



EARTHSTAR

E X A M I N E R

Number 15, July 1990

Newsletter of the Missouri Mycological Society

Observations by Ken Gilberg

Morel season is over. Either you got them or you didn't. I apologize to members who wanted a morel foray, but it just didn't happen. I was incredibly busy renovating and moving to my new place of residence at the farm. I snuck out for brief personal forays and found enough to dry for a couple of exclusive dinners in the future. From all reports that came my way, it was a pretty good year for morels. The crassipes or big-foot variety came on especially strong. Leland von Behren reported finding over 200 rooms in his quests, but he takes his vacation at that time and who knows how much time he spent looking. He did say that he found 18 morels in a single cluster! Other members phoned for reassurance that what they had was the genuine article, some came to the farm to show me their finds.

Phil and I both felt bad that we didn't organize a foray. But we have some good excuses. We weren't sure where to do a foray. Babler and Rockwoods were swarming with hunters for the succulent fungi and I certainly was not going to share the few spots that I have harvested from in the past. Morels are not the type of fungi that need much experience to identify such as on summer and fall forays. Members -- please feel free to comment about this situation, maybe you have a suggestion or at least, forgiveness.

I have been thinking about planning another big event for the society, a state foray somewhere this fall, going to a central place rich with mushrooms, camping out and getting together with our finds for identifications and tastings. Any ideas on where to go? Is there interest for this? Please let me know. My new address and phone: 2888 Ossenfort Road, Glencoe, Mo. 63038, 314 458-1458.

All the questions I had about the false morel (*Gyromitra* sp.) were answered by Nancy Smith Weber in last quarter's issue of *Mushroom, the Journal of Wild Mushrooming*. This is a wonderful magazine that I recommend to anyone who wants book reviews, cultivation information, fruiting reports, news of national forays and much

more. It is \$16 per year (4 issues). Address: 861 Harold St. Moscow, ID 83843.

This year's NAMA foray is to be held near Vancouver at Whistler Mountain, B.C., October 5-8. The following week, October 9-14 there's the 2nd annual mushroom conference on Cortez Island, northwest of Vancouver with David Arora and Paul Stamets. I'm afraid to go up to the Northwest -- with all the mushrooms up there, I could get spoiled.

Observations by Phil Roos

Ken was asked to speak at the Springfield Chapter of the Mo. Native Plant Society in June, by Linda Lathrop. I hope some of you got to go.

Ken is going to teach a course at the Shaw Arboretum in Gray Summit. It will meet the first time on Sunday, Sept. 30 from 10 am to 2 pm. For more information, talk to Ken or call the Arboretum at 577-5138 or 742-3512.

I called some of you and asked about the morel season. Almost all over the state, there seemed to be few false morels (*Gyromitra caroliniana*) (usually called simply "red mushrooms"). However, the last person I called, Lynda Richards, reported many red mushrooms in the Rolla area, but few morels. Truly, it was a variable year. Ken has already mentioned Leland. Others in the St. Louis area and in mid-Missouri found morels. Buddy Samuels found almost none in west-central Missouri (even in her usual reliable spots) and the same was true for the Tolls in south-central. In northeast Missouri, Keith Mette said it was an average year, but still far better than the preceding three years of drought. In north-central Missouri, George James said they had had a few, but that the morels had been gradually declining for 15 years so that this year was rather ordinary. In southwest Missouri, Ron Dollarhite found numerous white ones.

Speaking of red mushrooms, Nancy Smith Weber (in the article Ken mentions) says that Missouri's have not been found to be poisonous but repeats the standard professional advice

against eating them. Since coming to mid-Missouri, it seems that far more people eat red mushrooms than read mushroom books! Anyone hearing of a Missouri poisoning by a red mushroom should spread the word as it would be major news.

MMS got the last few copies of ROON: A Tribute to Morel Mushrooms. Roan is available from Ken Gilberg (address above) for \$9.50 + \$1.50 shipping. From the ad: "ROON is a graphic and imaginative book that demonstrates and explains the joy of knowing, hunting, finding, preparing, sniffing and eating the most exquisite, sensuous and intensively delicious of wild mushrooms . . . morels" From a review by Jeff Donaghue in the Minnesota Mycological Society *Toadstool Review*: ". . . a fine tribute. Its 66 pages contain many beautiful, humorous, even erotic color and black and white photos of morels. The text is well written and fun to read but not just coffee table fluff. It covers every aspect of the morel, species descriptions, where and how to collect and prepare the members of genus *Morchella*, as well as morel lore and mouth watering recipes. . . a true delight."

From: Missouri Mycological Society
c/o Buddy Samuels
P.O. Box 190
Concordia MO 64020

Forays

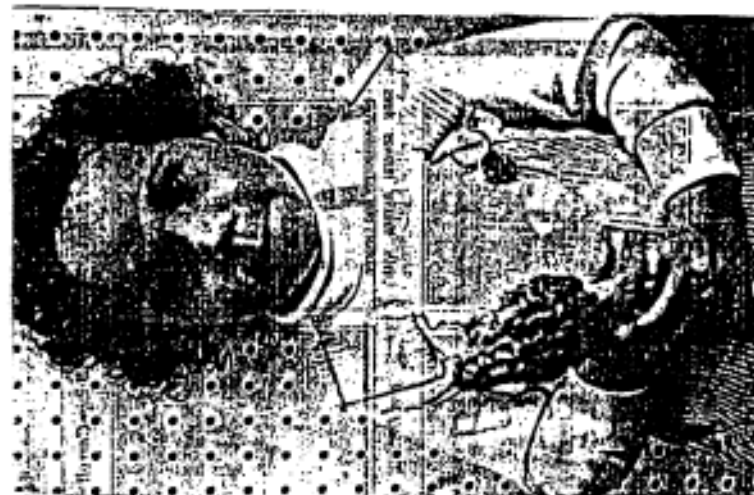
reported by Phil Roos

Buddy Samuels went to Powell Garden on Mother's day and found numerous *Auricularia auricula*, the hexagonal pored polypore, *Marasmius strictipes*, and a number of shelf fungi.

Our Independence Day foray was held on July 1 at Babler State Park. We found a surprising variety although the one mushroom which seemed most abundant was not identified even to genus.

Let's try another foray for July 29th, at 1 pm, Babler State Park, meet in the small parking lot behind Dr. Babler's statue.

Mark your calendar for Oct. 20 & 21, the annual festival at Gilberg Perennial Farms in western St. Louis Co. Several of us participated last year and we got several new members there. If hunting is good, Dr. Parmley will use wild mushrooms in his cooking demonstrations. Also the same weekend is the Hannibal Folklife Festival. I will try to go there on Saturday and be at Gilberg's on Sunday. Assistance in both places will be appreciated!



Mushroom hunter
Kathy McChes, 2-1/2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chris McChes, Kirgsville, found a pretty mushroom in a wooded area north of Kirgsville last week. (Program photo)

DON / WANDA DILL
1101 SURREY HILLS DR
ST. LOUIS MO 63117

