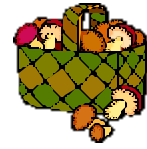




# Spore Print



The Edmonton Mycological Society Newsletter

February, 2003 Edition

## New President's Message



Welcome to a new mushroom season!

It is an honour to be named your new President by your elected Executive (aka Edmonton Railroaders' Association). I hope to maintain the standards and trust enjoyed by our past President, David Derworiz. The Executive assures me that my experience of one year in the EMS is not a drawback – they are willing and able to do any heavy lifting required in programming and communication.

While I cannot predict next summer's weather, I will predict that we will have a successful year whether it is wet or dry. If it is a dry year, we will learn how to find and harvest TRUFFLES! This from a reliable source. David's predictions of the results of a wet year are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

This year will see us modernize in a number of ways. This will include an update / revision of our Constitution – hopefully in April; and greater utilization of computerized communications. George Hamilton is making major strides in his objective of enhancing our website (wildmushrooms.ws) for our mutual benefit. Watch for updates.

Remember that our first foray is in February, and to attend our first meeting in April.

Peter Arabchuk

## Your Executive

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**OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS IS;**

**EDMONTON MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
47 Rehwinkel Road,  
Edmonton, AB T6R 1Y4

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE !!!**

**[www.wildmushrooms.ws](http://www.wildmushrooms.ws)**

## OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A recent article in the Globe and Mail read, "This was the year Canada's irascible weather became so eccentric it actually seemed that the seasons themselves had become confused. Summer, for example, was far later than normal. September was warmer than June. Fall went missing and the winter of 2001 – 2002 was so mild it hardly existed".

Despite these adversities, let's pray that 2003 brings perfect weather for the morchellas, pleurotus, agaricus, boletes, leccinums, suillus, coprinus, hydnums, lactarius, armillarias and all the hundreds of other fungi that we can enjoy identifying. (Forget the marasmius – even if sautéed with balsamic vinegar!)

Please join Bill Richards in all his forays throughout the year – beginning in Feb/03. Enjoying mushrooming is like enjoying fishing, hunting, photography and nothing else.

My three years as President have been a profound experience in the great outdoors. I may be making an exit but my wife Beverly and I will be around for most of the forays.

Good luck to Peter Arabchuk and his new Executive!



David Derworiz

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## THANK YOU!

The members and executive of the Edmonton Mycological Society would like to express our thanks to David Derworiz for his role in regenerating our club when it was waning. He has always acted as a dynamic and resourceful leader, and has kept the momentum up during his three years in office. We wish David the best in his future endeavours, and look forward to seeing him at upcoming meetings and forays. He may have resigned as President, but we've not heard the last of him yet!

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Welcome to Peter Arabchuk as our new President! No doubt Peter has already found out that he is the most fortunate man in Edmonton to be "railroaded" (as he calls it) into an executive position with this elite Society. It's wonderful to bring new blood from time to time into organizations such as ours, to hear new ideas and take on new challenges. Best of luck to you Peter!

## BOOK NOOK EMS Mushroom Books for Sale



### MUSHROOMS OF NORTHWEST NORTH AMERICA

By Helene M.E. Schalkwijk-Barendsen

Member Price: \$25.00 / Non-Member Price: \$35.00

### MUSHROOMS OF THE BOREAL FOREST

By Eugene F. Bossenmaier

Member Price: \$20.00 / Non-Member Price: \$35.00

### MUSHROOMS OF ONTARIO & EASTERN CANADA

By George Barron

Member Price: \$30.00 / Non-Member Price: \$45.00

### SOME EDIBLE AND POISONOUS MUSHROOMS IN AND AROUND EDMONTON

By Helene M.E. Schalkwijk-Barendsen

*This small book is a must for Edmonton mycolophiles!*

Member Price: \$3.00 / Non-Member Price: \$6.00

Note: Prices do not include shipping  
Books are available at meetings,  
Phone Louis @ 430-8412 to confirm availability

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The best of the NEW YEAR to all, as 2002 is gone and 2003 is a new season. We all look forward to a great foray season. But, as 2002 went by so did our MEMBERSHIP, which runs from **Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> to Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>**. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please take a moment to do so now. You really do not want to miss out on any of the great articles in SPORE PRINT for 2003 or any forays. We had a wonderful time last year; let us make 2003 even better. Please bring a friend or family member to be a **Member of THE EDMONTON MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY**. I hop to see you at the next meeting. Also please pick up your receipts at our next meeting.

I, for one, always look forward to our forays; make sure **you** do not miss out on these – Be A Member! Visit our website and remember: members can access our "Members Only" site to keep informed on what's happening. **Membership forms** are available from the website [[www.wildmushrooms.ws](http://www.wildmushrooms.ws)] from myself, and included in this issue of SPORE PRINT.

Your Membership Chairman  
Louis Galick

## Getting the dirt on fungi

By *Suntanu Dalal*

December 16, 2002 -- Dr. Randy Currah loves fungi – the main part of his research kingdom.

“The fungi are just totally fascinating, I mean they’re just absolutely fascinating organisms,” says the University of Alberta professor of biological sciences, as he shows off illustrations of fungi encased by fine cage-like structures in his office. “I showed you these pictures. Look at these intricate structures at the microscopic level. They just blow you away.

“It’s worth a lifetime or more. It’s kind of exciting to be privy to all this when the vast majority of individuals will never see them. You feel very privileged.”

The 48-year-old Currah’s dedication to the study and teaching of mycology has garnered him a 2002 Killam Annual Professorship at the U of A.

Currah studies the taxonomy and ecology of fungi – identifying fungi and then figuring out they do in their natural environment. There’s still endless room for new discoveries because mycologists have described only about 70,000 of the more than one million species in Fungi Kingdom so far. The kingdom includes yeast, molds, mushrooms, and mildews.

Fungi are the hidden gems of the natural world, microscopic and mostly hidden away in soil. Currah thinks everyone should know more about fungi because they play important biological and ecological roles – they act as pathogens that cause animal and plant diseases; some, like penicillin, can save lives; they decompose dead plants and animals, thereby cycling nutrients through ecosystems; and they form symbiotic relationships with certain plants, helping them take up nutrients.

Dr. Larry Peterson, a professor emeritus of botany at the University of Guelph, has known Currah since he was an undergraduate student in Peterson’s courses. He has followed Currah’s career and describes his former student as one of the top mycologists in the world. “He has a very, very good international reputation, and it’s because of his very careful work on the systematics of various groups of fungi,” Peterson said.

Peterson is impressed by the way Currah has combined classical morphological approaches with molecular methods to advance his work. “I think he’s one of the few mycologists who’s really willing to tackle very difficult groups of fungi, stick with it, and work them through.

Like many other academics, Currah happened upon his chosen field when he was an undergraduate. As a biology student at Guelph, he was required to take a course in botany, which he thought was going to be terribly dull. But a section of the botany course, taught by noted mycologist Dr. George Barron, covered fungi. It was a life-altering event for Currah. “[Barron] was absolutely in love with fungi and what they do, and he just turned me right on to them,” Currah says. “So I took every mycology course I could and never looked back.”

Following the completion of his MSc in botany at the U of A in 1979 where he studied wood decay, Currah worked for a couple of years as a horticulturalist at the university’s Devonian Botanic Garden. He returned to the U of A to do his PhD in medical microbiology, where he classified medically important fungi.

His passion for fungi also comes out in the undergraduate courses he teaches, where he tries to emulate the teachers who influenced him. “I know that I have these minds that are just prepared to learn how fascinating fungi are,” Currah says. “It’s great just to unfurl all of this interesting stuff to an audience like that...and they always have the same reaction I did when I took the stuff at university: ‘I had no idea.’ And that’s a big thrill for me.”

With all the work involved in running a lab and teaching, Currah says it’s difficult to find time to do much else. But he does enjoy his quarter-section of land near Elk Island National Park, a fairly rustic setting where he cuts wood with his trusty old Husqvarna chainsaw to feed the wood-burning stove in the house. It’s a break from what he does at the university. But he has been able to find a way to make his property a part of his research because it provides soil samples that contain fungi his students study. Currah and his students also travel to other parts of Canada and the world to collect soil samples. He says a little goes a long way.

“The thing about fungal collecting is, because they’re microscopic, you can’t see them when you go out into nature. So you can collect a teaspoon of dirt and come into the lab and work with it for three years,” he says with a laugh. “So you want to be careful, you don’t want to collect too much dirt or you’ll be swamped.”

Related link:

Dr. Randy Currah’s U of A Web page:

[http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/faculty/randy\\_currah/](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/faculty/randy_currah/)

**Editor’s note:** This article first appeared on the following website: [express@ualberta.ca]. , and was reprinted with permission. Thanks to Bill Richards for bringing this article to my attention.

We are please to report that Dr. Randy Currah is a Life Member of the Edmonton Mycological Society.

## Are There Chanterelles in Alberta?

Chanterelles are collected regularly in British Columbia and “are now commercially harvested directly from natural habitats, supporting a multimillion-dollar industry” (Redhead 1997) and chanterelles are one of “the two main species harvested” in Northern Saskatchewan (Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan 2000). So why are they not being found in Alberta? I have never found one here. But in my heart I know that they have to be here; we have the habitats, yes a variety of habitats, which can support them. And, like many of you reading this note, I have looked in those habitats, but alas, nothing.

For each of the last two summers, I have even had the good fortune to look in some of the likeliest habitats, those of northeastern Alberta, in the northern boreal forest and onto the portion of the Precambrian Shield of that area. Unfortunately for me, my only opportunities were mid-summer, and during extremely long dry periods. My hope of finding chanterelles was renewed this evening when I sat down after dinner with a coffee to read through the several reprints the library had sent me today. I have heard rumours, but not until an hour ago have I ever read a creditable report of chanterelles in Alberta. Bob Danielson (1984) lists chanterelles as one of the 56 species of mushrooms collected at a site in northeastern Alberta which are believed to have a symbiotic relationship with Jack Pine. All we have to do is outwait the present and persisting drought. The collections referred to in Bob’s paper took place in August and October 1975, and April, June, August and September 1976. By all accounts (as I was not living in Alberta at the time) these years were far wetter and with higher snowfall in the winters than those at present. Any and all of these factors affect the potential of finding mushrooms, and luck is also very important. As for me, I feel that my luck has just improved!

Bill Richards  
January 15, 2003

### References:

Danielson, R.M. 1984. Ectomycorrhizal associations in jack pine stands in northeastern Alberta. *Can. J. Bot.* 932-939  
Redhead, S.A. 1997. Macrofungi of British Columbia; requirements for inventory. *Res. Br., B.C. Min. For., and Wildl. Br. B.C. Min. Environ., Lands and Parks.* Victoria, B.C. Work Pap. 28/1997. 119 pgs.



## Wild and Wonderful Website News

The name for our website,[ Wildmushrooms.ws ] was, amazingly, available, and seemed to be very appropriate for the EMS web address. The website servers are located in Hong Kong, as my research indicated best service / cost for our requirements.

For our local members, it’s important to include information we need, such as details about meetings, activities, and forays. We also would like to include interesting information for our viewers and readers on the world wide web. Anyone who has any suggestions for content for the website, please let me know.

Try a search on Google for wildmushrooms, and you’ll find that we are at the top of the list, so the possibilities are there. **Who visits us?** In the past 3 months, we have been getting visits from 10 or more countries per month, and the number of visits per day has been constant at 17 unique per day for December and January.

Visit [ [www.wildmushrooms.ws](http://www.wildmushrooms.ws)] today!

George Hamilton,  
Website Manager




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A site sent in by member Patty Higgins:  
[www.mushroomcouncil.com/](http://www.mushroomcouncil.com/) [www.mushroomcouncil.org](http://www.mushroomcouncil.org)

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**PRESS RELEASE** from Taylor F. Lockwood  
The long awaited video DVD of Taylor’s show “*Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi*” is finished. For info go to:  
[\[http://www.fungiphoto.com/Treasury/DVD.html\]](http://www.fungiphoto.com/Treasury/DVD.html)

This website has some very cool fungi photos, posters, a book, and the DVD. Check it out!

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## Fungi Photos

For the most dramatic fungi photos, be sure to check out this website recently discovered by Bill Richards:

[\[http://www.pbase.com/judy\\_arndt/mushrooms1\]](http://www.pbase.com/judy_arndt/mushrooms1)  
[\[http://www.pbase.com/judy\\_arndt/mushrooms2\]](http://www.pbase.com/judy_arndt/mushrooms2)

We are hoping to facilitate a workshop directed by the photographer, Judy Arndt. Stay tuned to future editions of **SPORE PRINT!**

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## Your Chance to Foray --- in Mexico !

For fungi aficionados with a taste for the exotic, Mexican Mushroom Tours (MMT) has announced its 2003 schedule of mycology / travel / culinary adventures down south. Run by ex-Toronto fungi enthusiasts, Gundi Jeffrey and Erik Portsmouth, MMT has, since 2000, organized intimate groups of intrepid forayers to explore the mushroom treasures in their adopted country. A feature article in the *New York Times* Travel Section, August 2002, called their tours "mushroom heaven."

This year there will be two different excursions: The first, August 24 – 31 in the cool, forested, central highlands of Tlaxcala, the smallest state in the nation, but known as "the mushroom capital of Mexico". This high-altitude (7,000 ft. +) region, 60 miles east of Mexico City, was the site of the acclaimed 1998 NAMA Foray. MMT promises that the fourth annual tour here will be better than ever. (Group size limit 22).

The second excursion, October 19 – 26, is a new tour, researched and planned for more than a year, in the eastern coastal semi-tropical state of Veracruz. In locations ranging from near-sea foray sites to higher elevation coffee and citrus environments, this exciting new outing will include visits to spectacular waterfalls and important archaeological sites. (Group size limit 14).

Both tours are all-inclusive (excluding travel to Mexico gathering point) and will feature comfortable, colourful lodgings, all meals (with wines at dinner), bilingual, local mycology experts as guides and technical presenters, and much more, along with the ambience of a small, international group of fungiphiles of all levels. The tour fees (per person, double occupancy) are:  
Tlaxcala: US\$ 1,330.00 / Veracruz: US\$ 1,380.00

For further details or reservations (as of January, both tours were more than half-booked), contact: Gundi Jeffrey at: [gundi@muxmush.com] or log onto [www.mexmush.com.]



## NAMA Did you know?

The **North American Mycological Association** is an organization of individuals, families and local clubs dedicated to the study and enjoyment of mushrooms.

We would like to encourage all EMS members to take out a membership with this prestigious organization. Why? Access to all sorts of information, photos, forays, meetings, to name a few reasons. But don't take my word for it, visit the NAMA website and see for yourself!

[www.namyco.org](http://www.namyco.org)

The Edmonton Mycological Society is an affiliated club to NAMA. This means that EMS members can become NAMA members at a discounted rate of only \$32.00 (U.S.). Membership applications are available on the NAMA website, or contact the EMS, if you're not online.

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## Did you forget to renew your EMS membership ?

Time is running out !



We are sending **SPORE PRINT** to all current and many past members. We know that once you take a look at the *Calendar of Events* you will be as excited as we are to be members of EMS. We have a varied program and foray selection for you this year. Just take a look!

Thank you to those members who have already renewed for 2003. To those of you who have been procrastinating, alas, this will be your last publication. Don't risk being left out of the **BEST** activity around: **FUNGI JUMPING!** O.k., I know that fungi don't actually jump, but let's face it, neither do you, since we're still waiting for your renewal form!



Ever been frustrated by statements in mushroom books that say "can only be distinguished microscopically"? Tired of not *really* knowing what that mushroom is? Well do we have a course for you! Mike Schulz will be holding the EMS's first ever workshop on mushroom microscopy, **Mastering the Mysteries of Mushroom Microscopy**, on Saturday April 26 (9-4), Room B319, Botany Wing, Biological Sciences Building at the University of Alberta. This will be a full-day, practical workshop and will cover the following:

- How to use a microscope
- Calibrating a microscope
- Microscopic mushroom features:
  - For polypores
  - For agarics
  - For ascomycetes
- Microscopic information in keys

This course is mandatory for those wishing to use the EMS's new microscope, as improper usage can easily damage these expensive instruments. A basic knowledge of mushrooms is recommended. The cost will be \$25 for EMS members, \$45 for non-members, and EMS members will receive an informal certificate. Open to the public. Please bring a bag lunch. Registration is limited, first-come, first-served, and the form is below. For more information, please contact Mike Schulz at 492-7010, or at [mjschulz@wildmushrooms.ws](mailto:mjschulz@wildmushrooms.ws)

It seems natural for most of us to fall into using "common" (vulgar, as Martin Osis would say) names to describe mushrooms. However, there are good reasons why using Latin makes more sense. Let's take a look at some names of fungi and their meanings:

*Polyporus brumalis*  
Many-pored winter

*Hebaloma crustuliniforme*  
Obtuse or rounded margin cookie-shaped

*Hydnum repandum*  
Spongy plant spreading

*Suillus tomentosus*  
Of a pig covered with hair

*Lactarius deliciosus*  
Milk delicious

*Leccinum boreale*  
Mushroom north

*Hygrophorus piceae*  
Carrying moisture pine

*Marasmius oreades*  
Withered pertaining to fairies

My nine year old son's personal favourite:  
*Lycoperdon perlatum*  
Wolf fart widespread

## Mastering the Mysteries of Mushroom Microscopy

Registration Form for Course Date: Sat. April 26, 2003

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P.C. \_\_\_\_\_

EMS • Member (\$25)  
Non-Member (\$45)

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach cheque payable to: **Edmonton Mycological Society**  
**47 Rehwinkel Road**  
**Edmonton, AB T6R 1Y4**

Please register by April 15

<b>EMS Calendar of Events 2003 Please Join Us!</b>		
<b>DATE / TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
Sat. Feb 22 11:30 am sharp	Poplar Creek Natural Area Map and details attached	<b>DAY FORAY</b> Our annual winter polypore search
Sat. April 26 9am - 4pm	University of Alberta	<b>Course</b> <b>TOPIC:</b> Mastering the Mysteries of Mushroom Microscopy <b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> Mike Schulz
*** See information & Registration Form elsewhere in Spore Print ***		
Tues. April 29 7:00 PM !! Date changed!!	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<b>MEETING</b> <b>TOPIC:</b> Mycorrhizas -- Getting to the root of Vascular Plant Diversity <b>SPEAKER:</b> Dr. Markus N. Thormann
Sat. May 10 11 am sharp	Bellis Natural Area Map and details attached	<b>DAY FORAY</b> Morels, verpas, spring agarics
Wed. May 28 7:00 PM	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<b>MEETING</b> <b>TOPIC:</b> Hidden Lives of Wood-Inhabiting Mushrooms <b>SPEAKER:</b> Dr. Akihiko Tsuneda
Sat. June 14 11 am sharp	Poplar Creek Natural Area Map to follow	<b>DAY FORAY</b> Oysters and leccinums
Wed. June 25 7:00 PM	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<b>MEETING</b> <b>TOPIC:</b> Mushroom Selection & Consumption <b>SPEAKER:</b> Otto Holzbauer of MONA Mushrooms
Sat. July 19 11 am sharp	Thorsby area Map to follow	<b>DAY FORAY</b> Leccinum, Russula, Lactaria, Agarics, etc.
Wed. July 23 7:00 PM	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<b>MEETING</b> <b>TOPIC:</b> Boletes of Alberta <b>SPEAKER:</b> Martin Osis
Sat. Aug 9 11:00 AM	Various areas -- your choice	<b>DAY FORAY</b> Collecting for Mushroom Exposition

<b>EMS Calendar of Events 2003 Please Join Us!</b>		
<b>DATE / TIME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
Sun. Aug 10 Time TBA	Devonian Botanic Gardens near Devon	<b>ANNUAL MUSHROOM EXPOSITION</b> Our Signature Event !
Wed. Aug 27 7:00 PM	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<b>MEETING</b> <u>TOPIC:</u> To be announced
Sat. Sept. 13 11:00 AM	Hinton, Edson or Caroline areas Exact location to be announced	<b>DAY FORAY</b> Honey and hedgehog mushrooms
Wed. Sept. 24 7:00 PM	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<b>MEETING</b> <u>TOPIC:</u> Tree Identification <u>SPEAKER:</u> Bill Richards
Wed. Oct. 22 7:00 PM	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<b>MEETING</b> <u>TOPIC:</u> Mushrooms for Medicinal Use <u>SPEAKER:</u> Dr. Steven Aung
Other programs / workshops may be scheduled; details not available at press time Details will be forwarded to EMS <u>MEMBERS</u> in future issues, or by e-mail		





# Edmonton Mycological Society

**For membership applications, mail to: EMS  
47 Rehwinkel Rd., Edmonton, AB T6R 1Y4**

## **Membership Application (Expires Dec.31, 2003)**

**Name (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**P.Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Membership category:**

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$25.00 / yr</b>	<b>Paid \$</b> _____
<b>Family (2 adults+dep. kids)</b>	<b>\$35.00 / yr</b>	<b>by : cheque cash</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>\$15.00 / yr</b>	<b>Dated:</b> _____

**Please make your cheque payable to "Edmonton Mycological Society"  
Remit to above letterhead address. Thank you!**

### ***We welcome new members !!!***

**For our program development, we'd like to know about your interests in fungi: i.e. natural history, ecology, medicinal use, outdoor recreation, edibility, meeting with other interesting and stimulating people (!), photography, arts & crafts (circle all that apply, or add others):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you discover the Edmonton Mycological Society? (media interview, current member, special event, or other)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**At times we contact members with changes or updates to our agenda. May we publish your membership information in our newsletter and / or mailing list? Yes? No?**

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_