



Alabama Mushroom Society Newsletter

February 2024

Greetings Fungiphiles!!

We are so excited to be back from our winter hiatus and jump back in for the new year! We have several new and exciting things happening this year that I can't wait to tell you about.

This is the last newsletter that you will receive done by yours truly. I am excited to announce the formation of the Newsletter Committee with Flown Kimmerling serving as Committee Chair. She did such an awesome job on our Special Edition Winter Newsletter and we can't wait to see what her and her team has in store! She is happy to take contributions of articles, art and poetry and if you like to contribute, please reach out to us at almushroomsoc@gmail.com.

We have the dates set for the Third Annual Alabama Mushroom Faire! We are also excited to be coordinating with the Mushroom Club of Georgia starting this year! It will be held October 26-27th at the beautiful [Noccalula Falls](#) in Gadsden, Alabama. We are already getting speakers lined up and have even bigger and better things planned from last year.

We have a whole lot more events planned for this year including another Mushroom Dinner in the works, several specialty classes and demos including our fungal microscopy class, a cultivation class and a fungal dye demo, and, of course, lots of forays! Watch for an announcement for the dates of our 2024 AMS Members Only Morel Foray in March and the upcoming March Trash to Treasure Giveaway Contest! This is the time of year that we are building our schedule, and if there is a class or event that you would really like to see us put on, let us know! We want to offer what you want to attend!

The Alabama Fungal Diversity Project is in full force with our Collection Team working hard to document the fungal diversity of Alabama! Look for my monthly article with updates on our sequencing results! If you are interested in participating in Citizen Science and learning to make high quality documentation of fungi in your area, let us know!

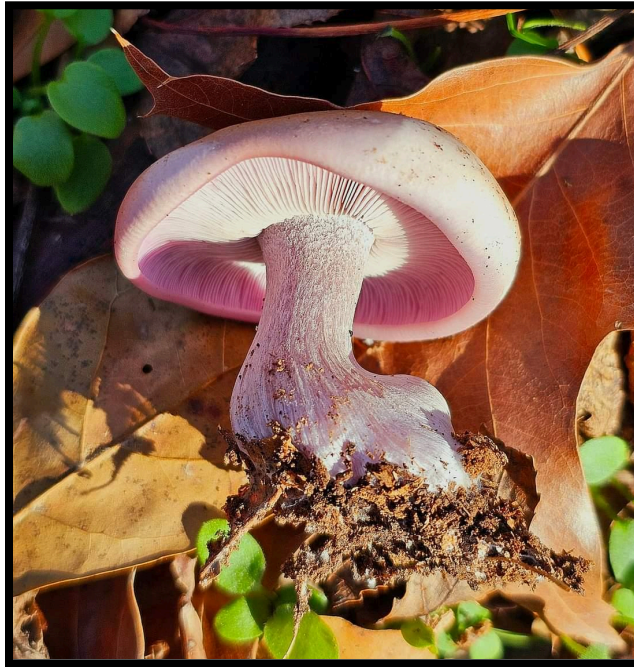
Thank you everyone for your support and participation. We couldn't do what we do without all of you! Here's to the year ahead!

-Alisha Millican
AMS President



**Suspect
Mushroom
Poisoning?**
Call US Poison Control
at
1-800-222-1222
EMERGENCY ID:
[FB Poison's ID Group](#)

<u>AMS Board</u>	
President	Alisha Millican
Vice President	Anthoni Goodman
Treasurer	Spencer Lowry
Secretary	Cassie Pugh



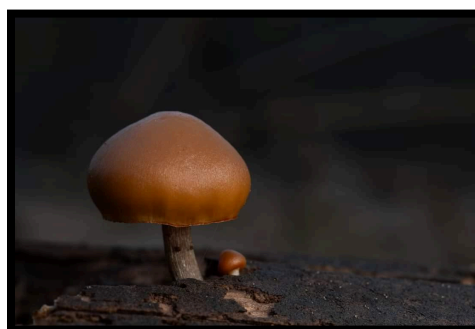
Clitocybe Nuda
By Leigh Maness

Upcoming Events

Click [→HERE←](#) for more info or to register for an event!

- Feb 3rd ----- Jefferson County Monthly Foray
- Feb 10th ----- Cullman County Monthly Foray
- Feb 17th ----- Baldwin County Monthly Foray
- Feb 17th ----- Elmore County Monthly Foray
- Feb 18th ----- Madison County Monthly Foray

Galerina marginata
By Brad Lackey



Fungi Foragecast

The mushrooms found this month will range substantially depending on your location in the state and recent temperatures and precipitation. Most notably, and commonly reported, are an abundant crop of Pleurotus (the Oysters), and Hericium (Lion's Mane, Coral Tooth and Bearshead Tooth). Of course you can't get far in our Alabama woods without seeing the many dozens of small polypores (especially Trametes and Stereum) with gelatinous and sometimes colorful growth around them (the Jellies!) and often parasitizing the Stereum. These jellies are discussed in great detail in our ID Key available to members (you will have to log in to access this page) [Here](#). As the winter holds us in it's not-so icy grips, we'll also see the explosion of Ascomycetes. This entire phylum of the kingdom Fungi is massive but will include the cup-fungi of the class Pezizomycetes (including morels!), the hard lumpy balls of Hypoxylon, and the finery appendages of Xylaria and similar in the class Sordariomycetes. You may still be finding many Basidiocarps such as the Hydnum (hedgehogs), Clavariadelphus (sweet clubs), Hygrocybe and Hygrophorus (wax-caps), and Lepista (wood blewit and allies). There are also a host of Mycena and other especially small fungi that thrive in this season, but for those, you may need a hand-lens and to crawl around a bit! Don't forget to post your cool and unusual finds both on our Facebook group and on iNaturalist!



Gloeophyllum sepiarium
by Flown Kimmerling

Calendar Contest

The 2023 calendars featuring these photos and all of last year's other amazing winners are available for sale on

→[our Etsy Shop](#)←

Congratulations to our November winner Flown Kimmerling with her photo of a *Fibroporia radiculosa*!



Congratulations to our January winner Cassie Pugh with her photo of *Chromosera cyanophylla*!



Congratulations to our December winner Flown Kimmerling with her photo of a *Cortinarius* species!



Go submit your favorite mushroom photos taken this month for February's Calendar contest on Facebook!!

[Go now!](#)



The news is abuzz with news of two of the periodical cicadas hatching this year. Here in Alabama we will experience the emergence of the 17 year cicadas known as Brood 19 or “the Great Southern Brood” The 13 year cicadas are much further north, up in Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin.

Cicadas are a host for a couple fungi. The underground nymphs attach themselves to the roots of both hardwood (especially Oak) and conifer trees and may fall prey to *Paraisaria pseudoheteropoda*. This species of *Paraisaria* is newly described, and one of the specimens examined for the paper was collected here by our very own Collection Team member Bucky Reader! You can read the open access paper by Richard Tehan [HERE](#). You will find these fungi sticking up from the soil and leaf litter like large, pale matchsticks. The head at the top may be cream to chestnut brown. The stem winds down to attach to a buried cicada nymph, some of which may be a foot or more underground. If you think you have found these, compare your find to *Tolypocladium* which may look similar to the untrained eye, but will be attached to an underground ‘false truffle’ known as an Elaphomycete.



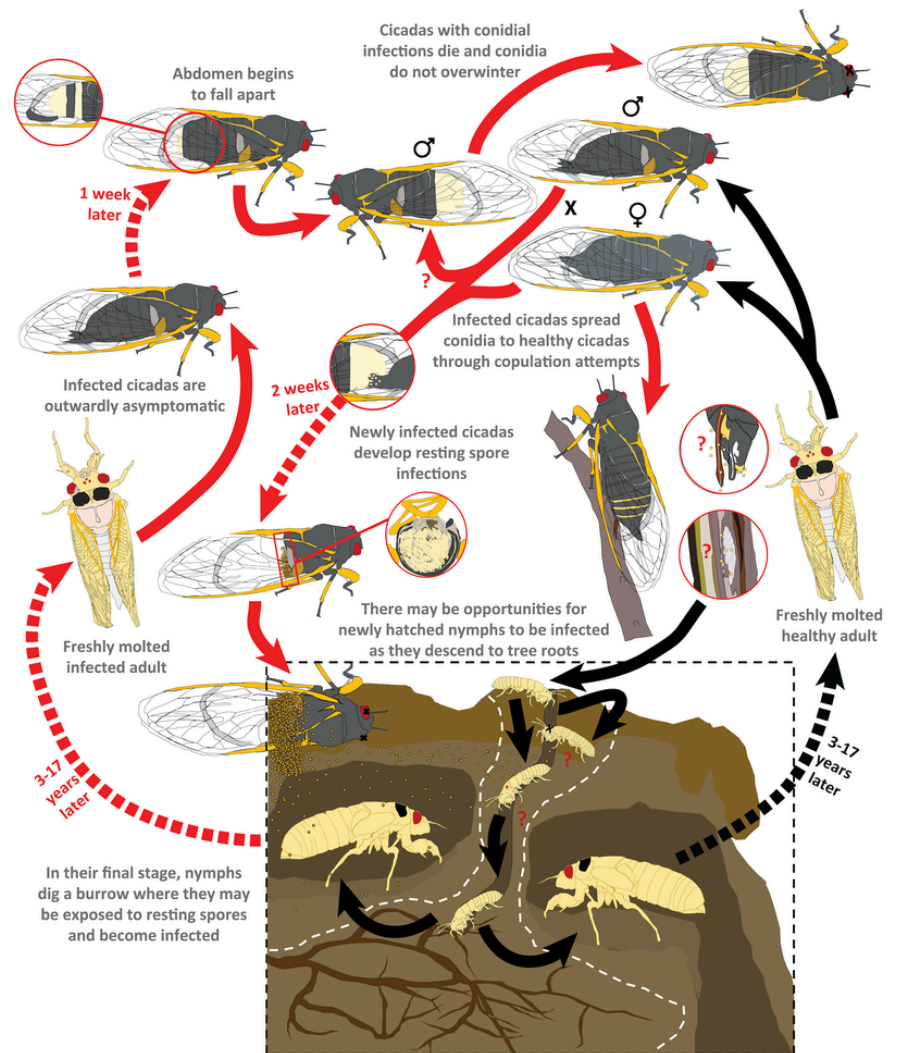


The other fungus that cicadas may fall victim to is *Massospora cicadina*. This fungus is especially interesting because it completely destroys the sex organs of the cicada, rendering them infertile. The whole end of their abdomen completely falls off. The cicada then continues to respond to mating calls of healthy members of both sexes, both mounting and

tolerating being mounted by either sex, despite being infertile.

In this manner, the fungus spreads. Whilst flying and crawling around, spores from the fungus fall to the ground and are deposited on tree branches where healthy females go to lay eggs. Emerging nymphs may become infected when encountering these spores on their way to dig down into the soil to feed on underground tree roots. The fungus will then wait the 13 or 17 years necessary for the hatching of these new victims before initiating their control on the cicada. It was recently discovered that the fungus contains an amphetamine which may have an effect on the cicada's behavior.

Look for cicadas with a white plug in place of the rear abdominal section. Take photos and share them on iNaturalist!



By Brian Lovett, Angie Macias, Jason E. Stajich, John Cooley, Jørgen Eilenberg, Henrik H. de Fine Licht, Matt T. Kasson - (2020). "Behavioral betrayal: How select fungal parasites enlist living insects to do their bidding". *PLOS Pathogens* 16 (6): e1008598. DOI:10.1371/journal.ppat.1008598. ISSN 1553-7374. CC BY 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=106395969>

Meeting Information

AMS meetings take place the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm CST via Zoom and are open to the public.

Join us February 6th where we will have a brief business meeting to discuss everything we have planned for this coming year. Then AMS president and FunDiS Volunteer Coordinator Alisha Millican will be talking to us about the FunDiS Southeast Rare Fungi Challenge! This are some fascinating fungi that you will not want to miss learning about!

Link to the zoom meeting: [Join Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 882 6946 3069 Passcode: 18

2024 Scavenger Hunt

We are completely REVAMPING our scavenger hunt. We want to make it more accessible for folks just beginning into mushrooms, and allow them the chance to win prizes too. Stay tuned while we work out the details!



Calostoma lutescens by
Jackie Murdock

Is there something you would like to see included each month? Do you have foray photos, a recipe or something else you would like to contribute? Reach out to us at www.almushroomsoc@gmail.com