





## NMMS

6336 Mendius Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109-4126

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This newsletter is published monthly  
by the New Mexico  
Mycological Society in  
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

### Membership:

Yearly dues are \$20  
(NAMA dues (\$32)

must be paid separately)

Mail application & check to:

NMMS Treasurer  
6336 Mendius, NE

Albuquerque NM 87109-4126

**Meetings:** ABQ meetings are held on  
the 1st Monday of the month at  
7:30pm at the NM Museum of Natural  
History

1801 Mountain Rd NW

**2007 will have some Santa Fe  
Meetings!**

## Mushrooms in Houseplant Pots

by Christine Engelbrecht,  
Plant Pathology, Department of Entomology,  
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

The Plant Disease Clinic occasionally receives calls about small, yellow mushrooms that pop up in the pots of houseplants. What are they? Where did they come from? Are they harmful to the plant? Can they harm people or pets?

In most cases, the fungus in question is *Lepiota lutea*, sometimes called the yellow parasol or flower pot parasol. This species can be found outside in the summer, but is most commonly found year-round with potted plants or in greenhouses. The small lemon yellow mushrooms are about 1 to 3 inches tall with 1 to 2 inch oval or bell-shaped caps. They may appear singly or in clusters.

A mushroom is the reproductive structure of a fungus that spends the rest of its life cycle as a thread-like body in the soil or debris, not usually visible. That thread-like body, called a mycelium, could have been introduced to the pot in the potting mix. Alternately, a spore of the fungus (similar to a seed) may have floated through the air and landed in the pot, starting the fungal colony.

The *Lepiota lutea* fungus is a saprophyte, which means that it breaks down dead organic matter in the pot. It does not harm living plants and mushrooms do not need to be removed for the plant's sake. However, the mushrooms are poisonous to people and animals, so if pets or small children are nearby it would be wise to remove the mushrooms as they appear. Fungicide treatments are generally not effective against mushrooms.

*Submitted by Ruth Bronson, NMMS member*

## NMMS SHOPPING

David Arora's  
***Mushrooms Demystified***  
\*MP \$27.00 \*\*NMP 30.00

David Arora's  
***All that the Rain Promises....***  
M\* \$13.00 \*\*NM\$15.00

Jack States'  
***Mushrooms and Truffles  
of the Southwest*** (autographed)  
\$7.00 \*MP \$9.00 \*\*NMP

Vera Stucky Evenson's  
***Mushrooms of Colorado and the  
Southern Rocky Mountains***  
\$15.00 \*MP  
\$17.00 \*\*NMP

Toadstool's Interactive CD  
***The Secret Lives of Mush-  
rooms***  
\*MP \$15.00 \*\*NMP \$17.00

Orson K. Miller Jr. &  
Hope H. Miller 's  
***North American Mushrooms  
A field guide to edible and  
inedible fungi***  
\*M \$20.00 \*\*NM \$23.00

### Books available at meetings or

**contact Terri Wallis at**  
505-262-0830 or  
twallis@swcp.com

\*M = member price  
\*\* NM = non-member price  
Some prices recently adjusted  
to cover our costs.



## THE CULINARY CORNER



### Recipe: Yukon Gold potato-wild mushroom gratin

- 6 Tbsp. ( 3/4 stick) butter
- 12 oz. assorted fresh wild mushrooms, sliced
- 3 lb. Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled & sliced into rounds 1/8-in. thick
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. ground black pepper
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream

**PREPARATION:** Preheat oven to 375°F. and generously grease an 11 x 7 x 2 -inch baking dish

In a heavy, large skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Add mushrooms and sauté until brown and soft, about 6 minutes.

Arrange one-third of the potato rounds, overlapping them into two layers, in the prepared dish. Evenly distribute one-third of mushrooms over potatoes. Sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Repeat to make 2 more layers, pressing with your hands if necessary to fit into the dish. Pour cream over potatoes. Tightly cover the dish with aluminum foil and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and continue baking until hot, golden brown and set, about 20 minutes longer. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

**Make-ahead tip:** Can be prepared two hours in advance. Let stand at room temperature.

Makes 8 servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 457 calories, 32 grams fat, 6 grams protein, 40 grams carbohydrate, 3 grams fiber, 106 milligrams cholesterol, 498 milligrams sodium.

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Submitted by Rich Therrien, NMMS Member

## Thistle Saves Santa Cruz Mushroom Poison Victims

(CBS 5, San Francisco, CA) SANTA CRUZ, Jan 19, 2007

Five of six members of a Santa Cruz County family may owe their lives to a common weed and a very uncommon doctor. They were hospitalized after eating six different species of wild mushrooms that they picked at a state park and used in a New Year's Day meal.

Dr. Todd Mitchell is a hospitalist, the doctor who treats you if the emergency room decides you are sick enough to be admitted. "From one day to the next," said Dr. Mitchell, "I never know what's going to happen." Earlier this month, a family of six showed up at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz desperately ill, having collected wild mushrooms at a state park and made a tasty dinner of mushroom tacos. The mushrooms included the highly poisonous death cap (*Amanita phalloides*), which can kill by destroying the liver.

Dr. Mitchell knew about mushroom poisoning and the total lack of any effective treatment, although he had never seen a case himself. By using "Google Scholar," he found references to what Europeans have known for at least two thousand years.

It is extract of milk thistle, a common weed. Dr. Mitchell's patients required the more potent injectable form, available only from a company in Germany and not approved for import or use in the United States. He quickly got FDA emergency approval. The manufacturer donated the drug and a special courier from Germany.

Five of the six family members survived. The sixth was beginning to show recovery in her liver, but died of kidney failure. There is no way to prove that the milk thistle worked, but Dr. Mitchell says a supply should be kept at northern California's Poison Control Center so it can be quickly used if needed again.

The five surviving death cap victims are now out of the hospital and progressing towards full recovery.

Submitted by Rich Therrien, NMMS Member

## THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

We welcome your feedback, pictures, articles and suggestions for improvement!

Contact Terri Wallis at  
(505) 262-0830  
or send e-mail to:  
twallis@swcp.com



### Submission Deadline February 21, 2007

Please submit something!  
Next newsletter will be March  
Issue.

*Ann Floyd, continued from Page 1:*  
Rich used to talk about mushrooms to anyone who would listen and learned of Ann's early experiences with them. The first time that Rich found a good quantity of "spring mushrooms," he gave a few to Ann. Her father happened to be visiting and Ann related later that he had prepared them following the European custom of boiling them before sautéing. (Removes any poisons.)

Ann and Rich started dating in '93 and she started attending NMMS meetings with him, as well as that year's Foray, held at the Methodist camp near Cloudcroft. They eventually married and moved to Payson, AZ, in '99. There she edited the newsletters for the Rim Area Gardeners' and the Arizona Mushroom Club. They divorced in '02 and Ann returned to ABQ, where she immediately volunteered to breathe life into the NMMS news-

letter, the *Mycorizon*. Ann and Rich kept in contact, and after learning of her cancer, Rich returned in '05. It was such a gift to know Ann. She was always cheerful and so helpful, not only for our club, but for all her friends, family, coworkers and the community. We all will miss her terribly.

*Terri Wallis, with major input from Rich Therrien*

### ***Great Balls O'Dirt!***

The 2006 New Mexico mushroom season came to an interesting end with the appearance of these odd little fungi near the home of NMMS VP Jonathan Caldwell, near Ribera, NM. They popped up just like regular mushrooms but they had no outer skin/membrane. They just look like dark little balls of dirt.

Jonathan will present his findings at a future NMMS meeting, but in the meantime, see his website:

<http://student-web.luna.edu/~jcaldwell/>

Return address:

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Send to:

**Reminders:** 2007 dues are due!

*Visit NMMS on the Web at [www.mycowest.org](http://www.mycowest.org)*