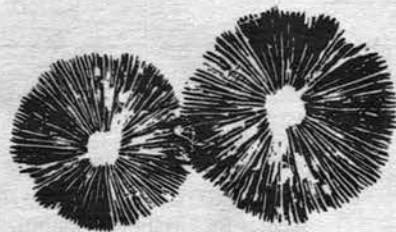


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

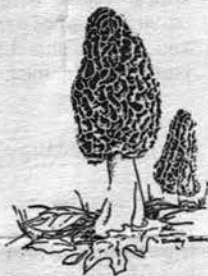
Number 251

April 1989



THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE **George Rafanelli** [Sung by George at our Survivors' Banquet]

Fungi belong to everyone,
The best things in life are free.
Blewits belong to everyone,
They're put here for you and me.
Morels in the spring,
Boletes in the fall,
Amanitas that sting,
They're here for all!
Agarics are for everyone,
The best things in life are free.



JELLY FUNGI

[*Mycena News*, Myco. Soc. San Francisco, March, 1989]



If asked, few amateur mycologists would list jelly fungi as among their favorite "mushrooms." With a texture that only a school kid could love and minimal culinary value, the jelly fungi are pretty much ignored or avoided. That's unfortunate because the jelly fungi are a large and interesting group. They vary considerably in size, shape, color, and, yes, texture. Not all jelly fungi are mucilaginous or slimy. Some rival the mushrooms in beauty, but unlike most mushrooms many jelly fungi have the ability to survive repeated cycles of drying and wetting. Because of this feature, the fruiting body of a jelly fungus can take up to two years to mature and form spores.

The jelly fungi are divided into three groups on the basis of the structure of the basidium, the cell that gives rise to sexual spores in the Basidiomycetes. Needless to say, if you're serious about studying jelly fungi, you will need a microscope. However, many of the common species can be recognized by their field characters, e.g., color, shape, and size. The more conspicuous species you're likely to encounter are described briefly below.

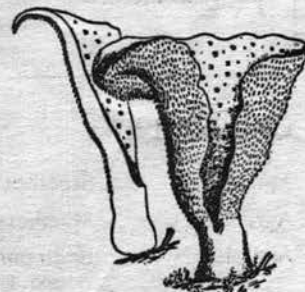
No walk in the woods is complete without seeing at least one specimen of "yellow witches' butter."



Tremella mesenterica is the name usually given this jelly, but to be sure of the identification, a microscope check of the basidia is required to differentiate it from *Dacrymyces palmatus*, a similar "butter" that is normally a little more orange in color. Occasionally one will find a brown or tan "witches' butter," somewhat larger than *T. mesenterica*. This is not an old, yellow witches' butter but a distinct species called *T. foliacea*. The ugly duckling of the local jellies is *Exidia glandulosa*, a slimy, amorphous "black witches' butter." This species can form large colonies but tends to be overlooked because it blends into the background on rotting logs. In contrast, one of the prettier jelly fungi is *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum*, common in our forests. At first glance, one might think this is not a jelly fungus.

The fruiting body is translucent white and spatula-shaped, with many tiny teeth on the lower surface. The genus name refers to the superficial similarity of the teeth to those found in the hedgehog fungi (*Hydnum* species). Another handsome jelly fungus is *Phlogiotis helvelloides*. It has a pinkish-orange funnel-shaped fruiting body. Unlike the gelatinous texture of some jellies, *P. helvelloides* is firmer and more rubbery. Some jelly fungi resemble coral fungi. This is especially true of species in the eastern U.S. In our area we have one genus, *Calocera*, that fits this category. *Calocera viscosa* looks very much like a small yellow coral fungus, but the texture is soft and moist, not stiff like a coral.

The majority of jelly fungi are saprophytes living on wood. Their wood rotting habits sometimes create problems for man. In Scandinavia there is a species that decays the siding on houses. After rains, jellies protrude from the wood, forewarning the owner of expensive repairs or impending collapse. A number of other species are parasitic on plants and other fungi, e.g., on the genus *Stereum*, and a few are known to parasitize scale insects.



Pseudohydnum gelatinosum

[Joy Spurr's "Trial Key to the order Tremellales in the Pacific Northwest," published by the Pacific Northwest Key Council, may be purchased from any Key Councilor or by mail from Keys, 1943 S.E. Locust Ave., Portland, OR 97214. Send a \$1.05 check.]

ROUND UP GOODIES FOR THE SILENT AUCTION

Rake though that back closet and clear out the top shelves. PSMS is asking people to bring mushroom-related items to the May meeting for a silent auction to benefit the building fund. How about a ceramic mushroom cookie jar, a mushroom-print apron, a ventilated container for storing mushrooms in the 'fridge? If you don't have anything tucked away, there's plenty of time to make something--embroider a picture, sew a place mat, assemble a mushroom knife. Bob Hanna and Margaret Holzbauer are kicking things off with a pair of specially designed, flight-tested, orange and green kites with the PSMS logo. What can you come up with?



Born: Cindy and Mark Jarand had a son, Michael David, on March 8th at Evergreen General Hospital.

Died: Coleman Leuthy's mother, Doris, 82, died on March 4th.

Spore Prints

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PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Center for Urban Horticulture, Mail Stop GF-15,
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(206) 522-6031

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EDITOR:	Agnes A. Sieger, 15555 14th N.E., Seattle, WA 98155

Calendar

Apr. 8	Steelhead Park field trip
Apr. 11	Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
Apr. 17	Beginners' class, 7:30 p.m., CUH Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
Apr. 21	<i>Spore Prints</i> deadline
Apr. 22	Fungi Perfecti Mushroom Farm day trip
Apr. 24	Beginners' class, 7:30 p.m., CUH
Apr. 29	Twenty-Nine Pines field trip
May 1	Beginners' class, 7:30 p.m., CUH

BEGINNERS' CLASSES

Erin Moore

Attention mycophiles! The PSMS spring beginners' mushroom classes will meet Monday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., April 17 through May 22 at the Center for Urban Horticulture. We'll identify mushrooms to family, genus, and species using mushroom keys, slides, and live specimens, with special emphasis on spring-fruiting fungi and edible versus toxic species. Field forays are available through the society. The six-week session costs \$16 for PSMS members and \$32 for nonmembers. To register send class fees (checks payable to PSMS) to the class instructor, Erin Moore, 161 22nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98122, or call 325-0508 for information.

Mushroom Missionaries: Dennis Bowman spoke at the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society's annual banquet on March 16, 1989, and Nettie Laycock spoke at their study session on February 16th.

Wanted: *Amanita phalloides* are wanted for research by John Leonard, 600 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043. Phone (617) 749-2852. He will pay expenses.

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 1989, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 41st Street, Seattle.



Our meeting features **Maggie Rogers**, guiding light of *Mushroom, The Journal of Wild Mushrooming*. A NAMA board member forever, she is also historian/librarian of the Oregon Mycological Society, vice-president of the Pacific Northwest Key Council, and a member of PSMS. In her spare time, she works as a librarian and is involved in many professional activities. If you've met her, you know she brightens every meeting she attends. If you haven't met her, you're in for a treat.

BOARD NEWS

Agnes Sieger

Much of the March board meeting was spent discussing the spring field trips and our options if the building fund fails to reach its goal. With the incoming board members come some changes in assignments. Elizabeth Purser will be in charge of book sales, and Margaret Holzbauer is taking over the *Spore Prints* mailing. Chair Ingeborg McGuire collected a round of applause for the banquet, which even came out in the black this year.

SO LONG, AND THANKS

Millie Kleinman

Thanks to Amelia Schultz, Russell Kurtz, Bob Hamilton, and Jessie and Erwin Rouleau for helping with the March 6th mailing.

I will no longer be the mailing chair. Thank you all for being so cooperative. I trust you will support Margaret Holzbauer as well you have me.

MUSHROOM TOURS, MUSHROOM STAMPS

Mushroom Diplomacy: PSMS's Dennis Bowman will lead a tour of the U.S.S.R., August 27th to September 10th. It will be a people-to-people experience centered on mushrooms. Travellers will visit Leningrad and take a two-day trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway from Moscow to Novosibirsk. There, in central Siberia, six days of activities will include forays, country travel, and wonderful dinners. The cost is \$2,500 from Seattle. For reservations, call (206) 525-8399.

Mushroom Study Tour: Gary Lincoff, Dr. Andrew Weil, and Emanuel Salzman will lead a mushroom study tour of French Canada and the Maritime Provinces from August 30th - September 13th. For information write Emanuel Salzman, c/o Fungophile, P.O. Box 5503, Denver, CO 80217-5503 or phone (303) 296-9359.

Mushroom Stamps: Canada Post will issue four 38¢ mushroom stamps (depicting *Clavulinopsis fusiformis*, *Morchella esculenta*, *Boletus mirabilis*, and *Cantharellus cinnabarinus*) in early August 1989. To obtain official first-day covers, go to a philatelic center or write The National Philatelic Centre, Canada Post Corporation, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada B2G 2R8, and enclose a check, bank draft or money order payable to Canada Post Corporation. The covers cost 20¢ plus affixed postage. For another 15¢, Canada Post will affix and cancel the stamp(s) on your personal, self-addressed envelope, if it arrives well before the day of issue.

SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Ralph Burbridge

Fungi Perfect! Mushroom Farm

April 22

Members of western Washington mushroom societies are invited to Paul Stamets' mushroom business for an afternoon of fun and education. Be there at 1:00 p.m. Bring lunch and picnic at the facility. Paul will have some mushrooms for you to sample and you may bring some of your own. Take Hwy 101 toward Shelton. Take the McCleary cutoff road (Squaxin) to the bottom of the exit ramp and then take a right. Go $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile over the railroad tracks. Take a left on Kamilche Point Road. Drive 2.9 miles past the "no outlet" sign, then left on Nelson Road to the first driveway. You will see a sign.

Lake Easton

April 29

Drive east on I-90. Sixteen miles past Snoqualmie summit, take exit #70 and turn right into Lake Easton State Park.

Twenty-Nine Pines

May 6

Take I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #85. Follow Route 10 east of Cle Elum for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Turn left on Route 970 and go $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Turn left onto Teanaway River Road. Continue about 6 miles to the Bible Rock Children's Camp. Bear right on the Teanaway North Fork Road and continue to Twenty-Nine Pines on the left, just past Jack Creek Road.

Crystal Springs Forest Camp

May 13

Swauk Creek Camp

May 20

American River Ski Lodge

May 27-29

Clear Lake Forest Camp

June 3

CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY

Margaret Dilly

I have lots of things to bring to you this month.

(1) **Morel Season**—and the commercial buyers should be very visible. Read the letter from Mike Willis of the Dept. of Agriculture in last month's newsletter and be prepared to gather information and pass it on to him. **Data collecting sheets** will be available from the field trip hosts. Use them to tally your finds. Let's make this hard-fought legislation work.

(2) **1989 Mushroom Legislation.** We were unable to get a hearing on either of our two bills this year. The powers that be in Olympia would like to see the results of last year's legislation even though neither of the two bills we proposed was in conflict with it. The one bill was to assure us that the Department of Natural Resources charged for fungi taken from State lands. Brian Boyle assured me at our annual banquet that he would speak to this department on our behalf.

(3) **Time to write letters to our representatives in Washington, D.C.** on several issues.

The timber sales level in the Northwest national forests must be reduced. Ask for a reduction to below 4 billion board feet per year.

Protection of our endangered ancient forest ecosystems is paramount. Congress should uphold all laws that require the Forest Service to protect the habitat of endangered species.

Log exports from state and private lands should be controlled. Members of Congress should be urged to allow states to regulate exports of logs from state lands. Log exports from private lands should be reduced or taxed.

(4) **Tongass Timber Reform Act.** Last year we discussed this S.E. Alaska issue, and some of you wrote letters. The issue is back and still needs your help. **House Bill HR987** (co-sponsored by Rep. Unsoeld) would end the congressionally mandated 4.5 billion board feet per decade of timber harvested and the \$40 million logging subsidy that makes this harvest possible; cancel the two 50-year contracts with area pulp mills; and designate 23 key fish and wildlife habitat areas as wilderness. (Rep. McDermott sits on the Interior Committee.)

Senate Bill S346 is similar but calls for a moratorium on logging in 23 key habitat areas, not a wilderness designation. Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski introduced a bill that would eliminate the \$40 million logging subsidy, but leave untouched the 50-year contracts and mandatory 4.5 billion board feet harvest. Stress to Senator Gordon and Senator Adams the need to establish wilderness areas in the Tongass.

(5) **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** HR39 needs a sponsor, and S39 needs a co-sponsor. A grass roots support of these two bills is needed NOW to counterbalance the intensive efforts by the oil industry to open the refuge up to drilling.

All of these issues are important and deserve our time and energy, as they indirectly affect us, too, if we are to continue our mushroom hobby.

(6) Last but not least, PSMS now has a full-fledged **Conservation and Ecology Committee.** Several members have expressed a desire to become more involved in this area. The present representatives are thrilled to have you aboard and invite you to join us at the Center for Urban Horticulture. New thoughts and ideas are needed to face the ever-present ecological issues that face us. Besides, it should be fun to combine our efforts.

If you have any questions about any of the matters I have raised, feel free to call me at 782-8511.

BUILDING FUND

Ralph Burbridge

Our June deadline is fast approaching and we are still short of our target, which will make the Center for Urban Horticulture our permanent home.

If you have not done so, please send your donation as soon as possible. We are counting on you to ensure the future of the Society and its support of wild mushrooming.

Please make out your tax deductible check to "PSMS Building Fund" and mail to

\$

Mr. Ralph Burbridge
1014 South 208th
Seattle, WA 98198

\$



Prospecting at the Lirpa Loof truffle mine.

WHO GETS POISONED?

Denis Benjamin



Whenever people get poisoned by mushrooms, the newspapers always state that they were experienced hunters, knowledgeable people who finally did themselves in. That isn't true. Of the 1000 mushroom-related calls (poisonings and non-poisonings) received last year by the Seattle Poison Control Center, 70% involved children. Of the remaining 30%, 9 out of 10 involved people who knew one or two species and had moved to a different habitat with different fungi and a different fruiting season --and ended up with a toxic mushroom.

Of children who get poisoned, the biggest category is the grazers, children between 6 months and 2-1/2 or 3 years of age who are out crawling in the front yard, find some mushrooms, and start chewing on them. A classic example is the mother who called the Poison Control Center to report that her one-year-old had been seen chewing on a mushroom in the front yard, but seemed fine. An hour or two later she called again to say she couldn't awaken the baby and was bringing it in. They arrived in a panic, *Amanita pantherina* cap in hand. Identification was straightforward, as was the treatment--basically to let the child sleep for the next 24 hours and hallucinate. The next morning the child woke up with a smile on its face, absolutely fine.

Children also get into trouble playing house. One little girl decided to give a tea party. She picked some mushrooms in her front yard and fed half a dozen to her friends, poisoning them all.

Daring each other is a not uncommon way that older children, especially little boys, get into trouble. And certainly with older children, there's experimentation.

Then there are the chemically dependent individuals, the ones out looking for hallucinogens. They run a significant risk of poisoning because of misidentification, especially if they keep picking after they've eaten a cap or so of *Psilocybe*.

As I mentioned earlier, about 90% of the adults who get poisoned are immigrants. Historically, eastern Europeans and Europeans account for the majority of mushroom poisoning in the U.S. In the past few years, it's become the southeast Asians. That's because immigrants begin picking mushrooms in their new country that look like ones they've used before. Immigrants needn't be just from foreign countries. They can also be from different areas. People who've picked mushrooms all their lives in Washington go down to California. They're in a different habitat, with a different fruiting season; they're using the wrong field guide. They end up in trouble. The liver transplants in the San Francisco area, for example, involved an Englishman and his Chinese daughter-in-law. He was using a British field guide, and he totally misidentified the mushroom for that reason.

The remaining poisonings occur to what may be called the ignorant, the careless, and the dumb.

MUSHROOM ASTROLOGY

Bob Lehman, LAMS



Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19): You are energetic in your mushroom hunting and love to explore new territory. You visit several sites in the course of a day's foraging even if the first site had more than enough mushrooms for you. You are confident and enthusiastic, and you act on inspiration. When everyone else knows it's too dry for mushrooms, you go find them. You like to make quick identifications and you risk poisoning yourself.

Welcome to the following new members:

May Bice, 3220 26th Ave. W., Seattle, WA 98199

Selwyn and Cynthia Chasan, 6046 29th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115

Jerry Sargent, P.O. Box 314, Duvall, WA 98019

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Puget Sound Mycological Society
Center for Urban Horticulture
GF-15, University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195



SIEGER, Dick & Agnes
15555 14th Ave NE
Seattle WA 98155

Please care for the seedlings
while morel hunting in burns.