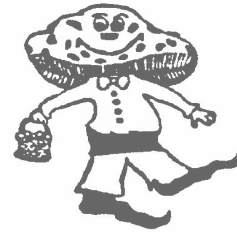




The Arizona Fun-Gi



Newsletter of the Arizona Mushroom Club

White Mountain Foray August 2007

The Annual White Mountain Foray has been set for the weekend of August 18 and 19, 2007. If the monsoon rains are late, we may need to move it to the following weekend, but this is the best we can plan on using past years data. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday the 18th at the **Safeway** parking lot in Springerville and go from there to the selected sites based on what our Friday scouting yields. Depending on how the collecting is Saturday, we will decide where to meet (time and place) on Sunday. Overnight campers should reserve spaces at Rainbow Campground at Big Lake or elsewhere in the area they may know of. For the motel crowd, the Rode Inn, Safire, and Best Western Motels in Springerville/Eager offer good accommodations. The Leathers' and Beckmans will stay in the Rode Inn and Morehouses' in the Best Western as usual on Friday and Saturday night. Motel guests should call ahead for reservations and tell the motel that you are with the Arizona Mushroom Club and would like the Club discount on your room. Both Rode Inn and Safire have provided us a discount during the past years. Don't know about the Best Western. Bring collecting gear, raincoats, picnic chairs, food and beverage plus mos-

quito repellent, just in case it is needed. Pray for abundant rains in the interim.
Chet Leathers, President AMC

Note from Editor: Keep in mind this is monsoon season; the temperature can vary quickly from warm to cold, dry to very wet and you will be above 8000 feet. Bring rain gear and sturdy waterproof shoes or boots. Have something to collect with such as plastic or cloth bags. A knife is essential. Terry uses a fish cleaning knife which has a long slender blade. Remember, plastic bags are ok for a short time, but mushrooms deteriorate quickly. Bring an ice chest for your mushrooms. When you reserve a room, ask for a refrigerator and microwave. Both can be used to help you preserve your mushrooms. Also plastic zip-lock baggies can be used if you nuke your shrooms. If you don't know how to preserve what you're taking home, ask one of the old timers. At the conclusion of collecting on Saturday, we will meet at the Rode Inn to tell tales, eat snacks and drink your favorite beverage. A fine dry red would be appreciated by your Editor. Many will then dine together at a local restaurant. If you have any questions, please contact Dr Leathers, Terry Beckman or Larry Morehouse (ok, that's me). Let us hope that this year is as **good** as last.

July 2007
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Webmaster

Terry Beckman
Field Trip Chairman

Larry Morehouse
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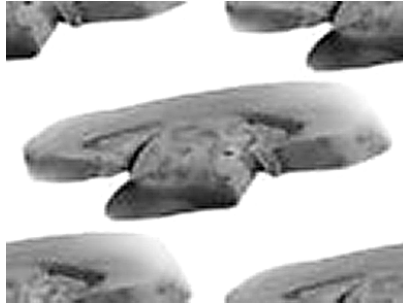
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is the official newsletter of Arizona Mushroom Club (AMC) and is published tri-annually. All articles appearing may be freely reproduced provided the source and author are acknowledged.

Country Mushroom Soup

- 1/4 cup butter or substitute
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 tps salt
- 1/4 tps pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 2/3 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 3 Tbs oil
- 4 to 5 cups sliced fresh (or reconstituted mushrooms)
- 2/3 cup half & half cream or milk

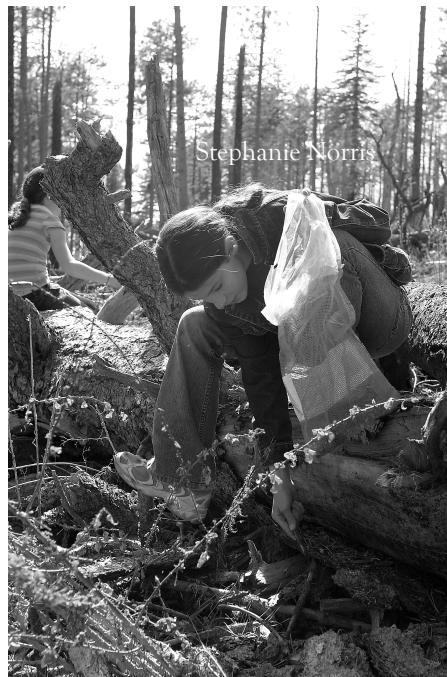
In a 2 qt. Saucepan, melt butter, stir in flour until smooth. Add salt, pepper and bay leaves. Simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, in another saucepan, sauté the celery and onion in oil until tender. Add to broth mixture, bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add cream; heat through. Discard bay leaves. Yield: 4 servings. *Submitted by Terry Beckman, source unknown.*



"07" Morels

"The Spring of 2009 will be remembered by several members of the Arizona Mushroom Club as one of the very best morel seasons in memory; that is, if we consider the total numbers of morels found and harvested by those of us who took to the field in search of the black delicacy. Although the precipitation appeared quite deficient in mid to late April and our April 21st trip to the Mogollon Rim yielded only 150 morels, that was enough to keep our blood circulating and to generate enough enthusiasm to try again the following weekends. Unfortunately the weekend of the 28th was filled with snow atop the Rim, leading to a change in plans to a bit lower elevation where, despite the cold and lots of snowflakes, we found only 50 fruiting bodies for 15 people. At least we didn't get skunked and we decided to try the Flagstaff area the following weekend (5th).

Only seven brave people turned out for this trip and when we arrived at the collecting site, we found enough freshly fallen snow to completely cover any morel brave enough to stick its head out of the ground. After taking the only photo to prove we seven die-hards were trying (Kathy Drevitson took the photo and could not be in the picture), we decided



Stephanie Norris

this area was hopeless and so we retreated back to the Rim country and warmer temperatures. Lucky for us, guided by the Stanczyk brothers, we were able to find around 600 morels to be shared by seven people. Even so, we each had enough for one or two good meals before they were gone.

The next weekend, May 12, we tried the Flagstaff area again and this time harvested around 800 fruiting bodies. Although the soil and duff looked dry, the elusive "black caps" were actually hiding in the abundant tufts of grass which held enough

moisture for their production. In several cases, we had to get down on hands and knees and part the grass to find them, yet there they were, waiting patiently to be found by the eager foragers. Who would have dreamed (certainly not we seven people) that morels would hide in the grass. However, nearby, a black bear cub was hiding up a tree and whining for its mother. Had any of us but the original observer seen this, we would have stamped out of there immediately and missed most of the best morel collecting we had seen all season! Thank goodness the bear's mother never showed up while we were collecting the other black jewels. Two more weekends in the Rim country yielded several hundred more morels, but the "coup de grace" came on Memorial Day weekend when five members of the Club stumbled onto nearly a thousand more morels in the White Mountains. Needless to say, yours truly, the author of this article, missed that trip due to local graduation ceremonies and a retirement party for a former teacher/colleague. Had I known what I was to miss, I would have certainly wished the graduates and colleague well for their future lives and drummed up some excuse like "sorry, I've got some black friends waiting for me in the mountains and its an appointment I made sometime back." Oh well, like the few other Club members who figured that the season was too dry for morels, but decided to try in spite of the odds, I will now share in the memories of the best morel season I have ever experienced in Arizona. Viva Morchella!" Written by *Dr Leathers*

Help the Editor

Please help out with any articles or suggestions for the next newsletter. Remember this is *your* newsletter.



Club Notes

A new web site may be in the offing. Member, Tony Ambrosini of Sedona, has volunteered to construct the site. He indicated that officers could access the site to post notices and send mass emails. If we do this, the



Newsletter could be emailed (saving postage and printing



costs) as well as being posted on the web. Those for whom this wouldn't work could continue to receive the mailed Newsletter. This would be exciting for your Editor. It would mean color photos instead of low resolution gray scale. When a foray is coming on short notice, it could be emailed and posted on the web. Our Webmaster, Scott Bates, is working on his Doctorate in Mycology and this often takes him to foreign climes and doesn't leave as

much time as he would like for our web site.

A new place to hold our annual December club meeting and potluck has not been forthcoming. If we want to hold it on a day other than Wednesday, it looks like we will have to rent a facility. Please email the Editor (see address page) with any suggestions.

Someone must volunteer to become the new Editor. Yours truly needs to be replaced. He is old and worn out. You will be assisted in all ways possible to make it easy and fun. Email the Editor if you think you would like to give it a try.

Javelina Leap Vineyard & Winery, owner Rod Snapp, of Cornville, has offered to open his winery for the Arizona Mush-

room Club members to have a BBQ. Probably early fall after the heat has dissipated, would be a good time to do this. Again contact the Editor if you would like to partake. There are no details and we need a couple of people to get a date and details coordinated with Rod. This could be a time to share the bounty we are about to collect in the White Mountains (think positive).

⌘&⌘&⌘&⌘&⌘&⌘&⌘&⌘&⌘

Future Training?

Our Club has access to training materials as a benefit to belonging to the North American Mycological Association. NAMA has a teaching kit for western mushrooms. This kit includes media, books and instructional materials. The media has an audiotape for Latin Pronunciation of Mushroom Names. I see this as being worth the price of admission alone. Right Jim Stanczak? We can't all be Dr Leathers in this department. Also, a DVD: "The Mushroom Identification Trilogy" by Talyor Lockwood, CD: "MykoCD" by Mike Wood, and others.

The books include one of Arora's, Underhill's "Guide to Western Mushrooms" and others. There are also slides, transparencies, hand lenses, microscope, study sheets and guides. Your Editor (Jim too) could certainly use some of the content of this teaching material. The rental cost is \$40 for NAMA members. It is for 7 to 10 day use. The best time for this would be our annual December meeting or possibly an afternoon just for the training. Please contact Dr Leathers or the Editor, Larry Morehouse if you would enjoy this type of training.



"Terry Beckman, our Field Trip Chairman stated the Weather Service has indicated the monsoon moisture for 2007 will be "normal", whatever that is. Terry promises many of the above mushrooms will be found on our White Mtn. Foray!!!!"

Newsletter of the Arizona
Mushroom Club

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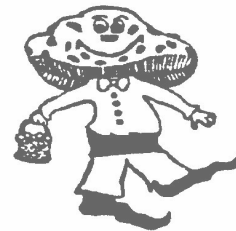
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www.geocities.com/azmushclub

Contact the Editor,
Larry Morehouse, by email:
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Would you like a polo shirt, hat, or patch displaying club logo? If so use the form to the right to order from Marilyn or Fred **Bischoff**. They need minimum orders before they can send in an order, so you may have to wait until enough requests have been given.

REMINDER: If your address doesn't show this year, 2007, then our records indicate that your dues are DUE. 2007 was due by Jan 1, 2007. Remit to Sandy Melgaard, Membership/Treasurer .

ARIZONA MUSHROOM CLUB (AMC)

Order Form~~Please Print

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Address _____

Telephone # (_____) _____

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