

THE KEYSTONE CAP

Newsletter of the Eastern Penn Mushroomers
www.epennmushroomers.org

Winter 2019

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President's Message - by Shawn Moyer

My friends from New England would say, "it is wicked cold". But at least the snow stayed to the south (this time).

As many of you know, Gary and Sylvia Emberger are moving out of the area. Please join me in wishing them well on their new adventures. The Embergers have been with the club for a long time and are active contributors, in many roles. We will miss them.

Both Culinary Coordinators, Sylvia Emberger and Judy Leece, are stepping down from their roles. We thank them for their hard work over the years. We are actively looking for two new Culinary Coordinators. If interested, the responsibilities are detailed below in the newsletter.

I would like to thank Devin Bily for accepting the role of Pennsylvania Biological Survey (PABS) Mycological and Protists Technical Committee, vacated by Gary Emberger. I am sure with his background and interests he will be an asset to that committee.

Eva Abraham, past president and longtime member, was recently hospitalized and is now in subacute rehabilitation. Her condition is improving and I suspect she is anxious to leave the facility. You can send your well wishes care of Abington Hospital.

John Dawson has been busily putting together our Winter Lecture series and I look forward to coming in from the cold and enjoying these informative events.

I would like to thank Linda Sears for the hard work she has put into the forays this past season. Not only did she do the work of prepping the sites and identification, but she also was working hard on collecting and prepping specimens for the DNA barcode project the club has started. Her energy, dedication, and organization are a huge benefit.

Best wishes for the holiday season and 2019.

Membership Renewal

EPM 2019 dues are now payable. If you joined for the first time after September 1, you have a year's grace and do not need to pay dues until next year. Anyone not renewing by the March 16, 2019 meeting will be purged from all lists and the Yahoo group.

You'll find a membership application form along with this newsletter. Update your contact information only if it has changed. You can also renew by PayPal to EPMClub@gmail.com, BUT YOU MUST HAVE a signed form as well. That can be scanned and emailed to the same address.

SAVE THE DATES

Mark your calendars now so as not to miss these EPM activities.

EPM 2019 Winter Meetings

Saturday, January 19
Saturday, February 16
Saturday, March 16

NEMF 2019 Foray

August 1 – 4, 2019

FUNGI IN THE NEWS

The State of the World's Fungi Report 2018

<https://stateoftheworldsfungi.org/>

The KEW Royal Botanical Gardens report explores the potential uses of mushrooms and other fungi.

North Korea's fungi gift

<https://thediplomat.com/2018/09/whats-behind-north-koreas-pine-mushroom-gift-to-south/>

The importance of pine mushrooms in North Korea's culture and economy.

Fungi Outbreak Threatens Coffee Crops

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2018/10/16/649155664/coffee-rust-threatens-latin-american-crop-150-years-ago-it-wiped-out-an-empire>

Rust fungus infects Latin American coffee plantations.

The Bionic Mushroom

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2018/11/09/bionic-mushroom-researchers-create-fungus-generates-electricity/1941145002/>

Microbes and mushrooms generate bio-electricity.

Winter Meeting Programs

All meetings are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the basement meeting room of the Nature Center at Richard Nixon County Park outside Jacobus, PA.

January 19, 2019 - Professor Janet Matanguihan of Messiah College (Gary Emberger's successor) will speak on "Emerging fungal threats."

February 16, 2019 - EPM member Devin Bily will report on his explorations among the ascomycetes found here in Pennsylvania (and share his superb photos of them).

March 16, 2019 - Dr. Tom Bigelow of the New York Mycological Association will speak to us on crust fungi, a topic on which he is a recognized expert.

Seeking new EPM NEMF Representative

EPM's Director at Large, Gary Emberger, will be stepping down from his roles due to his relocation. We will be looking to appoint a new EPM trustee to the Northeast Mycological Federation at our January meeting. The trustee's primary responsibility is representing the club at the annual NEMF trustees' meeting, held during the NEMF foray, and reporting back to the club about the actions taken there (in particular, on the plans for the next year's NEMF foray and on NEMF's financial situation). Our club provides reimbursement of mileage costs (within certain limits) to/from the foray.

Interested volunteers should contact club president Shawn Moyer prior to our January meeting. His contact information is in the masthead of this newsletter.

Seeking Two New EPM Culinary Coordinators

EPM is seeking two new Culinary Coordinators to replace Sylvia Emberger and Judy Leece, who are stepping down. The Culinary Coordinators are needed four times a year: for our three winter meetings, and during our annual summer get-together. The responsibilities are to set up for the refreshments and break it down afterwards. This includes bringing EPM's stock of supplies and equipment (coffee, tea, plates, cups, etc.) to the events, making the coffee, and replenishing the supplies as needed. An additional responsibility for the summer party is the purchase of beer, wine, and ice. All expenses will be reimbursed by the club, with adequate receipts. Two people are needed for this role. If interested, please volunteer at our January meeting, or if you can't make the meeting, please contact Cheryl Dawson. Her contact information is in the masthead of this newsletter.

NEMF seeking a general web master

Details not yet available but if interested, contact John or Cheryl Dawson.

EPM Co-Sponsor of NEMF 2019 Foray

Our club will be one of the sponsoring clubs for the 2019 NEMF Samuel Ristich Foray. This 43rd Annual Foray of the Northeast Mycological Federation will be held 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. 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:

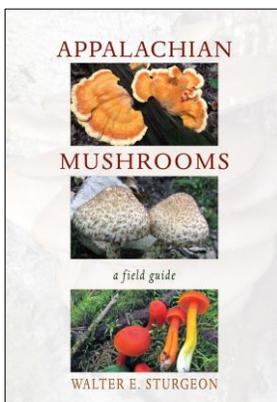
- Help at the registration desk the first day (and maybe the second)
- Direct people to parking
- Help distribute signs
- Being the leader on forays - this does not require identifying any fungi, but does require responsibility for making sure the bus returns with exactly the people it went out with, as well as having some information about the site, which would be provided by the foray chairs
- Running specimens from the identifiers to the display tables. That does require some knowledge but there is always someone around that 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.

Appalachian Mushrooms: A Field Guide

by Walter E. Sturgeon (Ohio University Press, 2018)

Book review by John Dawson



The author of this latest field guide for our area is well known to many of our club members. He has served as a principal identifier at many NEMF forays and once at our own Miknis foray. A very knowledgeable field mycologist, he is also a fine photographer, and the illustrations in this book are the most beautiful I have seen in any field guide: large, sharply focused, they show critical identification features and are reproduced in vivid and accurate colors. (Not all the photos were taken by Sturgeon himself, as he notes in his acknowledgements. Which were not is unclear, however, since no source is given for any of the individual photographs.)

This is a large-format book (7 x 10 inches) and a heavy one (almost three pounds), and its cover is not waterproof, so it is not the type of book to carry with you in the field.

Rather, it is best used in conjunction with other guides as a reference for identification after specimens have been collected. The text is very clearly written with minimal use of technical terminology, and the scientific

names are as current as they can be given the present state of taxonomic flux. In several cases the author notes species complexes that will require further study, as well as instances where names have been changed to reflect differences between similar American and European species. (For example, no other field guide I've seen notes that the names *Amanita verna* and *Amanita virosa* refer to European species that are distinct from the American *Amanita bisporigera*.)

Sturgeon's guide is perhaps best compared with the recent one by Tim Baroni. The latter includes about 100 more species (500 +), covers a broader geographic area, and is about three-quarters of a pound lighter than Sturgeon's. It also has a more extensive glossary and very useful pictorial aides on its inside covers. On the other hand, Baroni's guide omits many common species that Sturgeon's includes. Neither guide includes slime molds, nor more than a very few crust fungi; in those regards, as well as weight and water resistance, Lincoff's *Audubon Guide* is still the field guide of choice. But unlike Lincoff's book, both Sturgeon's and Baroni's guides include keys for each group of mushrooms considered.

The groupings in those guides are not, however, the same. In particular, Sturgeon divides the species considered into the following seventeen groups: *Amanita*; *Russula*; milk mushrooms; medium to large white-spored [gilled] mushrooms with a waxy texture; small white-spored [gilled] mushrooms with a waxy texture; medium to large white-spored [gilled] terrestrial mushrooms; other white-spored [gilled] mushrooms; colored-spored [gilled] mushrooms; boletes; polypores; chanterelles and allies; club-like and coral-like fungi; spine fungi; puffballs and related fungi; mushrooms with cup-shaped or flat fruiting bodies; jelly and rubbery fungi; morels and false morels.

In the text, many synonyms for the current scientific names are given. However, few of those are listed in the index of scientific names at the back of the volume, so if one is not aware of recent name changes, the index may misleadingly suggest that a species is not covered in the volume, when in fact it is. One other strange error of that sort appears on pages 1 and 8 of the text, where *Amanita banningiana* is said to be "not illustrated"; yet on p. 2 there is a nice color photograph labelled as that species.

Overall, if your bookshelf has room for yet another field guide, this paperback, listed at \$35.00 but available from Amazon for less than \$22.00, is well worth the investment.

2018 FORAY YEAR END REPORT

By Linda Brynan Sears

Here we are at the end of another year that flew by me at an alarming rate. The saying that the older you get the faster time goes seems to be holding true for me. I think a busy schedule adds to that perception.

We held eighteen forays starting on April 14th and we just finished our last on December 2nd. I've decided to create a table this year showing the results of our finds in comparison to the two previous years.

YEAR	FORAYS	TOTAL # OF FINDS	PERCENT +/- FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	TOTAL # NEW FINDS*	NEW FINDS AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL	TOTAL # OF MYCOFLORA PROJECT (DNA) FINDS**
2018	18	965	+22%	64	6.6%	26
2017	17	794	+58%	63	7.9%	N/A
2016	18	461	+53%	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Total number may be higher as species sampled for DNA are unidentified as yet.

** Data prior to 2018 unavailable due to new project.

We had a respectable increase in finds over last year. It may have been a result of copious amounts of rain, one additional foray plus an uptick in foray attendance. Not by club members, however, but by non-members interested in learning about fungi. We've gained quite a few new members as a result. I am always happy to welcome folks into the fascinating world of fungi. I hope more members attend also. I enjoy seeing you all. I want to give a special mention and thank you to both John Dawson and George Morrison for all their help. Keep on microscoping for us, George!

I love that we are finding so many species each year that have never before been found by the club. I believe this is important. Verified identification of perhaps uncommon species in our area adds to the knowledge base of the natural biodiversity of Pennsylvania. You can help in this effort by attending our forays and rooting around to find those rare ones. You may even find a mushroom which is new to science. It happened at our 2015 Miknis Foray. It may have occurred this year. We won't know until the return of our DNA analyses. Stay tuned!



Two EPM members at the August 2018 meeting on Chemical & Microscopic Analysis at the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.

(Left to right) Garrett Taylor, Cheryl Dawson (EPM), John Plischke, and Linda Sears (EPM).

Photo courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.

Eastern Penn Mushroomers **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2019**

NAME(s): _____

ADDRESS: _____ P.O. BOX: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail Address: _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (If renewing **with no changes**, you may write name and “same” above.)

DUES: (Select one)

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (See note below at *.) | \$20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$15.00 |

Make check payable to: Eastern Penn Mushroomers

Please indicate your interests:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating Wild Mushrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Photography |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Dyeing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking with Wild Mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivating Mushrooms |

I hereby release the Eastern Penn Mushroomers and any officer or member thereof from any legal responsibility for injuries or accidents incurred during or as a result of any field trip, excursion, or meeting sponsored by the association.

APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

APPLICANT’S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

***For a family membership, all adults covered by the membership must sign.** By signing above, adult members are signing for all minors covered by a family membership. If more space is needed, use the back of the form.

Return application and **check made out to Eastern Penn Mushroomers** to:

EPM Membership
C/o Cheryl Dawson
393 Waters Road
York, PA. 17403

If you have any questions, call 717-846-1225 or email EPMClub@gmail.com .