



## A NEW EARTHSTAR SERIES

By Dr. Walt Sundberg, Mycologist,  
Professor Emeritus, Southern Illinois University  
Chief Mycologist (Scientific Advisor), Missouri Mycological Society

# Building your “Mushroom Memory” Part 2

Mushroom season 2009 is now on and, alas, the morels are already gone! But, there is a lot more to hunt, to see, to collect, to learn, and perhaps to taste now and in the coming months. Thus, there is a lot more time to Build Your “Mushroom Memory” this year. Did you start preparing your personal mushroom life list yet? If so, great. If not, it is NEVER to late to start. Start yours now! And, always carry a copy with you on field trips for “memory jogging”. [For Part I, see the last issue of the Earthstar newsletter or request a copy from me (sundberg.wj.407@verizon.net)].

Start by making a list of fungi you know and have personally seen fresh in the field or at a foray on the table. Continue adding to your list each time you see another that is new to you! Once started, a personal mushroom life list is like each of us. It may start small, but grows, changes, and, with time and continued input (attention), becomes better, more useful and effective.

As your mushroom life list grows, using it with ease (in the field or at home) may become somewhat cumbersome. For example, in its list of fungi found at the annual Mingo Foray, MOMS now has names (listed alphabetically) for over 600 mushrooms and related fungi found there! Foraging through a long list (perhaps pages) of names to find the one you can't quite remember is laborious.

What can you do to make your life list easier to use—especially in the field or at a foray? I suggest organizing it by subdividing the species into “general” groups that are useful and meaningful to you. In this way and through use, you will enhance your memory of fungus names and, indirectly, your knowledge of at least some of their features and relationships.

For possible use, I suggest and offer two outlines of groups below. The first is short and may be handy if your life list is short. If you have a large number of fungi in your list, a more elaborate further subdivision – like one I use – is offered. Whatever you do, organize your list in some way useful to you – and use it both at home and on forays.

### Suggestion I:

Myxomycetes – Slime Molds  
Ascomycetes – Sac Fungi  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi  
Lichens

### Suggestion II:

Myxomycetes – Slime Molds  
Ascomycetes – Sac Fungi – Plectomycetes  
Ascomycetes – Sac Fungi – Pyrenomycetes  
Ascomycetes – Sac Fungi – Discomycetes – Inoperculates  
Ascomycetes – Sac Fungi – Discomycetes – Operculates  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Jelly Fungi – Tremellales  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Smooth Fungi – Thelephoroids  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Clavariaceae – Coral Fungi  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Hydnaceae – Tooth Fungi  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Polyporaceae – Polypores and relatives  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Cantharellaceae – Chanterelles  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Boletaceae – Boletes (Fleshy Pore Fungi)  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Agaricales – Mushrooms  
Basidiomycetes – Club Fungi – Gasteromycetes – Puffballs and relatives

Deuteromycetes – Imperfect Fungi – Molds and mildews  
Zygomycetes – Sporangium-bearing Fungi  
Lichens

## Survey Results

by Shannon Stevens

Several months ago I emailed folks a website to participate in a national survey of mushroom club members. The results are in and if you are interested in seeing what they are, please visit this website: [http://www.hehd.clemson.edu/PRTM/National\\_Survey\\_of\\_Mushroom\\_Club\\_Members.pdf](http://www.hehd.clemson.edu/PRTM/National_Survey_of_Mushroom_Club_Members.pdf)

More in-depth analysis will come in the form of articles submitted to the types of mushroom publications we read. Some of the most useful data in terms of informing policy about collecting on public lands are the bar graphs about how club members changed after adopting the hobby. Thanks to all who participated.

Where in your list would you find this *Geastrum*? ►  
answer on page 11



Jon Rapp