Dear Members and Friends,

It’s mid-May and we’ve just returned from an evening stroll at Rockwoods. Morels are finished, didn’t find any chicken of the woods like we found the other day, but there were a bunch of oysters that LaRee is cooking up for dinner while I write this letter.

This will be the last Earthstar before the big event and so much is happening! Time is fast approaching for us to host NAMA. Brad has already been very busy taking registrations from the initial announcement in the March/April issue of NAMA’s The Mycophile. You should register soon—the registration form is in this issue. It looks like we may well fill the maximum number of attendees we’re willing to entertain, about 350 people.

And entertain we will. Read the description of the foray in this issue. It won’t tell you of all the social events that Maxine Stone and her hospitality gang are planning. It doesn’t go into any detail about all the special talks there’ll be from mycologists and special presenters. It can’t really describe all the unique habitats, from Mingo to Little Egypt, that Lee Toll has selected for collecting sites. It doesn’t go into the fact that voucher specimens of many mushrooms from this event will find their way into history via the herbarium of the Field Museum of Natural History. With the unique habitats that we’re exploring, I’m sure we’ll come up with an impressive collection on the display tables. And, who knows what mushroom books and paraphernalia the vendors may offer? It’s going to be fantastic fun and fungi for those few days. Can’t wait to see my mushroom friends from all over the continent, perhaps from other far away places.

I hope that you’ll find time to come to one of the NAMA planning meetings. If we share the responsibilities, it won’t seem the daunting task that it really is. Many people have taken on one or another aspect of the foray. But we still need many volunteers—and I’ve got a job for each of you. Call me if you’re willing to help. We desperately need writers, video recorders and just plain workers.

This issue includes information about Sweat’n Chanterelles, to be held this year in a new location, Meramec State Park. Jim Winn has forged a good relationship between the park and MoMS over the years with Morel Madness. Meramec is a better site for summer mushrooms. Next spring, we’re moving Madness to a site promising more morels. You can bet it’ll be great, we’ve got Robert Beckwith and Emperor Bill May on the case.

Knowing that we’ll want to continue our study of fungi and get together again after the NAMA conference, a couple of outings are planned in October. We’ll be going north to Louisiana, Missouri to St. Louis University’s Lay Field Station, a gorgeous new facility with a microscope lab. Dr. Walt Sundberg has promised to be there. To wrap up the season, the weekend before Halloween, we’ll be picking fall mushrooms at Pickle Springs at the Hawnting.

Sounds like a big year for the Missouri Mycological Society! Check the membership roster in this issue. If you’re not on it, you could miss out on some good times.

Happy hunting,

[Signature]

Ken Gilberg
MONAMA Coordinator, MoMS President and Earthstar Examiner editor.
Morel Madness Sees Record Attendance

-Jim Winn

Campers arrived Friday night, April 23rd, and met by the group campfire. Saturday promised to offer temperatures rising to about 70, overcast skies and a modest (at best) morel crop. Stories were going around about great finds throughout southern and northeastern Missouri and favorite areas in Illinois, but early reports from Meramec State Park reported lean pickings. At 9:00 a.m. over 150 aspiring morel hunters arrived, ready to scour the woods. About half were beginners looking for their first shroom.

At noon, baskets trickled in with from 1 to 10 fresh specimens. Most were yellows, very few blacks and almost no half-frees. Even Gyromitria caroliniana was hard to find. Dan Drees, Park Naturalist, said that it had been a rather dry winter with the heavy rain missing the area both to the north and the south. However, the ground was deceptively moist from rains earlier in the week and morels were out.

Julie Ridlon was everybody’s favorite person at noon when she cooked up a few big skillets of donated morels. What a delight! The pans were swabbed clean of the last remaining hint of morel flavor with fresh French bread. Julie then showed us how to grill a nice big chicken-of-the-woods brought in by a beginners group. We were surprised to find sulfur shelf so early, so large and so fresh.

At 4:30 the judges took control and all findings were weighed, counted and admired. Former King, Bill May, brought in 36, and donated that many or more to the lunchtime cook-up. He received the trophy for Most Morels. We made him Emperor May and asked that he crown himself in the Napoleonic fashion since he was clearly in a league of his own.

A huge morel was laid before the judges by Bill Emerson that sent away a half dozen dejected challengers. This monster was nine inches tall and the width of the barrel of a baseball bat. Bill was awarded with Largest Morel and crowned King of Morel Madness.

Gabrielle Davis found the Prettiest Morel. She disclosed that she and her husband Richard had found it together. He was relieved to find out that the judges chose Gabrielle to be Queen of Morel Madness and not him, and what a pretty queen she made! Both Gabrielle and Bill were crowned with Barbara O’Brien’s famous mushroom crowns which make everybody even more envious and determined to win next year.

Young Jamie Palmer, living up to reputation as Gyromitria caroliniana specialist, again lugged in the Largest False Morel, a nice, but smaller specimen than last year. She retained her crown as Morel Madness Princess.

Our youngest winner was Stuart Marshall, whose sharp eyes spotted the Smallest (whole) Morel that was pencil thin at its widest part and just over an inch long.

Foray mycologist, Jay Justice, dutifully identified every specimen placed before him, and stumped us with a new find, Morchella styrofoama. He always adds a touch of professionalism and good humor that is irreplaceable. Robert Beckwith, refusing to accept the title of expert, nevertheless offered everyone some great morel hunting tips. To no one’s surprise, the Tick Biting the Weirdest Human was found on Ken Gilberg. The tick got a teeny-tiny certificate and LaRee DeFreece got a shirt.

Dr. Robert Gessner gave an extremely informative and interesting slide talk at the outdoor amphitheater. In addition to a thorough review of how we classify morels and false morels, he brought us up to date with current research, commercial activity and other morel festivals in the Midwest. We all carried away valuable morel information that will help us understand and find morels for many years. Dr. Gessner was a wonderful addition to Morel Madness. He participated in every activity, including leading a beginners group. What’s more, after offering the top ten reasons why he thinks Morel Madness will continue forever, he agreed to find a solution for the Y2K–Morchella problem for the new Millennium. If his work succeeds, we will see you all next season.

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Special thanks to LaRee DeFreece for proofreading and editing this issue.

On the cover:
Photos of Morel Madness ‘99 taken by Jim Winn and David Sacks.

Those Incrable Epicureans

-Maxine Stone

The dinner at the Freund Center on March 27th was incredible. Theresa McGeeary did a wonderful job in planning the dinner entitled Splendid Emilia-Romagna. The food was excellent. And, as usual, the company was too.

Now on to the next dinner. It will be at the home of new member Tom Thach. This time we are going to have a cool, summery Caribbean theme. Maybe French Martinique or Trinidad. It will be on Saturday, July 17th. All IE members, please call me to let me know if you will be there. I’ll get a mailing with specifics to you soon.

Membership in the Incrable Epicureans will be open in September. We plan four dinners throughout the year. Each one is set up differently, be it informal/pot luck to very formal and specific. It is not necessarily mushroom focused. The cost to join is $15.00 for the year.
June 14 and July 13
MONAMA'99 Planning Meetings

Two meetings are scheduled for further planning of the NAMA foray in Missouri. The first meeting is set for Monday, June 14, the second for Tuesday, July 13. They will both start at 7:00 p.m. and will be held in the O.T.A. Lecture Room, #114, in the East 2 Building of Missouri College, 10073 Manchester Rd., in Warson Woods. It’s the building which also houses King Doh restaurant.

Please attend these meetings. We need all the help we can get!

June 29
Evening Foray at Rockwoods

Don Dill will lead a foray in search of the elusive black trumpet and other early summer mushrooms on Tuesday, June 29. We’ll hit the trail promptly at 6:00 p.m. from the Cottonwood parking area in Rockwoods Reservation.

July 15
Julie Ridlon Cooks at MoBot

Our own Julie Ridlon will be giving a wild mushroom cooking demonstration at the Missouri Botanical Garden on Thursday, July 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. and again from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

She will demonstrate techniques for getting the most flavor and best texture from morels, chanterelles, black trumpets, boletes, as well as button mushrooms and portabellos. She will make wild mushroom cigars, croutons for soup or salads, quiches and stuffings for meat or vegetables.

Call the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at MoBot for reservations at 577-9441.

August 12-15
MONAMA'99

Don’t miss this unique opportunity to attend a NAMA foray in our own area. See article on facing page.

August 26-29
Telluride Mushroom Conference

The 19th annual Telluride Mushroom Conference will be held August 26-29, in Telluride, Colorado. The Telluride Conference is designed for persons interested in mushroom identification, edible, poisonous and psychoactive mushrooms, and mushroom cultivation.

Presenters include Laura Huxley, Gary Lincoff, Paul Stamets, Andrew Weil, John Corbin, Linnea Gillman and Manny Salzman.

Daily forays will be led into the nearby forests.

For further information, contact Fungophile, P.O. Box 480503, Denver, Colorado, 80248-0503. Phone/FAX 303-296-9359.

October 8-10
Lay Field Station Outing

Mark your calendar for the weekend of October 8-10 for this foray and workshop at St. Louis University’s Lay Field Station in Louisiana, Missouri. Dr. Walter Sundberg will be our guest mycologist. He will help with the identification and lead us in some microscopic practice in the lab there.

We’re also planning a fabulous gourmet dinner for Saturday night.

John Archer and Robert Beckwith are putting this together.

October 22-24
The Haunting

—Claudia Joyce

The “Haunting” fall foray will be held the weekend of October 23-24 at the primitive camp site in beautiful Hawk State Park. The night of Friday, October 22 has been reserved for anyone who would like to make it a long weekend.

On Saturday, October 23 at 1:00 p.m., Robert Beckwith will again lead a bicycle foray through St. Joe State Park on its 11-mile bike trail (BYOB). There is plenty of room for a second foray on foot as well. Meet at the southern parking lot.

Instead of heading to town, everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish for Saturday night’s dinner. Remember to bring your own table service.

There will be the usual ceremonial fire on Saturday night. Bring your sacrifices, stories and songs so the evening will be rich in company even if the ‘shroom pickin’s are slim. You are encouraged to bring your own carbonated grain beverages or unfiltered grape fermentations to liven the spirits and warm the toes. Fire wood is especially welcomed.

On Sunday morning, we’ll trek to Pickle Springs for a 10 o’clock foray. If you are unable to attend the campout, please join the group for this event. The Haunting foray is MoMS last fall adventure. Come and help make memories for the long winter. Claudia Joyce is coordinating. Call 314-968-2373 w suggestions and questions.
MONAMA’99

-Dr. Walter Sundberg and Ken Gilberg

Edward Angus Burt Foray

The 1999 North American Mycological Association annual conference will be hosted by the Missouri Mycological Society and held in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, an hour and a half south of St. Louis, Thursday through Sunday, August 12-15, 1999. Chief mycologists for the foray are Drs. Walter Sundberg (Southern Illinois University) and Andrew Methven (Eastern Illinois University).

We will honor Edward Angus Burt, a mycologist with the Missouri Botanical Garden from about 1915 to 1933. He published a series of papers that became “The Thelephoraceae of North America.”

The theme of the foray is “Show Me the Mushrooms!” We will initiate beginners into the ever-fascinating world of mycology, nurture amateurs of all degrees and challenge professionals to identify rare or unnamed fungi. Some special programs (and rates) for younger mushroomers are offered.

Great Collecting

The foray dates offer promise of mycologically interesting collecting during an optimum season. Collections will be made both east and west of the Missouri, southern as well as northern mushrooms should be well represented, just as are the higher plant floras that overlap in this region.

Special all-day forays on Friday and Saturday will take us deep into the 21,676 acre Mingo National Wildlife Refuge, where cypress and tupelo inhabit the gorgeous swampy lowlands (it’s not so swampy that one needs waders, it’s just nice and damp). Oak forests stand above on Crowley’s Ridge. Half day forays will take us to areas nearer to Cape Girardeau in Missouri, as well as just across the river into the varied terrain of the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois.

The Venue

The foray will be headquartered at the Holiday Inn in Cape Girardeau. There is plenty of room for presentations and workshops, mushroom sort and display areas, vendor displays, and a marvelous room for evening meals and programs. We’ll enjoy the Holiday, a cozy common area for socializing, with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, whirlpool, and sauna.

Attendance is limited and NAMA forays have sold out in the past. Early enrollment is encouraged. Send in the registration form contained in this issue as soon as possible.

Mycologists and Guests

Guest mycologists and special guests will include: Dr. Harry D. Thiers (San Francisco State University, retired), Dr. Orson Miller (Virginia Tech), Hope Miller, (Mushroom Kitchen Cookbook), Dr. Greg Mueller (Field Museum), Dr. Don Huffman (Central College at Pella), Dr. Lois Tiffany (Iowa State University), Dr. Pat Leacock (Field Museum), Dr. Tom Volk (University of Wisconsin at La Crosse), Dr. Skip Kay (University of Kansas), Gary Linoff (New York Botanical Garden), Jay Justice, (Arkansas Mycological Society), David Dennis (Ohio State University), Dr. Harold Keller (Central Missouri State University), Walt Sturgeon (noted NAMA presenter and identifier), Dr. Robert Gessner (Western Illinois University), and Dr. Steve Trudell (University of Washington).

Great Tastes

Mycophagy will not be ignored. Not only will there be the great tasting put on by NAMA’s Culinary Committee, but cooking workshops as well by St. Louis chef Dave Owens of Cardwell’s Restaurant and caterer Julie Ridlon of the Missouri Mycological Society.

Photography

The annual NAMA Photo Contest will be presented.

Additionally, a special 3-screen workshop on “Mushroom Photography, the Basics and Beyond,” will be offered by David Dennis, winner of several past NAMA photo contests.

Non-mushroom Activities

For those with other interests, we will offer an all-day trip to historic Ste. Genevieve, the oldest community in Missouri, to search out its French roots. The town, with several 18th century landmark homes, offers sightseeing and treasure hunting.

Or, take a stroll on a mile-and-a-quarter boardwalk through Big Oak Tree State Park, a virgin bottomland forest with several ancient state and national champion trees. Their leafy branches are at a height that can cause serious neck strain!

Pre-Foray Workshop

A pre-foray workshop is offered and conducted by Drs. Walt Sundberg and Andy Methven. This “Total Mycological Immersion” will be an eye-opening, total immersion, learning experience in mushroom identification. With the Shawnee National Forest providing material, we will learn how to (a) study mushroom collections in depth, (b) use the hand lens, microscope, and chemical reagents for identification, (c) use mushroom keys with more proficiency and accuracy, and (d) make more valuable records, start a herbarium reference collection, and more. Registration for the pre-foray workshop is strictly limited.

See the registration form on page 9.

Vendors at MONAMA’99

Those wishing to sell mushroom-related items are welcome at MONAMA’99. The only thing asked from vendors is that they contribute an item valued at fifty dollars or more for the NAMA raffle to be held Saturday evening.

Vendors will have an area set aside in the large Convention Center at the Holiday Inn, the same area which will be used for presentations during the day, the evening meals and evening programs. Vendors may sell (quietly) at any time during the weekend. Saturday evening from 4:00 to 9:00 will be the “Vendor Showcase.” That will overlap the time that the mushroom display tables will be open to the public (from 2:00-5:00 p.m.) and the time of the Saturday evening program, including the NAMA Raffle.

Registration to the foray is not necessary for vendors who do not participate otherwise in the foray. No promise of security is made to vendors. At night, the Convention Center will be closed but not secure. Vendors may wish to cover goods with a sheet.

First priority of vending space will be given to those with reservations. To reserve tables for display, call Doris Ogrowsky at 314-968-4647 or email at ogrowsky@aol.com.
About the Membership List

We print the membership list once a year in the June issue of the Earthstar. To be included on this list, make sure you pay your dues by April 15. Many regular members seem to be missing from this list. Did you pay your dues?

The first phone number listed is the home number, second is work and if available, the third number is a fax line.

Mushroom Advisors

When you see a "T" on this membership list, it indicates a designated Mushroom Advisor. These people have volunteered to accept mushroom inquiries over the phone and may even accept arranged visits. They cannot identify any mushroom over the phone. Even on a visit, they may tell the inquirer what they believe the mushroom to be but decisions of edibility must be made by whoever ultimately eats the fungus.

Corrections and Additions

If any information is incorrect on your listing or if you want to add your e-mail address, send a postcard or e-mail to MoMs Treasurer, Brad Bomanz, 909 Woodside Village Lane, Ballwin, MO 63021. E-mail brad_bomanz@co.st-louis.mo.us

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Missouri Mycological Society Membership Application

To become a member of the Missouri Mycological Society (MoMS), receive your subscription to the Earthstar Examiner and all the other great benefits from being a MoMS member, please supply the following information:

Name (please print) ____________________________________________
Street _______________________________________________________
City __________________________ State__ Zip (9 digit) _________ + ___
Home Phone __________ Work Phone __________
E-mail Address ________________________________________________

Members are required to have a signed Personal Responsibility Statement on file with the Membership Secretary.

Personal Responsibility Statement—*the fine print* Please read carefully: Get out your head law.

I understand that eating wild mushrooms can be risky. I also understand:

- Some mushrooms are fatally poisonous.
- Some mushrooms which are considered edible may be poisonous or cause allergic reactions to some individuals.
- Some mushrooms are psychoactive and may cause hallucinations or other abnormal psychological states.
- Some mushrooms are edible but are difficult to distinguish from look-alike poisonous mushrooms.
- Some mushrooms may or may not be poisonous—there are mushrooms whose edibility is unknown.
- Some mushrooms may be generally edible but poisonous if eaten in combination with certain foods. (For example, Cephalotus aeruginosus, or “alcohol ink” is reputed to be poisonous if consumed with alcohol.)
- Well-respected mycological authorities do not always agree as to whether or not a particular mushroom is edible or not.
- Members of the Missouri Mycological Society can and do make mistakes as to whether a particular mushroom is edible.

I accept personal responsibility for any ill-effects resulting from my eating wild foods, including mushrooms. I assume the risks associated with eating these foods, including the risk of receiving careless advice from others.

I agree that the Missouri Mycological Society (and its members, officers, and other representatives) shall not be held responsible for any harm that comes to me (including death) as a result of my eating wild fungi or other wild foods.

The Missouri Mycological Society respects each individual's right to just say no to wild foods.

Date ______ Name (print) __________
Signature ____________________________________________

Date ______ Name (print) __________
Signature ____________________________________________

Under 18, please have guardian sign for you.

Date ______ Name of minor (print) __________
Signature of guardian ______________________________________

Family Membership Duess: $15/calendar year Make Check Payable to: MISSOURI MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Send completed application and dues to: MoMS, c/o Brad Bomaz, 909 Woodside Village Lane, Ballwin, MO 63021-6938

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Wanna Be Tickless and Chiggerless?

"I sprayed my clothes with Permanone, went deep in the woods and had no bites at all. No chiggers, no mosquitoes, no ticks. Three other people with me on the hike dusted with sulphur dust and sprayed with "Deep Woods Off". They got dozens of bites."

Permanone is used by the St. Louis County Health Department and approved for use by the U.S. National Parks Service.

Prepare, in advance, an outfit for the woods including a pair of pants, a pair of socks and a shirt, long-sleeve preferable. Spray the clothes with Permanone as directed on the container, off your body (it is not intended to be sprayed directly onto the skin), with several hours drying time. The permethrin binds to the fabric and lasts at least two weeks and holds up through several washings. All pesticide-treated clothing must be washed separately. It's in the sporting goods section at Wal-Mart. Other brands with the 0.5% permethrin are available.

Late breaking news: A Lyme vaccine is now available. Call your doctor.

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This map, from Discover, May 1999, shows the danger of Lyme disease. In New York State, a total of 4,161 cases were reported in 1998. In Missouri there were only two reports, and in Illinois there were nine cases. Just east in Indiana, it jumps to 63 and in Pennsylvania, 2,387.
EDWARD ANGUS BURT FORAY
Hosted by the Missouri Mycological Society
August 12-15, 1999
Cape Girardeau, Missouri

REGISTRATION FORM - deadline for registration July 4, 1999

Names of each participant as to appear on name tags. Please list children's ages (children under 18 must be accompanied by adult)

Contact person for registration purposes

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone: day ( ), evening ( ), Fax ( )

Mushroom club affiliation (You must be a member of NAMA or MoMS to attend)

Family □ Couple □ Smoking □ Nonsmoking □ Please find me a roommate □

Name(s) of preferred roommates

We group singles with others of the same sex. Please circle your gender: Male Female

Registration Fees

Conference: Thursday, August 12 to Sunday, August 15
Price includes accommodations for three nights, meals from Thursday evening through Sunday breakfast. All lectures, forays and workshops included

Double occupancy .................................................. $305.00 x ___ = ___

Single occupancy .................................................. 420.00 x ___ = ___

Children under 18 (staying with parents) .................................................. 170.00 x ___ = ___

Off site (meals included, no room accommodations) ........................................... 195.00 x ___ = ___

Late Registration (received after July 4, 1999) .................................................. 40.00 x ___ = ___

Pre-Foray Total Immersion Mycology: Sunday, August 8 to Thursday, August 12
Price includes accommodations for four nights, meals from Monday breakfast through Thursday breakfast except Tuesday night dinner. All lectures, forays and workshops included

Double occupancy only .................................................. 300.00 x ___ = ___

Late Registration (received after July 4, 1999) .................................................. 40.00 x ___ = ___

Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, August 10 to Thursday, August 12
Price includes accommodations for two nights, meals from Tuesday dinner through Thursday breakfast

Double occupancy .................................................. 145.00 x ___ = ___

Single occupancy .................................................. 217.00 x ___ = ___

Total ...........................................................................

Make check or money orders payable to: MISSOURI MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Or charge on Visa or Mastercard: Card # __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ expire __ __ __ __

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Send to: BRAD BOMANZ, 909 WOODSIDE VILLAGE LANE, BALLWIN, MO 63021

Any questions? Call Brad at 314-225-0555. E-mail: brad_bomanz@yahoo.com

Registration confirmation and detailed information will be sent by July 31, 1999.

Deadline for registration: July 4, 1999

Cancellations and refunds: Registrations cancelled before July 4, $270 returned. After July 4, $175 returned, After August 4, no refund.

(OVER)
Transportation from St. Louis

Transportation from St. Louis International Airport can be arranged from BART (Bootheel-Area Transport), 1-800-284-2278. A. Make reservations three days in advance. B. They will be at the airport within 1 hour of flight arrival. C. They will return people to St. Louis one to two hours prior to flight departure. D. A one-way trip to or from the Holiday Inn in Cape is $50 for the first person and $35 for each additional person in party.

Airfare Discounts

The official travel agency of the 1999 NAMA Conference is Geraci Travel. Missouri Mycological Society has arranged a special NAMA Conference contract with TWA. If you make your airline reservations through Geraci Travel you will receive a five percent discount off applicable discounted coach fares. You will also receive $150,000 free flight insurance with every ticket. The phone number for Geraci Travel is 800-741-0719. Call toll-free 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.

All people attending the conference must sign the contract below:

Agreement and Acceptance of Responsibility, Release and Acknowledgment of Risks.

The undersigned, in consideration of the services of the Missouri Mycological Society, its officers, members and agents, hereinafter referred to as MoMS, hereby agree to release and discharge MoMS, on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and estate as follows:

1. I fully understand and acknowledge that the activities I am going to voluntarily engage in as a participant and/or volunteer bear certain known risks and unanticipated risks which could result in injury, death, illness or disease, physical damage to myself, my property, or other parties. The following describes some, but not all of the risks.

   A. The act or omissions, negligence in any degree, of MoMS, its officers, members or agents.  B. Use or operation, by myself or others, of equipment supplied by MoMS, it agents or others.  C. The potential of a participant to act in a negligent manner that contributes to injury to the participant or others.  D. Condition of roads, trails, or other terrain and accidents connected with their use.  E. First aid emergency treatment or other medical services rendered.  F. Consumption of food or drink.  G. Risks involved in eating wild mushrooms.  H. Severe meteorological or geological events.  I. Contact with domestic or wild animals including poisonous snakes and rabid weasels.

I understand that the above list is not exhaustive, and that other risks, known or unknown, identified or unidentified, unanticipated or anticipated may also exist and could result in injury, death, illness or disease, physical damage to myself, my property, or other parties.

2. I am fully aware that conference activities entail known and unknown risks to myself and/or risk of injury to other parties as a result of my actions. I understand and acknowledge that MoMS cannot guarantee my safety. Being fully aware of the foregoing, I expressly agree to accept and assume all responsibility and risk of injury, death, illness or disease, or damage to myself or minors accompanying me, to others, or to my property arising from my participation in conference activities.

3. I hereby voluntarily agree to release, forever discharge and agree to hold harmless and indemnify MoMS, its officers, members and agents from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions or rights of action which are related to, arise out of or are in any way associated with my participation in conference activities, including specifically, but not limited to the negligent acts or omissions of MoMS, its officers, members and agents, in injury, death, illness or disease, physical damage to myself, my property, or other parties. IN SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, I FULLY REALIZE THAT IF ANY-ONE IS HURT OR PROPERTY IS DAMAGED WHILE I AM ENGAGED IN CONFERENCE RELATED ACTIVITY, I WILL HAVE NO RIGHT TO MAKE A CLAIM OR FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST MOMS, ITS OFFICERS, MEMBERS OR AGENTS, EVEN IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM NEGLIGENTLY CAUSED THE BODILY INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

My signature below indicates that I have read this entire document and understand completely, understand that it affects my legal rights and agree to be bound by its terms.

Signature ___________________ Date ____________ Signature ___________________ Date ____________
Print name ___________________ Print name ___________________

Mycology Is Better Than Urology

—Jay Justice at Madness ’99
I already knew what Aunt Dorothy would say when I asked her to pray for my daughter’s basketball team’s final victories in the City/County Championship games. I shouldn’t have asked. Her words ring clear even now.

“Dear, you know I don’t pray for anything frivolous. I only pray for those who truly need God’s help. You and your family are just fine. You don’t need it.”

Can you ever have too many hugs, too many kisses, too many mushrooms? I mean, how can there be too many prayers?
The 6th grade girls worked hard to attain their record of 44 wins and 5 losses. The only obstacle standing between them and that great looking City/County Championship victory jacket was two measly games. There shouldn’t be a problem praying to Our Lady of Victories, Girls Basketball Division, right?

So, I called Maureen. She’s a contemporary, got kids of her own, and in addition, she and prays for an hour once a week. Her church is one of those perpetual prayer places where someone is always in communication with the “on highs.” Her time slot is 3 to 4 A.M. on Monday, a tough spot to fill, even in the most devout of parishes. I’m thinking, she’s got an inside channel.

“Sure, I’ll pray for them,” she said, “no problem.” Whew, what a relief. I’m feeling like dusting a space on the mantel for the trophy.

“It’s this weekend and thanks,” I reminded her as we signed off.

Checking that off the Spiritual To Do list, I turned to more pedestrian chores when I heard an unidentified crash within the house. Surveying room to room, I found my great grandmother’s green ceramic flower vases shattered on the floor in the dining room. Next to it lay the remains of a glass flower, a gift from Maureen, the prayer lady. Next to that was the heart shaped rock my daughter had given me as a peace offering after a preadolescent skirmish.

The air crackled with psychic energy, the answer abundantly clear.

Aunt Dorothy was right. I asked for help I didn’t need. I had to pay a price. There is no free lunch.

It ended well. The team took the championship and I’m reflecting on the choices I made. I’ll miss the vase, it was one of my favorites. But I’m wondering if it’s irresponsible to ask to find mushrooms next year. This could be a good way to get rid of a lot of stuff around here.

It’s kismet when two perfectly wonderful ingredients fruit within each other’s season, so with mushrooms and Vidalia onions. Even if you must reconstitute the mushrooms and your produce person has another brand of sweet onions, this recipe is a keeper.

**Scallopied Onions with Wild Mushrooms (serves 6)**
- 2 ounces dried wild mushrooms (cepes, porcini or morels) or 2 cups fresh
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 pounds Vidalia or yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme leaves or ½ tablespoon dried
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon fresh ground pepper, or to taste
- ½ cup milk
- ½ pound freshly grated Gruyère cheese

- Rehydrate dried mushrooms in warm water for 20 to 30 minutes or coarsely chop fresh mushrooms. Heat butter in large saute pan. Saute onions for 8 minutes, turning and separating rings to ensure even browning. Add mushrooms and saute 3 minutes. Add thyme and transfer to a casserole or gratin pan.
- Beat egg with salt, pepper and milk. Pour milk and egg mixture over browned onions and mushrooms. Cover with Gruyère cheese.
- Bake 30 minutes in preheated 350 oven until golden and bubbly. Enjoy!

I’m losing one of my favorite Webster Groves chicken of the woods trees to a Gundaker Realty sign. I’ve been collecting this one for years from a craggy old man who coughed out the words through a cloud of cigarette smoke, “Take it.” I’ll miss seeing him and hope the new neighbors are as generous.

**Thai Chicken of the Woods with Basil**
- 1 cup Jasmine rice, uncooked
- 2 teaspoons oil
- 1½ cups shiitake mushrooms, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes, or to taste
- 4 cups chicken of the woods, sliced
- ½ cup chicken stock
- 2 teaspoons grated lime zest
- 4 tablespoons oyster sauce
- ½ cup fresh basil leaves, chopped

Prepare rice.

Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat. Add shiitakes, garlic and pepper. Saute for 3 minutes or until mushrooms are cooked. Remove from pan.

If chicken of the woods is old or tough, slice and parboil then proceed. Heat stock in same pan and add chicken of the woods. Simmer until cooked, about 5 minutes.

Add shiitakes to pan. Add lime zest, oyster sauce and basil. Stir until hot.

Serve with rice and enjoy! A perfect accompaniment for a Thai or any dinner.

*In a pinch, chicken breast can be substituted.*

**Goi Co Rot**
- Carrot Salad (serves 4)
- 2 cups water
- 4 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 to 5 carrots, grated

Combine water, vinegar, sugar and salt in bowl. Stir until dissolved. Add grated carrots. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour. Drain and serve at room temperature. Enjoy!

If stored in liquid, this salad keeps for 2 or 3 days in the fridge.
MoMS Library Mushrooms Thanks to Dr. Harry and Ellen Thiers

—Ken Gilberg

On May 19, 1999, I met Dr. Harry and Ellen Thiers at the Missouri Botanical Gardens for lunch. They had driven down from Peoria, Illinois to hand deliver a collection of books that Dr. Thiers wanted to give to the Missouri Mycological Society. I thanked them at the time, loading four large boxes of books in my van. They told me, “some of these books were given to us with the stipulation that they be passed along to people who would use them.”

Being a mycobibliophile myself, I could hardly wait to get home to open the boxes. Here were treasures! Books from all over the world. Some quite old and used. In the collection is a hard-bound copy of Dr. Theirs’ 568 page, typewritten dissertation for his Ph.D., *The Agaricaeae of the Pine Belt and Adjacent Areas in Eastern Texas*, dated 1956.

In the margins of *The Boletaceae of North Carolina*, by Coker and Beers, are notes and comments by this master of the boletes.

Many books are stamped “Dr. Harry Thiers, Dept. of Biology, San Francisco State College.” I love the provenance.

There are about one hundred books in all, some written by himself, some by his teachers, his students, his friends and even relatives (Harry and Ellen’s daughter, Barbara, is a noted bryologist, and she is married to mycologist Roy Halling). Many other books were inscribed by their authors.

On the fly leaf of the *Macmillan Field Guide to Mushrooms* it says, “To HDT, With thanks for all—the trust, patience, guidance, and friendship!! Walter Sundberg, October, 1987.” Walt was a Master’s student of Harry’s.

Dr. Harry and Ellen Thiers, thank you for joining the our group and for all your kindness and inspiration, with gratitude from the Missouri Mycological Society.

The collection of Dr. Thiers’ books will be available for viewing at the Lay Field Station outing in October. If you can’t wait that long, call me at 636-458-1458.

1999 Event and Foray Schedule

*Forays meet at visitor centers unless otherwise noted. Bring a basket, long pants, wax paper (bags are nice), bug repellent. Foray coordinator: Don Dill*

Monday, June 14, 7:00 P.M. - Planning meeting for MONAMA’99. Missouri College East 2 Building, Room #114, 10073 Manchester Rd., Warson Woods. See article this issue.

Tuesday, June 29 - 6:00 P.M. - Evening Foray at Rockwoods Reservation. Meet at Cottonwoods Parking Area. Leader: Don Dill

Saturday, July 10, at 9:00 A.M. - Sweat’n Chanterelles at Meramec State Park. Leader: Jim Winn. See article this issue.

Tuesday, July 13, 7:00 P.M. - Planning meeting for MONAMA’99. Missouri College East 2 Building, Room #114, 10073 Manchester Rd., Warson Woods. See article this issue.

Saturday, Oct. 2 - 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. - Foray at Eldon Hazlet State Park, Carlyle, IL. Bring sack lunch. Leader: Leland Von Behren

Friday-Sunday, October 8-10 - Weekend at Lay Field Station in Louisiana, Missouri. Leader: Robert Beckwith. See article this issue.

Friday-Sunday, October 22-24 - Hawnting at Hawn State Park. Leader: Claudia Joyce. See article this issue.