

The Mycorizon

Newsletter of the New Mexico Mycological Society

March 2003

Volume 1—Number 3

President's Message

Space limitations have my column limited to a paragraph or so, and as such I will try to focus on the direction of NMMS or member concerns in the column.

New, and I hope interesting programs are coming together for NMMS. I hope these programs will stimulate interest and that this, teamed up with more cooperative weather, will produce some rewarding experiences in the upcoming mycological season.

Please provide us with feedback as to how we are doing to meet your wants and hopes for NMMS.

John Rahart

OUT OF THE ASHES

*Excerpts from The Durango Herald, Colorado
March 6, 2003*

Old fashioned shoot-outs are a thing of the past, but a band of outsiders may be coming to Durango this spring carrying loaded weapons, bundles of cash and an appetite for mushrooms.

The Columbine Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest is preparing for what could be an invasion of people hunting a fungus classified as "Morchella Esculenta," or more popularly known as the Morel mushroom.

Morels thrive in forest areas that have recently burned, and if Durango is blessed with a moist spring, as many as 70,000 acres of the surrounding mountains may be covered with them.

According to information released from the Forest Service in Montana, 850,000 acres of land burned in 2000 and brought a massive influx of mushroom harvesters. Many of the harvesters who traveled to Montana were Russians and Asian Americans from the West Coast.

The Forest Service report says, "Buyers may carry as much as \$30,000; and they are probably armed since they have such a large quantity of money on site." Because of the potential problems Colorado Forest Service officials admit they may need help from local law enforcement.

If territorial disputes with loaded weapons aren't enough, officials also are concerned with the harvesters' impact on the fragile post-fire landscape.

Editors tongue-in-cheek comment:

And the "morel" of this story is – since there are no Morels in NM we don't have to worry about commercial picking.

April Meeting Program

Dr. Parmenter is the program manager for the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research program at UNM. He is not a Mycologist, but his work should make for an interesting program at our meeting.

He also indicated that perhaps our group may be invited to do some field collecting of fungi at the Sevilleta Refuge located in the Chihuahuan desert 20 miles north of Socorro.



Test your Fungi Trivia Savvy

Which important stem-decay fungus was used as a source of body paint by Native Americans in the Northwest?

Answer on page 3

Action from the March 1st Board Meeting

Attendees:

President John Rahart,
Vice President Ann Floyd,
Treasurer Sharon Chong,
First Past President Dave Wallis,
Second Past President
Ellen Reed,
At-Large Member
Peggy Gorresen,
Observer Terri Wallis,
Secretary Mark Kalin

Agenda item:

Formalize membership benefits.

Decisions:

General meetings are open to visitors.

Non-member may attend one weekend field trip only.

Annual Foray - the board deferred decision on member vs. non-member benefits/fees.

Newsletter will be sent members only.

The board will continue to periodically award honorary life-time memberships based on member meritorious service.

NMMS SHOPPING

Available at the next meeting at a 10% member discount, at listed price to non-members:

David Arora's

All that the rain promises....
\$18.00

Vera Stucky Evenson's
*Mushrooms of Colorado and
the Southern Rocky Mountains*
\$25.00

Interactive CD
The Secret Lives of Mushrooms
\$18.00

Merchandise such as books, CDs, Videos, Tee-shirts, etc will be offered to members at a 10% discount.

Library items will be available to members only free of charge.

Agenda item:

Tee-shirts

Decision:

The board endorsed the creation of new club Tee-shirts.

More decisions to be announced at the general membership meeting on April 1st.

Respectfully excerpted from Mark Kalin's meeting minutes.

Submission Deadline

For the April issue is

Thursday April 24th 2003

**We will
miss
you!**



Unless your club dues are paid by April 1st or you are an honorary member—this will be your last newsletter.

Club Dues

NMMS \$20, NAMA \$32
(NAMA membership is optional)
Consider the many benefits of being part of NMMS.

Mail your check to:
NMMS Treasurer
6336 Mendius, NE
Albuquerque, NM
87109-4126

Bing's Review



Sitting in for Bing this month—
Ann Floyd

The ultimate Mushroom Cookbook

by Jordan & Wheeler

Advertised as providing 100 Fabulous Fungi Feasts and Marvelous Mushroom Meals, it also professes to be a complete guide to mushrooms.

At a whopping 128 pages and a dimensions of 1.00 x 12.25 x 9.50 inches it is definitely not a field guide. It does however have marvelous recipes and the pictures are impressive.

Last published by Smithmark Publishing; (August 1996) it is out of print, but still available at Amazon.com from \$9.75 to \$17.95. This reviewer deems this a book worthy of a spot in your library.

CD from the UK:

*An illustrated key for
identification of wild
mushrooms, fungi & toadstools*
by Shimon Tzabar

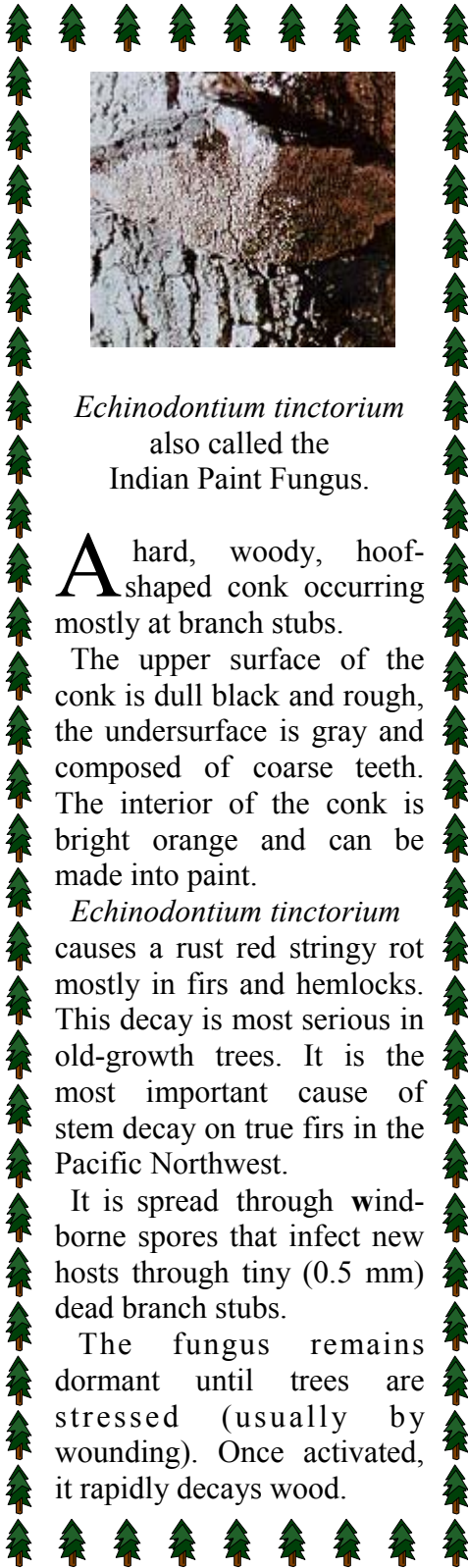
The 500 superb watercolor illustration by the author alone make this an impressive effort.

Even though originated and based on fungi in the UK it has application in the US. It runs on Windows, is interactive and recommended by this reviewer.

See website:

www.mycosoft.co.uk

This CD is available to members from the NMMS library free of charge.



Echinodontium tinctorium
also called the
Indian Paint Fungus.

A hard, woody, hoof-shaped conk occurring mostly at branch stubs.

The upper surface of the conk is dull black and rough, the undersurface is gray and composed of coarse teeth. The interior of the conk is bright orange and can be made into paint.

Echinodontium tinctorium causes a rust red stringy rot mostly in firs and hemlocks. This decay is most serious in old-growth trees. It is the most important cause of stem decay on true firs in the Pacific Northwest.

It is spread through wind-borne spores that infect new hosts through tiny (0.5 mm) dead branch stubs.

The fungus remains dormant until trees are stressed (usually by wounding). Once activated, it rapidly decays wood.

★
★ Visit NMMS ★
★ on the Web at ★
★ www.mycowest.org ★
★

Don't miss a meeting—CATCH A RIDE!

In Albuquerque call:
Sharon Chong at 823-2704 or
Mark Kalin at 883-1639 or 284-4341
For rides from/to Santa Fe call:
Ted Stampfer at 505-983-3116

Given a bit of notice, these generous folks will be glad to give NMMS members rides to and/or from meetings. We would like to expand this service to include rides to and from other functions, like field trips, forays and such. To make this work without putting too much burden on a few, we need to increase our pool of ride-givers. If you are willing and able to help with this, please contact any board member.

**EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
Higher Fungi of the Sierra Nevada
[Biology 315]
June 1-6, 2003**

LOCATION: Sierra Nevada Field Camp of San Francisco State University, Sierra Co., CA, on Hwy 49 west of Yuba Pass and northeast of Sierra City.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dennis E. Desjardin, Systematic Mycologist, Professor of Biology, San Francisco State University.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Students will be introduced to the different kinds of mushrooms and other large fungi that occur in the spring in the Sierra Nevada. Emphasis will be placed on the analysis of macro- and micromorphological features, as well as ecological roles, to aid in the identification of taxa. Participants should plan to arrive Sunday afternoon, June 1st, in time to attend an orientation lecture on Sunday evening at 8:00 pm. The last class meeting will be 12:00 noon, Friday, 6 June.

CREDIT: The course carries one unit of college credit and may be taken for a letter grade or Credit/No Credit.

REGISTRATION:
Jim Steele, Sierra Nevada Field Camp Director,
Department of Biology, San Francisco State University,
1600 Holloway Ave., San Francisco, CA 94132
Evenings phone: 650-738-1814

NOTE: Register early! Last year's class of 23 students filled up early and many potential participants had to be turned away.

**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER
WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS!**

Contact the editor at (505)-839-3890 or send e-mail to:
steinpilz98@yahoo.com

UP-COMING EVENTS

FIELD MYCOLOGY

Dr. Timothy J. Baroni

State University NY

College at Cortland

3 semester hrs of credit

July 19—August 1, 2003

For registration information

contact: Registrar

Summer session programs

State Univ. College at Cortland

P.O. Box 2000

Cortland, NY 13045

Telephone 607-753-4701

LAMS

Morel Foray

May 9—11, 2003

San Bernadino

Contact Steve Pencall via e-mail

at cantharellus13@yahoo.com

or call (909)781-8993

THE CULINARY CORNER



SAGE AND SHIITAKE PIZZA

A different twist on an old favorite

Ingredients:

Your favorite pizza dough.

3 tbsp olive oil, plus a bit extra for brushing the dough.

3/4 lb small whole fresh shiitake mushrooms, sliced if large.

Handful of small fresh sage leaves, shred if large.

2-3 garlic cloves, finely chopped

1 1/2 lb mozzarella (the good stuff) thinly sliced

Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 400 F.

Prepare four thin 8 inch rounds of dough or one extra large.

Put the dough on baking sheet(s) or a pizza stone if your are well equipped and brush with oil (avoiding the edges).

Arrange the mozzarella over the pizza(s).

Toss the mushrooms, sage leaves, garlic, salt and pepper with 3 tbsp olive oil and spread over the cheese.

Bake at 400° for about 15 minutes or until the crust is golden brown.

Remove and let cool on rack for 10 minutes.

Return address:

LAMS

6336 Mendius NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109-4126

Send to: