



Spring 2001

Lynn Payer, Editor

NEWSLETTER

Mark These Dates!!!!

Saturday, April 28: Morel breakfast. See p.

Saturday, May 5: Morel walk. See enclosed walk list.

July 5-8: NAMA foray, Collegeville, Minnesota. See enclosure.

August 3-5: Chanterelle Weekend. See p. 4.

**August 15-19: 10th International Fungi & Fibre Symposium
Rovaniemi, Finland. See p. 2**

August 15-19: Northeastern foray in Amherst, MA. See enclosure.

**August 23-26, 2001: Telluride Mushroom Festival. Contact
Fungophile, lodomyco@uswest.net or call 303-296-9359.**

August 27-September 2: Tlaxcala Mexico Foray. See p. 2.

September 21-23: Catskill foray at Frost Valley. See p. 2.

If you have paid your 2001 dues—and we have a record of it—you should find directions to the morel breakfast enclosed in this mailing. If you have not, or if you have but we have somehow messed up, contact Alice Barner ASAP—if you pay before the breakfast, you can still come. Alice's information:
220 E. 73rd St. #10A
NY, NY 10021, abarner@rcn.com

Book Auction:

The club netted over \$1500 at the book auction on March 13, a fun and animated afternoon with Gary Lincoff as auctioneer. Thanks to Dennis Aita for organizing this fundraiser.

Annual meeting

Alice Barner was elected treasurer at our annual meeting in February. Other officers remain the same.

NYMS T-shirts available!

The T-shirt committee—Maggie Vall, Laurette Reisman, and Helen Thomas—announce that they will be selling 40th Anniversary Commemorative Club T-shirts for \$15 each at the Morel Breakfast. (Actually, next year is our 40th anniversary, but we're getting an early start). The shirts feature a mushroom drawing by member/artist Gwen Fabricant on a black background, and come in sizes M through XL. This is a club fundraiser—buy some for your friends, as well as for yourself.

NAMA dues

Since NYMS is no longer fully affiliated with the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), NAMA dues should be paid directly to NAMA, while local dues should be paid directly to Alice Barner.

NAMA membership entitles one to NAMA's newsletter, *The Mycophile*, their journal, *McIlvainea*, the directory of members, and is necessary to attend the NAMA forays. It costs \$32 for a single. The check should be made out to NAMA and mailed to Ann Bomstein, 336 Lenox Ave., Oakland, CA 94610-4675. Write on your check that you are a member of NYMS; otherwise dues are \$35.

Catskill Weekend

There will be more about our Catskill Weekend in the next newsletter. But just to tell you that those of us who went last year found the area lovely, the accommodations comfortable and, of course, the company nonpareil. The only complaint was the food: too heavy on the peanut butter. But Paul Sadowski has spoken to the management, and they promise us that this will not happen again.

Web sites of interest

Nathan Wilson and Elio Schaechter have created a website based on the work of Hadrianus Junius on the stinkhorn, the first publication on a specific fungus. This website contains the original Latin text of Junius' 1562 seminal work on the Phalli of Holland plus translation into English and Dutch. Go to <http://www.collectivesource.com/hadrianus>

NYMS member Federico Savini has started a web site for New York mushrooms:

rand.pratt.edu/~fsavini

Says Federico:

"I have produced and designed the page for the simple pleasure of it, and I am confident that people will enjoy the photos and the mushrooms on it."

And if you want to start looking at pictures of morels to get you into the mood, go to

<http://www.morelmushroomhunting.com/finalists2001.html> If you get this before April 15, you can even vote on the finalists!

Mushroom Peace Corps?

ACDI/VOCA is recruiting individuals with mushroom production experience to do short-term overseas assignments and we pay all expenses. Contact:

Kent Ayers, Regional Manager

ACDI/VOCA-California

1008 "S" Street, Suite B, Sacramento, CA 95814

Ph: 800/556-1620

Eagle Hill,

The Humboldt Field Research Institute is not offering mushroom seminars this summer, but they have a number of topics that should interest mycologists, including several on lichens. For more information visit their web site at <http://maine.maine.edu/~eaglehill>; e-mail at humboldt@netmaine.com or call at 207-546-2821.

Mexican mushroom tour

What sounds like a luxurious six-day foray in Mexico is being organized by Mexican Mushroom Tours August 27 to September 2. Write to them at APDP #64, Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala 90000 Mexico. Tel/FAX (2) 46-809-78. From the US or Canada, first dial access 011-52. Or e-mail at erik@mwsmush.com or jon@mexmush.com

Dyeing with mushrooms

If dyeing with mushrooms, lichens, berries and other natural products near the Arctic Circle appeals, register for the 10th International Fungi & Fibre Symposium August 15-19 at Rovaniemi, Finland. Contact:

Kirsti Palmén

Kotiniementie 30

96600 Rovaniemi

Finland

k-m.palmen@pp.fimnet.fi

NYMS Newsletter

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A quarterly publication of the New York Mycological Society distributed to its members.

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3780 pabloski@earthlink.net

Soundbites:

Garlic as a tick repellent:

An article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that oral garlic (1200 mg/d in capsule form) was slightly more effective than placebo in repelling ticks (Sjernerberg L, Berglund J. Garlic as an insect repellent. *JAMA* 2000;284:831). Correspondence following the article pointed out that it was probably not as effective as DEET or Permethrin (*JAMA* 2001;285:41-42), but the authors point out that Swedish soldiers are not allowed to use permethrin or DEET-treated uniforms, the first because it is toxic to aquatic organisms; the second because of adverse effects in humans. We recall an earlier study that naked people don't attract ticks, so adding a bit of garlic could add protection if you choose to go without the clothes.

Amanita phalloides in homeopathic medicines?

La Revue Prescrire (January 1999, p. 32), France's independent review of pharmaceuticals, reports that it was astonished to find that *Amanita phalloides* is used in homeopathic preparations. It is difficult to know what it is used for, the review noted, since the medicines are not allowed to be sold with an indication on them. They asked the manufacturers, who confirmed that they made homeopathic medicines from *A. phalloides*, but at such a small dose that they were not regulated.

Mushroom paradise?

An article in *Forbes* (March 19, 2001) by Benjamin Fulford says that while Japan has some of the world's toughest laws against marijuana, opiates and amphetamines, magic mushrooms and a range of other psychoactive plants are legal as long as they are not sold for the purpose of human consumption. The owner of a small shop called Booty in downtown Tokyo says "you have to understand we only sell these products as botanical samples for people to use for their viewing pleasure or as interior decoration."

The label says that the mushrooms are not to be eaten but "if you should by chance accidentally ingest them, after about 30 minutes to one hour you will experience symptoms, including hallucinations that will last for four to eight hours."

The tolerance for botanical hallucinogens has roots deep in the conservative countryside that is the backbone of support for Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party. For thousands of years Japanese farmers have been harvesting psychoactive mushrooms like *Amanita muscaria*, used in New Year's

soups. Farmers also pick "giant laughing" mushroom (*Gymnopilus spectabilis*). "They say it can be given to women to get them to dance naked." Government officials would like to regulate these mushrooms, but they realize it would be difficult "because some species only contain hallucinogenic ingredients at certain times of the year."

Cambridge World History of Food

According to an article in *The New York Times* (January 3, 2001), the *Cambridge World History of Food*, under fungi, has pages of charts listing the types eaten country to country, around the world, including more than 50 for the Philippines.

Analysis of poisonings

A five-year 1993-1997 analysis of mushroom exposures in California (*Western Journal of Medicine* Vol 173, November 2000,) found that of 6,317 "exposures" (defined as reports to a poison control center, not as mushroom meals!) most were in children, and only 6 percent of these experience any clinical effects. No effects were seen in half of all patients; major effects were seen in only 17 patients, with one death in a 32-year-old adult. One fifth received no therapy.

Managing poisonings in 150 AD

An accompanying article (*WTM* 2000, 173: 317-318) titled "The optimal management of mushroom poisoning remains undetermined," quotes Galen from approx 150 AD:

"I have heard of a physician of Mysia who administered Fowl's dung to persons suffering from fungus poisoning, and I myself have experimented with the remedy. I have used finely powdered dung mixed with water or mixed with honey and vinegar. The patients immediately on drinking the mixture vomited and recovered. One must observe that the dung of a fowl at liberty is more efficacious than one in confinement."

Milk thistle: does it work?

Milk thistle, *Silybum marianum*, is often touted as a remedy for poisoning with *Amanita phalloides* as well as other liver problems. But does it work?

The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, an organization that attempts to find out if treatments really work (and one that takes a lot of heat when it concludes they do not) undertook an analysis of the research on milk thistle. They found that there may be positive effects associated with the plant, but poor study methods and poor reporting of research findings hampered their ability to draw definitive conclusions from the evidence. The review did conclude that taking milk thistle at typical doses is unlikely to be harmful.

Chanterelle weekend

The 39th annual Chanterelle Weekend will take place on August 3-5 at the White Pine Lodge in Vermont. The weekend will include two breakfasts, two pack lunches, and a splendid barbeque with wild mushrooms and wine on Saturday night. The cost for bed and board will be about \$73 per person, with a \$10 surcharge for non-members. Transportation is extra, but when possible we'll try to match passengers with a driver.

Make your reservation by sending a check for \$15 made out to N. Y. Mycological Society to:

Laurette Reisman

70 East 10th Street, NY NY 10003.

Laurette's phone is 212 673 7953.



Happy campers from last year's Chanterelle weekend. Photo by Federico Savini

Mz. Myco-Manners

DEAR MZ. MYCO-MANNERS:

I am having great distress. I must have your advice on how to coordinate blindfolds for my friends that beg to go out with me to my favorite 'shrooming grounds. Whilst I cannot bear to share the locations, I would be pleased to share the bounty and the picking. Keeping my places secret must need entail blindfolding my companions to and from these hallowed grounds. What are some basic guidelines for good fashion in these matters?

Not trifling nor trampling whilst truffling.

GENTLE READER: It's hard to imagine anything so horrible as a fully packed and fueled jumbo jet crashing into an elementary school's Christmas pageant and hence, spoiling the Holidays; but having to divulge your secret 'shrooming grounds surely tops that event.

I don't usually trust blindfolds. They are made of fabric and therefore let light through. I also wouldn't trust the sworn word of my friends telling me that they can't see anything. So, if you're in a state where this remedy isn't illegal, just blind them. I've heard that it doesn't really hurt for too long. If they are really your friends, they will understand. If your state doesn't condone blinding, go to your local fish shop and buy one of those vinyl hoods that fits completely over the head and only has a nose hole for breathing. You can remove it when you get to your destination. Have said friend pick and clean the mushrooms for you till their little heart is content. After the collecting, put the hood back on and head for the car. Don't remove it until you are home.

This can only be done with true friends who trust you. They will need to understand, before the event happens, that they will have a very extreme case of "Hat Hair". A full hour's washing of the hair should relax it back to a somewhat normal look (believe me, I've been there).

Do enjoy traipsing through the Tremella, and trampling the Trumpeis; I'll take the Tartuffi myself.

Ms. Myco-Manners





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M10C

Remembering Jacqueline Latil

by Dominic Laudato



It is with great sorrow that I inform the LIMC that on December 7 2000, Jacqueline Latil passed away peacefully at her home in Kew Gardens, where she lived with Jean Paul, her husband of 67 years. In addition to her sister Lise Blum Elson, and her sister-in-law Genevieve Blum-Gayet, of Corenc, France, she also leaves her three children six grandchildren and one great grandchild. Jacqueline was born in 1913 in Paris, France, and moved to the United States sixty years ago.

In 1973 Jacqueline and Jean Paul were instrumental in forming the LI Mycological Club, and became respectively, the first vice-president and president, positions which they held for many years, subsequently becoming dual editors of this newsletter until 1993.



JACQUELINE LATIL *Continued*

Those of us who knew Jacqueline and had the opportunity to attend forays with her will no doubt recall her keen ability to identify herbs, plants of various types and wild flowers. She was also an accomplished birder. These pursuits did not detract from her extensive knowledge of wild mushrooms. Her gracious old-world manner was full of charm. Together with Jean Paul, they comprised a formidable team.

Jacqueline will be missed but shall always be with us on our mushroom forays; the adventure she loved and looked forward to every Saturday morning for many years.

Jean Paul has since relocated to the facility at the address below, where cards and letters may be sent.

Jean Paul Latil
Manorhouse Assisted Living
491 Crestwood Dr Apt. #309
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Northeast Mycological Federation - 2001

Sam Ristich Foray

August 16 - 19, 2001

The seventh annual Sam Ristich Foray is being hosted this year by the Boston Mycological Club, and will be held in Amherst MA at the University of Massachusetts Campus Center Hotel. Amherst is approximately 150 miles up from New York City, and 110 miles west of Boston, just off I-91. The nearest airport is Bradley International in Hartford; the Peter Pan Bus Line offers service to Amherst from New York, Albany and Hartford.

Because of some of the unusual geological features of this area, the Connecticut River valley offers a great variety of habitats, and after this wet spring, should yield a goodly mushroom harvest.

The University of Massachusetts is where the late Dr. Howard Bigelow taught for many years. He is best known for his work with the genus *Clitocybe*. Some of his favorite collecting areas will be incorporated into the foray schedules. Dr. Tim Baroni, Professor of Biology at SUNY Cortland, and a former student of Dr. Bigelow, will be our chief mycologist.

Aside from the forays which will take us to various near-by sites in the surrounding countryside, almost everything else will take place in our hotel: lectures, workshops, sales, messy crafts, evening socials, and of course, the mushroom displays. You will be happy to know that the hotel is air-conditioned throughout, and elevators will make everything easily accessible. The rooms are comfortable with lovely views of the campus and of the Mount Tom Range to the south--mostly with one or two double beds, so you *could* accommodate as many as four persons in one room, if you are all good friends.

A Bar-B-Q is planned for Friday night, and a banquet for Saturday night.

There will be lectures and workshops to meet every level of mycological curiosity. Besides Dr. Baroni, many of our favorite mycologists will be on hand to share with us their wisdom, and to help with the identification of the many hundreds of species that we will have found. And, oh, yes, the ebullient Sam Ristich will be there, too: his enthusiasm is highly contagious.

If you have never been to a NEMF foray before, this should be a great way to get started. On the other hand, if you are a "regular", you will certainly want to come and see all your old mycopals.

Children are welcome, too, of course. Call if you want to bring some younger mycologists along: there are cots that could be made available for your use.

So mark the dates on your calendar, and send in your reservation soon. Checks should be made payable to NEMF, a late fee of \$30. per person will have to apply to registrations received after July 15.

See you there!

NEMF - August 16 - 19, 2001
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
Registration

<u>Category</u>	<u>No.</u>		<u>Cost/person</u>	<u>Total</u>
Double Occupancy#: Thurs thru Sun, 8 meals **	_____	@	\$295	\$ _____
Double Occupancy#: Friday thru Sun, 6 meals*	_____	@	\$250	\$ _____
Single Occupancy: Thurs thru Sun, 8 meals**	_____	@	\$380	\$ _____
Single Occupancy: Friday thru Sun, 6 meals*	_____	@	\$305	\$ _____
Triple or Quadruple+: Thurs thru Sun, 8 meals**	_____	@	\$255	\$ _____
Triple or Quadruple+: Friday thru Sun, 6 meals*	_____	@	\$215	\$ _____
Commuter: Thurs thru Sunday, 8 meals**	_____	@	\$185	\$ _____
Commuter: Friday thru Sunday, 6 meals*	_____	@	\$170	\$ _____
Commuter, no meals	_____	@	\$105	\$ _____
Totals	_____			\$ _____

Please indicate roommate(s) below Will you need us to assign you a roommate? ___ M or F?
 **8 meals: Thursday dinner through Sunday breakfast, including Fri night Bar-B-Q and Sat. banquet.
 *6 meals: Friday lunch through Sunday breakfast, including Fri night Bar-B-Q and Saturday banquet.
 # one or two beds + two double beds Number of beds preferred: 1 or 2 _____

For your name tag(s): Please list all in your party:
 Name or nickname: _____ Hometown, Club or organization _____

Name and address (Please type or print clearly, or use an address sticker)

Telephone: _____ Special needs?
 e-mail: (We promise not to send you any jurk mail!): _____

Liability Waiver: (All must sign): By signing below I release the Northeast Mycological Federation, Inc. and the Boston Mycological Club, their officers and members from any and all liability and loss arising from any accident, injury or illness which may result from activities of the year 2001 NEMF Foray.
 Sign and date: _____

Sign and date: _____
 All fees must be paid in full with this registration. Make checks payable to NEMF and mail with this form, signed, to: NEMF/ Marcia Jacob 118 Presidents Lane Quincy MA 02169
 A late fee of \$30. per person applies to all registrations received after July 15. For all cancellations received up to July 15, we will refund all fees minus \$30. per person. No refunds are possible for cancellations received later than July 15.
 Any questions? Call Marcia at (617) 471-1093, e-mail: mjacob@earthlink.net
 Or call Ellen Penso at (617)332-8366 evenings, (617)628-3710 daytime, e-mail epenso@massmod.org



MARK THESE DATES:

MOREL BREAKFAST: APRIL 28

CHANTERELLE WEEKEND: AUGUST 3-5

NORTHEASTERN FORAY: AUGUST 16-19

CATSKILL WEEKEND: SEPTEMBER 21-23



The New York Mycological Society

c/o Lynn Payer
720 West 181st St., Apt. 54
New York, NY 10033

