

# The New York Mycological Society

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 1

March, 1977

This may - just may - become an historic document some day! As you see, it is No. 1, Vol. 1 of the N.Y.M.S. Newsletter which we hope will help to keep our far-flung members better informed about the activities of the Society than they have been in past years. We plan to publish the Newsletter whenever there is something of interest to say - probably three or four times a year.

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MONDAY EVENING WORKSHOPS AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN  
7 - 9 P.M., April through October  
(in the new Watson Annex of the N.Y. Botanical Garden Museum)

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In the early 1960's the N.Y. Mycological Society used to meet on Saturdays at the N.Y. Botanical Garden to study and identify mushrooms, but at that time our group was so small that attendance did not warrant continuing the meetings. Now that N.Y.M.S. membership has more than tripled, we are going to meet there again, on Monday evenings so that specimens gathered on weekend walks can be studied with the aid of books, monographs, microscopes, and on occasion, experts. Starting April 4, we plan to hold these workshops every Monday during the mushroom gathering season but, to be safe, call Gary Lincoff - (212)873-2147 - a few days in advance to confirm.

April and May workshops will concentrate on the fundamentals of identification: how to describe a mushroom, how to use a key, where to look for good descriptions and illustrations of species, how to use a microscope and what to look for, how to use chemicals for macro- and micro-identification of mushrooms and, finally, where to send specimens when all else fails. While fresh mushrooms are still scarce there will be slides and preserved specimens to study. Attend these sessions and you'll be ready for the season.

The following schedule is tentative. Dr. Clark Rogerson will be our instructor on some of these dates:

- April 4 ... Ascomycetes: Norels, Verpa, Helvella, Gyromitra, Hypomyces
- April 11... Ascomycetes: Cup fungi, Cordyceps, Trichoglossum, Cudonia, etc.
- April 18... Non-gilled Basidiomycetes: Jelly fungi, corals, Hydnum, Gastromycetes
- April 25... Non-gilled Basidiomycetes: Polypores and boletes (Sam Ristich will be on hand to help us with this one)
- May 2 ..... Amanita
- May 9 ..... Other white-spored gilled mushrooms
- May 16 .... Non-white-spored gilled mushrooms: Pluteus, Entoloma, Pholiota, etc.
- May 23 .... Non-white-spored gilled mushrooms: Agaricus, the hallucinogens, etc.

HOW TO GET THERE: It's not as difficult as you may think. By car: use the Garden's main entrance on Southern Blvd. directly across from the Fordham University parking lot - there is ample parking space near the Museum. By train: Amtrack, the Mt. Vernon local leaves Grand Central Station (lower level) at 6:11 and 6:45 P.M. arriving at 200th St. at 6:33 and 7:08 respectively. The 200th St. R.R. station is about two blocks from the Garden's pedestrian entrance nearest to the Museum. By bus: Nos. BXN-4 and BXN-11 leave Madison Ave. and 26 or 28 St. Phone 881-1000 for information. Subway: Lex. Ave. IRT #4 to 200th St. Walk East to Garden.

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 AN IMPORTANT EXCHANGE
 

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In exchange for the N.Y. Botanical Garden's aid to us in the free use of a classroom, microscopes and the advice of its expert mycologists (we are also to have a space in which to start our own mycological library), members of our group are expected give some of their time and expertise to the Garden's own programs. We could help with their planned activities in these ways: by leading botany and mushroom walks in the Garden grounds, giving lectures on some aspect of mushrooms, conducting mushroom identification and/or testing sessions. Other activities that might be of interest to the Garden include workshops on canning and preserving, making dyes from wild plants, growing and using herbs, orchid culture, and botanical drawing and photography. Both your participation in our Monday workshops and your special contribution to the N.Y. Botanical Garden are necessary to make this venture a success.

To volunteer your time and skills, please write or phone Gary Lincoff, Education Committee Chairman, 219 West 70 Street (#1), New York, N.Y. 10023 - (212)873-2147

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 SOCIAL NOTES
 

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Many thanks to Elaine Hamilton for opening her home to us for our party to celebrate Guy Nearing's 67th birthday last January. Elaine's charm and hard work as hostess, plus the marvelous food brought by members, made it one of the best parties we have ever had.

Just this month Elaine Hamilton and Derek Miller were married. May they have a fine future together. The Millers will be dividing their time between New York and London for the next year or so.

Felicitations also to Laurette Shapiro, former Secretary of N.Y.M.S., who is now Mrs. David Reisman.

NEW MEMBERS: welcome to N.Y.M.S., Rachel and Raymond Berry, Mrs. Nel Brey, Sare Ann and Victor Friedman, Joseph Holdner, Thomas G. Lemans, Stanley Mandel, Janine B. Nearing, Jean and Robert Porter. Welcome back, Anne Garrigue and John Rudolph.

WALKS: John Rudolph is now in charge of arranging exploratory walks on Saturdays to try to locate good new areas that are likely to produce enough mushrooms of sufficient variety to keep a Sunday group of 20 or more people busy collecting. If you know of any promising places and want to help John with this project, call him at (201)487-0684.

A mycological newsletter should have lots of news of mushrooms in it, so if you have foot-high morels on your terrace, giant puffballs growing from your bathroom ceiling, or unicorns in your garden, do let us hear about it! But seriously; descriptions of rare specimens, or of species found growing in areas of the country in which they have not been reported before, as well as short accounts of strange finds under unusual circumstances, will help to add interest to the Newsletter, so please send them along to us.

HAPPY HUNTING

Please send news items and comments to:  
 Maggie Jarvis, 140 West 69 Street, New York, N.Y. 10023