.

Oct. 4th, Lynda Richards, leader. Lynda took us to a well-hidden white pine plantation on Mark Twain NF. Roy was looking for a *suillus* that grows under white pine but he found only a few. We also looked under yellow pine and mixed hardwoods. *Armillaria mellea* and *A. tabescens* were plentiful; other mushrooms were rather scarce. Your correspondent was introduced to *Entoloma abortivum*. About 10 people attended. While the weather had still been dry, it was better than the previous foray.

Oct. 17th, Greensfelder County Park, Roy Jerden, leader. There was hardly a thing in Greensfelder. Roy, our good traveler, took us to the AAA office near U.S. 40 and Mason Rd. There were more white pine and some had *Suillus granulatus* growing under them. Also some meadow mushrooms in the lawns. Next year we must schedule a trespasser's foray in October. In these "office parks," non-native trees are planted and watered during dry weather, resulting in mushrooms when the wilder lands don't have them. Only six people for this foray.

Oct. 24th., near Branson, Ken Olson leader. Despite steady rain, we had about a dozen including Jay Justice, the president of the Arkansas club. This was the first annual Missouri-Arkansas foray. (Next year it will be the Arkansas-Missouri foray but still near Branson.) Since the weather had been dry previously, we only found a few. However, it was exciting to be able to take our finds to a lab. Ken prepared a slide so that we could see spores through the microscope. We also had room to lay everything out on tables and to write little slips. Ken also showed us some of his dried specimens.

Please send in your opinions on how we can better schedule forays next year so that more members attend. (Don't say that we should have more rain; that isn't an organizational issue.) This will be discussed in the next newsletter which will include a Treasurer's report and announce the winter meeting.