



Morel Booster™

Morel Mushroom News From Morel Mania, Inc.

Editor: Tom Nauman

December 2009

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of Morel Booster™. Our intent is to inform subscribers of happenings in that magical land we call "Moreldom". It's a place where the Morel Mushroom is King. And, we "Roons" are not just subjects, we are servants.

When we become aware that King Morel is in the area, we cease whatever we are doing and search him out. We take vacation days from work. We cancel appointments. We travel many miles. We walk endlessly through the woods. Everything else becomes secondary and of lesser importance. Yours truly, Tom, even missed our wedding anniversary one year!

But what a benevolent King he is. When he allows us to find him, he treats us to a wonderful feast. A meal truly fit for a king.

Thanks to Tom Licavoli, of the Kalkaska, Michigan area, for allowing us to use the name, "Morel Booster™". It's a term he coined many years ago. Tom is a good friend, faithful servant to King Morel, and a Roon of the First Degree.

We will report on people, places, events, and products. We hope to post Morel Booster™ on a monthly basis. Maybe more often in morel season, maybe less otherwise. And we'll publish a Special Edition every now and then for breaking news.

We also welcome our readers input. Please send your news, comments, questions, suggestions, etc. to

tom@morelmania.com

All submissions are subject to review.

Instructions are listed below if you no longer wish to receive the Morel Booster™, if others want to subscribe, or if you change your email address.

**Thank You,
Tom & Vicky Nauman**

Morel Booster™

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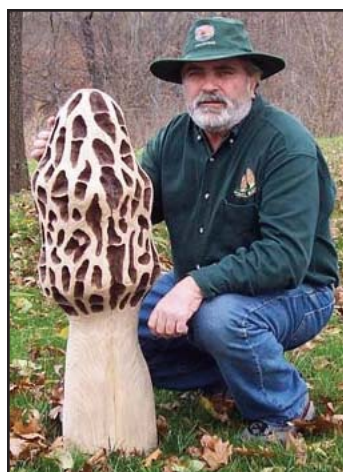
50th Annual National Morel Mushroom Festival!

I think the biggest news for Moreldom in 2010 will be the 50th Annual Morel Mushroom Festival in Boyne City Michigan from May 13 to May 16. 50th Annual! That's quite a feat. I've attended every year since 1993 and it's gotten better each year.

On Saturday morning the Boyne Valley Lions Club sponsors The National Morel Championship Competition where hundreds of shroomers are taken to the mushroom patch and given the chance to become the National Grand Champion Morel Mushroom Hunter. Later in the day, festival attendees sample dozens of morel dishes from area restaurants at the "Taste of Morel". There is always plenty of entertainment and activities

You'll find us at the Craft Show in Veteran's Park on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Stop and chat awhile. There is a carnival for children of all ages all four days. The guided practice hunt takes place on Friday afternoon.

You'll find complete information on their website at **www.morelfest.com**. Remember, it's their 50th year. I know they're going all-out to make it an event you won't want to miss.



What's Tom Been Doing?

Carving Mushrooms, of Course - Big Ones!

Seems like Tom just can't get away from the workshop. This Monster Morel is going to

Iowa. He can't say any more than that because it's a Christmas present and doesn't want to spoil the surprise in case the lucky recipient happens to read Morel Booster™.

Tom doesn't keep track of the time it takes to carve one of this size. Once he starts, time has no meaning. He uses a chain saw to get the rough shape and then finishes with tools similar to those he carves the smaller ones with. According to Tom, "It's not about the tools, the time, the price, or even me. It's about making the mushroom look as real as possible!"

Morel Season Is Soon Here!

Okay, maybe we're still a few months away here in the Midwest, but the first reports to the Sighting Page usually arrive in January, some even in December - from California! We've even had Sightings reports in November from Texas.

If you've got unlimited time and finances, you could find morels any day of the year. You will need the resources to travel to South America, Asia, Australia, Africa, and Europe to be successful. Keep the Sightings Page bookmarked to stay informed.

The New Morel Mania Catalog is Available Online

So why is that a big deal? There are all kinds of catalogs on the web. The big deal is that it is now in a printable page format (a pdf file). So you don't have to click "print" on all the different pages. Print it once and you've got it all.

We haven't mailed our catalog via the postal service for several years. The printing and postage costs are just too much for our budget. For those who want an "ink on paper" catalog, it's right there on your computer. And you don't have to wait for the postal carrier to get it to you.

Illinois State Morel Mushroom Hunting Championship in 2010?

Probably Not :-)

We talked to Tom Davis of Choice Productions several weeks ago and it doesn't look promising for the Festival or Championship in Henry for 2010. The local businesses are pulling back, like all of us, and the economy is still too weak to make the event feasible.

The local Chevrolet dealer was one of the major sponsors of the event and they have gone out of business. Without business sponsorship, it is impossible to proceed. Mr. Davis says he is looking into applying for a state tourism grant and possibly some help from major corporations. If things change, you'll see it here first.

Morel Mania, Inc. is again having Morel University on Saturday, May 1. See the website for details.

No News on Morelfilm

We've not heard from Dave or Ed since 2003. They were the guys from Purdue University that filmed a documentary of the Illinois State Morel Mushroom Hunting Championship in 2002 and 2003. They have over 100 hours of video including the last interview ever given by Larry Lonik and the last seminar by Larry also. We're not sure what's happened to them and hope we didn't do anything to discourage them or make them angry. If you know them, have them call me - collect. Please!

Morel Mania Scheduled Appearances for 2010

Here's a list of events that we will attend in 2010. Stop and visit. In fact, Bring a copy of this newsletter 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.

Deer & Turkey Expos

Michigan:

February 12 - 14, 2010
Lansing

Illinois:

February 26 - 28, 2010
Bloomington

Ohio:

March 19 - 21, 2010
Columbus

Wisconsin:

April 9 - 11, 2010
Madison

Mansfield

Mushroom Festival

April 24 & 25, 2010
Mansfield, Indiana

Morel University

May 1, 2010
Henry, Illinois

50th Annual National Morel Mushroom Festival

May 13 - 16, 2010
Boyer City, Michigan

Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive

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

Website Updated

We've re-designed the website, www.morelmania.com, to include a secure ordering system through PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account to order, simply click the "Continue" link near the credit card logos on the checkout page.

We've also added quite a few new products particularly on the "Resin Morels" page. We're overjoyed and pleased to announce that Dave Nauman, Tom's brother and author of *Morel Mushroom Recipes - Favorites From the Nauman Family and*



Friends, has taken on the task of creating wonderful morel products cast in resin for all to enjoy.

**New
Christmas Tree
Ornaments
made by
Dave Nauman**

Speaking of Christmas

Christmas is a busy time of year for Morel Mania, Inc. and we do everything possible to make sure Christmas gifts arrive on time. For this to happen, orders must be placed by Saturday, December 19, 2010.