

THE TOADSTOOL REVIEW

Official Newsletter of MMS, a Society for the Study of Mushrooms and Other Fungi.

Visit us at www.Minnesotamushrooms.org



WE



MORELS



The sound of raindrops outside my window as I write this is music to my ears. Last Fall's mushroom season was pretty much a bust due to the lack of rainfall, so we need every drop that we can get if the upcoming

Morel season is to be a good one. Because of our recent record breaking warm spell, the Morels should come very early this year. I have had to make some changes to the regular meeting schedule because of the recent weather. The Morel Mania meeting will now be held on April 9th. I expect Morels to be up in the southeast corner of the state around then and be making their way towards the Twin Cities metro. The second April meeting on the 23rd will then be an identification meeting. I expect the Morels to be really going statewide around this time assuming that the warmth -- and the rain -- continues in April.

MMS members had a bit of shock up at the Chaga foray this year -- real winter weather! It snowed, and it snowed, and it snowed, the entire time that we were up there. Over a foot of snow fell over the 2 day event in Two Harbors and Duluth. Combine that with the foot that the North Shore received leading up to the weekend, and we

were dealing more snow than what the Twin Cities had seen all winter. There was many a time I sunk all the way up to my kneecaps when going off trail. It was a very successful foray and everybody came home with a pretty good amount. An article recapping the event can be found inside.



Photo by Rick Haug, 1988

MMS members also convened in late February for the Annual Awards Banquet. The banquet was held for the first time ever at Ngon Bistro in Saint Paul. I would like to see a couple of changes if we are to have it there again in the future but overall the reviews that I have heard from members have been positive. If you attended the event and would like to comment about it, please contact me and let me know your thoughts. I would really like to get next year's banquet scheduled soon so that we have plenty of notice available to all members.

Finally, I have discovered the first negative about our new space. The building will be closed on Memorial Day so we will not be able to have our regularly scheduled meeting on that day. That means that there shouldn't be any excuse about why you couldn't be out hunting for mushrooms for 3 days straight!

Have you renewed your membership?

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Upcoming Forays

April 28th, 2012: Sakatah State Park

The first Morel Foray of the season! Meet at 10:00 AM Saturday. Directions : Go south on 35W to Faribault , MN . Take Hwy 60 west. Go 12 miles to the park on the north side of Hwy 60. Turn into the park, staying right to the parking lot. Drive into the picnic area.

May 5th—6th, 2012: The Annual MMS Morel Hunt (optional overnight)

MMS continues its tradition of a two-day Morel Foray to the Whitewater Wildlife Area in southeast Minnesota . We will meet at 11:00 AM Saturday at the church located on the west side of Main Street in downtown Elba, MN . To reach Elba, take Highway 52 South from the metro area to Oronoco. There make a left turn and go straight east on Highway 12 and then Highway 247 to Plainview. From Plainview continue east on Highway 8 and then Highway 30 to Highway 74. There take Highway 74 south to Elba. We will have our usual foray on Saturday and for those who wish to stay overnight, we will meet for dinner at the Elba House, time to be determined. We will meet at 8:00 AM Sunday at the Elba House for breakfast and start our foray at about 9:30 AM. There are no motels in Elba; however, there is one in nearby St. Charles called White Valley Motel with reasonable rates (call 507- 932-3142). Other motels as well as bed and breakfasts are also in the area. There is a bed and breakfast in St. Charles called Victorian Lace —(507) 932-4496.

May 12th, 2012: Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area--Quarry Trail Center

Meet at 10:00 AM Saturday. The Quarry Trail is a part of the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area. To reach the foray site from the metro area, drive south on Highway 169, go past Jordan about 5 miles, then turn right on Hwy 57 and follow it past the campgrounds to the next right turn to the trail center. A map is available at: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/state_parks/sra00304.pdf

May 19th, 2012: Frontenac State Park (?)

Frontenac State Park is located approximately 10 miles SE of Red Wing on Highway 61 or 5 miles northwest of Lake City, then 1 mile north on County Road 2. Enter the park and meet at the main parking/picnic area by the scenic overlook at 10 AM . Foray may be cancelled if no more morels. Check MMS website for updates.

Upcoming MMS Meetings

April 9th, 2012: MOREL MANIA!!!

A Celebration of Minnesota Morels
110 Green Hall. 7:15. U. of M. St. Paul Campus

We all have Morel tips and tricks to share, from the hunters who find buckets to those who find modest handfuls. President Barry Beck will present a Morel primer, and then we'll spend some time discussing as a group our most fruitful habitats, times, and spotting tricks for locating morels across the state. And if you've already been running across other species of mushrooms in your walks in the woods, bring them in to share some early spring excitement and identification.

More MMS Meetings

*Please note: During 2012, MMS will have at least one Monday evening meeting each month of the year. The meetings will always be on the **second Monday of each month**. In addition, there will be a second monthly meeting during the months of April, May, September and October. The second meeting will be held the fourth Monday of those months. Regular meetings are from 7:15 to 9:00 pm and are open to everyone. ***NO MEETING ON MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 28***

May 14, 2012: Spring Mushrooms I 110 Green Hall. 7:15. U. of M. St. Paul Campus

110 Green Hall 7:15 PM
U of M St Paul Campus

Bring in your fungal finds! Most of our evening will be spent admiring, identifying and discussing mushrooms found since our last meeting that you bring in to share. Also, during a portion of this meeting, there will be a short Mushroom ID video for Beginners.

June 11, 2012: Spring Mushrooms II

110 Green Hall 7:15 PM.
U of M St. Paul Campus.

This is our second identification meeting of the spring devoted to admiring and identifying the mushroom species that have popped up since our last meeting, so bring in any of your recent finds! This is a great time to learn from each other.

★ Special Event ★



Sponsored by The Bell Museum of Natural History

**Friday, June 8, 5 p.m. - Saturday, June 9, 5 p.m.
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, Bethel, MN**

BioBlitz is a 24-hour survey in which the public helps scientists find all the plants and animals at a specific location. Part contest, part festival, part educational event and part scientific endeavor, Minnesota BioBlitz brings together scientists from across the state in a race against time!

Each year, BioBlitz attracts hundred of families and scientists from around the state who use sonar detectors, bug lights, live traps and laptops to count and chronicle an area's flora and fauna. BioBlitz 2012 will take place at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, where the western prairies, northern evergreen forests and leafy forests of the east all converge in a remarkable combination of plants and animals over nine square miles. Website at <www.cedarcreek.umn.edu/>

Volunteers of all ages and skill levels can take part, working alongside biologists to collect plants, fungi, insects and to live-trap animals, which are identified before being released back into the wild.

Members of Minnesota Mycological Society are welcome to make a contribution by collecting fungi. The annual BioBlitz is always a fun and educational event for the whole family.

Chaga Foray at Gooseberry Falls and Split Rock State Parks Feb. 26-27, 2012

Our First Chaga Foray: Split Rock Lighthouse State Park by Jessica Kohen

Hiking has always been a passion of mine. So when I married my husband [President Barry Beck], who wasn't a fan, I started to panic. One day I suggested we go on a mushroom foray, and to my pleasure he was into it. We joined the Minnesota Mycological Society, and now I'm proud to say we have gone on our first winter mushroom hunt.

Searching for Chaga is unlike any other mushroom foray. It's not just that you go out in winter, and that you slough through many feet of snow, off trail, it's that once you find the mushroom, you go "primal" on the tree (already destined to die) by taking an axe to it. The serene beauty of hiking in winter is met by the violence of removing the mushroom. It's an odd mix and it's wonderful!

My husband and I arrived in the parking lot of Split Rock Lighthouse visitor center on Saturday morning and were met by cheers. This was our first trip looking for Chaga and that was not lost on our MMS friends. The warm welcome made up for our tense drive in a near zero-visibility snow storm.

After stopping into the visitor center where we said hello to the manager of the Split Rock Lighthouse historic site, we began our hike. Lee Moellerman took us past the campground and along a trail that hugged a small mountain. But before we got too far along the trail, we stopped to look at the waves crashing on the shore, and were stunned by the amazing sound and the sheer beauty of our surroundings.

The trail took us through a stand of birch trees, with many that were sick or dead. Right away we started to find Chaga. (We even found some that we could reach!) At one point my husband was chopping at a piece of Chaga when it became clear that the entire tree could be pushed over, making the Chaga that was higher up reachable. Did I mention that hunting for Chaga can make one feel primal?

Along the way I kept my eyes open for wildlife. The Lighthouse manager said he had spotted snowy owls and a lone moose during the winter. We saw plenty of deer tracks, but unfortunately the only wild animal we saw was Catfish (Jim Hansern).

After nearly three hours we returned to the parking lot, each person with at least a small chunk of

Chaga, and some with much more than that.

It was nice to end a bit early, that gave us time to explore the North Shore before heading to our hotel. Despite the snow that fell, more than a foot in 24 hours, we enjoyed one of the best weekend get-aways ever. I can honestly say joining the Minnesota Mycological Society is one of the best things we have ever done.

Day 2 at Gooseberry Falls State Park By Ron Spinosa

Our foray on Sunday to Gooseberry Falls State Park started out pretty hairy, but by the end of the foray everyone was happy. Saturday night at Two Harbors we got about 12" of new snow on top of the 14" that was already there.

We had a fine breakfast at the Vanilla Bean Cafe, but as we finished it started snowing again. Some of us were having doubts about doing the foray, but we knew that Lee planned to be at Gooseberry, in case any diehard members showed up. I decided to go for it and headed down Hwy 61 for Gooseberry. On the way the snow picked up until it was a downright blizzard with white out conditions. So I took it very slow, hoping I would stay on the road, which was nearly invisible. After a harrowing drive, I eventually made it to Gooseberry. Turns out 13 other people had also braved the elements.

By 11:30 the snow slowed down, and we all headed out on a big loop that led to an area right next to the lake, that Lee told us had not been harvested on last year's foray. By and by the snow stopped and the sky cleared. We had probably another foot of fresh fluffy snow, perfect for snow shoes, which most of us had. It was a winter wonderland with all the snow quilting the trees. There were lots of big old birches on our route, so everyone bagged a fair amount of Chaga. A couple of people had those long handled ice choppers that John Lamprecht had demonstrated last year worked so well for harvesting high out of reach Chaga.

We eventually got right down to the lakes edge, which was quite beautiful with waves crashing on ice encrusted rocks. I had never seen Lake Superior in the winter. It was a sublime experience! We were out about 3 hours, so we certainly got our quota of exercise for the day. There were some new members who were on their first Chaga foray, and all reported having a great time! So there you have it—in my opinion, another memorable Chaga foray.



Pre-foray fuel up at the Vanilla Bean Café Two Harbors, MN



Jim "Cattfish" Hansen and wife Becky on the Chaga trail

❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Chaga Foray 2012 at Split Rock and Gooseberry Falls State Parks March 2-3, 2012

❄️ ❄️ ❄️



First time Chaga forayers Reed Aranaw and Sonja Sutter overjoyed with their find



The Split Rock Lighthouse among the birches



Fred and Kathy Yerich with their Chaga Hound, Aspen



The beautiful North Shore in winter: Waves crash on ice encrusted rocks.



Snowshoes--the best way to travel in deep snow off trail



Here it is--Chaga! Source of our magical elixir

The 2012 MMS Annual Awards Banquet

Steve Netzman

Dare I boast that MMS has done it again? Another year...another Awards Banquet, played out rather flawlessly. Judging by after-dinner comments, Ngon proved a good venue and a good fit for this MMS ceremonial event. Some chatter I overheard toward the end of the event leads me to believe that we may yet re-visit this site in the coming years.

Ngon Bistro—billed as an Asian-fusion restaurant—quickly captured the favor of many of our members. Situated on University Avenue in St. Paul, just west of a district heavily populated with Asian eateries, Ngon stands out as a gem. You may have read recent reviews in both metro newspapers as well as events circulars (e.g., *The City Pages*). And they have all been enthusiastically positive—both of the restaurant and its chef-owner, Hai Truong. The interior space—sectioned off at the perimeter, with a sizable open area in the center—lent itself nicely to socializing, and that's what I found MMS members engaged in as I made my way inside. Immediately I noticed the cheery yellow motif of the walls, colonial-style ceiling fans stirring lazily, and other antique touches adding to the ambiance.

Guests started arriving at the bistro before noon. With their usual aplomb, Betty Jo Fulgency and Kathy Yerich had already decorated the tables and set out implements for the raffle and silent auction. On each table also sat a mushroom-themed centerpiece crafted by Fred Yerich. At my particular table (aptly dubbed “the Infirmary”), yours truly settled down tentatively, hampered by a broken leg—care of an errant patch of ice on some pavement I encountered a couple months earlier. Two seats south of me sat Lee Moellerman, our intrepid foray leader, his hands heavily bandaged, his face looking all like he'd been in the sun too long: battle wounds from fighting a relentless brush fire on his property.

But by noon, all members settled down to their seats in anticipation of some fine dining. They were not to be disappointed. What came out of the kitchen were some inspired dishes, artfully prepared by Truong and his staff. First an egg roll stuffed with black mushrooms served to whet our appetites, followed by a green bean salad topped with shiitake mushrooms and bathed in ginger sauce. Then, for entrees, guests were served their choice of three savory dishes. But it seemed like the braised pork dish with portabella mushrooms garnered the most “oohs and aahs.” Lastly, an almost decadent bread pudding enrobed in coconut cream sauce rounded out this very tasty and attractive meal. But the festivities had only just begun.

We moved on to the awards ceremonies. John Lamprecht volunteered again to be emcee for the presentation of the photo contest awards. This year again, MMS' amateur photographers showed-off their talents and the winners truly earned their awards and prizes. (For the list of winners, see below.) John himself was later named recipient of the Scrivener Award for the best article written for the *Toadstool* in 2011. Then Barry Beck, MMS' President, presented his President's Award to Dr. Dave McLaughlin, who lent his hand in securing on campus a fine new home for MMS for the foreseeable future.

Next on the agenda came the informal but highly entertaining raffle and silent auction. But first, let's pay tribute to the donors who graciously provided prizes for these fund-raising activities. Jewelry was contributed by Erinn Fulgency and Kathy Yerich's mother; Howard Goltz offered a hand-carved morel-head walking stick; Betty Jo Fulgency gave up two jars of quality dried mushrooms; and Mike Kempenich provided a bountiful supply of chaga for the raffle and silent auction and also as a gift to restaurateur Hai Truong in appreciation for hosting our banquet. (If I've omitted mentioning anyone else's generosity, please let me know and accept my apologies.)

One of the drawings for the raffle proved a little quirky, because the winner of a basket of mushroom-themed items turned out to be Bob Fulgency. And one of the items in the basket was an ornamental whistle Bob had bought for wife Betty Jo several years earlier. So...as a gesture of fairness and good will (or possibly to avoid the embarrassment of re-gifting himself), he declined the prize and put it up for a new drawing. It was subsequently “re-won” by none other than John Lamprecht!

Winding down the day's flurry of activities, Betty Jo Fulgency, MMS Vice President, took it upon herself to initiate the Golden Chanterelle Award ceremony. Normally, this would be a task for the President to perform. Compounding the situation even further, she handed Barry Beck the envelope containing the name of the award winner. In an ironic twist, Barry was forced to pronounce himself the winner of the Golden Chanterelle trophy for 2011!

And with the traditional gift exchange, another chapter was closed in the continuing chronicles of the MMS Annual Awards Banquet.



MMS Awards Banquet 2012



Steve Netzman and Lee Moellerman support each other in their infirmity.



GOLDEN CHANTERELLE

AWARD
FOR 2011
PRESENTED TO
Barry Beck



Past MMS president and current NAMA president Bob Fulgency and daughter Erinn



Raffle and Silent Auctions items generously donated by mms members



Audrey Drew draws the winning raffle tickets



Michael Herrick a happy winner of a mushroom birdhouse in the silent auction. Maureen Doran admires.



Adele Metha (center) winner of a beautiful turquoise necklace created by Erinn Fulgency (rt). Betty Jo Fulgency (ft)

Winners in the MMS Photo Contest of 2011



First Place. Pictorial Division - Claudette Lamprecht
Trametes versicolor



2011.09.04 Bloomington MN, *Phallus rubicundus*

First Place. Scientific/Technical - Howard Goltz

Scientific/Technical Division

- 1st Howard Goltz - *Phallus rubicundus*
- 2nd Maddie Papersmaster - *Pholiota squarrosa*
- 3rd Sarah Foltz—*Climacodon septentrionale*

Pictorial Division

- 1st Claudette Lamprecht - *Trametes versicolor*
- 2nd Sarah Foltz - *Flamulina velutipes*
- 3rd John Lamprecht - *Macrolepiota procera*

Other Division

- 1st Mike Kempanich - *Cortanarius squamulosus*
- 2nd John Lamprecht - *Macrolepiota* Field Family
- 3rd Sarah Foltz - *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*

Humor Division

- 1st Ron Spinosa - Eddie edulis
- 2nd Kathy Yerich—Every mushroom is edible once
- 3rd Claudeette - *Piptoporus nasalosus*



First Place Other Division - Mike Kempanish
Cortanarius squamulosus - "Forest Buddies"



First Place Activity/Humor Division - Ron Spinosa
"Eddie edulis still tied to his mother's apron strings"



2nd Place Pictorial - Sarah Folitz
Flamulina velutipes



2nd Place Humor - Kathy Yerich
Every mushroom is edible once!

SpongeBob, the mushroom, discovered in Borneo

David Perlman, San Francisco Chronicle Science Writer

You can find all the porcini you want in your supermarket, but don't go looking for the mushroom's distant cousin, *Spongiforma squarepantsii*, because the newly discovered species can only be found in the rain forest of Borneo - so far.

Dennis E. Desjardin, a world-roaming mycologist, has just identified, described and named the curious fungal blob that a team of colleagues brought to his laboratory at San Francisco State University. It looks nothing like your standard mushroom with a cap and stem, but much more like a sponge, bright orange and squishy, and about the size of an egg. Its discovery and identification are typical of the way modern biology can work: Three fungus-hunting scientists on different missions from Stanford, UC Berkeley, and Lewis & Clark College were rooting around for their own specialized fungal targets in Borneo's Sarawak state last year when they came upon the strange little object that looked vaguely like a spongy fungus that Desjardin had discovered two years ago in Thailand.

That one turned out to be an entirely new genus - a big discovery in the fungus world- and Desjardin named it *Spongiforma thailandica*.

So Thomas D. Bruns, an eminent Berkeley mycologist, brought dried samples of the unknown fungus from Borneo back to Desjardins, who studied its genes and decided it was only the second known species of the same genus he had found in Thailand - like two cousins in the same tribe. "We need a little frivolity in this stodgy old science we love," Desjardin said Thursday. "So we named it for SpongeBob

SquarePants, that cartoon character on TV." The new species is described in the current issue of the journal *Mycologia*, and Desjardin recalled that the journal's editors at first rejected the name - "too frivolous."

"But we insisted that although the science might be their business, we could name it whatever we liked - and they gave in," he said.

"It's really like a rubbery sponge with big hollow holes," he said. "And when it's wet you can wring it out and it springs right back into shape."



SpongeBob, the Mushroom. *Spongiforma squarepantsii*

The layer of tissue that holds SpongeBob's spores "looks like a seafloor covered with tube sponges, very much like SpongeBob's fictitious home, and it smells pleasantly, with a vaguely fruity-musty odor," Desjardin said.

Squarepantsii has lost the cap and stem so common in other mushrooms that stand above the ground, and the new species is a prime example of evolution. *Squarepantsii* has adapted to its habitat on the damp rain forest floor by developing its spongy shape and absorbing moisture from the air if it ever dries out, Desjardin noted.

His colleagues in this discovery include Kabir Peay, a former Stanford postdoctoral fellow now at the University of Minnesota, Peter Kennedy of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Ore., and Bruns.

Note: Dr. Kabir Peay is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at University of Minnesota

Citizen Science

With Gene Kremer

Even with the early spring, it's a long wait until mushrooms start fruiting outside. In the meantime, I get to thinking....there are a couple of projects mentioned on the Yahoo group recently that merit doing.

There was a good discussion of which species of *Laetiporus* a.k.a. 'Chicken of the Woods' we have in Minnesota (ending with Message #1715 in the mnmushroomsociety Yahoo group). I think the chicken is really *Laetiporus sulphureus* but the others look similar and are often called chicken of the woods as well. As mentioned in the message, a very good paper on North American species is at :

<http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/pdf2001/burds01a.pdf>

Certainly we have *L. sulphureus* and anecdotally (we know, but have not documented) *L. cincinnatus*. Finding one on a conifer would likely be *L. huronensis* or possibly *L. conifericola*, but would need to be well documented. A project to document all those that we discover in Minnesota would seem to be a manageable project for citizen science and good practice, if we intend to work with the mycoflora project that NAMA is discussing. (see: <http://namyco.org/publications/mcilvainea/v21/Toward_NA_Mycoflora.html>)

Oyster mushrooms will be coming out in the not too distant future. Roy Hagen also raised the question of which *Pleurotus* species we have. We have a lot of experience with oysters, but less documentation. We have *P. populinus* early in the season and *P. ostreatus* later, but they are not documented. We don't know, but it is very likely that we have *P. pulmonarius*—we need to find out. And what is the *Pleurotus* that we are finding on conifers? Since there are again just a few likely species, this also appears to be a manageable project for us. (Just to be clear, this is not an official MMS Project)

So, what will it take?

- Specimens with enough documentation to record them: date, location including where on the tree it was growing, host/substrate, size, collector and any notes. Photos are great, but we need voucher specimens. For *Pleurotus*, if it will be several days before getting the specimen to us, a spore print should be done. If you are not familiar with doing this, good instructions are at :

http://www.mushroomexpert.com/spore_print.html

- For the *Laetiporus*—if you are not willing to part with a whole lobe, we need a good sized piece including from the top to the bottom surface and the attachment.
- We can do the necessary documentation.
Call me at 612-250-9625 or email Gene.kremer@visi.com to arrange the transfer. Fresh is good.
- A report on the results when the information is in. I think we can handle that.

*Editorial note: Chickens growing on conifer are known to cause GI upsets. It is recommended that you **not** eat Chickens growing on conifers. If you have never eaten chicken mushroom before, eat a small amount first, and if no symptoms occur, try more on the following day*



Pleurotus populinus on Aspen



Laetiporus cincinnatus
Note: rosette form and white pore surface



Laetiporus sulphureus
Note: yellow pore surface and on Oak

MMS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____

Work Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Indicate: Individual (\$20.00) _____ or Family (\$25.00) _____
 Student (\$15.00) _____ (Checks payable to MMS)

Is this membership new? _____ or Renewal _____

Optional: I also want to join NAMA at the special MMS member rate of \$32.00 _____ (Checks payable to NAMA)

Newsletter Delivery (Save the Trees!)

Send via Postal Mail _____ Send via Email _____

Send all checks to: Minnesota Mycological Society
 P O Box 211444
 Eagan, MN 55121

For 2012

RELEASE

I (We) realize that when engaged in wild mushroom activities, that serious physical injury and personal property damage may accidentally occur. I (We) further realize that there is always the possibility of having an allergic reaction to or being poisoned by the eating of wild mushrooms and that these adverse reactions to eating wild mushrooms range from mild indigestion to fatal illness.

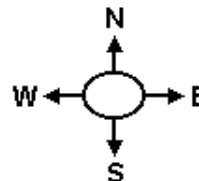
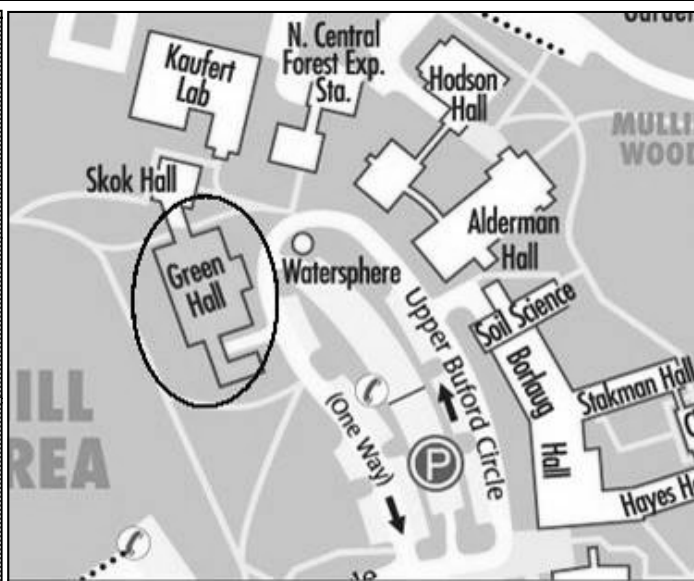
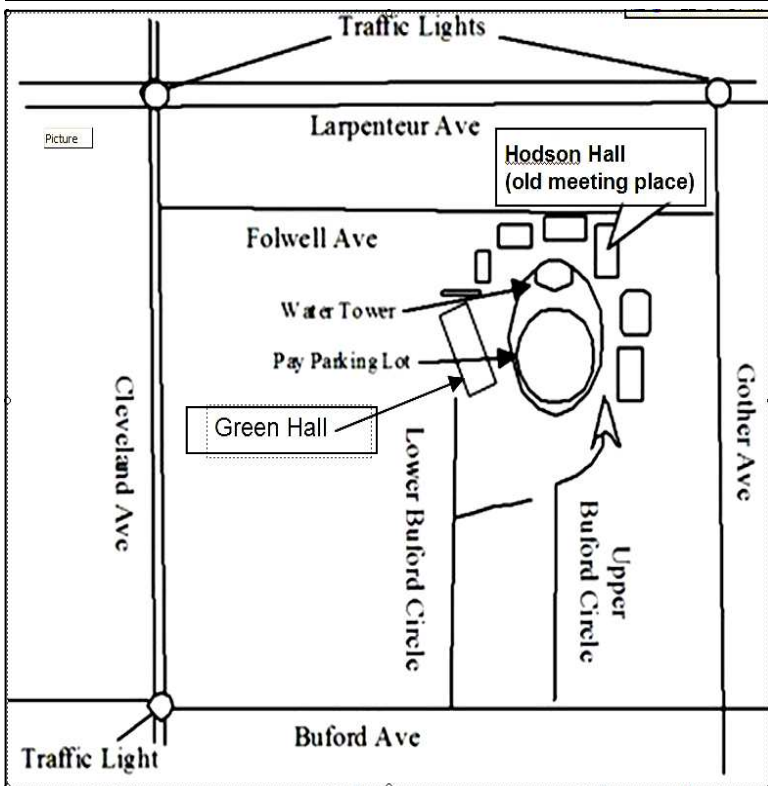
Knowing the risks, I (We) agree to assume the risks and agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify the Minnesota Mycological Society and any officer or member thereof, from any and all legal responsibility for injuries or accidents incurred by myself or my family during or as a result of any mushroom identification, field trip, excursion, publication, meeting, dining or any other activity sponsored by the club.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



The Minnesota Mycological Society meets the second Monday of the month. Meeting are held in Room 110 Green Hall on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota (unless otherwise noted). Meeting time: 7:15 P.M.

MINNESOTA MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Minnesota Mycological Society
PO Box 211444
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MMS

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