

# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2161 East Hamlin, Seattle, Wa. 98112

October 1981

Number 175



## FIELD TRIPS

Dick Sieger

Oct. 3 & 4 The Dalles Forest Camp. Travel east on State Highway #410. The Dalles Forest Camp is about 25 miles south-east of Enumclaw, on the right. We still need a host for this outing. Call Dick Sieger at 362-6860. This call applies to oldtimers and newcomers.

Oct. 24 & 25 Oakpatch Camp. From Bremerton, travel through Belfair, and just past Belfair State Park, turn right onto the first blacktop road that goes uphill (on your right). Continue for about 3 miles to a wide gravel road and turn right. There is a large sign at Oakpatch Camp (about 3 miles on the dirt-gravel road). This is a private camp for retarded men. There is no fee, but donations are encouraged. The residents will join us for potluck, so bring a little extra food.

Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 Millersylvania State Park. Travel south on I - 5. About 10 miles south of Olympia, take exit #95 and go east under the freeway. Continue for about 3 miles and turn north for another mile.

Nov. 7 & 8 Lake Arrowhead. Start from the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant on 1st Street in Shelton. Take the road that goes up the hill at an angle, cross over the highway and pass Isabella Lake; 25 miles from Shelton there is a "Y" just past Cloquallum, a very small town with a few houses along the road. Take the right fork of the "Y", blacktop rather than gravel, and continue for about 1.5 miles. Turn left into the parking lot next to the lodge.

## WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Bartlett: 323 - 3314; Michael Carmel: 522 - 2218; Glenn & Rena Hardy: 228 - 2761; Barron Levine: 522 - 8178; Blanche Peters: 723 - 5285; Margaret Randell: 323 - 0404; Cynthia Welden: 323 - 3314.

BEN WOO, while travelling professionally this summer included mushrooming in these trips. He collected morels in Minnesota (where they had an even better fruiting than in 1979) and mainly the deadly Amanitas (phalloides and virosa) as well as a completely white Boletus in Virginia Beach. In the latter location Ben also encountered hungry mosquitos.

THE CLAIM FOR OLDEST MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY goes to the Boston Mycological Club which was incorporated on August 24, 1895.

FLASH - P.S.M.S. has received a new supply of decals (for your car or RV), pins and patches (for your favorite mushroom hunting coat). They are available from our Membership Chairman at the monthly membership meeting and the Annual Exhibit. Let's all get one and show our colors!

## LAST CALL FOR HELP FOR OUR ANNUAL EXHIBIT

Even though most committee chairmen have been given some support by members, if more members sign up, this makes everybody's job easier. Our chairmen are possibly foreseeing one obstacle: If the construction around the Flag Pavilion is not completed by Oct. 9th, additional strong hands will be needed to move our required props into the Pavilion. If you can help Friday morning, please call Bob Hanna (767 - 6381)

Because of the construction we also cannot tell you today where exactly you should bring the mushrooms you collect on Friday. Just drive close to the Pavilion, and we will have someone stationed there to direct you. We hope to be able to be more definite at the October-membership meeting.

Also note, you must bring and show your valid 1981 PSMS membership card to gain free admission to the Exhibit. So don't leave it at home and be sorry (or mad) if you have to pay to gain admittance.

Along the same line, we hope that every member will take time and come to see our Exhibit even though you may not have been active all year long - it will fascinate you!

## 1981 ANNUAL EXHIBIT COMMITTEES

### General Exhibit Co-Chairmen

Bob Hanna 767-6381

Don Schultz 226-2217

Arts & Crafts Tatiana Roats 842-3750

Book Sales Kathy Ringo 784-9630

Mike Westby

Clean-Up Monte Hendrickson 523-2892

Construction Joe Cail 243-8492

Decoration Stan March 885-0375

Feel and Smell Ed & Ella Cantelon 242-6115

Freeze Dry(Spring fungi) Dr. Patricia Winter 486-4264

Fungi in Foodstuff Lois Ohlson 242-6523

Fungus Collecting Elizabeth DeQuine 789-6728

David Jansen 322-3307

Paul Rule 1-794-8987

Greenery Collection LomNee March 885-0375

Greeters/Security Charles Volz 363-5465

Identification Helena Kirkwood 784-1095

Labeling Aino Kunz 362-7402

Membership Jack Orth 1-387-7793

Microscope Projection Ella Cantelon 242-6115

Mushroom Dyes Ed & Ella Cantelon 242-6115

Mushroom Receiving Jennie Schmitt 1-876-3177

Preservation Dennis Krabbenhoft 839-2454

Publicity Marian Maxwell 271-7086

Slide Show/Photographs Joy & Roger Spurr 723-2759

Sorting Boxes Jim Bennett 784-6236

Tray Arrangement Margaret Dilly 782-8511

The Fungus Collecting Committee would like to remind our members to start saving up various containers for the mushroom samples that they will be bringing in for the Annual Exhibit. Such items as milk cartons, cottage cheese containers, berry baskets, etc. are good. All members are potential collectors.



# P. S. M. S. Spore Prints

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PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

% The Museum of History and Industry, 2161 East Hamlin  
Seattle, Wa., 98112. Mail all material for Spore Prints  
to Hildegard Hendrickson, 2559 NE 96, Seattle, 98115.

OFFICERS Carl Hermanson, President, 1982 (1)  
John Kunz, Vice-President, 1983 (1)  
Earl Harrison, Treasurer, 1982 (2)  
Margaret Holzbauer, Secretary, 1983 (2)

TRUSTEES - Term expires March 1982: Margo Harri-  
son (2); Rudy Karzmar (1); LomNee  
March (2); Stan March (1); Don Schultz (1)  
- Term expires March 1983: Hildegard  
Hendrickson (1); Monte Hendrickson (1);  
Grace Jones (2); Dennis Krabbenhoft (2)  
Agnes Sieger (2).

ALTERNATES: Marian Maxwell; Charlotte Turner -  
Zila; Dave Jansen.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Jennie Schmitt

SCIENTIFIC ADVISER: Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

## Calendar

- Oct. 3 & 4 Fieldtrip to the Dalles Forest Camp
- Oct. 5 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm  
Note this is an earlier date!
- Oct. 6 Tuesday, Fall Identification Class, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 10 & 11 The 18th ANNUAL EXHIBIT
- Oct. 13 Tuesday, Fall Identification Class, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 15 - 18 NAMA Foray, Fort Worden, Port Townsend
- Oct. 19 Monday, Board Meeting
- Oct. 20 Tuesday, Fall Identification Class, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 23 Deadline for Spore Print Material. Send to  
Editor, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA 98115
- Oct. 24 & 25 Fieldtrip to Oakpatch
- Oct. 27 Tuesday, Fall Identification Class, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 31 & Nov. 1 Fieldtrip to Millersylvania State Park
- Nov. 7 & 8 Fieldtrip to Lake Arrowhead
- Nov. 9 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

### R E M I N D E R

If you have not yet signed up to help on a committee for the  
Annual Exhibit, pick up your phone and call right now!

## Membership Meeting

Monday, October 5, 1981, 8:00 pm in the McCurdy Room  
of the Museum of History and Industry

Program: A first for our Society, a panel of experts will re-  
view the Mushroom Guides and give opinions about them. A  
question and answer period will follow. Also note that our  
Book Chairman will have the books reviewed on display for  
your inspection.

### BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

The September Board Meeting was held at President Herman-  
son's home, since the Museum is eliminating Monday even-  
ing activities. Carl has an appointment with the director of  
the Museum next week. However, the appointed committee  
is continuing to investigate alternate locations where our So-  
ciety could hold its membership meetings. Additional recom-  
mendations from the membership are solicited!

Carl thanked all those who staged rain dances, because the  
rains finally came on the weekend prior to the Board meeting  
and should be very timely to produce a good fruiting of fungi  
by the time of the Annual Exhibit.

Bob Hanna reported that most of the activities are right on  
schedule. However, there is some construction being done  
around the Flag Pavilion that he will announce at the mem-  
bership meeting on October 5 WHERE members should bring  
the mushrooms they collected Friday, October 9th. If you  
cannot be at the October membership meeting and can go  
collecting on Friday, just bring your mushrooms "around" the  
Pavilion, and there will be someone there to direct you to  
the right place.

Ostrom's has not only promised us a display of Agaricus bi-  
sporus but also one of Shiitake mushrooms.

The preparations for the NAMA Foray are also on schedule.  
The Board voted that PSMS members may attend the activities  
for a day (if they have not registered for the whole foray) for  
a \$10 per day visitor's pass (which includes no gratuities). You  
must show your PSMS membership card.

In the papers of towns on the Olympic Peninsula appear ads  
offering to buy Chanterelles again this year. There also are  
rumors that the commercial buyers are planning to lease the  
land from the lumber companies and only allow their pickers  
on the land. Reports in 1980 quoted tons of chanterelles  
that were exported. PSMS and other local clubs are con-  
cerned what these activities will do to us amateurs. And al-  
so, when non-experienced pickers collect they may pick the  
"wrong" kind. Dennis Krabbenhoft is monitoring this situa-  
tion for PSMS. Contact him if you have suggestions.

The October Board Meeting will be held on the 19th at 7:30  
at the home of Earl and Margo Harrison. For the remainder of  
the year the Board Meetings will be held in private homes,  
since the Museum wants to eliminate all Monday evening ac-  
tivities and has substantially raised the fees. We will keep  
our members properly informed about the location, so they  
may attend if they want to.

IN MEMORIAM: On Saturday, September 12, 1981 our  
longtime member Ruth Miller died of cancer. All of us  
miss Ruth's friendly smile and willingness to help on so  
many field trips and other activities of PSMS. Our sym-  
pathy goes to Del and children.

## MASONIC PARK FIELD TRIP REPORT Fay & Howard Melsen

As those who spent the night at the Masonic Park can attest, President Hermanson's request for raindances brought the desired results late Friday, and Saturday, September 18 & 19. Saturday we were awakened by a rooster at the first sign of dawn, which led one of our members to remark that next time we have a fieldtrip to the Masonic Park she would not bring a casserole for potluck, but will plan on making rooster stew.

Speaking of potluck, in addition to our usual fine fare, Charles Volz (who identified 46 different species - thank you.) brought a tray of fine Greek hors d'oeuvres. Fay and Howard Melsen were the hosts for this outing. The Carl Schrock family contributed 5 Hickory smoked chickens to the potluck. Joyce Anderson brought our favorite caramel filled brownies. So all 38 left the table happy and full.

It was nice to see so many children in attendance. The six-months old daughter Miranda of Gail and Allen Halverson completely captivated all who came in contact with her.

Laetiporus sulphureus was found the most, and quite a few Chanterelles, so that almost everyone found something for the pot.

## BOOKS - BOOKS - BOOKS - BOOKS Kathy Ringo

Below you find a listing of the current books carried by our Book Chairman. The prices quoted are for members only and valid at membership meetings. At the Annual Exhibit no discounts to members will be available. Everyone will be charged the retail price at the Exhibit. However, you also may order books by calling Kathy Ringo (784 - 9630) and she will bring them to the membership meeting. Kathy will also bring a small number of books for those who had not ordered ahead, or for those who would like to take a look at the books before they buy one.

All Color Book of Mushrooms	\$ 2.25
Common Edible Mushrooms by Christianson	\$ 2.50
Color Treasury of Mushrooms	\$ 2.10
Collins Guide to Mushrooms, by Lange & Hora	\$ 7.10
Dave Jansen's Keys	\$ 1.05
Dry It - You'll Like It	\$ 4.75
Foraging for Wild Mushrooms	\$ 5.00
Gene Butler's Keys	\$ 4.00
Guide to Western Mushrooms by A.H. Smith	\$15.65
Largent Series	
I. Macroscopic Features	\$ 4.55
II. Field Identification	\$ 3.30
III. Microscopic Features	\$ 7.85
IV. Keys to Genus	\$ 5.20
V. Literature Guide to Mushrooms	\$ 6.40
Mushrooms Demystified by D. Arora	\$11.20
Mushroom Hunter's Field Guide by A.H. Smith	\$14.20
Mushrooms of North America by O. Miller	\$ 9.40
Mushrooms and Toadstools by Hvass	\$ 4.40
Mushrooms of Idaho - Discomycetes	\$ 5.35
Mushrooms Wild and Edible	\$18.90
How to Know the Gilled Fungi	\$10.50
How to Know the Non-Gilled Fungi	\$11.50
The Savory Wild Mushroom by McKenny & Stuntz	\$ 6.25
Wild Shrubs by Joy Spurr	\$ 8.40
Wild Mushroom Recipes - Our Society's Cookbook	\$ 6.45

## LEPIOTA RACHODES Ed Cantelon

Our enthusiasm for mushrooms will often rub off on people with whom we come in contact. This has been the case with

Janice. She is learning, one mushroom at a time, as we all must. We received an urgent call from her one recent Sunday afternoon. She told us there were a lot of puffballs in her yard, that they were four to five inches in diameter and had furry tops. Were we interested? You could bet we were, and we quickly were on our way. When we arrived at her house, she had Margaret McKenny's "The Savory Wild Mushroom" guide opened to Calvatia gigantea. She had determined the identification at a distance of ten feet without touching one of the mushrooms. We quickly gathered one of the mushrooms and found she was at least right on two counts. They were four or five inches in diameter, and there were lots of them. We gathered nineteen by actual count, all in prime condition. They had scaly caps with brown papery patches, white gills, a stem with a thick ring, and a bulbous base. We also found that the stems stained first yellow, then soon turning to a reddish-brown, where cut or bruised. Quite clearly, they were Lepiota rachodes; in our estimation, a most desirable edible mushroom. Janice was a little shaken, and wanted to know how to find them in her book. "Easy", we told her, "just look on page 43 and there it tells all about them." Of course, it makes it a lot easier if you know what they are before you start looking in the book. This reinforces the point that we keep trying to make: have someone look at mushrooms that you don't know, someone whose qualifications to identify mushrooms are unquestioned!



The Lepiota rachodes were growing on a compost pile that had been undisturbed for some time, and this is the sort of place where they are often found. We know of a place where they grow inside a barn on the earthen floor, between a feed bin and the wall. By the time they are noticed, the caps are often ten inches or more in diameter. Two years ago, we found some huge ones in the tall grass near one of the old abandoned gun placements at Fort Worden.

We do know of at least two persons with whom this mushroom does not agree. Take heed also of the warning of the poisonous, green gilled Lepiota molybdites which looks quite similar. Molybdites does not usually occur here in the Pacific Northwest, but caution is never misplaced by any mushroom hunter.

We feel that the flavor of Lepiota rachodes is better if it is gathered after the cap has expanded. When the cap has expanded, the color of the gills can be more readily determined; they should be white. Only the caps are eaten, the stems are tough and woody. Saute them in butter and then they may be added to dishes of your choice.

The following book review appeared in the July-August 1981 issue of *Mycologia*, the official organ of the Mycological Society of America.

**The Wondrous Mushroom. Mycolatry in Mesoamerica**, by R. Gordon Wasson. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York. 1980. Deluxe ed. xxvi + 209 p., illus. Price, \$525.00; Paperback ed., \$12.95.

In 1957 there appeared the first in a series of ethnomycological studies as notable for their novel and arresting contents and the assiduous intradisciplinary research that made them possible, as for the bookmaker's lavish care that created of each deluxe volume a work of art. The first of these studies, in two volumes, *Mushrooms, Russia and History*, which focused on the magico-religious use of hallucinogenic mushrooms (mostly of the genus *Psilocybe*) that were known to some indigenous Mexican cultures since Pre-Columbian times, gained worldwide recognition and pioneered a field of investigation that is still being vigorously pursued.

R. Gordon Wasson, the author of these works was by his own account, as mycophobic some five decades ago as most of his fellow Americans, but he had the early good fortune of being inspired and instructed by his Russian-born wife, who "adored mushrooms," and who later collaborated with him in the writing of *Mushrooms, Russia and History* (1957), a study that provided the initial impetus for ethnomycological research in modern times. Now an octogenarian, Wasson has skillfully utilized the knowledge, pertinacity, enthusiasm and insatiable curiosity that characterize his work, to make the numerous contributions that have placed him in the first rank as the world's leading ethnomycologist.

The current volume (Monograph 7) concentrates on "mycolatry" in Mesoamerica where the rediscovery and elucidation of ancient, mushroom-oriented rituals practised in Oaxaca has enriched our understanding of a way of life cherished by an entire people. Much of the ethnomycological information now extant concerning the Americas and other parts of the world was gathered by Wasson in the course of his indefatigable inquiries and peripatetic travels.

A more expressive term could not have been found for the subtitle of this book than the neologism "mycolatry" which conveys the sense of awe and reverence that must have been experienced by the progenitors of sacred mushroom ceremonies. It takes its place beside the author's "ethnomycology," "mycophilia," and "mycophobia" which have now become words of common parlance. Wasson has introduced still another linguistic innovation. In recent years the terms "hallucinogen," "psychedelic," "psychotomimetic," and others of similar connotation have, in Wasson's opinion, been "vulgarized by hippy abuse." He therefore favors the adoption of "entheogen" (Gr. God within us) as a more fitting and respectful designation that reflects the "deep cultural resonances evoked" by these substances. One cannot help but admire the author's keen sense of propriety in dealing with the ineffable.

The text is divided into two unequal parts, "The Past" and "The Present," introduced by a 12-page "Prelude" which is a succinct expression of the author's inalterable commitment to learn and transmit to others all that he can about the "entheogenic mushrooms" and their rôle in Early Man's religious life. The corpus of his original works is ample testimony to the degree of success he has attained toward the fulfillment of this aim. This is not to say that all of his concepts nor even all of his findings have met with universal approval. Few in any field could make such a boast. There was, for example, sharp criticism in some quarters of his interpretation of "Soma," but Wasson boldly, and I believe convincingly, defended his thesis.

Of the two chapters that constitute "The Present," "A Velada in Huautla" is a review of the salient features of the 1955-'56 *agapès* presided over by María Sabina, the Mazatec shamaness, at Wasson's behest. The 1956 session was recorded by Wasson and photographed by Richardson, and in 1957 it was the source of the *Life* magazine article which included water colors by Roger Heim of several species of *Psilocybe* from the Huautla de Jiménez region. This resulted in the awakening of the outside world to events they considered so remarkable that the tide of the curious and the quick-fix generation of the Western World soon had to be stemmed by local authorities, and is controlled to the present day. A previously unknown village in Mazatec country became the site of a cultural disaster. Huautla paid a heavy price for its "fame."

It was not until 1974 that a complete *velada* (1958) was published by Wasson under the title *María Sabina and her Mazatec Mushroom Velada* with text and cassettes. Working with Wasson's tapes, George and Florence Cowan, specialists in the Mazatec language, translated María Sabina's words, the Mazatec appearing on one page, and the Spanish and English in columns on the facing page. María's rhythmic chanting, humming, moaning, hand clapping and thigh slapping, together with her percussive utterances was transcribed in musical terms as faithfully as possible by the ethnomusicologist Willard Rhodes. The chapter on "Traits of the Mesoamerican Velada . . ." is a more detailed description and analysis of the *velada* and its participants, concentrating principally on the characteristics and rôle of the shaman in Mazatec society.

Woven throughout the remaining 9 chapters of the text ("The Past") are themes that Wasson and others have treated before, but here most of them are amplified: there is a reinterpretation of a life-sized sculpture in stone of Xochipilli, the "Prince of Flower," (now residing at the fabulous Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City) imprinted with representations of hallucinogenic plants and *Psilocybe*; much that is new is offered in a chapter on "The Flowers in Pre-Conquest Nahuatl Poetry"; "The Inebriating Drinks of the Nahuatl" is introduced with these words from a Nahuatl poem: "I have drunk the wine of mushrooms and my heart weeps"; old and new observations are to be found in an illuminating chapter on "Codices, Lienzos, Mapas"; "Piltzintli Child God of the Nahuatl, and his Christian Progeny" is a beautifully illustrated historical interpretation of the "god of the miraculous entheogens"; there is an engrossing discussion of "Teotihuacán and the Wondrous Mushroom" as seen in Mesoamerican murals, ceramics, and stonework, and of a Greco-Mexican link binding the Old World with the New in entheogenic worship; "The Mushroom Stones of the Maya Highlands" fortifies the argument for the ecstatic symbolism expressed in these Maya sculptures; in a consideration of "The Historical Record" one finds references in Fray Diego Durán and Bernardino de Sahagún, to the use of inebriating mushrooms in pre-Columbian America, with overtones of the origin of mycophobia there and in the final chapter there is a statement revealing certain shamanistic arcana and concludes with reference to the recent discovery among the Quiche Maya of their ancient belief expressed in the "Popol Vuh" of the sacred link between the lightning bolt and *Amanita muscaria*.

But these chapters cannot be adequately summarized in such spare fashion! Each of them overflows with new ideas, interpretations, translations, and nuances previously missed (as in the chapter on "Flowers in Pre-Conquest Nahuatl Poetry"). All the arguments presented tend to confirm the major thesis of this book, namely that Mesoamericans in pre-Columbian times were steeped in an ageless traditional knowledge of the all-encompassing, soul-revealing, still secret, numinous entheogens that dominated their religious lives. There is sure to be controversy. It cannot be avoided in the consideration of so complex a system of beliefs, but the insightful treatment offered here will stand as a monument to the author's deep conviction that the tantalizing palimpsest of pre-Columbian Mesoamerican thought has been at least partly deciphered and made whole.

Wasson's sagacious choice of highly qualified collaborators and informants, whether mycologists (this volume is dedicated to the memory of the late Roger Heim), linguists, archeologists, anthropologists or musicologists, has contributed immensely to the success of his labours, and the author expresses his "boundless gratitude" to all the specialists who have made his work possible.

No detail has been overlooked in the tasteful design and meticulous execution of the limited deluxe edition of 501 copies, of which only 475 are commercially available. All the bookmaker's talents have been marshalled to make this a brilliant achievement. Its cost is correspondingly high, but if gold-dusted special paper, a green leather spine, and a light ash-colored cloth cover made by Veronese craftsmen in a 12 1/4" X 8 3/4" format are not considered to be *de rigueur*, then the sturdy paperback will be found equally serviceable, if not quite as aesthetically pleasing. This is a remarkable book, a substantial and memorable contribution to ethnomycology.—B. LOWY.

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#### FINAL REMINDER

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In case you did not read pages 1 and 2, we remind you once more to pick up your phone and call any one of the chairmen listed on page 1 and volunteer to help on a committee!