



THE KEYSTONE CAP

Newsletter of the Eastern Penn Mushroomers
www.epennmushroomers.org

Spring 2019

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Seeking one more volunteer!

President's Message - by Shawn Moyer

Winter is holding on, but before you know it, the mayapples will be up and we will be sweeping the forest for morels.

We are still seeking one new Culinary Coordinator. If you are interested in helping the club in this capacity, please contact Cheryl Dawson or me.

Professor Janet Matangiuhian of Messiah College gave a wonderful talk on emerging fungal threats on January 19th. During our February lecture, Devin Bily gave a lecture on ascomycetes found in PA, accompanied with his wonderful photomicrographs. It was exciting to see Eva Abraham back at our February meeting. March's presenter, Dr. Tom Bigelow of the New York Mycological Association, educated us on crust fungi, including great images and interesting input from his wife Juniper.

I am looking forward to the foray schedule Linda Sears has put together for us this year.

I will see you out in the woods.

Recommended Reading by John Dawson

There are two articles in the latest issue of *Fungi* magazine (vol. 11, no. 4, Winter 2018-2019) that I think should interest our members. The first is "Wood decay: The action behind polypores" (pp. 10-19), by Robert Blanchette, which has excellent descriptions and photos of how the white rotters and brown rotters differ in their decomposition of wood. The article is available online here:

<https://www.fungimag.com/winter-2018-2019-articles/Wood%20Decay.pdf>

The second is "Fungal mind control" (pp. 28-29) by Michael Beug, which discusses a pathogen of periodical cicadas that's even more insidious than those that produce 'zombie ants': *Massospora cicadina* causes the rear (reproductive) end of the cicadas to drop off, but does not thereby immediately kill them. Instead, it then causes the truncated cicadas to engage in a frenzy of mating activity that spreads the fungal spores to healthy cicadas. Diabolical! That is available online here:

<https://www.fungimag.com/winter-2018-2019-articles/Massospora.pdf>

Also, after her January presentation on "Emerging fungal threats," Janet Matangiuhian sent me the link to the webinar on sudden oak death in the Pacific Northwest. I viewed the webinar on my computer, and subsequently downloaded a publication about that very worrisome pathogen (*Phytophthora ramorum*). It hasn't made its way east yet, but if and when it

SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars so you don't miss these FUNGI activities.

EPM 2019 Spring Forays

Saturday, April 20

Saturday, April 27

Saturday, May 4

Saturday, May 11

Saturday, May 18

NEMF 2019 Foray

August 1 – 4, 2019

NAMA 2019 Foray

August 8 – 11, 2019

FUNGI IN THE NEWS

Death-Cap Mushrooms Spreading Across North America

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/02/deadly-mushroom-arrives-canada/581602/>

A mycologist's journey tracking *Amanita phalloides*.

Fungi clean up CA wildfire toxins

<https://newfoodeconomy.org/mycoremediation-radical-mycology-mushroom-natural-disaster-pollution-clean-up/>

A case for mycoremediation funding.

The World's Most Valuable Parasite Is in Trouble

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/10/tibetan-caterpillar-fungus-trouble/573607/>

Overharvesting and global warming threaten

Ophiocordyceps sinensis.

Mushrooms boost honey bee health

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-32194-8>

Amadou (*Fomes*) and Reishi (*Ganoderma*) fungi reduced bee viruses.

does, it could decimate many of our eastern trees, as well as rhododendrons and azaleas. Interested members can access both the recorded webinar and the publication at <https://learn.extension.org/events/3581>.

The list of all the plant species known to the USDA to be susceptible to sudden oak death is available in our Yahoo Group here:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/epennmushroomers/files/Presentations/>

Note: you must be a member of the EPM Yahoo Group to access these files.

Winter Meeting Minutes

If you missed attending any of our winter meetings, catch up with the minutes, here:

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/epennmushroomers/files/Minutes/>

Note: you must be a member of the EPM Yahoo Group to access these files.

EPM members take on new roles

Members Devin Biley and Gina Vachino have stepped up to fill recently vacated roles.

Devin has accepted the roles of Director at Large, EPM representative on the Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) Mycological and Protists Technical Committee, and EPM's trustee to the Northeast Mycological Federation. Those roles were recently vacated by Gary Emberger, who moved out of state.

Gina Vachino has volunteered to take on the responsibility of Culinary Coordinator to fill one of the vacancies left by Sylvia Emberger and Judy Leece. We are still seeking one more volunteer for this position.

Mushroom Humor submitted by John Dawson

I was curious whether *Agaricus bisporus*, the grocery store "button mushroom", exists in the wild, and turned to Michael Kuo's Mushroom Expert for information. It turns out that it does, but in the course of learning that I was very amused by two of his statements about that species, to wit:

"This mushroom is widely distributed in North America . . . by trucks, most of which were loaded up in southeastern Pennsylvania."

and

"Ecology: Scattered on pizzas, gregarious on salads, densely clustered in grocery stores."

https://www.mushroomexpert.com/agaricus_bisporus.html

EPM Co-Sponsor of NEMF 2019 Foray

Our club will be one of the sponsoring clubs in 2019 for the NEMF's 43rd Samuel Ristich Foray. Presented annually by the Northeast Mycological Federation, it will be held this year at Lock Haven University in Clinton County, Pennsylvania, August 1–4, 2019. We will need volunteers to assist in various roles. No special skills are required.

The NEMF foray is a great place to learn and to get acquainted with others that are like-minded. See the following section for details about the NEMF foray.

Since the foray is so close to our territory this year, some members might be able to participate as commuters in order to help for just a day or two. It's a lot more fun, though, to stay in the housing provided and participate in the evening events.

Some examples of the types of tasks for which volunteers are needed:

- Help at the registration desk the first day (and maybe the second)
- Direct people to parking
- Help distribute signs
- Foray leader - this does not require identifying fungi, but does require making sure the bus returns with exactly the people it went out with, as well as having some information about the site, which would be provided by the foray chairs
- Run specimens from the identifiers to the display tables. This does require some knowledge, but there is always someone around who can tell you where something belongs
- Help prepare for the mycophagy event - needs a willingness to clean and slice, help serve
- Clean up

Please consider volunteering. If interested or you have questions, contact John Dawson, Cheryl Dawson, or Linda Sears.

Northeast Mycological Federation Annual Foray

The Northeast Mycological Federation, commonly referred to as NEMF, is a consortium of more than a dozen northeastern mushroom clubs, including EPM and ranging from Washington, D.C. north through Pennsylvania, New York and New England to Quebec. Each year, on a seven-year rotation, one or more of those clubs sponsors a regional foray in their area. This year our club is a co-sponsor, together with the New Jersey Mycological Association, the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, and the Central Pennsylvania club. So the 2019 foray will be held closer than it has been or will be in six years, namely, at Lock Haven State University, with mushroom collecting in the woodlands around Lock Haven. It provides a wonderful opportunity to learn from a large group of very knowledgeable people as well as to get acquainted with mushroomers from other areas. And since our club is one of the co-sponsors, we really would like to see members of the club attend and volunteer to help out. There are many tasks involved in making this available to such a large group of fungiphiles, many of which require little or no expertise in identifying fungi.

The foray extends from Thursday noon on August 1 until Sunday noon on August 4 and attracts upwards of 200 participants. Dormitory lodging and meal service are provided for those choosing to reside on campus,

but there are also commuter options. In addition to collecting forays each morning and afternoon from Friday through Saturday (as well as an early-bird foray on Thursday afternoon), there is a full schedule of lectures, workshops and social events (including mycophagy), beginning Thursday evening and continuing through Saturday afternoon, with a banquet on Saturday night. Sunday morning is devoted to an overview of the specimens that have been collected and identified. A distinguished faculty of professional and experienced amateur mycologists are recruited to serve as lecturers, workshops leaders and identifiers. The faculty, lecturers, etc. are always very available and helpful to us amateurs and it is always a wonderful collaboration between the professionals and the amateurs.

The registration form for this year's foray is included at the end of this newsletter. We encourage our members to take advantage of the many opportunities for learning and camaraderie that this gathering provides.



**2019 Samuel Ristich Foray: 43rd Annual Foray – Northeast Mycological Federation
August 1–4, 2019 – Lock Haven State University
Registration Form -- Registration closes July 15. A late fee applies after June 30.**

Name(s): (Nickname for nametag?) _____ Organization and/or Hometown _____ If child, age _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

I want to share a room/suite with: _____

Please assign a roommate. I am male female.

I want a single room; to assign a suitemate, I am male female.

Liability waiver-ALL adults in your party must sign: By signing below, I release Lock Haven State University and the Northeast Mycological Federation, Inc., the host clubs, their officers and members, foray participants and instructors from any and all liability and loss arising from any accident, injury or illness which may result from activities while attending the NEMF foray.

Print name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

If you need more lines, attach a copy of this sheet.

Special needs (We will try to accommodate needs; handicap access, special dietary, late arrival, local transport, etc.):

I can help at the foray. I am interested in being a vendor. I can help with local transport.

Fees (see note below):	Number of persons	Fee	Total
➤ Resident (double occupancy rate is per person)*:			
-Adult: 3 nights (Thurs.-Sat.), single occupancy	_____ X	\$405 =	_____
-Adult: 2 nights (Fri.-Sat), single occupancy	_____ X	\$340 =	_____
-Adult: 3 nights (Thurs.-Sat.), double occupancy	_____ X	\$390 =	_____
-Adult: 2 nights (Fri.-Sat), double occupancy	_____ X	\$325 =	_____
-Child 4 to 12: 3 nights in suite with parents	_____ X	\$100 =	_____
-Child 4 to 12: 2 nights in suite with parents	_____ X	\$75 =	_____
➤ Commuter, Thurs--Sun:			
All activities including 8 meals & socials	_____ X	\$240 =	_____
➤ Commuter, Fri--Sun:			
All activities, including 5 meals and socials	_____ X	\$215 =	_____
➤ Student or commuter -- activities only, no meals or socials	_____ X	\$100 =	_____
➤ Late registration (after June 30):	_____ X	\$30 =	_____
➤ 2019 T-shirt _____ XXL + _____ XL + _____ L + _____ M + _____ S	_____ X	\$15 =	_____

***Note:** 3 nights includes 8 meals (Thurs. dinner—Sun. breakfast), 2 nights includes 5 meals (Fri. dinner—Sun. breakfast).

Total owed: _____

Make check out to NEMF (in US dollars on a US bank) for the total, and mail with this form to: NEMF registration
c/o John and Cheryl Dawson
393 Waters Road
York, PA 17403-4751

Confirmation of registration and detailed directions will be sent by email if an address is provided, otherwise by regular mail. Questions may be directed to the registrars, John or Cheryl Dawson, by email at nemf2019registration@comcast.net, or by phone at 717-846-1225. Find more information at www.nemf.org.