



THE KEYSTONE CAP

Newsletter of the Eastern Penn Mushroomers
www.epennmushroomers.org

Winter 2020

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COMMUNICATIONS

President:

Shawn Moyer
(717) 571-9942
smoyer@pinchotfamilymed.com

Vice Pres & Program Chair:

John Dawson
717-846-1225
Jwd7too@comcast.net

Treasurer:

Cheryl Dawson
717-846-1225
Daws1cheryl@comcast.net

Director at Large:

Devin Bily
804-615-3932
bilyds@gmail.com

Foray Chair & Recorder:

Linda Sears
570-581-1202
lkbsears@gmail.com

Webmaster:

Chris Snyder
717-768-4660
Cwsnyder@frontiernet.net

Newsletter Editor:

Lynn Nelson
717-757-4980
LynnNelson104@gmail.com

Culinary Coordinators:

Gina Vachino
410-302-6395
gvachino@gmail.com
Angela Foster
717-799-1554
CVToaster@aol.com

John and Cheryl Dawson stepping down from EPM roles

John Dawson (vice-president/program chair) and Cheryl Dawson (club membership secretary/treasurer) will be stepping down from their EPM roles in 2020. They have had a long and successful tenure in those roles, but given their ages and the health issues that come with age, they think it is time for some younger members to fill those positions. We thank John and Cheryl for their hard work and dedication to the club for all these years. We are seeking members to fill these important key positions.

John has already arranged all the winter meetings for the coming year, and finalized the dates for next summer's Miknis foray at Mont Alto, so his replacement would not have to start planning work before next summer. In the meantime, John would be happy to work with whoever steps forward.

Once the deadline for membership renewal dues passes in March, Cheryl would be willing to work with her replacement, transferring records, and explaining her procedures and databases.

Please consider stepping up to fill these positions. For details on the responsibilities and workload, please contact John or Cheryl. Their contact information is in the masthead of this newsletter.

Membership Renewal Time

EPM 2020 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 21, 2020 meeting will be purged from all lists and the Groups.io collaboration application.

You'll find a membership application form at the end of this newsletter. Update your contact information only if it has changed. You can also renew by PayPal to EPMClub@gmail.com, BUT THE CLUB MUST HAVE A SIGNED FORM AS WELL. That can be scanned and emailed to the same address.

New Culinary Coordinator

EPM member Angela Foster has volunteered to fill the second Culinary Coordinator role, working with Gina Vachino. Many thanks to Gina and Angela for managing the refreshments at our winter meetings and summer party.

SAVE THE DATES

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

EPM 2020 Winter Meetings

Sunday, January 18, 2020

Sunday, February 15, 2020

Sunday, March 21, 2020

2020 Miknis Foray

July 31 – August 2, 2020

FUNGI IN THE NEWS

Fantastic Fungi documentary

<https://fantasticfungi.com>

Check out the trailer and look for local screenings.

4 Fungi to Fight Colds & Flu

<https://www.mindbodygreen.com/articles/how-immunologist-uses-fungi-to-fight-cold-and-flu>

An immunologist's recommendations

Technology creates meat cuts from mushrooms

<https://vegnews.com/2019/11/new-brand-debuts-vegan-chicken-breasts-and-steaks-made-from-mushrooms>

Mycellium used to create plant-based cuts of steak, chicken breasts, and bacon.



Chemical mystery solved

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/mystery-of-why-magic-mushrooms-go-blue-solved/4010870.article>

Why do Psilocybe fungi turn blue when cut?

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 18 --- Robert and Ann Simpson, professional nature photographers, will present a workshop on fungal photography, and on that occasion they have requested that members try to find fresh specimens to bring in for use as props. (If nothing else, some polypores or crust fungi should be available.) Also, members who have questions about the use of photography paraphernalia they own should bring those items to the meeting with them for advice from the pros.

February 15 --- Elinoar Shavit of the Boston Mycological Club, a certified gemologist as well as accomplished amateur mycologist, will give a presentation on mushrooms fossilized in amber, an outstanding program that she gave at this year's NAMA foray.

March 21 --- Ethan Crenson of the New York Mycological Society will speak on pyrenomycetes, those "dots on logs" that many of us have troubling identifying. His program, too, was given at the NAMA foray, and at the NEMF foray the weekend before.

Did You Know...

there is a mushroom that grows on creosote treated lumber?

Neolentinus lepideus, commonly called the Train Wrecker, has a saprotrophic mode of nutrition and is an important woodland decomposer and a cause of wet rot in building materials. The fungus has shown tolerance of wood treated with creosote and other preservatives, and has been used in experiments to evaluate the efficacy of treatment methods.

Fruiting bodies of *Neolentinus lepideus* are found singly or in tufts emerging from dead and decaying coniferous wood, favouring pines (*Pinus*) including old stumps, logs and timber. It may also be found in gardens, on man-made wooden structures such as old railroad ties, and in such unusual places as coal mines. Less frequently, it is also found on non-coniferous hardwood. The fungus's fruiting season is spring to autumn and it is common in Europe and North America. (Reference: Wikipedia)



Image by Walt Sturgeon
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New EPM Collaboration Platform - by Cheryl Dawson

In November, EPM was notified by Yahoo Groups that they would no longer be providing the services that we've been using there: the uploading of files for sharing and archiving information, the database area where we kept records of forays and membership, the shared photos, etc. They were preparing to disable the ability to upload any content at all by the user and would be removing, by December 14, all the content we had already uploaded. In effect, they will be an email service only. We had already become dissatisfied with Yahoo Groups' lack of responsiveness and frequent outages, and so, spurred by this change, we went on a search for a different and better way to communicate and keep records. After considering several services and having heard good reports of an up-and-coming service called "Groups.io", we investigated it further and came to the conclusion that this would be a much better service with the same capabilities and more, but without all the commercial baggage of Yahoo Groups. We have now gone through the process of having Groups.io transfer automatically all of our data from Yahoo Groups, and so far it looks cleaner, faster and better. All the data from our Yahoo Groups has been transferred and although the structure is a little different from Yahoo Groups, a little clicking around and searching reveals that it's all there.

We have retained the group name, epenmushroomers@groups.io. Like the Yahoo Group, this is a restricted group to which only members of Eastern Penn Mushroomers may subscribe, but it is on the publicly viewable list of groups. If you were a subscriber to the group's Yahoo Group, you have automatically been added to the epenmushroomers@groups.io membership. For those of you that had trouble accessing epenmushroomers@groups.yahoo.com, we think that you will be pleasantly surprised at the ease of logging in to the Groups.io site. The first time you post or try to access the site from whatever email you used for Yahoo Groups, you'll be asked to provide a password that you yourself will choose and then you'll be all set to use the site.

We are hoping that more of you receiving this newsletter privately who had decided not to join the Yahoo group will consider joining the Groups.io site. To do so, you can either search for the group epenmushroomers@groups.io on the list or write Cheryl Dawson at daws1cheryl@comcast.net to ask to be invited. The Groups.io experience so far is cleaner than Yahoo Groups and, most importantly, so far as we can tell, exposes you to no commercial spam or risk. It is a good way to stay tuned to information about forays, meetings, etc. that may develop in between the quarterly newsletters. Please consider joining us there.

A Unique Find (and the one that got away) – By John Dawson

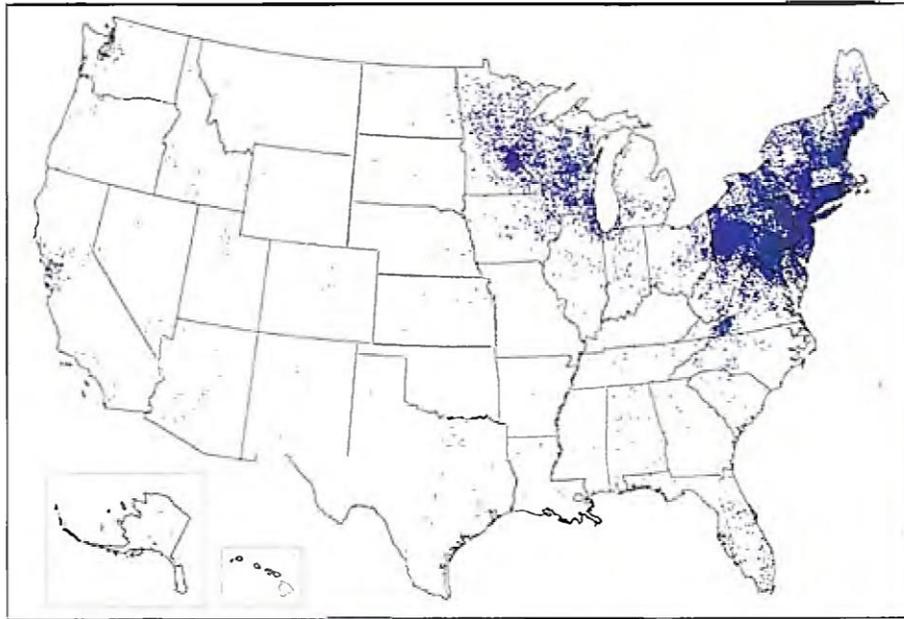
I received some exciting news from Rod Tulloss in October. Eight years ago, I collected an unusual Amanita on a club foray at Gifford Pinchot State Park. I posted photos of it on Mushroom Observer and sent the specimen on to Rod. Just recently he sent it off for sequencing, and it turned out to be new to science. He has provisionally named it *Amanita pinchotensis* to commemorate where it was found. Here are some photos I took of it.



I was of course elated to have finally contributed a type specimen to an herbarium, and it made up for "one that got away" on my very first collecting expedition. My introduction to mushrooming occurred back in 1972 when I finished my dissertation at the University of Michigan. I had some extra time before the semester ended, so Cheryl and I enrolled in a non-credit 6-week course on mushroom identification taught by Tina Gilliam, a student of Alexander H. Smith, then the dean of American mycologists. After the first session of the course Cheryl and I went out to a nearby recreation area and came upon a bright red *Amanita* with cottage-cheese-like warts on top, a ring, and ridges on the stipe. I said to Cheryl, "Well, at least that's one mushroom I know. That's *Amanita muscaria*." But then we discovered that it had pores rather than gills! So I said, "I guess that shows I how little I know after all." Thinking it was just a matter of my ignorance, with several days to go before the next session and not knowing then how to preserve the specimen, we didn't collect it. At the second session I told Tina about it and asked what lookalike there was for *Amanita muscaria* that had pores. Her jaw dropped and she said, "I have no idea." Later that week she took me to meet Professor Smith and I related the discovery to him. He said, "You probably found a mutant," since he knew of instances in the other direction, where a bolete developed gills. Of course, he too asked if I had collected it. Had I done so, I would have contributed a specimen to the Michigan herbarium that I found on my very first foray.

[Article and Map on Ticks and Lyme Disease](#)

A recent issue of Fungi Magazine (Vol. 12 No.2: Summer 2019) contains a very interesting and relevant article on ticks and Lyme disease. It indicates that cases of Lyme disease have tripled since the 1990s and that Pennsylvania is ground zero for it—the leading U.S. state in reported cases. The article includes a map published by the CDC, which is reprinted below. Be sure to use tick protection when out there!



Reported cases of Lyme disease. Each dot on the map represents one case of Lyme disease and is placed randomly in the patient's county of residence. The presence of a dot in a state does not necessarily mean that Lyme disease was acquired in that state. Map courtesy CDC.

<i>Region</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Confirmed</i>	<i>Probable</i>
<i>United States</i>	<i>42,743</i>	<i>29,513</i>	<i>13,230</i>
<i>New England</i>	<i>7,916</i>	<i>5,323</i>	<i>2,593</i>
<i>Middle Atlantic</i>	<i>22,147</i>	<i>16,381</i>	<i>5,766</i>
<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>5,092</i>	<i>3,629</i>	<i>1,463</i>
<i>New York (excluding NYC)</i>	<i>4,072</i>	<i>2,906</i>	<i>1,166</i>
<i>New York City</i>	<i>1,083</i>	<i>596</i>	<i>487</i>
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>11,900</i>	<i>9,250</i>	<i>2,650</i>
<i>East North Central</i>	<i>3,976</i>	<i>2,533</i>	<i>1,443</i>
<i>Wisconsin</i>	<i>3,000</i>	<i>1,794</i>	<i>1,206</i>
<i>West North Central</i>	<i>2,707</i>	<i>1,557</i>	<i>1,150</i>
<i>Minnesota</i>	<i>2,318</i>	<i>1,408</i>	<i>910</i>
<i>South Atlantic</i>	<i>5,422</i>	<i>3,436</i>	<i>1,986</i>
<i>Maryland</i>	<i>1,891</i>	<i>1,194</i>	<i>697</i>
<i>Virginia</i>	<i>1,657</i>	<i>1,041</i>	<i>616</i>
<i>East South Central</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>West South Central</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Mountain</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Pacific</i>	<i>276</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>145</i>

Lyme disease data by region. Number of reported cases of Lyme disease and rates per 100,000 population, for the USA in 2017. "Probable" means probability per 100,000. Data from CDC.

Eastern Penn Mushroomers **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2020**

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.

