August 13, 1981

Dear MNPS Member,

As some of you are aware, our editor, Will McDearman, has spent a good part of the summer anticipating, undergoing, or recovering from surgery. He is doing fine and in the not-too-distant future, we hope to get out the next Newsletter. Meanwhile, I am sending along the remarks below.

Robert Stewart, President
Miss. Native Plant Society

FUNGAL FORAY SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK-END OF LABOR DAY

Plans for the joint foray on Labor Day week-end with the New Orleans Mycological Society are being completed. Bill Cibula, also a member of MNPS, is leading two full days of field trips to be followed in the evenings by labeled displays of specimens collected during the day. This should be a very informative outing that will also include viewing of special kodachrome slides rented for the occasion. The $5.00 registration fee is to cover the cost of slide rental and other materials to be used (pay when you arrive). As indicated in the accompanying NOMS Newsletter, knowledge of the fungi found in Mississippi is very incomplete, thus the interested amateur may well encounter undescribed species or species unknown for the state.

If you come south on U.S. 49 from Hattiesburg, turn left on Miss. 67 near Saucier about 18 miles south of Wiggins and 18 miles north of Gulfport. Please note that those planning to stay at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs should notify Travis Salley. Rates are four dollars ($4.00) per person per night payable in advance. Make checks to Mississippi Native Plant Society and send to Travis. Do not send registration fee. Your money will be returned if you cannot attend. If at the last minute you decide to attend, call Will McDearman (354-7303). Do not call the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Rooms are available the nights of 4, 5, & 6 September. See NOMS Newsletter for other details.

Perhaps most of us in the MNPS have little knowledge of the mushrooms and related fungi that we see in woods and fields. Here then is an opportunity that should appeal to those who find these non-green "plants" intriguing and would like assistance in learning names and features used for identification. The article by Bill Cibula provides a brief introduction to an important group of fleshy fungi, the boletes (bō-lēts), that will hopefully be seen in some numbers on the upcoming trip.

Even if your interests lie soley with the herbs, shrubs, and trees, take a few minutes to scan the list of fungi reported last year from the Harrison Experimental Forest. Pay special attention to the notes on the occurence of species. This information is noted because many fungi have rather specific requirements for living. A given species, for example, may live in association with the roots of certain trees, not as a parasite, but as an organism necessary for the normal functioning of the host tree. Such fungus-root relationships (mycorrhizae=fungus root) probably occur in most plants. Certainly they are far more common than was realized only a few years ago.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF FUTURE FIELD TRIPS

October (mid to late) - somewhere in the coastal counties to see Fall-blooming species
April '82 - Tishimingo State Park in northeastern corner of state
June '82 - Starkville area

LOGO FOR THE SOCIETY

Five or six sketches for a Society logo have been submitted. If you have a design, send it in. All will be published anonymously in the Newsletter for members to choose.

JUNE FIELD TRIP TO DAVIS LAKE

On June 6, 1981, about 25 people attended a field trip at Davis Lake in Chickasaw County. A diverse mixture of species was seen. Details will be published later.

New Orleans Mycological Society

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NEWSLETTER — August 1981

An Associated Society of the
North American Mycological Association

Scientific Adviser:
Dr. William G. Cibula
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(601) 798-6372

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 5-7
9:30 AM-

Labor Day Weekend Foray. This will be a joint foray with the Mississippi Native Plant Society. Registration fee: $5.00. The foray will be held at the Harrison Experimental Forest near Saucier MS. Activities will include field trips into a variety of habitats, indoor identification sessions, and slide talks. Dr. Cibula will serve as chief mycologist.

Collecting equipment to bring along: basket or similar container with firm sides and handle, knife and/or digging tool; waxed paper (not plastic); hand lens; whistle, not for collecting but to help field trip leader keep track of you.

We will be using the Headquarters building as our base. Because the Harrison Experimental Forest is the property of the U.S. Forest Service, certain regulations regarding the use of the facilities have been agreed upon by NOMS and USFS. All participants are requested to adhere to the following rules:

1. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the grounds without prior written permission. No drugs of any type other than by physician's prescription.

2. No camping anywhere in the Harrison Forest. Camping facilities are available within a few miles of Headquarters (see directions).

3. No boisterous behavior at any time.

Participants will be responsible for providing their own lunches and refreshments. As we go to press, negotiations are underway for accommodations (double occupancy rooms) at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs MS. These facilities are about a 30 minute drive from the Harrison. The rates will be between $4.00 and $8.00 per night (no meals). For information and reservations, please get in touch with: Mr. Travis Salley, 202 North Andrews Avenue, Cleveland MS 38732 (telephone: 601-843-2330).

In addition, camping facilities are available at the Airey Campground USFS four miles north of the Harrison HQ and at the Prisoner of War campground five miles east on the Bethel Road. Both are "primitive" with water but no hookups. Motels can be found in Wiggins, to the north on US49 (about 20 minutes away) and in Gulfport.

August and early September are usually the prime season for boletes. The species lists from recent forays are included with this Newsletter as a further indication of what we may expect to find.

HOUSTON FORAY

The Fifth Annual Texas Mushroom Foray will be held at Camp Wildurr, Lumberton TX September 18-20. We will have some brochures at Harrison, or you may write to Susan Hamilton, Conference Chairman, 2110 Wilcrest, #151, Houston TX 77042. The boletes at last year's Texas Foray in the Big Thicket were an assault on the imagination.

BOLETES

The boletes form a natural group of fungi which may be best described as the "fleshy pore fungi". These fungi have a cap and a stipe (stem) which is usually centrally attached to the underside of the cap. The underside of the cap is composed of pores rather than gills, as is the case with the true stalked mushrooms. In addition, the pores are fused together rather than free-standing, as is the case in Fistulina, another genus of fleshy pore fungi.

The development of t he pores for the boletes is yet another answer to the problem that all fungi face -- how can the most spores (seeds) be produced with the least expenditure of energy? All solutions to this problem involve the proportion of maximum increase in spore-bearing surface area in relation to total fungus tissue weight. In the case of the true gilled mushrooms, the page-like gills on the underside of the cap allow an enormous surface area for the production of basidia -- the specialized sexual organs which ultimately produce the spores by which each fungus hopes to carry on its genetic heritage and extend its range in the world's ecosystems.

This problem is solved differently by other fungi. The "coral fungi" (Clavaria and related genera) produce many upright branched members which produce basidia on their outer surfaces. The "tooth fungi" (Hydnum and its segregates) produce downward projecting "teeth" which again have basidia on their outer surfaces. On some, these project_ downward from a cap, while on others, these "teeth" originate from a a centrally and basally located tubercule.

In contrast to these mechanisms, the boletes produce a myriad of tubes which are fused together on the underside of the cap. Each tube provides a large surface area on the inner surface for the production of basidia. Since boletes are a significant part of our fungal flora, this mechanism must be quite successful.

Many boletes are quite colorful. One surprising feature of some is that when the cap is broken, the initially yellow flesh changes to blue. This reaction in some is quite rapid. This color change is due to the oxidation of a pale yellow pigment.

Some of the finest edible mushrooms are found in this group of fungi. The "cep" or "Steinpiltz", Boletus edulis and closely related forms can be found in the Deep South, including southern Mississippi. These occur in pine forests early in the summer after a prolonged wet spell.

Poisonous boletes are found in a group which either have red pore mouths or bruise blue or both. These field characters easily separate the poisonous species from others. For this reason, the boletes are considered a safe group of fungi for beginners.

We are finding that many boletes in the Deep South cannot be keyed out or correlated to known species. For reasons not totally understood, few mycologists have worked here. In contrast, far more attention has been paid to vascular plants. Yet boletes may express their greatest diversity here! From this it is apparent that there is much of interest for both the rank amateur and the professional mycologist -- the Gulf Coast is a fertile area for research!

Bill Cibula

NAMA FORAY

The North American Mycological Association will hold its annual Foray October 15-18 in Port Townsend WA. For details and registration, write to Jennie Schmitt, 13737 Peninsula Place S.W., Port Orchard WA 98366.

Second Annual Harrison Foray -- Species List

Harrison Experimental Forest MS -- December 5-6, 1980

Agaricus (barisii?)	in grass
Amanita sp.	
" sp.	riverbank
" citrina	mixed pine/hdw
" muscaria ssp. flavovolvata	pine plantation
" polypyramus	mixed pine/hdw
" virosa (complex)	mixed hdw
Armillariella mellea	on hdw
" tabescens	on hdw
Boletus retipes	upland pine
Calostoma (lutescens)	
Cantharellula (umbonata)	upland pine
Clathrus columnatus	mixed pine/hdw
Clitocybe nuda	beech/magnolia,duff
Clitopilus sp.	hdw
Collybia dryophila	under longleaf pine
Coriolus versicolor	upland
Cortinarius sp.	
" sp.	
" violaceus	under longleaf pine
Cystoderma sp.	
Entoloma (lividum)	pine duff
Gymnopilus sp.	conifer wood
" sp.	
Hebeloma sp.	sandy soil
Hohenbuehelia petaloides	on wood in grass
Hygrophorus conicus	beneath pine
" puniceus	beech/magnolia duff
Lactarius sp.	
" imperceptus	humus, pine/hdw
" proximellus	
Lenzites betulina	
Lycoperdon echinatum	soil, open grass
" perlatum	ground, upland pine
" pyriforme	rotting wood
Mycena algeriensis	conifer wood
" viscosa	pine log
Naematoloma ericaceum	grass
" fasciculare	on hdw
Pholiota highlandensis	charred pine wood
Phyllotopsis nidulans	longleaf pine log
Pisolithus tinctorius	under pine
Pleurotus ostreatus	
Pluteus sp.	
" cervinus	
Polyporus dealbatus	on hdw
" fumosus	
" sanguineus	
Ramaria sp.	beech/magnolia duff
Rhizopogon sp.	under longleaf pine
" (tinctorius)??	under longleaf pine
Russula sp.	under pine
" sp	
Stereum ostrea	
" striatum var. striatum	Carpinus. car
Strobilurus conigiodes	magnolia cones
Tricholoma sp.	sandy soil under pir
" flavovirens	duff pine plantatior
Xeromphalina sp.	moss/soil
" campanella	conifer wood
Zelleromyces (cinnabarina)	ground, pine
"	

Total: 64 species

Delta Regional Primate Center June 20, 1981

Amanita caeserea (golden form)
" flavoconia
" komerikensis
" rubescens
" vaginata
" virosa (complex)
Agaricus sp. (strong almond scent)
Armillariella tabescens
Boletus (eastwoodiae) without red pores
" auriporus
" viridoflavus
Cantharellus cibarius var. minor
" cinnabarinus
" minor
Clavaria cinerea
Cortinarius sp. (yellow)
" sanguineus
Calostoma (cinnabarinus) immature
Lactarius subplinthogalus
" piperatus
" volemus
" yazooensis
Ganoderma curtisii
Lycoperdon perlatum
Pluteus sp.
Pulveroboletus ravenellii
Phylloporus rhodoxanthus
Strobilomyces confusus
Russula foetans
" delica
" spp.
Tilopilus ballouii
" plumbeoviolaceus
Sparassis (nov. sp.?)
Thelephora vialis Schw.
Xeromphalina campanella

National Space Technology Laboratory, Bay St. Louis MS 27 June 1981
(a very dry spell)

Amanita rubescens
Cantharellus cibarius
" minor
Clavulina amethystenoides (multibranched form)
Elaphomyces virgatosporum
Hydnopolyporus palmatus
Laccaria laccata
Lepiota birnbaumii
Lycoperdon echinatum
Marasmius iocephala
" rotula
Naematoloma fasciculare
Nigroporus vinosus
Sebacina incrustans
Sparassis (nov. sp.?)
Stereum ostrea

Henley Field MS 12 July 1981

Amanita caeserea
" citrina
" spreta ?
" gemmata
Boletus retipes
" bicolor
spp.
Bjerkandera adusta
Cantharellus cibarius
" cinnabarinus
" lateritius
Clavulina amythestinoides (sparingly branched form)
Collybia maculata (on tree!?)
Coriolus versicolor
Cortinarius sanguineus
Craterellus odoratus
Canthophyllum
Hirschioporus pargamenus
Hyphoderma cft setigera
Dacrymyces ellsii
Lactarius corrugis
" allardii (?)
Laxitextum bicolor
Leccinum albellum
Marasmius sp.
Meripilus percicinus
Mycena fibula
Panus crinnitus
Phylloporus rhodoxanthus
Pulveroboletus ravenellii
Oudemansiella sp.
Panellus rhipidium
Polyporus mutabilis
Suillus cothurnatus
Sparassis (nov. sp.?)
Russula spp.
Stereum hirsutum
" ostrea
" striatum var. striatum
Tilopilus ballouii
" plumbeoviolaceus

On May 24, 1981 in McCleod Water Park, Kiln MS a good collectionof Agaricus sulphuriceps (Murr.) was made. Honey Island Nature Trail in the Pearl River Game Management Area has been an excellent collecting area most of the summer with vast quantities of chanterelles and many boletes, including crocipodium. Amanita flavorubescens was also found there.

Special thanks to Dr. Cibula for most of the Foray identifications and to Dr. Arthur Welden for his identifications of polypores and stereum.

Harrison Experimental Forest