



Morel Booster™

Morel Mushroom News From Morel Mania, Inc.

Editor: Tom Nauman

Issue No. 25 ♦ March 2016

FUNGI

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



Subscribe Today At
<http://fungimag.com>

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 2016, Morel Mania, Inc.

It's That Time of Year

Yes, the morel season has begun with reports coming in from several states. At first I thought the weather pattern resembled the late winter/early spring of 2012. In case you don't remember, 2012 was one of our worst years ever for morel hunters in the central Midwest. The morels arrived more than two weeks prior to any other year that we've recorded. But as winter turns to spring on the calendar, 2016 isn't shaping up to mimic 2012. The weather pattern is resembling a more normal year and we even had a hard frost on the morning of March 25.

There are many indicators of when the morels are arriving. There are three that I have found to be reliable. The first is **Soil temperatures**. When the soil temperature at 4" deep reaches the 50 to 55 degree range, I start gathering my gear. Why soil temps? Because the mycelium that the morels grow from is beneath the soil. Changes in soil temps don't happen as rapidly as air temps. that's why morels can be found in the snow. The ground temp may be warm enough for morels to start. Then the weather turns cold, and snows. But the ground temp doesn't respond as quickly.

If your area is blessed with black morels, the 50 degree mark is for you. If your area starts with grey or half-free morels, wait for 55 degrees. I don't actually bury a thermometer four inches deep. If I did, it would be one of those remote sensors four inches deep with the readout inside the comfort of home.

But, with the wonders of the internet, there are several sites that list soil temps at four inches deep on a daily basis. The one shown is from the Illinois Farm Bureau. It's available at:

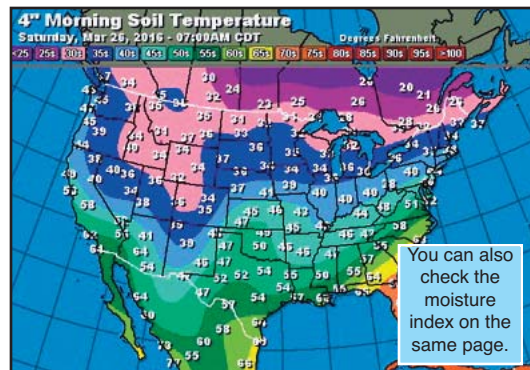
<http://dtn.ilfb.org/index.cfm?show=1&mapID=20&showMenu=0>

The second of my indicators is **Dandelions**. When I see the first dandelion bloom in the yard, I make sure there is plenty of butter in the fridge. But, the dandelion bloom can't be up against a building, specially on a south facing wall. The ground there is super heated by the sun reflecting off the building.

My third and final indicator is **Ant Hills**. When I notice an ant hill with ants scurrying all around it, the morels won't be far behind. And, when all three of these occurrences happen on the same day, I know the morels have emerged.

However, they are going to be small. I know some of you just can't wait. But you may step on more than what you actually harvest. So, be careful. They can grow! If you wait until you see lilacs blooming, that's when they'll be more easily seen. Remember also that the morels first appear at the top of the south facing slopes (or the slouth edge of a wooded area) because that's where the sun warms the ground first. So, you could have four inch grays on the south facings slopes while the one inch blacks are just starting on the north facing slopes

Morels need three factors: habitat, moisture, and the proper ground temperature. The moisture factor was missing in 2012. 2016 looks to be much better so far. Let's hope it stays that way.





\$500
Largest Morel

\$200
Most Morels

\$950
Total Purse

SCHEDULE

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT
OTTAWA'S JORDAN BLOCK, RT 23
SOUTH BOUND
(OLD TOWN DISTRICT)
On Saturday, MAY 7th, 2016

GUIDED HUNT - LIMIT 120
HUNTERS

CHAMPIONSHIP HUNT -
LIMIT 440 HUNTERS

\$500 Cash Prize
for the Largest Mushroom Found

7a • Guided Hunt & Auction
Sign-In

8 - 8:30a • Morel University
Presentation in the tent

8:45a • Busses depart

8a - 4p • Vendor Market

9 - 11:30a • Guided Hunt

1:30 - 4:30p • Music by Dyer Soens

10a - 2p • Kid's Morel Painting

12:30 - 6p • Morel Mash Up Home
Brewers Tasting

12p • Mushroom Auction

2p • Championship Hunt
Sign-In

2:45p • Depart for Championship
hunt

3p - 5:30p • Illinois State Morel
Mushroom Hunting
Championship

6p • Championship Awards

**The new hunt site for the
Championship contains
DOZENS
of dead elm trees!**

LEARN, HUNT, BUY... MOREL MUSHROOMS

Ottawa's Annual Midwest Morel Fest.

This unique festival offers 'everything
mushroom' from the morel enthusiast to the
curious observer!

All events take place at Jordon
Block Park (Main & Rt 23/71N).

Saturday enjoy a large variety of
handcrafted Vendors, Home
Brewers Tasting Tent and
Competition, Food, Music and kid
activities.

And don't forget Saturday's
MOREL UNIVERSITY where
you can learn to identify morels
then take off for a guided hunt. We
have set aside land **JUST FOR
YOU!**

The Saturday afternoon
CHAMPIONSHIP HUNT boasts
the **LARGEST CASH PURSE IN
THE NATION.** Both hunts have
limited availability. Cost \$30
adults/\$15 kids for the University.
Cost \$30 adults/\$15 kids for the
Championship Hunt.

One day / 2 hunts, University Hunt
in the morning and Championship
Hunt in the afternoon.

Auction will be at Noon.

All on May 7, 2016.

REGISTRATION

Visit <http://www.pickusOTTAWAil.com> for
tickets or call the Ottawa Visitors Center at
815.434.2737 for more information

13yrs +\$30. 12yrs Under \$15.

Walk-ins add \$5. All participants receive a
Souvenir Morel Mesh Sack. Confirmations
will not be sent! Your credit card or
cancelled check will be your receipt. No
cancellations! No refunds.

AUCTION

**MORELS & HALF-FREE MORELS
ONLY! GOT MORELS???** Sell them at our
MOREL AUCTION on Saturday, May 7th.
Here's how: Package morels by half pound
weight (approx.) in plastic zipper bags
(Don't Seal the Bags...whew!) Bring them
in your own cooler (no multiple person
coolers will be allowed). Our certified
experts will inspect all mushrooms prior to
sale (Washed/soaked mushrooms will be
rejected for health reasons). A drawing will
be held to establish the order of sale on all
mushrooms registered prior to 8am (we start
taking mushrooms at 7am!) All mushrooms
delivered **AFTER** 8am will be on a first-
come-first- served basis and takes their
place at the end of the auction line.
Mushrooms will be auctioned in lots of 8.
Each lot of 8 will have its own spot in the
auction. Due to public health restrictions, all
mushrooms must be sold through the
festival auction. Anyone discovered selling
unregistered, uninspected product will be
escorted from the festival. A percentage of
all mushrooms sold will go to the City of
Ottawa.

2016 Morel Events

Morel Boot Camp

April 15 - 17

Table Rock Lake, MO

mushroomkingmo@gmail.com

Mountain Mushroom Festival

April 23 & 24

Irvine, KY

mountainmushroomfestival.org

Mansfield Mushroom Festival

April 23 & 24

Mansfield, Indiana

mansfieldvillage.com

Woodbury Outfitters All About Morels

April 30

Coshocton, OH

woodburyoutfitters.com

Midwest Morel Fest

May 7

Ottawa, IL

pickusottawail.com

Lewiston Morel Mushroom Festival

May 7

Lewiston, MI

lewistonchamber.com

National Morel Mushroom Festival

May 11-15

Boyne City, Michigan

morelfest.com

Other Festivals

Richmond, MO

Mesick, MI

Wyoming, IL

Muscoda, WI

THE MUSHROOM KING'S 2016 APRIL 15 - APRIL 17 MOREL BOOT CAMP



3 DAY SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 4/15 ~ 3:00 PM CHECK-IN
~ 6-9:00 PM MEET & GREET THE MUSHROOM KING

SATURDAY 4/16 ~ 10:00 AM-NOON SEMINAR / LECTURE Q&A (LUNCH PROVIDED)
1:00 PM GUIDED FORAY (DINNER PROVIDED)

SUNDAY 4/17 ~ 10 AM GUIDED FORAY

3 DAYS AND 2 NIGHTS OF MOREL MUSHROOM FUN!!
ENJOY SPENDING TIME WITH OTHER MUSHROOM ENTHUSIASTS.
THE MUSHROOM KING WILL ENTERTAIN AND TEACH MUSHROOM TIPS AND TRICKS YOU NEVER KNEW BEFORE!
2 FORAYS LEARN NEW WAYS TO FIND MUSHROOMS, STORE MUSHROOMS, EAT MUSHROOMS!!
EACH DAY WE WILL EXPLORE A DIFFERENT MOREL HABITAT.

2 MEALS CLASSES & FOOD ARE HELD ON SITE!!
AT THE MUSHROOM KING HEADQUARTERS, KINGS COVE RESORT, ON BEAUTIFUL TABLE ROCK LAKE

1 PRICE ONE LOW PRICE OF \$300 PER PERSON INCLUDES ALL CLASSES, FORAYS & FOOD
CALL TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE (SPACE IS LIMITED)
SPECIAL "BOOT CAMP" PRICES ON A LAKESIDE CABIN ONLY
AT KINGS COVE RESORT.
CALL TO MAKE
YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON! (816) 273-9165

PAYPAL OR PERSONAL CHECK ACCEPTED



SPECIAL
BOOT CAMP
RATES



CALL FOR RESERVATIONS (417) 739-4513
MushroomKingMO@gmail.com

Learn More About Morels

One of the biggest issues I hear about at the different festivals and expos I attend is that people, who would love to learn more about finding morels, don't know anyone willing to teach them. Morel Mania, Inc. has always been committed to educating novices and even seasoned mushroom hunters.

There are many events throughout the Midwest and even beyond where one can learn the dos and don'ts of finding morels.

- For those in Missouri, the **Morel Boot Camp** will take place on April 15 - 17 (see ad above).
- In Ohio, Morel Mania, Inc. will co-host **All About Morels** with Woodbury Outfitters in Coshocton on April 30 (see ad on page 4).
- In Illinois, **Morel University** is a featured event during the **Midwest Morel Fest** in Ottawa on May 7 (see info on page 2).
- The National Morel Mushroom Festival in Boyne City, Michigan has a **Morel Seminar and Guided Morel Hunt** on Friday afternoon, May 13.
- The Morel Mushroom Hunting Club also hosts forays in several states. Visit their website at morelmushroomhunting.com.

ALL ABOUT MORELS

**Always wanted to learn how to find
MOREL MUSHROOMS?
But had no one to teach you?**

Woodbury Outfitters and Morel Mania, Inc. are co-hosting a mushroom hunting foray for novices and even experienced hunters who want to learn more. Tom Nauman of Morel Mania, Inc. has been finding morels for over 65 years. He will gladly share his knowledge with participants during classroom discussion and a guided morel hunt in the woods.

The day will begin at 9:00 am. on Saturday, April 30, 2016 at Woodbury Outfitters, 793 South 2nd St., Coshocton, Ohio.

You will learn: morel habitat, morel timing, tree identification, how to tell the good from the bad, proper harvesting techniques, and the best practices for preparing and preserving morels. Most of all you will learn how to find morels on your own.

The cost is \$60 for ages 10 and up. Age 9 and under are free with a paying adult. Only one child per paying adult. Bring a sack lunch. Wear long pants, a long sleeved shirt, hiking boots (tennis shoes are not recommended). Morels found will be shared equally among all participants.

Register at Woodbury Outfitters in Coshocton or phone 740-623-2227.

Questions about the event?
Phone Tom Nauman at 815-866-0319

Your Hosts: Woodbury Outfitters & Morel Mania, Inc.