



Photo by Tom Nauman

Dying Elm Tree



Morel Booster™

Morel Mushroom News From Morel Mania, Inc.

Editor: Tom Nauman

Issue No. 19 ♦ March 2013

Sponsored By:

fungimag.com

morelmushroomhunting.com

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



**BRINGING HOME
MORE THAN
MUSHROOMS?
WE HAVE THE SOLUTION
SEE PAGE 2**

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

8948 Illinois Highway 18 • Magnolia, Illinois 61336
email: tom@morelmania.com

Phone: 815-866-0319 • Web Site: <http://www.morelmania.com>

To subscribe: Send an email to tom@morelmania.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

If you no longer wish to receive the Morel Booster™, send an email with "Remove" in the subject line. If your email address changes, send an email to us and include both your old and new email addresses. Morel Mania, Inc. does not sell, rent, give away, or share addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses. All of your information remains confidential.

Copyright 2013, Morel Mania, Inc.

The Season Has Already Begun!

The morel season is already here. Well, at least it's in Georgia and Alabama. The first morel of 2013 was recorded in Georgia on March 1. Other reports soon followed from other Georgia locations as well as Alabama. No, that doesn't mean the season is early. Late February/early March is perfect timing for central Georgia and Alabama.

I was recently asked whether this morel season would be a good one or not. I usually don't make such predictions because no one really knows. But, I will make an exception this year. My prediction is that 2013 will be better than 2012. Because it just can't get much worse for most of the Midwest!

Having said that, I'm seeing indications locally that are encouraging: the drought is "officially" over, we've got some good snow cover that's still melting and saturating the ground, we've seen a couple of soaking rains, and the meteorologists aren't indicating any excessive heat waves - yet. But, for the most part, what happens in March and April will determine how good, or bad, our season will be. Ideal conditions are warm nights with the temperature approaching 60 degrees, cooler days with the temperature **not** exceeding 70 degrees, and an inch or two of rain every two or three days.

I am noticing an increased excitement about morels this year. Incoming orders for mushroom items are up. Two new events for Indiana and Iowa have been announced. And there's been a lot of morel chatter at the different shows we attend.

Good luck and hope you have a great time in the woods! Don't forget to send your Sightings reports to webmaster@morelmania.com

Midwest Morel Fest

Downtown Involvement Grows With 2013 Fest

Ottawa's third annual Midwest Morel Fest will debut the first weekend of May 2013. Not only are the festival planners looking to improve all aspects of the event in its third year, Ottawa's downtown will also play a larger part in the fun.

This year's fest will start Friday, May 3, and continue until Saturday, May 4, with a variety of events throughout Ottawa's downtown and historic Washington Square Park, as well as morel hunts on private land surrounding the city. The Midwest Morel Fest has consistently been a place for both seasoned and novice morel hunters to come together. Friday, May 3, will start with Morel University classroom instruction held at Obee's Sub Shoppe, 816 LaSalle St. followed by a guided morel hunt in the woods. Obee's will offer a special sandwich deal for those attending the University or the Hunt on both days.



The Morel Museum—which has previously been held outdoors— will be housed at Jeremiah Joe Coffee, 807 LaSalle St., and will be on display for attendees throughout the weekend. On Saturday, May 4, the Championship Hunt will begin

-Continued , see *Midwest Morel Fest* on page 2

Midwest Morel Fest - continued from page 1

in the morning and be kicked off with Ottawa Downtown Merchants members cooking up various mushroom dishes.

In an effort to get more downtown businesses involved, various Ottawa restaurants have jumped on the 'shroom wagon and will feature morel and mushroom dishes in their establishments. Participants include Woody's Steakhouse, Monte's Riverside Inn, Corner 230 and Alberto Ristorante. Additional restaurants may be announced at a later date.



"It's great to see the downtown business owners embrace the Midwest Morel Fest once again this year," said Julie Johnson, executive director of the Ottawa Visitors Center. "Ottawa's festival has grown to become a destination for morel mushroom enthusiasts throughout a four-state area, which is great for our city's tourism efforts and local business owners."

During Saturday, May 4, Washington Square Park will be filled with the bustle of Morel Fest activities, including the Morel Auction where hunters can auction off their best finds. Other mushroom hunters are welcome to bring in their mushrooms for auction. Anyone that does not have time to hunt can bid on morels that have been inspected and bagged for purchase.

Also auctioned off will be three large handmade wood carvings of morels that can be used as lawn ornaments. The Ottawa Downtown Merchants will continue the Downtown Farmers Market, Hand and Homemade Market and a new event will debut: Moonshine Tasting, sponsored by Herman's Package Store. During the event, attendees can get three 1-ounce tastes of moonshine varieties for \$5. Pints of moonshine will be available for purchase from Ole Smokey. Also, new to the event is a Sparkling Ottawa Beverage Company booth hosted by Dave Sauvageau. Utica's August Hill Winery will return with a booth for wine tasting.

The Wooden Nickel Hunt throughout downtown will continue. One lucky wooden nickel morel hunter will have the chance to win a prize. Participating downtown businesses will hand out the nickels to hunters, who will collect them and later

turn them in for a chance to win.

Sponsors of the festival include Heritage Harbor Ottawa, Ottawa Visitors Center, Ottawa Downtown Merchants, the city of Ottawa, Morel Mania, Inc., the local International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and the National Electrical Contractors Association.

For more information or to register for the 2013 Midwest Morel Fest call the Ottawa Visitors Center at 815-434-2737. The registration deadline is April 27.



Download the Guide/Schedule by clicking on the QR code to the left of the Midwest Morel Fest sign at <http://www.experienceottawa.com>



Get the App!

Got Burrs? Problem Solved!

ONLY \$20 Removes Cackle Burrs, Beggar's Lice, & Nettles in Seconds!

The Burr Paw® is a Mitten Designed for Fast and Effective Removal of Stubborn Stickers and Burrs from Clothing, Gear, and Pets.

Got some of those shroomin' clothes hanging in the corner of the garage because you haven't had the time to clean the burrs and stickers off them? We had boots, pants, shirts, and even our mesh bags not being used because it would have taken hours to clean the cockleburs and beggars lice from them. Then we found the Burr Paw® sticker remover. What would have taken literally hours took just a few minutes. I don't know how we got along without it. Stickers and burrs are easily removed from irregularly shaped surfaces with a simple sweeping motion of the hand. It's effective for the removal of Cackleburrs, Stick-tights (Beggar's Lice) and other common burrs on a variety of materials, even fleece. Folds for compact storage. Easy clean up. Non-abrasive (won't harm delicate fabrics). One size fits all and can be worn on either hand. It works great on pets also!

It's on the **Tools** page in our online catalog.

It's our product number BP803.

You'll find a link there to a video demonstration.

We're sure you'll be as amazed as we are

morelmania.com

Where We'll Be This Spring

Ohio Deer & Turkey Expo

March 15-17
Columbus / Ohio Expo Center
(State Fairgrounds)
deerinfo.com

Woodbury Outfitters

March 23
Coshocton, OH
woodburyoutfitters.com

Wisconsin Deer & Turkey Expo

April 5-7
Madison
Alliant Energy Center of Dane County
deerinfo.com

Simply Music

Simply Mushrooms

More! Festival

April 19 & 20
Bill Monroe Bluegrass Hall of Fame &
Campgrounds
Brown County, Indiana
morefestival.com

Mansfield Mushroom Festival

April 27 & 28
Mansfield, Indiana
mansfieldvillage.com

Midwest More! Fest

May 3 & 4
Ottawa, Illinois
experienceottawa.com

National More! Mushroom Festival

May 17-19
Boyer City, Michigan
morefest.com

More! Fest Iowa

May 18
Bass Pro Shops - Altoona, IA
morefestiowa.com

Other Mushroom Festivals

Mountain Mushroom Festival

April 27 & 28
Irvine, KY
mountainmushroomfestival.org

Lewiston Mushroom Festival

May 11
Lewiston, MI
lewistonchamber.com

We don't have complete information on all the festivals. but here's a list of others which you should be able to find if you do a Bing or Google search.

We only wish we could attend them all!

Richmond, MO

Wyoming, IL

Mesick, MI

Mid-America More! Festival - Jonesboro, IL

Muscoda, WI

FUNGI

Every Issue explores the world of mycology from many different angles.



Subscribe today!

www.fungimag.com



© 2010, MORE! MANIA, INC., moremania.com

Bumper sticker available at moremania.com

FRESHLY COOKED MORELS

2nd Annual
MORELFEST

Saturday, May 18, 2013 @ Bass Pro Shops – Altoona, IA



MORELS for LUNCH

Join over 3,500 outdoors enthusiasts and morel mushroom lovers for our fun-filled day of activities on Saturday May 18th, at Bass Pro Shops in Altoona, IA.

9:00am – 2:00pm

- Activities For All
- FREE Give-a-ways
- Merchandise Discounts
- Morel Mushroom Seminars

11:00am – 2:00pm Lunch
FRESH COOKED MORELS
(Served w/choice of side dish while supplies last.)

12:00pm
Winning team will be crowned the 2013 SHROOMIN' CHAMPIONS

Hunt Morels, WIN THOUSANDS!

Beginning April 20th and limited to ten teams of two pickers. In a four-week competition, YOU will decide if your team of Morel Mushroom hunters has what it takes to find the most morels (on any turf you find them on) before the GRAND WEIGH-IN. The 2013 SHROOMIN' CHAMPIONS will be crowned, at NOON, on stage, at Altoona Bass Pro Shops, on May 18th:

\$5,000 (in cash and prizes)

- 4 weekly weigh-ins (only fresh morels accepted)
- Up-to-Date standings displayed at Bass Pro's entrance
- Donate or Sell your morels at weekly weigh-ins



REGISTER at www.morelfestiowa.com or (515-447-0815)

Morel Fest Iowa Announces \$5,000 Purse!

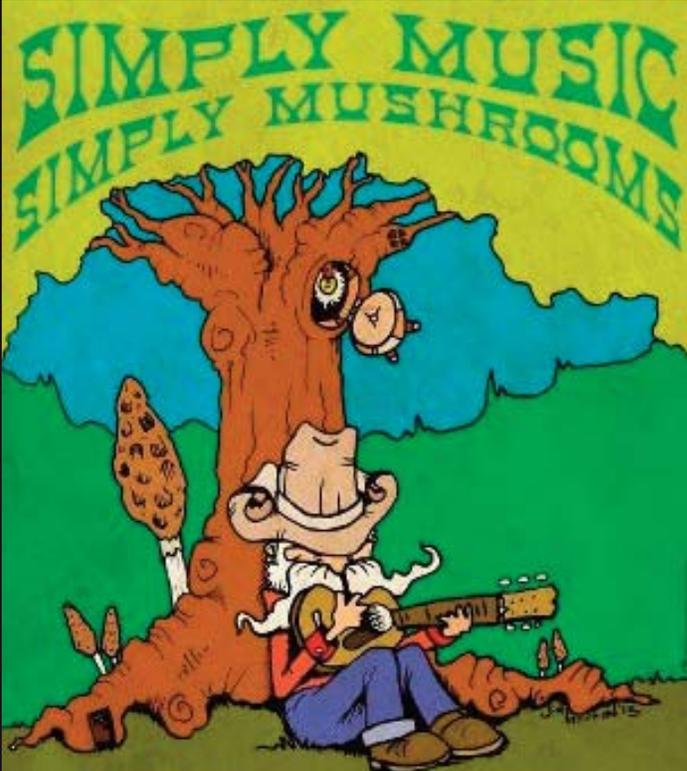
You Don't Have to Be From Iowa to Compete

Under the sponsorship of Bass Pro Shops, organizers of the Morel Fest Iowa are expanding their event to include prizes equal to \$5,000 (cash and prizes). The contest will last four weeks beginning April 20th and is limited to ten teams of two pickers each. Visit the website at www.morelfestiowa.com or phone 515-447-0815 for more information.

When to Start Looking?

Much is written and spoken about when the morel season begins. Growing up, I'd heard to wait until the oak leaves were the size of squirrels ears, when the soil temperature reaches 50 to 55 degrees 4 inches below the surface, when the lilacs bloom, and several others.

Well, I could never get a squirrel to be still enough to hold the ruler alongside his head. By the time I dug down the 4 inches, the soil warmed up having been exposed to the open air. I suppose it would be easier with today's wireless thermometers to bury the sensor and keep the monitor in the house. There are also many soil temperature maps on the internet that post daily. Most of those are on agricultural sites and give the temperatures for both bare and covered ground. Through experience, I've learned that the season is roughly half over when the lilacs bloom.



MOREL FESTIVAL
4/19-4/20 2013

GUIDED HUNTS • LIVE MUSIC • CAMPING ON-SITE • FAMILY FUN
BILL MONROE'S BEAN BLOSSOM MUSIC PARK & CAMPGROUND
BROWN COUNTY, INDIANA
MORELFESTIVAL.COM

You can also watch the Sightings page on morelmania.com. It was the first and original morel reporting page with records going back to 1998 (Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery). Knowing that, all else being equal (as in temperature and moisture), the season moves north at the average rate of 100 miles per week, you can anticipate your season by watching what's happening south of you. It's a fair indicator, but the key part of that rule of thumb is "all else being equal". Since typical weather patterns move from west or southwest to the north or northeast, that area 100 miles south of you may have gotten more or less rainfall which is a key factor in determining when morels sprout.

The best two indicators I personally use are anthills and dandelions. When I see the first dandelion bloom or the first anthill in the yard, I know the morels have started. Those two events usually happen within a day or two of each other, if not on the exact same day. It's almost foolproof.

Does that mean I'm going to go in the woods and find a pound or two? No, it means that if I know where to look, I'll find maybe one or two (possibly more) small gray or black morels. For a quantity of morels, I'll wait until the lilacs begin to bloom.

Try it this season, let me know if you discover the same thing. Or, better yet, let me know what indicators you use.

Looking forward
to a **GOOD** morel season?
Why not make it a
GREAT one with



FUNGI is offering deep discounts on bulk orders
of our special 2010 Morel Issue!

ENCYCLOPEDIC IN SCOPE, the Morel Issue was twice as
big as a regular issue and packed with timeless info for the
beginner and veteran, alike!

♣ WHERE AND WHEN TO LOOK ♣ FIRE MORELS ♣ DESERT
MORELS ♣ HIMALAYAN MORELS ♣ TAXONOMY & EVOLUTION
♣ GORGEOUS PHOTOS ♣ MOREL LOOKALIKES ♣ REVIEWS OF
MOREL BOOKS & FIELDGUIDES ♣ CULINARY & PRESERVATION
TIPS...EVEN CULTIVATION

MAKES A GREAT GIFT FOR:

♣ MUSHROOM CLUB EVENTS ♣ MUSHROOM CLUB FUNDRAISERS
♣ YOUR MOREL BUDDIES ♣ FAMILY AND FRIENDS ♣ ALL MOREL
NEWBIES ♣ COWORKERS ♣ STUDENTS-*THAT KNOW IT ALL WHO
CONTINUES TO PERPETUATE MOREL MYTHS*

LIMITED TO ORDERS OF 10 COPIES OR MORE...

**Price to USA addresses is just \$5 per copy,
plus \$10 Shipping. ORDER 10, PAY \$50 + \$10;
ORDER 30, PAY \$150 + \$10. THE MORE YOU BUY,
THE MORE YOU SAVE!**

CHECK FOR SHIPPING COSTS TO NON USA ADDRESSES.

for more information or to place an order, contact:

F U N G I

PO Box 8 ♣ 1925 Hwy 175 ♣ Richfield, Wisconsin 53076-0008 USA

www.fungimag.com ♣ phone: 262.227.1243

email: bbunyard@wi.rr.com