



**The Los Angeles Mycological Society** (LAMS) is a non-profit\* organization founded in 1971 devoted to the study and enjoyment of wild and cultivated mushrooms and other fungi.

**What is Mycology?** Mycology (MY-kahl-Ah-gee) is the science that deals with fungi. Fungi are neither animal nor plant, but a unique group of organisms sometimes called "The Fifth Kingdom." There are tens of thousands of known species of fungi and probably even more that remain unknown to science. Fungi are worldwide in distribution and range in size from single-celled yeasts to huge underground webs of tissue bigger than the root systems of the largest trees. Those fungi we call mushrooms are simply one branch of a huge and varied group of organisms. Fungi play varied roles in the environment. Some cause disease in plants and animals, while others aid the growth of plants and provide humans with life-saving antibiotics. Fungi are the principal recyclers of nutrients from dead plants and animals

\* LAMS is an IRS recognized non-profit tax-exempt organization and memberships may be tax-deductible for certain professionals. Please consult your tax advisor.

Without fungi, life as we know it would be impossible.

**Mushrooms? In Los Angeles?** Many people are surprised to learn that mushrooms can be common, even abundant, in the natural environments around Los Angeles for almost half the year (December--May). However, the rain that falls during our mild winter and spring months allows mushrooms to grow over a lengthy season. In fact, more than 400 species of mushrooms and other fungi have been recorded from Southern California. We have a longer mushroom season than many areas of the US which receive more rainfall, but which have a more extreme climate. In some years, it is even possible to collect mushrooms during the summer, in the mountains inland from Los Angeles.

**Edible? Or Poisonous?** Many prized edible wild mushrooms occur in Southern California including the morel (*Morchella* species), chanterelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*), oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) and king bolete or porcini (*Boletus edulis*). However, while some mushrooms provide delicious food, there are poisonous, even **deadly** mushrooms in the fields and forests of Southern California.

**ALL folk methods for identifying poisonous mushrooms are unreliable, and therefore dangerous!**

Although there are many excellent field guides to wild mushrooms, there is no substitute for hands-on identification skills that are learned from experienced mushroom hunters. Joining a mycological society is the surest way to learn how to safely identify and use mushrooms!



**Destroying Angel (*Amanita ocreata*)**



**Black morel (*Morchella elata*)**

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Individual/Family at one address: \$25.00 per year
- Student (include copy of current I.D.): \$15.00 per year
- Life Membership: \$250.00

Use preprinted address label if possible

Name(s)\* \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ -- \_\_\_\_\_ (day/eve)

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and mail with check or money order payable to **LAMS** to:

Dick Smith  
LAMS Membership Chair  
4907 So. Maymont Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90043

\* **LAMS does not sell, rent or trade its mailing list.**

### Receipt for Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 10/08

**Who belongs to LAMS?** People from many walks of life and levels of education. Although most LAMS members are amateurs, we are fortunate to have several professional mycologists among our members. A varied membership ensures that there is probably someone in LAMS who shares your interests and level of knowledge about fungi.

**Why join LAMS?** To learn about mushrooms and other fungi in a supportive atmosphere. Anyone from novice to expert can gain from exchanging knowledge and experience with other mycophiles (mushroom lovers).

**ACTIVITIES:** The principal interest of most LAMS members is finding, identifying, and cooking edible wild mushrooms. LAMS schedules field trips called "forays" to hunt for mushrooms when the weather has been favorable for mushroom growth.

Our monthly meetings from October through June provide an opportunity to learn mushroom identification (using mushrooms members bring to meetings) and to view slide programs by guest speakers. Speakers have included such well known mycologists as Orson Miller, Gary Lincoff, Nancy Smith Weber, David Arora, Jonathan Ott and many others.

Besides identification, edibility and cooking, the interests of LAMS members include cultivation of edible mushrooms, photography, medicinal and nutritional value of fungi, dyeing fabrics (using mushroom pigments), ecology, ethnobotany, folklore, hallucinogenic fungi, microscopy, taxonomy (classification and evolution), and commercial applications of fungi.

**MUSHROOM FAIR:** LAMS sponsors a Mushroom Fair & Display in February at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden in Arcadia. A variety of forays and

speakers are offered in conjunction with the Fair.

**MEETINGS:** LAMS meetings are held at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Exposition Park. Unless otherwise announced, meetings will be at 8:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month from October through June.

Specific information on dates and speakers will be published in *The Spore Print*, announced on the message machine and the LAMS web site [www.lamushrooms.org](http://www.lamushrooms.org) prior to each meeting. Free parking for meetings is available in the Museum Staff lot on Menlo Street off Exposition Blvd. and entry to the Museum is through the Staff entrance just southeast of the Menlo Street lot. More detailed directions are available at the LAMS web site by clicking on the "Directions" link. **Guests are always welcome at LAMS events.**

**NEWSLETTER:** *The Spore Print*, now in its 38th year of publication, is recognized as one of the finest mycological society newsletters. It is sent by First Class mail to members prior to meetings and contains information on LAMS meetings and forays, as well as events sponsored by other mycological societies. *The Spore Print* contains news of general mycological interest including reports of recent mushroom collecting.

**MESSAGE MACHINE:** (323) 292-1900 Call any time of day or night for information on upcoming events.

**ELECTRONIC MAIL UPDATES:** Members with electronic mail can receive notification of LAMS events by email. This service is available only to members.