



Morel Booster™

Morel Mushroom News From Morel Mania, Inc.

Editor: Tom Nauman

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Sponsored By:

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

fungimag.com

Morel Mania Appearances

GAME FAIR

August 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 2011
Armstrong Ranch Kennels
8404 161st Avenue NW
Anoka, MN 55303
www.gamefair.com

SPOON RIVER VALLEY SCENIC DRIVE

October 1, 2, 8, 9, 2011
London Mills, IL
We'll be just north of the intersection
of Second and Main Streets
www.spoonriverdrive.org

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2011 Morel Season

What started out as a promising morel season turned mediocre for a lot of us. An expert morel hunter I know in Central Illinois and another in Southwest Wisconsin reported their worst seasons ever. Another from Wisconsin wrote: "We are still wiping the tears from our eyes. Worst season we've seen in 17 years. We hunted a woods on Wednesday and found three morels. The dead elms were there but no morels. It had to have been the three frosts in a row that did them in. On the average we pick 15 pounds out of this woods."

Pickers in the latitude of Southern Illinois, Southern Indiana, and Central Missouri had a good start to the season but soon started complaining about too much rainfall. Several people complained that the mushrooms were so water-logged that they were falling over.

In our latitude of Central Illinois, Central Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, etc. the problem was that the temperature stayed too cold with not enough rain. Regular readers may catch me in a contradiction here because I've always said that cooler temperatures will prolong the season. I still believe that. However, in 2011, we just didn't get the right combination of moisture/temperature to produce a good crop. Temperatures didn't hit 70 degrees until May 6. The following week they were in the 90's. So, whatever morels were ready to emerge from the ground did so and our season was finished.

Minnesota, Northern Wisconsin, and Northern Michigan fared well with a better than average crop. We received some glowing reports from the Pacific Northwest also.

It is said that the three most important things about real estate are location, location, location. I guess that holds true for morel hunting also. My own quote is that "Morel hunting is 90% luck. The other 10% is knowing where and when to get lucky."

There were some bright spots to 2011. Those being the festivals. The one at Mansfield, Indiana was well attended and there were 98 coolers of morels submitted for auction. My best guess is the average selling price was \$30 for a half pound. The morel auction at Mansfield runs from 10 am. to 4 pm. on both days. The festival is held the last full weekend of April.

The inaugural Midwest Morel Fest in Ottawa, Illinois was a tremendous success and the committee is already working on next year's event. The festivities began on



Photo By Dave Gibson

Morel University professors and students inspect the morels found during class.

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Season - continued from page 1

Friday afternoon with approximately 130 students attending Morel University. After the classroom instruction, the students and faculty were transported to the morel patch for hands on instruction.

Saturday began with a hint of rain that soon evaporated and roughly 170 mushroom hunters competed in "The Hunt". We received many compliments on the quality of the hunting site. I'll have a list of the winners in the next issue.

The auction on Saturday afternoon featured 14 coolers of morels that sold for an average of \$55 per half pound.

The 51st Annual National Morel Festival in Boyne City, Michigan seemed to happen on a great weekend - for morels. The black morel season was in full swing and the white morels started appearing in quantity on Sunday. The "Taste of Boyne" gets better every year. I need to fast for the week beforehand so that I can sample more of the scrumptious recipes. I'll try to post the winners of the National Championship in the next issue.

New Products

Morel Scented Candle

Whenever our daughter, Katie, finds a morel, she immediately holds it to her nose to enjoy the aroma. When she noticed this candle on the table, she sampled it also - without reading the label. Her response was, "Morels!"

Made with pure soy wax, it's 100% natural, renewable, eco-friendly, and made in the USA.

Find them in the
New/ Miscellaneous section
of our online catalog.



Morel Rain Gauge (Single Morel)

We've added a second rain gauge to our products. The original features two morels while the newer one has a single beauty.

Find them in the Resin Morels
section of our online catalog.