



Symbiosis[©]

The newsletter of the Prairie States Mushroom Club

Volume 30:4

Fall

<http://iowamushroom.org>

PSMC 2013 Annual Meeting

by PSMC President Glen Schwartz



The annual meeting of the Prairie States Mushroom Club will be at the Wickiup Outdoor Learning Center on November 2nd.

Directions to the Learning Center: From I-380 in Cedar Rapids, take exit 24B and go 4.8 miles west and north on Blairs Ferry Rd. Turn right and go 1 mile north on Feather Ridge Rd. Turn left and go 1.1 miles west on Morris Hills Rd. The entrance to the Learning Center is on the right.

Weather permitting, there will be a foray starting at 10:00 am. Depending on the size of the crowd, we might split up, with one group checking the woods near the Learning Center, and the other group driving to the wildlife (hunting) area a mile to the north.

Plan to meet back at the Learning Center around noon for a pot-luck lunch. Please bring a dish to share. Note that it does not have to contain mushrooms...I don't need mushrooms in my apple pie! If you do bring a mushroom dish, please provide a label listing

(cont. on pg. 2)

Looking Forward

by PSMC President Glen Schwartz

2013 has been another strange year for mushrooms. The weather started out cold and wet in the spring, followed by a normal early summer. Unfortunately, we had what climatologist called a "flash drought" in mid to late summer. Along about mid-July, the rains just stopped. We did not get any measurable rain again until mid September. In fact, it got so dry we canceled the foray at McFarland Park near Ames scheduled for August 31st. Northeast Iowa down to Dubuque had plenty of rain during this timeframe, but the remainder of the state was really dry. As we all know, most mushrooms will not fruit under dry conditions. Now it seems that we are back to normal rainfall, as the fall mushrooms have been plentiful.

Our last two forays were very well attended. The September 27th foray at the Amana Nature Trail was part of a Midwest Environmental Education Conference. 25 to 30 environmental educators and club members were led by PSMC Vice President Mike Krebill as we searched the woods for fall mushrooms. It was quite dry, but we still found about 40 species of mushrooms and slime molds.

October 12th took us to a park new to most PSMC members, Jefferson County Park in Fairfield Iowa. Mike Krebill once again was the leader, this time with a program on wild edibles and fall mushrooms. There were 24 participants in the morning session and 12 in

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PSMC 2013 Annual Meeting

(cont. from cover)

ingredients that might cause an allergic reaction. Some people can eat certain mushrooms but not other mushrooms. Labels can be printed at the lunch if you forget to bring them with you.

Immediately after lunch, we will watch the movie *Now, Forager*, a movie about love and fungi. Barbara has watched the movie and gives it high praise. Popcorn will be provided. The public is invited to join us for the foray, the pot-luck lunch, and the movie. You do not have to be a member of the PSMC to participate in these activities.

You do have to be a member in good standing to vote in the annual meeting taking place after the movie. We will discuss old business, new business, calendar sales, and other business brought up at the meeting. All of the club officers are elected each year at the annual meeting, and serve a one year term the following calendar year. All of the current club officers have agreed to run for office for 2014. Don't let that stop you from running for an office if you are interested. If you plan to nominate someone else, be sure to have their permission first.



PSMC President,
Glen

Looking Forward

(cont. from cover)

the afternoon. The woods at Jefferson County Park were thick with underbrush, but we found about 40 species again. Marty found a *Grifola* in the afternoon, and part of it was cooked on a grill so those attending the program could have a taste.

As you may have noticed, this is a shortened newsletter. We are without a newsletter editor, so I have agreed to act as editor for this issue. We really need someone to step up and volunteer to be our editor. The previous editor, Mike Krebill, will provide guidance to ease the burden of this task, should you chose to help. The newsletter is the lifeblood of our organization, and we can't let it flounder.

If you have not been able to make it to all of the forays, you can always read about what you missed by looking at the foray page of our website: <http://www.iowamushroom.org/forays.php>. Here you will find a short description of the conditions and a few photos from the foray. At the bottom of each section is a link to our photo-hosting (SmugMug) website, taking you directly to the gallery with pictures from that foray. If you have been to a foray and have photos you would like to share, send them to our club email address, iowamushroom@gmail.com, and we will get them on the SmugMug site. If you have many pictures for the SmugMug website, we can provide you with the password so you can upload them yourself. We have the BEST photos of any NAMA club, but we always want more.

Don't forget to attend our last foray of 2013 at the Wickiup Learning Center near Cedar Rapids on November 2nd. After the foray, we will have a pot-luck lunch, a program, and the annual meeting.



A Gift Idea

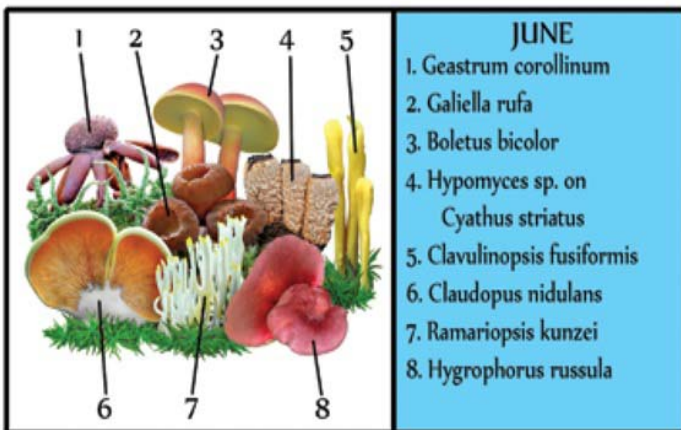
by Mike Krebill

As the holidays approach, and thoughts turn to family and friends, I begin to think of gifts I might give. Last year, our PSMC calendars were appreciated. My sisters enjoy hiking and hunting mushrooms as much as I do. My Oregon sister even begged me for a second 2013 calendar that she might give to a friend, and so I sent her my copy. The calendar was beautifully done, a compliment to our Club.

When I saw our 2014 calendar, the idea of giving it as a gift instantly popped into my mind. I didn't even have to mull it over. Impulsively, I bought ten copies on the spot from Club Treasurer Roger Heidt.

Each month features an attractive collage of Jim Frink's superb mushroom photos. Using Photoshop, Jim removed the background surrounding each mushroom, assembled several mushrooms into an eye-pleasing arrangement, and layered them on top of a graduated color background. The result is an artistic rendering that is a treat to view and an honor to own.

Besides kudos to Jim for his hours of work and for sharing his photos with us, thanks is also due PSMC President Glen Schwartz for initiating, guiding, and organizing the project, then overseeing the proofing and printing of the calendar. I particularly like the idea of the key page, where every month's mushrooms are identified. Here's an example:



Copies of the calendar can be purchased by contacting PSMC Treasurer Roger Heidt
125 Timber Lane
Robins IA 52328-9632

E-mail: rwheidt54@hotmail.com
Phone: 319-573-4795

The calendar sells for \$8.00 for the first one, and \$7.00 for each additional calendar. 🍄

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Mushroom Marketing Opportunity

Chuck Wetzel, who lives in the St. Louis area, is looking for someone who would be willing to collect wild mushrooms for marketing through his company. He distributes worldwide, and has shipped morels to China and Japan. He wants to expand his business to include other mushrooms, and is providing an opportunity to be involved in the business. Chuck wrote to Mike Krebill, “[I am] looking for a person or persons who would have interest in pursuing a business

in wild mushrooms (non-cultivated), I have been in the food ingredients business for over thirty-five years with the last years in export. I am looking for someone that can assist with everything involved from ground level to the table. I might add that I am not looking for an investor.”

If interested, contact Chuck at: cwetzelttrinity@msn.com, or by phone at 1-314-705-1741.