



Photo by Gio van Bernebeek



Morel Booster™

Morel Mushroom News From Morel Mania, Inc.

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Sponsored By:


The National Morel Mushroom Festival
Boyne City, Michigan
The weekend after Mother's Day
morelfest.com

2011

Mushroom Calendars

Available

BEAUTIFUL MUSHROOMS OF THE WORLD
2011



TAYLOR F. LOCKWOOD

We Have Taylor Lockwood's "Beautiful Mushrooms of the World" Calendar for 2011. Our supply is limited, so order early! Catalog #MB415. - \$15.00. Find them at www.morelmania.com on the "New/Miscellaneous" page.

The *Morel Booster*™ is free publication from Morel Mania, Inc.
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Midwest Morel Fest

Ottawa, Illinois • May 6 & 7, 2011

LEARN • HUNT • AUCTION

**The City of Ottawa and Morel Mania, Inc.
Join Forces to Bring a
New Mushroom Event to Illinois**

Vicky and I are overjoyed to announce our participation in a new mushroom festival coming May 6th and 7th in Ottawa, Illinois. Your host for the **Midwest Morel Fest** will be the City of Ottawa and the Ottawa Visitor Center. The festival headquarters will be in Ottawa's bustling downtown business district on Jackson Street, between Columbus and LaSalle Streets on the south side of Washington Square, the site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate in 1858.

Activities will begin at 4:00 pm. on Friday afternoon with the incorporation of Morel Mania's *Morel University* into the festival. I will give a brief seminar on how to find morels followed by members of the university's distinguished faculty leading participants to the woods for hands-on learning. After class, area restaurants will feature morel mushroom dishes, drink specials, and music.

Saturday morning will begin with a *Morel Breakfast* from 7:00 to 8:30 am. From 7:30 am. to 12:30 pm., *Ottawa's Old Towne Farmer's Market* kicks off their summer season. Enjoy home grown and homemade produce and baked goods.

Ottawa's Mushroom Hunt will begin with the pre-registered competitor check-in from 7:30 to 8:30 am. We won't use them all, but we have access to three different hunting areas with a total of 800 acres! The competition will last for two hours with the participants returning by 12:30 pm. The awards ceremony will occur at approximately 2:30 pm. with trophies and cash prizes presented to the winners of the competition.

The amazing *Rat & Sis Morel Museum* will be on display all day in Historic Reddick Mansion on the north side of Washington Square. The museum is a collection of newspaper articles, magazine articles, and memorabilia all pertaining to morel mushrooms.

Ottawa's Morel Auction will begin at 1:00 pm. If you have too many (is that really possible?), here's your chance to sell. If you don't have any, or just not enough, this is your opportunity to buy. Of course, the prices will be determined by supply and demand.

Ottawa is the county seat of LaSalle County, Illinois and has a vibrant business community which includes an array of dining establishments, hotels, and specialty shops.



Continued , see *Midwest Morel Fest* on page 2

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There is an abundance of state parks within a few minutes drive which have camping facilities. Some even allow mushroom hunting. But check with the site manager first.

Ottawa is located on I-80 midway between I-39 and I-55 at the confluence of the Fox and Illinois Rivers. The association between rivers and morels is that rivers and their tributaries create valleys that make land not useable for farming or development into subdivisions. Much of that land is still in its natural condition and produces an abundance of morels.

As plans are finalized, there will be additions and changes to the itinerary. The website for up-to-date information, rules, registration, etc. will go "live" in late January. We'll have a link to it on our website and in the February issue of the *Morel Booster*™. We hope to see you there.

Morel Mania Appearances

IOWA SPORTSMAN OUTDOOR SHOW

January 7-9, 2011 • State Fairgrounds, Des Moines, Iowa
BOOTH #626

<http://www.iowasportsmanshow.com>

ILLINOIS FISH & FEATHER EXPO

January 28 - 30, 2011 • Interstate Center
Bloomington, Illinois
BOOTH #69

<http://www.illinoisfishandfeather.com>

**INDIANA DEER, TURKEY
& WATERFOWL EXPOSITION**

February 18 - 20, 2011 • Exposition Hall,
State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Indiana
BOOTH #405

<http://www.indianadeerandturkeyexpo.com>

IOWA DEER CLASSIC

February 25 - 27, 2011 • Iowa Events Center
Hy-Vee Hall & Polk County Convention Complex,
Des Moines, Iowa
BOOTH #C31

<http://www.iowashows.com>

COUPON

Present this coupon to us at any of the listed events and we'll deduct \$5.00 from your purchase of \$20.00 or more. Redeemable at these events only and only one discount per person.

Think Of Spring
SPECIAL



Once the winter snow melts and the spring rains begin, Mother Nature will bless us with our favorite delicacy. To remind everyone that winter won't last forever, we're offering *Morel Booster*™ subscribers our Roon's Rain Gauge at a greatly reduced price of \$15 through January of 2011.

40% Discount - Regular Price is \$25
Catalog Number RM655

To receive the special price, you must phone your order to us at:
800-438-4213

8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST

This offer will not appear and is not available on our web site shopping cart.

Special price expires January 31, 2011

**Sightings Page Anxiously
Awaiting First Reports**

The first reports of morels in 2011 should soon arrive and the Sightings Page is ready for them. Southern California morels begin in January. With the record rains they've had, it could be a great year. Click the "Sightings" link on the web site at

<http://www.morelmania.com>