

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 4 August 2008, 7pm at the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd NW in Albuquerque.

This issue's President's Message includes program details.

- There will be no regular meeting in September. We *will* have regular meetings on October 6th and November 3rd.
- The Editors have decided to combine the months of September and October into one issue, in part to allow adequate time for inclusion of information from the Foray. Therefore, the next submission deadline is September 8th. The Sept-Oct *Mycorizon* should arrive in mid-September.

2008 Foray • August 14-17 • Taos, NM

NMMS

6336 Mendius NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109-4126



www.mycowest.org

Request for Mushroom Identifiers

Michael Beug, Guest Mycologist at last year's Las Vegas Foray and Chair of NAMA's Toxicology Committee, sent the following request.

"I am updating the list of people willing to do identifications of mushrooms in poisoning cases and noticed that currently there is no one in New Mexico. Do you have an experienced person who is very good at identification who might be willing to do identifications of the mushroom in the event of a poisoning in New Mexico? The person does not have to be a member of NAMA."

If you are willing to do this, please contact Michael Beug (contact info available at www.Mycowest.org).

The Mycorizon

Newsletter of the New Mexico Mycological Society

August 2008

President's Message

Our potluck in Santa Fe was most enjoyable not only for the many delightful dishes brought in but also for the mycological display put on by Sharon and Melinda from their visits to the Jemez, Barbara Marigold's treasures from Santa Fe and her other hunting grounds, and Barbara Hays' *Hydnum repandum* specimen from the Santa Fe Farmer's Market. Many thanks to Barbara Hays for hosting the event.

Our August 4th programs will feature Sharon Chong's overview of Foray etiquette and expectations as well as my talk on this June's course on *Fungi of the Sierra*.

Spencer Campbell

Foray Update

We currently have 73 people registered for the Three Graces Foray in Taos! If you haven't registered and would still like to attend, you may do so, with a \$20 late fee added to the cost. But please, make haste!

I do love monsoon season in NM! We've had rain twelve of the past twenty days at our house. The weather station at Ranchos de Taos has measured nearly 3 inches in the last month. Lookin' good! And we're looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones in Taos.

For those who are planning on attending

only one day, all field trips will leave the motel at 08:30.

Libba Campbell

Mushrooms of the Valles Caldera

Although the Valles Caldera folks are still not comfortable with having NMMS members conduct another fungal survey on the Preserve (the last survey was part of our 1998 Foray, and the *Valle Grande* was still private land at that time) they are at least willing to allow a few people to go in and look at fungi. On August 24th and 29th, there will be Mushroom Tours open to 24 participants on each day.

On the Valles Caldera website, the tour description reads, "Come join Dr. Relf Price for an introduction to the mushrooms, slime molds and lichens of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. We will search out, identify and discuss these 'cryptogams'. Dr. Price is the project leader of the Cryptogam Project for the Valles Caldera. The Preserve's vans will visit some of Dr. Price's favorite locations on the Preserve; and, depending on how much recent moisture the Preserve has received, we may have numerous subjects to observe and discuss."

The Mycowest.org site features a link to Valles Caldera's pages describing this event.

Agaricus barrowsii
(*Agaricus pinyonensis*)

During my sojourn at the University of Michigan, Dr. Alexander Smith suggested that I might begin to review the herbarium material of *Agaricus* in the University of Michigan Herbarium. Dr. Smith had studied *Agaricus*, especially in the Western United States, and published a paper on type studies in 1938. I was at once struck by the abundance of material in the herbarium and in particular by larger collections coming from New Mexico collected by Chuck Barrows of Santa Fe.

After developing anatomical descriptions of a number of Chuck's collections, one in particular caught my attention. This was labeled an *Agaricus subnutans* by Dr. Smith. Comparison of New Mexico material with the type of *Agaricus subnutans* suggested a number of discrepancies. The basidiospores of *A. subnutans* averaged larger and more rounded than those collections from New Mexico. The Schaffer reaction is a curious macro chemical reaction involving a streak of dilute aqueous nitric acid drawn across the cap of both dried and fresh mushrooms and another streak drawn at right angles to the acid with dilute alcoholic aniline oil. The intersection of lines turns red if positive, Section Arvensis, or yellow or no color if negative. This test was positive for *Agaricus subnutans*, and that species also occurs in oak woodland.

It was clear to me that Barrows' numerous collections were of an undescribed species and that it was associated with the pinyon-juniper woodland of the Southwest. To date, I have never encountered this species

anywhere but in northern New Mexico. Given the wide distribution of pinyon-juniper woodland, it would seem likely to be widespread. However, if it is specific for the Santa Fe group of sandstones in the area, then it might very well have a limited distribution. One problem in these sorts of situations is that the window for fruiting is relatively limited, restricted to high rainfall and humidity in midsummer. Cooler temperature or lack of moisture preclude *A. barrowsii* for fruiting. It is also very susceptible to grub damage and the fruit bodies are quickly consumed. One can occasionally find specimens that have dried in place, leaving perfectly preserved specimens for the fall so abrupt can the change from wet to dry seasons occur.

I dedicate this distinctive mushroom to Chuck Barrows who first discovered it, an indefatigable collector, raconteur, and friend of many years.

The relationship of *Agaricus barrowsii* are rather obscure. It possesses a curious Schaffer reaction, usually negative, but occasionally positive where yellow spots develop on the cap. The cheilocystidia are of the chain sort called cheilocatenulae, characteristic of Section Arvensis. The spores also are broadly oval and in the middle range of sizes for *Agaricus*. It lacks an almond odor, but possesses a double annulus, again much like the Arvensis group.

Bill Isaacs -1996

Are you Ready to Volunteer ?

We are getting close to the time where we will be asking for volunteers to serve as 2009 NMMS Officers. We will be needing a

new President, and we suspect that the current VP and Secretary would be quite willing to pass on those responsibilities as well. If you fancy yourself in a leadership role, this is your chance to make that dream come true.

Recipe

The following recipe includes a preface stating that "This delicious dish has been around a long long time." The editors can attest to this, since we found it in an envelope postmarked Portland OR, March 1998. Thanks to Maggie Rogers, whose foresight—and patience—are legendary.

Agaricus Under Glass

This delicious dish has been around a long long time.

- 1 pound fresh *Agaricus*, stemmed
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 1 Tablespoon chopped parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 3 slices French or whole grain wheat bread (crusts removed), toasted
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup cream, or half and half
- 2 Tablespoons sherry

Beat butter until creamy and slowly add lemon juice. Add parsley, salt, and paprika. Use half of this mixture to butter both sides of the bread slices; place in bottom of baking dish. Spread balance of mixture on *Agaricus* caps. Heap caps onto toast. Pour cream over top and cover tightly with glass cover or bowl. Bake for 25 minutes at 375 degrees. Just before serving, sprinkle lightly with sherry. Garnish with fresh parsley if desired.

Lepista nuda is wonderful as well in this recipe.

NMMS SHOPPING

David Arora's *Mushrooms Demystified*
*MP \$27.00 **NMP 30.00

David Arora's *All that the Rain Promises....*
*M \$13.00 / **N \$15.00

Vera Stucky Evenson's *Mushrooms of Colorado and the Southern Rocky Mountains*
M \$15.00 / N \$17.00

Toadstool's Interactive CD
The Secret Lives of Mushrooms
M \$15.00 / N \$17.00

Orson K. Miller Jr. & Hope H. Miller's
North American Mushrooms: A field guide to edible and inedible fungi
M \$20.00 / N \$23.00

**Books available at meetings
or contact Terri Wallis at**
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The purpose of NMMS is to advance the understanding and stimulate interest in the field of mycology.