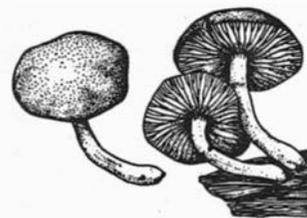


# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Monroe Center, 1810 N.W. 65th St., Seattle, WA 98117

November 1985

Number 216



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Margaret Dilly

Thanks to the devoted efforts of our membership, we have just completed another successful exhibit. In spite of the weather, we displayed 275 species of mushrooms.

Some of the fruits of our labor are the new memberships it generated. Our membership chairperson advises me that we have added around 85 new people this last month. Welcome, all of you! I hope you will find it a rewarding experience. We are a large club of over 700 members, and it would seem that with that many there would be nothing for you personally to do. That is not true - the larger we become the greater the responsibility of all. There is some special function for each of you. Open your roster today to page 4 and call one or more committee heads and offer your help. Perhaps they do not need assistance at this time, but it will be a great comfort to them to have a list of people willing to contribute when help is needed.

The rains are finally here, later than we would have liked but none the less they have arrived, and with them mushrooms. These can be beautiful, mysterious, and interesting - but also edible. And that is a problem on which we need to focus our attention. The threat to our forest and fungi is very real. They are being put under great pressure by the commercial harvest and export to foreign countries who have depleted their own once abundant, supply. We think mostly of the chanterelle as the target - but don't be fooled. I have seen it, and the harvest includes Armillaria ponderosa (matsutaki), Sparassis radicata, Boletus, Herectium, and Rozites caperata (the Gypsy) just to name a few. Any and all good edible mushrooms are being collected and sold for profit, with total disregard of the forest or it's owner, which in many cases is you and I. As hobbyists, we also need to use care in our collecting, but we also have the responsibility to do our part to preserve our forests and our age-old hobby.

This problem is getting the attention of the news media nationwide as well as the forest interests. We need to put the pressure on and keep it there. Let's ALL write or phone someone in a position of authority, whether it be State, Federal, or private. Insist on a STOP to this wild mushroom exploitation of the forests. Whether you call, write a letter, or just jot a brief line on a postcard, be firm in your demand.

The committee headed by Lori Knox that is dealing with the commercial issue needs your help in another area too. Photographs of mushroom buyers and buys are needed, as well as names, addresses, and license plate numbers of these dealers. This information is vital. Contact someone on this committee and they will do the rest. Let's all get behind this important issue and do our best to preserve our forests and the pleasure they bring to each of us. Thank you.

## A NEW GENUS NAMED AFTER DR. STUNTZ Brian Luther

I am delighted to announce that a new genus of fungi has been named after Dr. Stuntz in a paper just published by Fogel and Trappe in the scientific journal Mycologia. The genus is Destuntzia, after Daniel E. Stuntz. The following is the full citation of the paper.

*R. Fogel & J.M. Trappe. 1985. Destuntzia, a new genus in the Hymenogastraceae (Basidiomycotina). Mycologia 77(5): 732-742.*



For those of you unfamiliar with fungal taxonomy, the Hymenogastraceae is a family of primarily gastroid subterranean fungi with strong affinities to the Agaricales.

For new members who never had the fortune of knowing Dan Stuntz, he was Professor of Botany at the University of Washington and scientific advisor to PSMS until his death in 1983. He was a mycologist of international stature and spent the vast majority of his last 40+ years helping societies like ours and doing research on the genus Inocybe, on which he was a noted world authority.

Very fond memories are brought forward when the name Dr. Stuntz is mentioned. For example, while at the exhibit I.D. table together, Fred Van de Bogart and I were reminiscing about the endless array of delectable goodies that Dr. Stuntz provided his students during laboratory sessions at the University of Washington. All who knew Prof. Stuntz have warm thoughts about this very special person who enriched our lives in so many different ways, and who made a significant contribution to the evolution and maturation of our organization (PSMS) as we know it today. It is, therefore, a fitting tribute to this quiet, humble mycologist who was, in fact, a "giant" of a person.

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Lori Knox

Howdy! The Legislative Committee is buzzing right along. We are contacting legislators for our meeting on Thursday November 14th to help us outline a bill or two to present to the legislature. This meeting will be held in the Tacoma area to accommodate the representatives of the Tacoma and Olympia mycological clubs who have been driving to the Monroe Center so faithfully all this time. For carpool information call me (325-9758). November 25th will be the first official meeting of Citizens for Environmental Planning (CEPS). We have invited all the major environmental clubs, but if you know of anyone who might be interested, tell them about the meeting or call me.



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Spore  
Prints

is published monthly, except July and August, by the  
PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Monroe Center, 1810 N.W. 65th St., Seattle, WA 98117  
Direct all mail to this address

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Hours: Tuesdays 6 - 9 p.m.,  
Thursdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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WA 98155

## Calendar

- Nov. 11 Orientation class, 6:30 p.m., Monroe Center  
auditorium  
Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m., Monroe  
Center auditorium
- Nov. 14 Legislative Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m.,  
Tacoma area
- Nov. 18 Beginner classes 7-9 p.m., Monroe Center  
auditorium  
Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library
- Nov. 19 Beginner class, 10 a.m. - noon, Library
- Nov. 22 Spore Prints deadline
- Nov. 25 CEPS meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library

Note that the monthly membership meeting has been  
changed to 7:30 p.m.

## Membership Meeting

Monday, November 11, 1985, at 7:30 p.m. in the Monroe  
Center auditorium, 1810 N.W. 65th Street, Seattle

Ken Russell, forest pathologist with the Department  
of Natural Resources in Olympia, will examine some of  
the mycorrhizal relationships between our northwest  
trees and certain of our most common mushrooms. He  
will discuss, among other things, the importance of  
mycorrhizal relationships in tree farming. Mr. Rus-  
sell is a product of the University of Minnesota  
system and has been a Washington State resident for  
20 years.

### BOARD NEWS

Betty Hamilton

Paid attendance this year at the Exhibit was 1014,  
down from 1833 last year. Book sales were also down.  
Dennis Bowman reported that the new PSMS T-shirts  
were a good seller at the show, and that several  
people expressed interest in a sweatshirt. The board  
voted to order 100 sweatshirts in the same colors.  
They also voted to enter into a marketing agreement  
with Morgan-Shaw Design to sell the leftover  
posters. Next year's Exhibit will be held on the  
18th and 19th of October 1985.

Coleman Luthy reported that the fall classes are going  
well. Andy Green reported that field trips are going  
fine and announced that potluck will be at 4:00 p.m.  
instead of 5:00 p.m. Charlotte Turner-Zilla would  
like to sign up more people for hosting, both at the  
field trips and at the meetings. Ron Skoor could  
also use some help putting tables away after the  
meetings.

Ferris Anderson reported that he has received \$100 as  
a memorial to Bill O'Conner. The board would also  
like to thank Irene O'Conner, who denoted all the  
craft items left on her table at the end of the  
Exhibit to PSMS.

### ORIENTATION CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS M. Hendrickson

Again this year the popular beginners' orientation  
classes will be held on the evening of the regular  
PSMS monthly meeting. The starting time has been  
moved to 6:30 p.m., since the regular membership  
meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. The beginners'  
classes will continue through June and prepare our  
many new members for their first spring season. The  
topics for the sessions are as follows: November -  
orientation for new members of how our Society works;  
December - basic fundamentals of mushroom identifica-  
tion; January - cooking and preservation of wild  
mushrooms; February - how to hunt wild mushrooms  
(equipment, where and when they fruit); March -  
learning field trip, date announced later; April -  
learning the spring mushrooms; May - how to stalk the  
wild mushrooms with your camera; June - review of the  
mushrooms you might find in the summer.

All interested members are welcome to attend these  
sessions. There is no charge.

**Historical Note:** The Speedwell, which was to accom-  
pany the Mayflower to the New World in 1620, was  
declared unseaworthy because a Sulphur Shelf in the  
unventilated hold had rotted the ship's planks.

## ANNUAL EXHIBIT

Dennis Bowman

Never say "too dry" to a PSMS member. Despite crisp lawns and dusty duff, moisture seeking members found more than enough fungi for a beautiful exhibit. We all owe a big hand to the crews who put in those long hours to make it all happen.

Everyone still has the opportunity to help on Exhibit '85 by purchasing a T-shirt or the NEW sweatshirt. By the way, the artwork for these shirts originates from the 1985 Exhibit poster.

The original watercolor painting of this year's poster will be raffled off at the end of the November membership meeting. Tickets are only 50 cents and will be on sale until the drawing.

Pacita Roberts would like to remind everyone who put up posters to please return the sheets with the names of the establishments where you posted. We need them.

## MASONIC PARK FIELD TRIP

Corinne Cato

The blue ribbon award goes to Dorothy Viers for her find of a wash pan size, 3-1/4 lb Sparassis radicata. Her sharp eyes spotted it in the park, just behind the trailers. Part of the thrill was that several people had walked past it numerous times during the afternoon. Dorothy spotted it while sitting at a camp fire some distance away.

Seventy people signed in. It was a lovely day, and even though the fall season has lacked for rain most of the searchers found something for the pot. Among the edibles were Cantharellus cibarius, Boletus edulis, Leccinum scabrum, and Pleurotus ostreatus. In all, 98 specimens were found.

Identification was capably handled by George Rafanelli and Charles Volz, assisted by Gary Lundgren and Margaret Dilly. Gary Lundgren placed the specimens in family groupings, which was most helpful for comparing the mushrooms.

Forty-six persons enjoyed the excellent pot luck and followed that with a vocal HAPPY BIRTHDAY tribute to Monte Hendrickson and Charles Volz.

Lyle and Joy McKnight and Corinne Cato managed the hosting duties at the well-equipped shelter while Henry Cato took 20 beginners on a successful search.

## SODA SPRINGS FIELD TRIP

Andy Green

The trip to the seemingly still drought-stricken other side of the mountains, east of Chinook Pass, yielded small quantities of edibles, but many other beautiful specimens were found. Brian Luther, Nettie Laycock, and Ben Woo identified 115 species, including a blackish Pluteus atromarginatus with dark gill edges, a rare Albatrellus dispansus, a Fuscoboletinus ochraceoroseus, and a Fuscoboletinus aeruginascens. Another rare specimen that showed up was Cheimonophyllum candidissimum.

Thirty-three of the 56 people who signed the register stayed for the marvelous pot luck dinner which featured Millie and Irwin Kleinman's smoked turkey. After dinner the scientists of the group set up a microscope lab complete with electric lights (but no stereo music) in the shelter and continued to work late into the night.

The hosts were Irwin and Millie Kleinman, Francis, Sandra, and Inge McGuire, Al and Betty Whalen, and Don and Bessie Ross. One 2 x 9 x 12-in. Tupperware container was left behind. It is currently at Andy and Michelle Green's house.

## LAKE WENATCHEE FIELD TRIP

Andy Green

We arrived Saturday morning to find Roger and Joy Spurr with 30 or so species already identified and displayed for our benefit and that of Joy's guest group, The Washington Natural Plant Society. Coffee was soon perking, and foragers left the camp in caravans and headed into the desert, or forest, depending on your point of view.

Pot hunters once again met with dust dry duff and returned to camp with humble pickings. Michelle and I had found some big Cantharellus cibarius west of the pass on the way over, but even that seemed to be an isolated patch.

During the day, Howard Melsen and Joy Spurr identified 82 species, including two beautiful hericiums, H. ramosum and H. coralloidies. Ten more species were unidentified.

Forty-four PSMSers signed the register, and 31 people, including a few from the Washington Natural Plant Society, had pot luck dinner on the beach -- quite the dining view.

The hosts were Dan and Jeani Schwenk and Andy and Michelle Green.

## CRYSTAL SPRINGS FIELD TRIP

Andy Green

We had a great team of hosts. Florence and George Metcalf and their two helpful students -- Desmond Wang of Sarawak, Malaysia, and Freddie Budisastra of Jakarta, Indonesia -- shared duties with Mari Bull, Ben and Marianne Sakamoto, and Bill and Charlotte Turner-Zilla. Thanks to some last-minute pitch hitting by the Hendricksons, the PSMS foray camp gear arrived in time. Dan Schwenk and Sally Hansen (in her jazzy new pickup) cooperated in returning it to Green's.

Howard Melsen and Charlie Volz identified some 53 varieties: 20 edible, 25 valueless or unknown and 8 poisonous.

Joy Spurr brought along her class from Vocational Tech. Community College, and a Boy Scout troop from Bellevue also seeped in to get warm, dry out a little, and snitch cookies, cinnamon rolls (courtesy of Florence Metcalf), and hot spiced tea, gallons of which were kept simmering all day.

In spite of the heavy downpour, some 92 PSMS members and guest foragers braved the elements and combed the region. At noon, the "drowned rats" dribbled in for warmth and lunch. Many parties made one last sortie and were back in time for a bounteous pot luck. Lots of piping hot main dishes plus salads and delicious desserts warmed everyone up and filled them up as well.

Bill Zilla and George Metcalf ran a chain saw and swung axes, and many of the men each carried in a load, helped out by the Boy Scouts. The Scouts were happy to inherit the fire and the wood pile when we of PSMS "folded tents" and packed up to hit the road at 5:00 pm.

**LUMPING AND SPLITTING**      **Geoffrey Kibby**  
[Ohio Mushroom Society The Mushroom Log, July/August 1985]

The problem of name changing has bedeviled mycology ever since it began and can be broadly put into three categories: (1) generic changes brought about by differing views on the placement of a particular species, e.g., Boletus scaber became Leccinum scabrum and so on; (2) changes due to priority, i.e., someone else found the genus earlier and gave it a different name, which has to take precedence over any later name; (3) changes forced by errors in identification or division of existing species. It is these last changes with which this article is principally concerned.

The phenomenon of splitting is something which has increased by leaps and bounds in the last 10 years, with genera like Leccinum, Russula and Lactarius, for example, increasing enormously as new species are extracted from what were formerly considered a few well known variable species. Smith's Lactarius monograph is an example of what happens when a close look is taken at a group.

More recently the honey fungus, Armillaria mellea, has come under examination, and at last the obvious differences in field characteristics are being correlated with information obtained by culturing to reveal that many more species exist in nature than we thought. In North America at least eleven different biological species exist which remain to be sorted out macroscopically, if indeed this is possible.

Another problem with mycology in America is that too much reliance is placed on European books for identification. It is too easy to "fit" something onto a European name and description. In most cases a careful study reveals that the American species is different. What is more, there often exists a perfectly good American name for the fungus if a search is made in the literature. A good example is Gymnopilus spectabilis. What is commonly called this name in the Northeast is another fungus entirely -- G. luteus -- which has a smooth cap, less fasciculate growth, a strong aromatic odour and yellower gills. G. spectabilis has a scaly, fibrillose cap, densely fasciculate growth, no odour and more orange gills. Both occur in the Northeast and are described in Hesler's monograph of the group, but only the "common" G. spectabilis is ever reported because that happens to be the common species in European books.

Lepiota procera is another example. A whole range of completely dissimilar entities are called by this name, and even an elementary glance at the classical description of L. procera would reveal grave differences in size, color, degree of scaliness, markings on stem, spore color and size. Species found here which are misidentified include L. prominens, L. konradii, L. gracilentata and others. A thorough study of American macrolepiotas needs to be undertaken, and Kibby hopes to do this over the next few years.

Pleurotus ostreatus and its allies are consistently misidentified, with the much earlier fruiting P. pulmonarius with its pale whitish-buff cap being most commonly illustrated under this name. Once again, cultural information is helping to sort out the differences between these fungi.

Confusion exists as to the differences between Mutinus elegans and M. caninus. Comparison of slides

reveals several clear differences but also reveals that what is usually identified as M. caninus appears to be another, unnamed, species entirely. This species is a bright cerise-red under the spore mass, and the color continues down the stem; its odour is very strong and foetid, whereas the true M. caninus has an orange-red head and a white stem and is almost completely inodorous. There are also differences in stature, habitat, etc., and we hope to collect more of the mystery specie and perhaps describe it. Almost every book confuses this group. Even Prof. Smith in his Mushroom Hunters Field Guide illustrates M. elegans under the name M. caninus.

Similar problems exist and were discussed in Agaricus (even the supposedly ubiquitous A. campestris appears to be a group of differing taxa) where much work remains to sort out species in this group and to decide whether they are the same as European ones or not.

It is no longer enough to try and force any number of variations in a fungus under one name. We must examine supposedly common but "variable" species closely and check on the works of previous American mycologists. We may find that they have already sorted them out! It is not good enough to continue using European names for American fungi without a direct comparison having been made at some point. Splitting is here to stay, like it or not, but if viewed correctly will be seen as a more logical and securely based approach to the problem of differences in species.

*The fungi are constant; the people keep changing their minds!*

- A. H. Smith

#### **MATSUTAKI NEEDED**

**Margaret Dilly**

In an attempt to preserve the delicate balance of our forests, which are threatened by over harvesting, Dr. Hiroyuki Ohara from Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan, and Dr. Dave Hosford of Central Washington University are collaborating on a research project which includes cultural and mycorrhizal work on Armillaria ponderosa and A. caligata. They are asking your assistance in collecting specimens from various areas and especially need a sampling from under lodgepole pine. They prefer unopened specimens (to avoid contamination) with notes on color, odor, and plant association. They would also appreciate a photograph, if available. If you have a fresh specimen and want to be a part of this historic event, telephone me at 782-8511.

An article on Dr. Ohara and Dr. Hosford's work appeared in the fall 1984 issue of the Central Washington University Bioscope, a copy of which is in the PSMS Library.

#### **BOOK SALES**

**Judi Boa**

Orders are still being taken for North American Species of Clitocybe, Part II. It sells for \$25.00. Members of other societies are invited to order from us at this discounted price.

We have Latin name stickers for The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms. They may be pasted on every plate in the book, giving scientific names for all of the illustrated mushrooms.