



Symbiosis[©]

The newsletter of the Prairie States Mushroom Club

Volume 33:3

Fall

<http://iowamushroom.org>

Looking Forward

by Glen Schwartz

Well, another year of mushrooming has come and gone. Same as most years, we had many successful forays, and a few without many participants. We picked up several new members and there were some that chose not to renew their membership. Overall, it was a rather flat year for the club.

This year, we had a mushroom planning meeting in March at a restaurant in North Liberty. I thought it was a great success and want to have one again next year. Does anyone have a location in mind for this event in 2017? Send your ideas to the club email, iowamushroom@gmail.com.

One of my favorite events each year is finding new or unusual mushrooms. Last year, we found a huge, thin, shelf mushroom with a chocolate-brown spore surface. We have not yet identified that mysterious fungus, although Karen's daughter may have found more of them recently. This year, we found an orange blob on a living oak tree at Ledges State Park. Katie Thompson identified it as *Hapalopilus croceus* and the book she used for the identification says it is quite rare. None of us had ever seen this mushroom before, although there might be one just like it on a tree near me. At the Ashton-Wildwood foray, someone found a cluster of *Stereum* that was new to everyone. It might be *Stereum gausapatum*, but we failed to check for a color change when bruised.

Sometimes my enthusiasm for mushrooming gets the best of me. This summer while visiting relatives in north-central Minnesota, we found some Chaga on a paper birch tree. This is entirely expected as this is far enough north (Chaga only grows in cold-weather areas), and it almost always grows on birch. The various mushroom books I consulted said that it is sometimes found on other deciduous trees, and that a Chaga clump is sterile. A few weeks ago, I

convinced myself that I had found a clump of Chaga on an oak tree in Hiawatha. After taking pictures and bragging about it, I realized I could knock a chunk off with my trusty walking stick. As soon as I did, I knew it was not Chaga as there were 2cm long "tubes" on the bottom. Next time, I promise to do more research before blabbing my fat mouth about my unusual find.

I have previously mentioned that 2017 will be my last year as club president, and I will not serve another year beyond that. It is time for new leadership to drive membership growth, expand our partnership with county naturalists, and revive excitement in club activities. As for the official duties of the office, there isn't much to do...preside at the annual meeting and any other meetings that we might have. Please consider helping the club by becoming an officer. I know it is a long way off, but our 2017 annual meeting will be here before you know it. Without officers, we don't have a club. Besides, as recent elections have shown, anyone can become president, even you! 



Hand-painted papier-mâché mushrooms made for the Museum in the 19th century by Heinrich Arnoldi and Co, Gotha, Germany. There are many hundreds of these mushrooms laid out like a forest, right at the perfect eye level for children. It is wondrous to behold.

Earthballs

by Karen Yakovich

This year the garden was an abundant host. It blessed me with all the blooms, bees, and butterflies I could have imagined. The gardens also hosted about a dozen of what I think are *Scleroderma bovista* aka “Potato Earthballs”. What I thought was a mix of puffballs and Earthballs were young Earthballs and more Earthballs (darn it!). What I discovered is, the pure white immature Earthball is not soft and squishy like its counterpart the puffball. It is more crunchy and crisp like the white of a radish. I only tasted it with my eyes, not my mouth. No Earthball should ever be tasted by mouth.



Look at these cute little buggers nestled in my garden.



A mix of mature and immature Earthballs.



Here are adolescent Earthballs. Can you hear them talking back? Na they're good little teenager Earthballs.

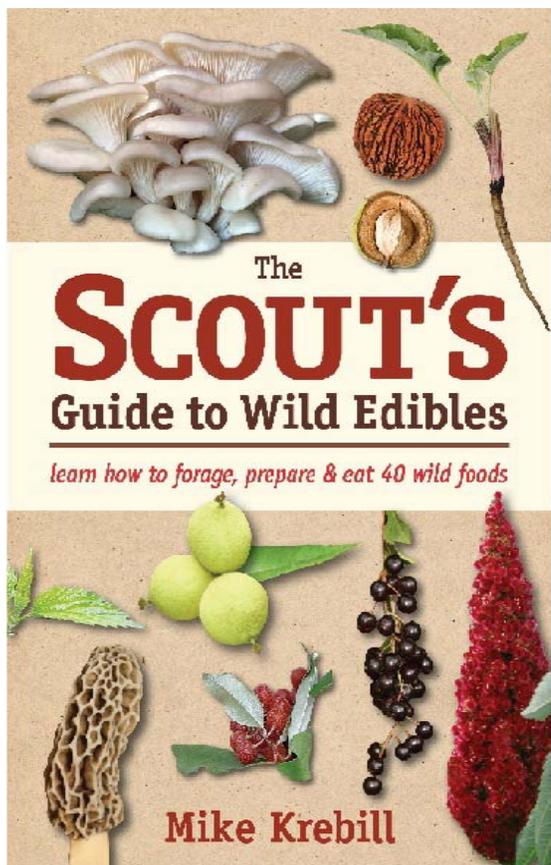


All grown up and ready to start their own family.



Preview of The Scout's Guide to Wild Edibles

by Mike Krebill



In previous issues of *Symbiosis* that appeared about this time of the year, we described books that might make good gifts for recipients who love the outdoors as much as we do. This is one of those. And yes, I am the author. Since the book is at the printer's now, but should be hot off the press in late November or early December, permit me to tell you what to expect.

Let's start with the title. First, while Scouts (Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts) should love this reference book, the book is written for a wide audience. Whether you are a kid or a college student, a parent or grandparent, a youth group leader or a teacher, a beginning forager or a veteran, this should be a source of sage advice.

The 40 wild foods selected include 33 of my favorite edible wild plants and 7 easily identified edible mushrooms. Each one has its own two-page spread; the spread describes key characteristics and shows a good color photo of the plant or the mushroom for ease of identification. Additional information includes a description of the edible part and its preparation, the time of year to harvest the part, and how to preserve the harvest when faced with abundance.

Other notable items include 10 activities that are enjoyable for groups, and 17 recipes that are kid tested and kid approved. Several of the recipes have earned first place in competition, and all have been requested multiple times by people who have sampled them.

It is an honor to have worked on the book with St. Lynn's Press in Pittsburgh, PA, for over a year; I feel confident that people will find it a book worth owning.

A special thanks to members of the Prairie States Mushroom Club for proofreading the section on mushrooms and for supplying photos. 

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of Prairie States Mushroom Club was held at the Wickiup Learning Center in Linn County on October 15, 2016. President Glen Schwartz called the meeting to order. Ballots were handed out for next year's officers.

Glen noted attendance was good at the past year's forays.

Glen announced 2017 would be his final year as president, and credited meetings with heat, lights, and indoor plumbing to his tenure.

Reports

The **Secretary's** report was published in the newsletter, so a formal report was not necessary.

Treasurer's report was given by Roger Heidt.

Starting balance		\$3,300.55
Calendar gross sales	\$1,009.00	
Printing/shipping	728.80	
Mailing order costs	35.94	
Total expenses	764.74	
Net calendar		+244.26
Membership dues (2016/2017)		+ 330.00
Expenses:		
Benton County Conservation donation	50.00	
Gift card	52.50	
NAMA membership	30.00	
Printing (newsletter/letter)	37.28	
Smug Mug photo site	60.00	
Foray planning lunch	192.00	
Mileage (Bank, Post Office, Printer)	87.69	
Yahoo Website	119.40	
Stamps	35.72	
Office Supplies	2.28	
Total Expenses		-666.87
Ending Balance		\$3,207.94

Motion made by Dean Abel to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Linda Scarth. All ayes.

Committee Reports:

Website: Glen intends to update and have featured mushrooms. He asked for volunteers.

Newsletter: Glen gave kudos to Karen Yakovich for her good work. Karen asked if there could be a photo issue. Glen said there were numerous photos on Smug Mug. Roger can give Karen the password so she may access them. Glen informed the members they could request the password to Smug Mug if they have a number of photos to upload.

Promotion: Cody was not present. She has been putting together a file of old newsletters for digital archive.

(cont. on pg. 5)

2016 Annual Meeting Minutes

(cont. from pg. 4)

Old Business:

2016 Calendar Sales

The 2016 calendar netted \$244.26. There is no calendar for 2017.

New Business:

Should the club purchase a computer tablet for use during forays?

Having one would make it easier to create foray lists. Samsung has a tablet for less \$200. Dave moved and Linda seconded. Passed. Dean moved to place a limit of \$300 or less. Motion carried. Roger will purchase.

2018 Calendar

Glen explained the process, Mike K. and Dave L. expressed willingness to help.

Nominations and Vote for PSMC Board positions.

Linda S. moved to accept by acclamation the electoral list. Motion seconded and carried. The 2017 officers will be President – Glen Schwartz, Vice President – Dave Layton, Secretary- Dean Abel, Treasurer – Roger Heidt, Newsletter Editor – Karen Yakovich, At-Large – Karen Yakovich, Publicist – Cody Gieselman.

Other new business:

Dean suggested a \$100 donation to the Wickiup Learning Center for use of the facilities for the meeting. Mike seconded. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Karen moved to adjourn, Jeni seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Roman for Dean Abel



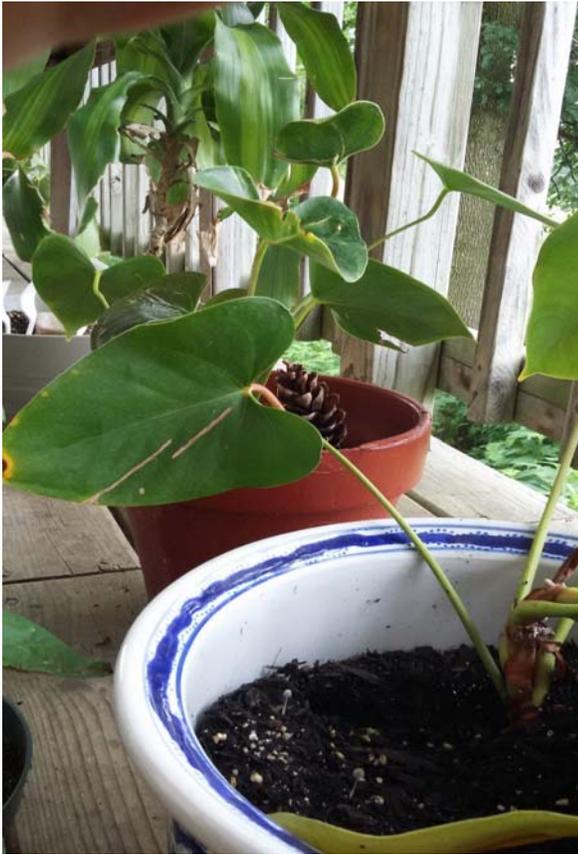
Glen describing his *Grifola* find

Photo's from the Annual Meeting



Mushroom Hunting

Here is something fun to keep our mushroom eyes on their A game. Can you find the mushrooms, living or non-living?



Answers for previous Mushroom Hunting



Can you see it?



Did you notice Sheila's earring?

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<http://iowamushroom.org>



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