
MID HUDSON MYCO-NEWS

AN OCCASIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE MID HUDSON MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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MHMA Membership Mushrooms

Group Growth Calls for Greater Creative Member Participation

by **David C. Work**

MHMA President

In the past few years I have watched the depth and breadth of our club expand with a marvelous infusion of new folk. Since I joined in 2001, our group has more than quadrupled in size from a roster of 30 people to its present 129 with no apparent slowdown of new interested people in sight. As I sit here today, I find myself wondering where we are headed as a group. I wonder, "What is the MHMA?"

At its founding more than two decades ago by Bill Bakaitis, the MHMA began as an educational resource for a new breed of enthusiastic yet unguided mycophagists of the Culinary Institute of America who kept poisoning themselves. It is a tribute to these beginnings that we are, through numerous shrinkings, shifts of direction and transformations, still here and kicking. The MHMA is not only, as it is sometimes regarded, a source

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Exploring the NYC Watershed Lands

Free DEP Access Permits May Yield New Territory

Did you know that the City of New York owns vast areas of prime wilderness in the Mid Hudson, Catskill Park and Southern Tier regions? Did you know that, although access is restricted to these areas to the casual hikers, much of the land is accessible for hiking to anyone who holds a free access permit?



Late season wood-loving cup fungi

The DEP hiking regulations state that it is forbidden to remove any plants or any other life forms other than what is allowed by permit (fishing and hunting), but currently, if enough MHMA members obtain access permits, we may be able to hold some walks on these lands given that they are educational only (without harvesting fungi). I have long

I can't help believing that by finding and speaking to the correct person, we may be able to make some progress toward legally turning these lands into a mushroomers paradise...

pondered the idea of approaching the DEP to try to obtain special access status for us, but I never got around to beginning the process. In September I received an email from Joel Horman of the Long Island Mycological Club who had written to all of the New York clubs regarding his

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through which people can be shown “where the morels are.” It is US. We are the MHMA.

In my vision, the MHMA is, at its core, very much an educational organization dedicated to mycological learning both within our membership as well as teaching the public. We sponsor and host lectures, workshops and forays both on our own and in partnership with other organizations, yet, with the amazing richness of interests and experience contained within our collective group, I feel that we are at a point where we may be able to expand our activities into new directions if people are willing to put in what effort it takes to share and participate in that which brings us together: our love and curiosity of all things Mushroom.

With the abundance of members who are or have been Microbiologists, Photographers, Chefs, Cinematographers, Publishers, Computer Programmers, Herbalists, Authors and any number of other professions, our club is right now at a point where we can harness these talents to further explore our mycological interests by organizing groups of enthusiastic folks in any number of subjects. Here are a few groups already suggested in the last year which merely need some people to take the reins:

A **Culinary Group** could organize mushroom dinners, develop and share recipes to produce a club cookbook and make contributions to future newsletter and webpage Mycophagy sections.

A **Study Group**. Last year, Bill Bakaitis mentioned in his winter series lecture on toxicology that a very effective way for people to learn together is to form a study group in which each member of the group is responsible for learning one genus in depth, who then brings their knowledge back to present to the group or even the whole club. A number of folks have already expressed interest in this.

I know that many of us who are interested in a steady supply of delicious edible mushrooms and/or beneficial medicinal fungi would be interested in starting a **Cultivation Group**. A number of our members are already involved in growing their own mushrooms. A group would facilitate cooperative work necessary in inoculating many logs for a shitake operation, for instance. A group effort could create test patches for myco-forestry projects. We could learn to create our own mushroom spawn from tissue cultures. We could even have periodical fundraiser “mushroom sales,” as well as helping to supply the Culinary Group with mushrooms for cooking activities!

There may also be enough interest within the club to warrant the creation of a **Medicinals Group** for the gathering of the latest information on beneficial fungi. Interest in medicinal fungi is expanding rapidly these days and there are some very powerful medicinal mushrooms which flourish in our area. The latest info can be shared with the membership and the public through our website and future newsletters.

A **Photography Group** could help document our finds, contribute images to the website and newspaper articles, develop images for one or more MHMA documentary or aesthetic slideshows and could generally expose and frame the beauty of our area fungi. The photo group could oversee the production of an annual MHMA Mushroom Photo Calendar. Members could also share tips on photo technique and editing.

If you are interested in any of the above groups, or if you have ideas for other activities, collaborations, walk sites, lecture topics you'd like to see, please fill out the Participation/Interests section on the back of the membership renewal form in this newsletter. Bless you all and see you soon!❖

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: LOOKING AHEAD . . .

December 3, 10am, **Potluck at Cynthia & Armen Fisher's Farm** in Highland, NY.
Directions available on page 7

Monthly **Weeknight Winter Lecture Series** at the Marbletown Community Center is still in planning stage.

NAMA Foray 2006
17-20 August 2006
VentureScape Wilderness Retreat
William Schweitzer Provincial Park
Alberta, Canada

12th Annual Sam Ristich Foray
September 1-4
Saint Anthony's Hermitage, Lac Bouchette,
250 miles North of Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Discussion Board 101

Back in May, we launched our online MycoDiscussion Board, a bulletin board driven resource for our membership and the public to discuss all aspects of fungi. Response was enthusiastic but limited, with 14 members involved all told. It was a good place to ask some questions, throw around ideas and start new discussions.

In August or September some time, our discussion board disappeared through a glitch from our host. With a couple of dissenting voices, we let the discussion board languish for a couple of months in the unknown barrens of cyberspace. A couple of weeks ago, some of our members asked about the MycoDiscussion board again and I decided it was time to take some action. After a little bit of effort, the MycoDiscussion Board is back up and running, a ready resource for all of us!

For those of you who have never partaken in an online community, our discussion board is designed so that members can begin new discussions, categories and participate in any discussion. The discussions are actually written "threads" of comments and responses which are viewed on "bulletin boards" This is not a chatroom. Discussions are not necessarily real time conversations. You can log-in, browse over what folks are writing about, ask questions, make comments, share photos and depart whenever you like. Discussions can take place over long periods of time with many participants.

To join the MycoDiscussion Board, go to the MHMA website at www.mushroomthejournal.com/mhma and click the "Mycodiscussion Board" link on the left hand navigation menu. An intro page will come up in the main frame of the page. At the bottom of the intro page click the "register" button. On the new page, scroll down to reveal the section to register as a new member. You will be asked to make up a username and a password, give your email address and agree to the general terms of the discussion board system. That's it! See you out there!

The Gilled Bolete – *Phyllosporium rhodoxanthus* found on July's well-attended Weekday Mushroom Ramble in Hurley

frustrations regarding the seemingly specific restriction of mushroom foraging on state lands while there are other harvesting activities such as logging and fishing occurring already. His hope was that if a number of clubs joined together in approaching the DEC, we might be able to lend a unified voice and credibility to such a request. I called him recently to see what the response had been to his query, and he said that he was quite disheartened that he had actually only received one response to his email. He figures it will require some kind of legal suit to get these guys to allow mushrooming on these lands. Sounds like a difficult prospect to me.

My particular interest is, however, in the DEP lands governed by the water authorities of New York City. The DEP folks are charged with the responsibility to keep the NYC water sources safe from environmental and human threats. They've got a heck of a job to do out there. Anyone who has been approached by the DEP police recently will attest to the fact that these guys have no sense of humor whatsoever since the attacks of 9/11. I can't help believing, however, that by finding and speaking to the correct person, we may be able to make some progress toward legally turning these lands into a mushroomers paradise. If any of you have any connections with any appropriate authorities please share them! Perhaps we can make some headway. We may be able to begin the process by offering to host some educational hikes as part of their hike series.

In the meantime, I encourage as many MHMA folk as possible to apply for access permits over the winter so that we can at least schedule some educational walks for the coming season. ❖

More information on DEP Lands and Access Permits: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/watershed/html/wsrecreation.html#application> or stop by the DEP offices at the Ashokan Reservoir on Ulster County route 28A on the southern end of the reservoir.

MHMA CONTACT INFO

WWW.MUSHROOMTHEJOURNAL.COM/MHMA

MIDHUDSONMYCO@YAHOO.COM

OFFICERS

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MHMA FUNDRAISING

For the last couple of years we've bandied around the question of how the club could raise enough money to purchase a nice 1000x microscope with oil immersion for identifying mushroom spores with a port for a still camera or video camera with which we would be able to further our educational, documentary, photographic and identification abilities. This year we have come up with a couple of ideas for fundraising items which people might like to buy for holiday presents for themselves, their mushroom-crazed friends or family...

The 2006 MHMA Mushroom Calendars are printed on very nice heavy photo quality card stock with a spiral binding. Some of you have, I think, seen the ones David Work made 2 years ago for his family and commented on the quality.

This Calendar features beautiful photos by clubmembers Chris Dunn, Arthur Hoell, David Work, George Dagus, Frank Spinelli, Keith Sanborn and Peggy Ahwesh.

The calendars cost \$20 each with no shipping if you plan to pick up your order at Cynthia's Potluck on December 3rd. If you can't make it to the potluck, Flat Rate Priority shipping is \$3.85 for up to eight calendars

I have a magnificent **Deluxe Maserin Mushroom Knife** handmade in Italy which I have cherished since the day I bought it. There are many less expensive knives out there but this one is truly a Cadillac. I love it. Many of you have commented on this gorgeous knife while out on forays and a number of you have expressed a desire to obtain one at a discounted price.

Features Include:

5" Olive Wood Handle with metric ruler

Very Sharp 3 1/4" 440C Stainless Steel Blade

Stainless Lockback Mechanism/ Tweezers

Natural Bristle Fold-Out Brush

Brass Pivot Pin and Rivets

Sheath attaches to Belt or Basket Handle

3 1/4 inch Blade and 5 inch Handle

There are only two US retailers on the internet who stock this knife and they sell it for around \$80. I contacted the manufacturer in Italy directly and have determined that after all of the costs incurred in importing, insurance, shipping and currency exchange, we could still raise money for the club AND sell these knives at a 25% discount below the lowest price anywhere in the United States! These knives will be available to purchase through the club ONLY if we are able to make a commitment to buy at least 30 of them.

For this reason, this knife will be available through Pre-Order only. That is, people who are interested in buying one or more of these knives should send a separate check with their order form with the understanding that if we do not reach our necessary goal of purchasing 30 units that checks will be returned to the sender.

To order either of these items, please make your choices on the order form on page 7 and send it to the indicated address as soon as possible for delivery before the Holidays

MID HUDSON MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP/RELEASE FORM

Dues (Please circle one) Family: \$15 Individual: \$10 Full time student: \$5

For Family and Individual memberships beginning in September or October, [individual and family membership](#) dues are reduced to half. Membership cycle runs on calendar year [ending Dec. 31st.](#)
Memberships received in November and December will be credited for following year.

Deleted: .

Name(s) _____

Address _____

e-mail (important!) _____ Phone _____

RELEASE

I (We) realize that when engaged in wild mushroom activities, that serious physical injury and personal property damage may accidentally occur. I (We) further realize that there is always the possibility of having an allergic reaction to or being poisoned by the eating of wild mushrooms and that these adverse reactions to eating wild mushrooms range from mild indigestion to fatal illness. Knowing the risks, I (we) agree to assume the risks, and agree to release, hold harmless and to indemnify the Mid-Hudson Mycological Association, and any officer or member thereof, from any and all legal responsibility for injuries or accidents incurred by myself or my family during or as a result of any mushroom identification, field trip, excursion, meeting or dining, sponsored by the club.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please send your completed application, signed and dated, with your check to "MHMA" to:
Cynthia Fisher, MHMA Treasurer, 203 Lily Lake Road, Highland, NY 12528

As a member of MHMA you are entitled to Discounted Membership with the North American Mycological Association. If you are interested in joining or renewing NAMA membership through MHMA, please include an additional check for \$32 per person made out to "NAMA" and include it in the envelope with this form and we will forward your NAMA renewal.

I would also like to include an additional gift to the MHMA of

\$ _____

Please take a moment to fill out the Participation/Interests Questionnaire on the next page

Participation/Interests Questionnaire

I would be interested in joining/forming a group which concentrates on:

Mushroom Photography Mushroom Cookery/Mycophagy Medicinals

Newsletter Mushroom Cultivation Mushroom Study/Identification

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We are looking for some individuals to fill some needed positions:

**Species Archivist:** We need someone who will take responsibility for gathering the names of the species identified on our walks throughout the season

**Writers:** We need folks to contribute their ramblings, treatises, book reviews, poetry or prose to share with the world for publishing either on the website or in the newsletter. You do not need to be an expert on anything. You only need to be willing to share your perspective on things.

**Foray/Walk Site Developer:** This person would seek out and follow up on leads for new areas to bring the club out for forays. They would also secure leaders for walks and directions to locations in a timely fashion so that the seasonal calendar can be up to date well in advance.

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The **Winter Lecture Series** is an excellent opportunity for us to learn about things we don't necessarily concentrate on during the rest of the year. Please jot down some topics/aspects/genera of mushrooms which you would be interested in learning more about to help determine the content of the upcoming lectures.

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Use this space to share comments, ideas, poems, etc..

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## Annual MHMA Potluck Get Together December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10am at the home of Cynthia and Armen Fisher

Join us for a celebration of the season at this potluck brunch. Surprise everyone with your favorite dish or call Cynthia to ask what to bring. If you wish to bring a dish including wild mushrooms, the identification of the mushrooms must be verified by one of the advanced identifiers in the club before cooking. Bring walking shoes if you wish to join in on a walk out to Cynthia's winter Oyster Tree!

### Directions

From the NYS Thruway exit 18—proceed East 4.7 miles on route 299 toward Highland. Turn Left onto Lily Lake Road. Shortly after turning onto Lily Lake there is a confusing fork—Bear Left here and proceed 1.6 miles to 203 Lily Lake Road. The stone house is up to the right with a red barn across the street. Park by the barn.

From the Mid Hudson Bridge, take the US9w north/ 44/55 west exit and proceed 2.5 miles to the junction of Rt. 9w and Rt. 299. Go left on 299 heading west and proceed 2 miles to Lily Lake Road on the Right. From this point proceed as above.

to RSVP or if you have questions, Cynthia's phone # is (845) 691 8665

### MHMA Christmas Fundraiser Order Form

| # | Item          | Price   | Total For Calendars |
|---|---------------|---------|---------------------|
|   | MHMA Calendar | \$20/ea |                     |

If you plan to pick up your Calendars at Cynthia's potluck on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, there is no need to include money for shipping. Knives will be available 3 days after the bulk order is made.

| # | Item                                   | Price   | Total For Knives |
|---|----------------------------------------|---------|------------------|
|   | Maserin Deluxe Mushroom Knife w/Sheath | \$60/ea |                  |

If you would like your items shipped together after the knives arrive from Italy, include \$3.85 for flat rate shipping up to 3 pounds. For calendars and knives shipped separately, please include \$3.85 for each package.

Please send separate checks for knives and calendars.

Knife orders will be filled only if we accumulate a total minimum of 30 on order. If fewer than 30 are ordered, knife checks will be returned to the sender.

Send Order Forms To:

David Work, 140 Smith Lane, Accord, NY 12404



*Flammulina velutipes* – Commonly known as Velvet Foot or the Winter Mushroom

## Mushroom of the Moment

### *Flammulina Velutipes – The Winter Mushroom*

Often overshadowed in the excitement of the fall mushroom season by other, more well known edibles, *F. velutipes* is a well heeled and tasty mushroom which warrants attention as it fruits prolifically throughout the fall and winter during the occasional periods of thaw when temperatures rise above freezing. The same species as the cultivated Enoki mushroom, *F. velutipes* growing in the wild has a very different appearance from its delicate, white, pampered sibling. Quite slimy on the cap with a velvety black stem upon maturity, a white spore print and growing on Elm, Poplar or Willow, great care must be taken not to confuse the Winter Mushroom with the Deady Galerina, *Galerina autumnalis*, another wood lover with attached gills of similar size with darkening stem whose spore print is rusty brown❖

**Hey! It's the  
MID HUDSON MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MYCO-NEWSLETTER!**

MHMA  
140 Smith Lane  
Accord NY 12404

ADDRESS CORRECTION  
REQUESTED

PLACE  
US POSTAGE  
HERE

