



Morel Booster™

Morel Mushroom News From Morel Mania, Inc.

Editor: Tom Nauman

Issue No. 6 • April, 2010

They're Back!

Yes, the morels have returned. The first reports to the *Sightings* page were from Texas on March 14 and 17. The season appears to be right on time.

I've often heard a statement that goes something like, "All we need is a couple of warm days and they'll be poppin' all over." Be careful what you wish for. Warm weather (temps in the upper 70's or 80's) may bring on a flush of morels, but too much heat in any part of the season will severely shorten the season. Last year, here in Central Illinois, we had cooler temps in the Spring and the season was delayed a little. But, it lasted approximately 12 days later than an average year.

I forget whether it was 2002 or 2003, when the temperatures reached 90 degrees for four days beginning on April 15. In Marshall & Putnam Counties, or roughly the I-80 corridor, our season was still a week away, and it didn't bother us too much. However, if you were south of us - Springfield, Effingham, etc., the season came to an abrupt halt. And did not return until the following year.

What we really like is when we have daytime highs of 65 to 70 degrees and nighttime temps in the mid 50's to lower 60's. Here in Central Illinois, we've had a day or two in the upper 70's already in 2010. But, no recent rain, so it shouldn't hurt our season.

Mushroom Contest to be Held at Wildlife Prairie State Park

Wildlife Prairie State Park, near Peoria, IL, will be having a morel hunting contest beginning on April 30, 2010. Visit their website for details.

<http://www.wildlifeprairiestatepark.org/>

Tom Nauman of Morel Mania, Inc. will be on present on May 6 for a presentation and to award prizes.

Morel Booster™

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Spore Spreader™



MESH BUCKET FOR MUSHROOM HUNTING

- Spores Escape Back Into Your Patch.
- Aerates Mushrooms To Reduce Spoilage.
- Resists Tears - Stronger Than Plastic Or Paper.
 - Reduces Crushing And Grating.
- Allows Insects And Debris To Escape.
- Adjustable Handle/Shoulder Strap Attached.

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Spore Spreader™ Soon Available!

Morel Mania, Inc. Develops 2nd Generation of the Shroom Sack™

Every now and then something really exciting happens in *Moreldom*. Usually it is looking up a gentle slope and seeing a hundred or so mushrooms that have been waiting just for you. The **Spore Spreader™** might not be that exciting, but close.

Like a lot of mushroom hunters, I use a **Shroom Sack™** religiously when gathering morels. It keeps the mushrooms fresher because it's not airtight. It's tough and won't tear like paper or plastic. It allows spores, insects, and debris to fall through the mesh. The shoulder strap keeps both of my hands free for walking, climbing, and hopefully - picking! And, the thickness of the threads and the small openings of the mesh don't cut into the morels nearly as much as what a potato or onion sack does.

The only drawback is on one of those great days when I gather four or more pounds. If I fill the **Shroom Sack™** more than half full, the morels on bottom begin to get crushed and grated into the bottom. I solve the problem by carrying four **Shroom Sacks™** at all times and only fill them about half full. I've actually carried them out of the woods with seven pounds in each bag. I literally had to use my **Shroom Stick™** as a yoke.

The new **Spore Spreader™** is designed to minimize the "crushing and grating". To begin with, it is cylindrical, like a bucket. The perimeter of the bottom has a 3/16" flexible plastic ring sewn into it to help keep the weight of the mushrooms from gathering in the center of the bottom. In other words, it helps

-Continued, see **Spore Spreader™** on page 2

Spore Spreader™ - continued from page 1

distribute the weight more evenly on the bottom to minimize crushing. Since it is cloth, it does sag a little, but not much.

Yes, the bottom itself is solid cloth and the sides are mesh. The spores, debris, and insects can still escape through the mesh sides. It's the same soft mesh material as the **Shroom Sack™** with thick thread and small holes. The solid cloth bottom helps eliminate the "grating". Without a doubt, some of the spores will collect on the cloth bottom. In fact, you may even find spore prints on it. With continued use, those spores will fall out of the the **Spore Spreader™** also.

Like the **Shroom Sack™**, the **Spore Spreader™** neatly folds into its own carrying pouch. It's very handy to keep one in the glove box, tool box, or tackle box.

As of this writing, they are in production. We've seen the prototype and made a few minor adjustments to the design. They will be available for shipping by April 15. You may pre-order on the web site catalog or by phone. The product number is SB565. The price is \$15 for one, 2 for \$27, or 3 for \$36.

The original **Shroom Sack™** will remain available because it is still very useful at a more economical price.

50th Annual Boyne City, Michigan Morel Festival.

If you've never attended the National Morel Festival in Boyne City, Michigan before, now is the perfect time for your first visit. It's their 50th Annual event. Info at:

www.morelfest.com

There is a link on the page to download and print the schedule of events. Hope to see you there.

Morel Mania Appearances in April

Winconsin Deer & Turkey Expo

Alliant Energy Center

1919 Alliant Energy Center Way
Madison, WI 53713

Event Hours:

Friday, April 9, 2010 • 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Saturday, April 10, 2010 • 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 11, 2010 • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Target Communications produces this show. Their website for complete event information is at:

www.deerinfo.com

Mansfield Mushroom Festival

April 24 & 25, 2010
Mansfield, Indiana

Mountain Mushroom Festival

Irvine, Kentucky

The 20th Annual Mountain Mushroom Festival will be April 24th & 25th, 2010. the website is:

www.mountainmushroomfestival.org

Morel Mania, Inc. has not had the good fortune to attend this festival. But it looks like it is very well planned and should be a tremendous time for those lucky enough to be able to be there.

Mansfield, Indiana Mushroom Festival

The annual Mushroom Festival at Mansfield, Indiana is scheduled for April 24 and 25, 2010. We'll be there. Details at:

www.mansfieldhilltopfarm.com

Other Mushroom Festivals

We don't have up to date information on all the mushroom festivals. but here's a list of some of them which you should be able to find if you do a Bing or Google search:

Richmond, MO

Wyoming, IL

Lewiston, MI

Mesick, MI

Mid-America Morel Festival - Jonesboro, IL

Muscoda, WI

We only wish we could attend them all!

Contaminated Morels?

One of our favorite publications is *Fungi* magazine. Our good friend, Britt Bunyard (We call him "Professor Britt" at Morel University) is the editor. The Spring issue always features morels.

The upcoming issue contains an interesting article by another dear friend, Elinoar Shavit. Elinoar writes a regular feature for *Fungi* on "Medicinal Mushrooms". Her "*Arsenic in Morels*" story, in the upcoming issue, is very interesting.

I couldn't begin to give even a brief synopsis here. so you're going to have to read it online. Or better yet, subscribe to *Fungi*.

www.fungimag.com

Other Scheduled Appearances for 2010

Morel University - See Page 3

May 1, 2010 • Henry, Illinois

50th Annual National Morel Mushroom Festival

May 13 - 16, 2010 • Boyne City, Michigan

Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive

October 2 -3 & 9 - 10, 2010 • London Mills, Illinois

WE'RE
IN
BOOTH
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\$5 COUPON \$5

Present this coupon at any of the listed events we are at 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.



MOREL UNIVERSITY

**Class will be held at
Crooked Knee Golf Course
1274 County Road 950E
Henry, Illinois 61537
Saturday, May 1, 2010
8:00 a.m. to Noon**

**LEARN FROM EXPERTS
SHARE THE MORELS!**

On Saturday morning, May 1, 2010, Tom Nauman of Morel Mania, Inc. and other morel hunting experts will be your instructors for Morel University. Students will meet at the mushroom patch and be shown how to find and harvest morel mushrooms.

The class is for beginners or anyone who wants to learn the finer points of shrooming: morel habitat, tree identification, correct harvesting techniques, and tricks of the trade. The Morel University students will also receive a Shroom Sack™ and a Diploma.

Our day will begin with a serving of morel with sausage gravy on bisquits prepared by Sandy & Vicky Nauman. The dish is a family favorite. We will then have an approximate 20 minute discussion of the basics of morel hunting. Next we will divide into groups of no more than 10 students with one professor each and depart for the sacred morel grounds.

Crooked Knee Golf Course was the site of the Illinois State Morel Mushroom Hunting Championship on the first Saturday of May for 13 years. The entrants in that competition never failed to bring back dozens of pounds of morels. Those people will not be there this year. **but you could be - with expert guidance.** We will gather morels for approximately three hours and meet back at the clubhouse around 11:45 a.m.

Our professors include: Tom Nauman; Lynn Laible; Josh Nauman; 2003 Illinois Champion, Josh Joplin; Mike Dalrymple; and Fungi Magazine Editor, Britt Bunyard. All have hunted morels for most of their lives, know how to find them, and are committed to teaching you what we know.

It is too early to predict how good the season will be, but we've never failed to find morels at Crooked Knee on the first Saturday of May. **IMPORTANT: When we are done we will divide the mushrooms gathered equally among all participants.** So, there will be no need to rush to gather the morels before someone else beats you to them. More important than the morels we gather that day are the morels you will be able to gather in the future with the knowledge you acquire.

Feel free to bring a camera, a knife to cut the mushrooms, and a compass or GPS. You will receive your Shroom Sack™ before we depart. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Tom Nauman at 800-438-4213 or email

tom@morelmania.com

Visit <http://www.morelmania.com>

for details or to register.

(Advanced registration required)

The tuition is \$75.00 per person.



Professor "Tom" lectures Morel University Class of '09 Students in the "classroom".