

# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
2161 East Hamlin, Seattle, Wa. 98112

March 1980

Number 160



THINK SURVIVORS BANQUET

## VERPA BOHEMICA

Ed Cantelon

Spring is already with us, the first mushrooms may already be showing. The very first to appear in the Puget Sound region are the so-called early Morels. They are not really Morels, but are known by their botanical name, Verpa Bohemica. The habitat they prefer is in the leafy duff under deciduous trees. Often they are found under salal, sometimes under wax berry and in mixed woods where cottonwoods grow. They appear quite early when the nettles are up about two inches and the trilliums are still in the bud stage. The actual time that they appear depends on the warmth of spring and the amount of moisture in the soil.

The cap color of a Verpa is a light tan and blends so well with the leafy carpet in which they grow, that they are difficult to find, even for those of us who have been gathering them for a long time. As the season progresses, and the light colored stems increase in length, they stand well above the duff and are easily located. In this genus the cap is easily separated from the stem. The true Morel is all one piece. The stem of the Verpa is hollow and is "stuffed" with a cotton-like material. In cleaning them for the table, the stems should be split lengthwise. At times they are inhabited by little creatures which can usually be washed off under a stream of water. The caps should also be split and inspected for the same reason. I didn't know about splitting the stems when I first prepared Verpas. I did think they had a peculiar flavor. To this day I have no idea what sort of little creatures I may have consumed.

Some authorities suggest that Verpas be parboiled and the water discarded, this to remove chemical elements that disagree with some persons. All authorities agree that any person eating any wild mushroom for the first time, eat of it sparingly. Some persons find that even the commercial mushrooms obtained from the grocery store make them ill.

The first Verpas in the spring have very short stems, and sometimes only the convoluted tip of the cap shows above the duff. Some mushroom hunters in their eagerness to fill their baskets, scratch the duff with scratching tools, such as are used in gardening. This is a very destructive policy, as it destroys the plant that produces the mushroom.



The photo of the Verpa is a mature stage of growth. The total season in our area is usually four to five weeks in any one area. It is possible to extend your own personal season by at least three more weeks by going to higher elevations.

## BANQUET NEWS

Margaret Dilly

March will soon be here and with it our Annual Meeting. Just a word of explanation about it for new members and perhaps a refresher for old. Our PSMS By-Laws specify March as the month for a special meeting for the purpose of electing officers and trustees to serve for the coming year. Tradition set down by the original board in 1964 was to combine this special meeting with a banquet. Having been a real success, the years following have produced some spectacular evenings. This year will be no exception. With our evening focussing on ELEGANT DINING we intend to make our founders proud of us.

Now for the last minute reminders. There still are a few tickets left - but don't hesitate too long, we want to see your smiling face that evening. Park north of the campus and follow the signs to the dining area where you will be greeted by our gracious hosts and hostesses. Please remember your ticket, as it will assist us in locating the place card you will receive, enabling you to select and reserve seating of your choice. The Champagne Reception will be held at 6:30 in the Alki Room - to the right of the main entrance. Those who participate should be prepared to surrender part of their ticket to the wine-stewart when they are served. You need not feel you must imbibe to join in this social reunion, everyone is welcome. After dinner, served at 7:30 we shall have a brief business meeting, introduction to special people, and then a most interesting slide lecture on "Collecting Fungi on the Alaska Tundra" by Dr. Joseph Ammirati.

Following the presentation will be the drawing for door prizes, using your ticket numbers. The lovely floral arrangements adorning each table will be available to you at cost. So come prepared to take some flowers home either for your own enjoyment or as a gift to someone special. March 14 is the date - see you there.



## THE 1980 PSMS ELECTIONS

H.R.H.

This issue of Spore Prints is mailed to you a little earlier than usual, because it is serving as our ELECTION NOTICE. Included you will find the official ballots and return envelope for your votes. Remember, a family membership entitles you to two votes, and a single membership to one vote.

Please return your marked ballot by March 8, 1980.

The election committee has presented us with a slate of excellent, capable and enthusiastic candidates. Their pictures and brief campaign statements appear on pages 3 and 4.

We urge all members to take a few minutes and VOTE and return your ballot postmarked no later than March 8, 1980.



## P. S. M. S. Spore Prints

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% The Museum of History and Industry, 2161 E. Hamlin,  
Seattle, WA 98112. Mail all articles, art or photos to  
Hildegard Hendrickson, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, 98115.

OFFICERS Jennie Schmitt, President, 1980 (1)  
Rick White, Vice-President, 1981 (1)  
Earl Harrison, Treasurer, 1980 (1)  
Margaret Holzbauer, Secretary, 1981 (1)

TRUSTEES Term expires March 1980  
Bob Hanna (2); Margo Harrison (1); Carl  
Hermanson (1); Stan March (apptd); LomNee  
March (1)  
Term expires March 1981  
Margaret Dilly (1); Grace Jones (1); Dennis  
Krabbenhoft (1); Tom McKnight (1); Agnes  
Sieger (1).

ALTERNATES: John Lockwood; Rudy Karzmar

SCIENTIFIC ADVISER Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

# Membership Meeting

There are still a few tickets available for the 16th Annual Survivors Banquet which is our regular monthly and required special meeting for the month of March.

The Banquet will be held, Friday, March 14, 1980 at the South Seattle Community College, 6000 - 16th Ave. SW. To order your tickets send your check (\$11 for the dinner; plus \$1 additional if you want to drink wine with your dinner; and an additional \$3 if you want the Champagne reception) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Ethel Bennett, 3023 NW 63rd, Seattle, Wa. 98107. Last day to order tickets is March 7, 1980.

## NEW BOOK SALES CHAIRMAN

Kathy Ringo agreed to take over book sales for our Society. As you know, PSMS offers books on mycological subjects at a discount to the members. To make Kathy's job easier we suggest that you phone her (784 - 9630) prior to a monthly membership meeting, and she will bring these books to the meeting. In the near future we hope to have a list of the publications which are available to our members. Also if you have any suggestions for new titles, let Kathy know about it.

## UPDATE ON COPRINE

Donald Simons

The following article appeared recently in *The Mycophile*, the regular publication of NAMA

Coprine is the trivial name for the chemical compound in Coprinus atramentarius that interferes with the metabolism of alcohol and results in a build-up of acetaldehyde in the blood. The acetaldehyde produces a characteristic syndrome: marked flushing, rapid heart beat, pounding headache, chest pain, nausea, vomiting, and a sense of doom. These alarming symptoms are transitory and the sufferer generally recovers uneventfully. . . . Identical symptoms are produced by disulfiram, the active component of a drug (Antabuse) used in the aversion therapy treatment of alcoholics. Since disulfiram has some toxic side effects, it was logical to evaluate coprine as a possible replacement. Coprine, however, has turned out to have some unusual side effects of its own: Tests with male rats and dogs show that prolonged administration caused severe degeneration of the testicular tissue and greatly reduced sperm production. (M. Jönsson et. al., *Testicular Lesions of Coprine and Benzocoprine*, *Toxicology* 12: 89-100, 1979). Obviously, the next step is to evaluate coprine and its derivatives as a male antifertility drug.

## 1980 NAMA FORAY TO YUGOSLAVIA

NAMA is planning an international foray to Yugoslavia with an extension into the Austrian Tirol possible. Most likely dates for this trip (still in the planning stage) are Aug. 27 to Sept. 17, 1980. The trip is limited to NAMA members. For further information contact Alec Feiner, 4 Sailers Way, Rumson, New Jersey, 07760.

## WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Ear Stacy (1 - 509 - 697 - 4796)  
Brian Luther  
Mary Alice Lee ( 283 - 0434)  
Brenda Rogers ( 784 - 6401)  
John & Kathleen Hans (524 - 5813)  
Jonathan & Jan Tuthill ( 632 - 9526)  
Randall Grauer ( 226 - 1616)

# Calendar

The 16th Annual Survivors Banquet which will be held Friday, March 14, 1980 at the South Seattle Community College, 6000 - 16th Ave. SW. is our regular monthly and required special membership meeting for this month.

March 24 Monday, Board Meeting, 8:00 pm

March 28 Deadline for Spore Print material. Send all articles, photos, etc. to the Editor, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA 98115

March 29 Saturday only, Field Trip to the Tolt River Campground by Carnation

April 12 & 13 Field Trip to Rockport - Steelhead County Park

April 14 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

## COMMERCIAL MUSHROOM GROWING IN JAPAN

You may be interested to know that in Japan our store-bought mushroom (Agaricus bisporus) ranks fifth in production, behind shii-take (Lentinus edodes), hira-take (Pleurotus ostreatus), enoki-take (Flammulina velutipes), and nameko (Pholiota nomeko).

## CHUCKLE OF THE DAY

Below a recent "Dennis The Menace" comic was the following quotation: "There we are.... a nice helping of mushrooms for me, and a nice helping of toadstools for you."

During the season it may be necessary to change or cancel field trips. If a change is made, a notice will appear in the Seattle newspapers on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before the scheduled trip. Before setting out, check the classified ad section "825 TRAVEL" in the Seattle Times or "740-TRAVEL" in the Post Intelligencer. When the trip is being held as scheduled, no notice will appear.

Last fall it was very difficult to get volunteers for hosts on field trips. This may continue during the spring. If you therefore arrive at a designated field trip site, and find no hosts, no coffee and no log book (and the field trip had not been cancelled in the Seattle newspapers) plan to come back at 5:30 pm for an informally arranged potluck. To prevent all of this, call Dick Sieger (phone 362-6860) TODAY and volunteer for hosting or co-hosting duties. PSMS has been the envy of other mycological societies and our field trips have received nothing but praise. Let's volunteer and continue our marvelous tradition.

Let's try some car pooling this spring, especially for those who don't stay overnight. A few days before the trip, call 362-6860 and talk to Dick Sieger or the answering machine. Tell how many passengers you can take or how many people need rides. Leave your 'phone number and address. You will be called and told if connections can be made.

March 29 Tolt County Campground  
Saturday only - no potluck.

Located one half mile south of the town of Carnation. Enter via N.E. 40th Street from highway #203 to get to the day use area of the park. The day use parking lot is located right by the suspension bridge. The shelter is on the other (west) side of the river. This one day trip will be held rain or shine, mushrooms or no mushrooms. Monte and Hildegard Hendrickson will be your hosts. This area is close to Seattle and it's a great opportunity to learn how to find Verpa bohemica from two master mushroom hunters. Try to arrive by 9:00 am. Monte will give an introductory lecture about verpa, nettles and mouse-eared cottonwood. He will then lead the hunt.

Even though this field trip is scheduled for one day only, there is an overnight-area for camping in the park.

This trip is planned for first-timers. Bring a basket or a bucket (no plastic bags). Dress warmly, include rain gear and sturdy and water-tight boots for walking off trails. Don't forget your lunch. Coffee is provided by PSMS. (More on the ABC's of field trips next issue).

April 12-13 Rockport - Steelhead County Park

There are two possible routes, both lined with cottonwood trees for hunting Verpa bohemica on the way. Either take the Arlington exit #208 from I-5 and drive through Darrington, OR take the Burlington exit #230 and proceed on State Highway #20 to Rockport. Steelhead County Park is right on the river. The campground has some hook-ups. There is a fee for all camping.

May 3-4 Thunderbird Park near Monroe

Travel to Monroe and cross the Skykomish River. At the south side of the river, turn east onto the Ben Howard Road and continue for about 5 miles to Thunderbird Park. This is a private resort with camping facilities and hook-ups. There is a fee for day use and camping. Pot hunters will be looking for morels, verpa, Gyromitra esculenta, and an assortment of spring mushrooms.

THE CATALOG OF THE FARLOW REFERENCE LIBRARY OF CRYPTOGAMIC BOTANY

was recently published by G.K. Hall & Co., 70 Lincoln St. Boston. This work fills six volumes and costs \$660. The Farlow Library and Herbarium was founded by the bequest of William G. Farlow (1844-1919), first professor of cryptogamic botany in America. It contains the largest scientific collection of materials on fungi, algae, lichens, and mosses in the U.S. and possibly the world. The published catalog is a photographic reproduction of the 80,000 cards in the Library's Author/Title and Subject catalogs, covering books, periodicals, and reprints.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED OFFICES FOR P.S.M.S. 1980

ELECTION INFORMATION: Remember that each individual membership is entitled to just one vote. Each family membership is entitled to just two votes. (PSMS By - Laws, Article IV., Section 3).

FOR PRESIDENT



CARL A. HERMANSON

Member since 1974; incumbent trustee (4 years); PSMS librarian; MC at 1979 survivors banquet; employed as logistics manager at Boeing since 1959; hobbies include bridge, fishing and hunting, besides mushrooming. My desires are to increase educational efforts and membership participation in our society.

FOR TREASURER



EARL HARRISON

"Nature and people are fascinating - I still have much to learn about both;" member since 1975; served one term as trustee and am completing first term as treasurer. A CPA and director of fiscal services at Valley General Hospital, Renton. Am an enthusiastic booster of our Society

BELOW ARE THE CANDIDATES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES - VOTE FOR 5



Native of the Northwest; BSME graduate of University of Washington; employed for several years in airplane logistics at Boeing. Enjoy fishing; hunting; hiking and camping. Participate in field trips, PSMS classes on mushroom identification, and the annual exhibit. Intend to become more involved in Society activities.

BOB HAMILTON



Teacher with the Seattle Public Schools for 28 years. Joined PSMS in 1975. Incumbent trustee (2 years) I am happy to be involved with an organization that bridges generation gaps, vocational pursuits and ethnic backgrounds as successfully as our Society does. Hobbies, in addition to mushrooming include gardening, fishing (especially jigging smelt) and cooking.

MARGO HARRISON

Born in West Seattle; attended Fountleroy and Gatewood schools; was a steam engineer at the UW power works - now retired. I am a "rock hound" and other hobbies are driftwood sculptures and oil painting. I like mushroom hunting because it is close to nature.



ROBERT JUDD

Born in Chicago; graduated from the University of Illinois in Food Chemistry. Served as pilot in Naval Air Corps. Retired pharmacist; alternate trustee and PSMS assistant librarian. Am interested in continuing the enviable track record of PSMS through greater membership involvement and increased membership survival rate of newcomers.



RUDY KARZMAR



Earned degrees in economics and psychology; for twenty years I trained teachers and ran a business in math education. Am an independent consultant now and very enthusiastic about PSMS and offer my business and organizational skills to it. Since joining PSMS, my son David and I have participated in as many PSMS activities as possible. Thanks to PSMS we have boiled, canned, dried, frozen and fried our finds of fungi.

JOHN KUNZ



Native Washingtonian, born in Bremerton. PSMS member since Oct. 1977, member of the Board since 1978 and now serving as our Society's historian. Am employed as an insurance adjuster at an electronics firm in Redmond. My favorite hobbies are art, travel, and collecting different arrays of wild fungi. My special interest in PSMS is to get our new members more involved.

LOM NEE MARCH

Originally from Nashua, N.H., PSMS member since Oct. 1977. Member of the Board since 1978. Chairman of publicity committee for the 1979 annual exhibit. Graduate University of Washington; Seattle schoolteacher 30 years. Favorite hobbies are mushroom collecting, artwork, outdoor life and motorcycling.



STAN MARCH

Born in Missouri, where I picked my first morel; spent almost my entire life in Washington. Retired after 42 years with the Telephone Company in Washington. I have especially enjoyed our Society's field trips (and hosted several) and the friendly helpfulness of its members. PSMS member since 1968 I would like to be more active in our programs.



DEL MILLER



I am an avid outdoor person interested in everything out there in the woods. Now that our Society has moved I am concerned about our annual exhibit, in which I have been an eager helper for the past five years. I think we're all going to have to work extra hard to maintain this successful part of our program, now that we are in our new meeting place.

DON SCHULTZ



Born in Joliet, Montana, went to grade school in Laurel, Montana. Then I came to Washington and graduated from William Winlock Miller High School in Olympia. Have four children and ten grandchildren. My hobbies are traveling and all kinds of crafts, in addition to mushrooming. I am a volunteer coordinator for the Edmonds Senior Center.

AGNES SUIT