

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2559 NE 96th, Seattle, Washington, 98115

April 1982

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Milton Grout

The year 1982 marks the eighteenth year since the founding of the Puget Sound Mycological Society in 1964.

Our Society has followed a path of steady development and has matured into a financially strong, scientific, outdoor, recreational, and environmentally oriented organization.

An important future mission of the Society is to continue to strengthen this scientific base, and offer educational programs for the dissemination of mycological knowledge throughout the Northwest. Many persons have availed themselves of this information over the course of the years. However, advances do occur in mycology and it is the objective of PSMS to further these endeavors. One step forward in the knowledge expansion are the completed Keys to Northwest Genera developed by the Key Council of the Pacific Northwest. Many others will follow.

While PSMS is strong, perhaps the strongest in the United States, its continued strength and growth is based upon an ever expanding group of members who give unstingingly of their time and skills to the direction and the committee work of the Society. Those who are actively involved in Society affairs know the rewards. I urge those, who have not yet stepped forward, to select an area of interest and volunteer your services. I assure you all offers will be well received. At this time, we have urgent need for help on all standing committees. We need hosts for all of the spring and fall field trips, so that we may continue them in our accustomed, unique format that we enjoy. An incidental, but important benefit from participation is the formation of innumerable, lasting personal friendships that have developed over the years.

As a natural science and outdoor directed organization, our members have developed a generally accepted set of rules of conduct. We respect the property rights of others and make a genuine effort not to disturb the environment or the ecology. We recognize that the collection of fungi in moderation is not disturbing to the continuation of the species, yet at the same time practice conservation to the extent that collections are made only for actual personal consumption or for identification, and that at all times adequate quantities are left to provide for the future. This philosophy will automatically eliminate the harvesting of wild mushrooms for commercial purposes.

I want to wish all of our members an active, involved, and rewarding year with PSMS.

1982 SURVIVORS BANQUET REPORT

LomNee March

For the third year in a row, the Food Sciences Division of South Seattle Community College, did an outstanding job of making our annual Survivors Banquet a real success. Every year something else seemed to be different and special. This year the Chef concocted a super-delicious sauce for the wild mushrooms that had been contributed by our members. I have not been able to get the recipe yet. Again, as in the past

all vegetables were fresh. And the Florist Division also did something different: instead of individual table decorations, the students had arranged very special decorations for the head table, which then were given away as part of the door prizes, with our banquet chairman, LomNee March winning the biggest one. All the other door prizes were much appreciated by the winners.

I cannot single out any one person on my banquet committee who worked hard to make the banquet a success, and my job easier. But my hearty thanks go to all.

FIELD TRIP TO OSTROM'S

H.R.H.

It has been several years since PSMS held a field trip to the Ostrom commercial mushroom farm. And in the meantime they have enlarged their operation, adding the growing of Shiitake mushrooms and a cannery. So we are looking forward to this outing.

The tour of the facilities will begin at 10:30 AM in the parking lot. Be sure to wear sturdy, water-proof shoes, since mushroom growing requires a damp environment and the floor can be slippery.

Go south on Interstate 5, and exit at #111 - Marvin Road. Turn left to go south. Cross Old 99 on Marvin Road. Continue a short distance to Steilacoom Road and turn left. The Ostrom Farm is on both sides of the road within sight of this turn. Park by the white building on the south side. Try to arrive by 10:15 AM since the tour will begin promptly at 10:30 and will last about one to one-and-a-half hours.

Fresh mushrooms, on a pre-ordered basis only, will be available for members participating in the tour, at the prices listed below. You may place your order with Monte Hendrickson at the April membership meeting, or by calling 523 - 2892 or writing to 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, 98115 no later than April 23, 1982.

Product/Pack	PSMS Price
10# Bulk Pack Mixed Mediums	= \$15.00/carton
10# Bulk Pack Large	= \$16.50/carton
1# Tray Pack, Mixed Mediums	= \$ 1.60/lb.
8oz. Tray Pack, Mix. Mediums	= \$ 0.85/Troy
10# Mature	= \$10.00/carton
Shiitake - 2.5lb. Bulk Pack	= \$10.00/carton
Shiitake - 3.5oz. Troy	= \$ 1.35/Troy

REPORT FROM THE LAMS FORAY

Alice & Bob Maguire

Dave & Jennie Schmitt and we attended the LAMS Foray & Conference on February 12-15, 1982. The emphasis was primarily on education, interspersed with good hospitality and excellent weather, which was much appreciated by those coming from the northern states.

Approximately 140 species were found, which was a record (on account of the abundant rainfall in Southern California in January). The most represented genera included Entoloma, Boletus, Lactarius, and Russula. A few Contharellus cibarius were found under about two inches of oak leaves.

We recommend this foray in February as a sure cure for cabin fever.



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Spore
Prints

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OFFICERS Milton Grout, President, 1984 (1)
John Kunz, Vice-President, 1983 (1)
Ferris Anderson, Treasurer, 1984 (1)
Margaret Holzbauer, Secretary, 1983 (2)

TRUSTEES - Term expires March 1983: Hildegard Hendrickson (1); Monte Hendrickson (1); Grace Jones (2); Dennis Krabbenhoft (2); Agnes Sieger (2).

- Term expires March 1984: Kearney Kozai (1)
Marian Maxwell (1); Richard Pauli (1); Don Schultz (2); Charles Volz (1).

ALTERNATES: Ernie Boa; Judi Boa; Charlotte Turner-Zila.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Carl Hermanson

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR: Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

Calendar

- April 12 Monday, 6:45 Photography Class for beginners
Monday, 8:00 pm Membership Meeting
- April 19 Monday, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm Monroe Center
- April 23 Deadline for Spore Prints Material. Send to the Editor, 2559 NE 96, Seattle, WA 98115.
- May 1st Saturday, 10:30 am Field Trip to Ostroms
- May 10th Monday Beginners Class & Membership Meeting

MEMBERSHIP ROSTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN APRIL

The 1982 PSMS Membership Roster will be available for pick-up at the April Membership meeting. It would be nice if as many rosters as possible could be picked up, since this saves a lot of work and postage for the Society!

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Diana Gonzalez & Roy Harrold: 833-2766; Edwin Bentley: 283-0383; Doris Guay: 455-5891; Royce Harvey: California Gary & Patty Huff: 523-3439; Fern Regis: 641-0740; Randy Starup: 783-8270; Jerry Willette: 821-5775; Kevin Schoenfelder & Emily Tiktin: 525-8182; Geraldine Hollinger: 725-6750.

VERPA SEASON IS HERE AGAIN!!!! COME ON OUT!!!!

Membership Meeting

Monday, April 12, 1982, 8:00 pm in the auditorium of the MONROE CENTER, 1810 N.W. 65th Street, Seattle.

Program: Mr. Francois Picart of Agri-Truffe, Inc., San Francisco, will speak about Tuber melanosporum (Truffles). His company, with a procedure developed by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, inoculates trees with T. melanosporum. In France these trees are now bearing. In California, where the planting began in 1980, it will be three years before one can tell if the mycelium has taken. Mr. Picart has written a book: Truffles, the Black Diamond.

BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

The newly elected officers and trustees convened for the March Board meeting and faced an extensive agenda. After transfer of the signature powers, a resolution was passed to transfer the PSMS accounts to Peoples Bank. President Grout also reminded the Board that it was everybody's responsibility to make suggestions for the programs for our monthly membership meetings, even though our Vice President arranges and schedules them.

After a thorough presentation by our immediate past President and Chairman for the 1982 Annual Exhibit, Carl Hermanson, the Board voted to move the 1982 Annual Exhibit to the Monroe Center. (The Board Minutes contain all the pros and the cons). Main items brought up were that the expected "walk-in" traffic did not materialize and that the costs of renting the Flag Pavilion are ever increasing. With good publicity, emphasizing the free parking at the Monroe Center, we might appeal to an audience who did not come before, and not lose our faithful, perennial attendees. The costs at the Monroe Center are substantially less. PSMS is still looking for some member who might have a 10' x 10' storage space where we could store our Show material. The dates for the Show will be October 16 & 17, 1982.

Charles Volz accepted the field trip chairmanship. Some assistants will help him. But the greatest need is for field trip hosts. Hosting field trips requires no knowledge of how to identify mushrooms, only to be present in camp, welcome members, etc. It would be overwhelming (but Charlie could take it) if he would get enough phone calls to fill all coming spring and fall field trips. Do miracles still happen????? PSMS has a duty sheet for hosts, which will be sent to our members who volunteer.

The banquet report appears somewhere else in this issue.

Finances: The PSMS Spring Workshop, due to the excellent attendance ended up in the black. As the financial report which we will print next month will show, the Annual Exhibit in 1981, the NAMA Foray and the NAMA Post-Foray all showed some deficits.

FEBRUARY BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

Vice President John Kunz chaired the February Board meeting in the absence of President Carl Hermanson. After approval of the Minutes of the January Board meeting, the Board received various committee reports. LomNee March reported on the preparations of the Survivors Banquet. Treasurer Earl Harrison could not yet close the books, since not all bills were in. The Board approved a motion to give a scholarship award to a student in mycology chosen by Drs. Stuntz and Ammirati. The Board made no decision on whether to revise

the PSMS Poison Pamphlet, or who should do it. John Kunz reported on the preparations for the PSMS Spring Workshop. We will have book sales at the Workshop. Another topic discussed was whether PSMS should assist in putting together a presentation on the dangers of mistaking the deadly Galerinas and Conocybes for Psilocybe mushrooms. No conclusions were reached.

RETIRING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Carl Hermanson

I would like to thank the officers, trustees, and membership of our Society for the excellent support I received these past two years while I served as President. It has been an exciting and memorable experience to be associated with such outstanding people. Thank you again.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS FOR BEGINNERS M.M.H.

The topic of the beginners class, to be held on Monday, April 12, at 6:45 pm (prior to the membership meeting) is Photography for Beginners. We are fortunate to have Joy Spurr, a professional-nature photographer, and PSMS charter member, as our teacher. She plans to tell us novices what to do and what not to do when trying to take a picture of the biggest or most beautiful mushroom we have found. Specifically, Joy will be covering tips on lighting, composition, backgrounds, care of equipment, choice of lenses, films, etc.

PSMS SPRING EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP Carl Hermanson

Eighty-five persons attended this three part workshop on March 13 & 14, 1982 which was developed and conducted by Kit Scates of Post Falls, Idaho, a PSMS member and NAMA Vice President.

Using her "Easy Key to Common Gilled Mushrooms" Kit taught us how to identify gilled fungi to the genera. Kit's unique graphic key considers spore color, gill attachment, stem structure and where the fungi grow, on wood or on the ground. Kit showed slides illustrating the different genera of a given spore color group and then tested the class on these. She then reviewed the "Easy Guide to Mushroom Descriptions" which is an excellent paper showing 207 mushroom illustrations cleverly grouped by cap, gills, and stem sections. She used excellent color slides of mushrooms to illustrate these features.

In her last lecture Kit discussed the generation and use of Genera Keys developed by the Pacific Northwest Key Council. For the grand finale, Kit provided 100 photographs of unlabeled mushrooms which the class was challenged to identify to the species using the keys. The participants enjoyed this activity so much that most were reluctant to leave at the end of the day.

The workshop was a huge success as witnessed by attentive and actively participating attendees. Kit Scates is to be commended for the outstanding educational material she has created, and for her excellent teaching techniques. PSMS has received many thanks for sponsoring this workshop, as well as many requests to repeat it in the fall. Thank you, Kit!

FUNGI IN POT Toronto Star (2/23/1981)

UPI reported that Marijuana smokers appear to risk developing allergies or potentially deadly lung infections from a common fungus found in pot.

A research group at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee said a study of 26 marijuana users found that better

than 50 percent of the smokers were infected by fungi of the Aspergillus family.

Although the fungus is commonly found in dark, damp basement corners, people who smoke marijuana inhale large amounts of fungal spores into their lungs. A sample of marijuana that doesn't have fungal organisms in it is yet to be found.

Aspergillus fungi produce spores that remain viable even in a burning marijuana cigarette. Once inhaled, the organisms grow inside the body and can cause a number of lung diseases that range from asthma to life-threatening infections. While a healthy individual is able to battle the fungus after it enters the lungs, the result may be a cough or fever which might be mistaken for the flu.

TWO NEW BOOKS John Kunz

Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms by Gary Lincoff, Knopf 1982 (\$12.50)

Simon & Schuster Guide to Mushrooms by Giovanni Pacioni U.S. Editor Gary Lincoff, Simon & Schuster 1982(\$9.95).

These two new field guides carry the name of Gary Lincoff, one as author and the other as editor, but they differ greatly in their usefulness.

The Audubon Guide, despite one significant drawback, is a well put together and useful book. Its 924 pages include 756 excellent (if small) color photographs. Although it lacks dichotomous keys, it prefaces the color plates with a key to genera similar to the one Audubon uses for birds. It also has a useful descriptive summary of genera by spore color and various features. The text for each species is good and helpful for any mushroom hunter. Now for the not so good news: The color plates are at the front of the book, separate from the descriptions, and the plates are identified only by common names (no standard genus and species names). For example the label Western Flat-Topped Agaricus does not immediately call to mind Agaricus meleagris. You must turn to the text to find the scientific name and the edibility. This is a real drawback to the usefulness of the book, and it is to be hoped the publisher will remedy this in future printings so the book will become even more useful. It will be available soon through PSMS book sales.

The Simon & Schuster Guide to Mushrooms is a translation of a 1980 Italian work, Funghi, by Giovanni Pacioni. It features 420 species, each with a color photo and text. The terms are not always clear (there is a glossary) and there are many typographical errors. Even though there is a key to genus, this book is useless as a field guide. Incredible as it may seem, the only index is by species name, so the only way to find a mushroom in the book is to already know the species name. The genera are not arranged alphabetically, so even if you succeed in keying a specimen to genus, there is no way, except good luck, to find the species descriptions and photos for that genus. The species chosen do not necessarily occur in the U.S.

MUSHROOM COCKTAIL Tacoma Mushroom Society

1/3 cup catsup; 1 tblsp. vinegar; 1/4 tsp. prepared horseradish; 1-1/2 cups shredded lettuce; 12 fresh medium mushrooms, sliced. Whole lettuce leaves.

In a small bowl blend catsup, vinegar, and horseradish. Chill. Line 6 sherbet glasses with lettuce leaves, layer with shredded lettuce. Arrange about 1/4 cup sliced mushrooms atop each. Chill. Just before serving, drizzle each serving with 1 tablespoon catsup mixture. Serves 6.

Two different newspapers (one in Wenatchee and one in Tacoma) reported that a woman from Malaga, Chelan County, Margaret Bradley, has plans to tremendously expand her commercial buying of wild mushrooms this spring and fall. She intends to take over from the firm that went bankrupt last fall. She considers herself as the leader in the harvest and export of our state's wild mushrooms, and calls it a "growing new" industry, so far centered on the Olympic peninsula with plans to expand into North Central Washington this spring, when she plans to test the harvest potential of morels. She figures wild mushrooms represent a million dollar Northwest industry.

During the past season, she said her business harvested 210 tons of chanterelles. They are cut and blanched at a custom cannery in Aberdeen, then packed in 350 lb. barrels of salt brine and shipped by train to Montreal, then by freighter to Germany. There, the brine is washed out and the mushrooms canned. She said she has been offered a long-term contract by the Von Linde Co., of Hamburg, West Germany.

What does all this mean to us amateur mushroom hunters? We will have a lot more competition when hunting for the pot. But there is more to the story. It has been reported from Europe that through overpicking some varieties have all but disappeared. And in some countries, wild mushrooms may only be picked on certain days during the week.

We don't know at this time what the eventual effects this overharvesting will have on our Pacific Northwest forests. It is alarming that another natural resource is being "harvested" in ignorance of the long-range effects to the fungal population. We cannot predict what the chanterelle and morel populations will be ten or twenty years from today if the commercial harvesting continues season after season. Will we experience the same conditions as those European countries?

There is another concern, maybe the most serious one is an ethical concern. Among amateur mushroom hunters it is understood that enough fruiting bodies be left behind for the next collector, and for sporing. It cannot be assumed that a commercial, "for profit" collector would act in this manner. The next visit to your favorite chanterelle patch may be very disappointing if you find it has been "clear-cut".

The concern expressed in this article is shared by all mycological societies in the Pacific Northwest. What can we do?

FUNGAL RECORDS

Someone in the Tacoma Mushroom Society has read the Guinness book of world records and said that the 1982 edition claims that the largest mushroom found in the United States was one weighing 18 lbs. 10 oz. reported from Whidbey Island found in September 1968. The largest reported tree fungus was a specimen of Oxyporus nobilissimus measuring 56 inches by 37 inches and weighing at least 300 pounds found by J. Hisey in Washington State in 1946.

Neither Bob Ramsey, former PSMS president, and Bob Truitt of the Tacoma Mushroom Society, who both have found a Sparassis radicata, weighing at least 30 pounds, did report their finds.

CLITOCYBE (LEPISTA) NUDA

Bob Burrell

This is part of an article in the May-June 1981 issue of Spore Print of the Ohio Mushroom Society.

"Another report was written by Clitocybe expert, H. E. Bigelow who used a scanning electron microscope, i.e. one

that observes the surface structures under extreme magnification, to study spores of the genera Clitocybe and Lepista. We all have been taught that the distinction between these two genera is microscopic and the two cannot be reliably separated with macroscopic features. Such matters frustrate the amateur who is interested in field identification. Lepista spores are supposed to be rough or warty, cyanophilic, and deposit pinkish or yellowish spores, while those of Clitocybe are supposed to be smooth, white, and non-cyanophilic. Exceptions to these rules are known for both genera, and Bigelow tried to resolve the conflict with the electron microscope, something not at the disposal of most amateur mushroom sleuths. What he found was a continuum, that is, spores from the very smooth to the slightly roughened to the distinctly warted to the grossly warted and there was never a point when he could say, "This is Lepista and beyond it is Clitocybe". In other words, using the most powerful tool available, one cannot make a legitimate distinction between these two genera, so go ahead and call them all Clitocybe.

For those of you who fretted when you found your well known wood blewit had been changed from Lepista nuda to Clitocybe nuda, you can at least now see some rationale and should rejoice that you have fewer names to remember. (I might add that there has probably not been any change in the common name of this fungus for a few hundred years.)

Here is one scientist who has simplified the naming business for you, and you can breathe easier that you really don't have to go out and buy yourself a scanning electron microscope.

CARNATION FIELD TRIP REPORT

H.R.H.

After the week started with brilliant sunshine the weather turned to rain Friday evening, but was dry, sunny and windy on Saturday, March 27th. Promptly at 9 am Monte Hendrickson lectured the many new members on the habitat of the Verpa bohemica and explained the growth patterns of cottonwood trees. In order to be able to show the newcomers samples, Monte had gone out the day before to a different area and brought about 120 Verpas and a dozen morels to Carnation. This proved to be a wise deed, since most members found just a very few on their own and their finds were supplemented with those on the table. The consensus was, that the recent heavy floods in the Snoqualmie Valley produced the scarce fruiting of Verpa. Hopefully, higher elevations won't show this problem. Altogether 50 persons attended, and 13 species were identified, with Helvella acetabulum and H. macropus being the unusual ones.

FOUND: A coat was left at the field trip site. You may call 523-2892 or pick it up at the April membership meeting.

MISC.

A new club, the Michigan Mushroom Hunters, was formed in April 1981, 54761 Blue Cloud, Utica, Michigan 48087. It is surprising that there was none in an area that is known for its good mushroom environment.

Joy Spurr has donated volumes of the years 1975 through 1981 of MYCOLOGIA, the Journal of the Mycological Society of America, to the PSMS Library.

Query: We have had a request for the recipe of the "de-lishus" home-made bread which was brought to the potluck dinner at the Oct. 3, 1981 field trip to the Dalles Forest Camp. Please send it to the Editor. Does anyone remember WHO brought the bread?