

# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
200 Second Avenue North Seattle, WA 98109  
October 1972 Number 85



## 9th annual exhibit



### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The biggest event of the year for our Society will soon be upon us. Our Annual Exhibit requires the efforts of a great many of our members to make it a success. Now is the time to offer your services; it can be fun working together.

Our Exhibit Committee is chaired by Don Peterson again this year, so we have the advantage of having a man at the helm who has had experience. If the mushrooms cooperate we should have another terrific show.

Pick up your phone and volunteer for one of these fun jobs; it is a wonderful way to meet new people and make friends.

Howard C. Melsen, President

The 9th Annual Mushroom Exhibit will be held October 14 and 15, noon to 9 pm, at the Pacific Science Center. Preparations for the Exhibit, if you didn't already know, have been in the works for months now. Our capable Chairpersons are:



Arrangements	Margaret Dilly
Book Sales	Fred Wasson
Hospitality	Vi Simpson
Collection	George Rafanelli
Home Preserve	Ethel Bennett
Membership	Jenny Schmitt
Labelling	Thelma Larson
Arts & Crafts	Charles Proctor
Decoration	Dina Chybinski
Construction	Charles Kessner
Publicity	Jim Hara
Commercial Exhibit	Charles Woodruff
Phone	To be arranged
Clean up	" " "

These are not, by the way, listed in any particular order. Volunteers are needed, however, for the Phone, Clean up, Hospitality, and Decorations Committees. You don't want these noble people to struggle on unaided, so volunteer. Speak up. Call The Chairpersons or Don Peterson for more information. They will be delighted to hear from you.



# membership meeting

Monday, October 9, 8 pm, Eames Theatre, Pacific Science Center.

A step into the past with the film "Moving a Mountain", a documentary of the Denny Regrade. This levelling of Denny Hill began in 1910 and was completed in 1930.

Ward Collier of the Seattle Engineering Department which produced the film, will be present to narrate and answer questions.

Don't miss the moving pictures of 1930 Seattle.

## BOARD NOTES

Isabelle Waite has prepared a five page Elementary Guide which will be available at the Exhibit.

Scott Chilton's pamphlet on mushroom poisoning, symptoms, and treatments will also be available for the Exhibit.

The Board voted a donation to Providence Hospital Cancer Research Fund in memory of Ralph Nolan. Individuals may contribute to the Fund.

Charles Proctor is preparing a list of books for recommendation to the Seattle Public Library, on mushrooms, of course.

Persons who bring specimens to the Science Center for the Annual Exhibit were cautioned to be sure that they were exhibitable--in good condition, one piece, etc.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

The Arts & Crafts Committee will meet Monday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 pm prior to the Membership meeting at the Pacific Science Center. Charles Proctor, Chairman; Elsie Gatcomb, Vice-Chairman. All committee members and interested bystanders are invited and will attend.

## HELP WANTED

More volunteers to help in the construction end of the annual exhibit. Approximately 7:00 'til 10:00 pm Wednesday and Thursday nights before the show and the Sunday evening after. Call Charles Kessner at CH2-1305 or sign up at the October membership meeting.

## MORE HELP WANTED

The Decorations Committee needs people who would like to make flower arrangements with 8-foot-tall trees. No knowledge of decorations, arrangements, or trees is necessary. This will occur the Friday before the show. Small twigs are also available for those who feel weak. Call Dina Chybinski at PA 5-9081 for details on this jolly enterprise.

## STILL MORE HELP WANTED

Attractive, fresh, unbusted specimens for the Exhibit are needed badly. (Please, no items you have been saving in the back of the fridge in a plastic bag since March--those aren't attractive.) If you collect items, try to get part of the soil, moss, or whatever you find them in, and treat them carefully. Bring these beautiful mushrooms to the back of the Science Center Thursday and Friday.



SPORE PRINTS is published monthly except July and August by the PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY, c/o The Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Ave. N, Seattle, Washington 98109.

OFFICERS Howard Melsen President  
Charles Woodruff Vice Pres  
Helen Wasson Treasurer  
Helen Hewitt Secretary

TRUSTEES Michel Allain, Scott Chilton, Dina Chybinski, Claude Dilly, Milton Grout, James M. Hara, Don Peterson, Dee Poole, Charles Proctor, Isabelle Waite, and Robert W. Ramsey (Immediate Past President)

ALTERNATES Cliff Carpetner, Virginia Kessner, Charles Kessner.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

## CALENDAR

- Oct. 9 Monday 6:30 Arts & Crafts Comm. in Board Rm.  
8:00 pm Membership meeting
- Oct. 14/15 Sat. and Sun. noon to 9 pm Annual Exhibit
- Oct. 23 Monday 8:00 pm Board meeting
- Oct. 27 The REAL deadline for Sporeprints news. Mail to SP, 4029 E. Madison, Seattle WA 98102.
- Nov. 13 Monday 8:00 pm Membership meeting
- March 31 Annual Survivors' Banquet

## A MUSHROOM GARDEN OF OUR VERY OWN

Mr. Joseph A. Witt, acting director of the Arboretum, has given permission for PSMS to have a Mushroom Garden at the Arboretum. At present the collection will be limited to mushrooms growing on wood. If you find any specimens that would be appropriate, collect them with as much of the wood as possible. Logs are fine. These specimens can, of course appear first at the Exhibit. Contact Dina Chybinski or Ed Cantelon for more information.

FIELD TRIPS

by Martin Hansen

Oct. 7/8/9 Golden Ears Campsite in Golden Ears Provincial Park, Haney, B.C. This is on Alouette Lake, 30 miles east of Vancouver, B.C.

CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE CHANGE  
Be sure to go to Vancouver via Blaine and then go 30 miles East of Vancouver on Highway 7 to Haney. Then 8 miles north. (Going through Sumas, as previously suggested, will apparently involve taking a ferry over the Fraser river, which may or may not be there when you are. The ferry, that is.)

This promises to be an outstanding opportunity for mushroom hunting in virgin territory, thanks to Bob Ramsey who initiated the trip. Dr. K. and Marjorie Asano plan to serve authentic Japanese sukiyaki if they find enough matsutake.

Oct, 21/22/23 Dalles Forest Camp. Naches Highway 25 miles S.E. of Enumclaw. The Audubon Society will join us on this trip, so bring your field glasses.

Oct. 28/29 Oak Patch Camp near Bremerton. Belfair toward Tahuya. Go past Belfair State Park, turn right on Elfendahl Pass Rd., a little over 2 miles. Note a sign: Tahuya River Valley, and take the gravel road straight ahead for 3 miles. It's on the left.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

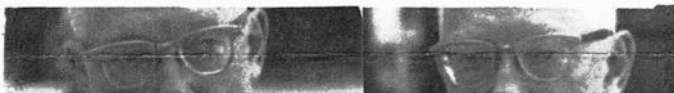
by Ed Cantelon

Sept. 16/17 Silver Fir Forest Camp, Mt. Baker.

The Field Trip Committee did this one—37 families signed the register. 57 enjoyed the excellent potluck and those that did not find it sufficient roasted Solanum tuberosum\* in the fireplace.

Charles Volz did the ID on the 64 species found. We had rain on Saturday and there was snow on upper Mt. Baker. Temperature was right at 32 degrees early Monday morning. Many members gathered nice moss for the exhibit.

\*white potato



MATSUTAKI HUNTER

G.W.R.

I'm walking but my eyes are on the ground  
I'm looking for the little tell-tale mound  
The slit of white, the scent, the sight  
So I can probe to see what I have found.  
It is the Armillaria I seek  
I shall return to hunt again next week  
And when I've filled my box I'll hunt yet more:  
To bring back larger bags than ere before  
Yet, still there is a reason for my greed  
It is the recognition that I need  
So I will share what I bring in  
With friend or neighbor and with kin  
So they can well inspect the prize  
And fix the dish they idolize  
Yet while they sup and talk of all the rest  
They'll have to say for sure that I'm the best  
And so I'll walk for miles on and on  
To quit at dusk and start again at dawn  
Walking with my eyes glued to the ground  
Looking for that little tell-tale mound.

DECEASED

Ralph M. Nolan, of cancer. Ralph was PSMS President in 1968; as Master of Ceremonies his quick wit twice enhanced our Annual Banquets. He came to Seattle in 1955 and worked for Boeing until his illness, forming the Boeing Employees' Mushroom Club. He loved the Pacific Northwest, and as soon as he came here sold his golf clubs, saying there were too many beautiful places to visit—he'd have no time for golf. His many interest and activities are a living memorial to him. He'll be missed in many ways.



His wife Hildah thanks you all for your many messages of sympathy and love.

FLESH  
GILLS GILLS

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*Gycoling  
Lew*

ECOLOGY CORNER (We're painting ourselves into it...)

NORTHWEST GARDENERS UNITE!

The NorthWest Companion Planter, a practical guide to organic gardening in the northwest, is now available for your delectation. Two of our talented members, Hanni Bogdan and Connie Calvert, have been published in the Planter, and an article by our talented Bill Pollard will appear in a later edition. Jan Silver, editor and founder of the Planter, also includes articles on natural food preparations, city gardening, and collecting natural foods, something we are all interested in.

The Planter is noteworthy to PSMS, not only because of our members' contributions, but because it supports the natural environment—which is good for mushrooms. Ten issues a year, \$4, NorthWest Companion Planter, 311 1st Ave. S., Seattle WA 98104.

(From the Gainesville (Fla.) Sun, July 2, 1972)

By ROBERTA BERNER:  
Sun Staff Writer

Psilocybin has mushroomed to popularity in the last year around such campuses as the University of Florida and Florida State University.

*Psilocybe cubensis*, the variety of mushroom popular here for its hallucinogenic content, grows "probably any time that it's warm enough (70 degrees or higher) and there's sufficient moisture," said Dr. James W. Kimbrough, mycologist in the UF's department of botany.

Both Kimbrough and Creech agreed that people with psychological problems run a greater risk of having a bad experience with the hallucinogen, and Kimbrough said, "A psychologist can almost predict how a person will react if he takes psilocybin, if he knows his patient well enough."

The drug basically inhibits the activity of enzymes affecting hormone build-up, according to Kimbrough. The result is that sensations are short-circuited to the brain, shooting to the brain faster.

"It's unfortunate that in some people (the short-circuiting) is not necessarily to those centers controlling hearing or seeing. There are all kinds of psychological ramifications which can take place and do."

"There are warnings about continuous use of psilocybin or continuous use of the mushroom," he said.

"There's a building-up kind of effect," Creech said. Someone using mushrooms regularly "should take a rest period for a month or so to let everything pass out of his system," he suggested.

Kimbrough is very concerned over possibilities of mushroom misidentification as the fad spreads.

"I'm basically very disturbed about the use of the mushroom, because as this kind of fad gets into the high school and junior high school age group . . . I don't know whether they'll be able to recognize the same fungus. Misidentification is very alarming."

Some varieties of mushrooms in the area are very toxic and fast-acting, Kimbrough said. Since many mushroom pickers roam pasture land far from any hospitals, the danger could be magnified.

*Psilocybe cubensis* is only one of several species of mushrooms growing wild in the area.

"Species of psilocybe have a number of distinct features that enable a trained mushroom hunter to recognize them in the field. Some of these features are found in other groups of mushrooms and could easily be confused by an untrained individual," according to the mycologist.

"We do have a large number of deadly poisonous, suspected poisonous and species of unknown toxicity growing in the same location and under the same ecological conditions as the *Psilocybes*."

In a paper he recently presented, "Mushrooms Could Send You on a One-Way Trip," Kimbrough listed 10 varieties of toxic mushrooms, some including a number of poisonous species.

He noted, "Both hallucinogenic compounds and toxic materials are found in many groups of mushrooms."

Vomiting, diarrhea and, possibly, death are symptoms of *Chlorophyllum molybdites*, easy to mistake for *Psilocybe cubensis*. Ingestion of as little as a cubic inch of the tissue can result in illness. The fungus grows around the same kinds of areas as the hallucinogenic mushroom.

"One of the most frequent groups of mushrooms found on manure is *Panaeolus*," according to Kimbrough. At least four species in this group are considered poisonous, "entirely disrupting the nervous system and causing ataxia, disturbances of vision, hallucinations, some loss of volition and exhilaration or depression."

Two highly poisonous varieties — *Galerina* and *Amanita phalloides* — have delayed reactions, not affecting the person who has eaten them until hours later.

Although the *Amanita* mushrooms usually grow in different habitats from *Psilocybe cubensis*, Kimbrough has twice noted the poisonous mushroom growing in manure piles in the Gainesville area.

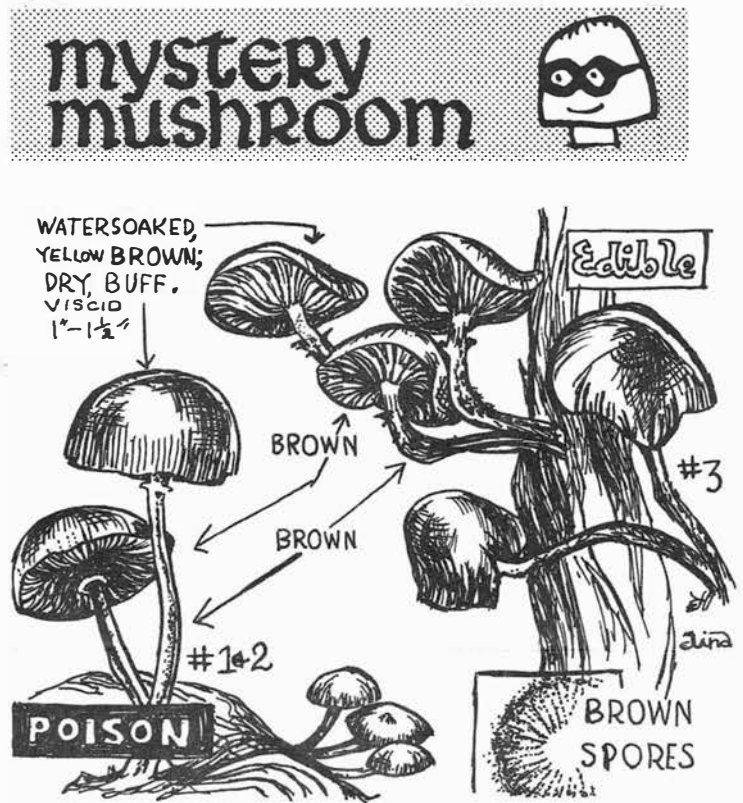
*Amanita phalloides* has a 50 to 90 per cent mortality rate.

With muscarine-producing species, the person eating them "can look forward to more rapid symptoms," according to Kimbrough.

"Within one-half to three hours, sometimes longer in small doses, the person experiences increased secretions of salivary and lacrymal glands and others, perspiration, and severe gastrointestinal disturbances . . . Breathing maybe labored, pupils rarely respond to light."

These species may also be lethal, with death preceded by delirium and convulsions.

Mushrooms vary in toxicity and hallucinogenic properties depending on location and variation in the people eating them, Kimbrough and Creech both mentioned.



So alike that one picture will do for both, poisonous #1 and edible #2 can be positively identified only with the aid of a strong microscope. Formerly in the same genus with its rather rare twin (#2) and a more common look-alike (#3), the deadly #1 is now in a separate group characterized by rough-walled spores. Though by chance #1 and #2 have species epithets relating to seasons of the year, both may be found fruiting now or at any time when conditions of temperature and humidity are right.

The poison contained in #1 is so virulent that, by estimate, 20 of the small mushrooms could bring on an agonizing death—which should be reason enough to avoid all small brown mushrooms, particularly those with these characteristics: Cap 1-1½ inches wide, pale buff when dry, dark brown when water-soaked, and slightly viscid when wet; Gills attached, pale brown, becoming dark brown from its spores; Ring narrow and white; Stem slim, tough, smooth, or slightly fibrilous, pale brown, then darker brown from base up; Odor fresh bran or cucumber; Habitat normally in small clusters on wood but may be found singly in moss or grassy areas, probably on buried wood. Check class key to learn Friesian genus.

Answers: #1 *Galerina* (formerly *Pholiota*) *autumnalis* (See McKenny/Stuntz p. 134). #2 *Pholiota vernalis* (rather rare twin). #3 *Pholiota mutabilis* (more common look-alike). This harmless mushroom grows in dense clusters on wood, and has a markedly rough floccose stipe below a brown ring-remnant. The deadly *Galerina* has a white annulus. See Lange p. 152, Pilat #95.

As every mycophagist knows to his sorrow, bugs eat mushrooms. It may be some comfort to know that one type of fungus, the club-shaped *Cordyceps*, lives on insects. *Cordyceps militaris* feeds on the buried pupae of butterflies and moths, while *C. entomorrhiza* grows on beetle larvae.