

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
2559 NE 96th, Seattle, Washington, 98115

February 1985

Number 209



THINK SURVIVORS BANQUET

THE 21st SURVIVORS BANQUET Betty Okura

Preparations for the 21st Annual Meeting and Survivors Banquet are well under way.



Date: Friday, March 15, 1985

Time: Social Hour begins at 6:30 pm with dinner following at 7:30 pm.

Place: QUINN'S at 7001 Seaview Avenue N.W. at Shilshole Bay Marina.

Directions: Everyone knows the way to Ballard, that's where our regular meeting place is located. From there you go to N.W. Market Street and follow it all the way to the waterfront. That gets you to Quinn's. The persons coming from the north end can take N.W. 85th and drive down to the water by Golden Gate Park.

Dinner tickets are selling at \$15.00 each. They may be obtained from Edith Godar at the membership meeting in February, or by sending your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, to 11704 - 103rd N.E., Kirkland, WA 98033. The last day to order a ticket is March 8th. After this date, no refunds can be given.

The menu will include: Tossed Salad with Agaricus bisporus; Prime Rib with wild mushroom sauce; Baked Potato; Vegetable Sour Dough Rolls; and Beverage (regular and decaf. coffee).

A No-Host Bar serving wines and non-alcoholic beverages will be set up. For dinner, you can order St. Michelle's Farron Ridge by the glass (\$2.00) or by carafe (\$7.00). The wine choices were suggested by our Banquet Speaker, Tom Stockely.

Tom Stockely is the wine columnist of the Seattle Times and Associate Editor of Pacific Magazine. He will talk about Food and Wine, how they complement each other.

Remember last year's fantastic door prizes? Elizabeth Whalen has again consented to take care of this matter. Please call her at 362-2656 if you can help her or make a contribution.

We urge you who are planning to attend the Banquet to hurry and purchase your tickets. Let's all support this event and have a wonderful evening. The mushrooms promise to wait until our banquet is over, before they pop their heads up and lure us out to the great Northwest outdoors.

See you at the banquet.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Margaret Dilly

This month my message will focus on two areas that are dear to my heart and that are related to one another.

First, let's talk about education which is an important part of this organization. Milton Grout played a large part in this and his death in December leaves a huge void in our lives. We mourn the loss of our dear friend and educator. However, we must look to the future as he would want us to do. We are fortunate to have Coleman Leuthy as head of our Education Committee. He has taught mycology for many years, as a matter of fact, Milton was one of his students many years ago. At present, Coleman is planning classes for both, the Spring and the Fall. These will cover various levels of learning. He will need lots of help, both with identification and assistance with teaching. Many of you have had enough background to qualify in both of these areas. Response by good class attendance will be important too. So in memory of Milt, let's all rally behind this effort and make it a huge success.

The other area I would like to address is the Library. Some of the classes will be conducted here. . . . and what better place could we use, since it contains marvelous reference material. I would like all of you to be aware of the fine and professional job Ed Bush is doing as our Club Librarian. The books have been indexed and labeled for easy reference. He has ordered some new books, and will keep abreast of new publications that will benefit us. At the present time he is reviewing and cataloging articles from all past issues of Spore Prints. This should be a real boon as there have been many good articles published over the years if one knew where to find them. Ed also is the Historian of our Society. He plans to tackle the Scrap Books as his next project. Thanks Ed for your devotion. We are indeed fortunate and grateful to have your talents available to us.

We have so much talent among our members and when it surfaces, and we tap it, everyone benefits. So let's hear about yours! The suggestion box is a good place to notify us. . . .

See you at meeting night.



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Spore
Prints

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OFFICERS Margaret Dilly, President, 1986 (1)
John Kunz, Vice President, 1985 (2)
Ferris Anderson, Treasurer, 1986 (2)
Betty Hamilton, Secretary, 1985 (1)

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Boa (1); Dennis Bowman
Edith Godar Charlotte Turner Zila (1).
Term expires March 1986: Gilbert Austin (1)
Ed Bush (1); Sally Ann Hansen (1); Betty
Okura (1); Ron Skoor (1).

ALTERNATES: Alice Austin
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Milton Grout
SCIENTIFIC ADVISER: Dr. Joseph Ammirati

Calendar

- Feb. 11 Beginners Orientation Class, 6:45 pm
Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm
Feb. 18 Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
Feb. 22 Deadline for Spore Print Material. Send to
Editor, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA 98115
March 15th, Friday, The 21st Annual Survivors Banquet

NOTICE Aino Kunz

All members who renewed their 1985 PSMS membership by mail should be careful when they take Spore Prints out of the mailing envelope because this month's mailing includes your 1985 PSMS Membership Card.

EXHIBIT 1985 Dennis Bowman

Once again we are starting to gear up for our Annual Exhibit which will be held on October 12 & 13, 1985. We have a few vacancies for committee chair positions, so if you are willing to lend your talents and skills, please call me at 525-8399 or see me at our monthly membership meetings. We are working on several new displays and will need people to head these up as well.

I also would like to remind all members to support our Exhibit by purchasing a raffle ticket for the watercolor original of *Russula aeruginea*. Tickets are available at the Exhibit table at the monthly membership meetings.

Membership Meeting

Monday, February 11, 1985, 8:00 pm in the auditorium of the MONROE CENTER, 1810 NW 65th Street, Seattle.

Program: Mark your calendars for this date: Our scientific adviser, Dr. Joseph Ammirati will present a slide-illustrated lecture on the genus *Pholiota*. Not many know the species in the genus very well.

BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

At the January Board Meeting, the alternates, Dennis Bowman and Edith Godar were appointed to complete the unexpired portion of the terms of Monte and Hildegard Hendrickson, who have resigned.

The Board inspected additional storage space at the Monroe Center, since the items Milton Grout had stored in his house have been brought to the Center.

Betty Okura reported on the preparations and ticket sales for the Banquet. More about the Banquet on page 1 of this issue.

Coleman Leuthy attended the Board meeting and outlined the educational program he proposes. For details see the President's message and page 4 of this issue.

Dennis Bowman has taken the general chairmanship of the 1985 Exhibit. Michelle Green's work commitment don't allow her to participate as much as last year.

Joy Spurr is in charge of our "speaker's bureau", i.e. she will compile a list of members who are willing and qualified to speak to groups. If a speaker on a mycological subject is requested, this request should be forwarded to Joy.

Sally Ann Hansen reported to the Board that many people felt cold during the January membership meeting. A little more heat would be appreciated in the auditorium during the cold months.

BEGINNERS ORIENTATION CLASS CONTINUES

The topics that will be discussed this month's in the Beginners Orientation class held at 6:45 pm on the Monday evening of the regular membership meeting, will be "how", "where", and "when", to hunt wild mushrooms. This will prepare you for the learning field trip planned for Saturday, March 16th. The location is the MacDonald County Park = Tolt River Park. This park is located a half mile south of Carnation in King County. Enter the park via N.E. 40th Street from Highway #203 to get to the parking lot for the day-use area of the park. Cross the suspension bridge (over the Snoqualmie River) to get to the shelter (which is on the west side of the river). Arrive by 9:00 AM. There will be a lecture by Monte Hendrickson on how to recognize cottonwood trees under which the early morels, *Verpa bohemica*, grow. After the lecture, Monte will lead the hunt.

Bring your lunch. There will be no potluck. Be sure you bring rain gear, a basket, and wear sturdy footwear. PSMS will provide coffee and cookies. This is a learning field trip, and will be held, rain or shine, mushrooms or no mushrooms. The setting of dates for spring field trips is very difficult, since we cannot anticipate whether we will have an early or late spring. But we like to have this learning field trip at the earliest possible date, so you can confidently explore the hunting of the *Verpas* on your own.



The news of the untimely death of Milton Grout reached us just before press time and we could only include a brief announcement about his passing. Since he was so actively involved in PSMS and gave most of us our start in mushroom identification, we would like to share some information about his life as provided by his family. Through his smile and gentle persuasion he got things done. Milt we miss you!

He was born July 20, 1914 in Ilion, New York and grew up in New England. He started college at 16 and did his undergraduate studies at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. He played the banjo in a Dixieland band to earn the funds to put himself through college. Then he attended Harvard University, and in 1938 earned an M.B.A. degree with distinction. After graduation he became the assistant controller for Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. From June 1942 to November 1945 he served in the Navy. He served his first tour of duty in London for two years, and then he was transferred to San Francisco. After his discharge from the Navy he wanted to stay on the West Coast. He started to work as an accountant for the San Juan Fish and Packing Company, and he retired as the Vice President of Finance and Executive Manager for the New England Fish Co. Besides tending to finances, his special interests were directed toward fisheries economics, resource utilization, sustained yield, and improved provision of protein. Professionally he was the past president of the Financial Executives Institute and a member of the National Association of Certified Accountants. After his retirement in 1980 he was a consultant for the Seward & Icicle Fish Company. As a new hobby during retirement, he learned to play classical guitar.

Milt joined PSMS in 1968 and immediately became an active member. He served on the Board of Trustees, and three times held the Presidency, 1974, 1975, and 1982/84. During all this time he served on or chaired the Education Committee. Milton had been teaching the excellent fall, and sometimes spring, identification classes since 1971. Among his hobbies, besides mycology were botany, photography, hiking, boating, and fishing. He was a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club.

When Milt was aware that death was imminent, he called the family together and settled his affairs. Among his last actions was making a contribution to the Daniel E. Stuntz Memorial Foundation. He died December 31, 1984 at home surrounded by his wife Louise, daughters Judith and Elizabeth, and sons Robert and William. Our sympathy goes to the family. His death leaves a great void for PSMS.

At his request there was no funeral or memorial service. Remembrances are suggested to the Daniel E. Stuntz Memorial Fund, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA 98115.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

John & Stephanie Baird: 874-5614; Gene & Maria Clark: 778-7721; Kern Hendricks & Elizabeth Purser: 322-7476; Irwin & Ludmilla Kleinman: 323-2903; Francis & Ingeborg McGuire: 633-5778; Earle & Frances Reuther: 362-3791; Ronald Shreve: 1-825-4372.

Please take a look at the mailing label on the envelope in which you received this issue of Spore Prints and carefully examine your name, address, and this month also your phone number. Make sure the information is correct. If not, please write the Society at 2559 NE 96th or call the Membership Chairman, Aino Kunz (362-7402) and provide the correct information, which will be used when the 1985 Membership Roster is printed next month.

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND BOARD 1985

According to the By-Laws PSMS members must elect five members to the Board of Trustees as well as a Vice President and a Secretary. The election committee, chaired by Ed Bush (776-9769) and consisting of Joy Spurr and Monte Hendrickson is soliciting for nominations. You may nominate yourself or someone else, but you must have that someone's permission. The chairman will be naming the volunteers at the February membership meeting, and will then be asking for nominations from the floor. The nominations will close at that time.

HIMALAYAN MUSHROOM STUDY TOUR

A Mushroom Study Tour of the Himalayas has been organized for Sept. 1, 1985 - Sept. 17, 1985. The group will foray where climbing is not required, in forests known for luxurious mushroom growth surrounding the hill stations in the foothills, which are the beautiful old British summer resorts of colonial days: Srinigar, Simla, Solan, and Kathmandu. For further information contact Emanuel Salzman, M.D., %Fungophile, P.O. Box #5503, Denver, CO 80217. Phone:(303)296-1218.

OF THIS AND OF THAT

At the last San Francisco Fungus Fair a free mushroom tasting survey was taken. The committee prepared 2 pounds each of commercial pleurotus, Safeway agaricus, and chanterelles. They were sauteed in unsalted butter, and 1 teaspoon of salt. The result: out of 125 tasters, 35 preferred agaricus mushrooms, 36 preferred the oysters, and 54 picked the chanterelles as their favorite mushroom.

Another report about allergic reactions to edible mushrooms came from Betty Whalen of PSMS and refers to Lepiota rachodes: Eating this mushroom the first time caused no reaction. The second time, when red wine was also consumed: vomiting occurred 5 hours later, followed by a little queasiness the next day. Six months later, a third try at eating L. rachodes, no wine this time. Again vomiting occurred 5 hours later and queasiness the next day. The third day weakness and diarrhea. This lasted 5 days. Her husband ate some each time, with no wine consumed, and had no reactions at all.

BOOK ON DYING WITH MUSHROOMS STILL MISSING

We urge the person who "borrowed" the book on mushroom dying at the December membership meeting to return it, since it does not belong to PSMS. It was sent from the publisher for review. No questions will be asked. Please call Judi at 725-1235.

BOOKS - BOOKS - BOOKS

Be sure you come by the book sales table before or after every membership meeting. New items are being added as they are published. We cannot cite all of them here. Also if you are aware of some books, and would like a copy, Judi will take orders, and we all can benefit from the quantity discount.

PLANS OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE Coleman Leuthy

The Education Committee is hard at work outlining the future education programs of the Society. Due to the untimely death of Milton Grout, who had taught the excellent series of identification classes in the fall that started so many of us on recognizing wild mushrooms, changes will have to be made in the educational programs. A new direction and an expanded scope was outlined by Coleman Leuthy at the January Membership Meeting, and further discussed by the Board. In Milt's memory we would like to continue a fine education program for PSMS.

The following approach has been proposed:

1. Continue the Beginners Orientation Classes which are now held from October through June at 6:45 pm on the evening of the regular membership meeting. In addition to familiarizing new members with the structure, organization, and operations of the Society, these classes cover collecting techniques, recognizing common mushrooms, cooking and preserving wild mushrooms, and photographing fungi and nature.
2. Identification Classes, possibly held in the spring season and the fall season, will stress the identification of a wide variety of genera; the students should also attempt to learn to recognize species, edible and nonedible ones, habitat, and seasons. Just as in the past (your editors included) some members may want to attend this series of classes more than once, to expand their knowledge, and as a refresher course.
3. Microscope Class: In this class students would learn to use the microscope; make simple mounts and preparations, and recognize mushroom structures when microscopic details are necessary for identification. This class will be organized in the fall of 1985. The class will be limited to the availability of microscopes.
4. Advanced Classes on various topics will be offered occasionally at the interest of members, and the availability of instructors.

The discussion at the Board meeting brought out the fact that up to now the work done in education relied heavily on a few dedicated individuals who contributed immeasurably in talent and time to this endeavor of our Society. The proposal of the Education Committee would involve a larger number of members.

1. Help, Help, Help us improve the overall knowledge of our members. With your interest and enthusiasm you will learn as new, dynamic classes are organized and presented. The intent is to involve many members doing a small part. Every task would have a back-up person involved. Through such a system we will have an impressive, perpetuating instructional tool with which to learn and teach new members.

We need many people who will share their enthusiasm and experience. Each job needs at least one back-up for training, so he/she can step in when needed. To prepare members as presentors, we will set up training sessions.

2. The primary and immediate needs are:

Course Coordinators for the Classes mentioned above. This means 4 - 6 persons.

Presentors and Back-up Persons for the Orientation and Identification Classes. Each presentor would select a genus and prepare (with assistance and guidance) a 10 - 30 minute presentation. Several presentors would be used in one evening class. Anyone who has learned to recognize a genus can ea-

sily (with help) prepare and handle a working portion of a class. The Society's extensive slide library will be used.

An alternative approach considered the hiring of an instructor for the Identification Classes. This would increase the fee that would have to be charged to members, since the fee in the past only covered the cost of renting the facilities where the classes were held.

Help is also needed for the Mini-Display at the Monthly Membership Meetings. We need to have a number of people to coordinate with our Club Identifier, Brian Luther. The jobs are to set up tables, arrange table signs, have identification labels available, oversee the placing of specimens on the tables, and clean up and put away at the end. The times involved are 6:45 - 7:00 pm for setting up; 7:00 - 8:00 pm for identifying and arranging the display; and 30 minutes after the end of the formal program of the membership meeting, for clean up.

To get involved, see Coleman at the membership meetings or call him at 322 - 2554. Other persons to talk to are Margaret Dilly, Brian Luther, Dick Sieger, or the Vice President.

THE MUSHROOM CONNECTION EarthWatch, Fall 1984

The following is reprinted from the Fall 1984 EARTHWATCH magazine. EARTHWATCH is a non-profit organization which brings together scientists and volunteers willing to contribute their skills and energy to research expeditions.

A control subject in a recent study of blood platelet aggregation clotting ruined the experiment when his platelets refused to clump. The night before, it turned out, he had enjoyed a huge meal of ma-po dou-fu (Sichuan hot bean curd) complete with the traditional black tree fungus, or wood-ear mushrooms. The wood-ears, upon further detective work, proved to be the culprits: a substance isolated from them inhibits platelet aggregation.

The Chinese have consumed vast quantities of wood-ears for a thousand years. They know them as mu-er (thus the "moo" of northern Chinese "moo-shi" dishes; what's more, the Chinese hold that mu-er "thins" the blood. The plot thickens: the Chinese have a low incidence of arteriosclerosis - the constricting of arterial walls that leads to heart attacks, strokes, and other vascular diseases. Is this merely a coincidence?

Dr. Lloyd Axelrod, a vascular disease and diabetes specialist at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Harvard Medical School, is intrigued by this possible mushroom connection. At the invitation of the Science and Technology Commission of Guangdong Province, he, EARTHWATCH, and Chinese officials are negotiating an 18-day expedition in March 1985 (March 18 - April 4) to explore the current research status, pharmacological characteristics, cultural uses, and folklore of the black tree fungus. Axelrod seeks especially epidemiologists, botanists, statisticians, and pollsters, both for planning and implementing this multi-disciplinary investigation. Call Catherine Schlager at EARTHWATCH for more details (617)-489-3030 (10 Juniper Rd., Box 127, Belmont, MA 02178). Staging Area: Guangzhou, China; Share of Costs: \$3,850.

(P.S.) Hopefully we will hear the results of this ambitious program and will be able to report it to our members. The medicinal qualities of certain mushrooms have been cited in oriental medical applications.