



March/April Prairie States Mushroom Club Mushroom of the month  
*Brown Inky Cap (Coprinus micaceus) in their edible stage, early spring. Elsewhere known as Mica Cap (Phillips, Mushrooms and Other Fungi of North America). Jim Frink photo*

People don't realize how good brown inky caps can be. They grow on dead wood, especially elm ubiquitously all season long. For most of the summer they're pretty bland, and decompose quickly. With so many other delicious species available, they are the last mushroom I'd want to eat. But when they first arrive in March or April they have a delicate fresh flavor that goes just right with wild greens. Plus they're easy to harvest then because there aren't yet older melting caps to mess up the younger caps.