

From the Editor

*A*s I sit down to write this editorial, fall is settling in across the farmland outside my window. It's a bittersweet time for many of us; the warm weather is retreating, which means the end of a bountiful garden, no more wild mushrooms to stalk, and no more sunsets on the back porch while sipping a glass of wine. But it's also a good time for me, as I no longer have to toil in the garden, and the firewood's cut and stacked; the canning and preserving is over, and the larder's full. I'm reminded of a poem by the great "Hoosier poet," James Whitcomb Riley:

*O, it's then's the time a feller is a-feelin' at his best,
With the risin' sun to greet him from a night of
peaceful rest,
As he leaves the house, bareheaded, and goes out to
feed the stock,
When the frost is on the punkin' and the fodder's in
the shock . . .*

It's also at this time, as winter is settling in, that I can begin to catch up on all the reading I put off during the busy summer months. There are stacks of books and magazines awaiting me. I'm just now going through a pile of newsletters from the numerous mycological clubs across North America. While reading the "President's Message" in an issue of the New Mexico Mycological Society's newsletter, *The Mycorizon*, I was struck by the poignant commentary of David Wallis. He stated that one of his goals was "to stress that his society was not 'just' a mushroom club, but that they should focus on science and learning rather than just gathering and eating." Of course, he went on to say that we all do—and certainly should—enjoy the culinary rewards of our pursuit, but that "there needs to be more." I wholeheartedly agree and hope the members of the North American Mycological Association do as well. As NAMA's mission is "to promote, pursue, and advance the science of mycology," I feel that the publication of this journal, *McIlvainea*, is a very important part of our mission. I have received a great deal of warm and positive commentary since the publication of the previous

issue. It is my goal to ensure that all the papers that we publish in this journal are of high quality, interesting, and pertinent to our mission. However, I'm keenly aware that all papers are not going to appeal to everyone. Nor will every paper be written at everyone's level of understanding of mycology. This is by design. It is my hope that all of us—myself included—will learn something new in each issue. Of course, I'm still new at this and welcome your feedback!

Now comes the end to another terrific year. It was great to see everyone again at this year's Annual Foray in Hinton, Alberta. What a beautiful site for a foray! But on a sadder note, we lost several of our members this year. Of course, we were all staggered at the loss of Orson Miller. He can never be replaced. We also lost Bill Cibula, a very well known mycophile from the Southeast. And we lost Elizabeth Moses. I was especially moved by several of the comments that were written in remembrance of her. She felt that Charles McIlvaine was a father figure to her and a role model. These three members will live on in our memories and certainly serve as role models to all of us. This issue is dedicated to Orson, Bill, and Elizabeth. On the cover, and inside this issue, you will see images of *Amanita populiphila*, which was "discovered" and named by Elizabeth.

—Britt A. Bunyard, Ph.D.



The Editor and his daughter, Rachel, in pursuit of mushrooms somewhere in Alberta, Canada.



Top: Elizabeth in a field full of the mushroom she discovered and named. Bottom: *Amanita populiphila* Tulloss and Moses; please see "Memories of Elizabeth," page 78. Photos courtesy of R. Meyer.

