

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington, 98109

April 1979

Number 151



CLASSES, CLASSES, CLASSES

George Rafanelli

Starting Tuesday, April 10, 1979 and running for eight consecutive Tuesdays, to May 29, 1979, George Rafanelli, a past president of PSMS, will be holding classes on mushroom identification in the Luther Burbank Community Building, 2040 - 84th Ave. S.E., Mercer Island. The cost of the classes will be approx. \$24 and includes the educational booklet compiled by PSMS. The classes will be held from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. One fieldtrip is planned, which will be held on a weekend. The classes are sponsored by the Mercer Island Parks Department and registration information can be obtained by calling 232 - 6400 - Extension 66; or Charlotte Wilhelm (232 - 1796). You may also call George Rafanelli (767-4408) and inquire about the curriculum.

MORE CLASSES

George Rafanelli

Starting on Thursday, April 19 and running for three Thursdays, till May 3, 1979, George Rafanelli will be holding a minicourse on general mushroom identification information. It will be held at the Parkwood Elementary School, 155th & Wallingford Ave. North. Time for the course is 7 - 9 pm. There is no registration fee. For more information about registration call Beth Sellers, 365 - 0887.

BITS AND PIECES

H.R.H.

George Rafanelli was the Banquet speaker for the Annual Meeting of the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society which was held March 21st.

Two mushroom books were left behind at the Tolt River Fieldtrip. Anyone missing them, should contact Hildegard Hendrickson (523-2892) and after identifying them, can pick them up at the next membership meeting. Also found was a child's knit mitten.

FIELD TRIPS

Dick Sieger

April 7 & 8 Squire Creek County Camp

Take the Arlington Exit from I - 5, and take State Highway #530 toward Darrington. Drive about four miles past French Creek. Cross bridge and it will be on your left. There is a fee for camping.

April 21 & 22 Educational Foray to Thunderbird Park

Thunderbird Park is located five miles east of Monroe on the south side of the Skykomish River on the Ben Howard Road.

This is a private campground with a shelter, showers with hot and cold running water, hook-ups for water, sewer, and electricity, for the usual fee. There also is a charge for people staying just for the day.

Be sure you cross the river in Monroe!

There will be a potluck on Saturday. The educational program of the foray had not been finalized at this time. It usually consists of a lecture on Saturday evening.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jennie Schmitt

April is the month we realize that spring has finally arrived. The trees have begun to bloom and bud, the grass and mushrooms begin to appear from beneath the winter snow. The sun even shines a bit brighter.

This is also the month when we look over the affairs of our organization for the past year. It is the peak of election of officers. The time that gives an opportunity to many to accept the challenge of office and responsibility of their Club.

May I say "thank you" to the officers just retiring for a successful year, and wish for the new officers, every success as they go forward with the love and cooperation of all members. We must all work together to gain our goals for the fiscal year. It is only through us, you and me, as members, that our club will continue to grow and prosper.

As we prepare our new officers for their tasks in the coming year, let us resolve to give our full-hearted cooperation, accepting what they ask of us, and doing for them that which we would expect they would do for us.

It's not the hours you put into your work, but the work you put into your hours. The hardest work in the world is to do that which should have been done yesterday. It is quite possible to work, without results, but never will there be results without work.

Thanks again to the retiring officers for a very prolific year, and I hope those taking your position will be able to carry on your good work.

Happy Hunting To One and All!

URGENT PLEA:

There is a great need for fieldtrip hosts for all of the above fieldtrips. If PSMS is to continue the format of the fieldtrips in the present manner, more members, old and new, will have to volunteer for hosting duties on the coming fieldtrips. A host does not need to identify the mushrooms brought in (an expert will do this). A host keeps the coffee going, greets arriving members, and stirs the fire in the fireplace if we have a cold and rainy day. Ideally, we would have at least 4 volunteers (individuals or couples), each serving for one-half day. This way, everybody also gets to go out for mushrooms. Unfortunately, during most of last year, only one family per fieldtrip volunteered, and the fieldtrip chairman and his family had to pitch in every time. This cannot be expected of any one all the time. The hosts would like to hunt for fungi too.

This is our Society, and we have a good thing going. Let's not spoil it by inaction. Pick up your phone and call Dick Sieger, fieldtrip chairman, at 362-6860 and volunteer for at least one of the coming spring and/or fall fieldtrips. Do it now, don't delay. Dick told me that he could easily assign as many as ten persons as hosts on fieldtrips, so don't rationalize that others will be volunteering and I don't have to. EVERYBODY SHOULD CONSIDER IT A RESPONSIBILITY



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Spore
Prints

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c/o The Pacific Science Center, 200 - 2nd Avenue No.
Seattle, WA 98109. Mail all articles, art or photos to
Hildegard Hendrickson, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, 98115.

OFFICERS Jennie M. Schmitt, President (255-5286)
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McKnight(486-2118); Agnes Sieger (362-6860)

ALTERNATES Stan March (885-0375); John Lockwood
(522-4640); Rudy Karzmar (632-7321).

SCIENTIFIC ADVISER Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

Calendar

April 7 & 8 Fieldtrip to Squire Creek County Campground

April 9 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

NOTE: The membership meetings for April, May,
and June 1979 will be held in the Meeting Room
of the Sacred Heart Church, located across the
Pacific Science Center on Second Avenue North.
Park in your usual parking place. Additional par-
king will be available behind the church, en-
tering from John Street.

April 21 & 22 Educational Foray to Thunderbird Park

April 23 Monday, Board Meeting, 8:00 pm

April 27 Deadline for Spore Print material. Send all
articles, art work, photos, etc., to the Editor,
2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA., 98115

May 14 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

IN MEMORIAM - FRANK PADUANO

On February 22, 1978 our long-time member Frank Pa-
duano died after a long illness. Our sympathies go to his
wife Doris and Family.

Membership Meeting

Monday, April 9, 1979, 8:00 pm in the Meeting Room of
the Sacred Heart Church, located across the street from the
Pacific Science Center on Second Avenue North.

Program: George Rafanelli (a past president of PSMS) will
give a slide-illustrated talk on the spring mushrooms. All of
us can stand a review after the long, cold winter.

There will be books for sale at the April Membership Meeting.

MARCH BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

President Jennie Schmitt introduced the newly elected trustee-
tees. Secretary Margaret Holzbauer read the minutes of the
February Board Meeting, for the benefit of the new trustees.
Since the Eames Theater in the Pacific Science Center is
being remodeled, it will not be available for membership
meetings until the fall. PSMS has secured the Meeting Room
of the Sacred Heart Church, located across the street from
the Pacific Science Center (on Second Avenue North) for
the April, May, and June membership meetings. The church
also will allow some parking on its premises (enter from John)

Margo Harrison gave a preliminary report on the Banquet
(which had been held two days prior to the Board Meeting)
and will present a final report in April.

Lyle McKnight, elections chairman, gave his report and
tally sheet to the President. The newly elected officers and
trustees appear in the column to the left on this page.
President Schmitt is in the process of making committee
assignments at this time. The new committee heads will be
reported in the new roster (which Joy hopes will be printed
by the April membership meeting) as well as in Spore Prints.

Bob Hanna, publications chairman, distributed copies of the
reprinted By-Laws. They will be available at the April mem-
bership meeting.

Scott Chilton and Jack Orth presented to the Board the pros
and cons of updating and reprinting PSMS' Poison Pamphlet.
The Board recommended that the Pamphlet be revised, up-
dated, and reprinted, since PSMS keeps getting requests for
the publication.

The Board continues to study the possible sponsorship of the
1981 NAMA National Foray. A decision is necessary by
the time of this year's Foray, which will be held in Ohio in
September.

FEBRUARY BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

The Board appropriated funds to establish a complete set of
teaching slides for the instructors who hold classes principally
for PSMS members. With the present interest in mushrooms
growing, several classes are held simultaneously, and many
instructors are borrowing slides from the PSMS collections
that the present collection of slides is insufficient. The slide
collections remain the property of PSMS.

Margo Harrison reported that all is ready for the Survivors'
Banquet. The Board approved the awarding of two \$300
scholarship awards to two students, selected by Dr. Stuntz.

Grace Jones is taking over as membership chairman from
Joy McKnight. Some members of the Board suggested that
PSMS establish a "welcoming committee" which would
greet new members as they arrive for the monthly membership

meeting, answer their questions, etc. No action was taken, but the idea was taken under consideration.

Ann Levanavich, a PSMS charter member, donated her complete set of Spore Prints to the Society, and the Board decided to have it bound and placed in the PSMS Library.

President Jennie Schmitt ordered the by-monthly journal "Mycologia" for the Society. It too will be placed in the Library.

President Schmitt also asked the Board's opinion on sponsoring the 1981 NAMA National Foray. The sponsor's obligations are: to provide a location, lodging, food, and some transportation for a few travelers who arrive by air, train, bus, etc. Cispus would be the location, and the date would be in September and/or October. This topic will be brought up again at later Board Meetings.

BANQUET OBSERVATIONS

H.R.H.

Since the deadline for this issue of Spore Prints came almost immediately after the banquet, a full report will be presented later. But I wanted to add my observations, which our modest banquet chairman might not include.

The banquet speaker, David Hosford, gave tribute to his mentor (Dr. Stuntz) and also talked about his trip to the Amazon River.

The excellent, observant, and witty Master of Ceremonies, Carl Hermanson, entertained all of us splendidly. He congratulated Dr. Stuntz on his 70th birthday (which was March 15th) and presented him his favorite cake. The Society also honored Dr. Stuntz and is sponsoring his trip this summer to Nova Scotia, where he will collect and study fungi with a former student. The trip in a small way is a "thank you" for the many, many ways in which Dr. Stuntz assists our Society.

The banquet audience sang "Happy Birthday" to Laurel Huford who celebrated her special day on the 17th of March.

PSMS conferred a life-time membership on your editors at the banquet. Monte and I very much appreciate the honor, and plan to stay on as editors, as well as continue to stay involved in other activities of our Society.

But the Banquet Committee outdid itself in the other awards that were made, and in the door prizes chosen. Mildred Bronner, an avid collector of large quantities and big specimens, was awarded a "miniature" bucket (about 2" square) so she could continue this year. LomNee March was heard complaining last fall, that she had never found a Matzutake. The Committee informed her that the reason for this was simply that she did not own the proper equipment, and promptly awarded her a Matzutake stick and a rice sack (and assured her that now all barriers were removed, and she should have success this fall). Earl Harrison was awarded a decorated hat, because the committee had observed that even after taking Milt Grout's classes, he still was not always blessed with mushrooms. And the Committee also remembered that George Rafanelli annually repeats that wearing a red hat was an absolute necessity for a successful mushroom hunter. Another prize went to George himself. Since his retirement he has been seen hunting mushrooms on his motorcycle. One trip carried him as far north as the Lummi Indian Reservations. The fuzzy story just reported a disagreement, and as a keep-sake George received a "fake" arrow, reminding him how lucky he was and did not get the real thing.

Now to the door prizes: Marilyn Jenkins won the other half

of the "Judy Cake." Elsa Kopta (who said she attended the banquet in memory of her deceased husband) received a one-year PSMS membership. Mary Adam's prize was a mushroom hunting basket. And Del Miller won a copy of the second edition of Orson Miller's Mushrooms of North America. It was a swell banquet!

REPORT FROM THE TOLT RIVER COUNTY PARK FIELDTRIP

The weather was absolutely gorgeous on Saturday, March 24 for the one-day outing to the Tolt River County Park. A total of 92 members and guests signed the fieldtrip register. By 10 o'clock we had run out of cookies, and Grace and Paul Jones made a trip to nearby Carnation for a replenishment.

Since most of the participants were newcomers, Monte gave a short lecture on how to identify cottonwood trees and displayed a few Verpas before everybody went out collecting. The total find was not very great. Only about two dozen plus very small Verpas were found. I guess the beautiful weather of the previous week was not enough to coax more of them into fruiting. A report from a native indicated that the temperature at night had dipped into the twenties. A total of 6 different varieties of mushrooms were brought in, the largest being several specimens of Polyporus squamosus.

Some participants took home some crisp, fresh nettles instead of mushrooms. But because the weather was so nice, and we hunted in shirt sleeves, most people said they enjoyed getting out after the long winter, and will anticipate more fungi on future fieldtrips.

WILD MUSHROOM WATCH

Dick Sieger

The Wild Mushroom Watch is an attempt by the North American Mycological Society to inventory the occurrence of common mushrooms on the continent.

In our area, western Washington and Oregon, much information will come from field trips and shows, but to get a complete picture many reports are needed from individuals.

The emphasis is on abundant species as determined by the number of times they are encountered. A day's list would usually have less than ten species, sometimes only one, but might include dozens at the height of the fall season. If a familiar area doesn't produce a species that is usually plentiful, that information is needed. Report the unusually early or late appearance of a mushroom. Also of interest would be the appearance of rare but important species such as Amanita verna.

Because accuracy of identification is important, it will be helpful to know which publication you used to identify your material. When you find an abundant species that can't be identified, save samples with a description and an attempt will be made to name the little brown toadstool.

The report forms ask for date, locality, conditions (burned over, unusually dry, etc.), genus & species, number of encounters, the publication used for identification, and any discrepancies from the published description.

Forms are available from R. E. Sieger, 15555 14th Ave. NE, Seattle, 98155, 362-6860. Call or write for information and especially with information and reports.

WORKSHOPS

The Department of Biology, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA 98926 (phone 1-509-963-2731) will be holding two workshops at Cispus this spring. Dr. Davis Hosford will be giving one on Beginning Mushroom Identification (May 11, 12 & 13) and Dr. William W. Barker on Wildflowers (May 18, 19 & 20). Contact the above department for details.

The Environmental Affairs Commission of the Associated Students of the UW is sponsoring a wilderness conference on the campus on May 5 & 6. For details call 543-8700 or 543-8634.

FUNGI & FIBERS

Dick Sieger

Textiles dyed with mushrooms will be shown in California in the spring of 1980. The exhibit is co-sponsored by The Mendocino County Museum and The Mendocino Art Center Textile Apprenticeship Program. For information, write: Fungi & Fibers, 400 East Commercial St., Willits, California 95490, or call (707) 459-2736.

Info is from a handbill passed out at the NAMA Foray

WARNING : I BRAKE FOR FUNGI

the above quote is a bumper sticker that was distributed during the NAMA Foray in California. Other bumper stickers reported, state Mycology is Mushrooming.

BOOKS

Fungi, Delight of Curiosity by Harold J. Brodie, University of Toronto Press, 1978. \$10. This book is written by a B.C. professor and contains unusual and little-known facts about fungi. It is well illustrated.

DID YOU KNOW that some day we may lunch on mushroom mycelium rather than mushrooms? Elizabeth Robertson, a member of the Mycological Society of Toronto, who is collecting information on the nutritional value of mushrooms, points out an article by Alfred Hayes in *New Scientist* (27:450-452, 1969) and reprinted in *McIlvainea* (1(2):19-22, 1973). Hayes of the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute in Sussex, England says in part: "Contrary to popular belief, mushrooms possess a distinct food value, being good sources of several vitamins (thiamin, niacin, and riboflavin) and protein. The protein is of good quality, contains many of the essential amino acids, and is readily digested.

"... Although mushroom mycelium does not match the fruit-body for aroma or flavor, its nutritional value is comparable, the dry mycelium containing up to 40 per cent protein. The proven edibility of the cultivated mushroom suggests that mass cultivation of mycelium should be given more attention."

PUFFBALL RECIPE

H.R.H.

Last spring, after finding quite a few, fresh, firm puffballs, I fixed them our favorite way, by slicing them 1/4 inch thick then dipping them first in flour, then egg, then a mixture of bread-crumbs and parmesan, and frying them in melted margarine until brown on both sides. The surplus I froze, separating each slice with wax paper. Reheated on a cookie-sheet in the oven, they made delicious, instantly ready hors d'oeuvres!

UNDERGROUND MUSHROOM FARM

The Nutmeg Mycological Society reports that if you were to fly over Worthington, Pa., looking for the nation's largest mushroom farm, you wouldn't find it from the air because it is situated underground within the Allegheny Mountains. Located beneath 500 acres of rolling country-side in an abandoned limestone mine are over 100 miles of corridors which produce 60 tons of mushrooms a day!

Ira and M.S. Yoder, brothers, had the bright idea of growing mushrooms in limestone mines over 41 years ago. It took them about 15 years to solve the problems of air circulation, temperature (50 to 62 degrees) and humidity of about 70% before they could go into production.

Compost containing horse manure is obtained from Kentucky bluegrass farms. Who knows... maybe the mushrooms you purchased were nurtured by the waste from Seattle Slew or other noted race horses.

Working conditions have improved over the years in the farm. Now the 750 pickers have underground cafeterias and piped music to ease their toil. The pickers come under the same state and federal regulations as hardrock miners and the farm itself comes under periodic visits from mine inspectors.

Several strikes by the pickers union have occurred at the farm. One would think that their union would be agriculturally oriented, but they're not. The pickers belong to the steelworkers' union!

FUNGI MAY BE POTENTIALLY IMMORTAL

Under "Fungi" in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* there appears this interesting observation:

"The individual fungus is potentially immortal, for it continues to grow at the hyphal tips as long as conditions remain favorable. It is theoretically possible that in undisturbed places mycelia still exist that have grown continuously for many thousands of years." (Reported by Colorado Mycol. Soc.)

MYCOLOGICAL NEWS

H.R.H.

The Snohomish County Mycological Society announces the publication of its 85 page KEYS TO MUSHROOM GENERA written by member Gene Butler. He developed the keys because the Snohomish Society is a small organization without close contact with a university and without microscopes. The members had to be trained in the recognition of mushrooms through their visible features. The booklet lists approximately 340 genera - unusually complete for a work of this type. The key is being produced in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Key Council. Helen Wasson, our book sales chairman, has this booklet for sale. Single copies are also available at \$5.00 plus 5.1% sales tax on Washington retail sales, and 60¢ for order costs and postage from the Snohomish Mycological Society, 12225 - 13th Dr. S.E., Everett, Wa., 98204. There is a discount for bulk orders.

The Colorado Mycological Society is undertaking a two-year project called CITY MUSHROOM PROJECT aimed at cataloging the mushrooms of the urban areas, and publishing the findings in a book. It will contain professionally approved descriptions along with photographs. To this date the following species have been adequately described and photographed: Coprinus atramentarius, C. micaceus, C. comatus, Psathyrella condolleana, Agaricus campestris, Chlorophyllum molybdites, Phallus impudicus, Conocybe lactea, Agrocybe pediades, bird's nests, Marasmius oreades.