

# Newsletter of the New Mexico Mycological Society

May - June 2009

## Mycorizon

### Kalin's Korner

We held an informative, fun, and well-attended April meeting in Santa Fe. On behalf of NMMS, I want to extend sincere "Thank You"s to:

- Barbara Hays, who hosted us at her community's clubhouse,
- Jonathan Caldwell, who presented a great talk and accompanying slideshow about spring mushrooms in the Las Vegas, NM area and its surrounding environs, and
- Ted Stampfer, who provided delicious refreshments.

We were pleased that "long time, no see" veterans Bob Chapman, Pen La Farge, Carlo Gislimberti, and Harry & Rosalind Lustig attended the meeting..

We also welcome Seth Heckman & Cecilia Wu from Albuquerque and Coloradoans Donna & Carl Linnecke and David & Kathy Finholm and look forward to seeing them at the Taos Foray.

Mushrooms need rain. I have heard the following 2009 weather predictions for our part of the country:

1. Early monsoon season
2. Late monsoon season
3. No monsoon season

Given a choice, I vote for both #1 and #2, hoping at least one of them is just right for massive and diverse fruitings for the Taos foray.

I again recommend that you check out our NMMS website. I continue to find new and interesting ideas there.

I Hope to see many of you at the June 1st meeting, 7 PM, at the New Mexico Natural History Museum.

Respectfully, Mark Kalin , President

*Editor's Note:* At the April Meeting we also welcomed Roger Peterson, an MSA member and Santa Fe resident. Dr. Petersen described his extensive Mycological library and invited NMMS members to take advantage of this resource.

### Foray Report

Plans for the 2009 NMMS 25th Anniversary Foray are progressing nicely. Our featured mycologist, Vera Evenson, will present a program on Saturday night entitled, "The Little Herbarium That Could Voucher," with emphasis on specimens from Colorado and New Mexico. Another of our mycologists, Clark Ovrebo, will present on Friday night his program, "Microscopic Characters," which will relate microscopic features to the importance of taxonomy and classification of mushroom-type fungi. Walt Sundberg plans on being with us and we hope Steve Trudell will be able to join us as well.

There are many volunteer positions needing to be filled, so volunteer early and volunteer often! Registrations are already coming in; it's time to send in yours! We hope to have another big turnout in Taos this year. Some of the vouchering jobs may last until Monday or later if we are blessed with many specimens, so plan to stay over if you can. If you have a GPS navigator, please bring it with you. We will need to

record the coordinates of the locations where fungi are found.

Don Michaelis is organizing a silent auction for us, proceeds will go to the NMMS Scholarship Fund. Contact Don at donwings@mac.com with a description of the item you wish to donate, its size, and a photograph if possible. No junk please. If you don't email, then you can telephone him at 505-228-6551. You must bring your donation to the foray. Be sure to remember to bring your checkbook!

The foray is less than three months away. It will only be as good as you help make it. Don't miss it!

Libba Campbell, Foray Committee Chair

### **Cavaliere Carlo Gislimberti**

Ten years have passed since Carlo Gislimberti returned from Rome with a new title. He was anointed a *Cavaliere Ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana*. It translates roughly to having been knighted, Italy's President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro bestowing that honor during a ceremony in Rome in mid-April.



Gislimberti was recognized for his contribution and achievements in promoting Italian cuisine, arts, and products in New Mexico, and for his work

with *Ciao Italia*, an organization of Italian restaurateurs throughout the world who promote Italian products, services and culinary knowledge.

In 1982 Gislimberti came to Red River and opened *Il Porcino*. He then moved to Taos in 1984, running the Casa Cordova restaurant until 1991, when he opened *Villa Fontana*.

Most NMMS members know Carlo well because an exquisite dinner at *Villa Fontana* was the culminating event of our Annual Foray. Carlo's unparalleled contributions to our Foray

experience earned him the distinction of becoming our club's first Honorary Member.

Carlo has since taken leave of the restaurant business (sadly, our last Foray Dinner was in 2005) and moved to Santa Fe to focus on another of his passions: painting. Those wishing to reconnect with Cavaliere Carlo or learn more about him can visit his website, [gislimberti.com](http://gislimberti.com), which features samples of his art.

### **Agaricus bitorquis**

It was late-August of last year, on a gravel county road in southwest Colorado. Terri drove while I stared out the window. The serene silence was interrupted only but the rhythmic whirr of tires on gravel, the air whispering past the open windows, and my sudden scream of "STOPPP! Back Up! Back Up! BACK UP !!"

A half-hour later the dust was finally settling, and along a few hundred meters I had excavated the dozens of roadside 'shrumps, resulting in a quite handsome collection of Torks.

Many are aware of my preference for Porcini, but I believe that I have finally recognized my favorite mushroom: *Agaricus bitorquis*. Nothing quite matches this species' robustness of flavor, indestructible texture, and its tendency to elevate pounds of road surface--gravel and asphalt alike--in the process of fruiting.



Having always found Torks during the Autumn season, I was surprised when during his talk at our recent Santa Fe meeting, Jonathan Caldwell listed it among that elite group of Spring Mushrooms. Then, as if to reinforce Jonathan's observation, John Sparks the younger distributed these photos and news:

"I had the first fruiting (one) of my *A. bitorquis* in my yard this year. We have had a little rain

recently and when I went out I noticed that the ground was broken and appeared to be something buried. This is what was below the surface.”

### Ramps

During is April talk, Jonathan Caldwell also mentioned Ramps (*Allium tricoccum*) and suggested that folks can find more information at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allium\\_tricoccum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allium_tricoccum) .

### “Helpful Recognition Features” Project

NMMS has a collection of very good photos of NM mushrooms. During the past year we decided to use them as a learning tool for our membership. As an integral part of the project, we asked members to contribute brief write-ups describing their own “Helpful Recognition Features”, that is, the one, two, or several field identification characteristics which help to ID the mushroom.

Here is an example, edited from a contri-



but ion by MaryLee Sparks.

- Tall and cylindrical when young
- Whitish cap covered with darker scales
- Cap and gills turn to a black inky substance in maturity
- Approximate measurement range
- Stem 2” to 7” tall, ½” to 1” diameter
- Cap 1½” to 7” tall, 1” to 2” diameter

Often found in grassy areas and in areas with disturbed soil.

## 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**

505-262-0830 or [twallis@swcp.com](mailto:twallis@swcp.com)

### NMMS Officers, Board Members & Committee Chairs

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The purpose of NMMS is to advance the understanding and stimulate interest in the field of mycology.



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NMMS is affiliated with the North American Mycological Association

### Upcoming Meetings

**Monday, June 1st, 7 pm at the NM Museum of Natural History**

- 1801 Mountain Rd NW, Albuquerque
- Rich Therrien will present “Mushrooming on the Internet.”

**Sunday, July 19th, 2pm at Barbara Hays’ Clubhouse**

- Summer Potluck at 360B Calle Colina, Santa Fe
- Relf Price will talk about his Study on the Valles Caldera.



Inside:  
*Coprinus comatus*  
and  
*Agaricus bitorquis*



“Mushroomville” by Lisa and Nikolai Lawton