

11-5-65

PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Bulletin No. 17

November 1965

NOVEMBER MEETING

Monday night, November 8, 8:00 pm, Eames Theatre, Pacific Science Center. Man from Ostrom, Mr. William Street, will divulge the deepest mysteries of mushroom culture as practiced in his Lake City Sanctum. We hope (but do not promise) that he will bring samples. Candid shots taken during the recent exhibit will be shown. Identification session following the formal program.

EXHIBIT REPORT

Success is the mildest adjective that can be applied to the wonderful two-day show staged by Chairman, Anne Mack and her tireless committees in presenting the Society's Second Annual Mushroom Exhibit. The many members who participated in this enterprise are too numerous to be individually commended here, but special credit must go to George Mack who loaned us his wife for the many weeks required to plan, organize and stage our show. We wish him speedy recovery from his diet of TV-dinners.

A few statistics: Attendance - 3760 paid admissions, adult and children; 1130 admitted on Science Center tickets and memberships; 290 Society members and families; for a total attendance of 5180. Species exhibited: 230 estimated by Connie Wood. New members - 66.

Preliminary Report of Income and Expenses:

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| Income | Admissions | \$1689 |
| | Book Sales | 1443 |
| | Memberships | <u>120</u> |
| | Total | \$3252 |
| Expense | Materials | \$ 380 |
| | Rentals | 222 |
| | Printing | 182 |
| | Cost Books | 990 |
| | Taxes | 60 |
| | Miscel | <u>30</u> |
| | Total | \$1864 |
| Profit on Operations (excl memberships) | | \$1388 estimated |

We owe special thanks to many persons who are not members of the Society for support and assistance: The overworked Science Center staff, particularly Jim Backstrom, who overcame their apprehensions about what we would do to their prized Eames Theatre and gave every cooperation; John Reddin of the Seattle Times and Jean Lunzer of the Seattle P-I for publicizing our show; the King County Park Department who generously permitted our removal of some king-sized cattails for decorations; Mr. Small, Enumclaw District Forest Ranger, who not only permitted but assisted in the gathering of trees and greenery; Ostrom Mushroom Company who provided the exhibit of growing Agaricus commercial species; and the various merchants who loaned mushroom products for display.

CLASSES PLANNED

After prolonged consideration of the type of instruction that will most benefit the largest number of our members, the Board has come to the decision that a Society-wide course in the generic concepts of the fleshy fungi, particularly the Agaricaceae (gilled Mushroom), would be most fruitful. The course would provide for each member a firm basis and a necessary step toward the identification of mushrooms. We therefor propose, commencing with the January meeting, to conduct four-session lecture series dealing with the botany of fungi, nomenclature and terminology, classification in terms of the Friesian genera, use of keys, and introduction to the bases of modern taxonomy. The courses are being planned by a committee consisting of George Rafanelli, George Tokuda, Anne Mack and Connie Wood under the guidance of Dr. Stuntz. A course outline and other printed material will be distributed and will permit members to be able to skip a class without losing continuity. Slides and other visual aids will supplement and clarify the lecture material. The classes will occupy a portion of the meeting time not to exceed (we hope) one hour, thus leaving room for other interesting program material and necessary Society business. We hope that all members will avail themselves of this opportunity to become knowledgeable amateurs in mycology and be stimulated to pursue further study to advance their skills.

FUTURE MEETINGS

In line with the above report, the tentative schedule for future meetings of the Society is projected as follows:

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| DECEMBER | Dr. Stuntz on Boletus, Coffee Social following. |
| JANUARY | Program pending, Class Session I |
| FEBRUARY | Nominations, Class Session II |
| MARCH | ANNUAL MEETING BANQUET, Election & Installation |
| APRIL | Class Session III, Spring Mushrooms |
| MAY | Class Session IV, Program pending (Spring Field Trip |
| JUNE | Graduation (naturally) this month) |
| JULY-AUGUST | Summer Recess |

AMANITA PHALLOIDES

First authenticated collection of Amanita Phalloides in the Puget Sound area is reported by Dr. Stuntz, found growing under birches in the yard of a Mercer Island resident. This is the deadly European species which, together with its closely associated species, *A. verna* and *A. Virosa*, accounts for over 90% of the fatalities due to mushroom poisoning. The collection has been turned over to the US Pharmacognosy Department for testing of toxic contents.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

While they last, the Society has the following books left from the Exhibit, which are available to members at the following discount prices:

J. W. Groves: Edible & Poisonous Mushrooms of Canada
List - \$7.75 Member Price - \$6.24 plus .26 tax

Pomerleau: Mushrooms of Eastern Canada & the U. S.
List - \$7.50 Member Price - \$6.00 plus .25 tax

We also have on hand a quantity of the U. S. Dept of Agriculture Bulletin on Mushrooms, list 35¢, members 25¢.

BOOKS (CONT'D) Mrs. Shirley George, performing a valuable service to fellow members of the Society, has acquired a number of copies of two books which she is making available at her cost. One is Pilat & Usak's Mushrooms and Other Fungi, now listing at \$12.95, for \$6.00 to members. The other is the Pomerleau book described above, also at \$6.00. Her quantities are also limited, so those who wish to acquire these valuable titles at bargain prices should call Mrs. George at CH 3-6946 to put in their orders.

SLIDES WANTED Continuing with our program to accumulate a photographic and slide collection, members are requested to loan their color slides to the Society for the purpose of making duplicates. We hope to assemble a library that will eventually contain the entire Puget Sound flora of the fleshy fungi. Dr. Dick Black, E. 9-0261, chairs this important committee. The slides do not require artistic composition but should show clearly the various parts of the mushroom as well as rendering the color accurately.

NEW MEMBERS Because of the large number of new members enrolled during and since the Exhibit, we will make no effort to list the newly joined, but rather will issue a revised roster to be mailed with next month's bulletin.

Ben Woo -- Editor