



Spore Print



The Edmonton Mycological Newsletter

October, 2002 Edition

President's Message



Our final general meeting for 2002 is on October 23rd at the Riverbend Public Library. The agenda will consist of a financial report by Lou Galick, and the re-election of your Executive for 2003. I would like to have one more Director – to fill the position of Secretary. We are also placing a new person in the position of Newsletter Assistant, to help out Melanie Fjoser with the tremendous job she does as Newsletter Editor. The evening will conclude with Dr. Ming Chen's presentation on "How to Grow Mushrooms in your Garage".

George Hamilton is our new Website Manager – in addition to his Vice-Presidency. Our thanks to Melissa Piercey for spearheading the site until now.

Saturday, October 26, 2002 is our President's Dinner, in the Wildrose Room of the Westridge Park Lodge. Please review the sumptuous five mushroom menu attached to the registration included elsewhere in Spore Print to reserve your seat.

The chef at Westridge is Mr. Mo Toubal of French-Algerian descent. Mo will be introduced before dinner is served, so that he can describe to diners the choice menu.

See you at the Banquet!

David Derworiz

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CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE !!!
www.wildmushrooms.ws

WelcomeNEW MEMBERS !!!

Julie Kirby

Edmonton



MEMBERSHIP 2002

I am happy to report that our membership for the year 2002 is as follows:

Two life members
 Thirty individual members
 Thirty-one family members
 One student member

Please remember that our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. Our cut-off date for payment of dues is March 31st. To ensure that you keep receiving **SPORE PRINT** and other EMS information, please make your payment early in 2003. Included in this **SPORE PRINT** is your 2003 Membership Application. Why not be ahead of the game, and register now -- it's a great Christmas gift for YOU!

Submitted by Louis Galick, Membership Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT



Members will be pleased to hear that we've had a healthy fiscal year. By changing our meeting room from the John Janzen to the Riverbend Library, we saved approximately \$600.00 for the season. Due to the dry season, our annual Mushroom Exposition was not held, and we did not earn extra revenue on books or new memberships that usually arrive as a result of the Exposition. Overall, we have a positive balance. The Financial Report will be distributed at the Annual Meeting on October 23, 2002.

Louis Galick, Treasurer

FORAY FOLLOW-UP

By whatever standard you choose, this was but a mediocre year for most fungophiles in Alberta. It started out cold and dry, went to hot and dry, and it is *still* pretty dry. We did, however, have some great outings and many interesting things were found. There were two independent collections of *Creolophus cirrhatus* (Pers. ex Fr.) P. Karst.; the first was on the winter polypore foray to North Cooking Lake Natural Area, where several "freeze-dried" specimens were found. The second was from the Swan Hills, where Louis Galick found some beautiful young specimens. In both incidences, they were found on (*Populus sp.*) poplar trees. These are the first records for Alberta, and we need to get these into the herbarium. **For a picture of this unusual fungus, go to this website:**

<http://www.bioimages.org.uk/HTML/T38195.HTM>

I have yet to find a king bolete (*Boletus edulis*) in Alberta, while, with a small group of friends, Diane found one of the most beautiful buttons I have seen anywhere, and again I was without. This site, though not flush with kings (since the button was all that was found), did offer us more than our share of *Leccinum* (red caps). Because of this, we will try to work it into the 2003 foray schedule.

I was even introduced to a new species: the crocodile agaricus (*Agaricus crocodilinus*), so named because of its extremely scaly cap. From these and other meadow mushrooms, I made a mushroom extract for the first time. Well, maybe it was not so mediocre after all?

On the Calendar of Events, elsewhere in **SPORE PRINT**, you will find a tentative foray schedule. I would like *your* suggestions to fill in the blanks. Send your recommendations to me via bill.Richards@shaw.ca or phone (780) 998-3507.

Signed, Bill Richards, Foray Coordinator



Are You a Mycophilic?

By Scott Stoleson

Reprinted from *Mycolog*, newsletter of the Humboldt Bay Mycological Society
1999, number 174.

Mycophilism is a serious problem that is spreading throughout our society. It isn't a problem confined to the poor and under privileged or to recent immigrants from Eastern Europe. Mycophiles come from all walks of life: lawyers, engineers, ex-firemen, physiologists, students, farmers, housewives. Anyone can be a mycophilic. There are a few telltale clues that differentiate a mycophilic from the casual collector. For example, their cars have a six-month supply of waxed paper bags in the back seat and dried up *Tricholomas* in the ashtray. They wear little or no jewellery except a hand lens around their neck. Either their collecting baskets are unusually large, worn on the back to leave both hands free for picking, or they have two baskets – one for edibles, one for other species. While these traits do not automatically condemn someone as a mycophilic, they are among the warning signs to watch for. Are you a mycophilic? Not sure? Then review some of the warning signs (score 1 point for each "yes" answer).

1. Do you own a microscope?
2. Do you pray FOR rain?
3. Does your heart beat faster when you see a stump?
4. Do you abandon guests, family or business to go on a foray?
5. Do you get evasive and try to change the subject when someone mentions your favorite spot for *Boletus edulis* or *Morchella esculenta*?
6. Do you plan your meals around what mushroom species sit in your refrigerator?
7. Is your temporal framework modified? Do you no longer think of the seasons as spring and fall but rather as "morel" and "honey"?
8. Do you find yourself used to eating, or even expecting to eat, such items as dirt, hemlock needles, non-amyloid spores, and Dipteran larvae?
9. Do you get irritated at little things that keep you from foraging? Things like work, home life, police speed traps, and "no trespassing" signs?
10. When you see a beginner with a choice edible, do you say, "Gee, that's an interesting mushroom. Would you mind if I take that home to study it further?"
11. When you drive, are your eyes on the lawns and stumps along the road more often than on the road?
12. Do you suffer through the winter only with the help of frozen, dried, and pickled mushrooms? Or, even worse, do you pack up and head to tropical climes where there are fungi in abundance?
13. Is your idea of eroticism a *Phallus ravenilli*?
14. Do you carry a picture of David Arora in your wallet?

Sound familiar? Check to see how you scored.

- 0 – 4 You may be normal. Pray!
5 – 8 You may be a mycophilic but have a spore print taken to be sure.
9 – 12 You are a confirmed mycophilic. Seek help.
13 – 14 You are beyond help.

Just what are the dangers of mycophilism? Besides the obvious deleterious effects on social, home, and business life, this disease has very real physical complications as well. Mycophiles, in addition to their tendency to have a sore head from walking into things because of always looking down instead of ahead, frequently suffer from a number of physical ailments that are direct results of their habit of stooping, bending, kneeling, tugging, and lugging. These include *Entoloma* elbow, *Hydnum* hand and *Trich* knee. There are some mycophiles whose all too frequent bolete binges have reduced them to physical wrecks.

So what can be done for the mycophilic? For a start, you should rid your home of all fungi and mycological paraphernalia. Begin by sending all your dried morels and boletes to me. After that, you're on your own!

(This article, as well as the one on the following page, was submitted by one of our "long distance" members, Jean Johnson, living on Vancouver Island in Sidney. Thanks Jean, we need a few laughs after the dry 'shroom season !!!)

Reprinted from the NATS CURRENT NEWS (Aug/Sept 2001):

So I Married a Mycologist: Notes of a Converted Amateur by Eric Hill

"So... why mushrooms?" I asked my wife-to-be on our first date as I gazed at the impressive display of fungal kitsch around her apartment. My question arose not so much out of some need to break the ice as it did from the sincere desire to understand how someone embarks on a path that seemed every bit as alien to me as philately or spelunking.

Before that night I hadn't even heard of the term "mycology". In fact, up until meeting her I knew of only three varieties of mushrooms. There were the grayish, papery, tasteless things congealed within the uppermost cheese layer of my delivered cardboard pizza; there were those large white specters that seemed to appear overnight on my lawn that I was warned would instantly liquefy my vitals if I so much as glanced at them; and there were those small mysterious specimens used by the ancient Mayan priest-kings (and Rob Delgado in the eighth grade) in a kind of communion rite in order to experience the infinite consciousness of the collective *Spiritus Mundi* (or in Rob's case, to watch his face melt in the bathroom mirror). Mushrooms, it seemed to me, were interesting enough as a curiosity, as a conversation piece, even as a hobby for the socially challenged, but how could one devote an entire lifetime to studying them?

Instead of answering my question, she responded with an onslaught of her own: "You like beer?" Well, yeah. "You like blue cheese?" Sure, I guess. "Do you like trees?" And on it went until I realized that I had done more than merely stumble onto some obscure and fanatical cabal of disgruntled scientists who had broken with the botanical orthodoxy. This was a subculture of enthusiasts who saw fungi in nearly every facet of the big picture. This woman took her fungi seriously. I had a choice: make an immediate break for the door and find a nice cosmetologist from Glendale or commit myself to learning the Latin binomial for the mildew on my shower curtain.

I began doing my homework

I started by scouring her library in an attempt to learn some of the common names for a handful of species. From a potential mycophagic point of view, many of the names I came across began to cast some doubt in my mind as to whether any member of this kingdom could be suitable for my digestive system. Stinkhorn, Stinky Squid, Toothed Jelly Fungus, Witch's Butter, Satan's Bolete, Ox Tongue, Rusts, Rots, Smuts, Dead Man's Hand, etc.. Other names and descriptions sounded far more suited to a biblical passage of cautionary prophecy: "And behold, the Destroying Angel of the forest turned back the universal veil and revealed a hundred fiery gills unleashing an hundred thousand spores with which to smote the livers of the unbelievers..."

Latin names were another matter entirely. I have always had an aversion to Latin for the simple reason that, for me, Latin has been the language of bad news. My exposure to Latin came either at the doctor's office where it was used to describe what horrible thing was wrong with me, or in an attorney office where it was used to describe what horrible things were going to be done to me. Plus, just the thought of using a "dead language" to identify something I plan to throw into my pasta gave me more than a moment of pause.

Another one of the requirements for dating a mycologist was to accompany her on a series of forays into the woods. I would learn to trust her by degrees. That is to say, when we first started hunting and eating what we'd found, she was still working on her undergraduate degree. Hence, my gastronomic enthusiasm at the table was sometimes hindered by nagging doubts. By the time her masters was in full swing, I found many of her identifications easier to swallow. Now that she's working on her doctorate, I find myself digesting comfortably. I've even grown comfortable enough with my own identification of a handful of species to where I will collect and consume with a reasonable amount of confidence anything I find in my local supermarket.

Calendar of Events 2002 / 2003 *Please Join Us!*

DATE / TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Wed. Oct. 23 / 02 7:00 p.m.	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar Dr.	MEETING <u>TOPIC:</u> Annual General Meeting <u>TOPIC:</u> Growing Mushrooms in your Garage! <u>SPEAKER:</u> Dr. Ming Chen
Sat. Oct. 26 / 02 6:30 p.m.	Invitations and Registration are in this issue of Spore Print	PRESIDENT'S DINNER Don't miss this special annual event !!
Nov. & Dec. 2002	** NO MEETINGS **	** NO MEETINGS **
Sat. Feb. 22 / 03	Aspen Parkland / Boreal Forest North Bruderheim Natural Area	DAY FORAY Our annual winter polypore search
Jan, Feb, Mar /03	** NO MEETINGS **	** NO MEETINGS **
Wed. April 23 / 03 7:00 p.m.	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	MEETING
Sat. May 10 / 03	Aspen Parkland / Boreal Forest Recent burn N. of Edmonton	DAY FORAY Yummy! Morel, Verpa and spring agarics
Wed. May 28 / 03 7:00 p.m.	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	MEETING
Sat. June 14 / 03	Lower Foothills / Boreal Forest Poplar Creek Natural Area	DAY FORAY Oyster mushrooms and Leccinum
Wed. June 25 / 03 7:00 p.m.	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	MEETING
Sat. July 19 / 03	Parkland / Lower Foothills Thorsby area	DAY FORAY Leccinum, Russula, Lactarius, & other Agarics
Wed. July 23 / 03	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	MEETING

(Continued next page)

Calendar of Events 2002 / 2003 *Please Join Us!*

(Continued)

DATE / TIME	LOCATION	DETAILS
Sat. Aug 9 / 03	Any region, your choice Collecting for Exposition	<i>DAY FORAY</i>
Sun. Aug 10 / 03	Devonian Botanic Gardens	<i>ANNUAL MUSHROOM EXPOSITION</i>
Friday - Sunday Aug. 22 - 24 / 03	Foothills Edson area	<i>WEEKEND FORAY</i> Gypsy, Man-On-Horseback, Hedgehogs
Wed. Aug. 27 / 03	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<i>MEETING</i>
Sat. Sept. 13 / 03	Foothills Hinton or Caroline areas, TBA	<i>DAY FORAY</i>
Wed. Sep 24 / 03	Edmonton Public Library 460 Riverbend Square Rabbit Hill Rd. & Terwillegar	<i>MEETING</i>

Editor's Note:

Meeting topics for 2003 have not yet been determined. Our Program Director, Ming Chen needs your input. In this issue of Spore Print, you will find your **MEMBER SURVEY**. This is your opportunity to make an impact on **YOUR EMS!**

As Foray Coordinator, Bill Richards has the daunting, time-consuming task of seeking out appropriate sites for forays. He appreciates input from members, particularly on finding locations where an variety of fungi might be found. If you or someone you know has private land on which 'shroomers would be welcome, or know of any other sites you would like to share with members, please note it on the **SURVEY**. You can also contact Bill directly, phone:(780) 998-3507 or e-mail bill.Richards@shaw.ca

I expect all members to respond to this survey; it is your right to do so, as well as your responsibility. Thanks!

LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR YOUR FAVOURITE MYCOPHILE?
 Bill Richards has located a source for **NORTH AMERICAN POLYPORES, Vol. 1&2**.
 Please contact: Leif Ryvarden in Norway at: [\[leif.ryvarden@bio.uio.no\]](mailto:leif.ryvarden@bio.uio.no) to order. The cost is \$70. U.S., postage included. Interested parties may pay by VISA or Mastercard.

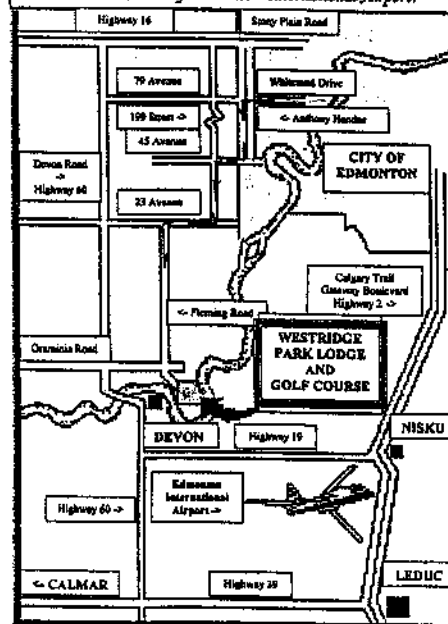
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 Website at www.westridge lodge.com
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 E-mail us at info@westridge lodge.com



WESTRIDGE PARK LODGE

Box 5389, Devon, AB, T9G 1Y1, CANADA
 Hotel: 780-987-3311 Pro Shop: 780-987-4825 Fax: 780-987-3311
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Only 15 minutes South of West Edmonton,
 5 minutes North of Devon, and
 10 minutes North of Edmonton International Airport!



PRESIDENT'S DINNER

October 26/02

6:30 P.M.

**Westridge Park Lodge
 in the Wildrose Room**



Please see reverse for Menu!



BRIGHT IDEA! If you don't want to cut your newsletter, copy this form & send that!

Registration for Reservations

Name(s) of Members and Guests: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone(s): _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Number of Attendees _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____ / Payment to: Edmonton Mycological Society
 (Price includes gratuities and GST) / By: cheque / cash / or money order

State # of persons for each entree: Prime rib _____ / Chicken Parmesan _____

Please bring your registration with payment to our October 23 meeting at Riverbend Library,
 or send it ON or BEFORE Wednesday October 16 to:

PRESIDENT'S BANQUET
 Edmonton Mycological Society
 c/o 47 Rehwinkle Road
 Edmonton, AB T6R 1Y4

For further information, call David Derworiz (President) at 489-6632
PLEASE RESERVE BEFORE OCTOBER 23. THANK YOU!

The Edmonton Mycological Society

invites

Members & Guests

to attend our annual banquet

President's Dinner

Saturday, October 26, 2002 at 6:30 P.M.

Wild Rose Room

Westridge Park Lodge

Devon, Alberta

The Menu

Oyster / Porcini Bisque

Portabella stuffed with Scallops

Your Choice of

8 oz Prime Rib (or) Chicken Parmesan

Both Served with Chanterelles, Matsutaki, and Vegetables

Dessert - Chef's Surprise!

Coffee / Tea Included

Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic beverages are Available

Bon Appetit!

*Registration from newsletter must be received with payment
before Wednesday, October 23*