



NJMA NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW JERSEY MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
Volume 38-6 November - December 2008



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Vice-President – Igor Safonov
Secretary – Terri Layton
Treasurer – Bob Peabody

DUES

Payable on calendar year
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Family: \$20.00
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Deadline for submissions:
10th of even-numbered months.

Send ONLY newsletter submissions to the editor. All other correspondence should be sent to the secretary:

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1319 Reed Lane
Kintnersville, PA 18930-9433

NJMA EVENTS HOTLINE

908-362-7109 for information on NJMA events or cancellations due to bad weather.

REMINDER:

**THE DEADLINE FOR
THE 2008 PHOTO CONTEST
IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

(you may bring your entries to the meeting on that date)

GET YOUR ENTRIES IN NOW!

(see the September-October issue of this newsletter for details and entry form)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 2
2:00 pm

MEETING AND LECTURE
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown

Our speaker will be Dr. Gary Samuels, researcher in biological control fungi, from the USDA Systematic Botany and Mycology Lab in Beltsville, MD. The topic of his talk will be "The Diversity of Mycoparasites".

November 7-16

MUSHROOM FESTIVAL -Mendocino County, CA
Hunts for chanterelles, porcinis, morels and more. Mushroom-themed dinners are offered throughout the area, along with mushroom cooking classes and a seminar on the healing power of mushrooms. (www.gomendo.com)

Sunday, November 9
10:00 am

FORAY: Wells Mills County Park
Leader: Nina Burghardt

Sunday, December 7
2:00 pm

NJMA 2008 HOLIDAY PARTY, PHOTO CONTEST, and ELECTION OF OFFICERS
Unitarian Society, Tices Lane, East Brunswick
Registration is REQUIRED. See the signup form on page 3, and return by the December 3 deadline, please!

Sunday, January 18
2:00 pm

MEETING AND LECTURE
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown
Speaker to be announced. NOTE THAT THIS IS THE THIRD SUNDAY OF JANUARY!

Sunday, February 8
2:00 pm

ANNUAL MYCOPHAGY MEETING
Unitarian Society, Tices Lane, East Brunswick
Bob Hosh and Jim Richards will be cooking up some tasty mushroom dishes. This will be a members-only event.

Sunday, March 1
2:00 pm

MEETING AND LECTURE
Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown
Speaker will be Dr. Oman Isikhuemhen - Mushroom culture, scientific discovery and consumption in Africa.

Directions to the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown

Traveling from the South: I-287 Northbound to Exit 36A (Morris Ave.). Proceed East approx. 1/2 mile in the center lane, past Washington Headquarters (on left). Take left fork onto Whippany Road. Turn left at 2nd traffic light onto East Hanover Avenue. Proceed for about 1/4 mile. Entrance is on left, opposite the Morris County Library.

Traveling from the North: I-287 Southbound to Exit 36, following signs for Ridgedale Avenue (bear right in exit ramp). Proceed to traffic light, then turn right onto Ridgedale Avenue. At 2nd traffic light, turn right onto East Hanover Avenue. Proceed for about 1/4 mile. The Arboretum entrance is on the right just past the traffic light at the Morris County Library.

Traveling on New Route 24: New 24 West to Exit 1A, (also labeled as Rt. 511 South, Morristown) onto Whippany Road. Stay in right lane. Turn right at 1st traffic light onto East Hanover Avenue. Proceed for about 1/4 mile. Entrance is on left, opposite the Morris County Library.

Directions to the Unitarian Society, Tices Lane, East Brunswick

From New Brunswick via Route 18: Take U.S. Highway 1 south, exit at Ryders Lane to East Brunswick, continue to the second light, and turn left onto Tices Lane. The Unitarian Society is the 2nd drive on the right before you go under the NJ Turnpike.

From the south via the Garden State Parkway: Take Route 18 north toward New Brunswick to Tices Lane exit (take jughandle from right lane of 18 across to Tices Lane). Follow Tices Lane until you pass under the Turnpike. The entrance is in the woods on the left just after you leave the underpass.

From the NJ Turnpike: take Exit 9 to Route 18. Take Rt 18 South to East Brunswick. On 18, turn right onto Tices Lane at the third traffic light. Follow Tices Lane until you pass under the Turnpike. The entrance is in the woods on the left just after you leave the underpass.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to welcome all the new members who joined us this past month. Fungus Fest had close to 350 visitors, with many staying most of the day. We had over fifty volunteers who made everything run smoothly. Thank you everyone. (The next issue of *NJMA News* will contain color photos and commentary on the event.)

This is a very bountiful time of the year with mushrooms popping up all over the place. I hope everyone is taking photographs and will send them in to our Photo Contest before or at our November meeting.

We will have a foray in November this year since the warm weather seems to last longer than it used to. The last foray will be at Wells Mills County Park in Ocean County on November 9. Hopefully we will find lots of mushrooms.

We will probably not be looking for microscopic fungi, but that is what our speaker for the November 2 meeting does. Gary Samuels has collected and identified microscopic fungi from soils all over the globe. His focus is on fungi that live off of or inhibit the growth of other fungi. Because of his research, many of these fungi are being used in agriculture (in combination with other measures) to combat fungal diseases. Since I love chocolate, I was interested in reading about one of these microscopic fungus, *Trichoderma*, which is being used to inhibit various fungal diseases which are attacking the cacao trees. To find out more about this research go to <http://findarticles.com/p/articles/> and there you'll find the article entitled *Fighting a Fungal Siege on Cacao Farms*.

This summer, I encountered some other microscopic fungi which scientists are exploring. These live in and at the edge of very hot, acidic, volcanic thermal pools along with bacteria and cyanobacteria. These thraustochytrids can withstand temperatures up to 143.6°F. Of course they take a back seat to the bacteria which withstand temperatures of 194°F and cyanobacteria at 165.2°F.

There is a grass, *Dichanthelium lanuginosum*, at the edge of these pools which can withstand temperature up to 131°F. It can do this because it has a fungus that grows on its roots, *Curvularia protuberante*, and this fungus is vector for a virus. Alone, none of the three can survive but together, they make a team.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the Holiday Party on December 7 at the Unitarian Society in East Brunswick. Be sure to sign up early so we know how many place settings and beverages to order.

Our meeting in January will be later than usual since the first is New Year's Day and the second Sunday is already spoken for. The week after the January meeting, we will


have our board meeting. If you have any concerns that you would like us to address, please let Terri, Igor or me know. We are still looking for a permanent home for our extensive club library.

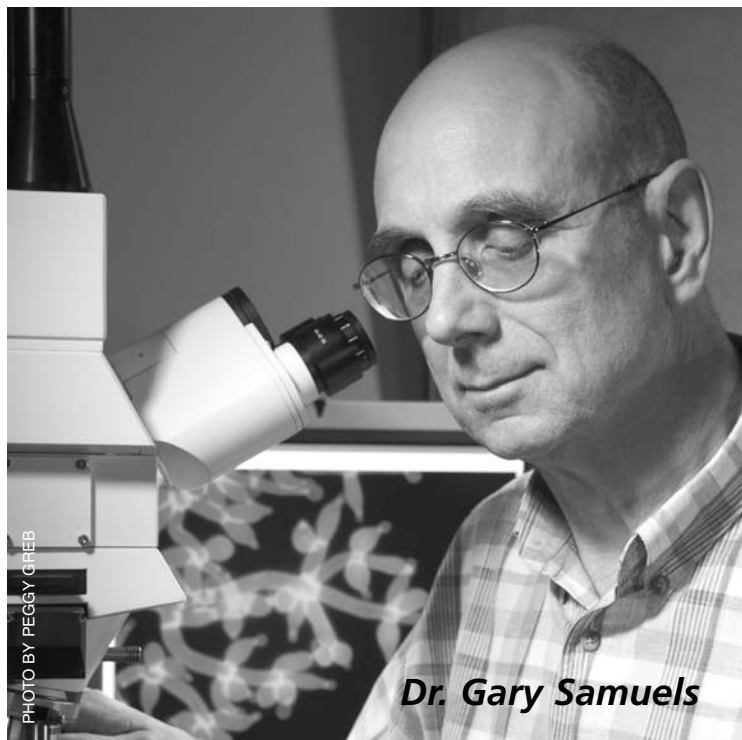
I wish you and your families an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

– Nina Burghardt

GARY J. SAMUELS - LECTURER THE DIVERSITY OF MYCOPARASITES

(from the USDA website)

Gary J. Samuels is a mycologist and authority on the taxonomy of the Hypocrealean fungi. He was born in Grove City, PA and obtained his B.Sc. in botany at the Pennsylvania State University and M.A. and Ph.D. in biology at Columbia University. During his graduate education, he held a fellowship at the New York Botanical Garden. He studied under Clark T. Rogerson and completed a dissertation on the taxonomy of the genus *Nectriopsis*. In 1973, Dr. Samuels joined the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Plant Diseases Division and continued his studies of the Hypocreales. He became a Research Associate of the NYBG in 1985. Dr. Samuels has conducted extensive field work in South America and New Zealand, and has compiled An Annotated Index to the Mycological Writings of Franz Petrak. He is currently employed as a research botanist by the USDA Agriculture Research Service (Systematic Botanical and Mycological Laboratory) in Beltsville, Maryland where he has conducted research on the *Hypocrea schweinitzii* complex, phylogenetic analysis of ascomycetes, and the genus *Trichoderma* as a biological control agent. 



Dr. Gary Samuels

WHY IS THIS ISSUE OF NJMA NEWS SO THIN?

Just to let you know, this issue of the NJMA News had to be abbreviated because of the hospitalization of our regular printer, Peter Amato, for orthopaedic surgery (We wish him well.) As such, we have postponed our color coverage of Fungus Fest 2008 and several other articles of interest which we had hoped to get into this issue. We hope that we'll be able to get these into the next issue in January.



Holiday Dinner 2008

The NJMA requests the pleasure of your company at our annual Holiday Dinner, Photo Contest, and Election of Officers to be held at the Unitarian Society in East Brunswick on December 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Please bring a favorite dish (sufficient to serve 8 to 10 people) for the buffet table. If you plan to bring a dish containing wild mushrooms **you must get clearance for the mushrooms and dish from Bob Hosh**, who is coordinating the buffet menu. You may contact him via e-mail at gombasz@comcast.net or by phone at (908) 892-6962. Dishes must be labeled to show ingredients and should arrive ready for the buffet table with serving utensils. All questions concerning the buffet menu should be directed to Bob. The club provides beverages.

A donation of \$10.00 per person is required to help offset some of the buffet costs. In order that we may cater the party properly, please respond by DECEMBER 3, 2008!

Directions to the Unitarian Society are on the front page of this issue, and they are also on the NJMA website at www.njmyco.org.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST REGISTER IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND, WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE BRINGING FOOD WITH YOU.

NJMA Holiday Dinner Registration Form

Fill out this form, make your check payable to NJMA, and mail both, before December 3, to:

Bob Hosh, 209 South Middlebush Road, Somerset, NJ 08873

Questions? Phone: 908-892-6962 E-mail: gombasz@comcast.net

NAME(S): _____

TELEPHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING _____

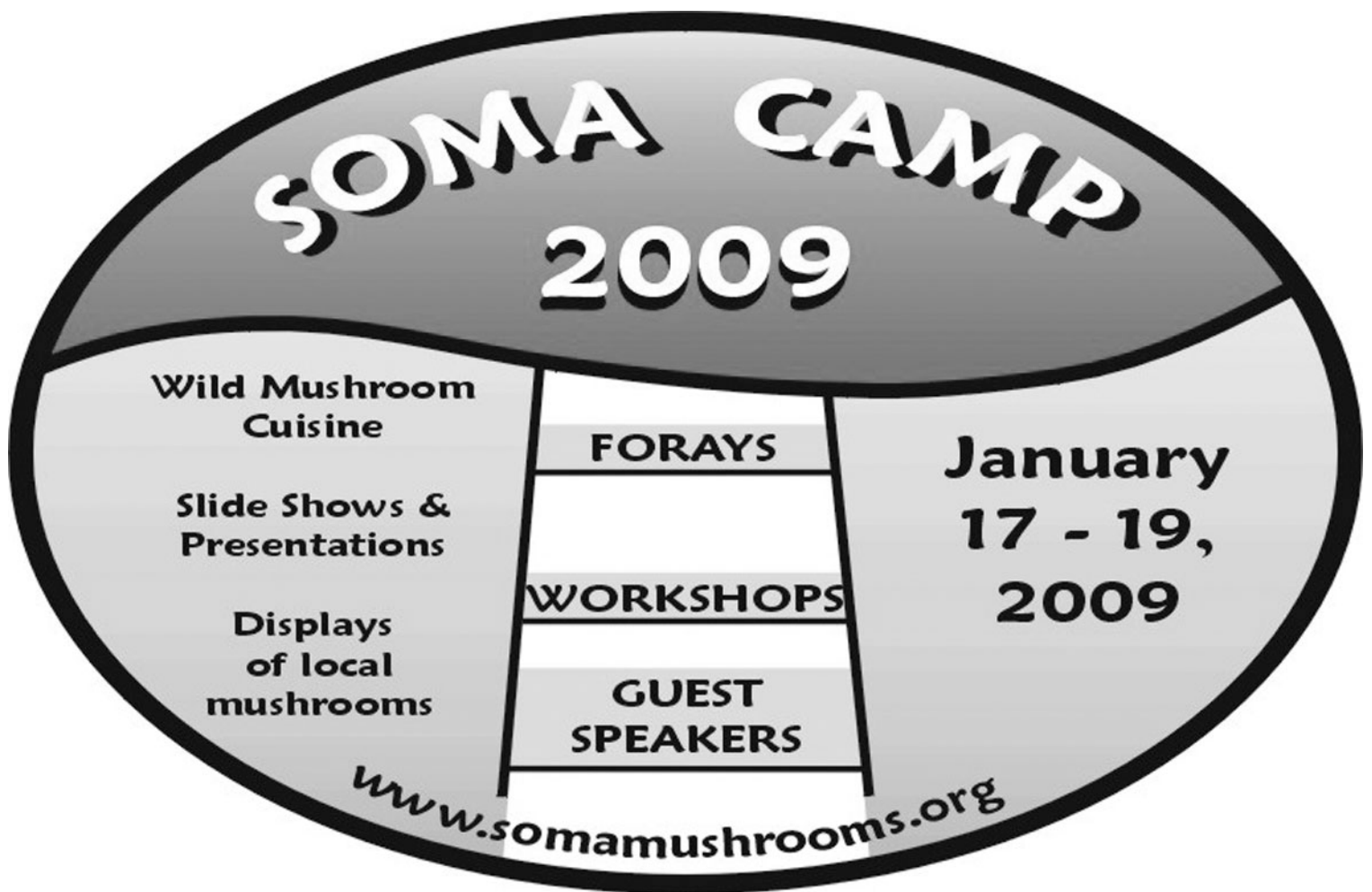
x \$10.00 each = \$ _____ (Don't forget to enclose your check for this amount)

I will bring sufficient to serve 8 to 10 people (please specify below):

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------|-------------|
| _____ | Hors d'Oeuvres | _____ | Meat dish |
| _____ | Vegetable dish | _____ | Green salad |
| _____ | Potato or pasta dish | _____ | Dessert |

I will help with: _____ Setup _____ Serving _____ Cleanup

(Detach and mail)



2009 DUES REMINDER

It's that time of year again! NJMA requests that all who wish to re-join the club for 2009 send their dues to Bob Peabody as soon as possible.

Membership in the NJMA is probably one of the least expensive things you can do for yourself. Where else can you get so much "bang for the buck" as you can get with a \$15.00 individual membership (\$20.00 family) in one of the most active clubs in New Jersey?

Remember, NJMA is here for you, to help you to gain as much mushroom information as you can from a group of dedicated people, ranging from those who wish to collect mushrooms to eat to those who make mycology their "second occupation". Membership allows you to participate in many members-only events, such as our series of Education Classes each spring to our Holiday Dinner in December. In addition, you'll receive a membership card which will come in handy as New Jersey State Parks and Forests begin to restrict park access to those who are members of our club. Also, you'll continue to receive our newsletter which keeps you informed of our activities and provides lots of information to keep your mycological mind exercised! These are just a few benefits of remaining an NJMA member, so get those dues in while you're reading this.



PHOTO CONTEST UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that our judge for the 2008 NJMA Photo Contest will be Klaus-Peter Steitz, photo editor of *The Record* newspaper of North Jersey.

Klaus was our judge last year, and the feedback we received on his presentation at the Holiday Party was excellent. Klaus always provides us with some wonderful advice for improving our mushroom photos, and this year will be no exception. He's been an avid professional photographer for many years, and his job at *The Record* keeps him sharp and "on his toes" when it comes to judging great photos.

Don't hesitate to submit your photos in this year's contest. In addition to receiving the admiration of your fellow NJMA members, you'll also receive some great prizes and your photos will be displayed on our website throughout the year of 2009 (see our last issue for info).

Remember, the deadline to submit your entries is at the close of our meeting at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on November 2.

For information, answers to your questions, or assistance in preparing your photos for submission, please contact Jim Barg at jimbarg@bssmedia.com or call him at 908-362-7101.



WHO'S IN A NAME?

Galiella rufa

by John Dawson (part 10 of a series)

The rubber cup, *Galiella rufa* (Schweinitz) Nannfeldt and Korf, is often collected in Pennsylvania (though apparently not in New Jersey). Formerly known as *Bulgaria rufa*, it was placed in a new genus by Richard Korf, who named it *Galiella* in honor of one of his most important mentors, the French mycologist Marcelle Le Gal.

Marcelle Louise Fernande Choquard was born in 1895 in Amiens. Her father was director of the municipal railways there, and was also an experienced naturalist and a noted watercolor painter. From him young Marcelle developed an interest in nature that she maintained throughout her life.

At school she was a brilliant student. After graduation from the lycée in Amiens she went on to the Sorbonne, from which she earned a Master of Arts degree in 1915. During World War I, she attended a private school in New York, and in 1920 she earned a second Master of Arts from Columbia University. Though she had apparently intended to undertake a career in teaching, on her return to France she passed an exam for employment by the ministry of commerce, where she served as a deputy for a few years.

And there she met Etienne Le Gal, a linguist, whom she married in 1922.

A few years later Etienne, a gourmet, developed a passion for mycophagy and began hunting wild mushrooms in the woods outside Paris. Concerned about the danger of being poisoned, Marcelle began taking the specimens they collected to the cryptogamic laboratory at the Museum to have their identifications confirmed. She quickly became enthralled by the world of fungi, and around 1932 began assiduously attending meetings of the French mycological society. The director of the cryptogamic laboratory welcomed her as an independent worker, and on the advice of Roger Heim, one of the staff there, she began to specialize in the study of discomycetes. Not long afterward she agreed to offer an identification service at the Museum for those who brought specimens there, a duty she carried out every Monday morning during and after World War II. At the

same time she began work on a doctoral dissertation, in which she investigated the origin and morphology of spore ornamentation in operculate discomycetes. Completed in 1944, it won the prestigious Montagne prize of the French Academy of Sciences.

Three months after earning her doctorate she was named a deputy for research at the cryptogamic laboratory of the National Center for Scientific Research, where she spent the rest of her career. She became head of research there in 1957 and retired in 1960. But even in retirement she continued her research and publication.

Recognized as one of the world authorities on discomycetes, she was invited to serve on the International Commission on Botanical Nomenclature, and from 1954–57 served as president of the Société Mycologiques Francaise (the first woman to do so). In 1962 she also became vice-president of the British Mycological Society.



Galiella rufa

The obituary memoir of Le Gal by H. Romagnesi, published in the *Bulletin of the Société Mycologiques Francaise*¹, lists 73 publications, mostly, but not entirely, on discomycetes. They include not only works on European species, but on species she collected on travels to Morocco, Tunisia, and Canada, and on species sent to her by other collectors in Madagascar and the Congo. Le Gal was particularly renowned for her meticulously careful and detailed observations and drawings, always based on material she had in hand.

Le Gal also published one popular work on fungi. Entitled *Promenades Mycologiques*, it comprised a series of fictional descriptions of walks taken by a teacher and student in various mycological habitats.

Regrettably, Le Gal's monograph on species of *Scutellinia* throughout the world, considered her greatest work, has remained unpublished. To that work she had devoted almost all of her efforts since her retirement, and by 1972 she had nearly completed it. But in that year her beloved husband Etienne died — a shock from which she never recovered. At that time, too, her vision began to decline, and she withdrew both from scientific work and from society. She returned to her home town of Amiens, leaving behind the proofs of her monograph, and died there in 1979 from complications of cataract surgery.



¹Vol. 96, no. 2 (1980), pp. 125–131. That and the obituary of her in *Cryptogamie Mycologie* (vol. 1, 1980, pp. 93–96) are the principal sources (both in French) on which this article is based. The only source on Le Gal I have found in English is a glowing posthumous tribute to her by Richard Korf (*Mycotaxon*, vol. XIII, no. 1 [1981], pp. 1–4).

NJMA NEWS

c/o Susan Hopkins

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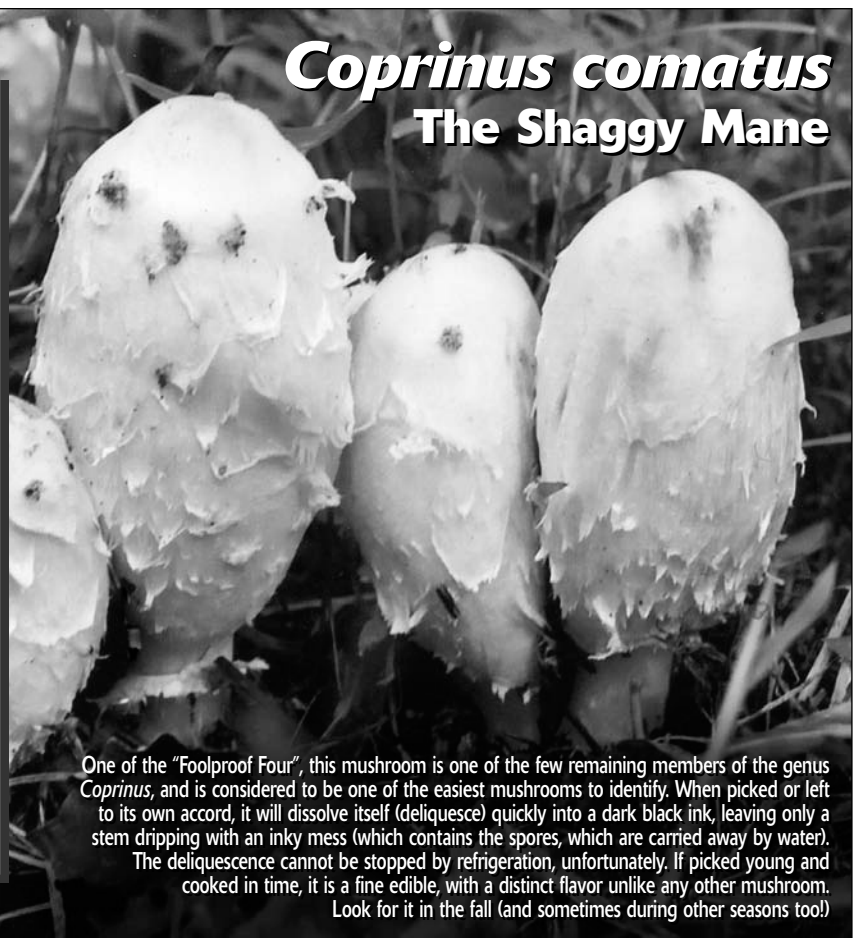
FIRST CLASS MAIL

NJMA is a non-profit organization whose aims are to provide a means for sharing ideas, experiences, knowledge, and common interests regarding fungi, and to furnish mycological information and educational materials to those who wish to increase their knowledge about mushrooms.

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Coprinus comatus **The Shaggy Mane**



One of the "Foolproof Four", this mushroom is one of the few remaining members of the genus *Coprinus*, and is considered to be one of the easiest mushrooms to identify. When picked or left to its own accord, it will dissolve itself (deliquesce) quickly into a dark black ink, leaving only a stem dripping with an inky mess (which contains the spores, which are carried away by water).

The deliquescence cannot be stopped by refrigeration, unfortunately. If picked young and cooked in time, it is a fine edible, with a distinct flavor unlike any other mushroom.

Look for it in the fall (and sometimes during other seasons too!)

PHOTO BY JIM BARG