

The Mycorizon

Newsletter of the New Mexico Mycological Society

March 2005

Volume 3 Number 27

President's Message

At work earlier this week I was walking across a dirt area on campus, carrying an armload of papers and books, a partially consumed Krispy Kreme, and a nice, hot, overly-full cup of coffee, when I encountered--with dramatic results--one of several cleverly concealed mushrumps.

Last year it seemed we were tripping over those damn *Agaricus*. This year I've already done so literally. If we're seeing fruitings in February, I'm eager to see what the "real" season will have in store.

I wish I had more details on this year's Foray, but all I can state at this point is that we are looking seriously at returning to the southern part of the state and that the Foray will likely occur slightly earlier in August.

I hope to have more to say about it at the meeting on March 7th.

On the subject of the upcoming meeting, I am looking forward to an excellent talk by Larry Massey, who will enlighten us on the topic of medical mycology. Dr. Massey will be the first of several speakers we plan to invite to our monthly meetings.

David Wallis

HB 813

NMSU Native Fungi Resource Bank and Program

Lynda Taylor from Sustainable Communities/ZERI-NM reports that this important bill passed out of the House Agricultural Committee 7-0. The purpose of this bill is for NMSU to develop economic opportunities by cultivating and applying native fungi on the vast amount of wood wastes from forest thinnings such as ponderosa, piñon, juniper, fir; salt cedars, Russian olives, and orchard trimmings such as pecan and apple trees. This is intended, for the production of economically viable crops and products including edible mushrooms, animal feed supplement for cows, bison and sheep, rich mushroom soil compost for gardens as well as for restoration activities of forest health in riparian areas, range and agricultural lands. The appropriation of \$250,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

NMSU-CAHE indicates that this legislation reflects a new initiative that will allow the NMSU Department of Agronomy and Horticulture to create a state microbiologist program that can utilize beneficial microorganisms to native ecosystem health and encourage rural economic development around the production of edible native mushrooms. The state microbiologist will serve as a repository for cultures of native microorganisms and provide programs that will assist rural communities and small entrepreneurs in developing an industry around edible mushrooms. This program will also assist in ecosystem restoration efforts through recycling of woody tree biomass.

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MONDAY MARCH 7th MEETING & PROGRAM

An Introduction to Medical Mycology

Dr. Larry Massie, a pathologist at the VAMC in Albuquerque, will present a general overview of medical mycology, focusing primarily on invasive fungal diseases in humans. This will include a brief description of fungal characteristics, morphology/taxonomy, epidemiology (why fungi don't like to infect humans), diagnosis, and a clinical classification scheme, which he believes is particularly helpful and groups fungal infections into five general categories, which share common clinical characteristics providing a relatively concise framework to understanding fungal infections in humans.

Terri Wallis



NMMS

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The Foray committee is looking
for a chair person

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Membership

Yearly dues are \$20
(optional NAMA dues are \$32)
Mail application & check to:
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6336 Mendius, NE
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Meetings: Are held on the 1st
Monday of the month, except
July & December at 7:30pm at
the NM Museum of Natural
History 1801 Mountain Rd NW

2/ 7/05

General Meeting Minutes

19:30—President Dave Wallis
called the meeting to order in the
multipurpose room at New
Mexico Museum of Natural
History.

Attendees:

14

Treasurer's Report:

Sharon Chong reported a check-
ing account balance of
approximately \$4014, plus a CD
of \$1762 maturing on 6/7/05.

Meeting Refreshments:

Sharon reported that the Mu-
seum does not prohibit serving
refreshments in the multipurpose
room.

Committee Reports:

Field Trip – Chair supports
increased documentation of field
trip results. Foray – Chair hopes
to hold a meeting in February.
Equipment – Chair researched
acquisition of a multi-media
projector. Ted Stampfer
suggested that NMMS consider
assisting on several projects:
Valles Calderas fungal
inventory. Xeri group study of
recycling forest waste in the
Penasco area.

Program:

We watched a Walt Sundberg
video dealing with some
practical tips for mushroom ID
using a hand lenses.

Meeting adjourned at 21:20
Respectfully extracted from the
minutes submitted by,
Mark Kalin

WARNINGS
ALL MUSHROOMS ARE
EDIBLE ONCE!
NEVER EAT RAW!

NMMS SHOPPING

AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS

Select from great books, CDs
and DVDs that are practical
and entertaining. They are
useful to beginners as well as
veteran mushroom hunters and
make great gifts!

David Arora's
Mushrooms Demystified
*M \$35.00 **NM 38.50

David Arora's
All that the Rain Promises....
M* \$16.00 **NM\$17.50

Jack States'
*Mushrooms and Truffles
of the Southwest*
\$7.00 *MP \$9.00 **NMP

Vera Stucky Evenson's
*Mushrooms of Colorado and
the Southern Rocky Mountains*
NOW ONLY \$15.00 *MP
\$16.50 **NMP

Toadstool's Interactive CD
The Secret Lives of Mushrooms
*MP \$16.20 **NMP \$18.00

Taylor Lockwood's DVD
*Treasures from
the Kingdom of Fungi*
*MP \$15.00 **NMP \$17.00

Taylor Lockwood's Book
*Treasures from
the Kingdom of Fungi*
*M \$25.00 **NM \$27.50

Available at meetings or
contact Ann Floyd
at 839-3890 or via
e-mail: ann@mycowest.org

*M = member price
** NM = non-member price

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HB 813

NMSU Native Fungi Resource Bank and Program

NMSU-CAHE notes that the NMSU Department of Agronomy and Horticulture will employ a state microbiologist and support staff to collect and maintain a beneficial microorganism culture bank and develop an outreach program to train community members in mushroom identification, collection and marketing, and that an advisory group consisting of SCI-ZERI, Picuris pueblo, other community members and experts will help prioritize focus areas.

Beneficial microorganism cultures will be maintained at the NMSU main campus, and training materials will be available on the state microbiologist web page and in educational materials available through CES County Extension offices and AES Agriculture Science Centers throughout the state. There are no comparable programs either in the state of New Mexico or in the southwest.

Only the Pacific Northwest has a federal program bearing any similarity to this undertaking, and NMSU-CAHE further suggests that it will achieve the technical capacity to serve as a model for rural economic development using unique non-timber forest products. Priority issues will be the collection and maintenance of a microorganism culture bank, and the practical application of these cultures to increase edible native mushroom production in forested regions of the state.

Watch for further news on this bill on the *NMMS* website at www.mycowest.org and in future issues of the *MYCORIZON*.

Mushroom Growing can be Hazardous

India News: Jalandhar, Feb 26:

One person was killed and two injured when the roof of a room in a dairy farm in Gulmarg Colony collapsed here today.

The incident occurred this afternoon when Mukhtiar Singh, owner of the dairy farm, along with his son Babloo and other others, were watering the mushroom crop cultivated in a room of the farm.

The temporary roof of the room, weakened by the burying three of them under it's debris while Mukhtiar Singh ran out to safety.

While the other two men could be pulled out of the debris alive, Babloo succumbed to his injuries.

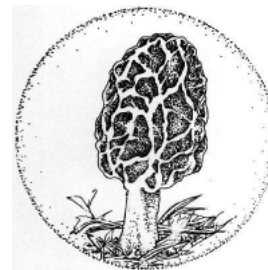
The injured have been hospitalized, police said

TSUNAMI FUNGUS

THE LOCAL - Sweden's News in English publication reported on 2/23/05 that some Swedish survivors of the tsunami disaster in Asia are facing another danger. At least four people who were struck by the massive waves in Thailand have returned home with a potentially deadly fungal infection. The Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control is warning of the symptoms and urging people to be observant.

These fungi usually assist in breaking down biological material. The huge amounts of water stirred up during the tsunami brought these bacteria into human contact. They can cause infections in open wounds, as seems to have happened with the four Swedes, and can get into lungs and sinus cavities. The Institute cautioned in a press release: "Certain types of fungi in the lungs or sinuses can lead to complicated infections that can be life-threatening."

The Institute's Victor Fernandez said the bacteria only tend to cause serious problems when ingested in high quantities. And in that case, treatment is vital. "If it is untreated, more than 50 percent of infected people die. Early treatment is essential. The infections are not contagious.



**THIS IS YOUR
NEWSLETTER**

**WE WELCOME
YOUR FEEDBACK
PICTURES, ARTICLES
AND**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR
IMPROVEMENT**

Contact the editor at
(505)-839-3890
or send e-mail to:
ann@mycowest.org

**UNLESS
YOUR DUES
ARE
RECEIVED BY
3/24/05
THIS WILL BE
YOUR FINAL
NEWSLETTER**

Membership is \$20
Optional NAMA dues are \$32
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6336 Mendius, NE

**Submission Deadline
for the April issue is
Thursday March 24th**

Return address:
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Albuquerque, NM 87109-4126



THE CULINARY CORNER



BASMATI and MUSHROOM PILAF

1 cup white Basmati rice
2 tbsp butter
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 lbs fresh or re-hydrated mushrooms of your choice, thinly sliced
2 cups stock
1/2 tsp salt
Black pepper to taste
1/2 cup almonds, slivered and toasted
2 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped

In a heavy 2 quart saucepan with tight fitting lid—sauté rice and garlic in the butter until slightly browned. Add mushrooms and sauté 2 more minutes. Add stock, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Cover and reduce heat. Simmer for 20 minutes or until water is absorbed. Stir in almonds and parsley and serve.
Yields 3 cups.

Send to:

Visit NMMS on the Web at www.mycowest.org