

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2559 NE 96th, Seattle, Washington, 98115

November 1982

Number 186



1982 EXHIBIT REPORT

Carl Hermanson

First of all, I want to thank all PSMS members who helped on our 19th Annual Exhibit. Due to the excellent publicity in city and district newspapers, on radio and television, and through our beautiful posters, the word about the Exhibit and new location at the Monroe Center was well disseminated. I hope Marian Maxwell and Richard Pauli who headed the Publicity Committee will continue in 1983.

On Monday before the Exhibit, PSMS members under Bob Hanna's direction, moved all of our Exhibit props from the commercial storage place, rather than having it delivered, which saved us a lot of money. It also allowed us to sort through the material. We are still hoping that one of our members could find room to store this material, and save this additional expense.

The preliminary count indicates over 1,700 persons came to see the Exhibit, and 110 memberships were added to the roster. Many members and visitors purchased books, Shiitake logs and art items. The Feel-and-Smell table also was a very popular place during the Show, as well as the Identification booth.

It is impossible to name everybody who worked so hard to make our 19th Exhibit such a success. My thanks go to all.

The Show closed on Sunday at 6 PM and thanks to the many people who stayed and helped with clean-up (including vacuuming the rug and mopping the linoleum) every PSMS member had left the Monroe Center by 8 PM - a new record.

With hindsight it was a very good decision to hold the Show at the Monroe Center. The facilities worked out very well and I suggest we continue to hold it here.

MORE ON THE 1982 EXHIBIT

The pace of setting up the Show increases Saturday morning. Due to some mis-information printed by some outlying newspapers, some people came to see the Exhibit at 10 AM. Carl always trying to make the best of a given situation, offered to let such an early visitor "help" on the Exhibit, when it was found out, that this "visitor" was a PSMS charter member.....

Monte Hendrickson, chairman of the clean-up committee wants to thank all the people who helped on this job, the members who had signed up as well as the many who pitched in and helped. The clean-up of the boys' gym (where the display trays were assembled) was completed by the time the Show closed, and it was already in use by a basketball group. And the dismantling of the auditorium proceeded at record speed, because many members stayed on for this task. The "lunch room" and kitchen clean-up went on simultaneously, due to sufficient help. It gave me a wonderful feeling to be associated with such friendly and dedicated members.

It is not too early to start planning the 20th Annual Exhibit! What would you suggest we change, improve? What could we add in 1983. Please speak up to any Board member!!!!!!!

MUSHROOM STATISTICS OF THE 1982 EXHIBIT

Labeling Committee - Helena Kirkwood

John Kunz has revolutionized the labeling process with his computer. But as with all revolutions there were unforeseen problems. This meant that Aino Kunz also spent many hours getting our new tags ready, and even daughter Tina was recruited for the final push. They did a fine job and deserve many plaudits.

The final count for this year's exhibit was 321 species (in 1981 we showed 319). The genera with the most species represented were:

Agaricus	10 species	Lactarius	13 species
Amanita	9 species	Russula	16 species
Hygrophorus	16 species	Tricholoma	12 species
Cortinarius	22 species	Ramaria	14 species

DECEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING Ed & Ella Cantelon

Once again, by popular request, the December meeting will be of the people, by the people, and for the people of this very active Society. Slides will be shown by individual members. We are especially interested in seeing slides produced by the many members who attended Joy Spurr's classes in photography. We have the names of those who took advantage of this opportunity to learn more about photography. We will not call them; we hope they will call us and let us know how many slides each of them would like to show. Ten to fifteen slides, or less, per person will be probably ample to fill the time allotted to the program. This is not a contest! Subject matter is the the member's selection; and it need not be mushrooms. If you like your material, you can be sure the rest of us will like it too.

We hope the ladies will once again fill the tables with the wonderful array of cookies that we have seen in past years. The Society will furnish coffee, tea, and cocoa.

This will be a fun meeting, don't miss it! The phone number is 242-6115. Ella runs the cookie department.

SHIITAKE LOGS

H.R.H.

Many members purchased Shiitake logs which were sold by Ostrom's at the Annual Exhibit. The Society would be interested in finding out how each of them fared in regard to the harvest.

John Crichfield, 16218 Larch Way N., Lynnwood, 98036 of PSMS has agreed to collect this information, and we will report on it in Spore Prints.

John is interested in cultivating wood-growing mushrooms and has some alder logs which he has inoculated with spawn, but not yet activated. He experienced a new and pleasant surprise. The spawn which he had kept (according to instructions) in a plastic sack in the refrigerator, produced three Shiitake fruiting bodies. Now he is expecting more. John also has been successful in getting up to four fruitings on prior Shiitake kits he had purchased.

Maybe this is the start of a Cultivation Group being formed within our Society. There have been several inquiries on this.



P. S. M. S. 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

- Nov. 8 Monday, Beginners' Orientation Class, 6:45 pm
Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm
- Nov. 15 Monday, 7th Session Fall Identification Class
Room 317 Monroe Center, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 22 Monday, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
- Nov. 26 Deadline for Spore Prints material. Send to
Editor, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA 98115
- Dec. 13 Monday, Beginners' Orientation Class and
Membership Meeting.

ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS: The names and phone numbers of our new members will be available for the December 1982 mailing of the bulletin. Please notify the Society if there is a change in address or phone number.

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT John Kunz

Howard Bigelow's long awaited "North American Species of Clitocybe - Part I" has been published in hard cover @\$52. A paperbound edition is planned, available @\$25 to any club ordering at least 20 copies. Please drop a line to the Society's address, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, 98115 or call John Kunz, 362-7402 to place your order. This monograph on Clitocybe is the result of over 25 years of study. During this period several thousand collections and countless specimens have been examined in the lab, and many have been seen in the field.

Membership Meeting

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

Program: The Mushrooms of Appalachia is the topic Brian Luther chose for his slide-illustrated lecture. Brian earned his B.S. in Mycology from the University of Washington, and did graduate work at the University of Tennessee. Members who attend field trips benefit from his expert identification of all of the fungi brought in. This should be one of the best programs of this year!

BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

Treasurer Ferris Anderson chaired the October Board Meeting since President Grout was holding the Class on Mushroom Identification and Vice-President Kunz was out of town. The minutes of the September meeting were accepted as presented.

President Grout conveyed his compliments to everybody who helped stage the successful 1982 Exhibit which was held the weekend before. Preliminary figures indicated an attendance of 1,700. The Treasurer will attempt to have a report ready by the time of the membership meeting. At the recommendation of the 1982 Committee Chairman and with the approval of the Board, October 15th & 16th, 1983 will be chosen for next year's Exhibit, and the necessary rooms reserved at the Monroe Center.

After some discussion, the Board recommended that the distribution of the fungi after an Annual Exhibit be directed by the Chairman of the Exhibit.

Book Chairmen, Judi and Ernie Boa reported the sale of \$4,000 worth of books during the Exhibit. And Membership Chairman Aino Kunz signed up 109 new memberships during the Show. From prior experience we know that mail-in memberships continue after the Show.

Monte Hendrickson again this year will hold Orientation Sessions for beginners. They will start at 6:45 PM on the dates of the regular membership meetings in the auditorium of the Monroe Center.

The tired Board members adjourned at 8:30 PM.

ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR BEGINNERS

Monte Hendrickson

Again this year we will have classes for the many beginners who joined our Society during the Annual Exhibit. For your convenience the sessions have been scheduled at 6:45 pm on the Monday of the Society's regular monthly meeting. The first class will be held Monday, November 8, 1982. It will last till 7:30 pm, so our new members can examine the specimens on the table, as well as have a stretch until the regular membership meeting starts at 8:00 pm.

The classes will continue for the rest of the year, and prepare our new members for the spring season. The topics of the sessions are (1) Orientation for absolute beginners into all aspects of our Society. (2) Cooking and preservation of mushrooms. (3) Basic fundamentals of mushroom identification; (4) Review of the Spring mushrooms. The series includes a learning field trip for spring mushrooms.

All interested members are welcome. There will be no fee for these Orientation Sessions!

October 2nd and 3rd seemed an appropriate date to hold a field trip at Crystal Springs Campground. That's what over one-hundred PSMS members and their guests thought, and at least 500 other mushroom hunters, mostly searching for Matzuta. The competition was evident by the many cars parked along the main roads and side roads, as well as the many mushrooms which had been kicked over, especially when they were white, and possibly could have been mistaken for the prized pine mushroom. Even though it had rained this fall, many species barely pushed through the duff and were hard to spot. Nevertheless, the eagle eyes of our mushroom hunters kept our identifiers, Howard Melsen and Charles Volz more than busy.

On Saturday it rained on and off all day, and in order to keep our 70-plus hungry dinner crowd under cover, the mushrooms had to be moved outside the shelter, where the rain washed off many names from the ID labels, and I don't know what the actual count was. However, from the quantity of fungi laying on the table and benches, it was a goodly number, and par for the many varieties found in this prime location.

We want to thank our hosts, Alice and Gilbert Austin, for whom it was their first hosting. They received expert advice from Fay Melsen. Sigrun Budnik brought dry firewood from her nearby cabin as well as supplies, and also ran errands for additional needed materials.

My only sad experience on this trip was the flyer placed on the windshield of the car during potluck, offering to buy pine mushrooms and chanterelles. It reminded us again of the commercial picking of these prized edible mushrooms, and our fears that such heavy pursuit may bode ill for the future success of the amateur collector.

THE DALLES FIELD TRIP REPORT

Fay Melsen

After it had rained for several days, we lucked out Saturday, October 9th, and had a lovely day of sunshine and blue skies for a very nice field trip. Thanks go to Ed and Ella Cantelon for bringing a load of dry wood from home, as well as Howard's collecting wet downfalls, we could keep a cheery fire going all day.

Piping hot coffee on the stove, cookies on the table, and Brian Luther available to identify 144 different specimens, how could we lose? Brian's dedication and interest (even by lamp light) was much appreciated by all. Rozites caperata was found in abundance; some Leccinum aurantiacum, Herichium, and a few Matsutakes were the main edibles collected.

Fifty-two participated in the always friendly and delicious potluck, which is the highlight of the day. We can then all get together and tell what we found, how we found it, and even where we found it. For this meal, you may have been lucky enough to sample some of Gerta Barta's homemade cinnamon rolls, as we did. They are super.

(P.S. We also want to thank Howard and Fay Melsen for hosting this field trip. I wonder if Fay has kept track of how many this makes? - Editor)

The field trips have always been an important part of our Society. They are a learning experience with a social aspect. And we have observed that it takes participation of more than just a few "older" members to keep things going. However, we also need new members to step forward and contribute

their part to hosting and co-hosting our field trips. Those new members who come forward will find getting acquainted, meeting and greeting other members can be very rewarding. If a few more (new and old) members would volunteer to host field trips, like in the past, all would be great.

Thanks to Bessie and Don Ross from Tacoma for cleaning up the specimens on Sunday.

IS THERE A NEED FOR A NATIONAL MYCOLOGICAL MAGAZINE FOR AMATEURS?

The Boston Mycological Club (just like PSMS) is exchanging newsletters with many clubs around the country. Many bulletins have interesting articles, some of local, but some also of national interest. Just as in our organization, your editor sees these articles, and normally informs you of important activities and developments. Then they are filed in our library, and very few members ever see them.

A suggestion was made that a National Mycological Digest be started which would carry many of these articles. So far it is in the discussion stage, and details like who is going to do it? Cost? have not been worked out. We will keep you informed.

MUSHROOM CALENDARS

PSMS members have a choice of two mycological calendars for 1983: PSMS member Tatiana Roats has painted mushrooms and put them together with a calendar. After 1983 the paintings can be framed. Cost is \$8 and will be available at the November membership meeting.

The Mad River Press 1983 mushroom calendar, assembled by Orson & Hope Miller and David Largent, is available through our book sales, also at the November membership meeting. Cost is \$5.00. This calendar has photographs, and recipes, and can be saved from year to year (it will be continued) and assembled as a simple guide to edible mushrooms.

MISCELL.

Recovering from operations are long-time members Emory Bronner and Pauline Pollard. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Want to buy a monocular Bausch & Lomb microscope. Call Helena Kirkwood, 784-1095.

Mushrooming continues in other parts of the country:
 November 12 - 14 Texas Mycological Society Foray
 November 21 Humboldt Bay Mycological Soc. Fair
 December 3 - 5 Gulf Coast Winter Foray
 December 12 Mycol. Society of San Francisco Fair in Oakland
 February Los Angeles Mycol. Society Foray

The following two excerpts are from the Mike Mailway column: . . . one out of five people say they just can't stand mushrooms served in any way at all . . . and . . . it is not unheard of, you know, for a mushroom to live 400 years . . .

The Wall Street Journal reported on October 12th that Truffles, the tubers that are the dream of every gourmet, reached record prices of \$22 an ounce at the yearly market in the northern Italian town of Alba. Despite the high prices, customers were numerous. The best piece on sale was an 18 oz. white truffle that was sold for more than \$350.

Scientists in British Columbia warn that people gathering "magic" mushrooms in some BC fields may be flirting with disaster, because agricultural pesticides, diazinon and parathion, both deadly poisons, are being used to combat infestations of leatherjacket larvae.

When six of us from PSMS looked around the New York airport for the rest of the 37 participants and approached a group who looked like "mushroom people," and asked: "Is this the Baltic Foray?" They nodded and smiled, and we all then and there acknowledged that "it takes one to know one!"

Incredible as it may seem, this group, with the able leadership of Dr. Don Pfister and Roy Halling collected 212 species during a "very bad year." In Leningrad the gathering began slowly. In fact, during the first two days we wondered when the gathering would start. But there remained little doubt where our sentiments lay, when the entire bus shouted:

"Mushrooms!" on passing a field of inky caps on the grounds of the winter palace. The guide, who at the time was describing a monument, was momentarily stunned, but gradually warmed up to our true interests, and also gathered samples for identification. She also vowed to increase her repertoire due to our enthusiasm in mushrooms. Her early scepticism seemed common to most Baltic natives as their approach and philosophy of mushrooms is different. Due to a lack of leisure time and lower standard of living, their approach to mushrooms is more gastronomic than scientific or esthetic. At the summer palace, Peterhof, we asked a baboushka how mushrooming was, since she and her little dog were gathering Suillus grevillei, and she too told us that it was a bad year. We ended this phase of the trip at the Botanical Gardens where the local mycologists announced their projected 40 volume treatise on fungi of the USSR. The first volume is to be completed in about five years.

Next stop on our tour was Vilnius, Lithuania, where Prof. Urbonas spoke about the local fungi. He apologized for the lack thereof, and suggested that this condition could be due to over-harvesting and recommended a moratorium on gathering in certain areas to insure future crops. In Vilnius we were able to go on a foray on our own by public conveyance to the outskirts of town and gather specimens in a state park. We found a beautiful Lepiota procera. George carried it through town, and many passers-by told us it was delicious. We continued to collect during and between tours.

In Riga, Latvia, our guide Ludmilla, discovered a crop of Agaricus rodmani in the city, and we had the chef cook them in sour cream for all to taste. The market place was well stocked with Boletus edulis, Rozites caperata, Lactarius deliciosus. We purchased some of each, and again got a taste from a reluctant chef, who asked: "Don't you have these in the USA?" and, "Don't we feed you well enough?" They did feed us well - three times a day! Huge meals! In fact, my one criticism is - too much time was spent at the table. (This is my own opinion, and not necessarily shared by others.)

Here we saw many Paxillus involutus and Lactarius torminosus in the fields and markets. They are widely used here after soaking in water to leach out the bitterness.

After a memorable and cold overnight train trip to Tallinn, Estonia, the mycologists from the Tartu Institute of Science greeted us warmly and took us under their wings. They guided us through the Botanical Garden, the pine forests, and a social hour with the English speaking club. Some of us were fortunate enough to be entertained by a mycologist and art professor at the Art Institute, at his apartment.

The Estonian group saw us off to the ferry which took us to Helsinki, Finland. Here all activities seemed geared to mushrooming. Department store windows were decorated with

typical mushrooming apparel and equipment, and books. Outstanding was a knife with a brush on the end of the handle. The market place featured authorities with visual aids instructing the general public on "good and bad" mushrooms.

Our interest in fungi again was the common bond that put us in touch with some very warm and interesting individuals, which I am convinced will develop into lasting friendships. George and I have found that attending mushroom forays is a wonderful way of life.

SUCCESSFUL GROWING OF OYSTER MUSHROOMS

by Royce Harvey, Field Trip Chairman of the Los Angeles Mycological Society and a PSMS member.

On May 22, 1982 I received one small pop bottle of Oyster mushroom spawn on bird seed. Having read that this mushroom would fruit on many household waste items, I inoculated sterilized oak leaf mold, chopped up paper egg cartons, shredded pine wood, and oak shavings. All of which seemed to grow very well for a while, then they became dormant after a few weeks of temperatures above 90° here in L.A. I thought this may have had something to do with their laziness or inactiveness, as I never find this mushroom in the Los Angeles area this time of year. The cultures were placed into a coke chest and a half-gallon milk carton full of ice was placed inside with them and changed each day. This kept the temperature in the 55° to 65° range most of the time. The cultures became very active again, but still no mushrooms, and I was sure it was past time. I had read that water would induce fruiting, but I did not know how much water so I filled all of the jars that I thought should be fruiting with water, let them set for 24 hours, drained the water off, and in a few days they fruited.

The jars were moved to a shed in the back yard that has a window so that the air passes freely and there is only a little light (which seems to be enough). This shed is hosed down three or four times daily inside and outside. On the inside it is very humid and somewhat cooler than on the outside.

I had my very first mushroom "ever" in sixty days. The egg carton jar had fruited. A few days later the shredded pine wood jar fruited. Meanwhile I inoculated used coffee grounds, shopping bag paper (all parts with printing or colored ink were discarded), cardboard box, maple strips, dried grape vines and redwood compost.

I am not trying to supply myself with mushrooms, but I am trying to find out on how many different things I can get them to fruit on. I am far from an expert on growing mushrooms, but enjoy sharing my experience. I have read much on the subject, and Fred Stevens of the San Francisco Club was very helpful.

PHOTO TIP #6

Joy Spurr

Sticks and stones and stuff in the background of a mushroom close-up can cause your picture of a beautiful subject to end up in the waste basket. Improve the background by moving or camouflaging unwanted elements. Light-colored rocks, leaves or twigs, pieces of sparkling glass or metal, cigarette butts and waste paper are among the many unsightly gremlins that haunt the photographer. Dew and raindrops are photographic subjects in their own right, but their sparkles in the background can spoil your picture. Sometimes you can solve the problem by positioning a hat, jacket, or person between the sun and the background to create a shadow where you need it. Background may be the last thing you think of while you compose a mushroom close-up, but don't forget to take a careful look at it before you release the camera's shutter.