

Happy Birthday!

It's hard to believe, but with this edition of FUNGI we begin our 10th year in print! **Thank you** to all of our subscribers and special thanks to those of you who have supported us since that very first issue. We will have all sorts of surprises throughout the year to celebrate, including “double issues” like the one you're holding, giveaways and contests on our Facebook page (not a follower? check it out!), and we hope to launch a digital version of FUNGI for smartphones and other electronic devices by the end of the year.

And still more thanks are due: FUNGI would not be the most popular mycological journal in North America without all the magnificent work of the editors, writers, illustrators, photographers (special shout out to Taylor Lockwood, who's been featured on most of our glorious covers), review editorial staff (special thanks to Else Vellinga and Steve Trudell who do the lion's share of the work), Virginia Till (who is indefatigable at our sales events, and who also has a very keen eye for proofreading), Webmaster Tom Bardenwerper (Cedar Creek Networks) who built the website before we even had a magazine and who's kept it running smoothly ever since, and finally to Production Editor Jan Hammond who is the reason each issue looks so great—you cannot imagine how much time she puts into her job! (She's also an accomplished dulcimer player and photographer—Jan gets the cover of this edition to start our tenth year.)

As I write this, spring is trying to break out across North America. The Wild Epicure has been out foraging for spring edibles and I think you'll love what he's cooking up for you in this issue. We have several springtime poems featured (a shout out to our Poetry Editor, Art Goodtimes, for his tireless work), long-time Contributing Editor, David Rose, and one of our newest Contributing Editors, Susan Goldhor, both are featured in this anniversary issue, as is stalwart Contributing Editor Lawrence Millman—if you go outdoors right now, you may not see much in the way of fungi but you very well may spot the subject of this edition's Small Wonders.

The special feature of this big double issue is the rock star of the medicinal mushroom world, *Cordyceps*. And just when you think you've heard it all, we have some new twists. The last word on this enigmatic fungus has yet to be written and we definitely have some brand new chapters within this edition. For example, did you know that it was recently figured out how to cultivate this insect pathogen ... without its bug host? We show you how. Want to know the latest on all those confusing species of *Cordyceps* and their chemical components? We got you covered. And what's the latest status of this economically important fungus in Tibet and elsewhere ... is it going to be loved (and collected) to extinction? We have the latest on that too. And, spoiler alert, it was recently discovered that this fungus, well known as a parasite of moth larvae that live in the grassy steppes of Asia, also seems to live within the plants too! The scientific community awaits further study, but it seems *Cordyceps* infects the ghost moth larvae, possibly through the digestive system while the caterpillars are feeding on fungal-infected plants. Does this mean this fungus is all over the steppe, hidden in plain sight? Will this mean that overharvesting of caterpillars won't actually wipe out the fungus? We'll stay tuned, to be sure.

And I hope you'll stay tuned to FUNGI ... for another 10 years and beyond. Thank you for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. ...' with a stylized flourish.