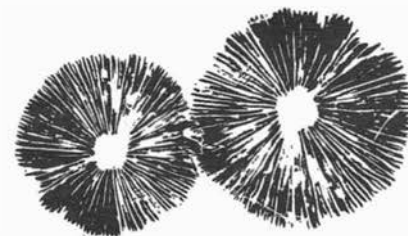


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 291

April 1993



BEATRIX POTTER

Dick Sieger

From April 3 to June 27, the Pacific Science Center is featuring the exhibit "Through the Garden Gate: The World of Beatrix Potter." PSMS volunteers, led by Lynn Phillips, will be part of the exhibit on April 17, and we will have a field trip there on that day. Why is PSMS involved? Because Beatrix Potter was one of us, a mushroom enthusiast. Here is an entry from her journal for August 18, 1894.

Went again to the wood near Hatchednize....The wood is insignificant on the road, a few yards of beeches and old brush, but spreads at the back of the fields into an undreamed wilderness full of black firs. There was a sort of grass track or I should have been afraid of losing my bearings amongst the green fogginess and tangle. There were wild privet bushes and much tangle.

The fungus starred the ground apparently in thousands, a dozen sorts in sight at once....I found upwards of twenty sorts in a few minutes, Cortinarius and the handsome Lactarius deliciosus being conspicuous, and joy of joys, the spiky Gomphidius glutinosus, a round, slimy, purple head among the moss, which I took up carefully with my old cheese-knife, and turning over saw the slimy veil. There is extreme complacency in finding a totally new species for the first time.

In another time, Beatrix Potter would have been a respected scientist, but intellectual women of her day were considered dilettantes. Her watercolors with their superb taxonomic detail were dismissed as being too artistic to have scientific value. She was the first person in England to realize that lichens are symbiotic relationships between algae and fungi — the idea was ridiculed by an esteemed botanist. She learned that mycologists didn't know how to culture fungal spores, so she studied spore growth through the microscope for long hours. In 1879 she submitted a paper, "On the Germination of the Spores of Agaricineae," to the Linnean Society of London. The paper was accepted, but as a woman she wasn't, so it was read by a stand-in. She withdrew the paper to refine it before publication, and it was burned with other papers after her death.

Later in life, royalties from her Peter Rabbit books gave Beatrix Potter independence, but demands from publishers for more books frustrated attempts to return to science. She bought a farm, married, and enjoyed thirty happy years raising sheep before dying in 1943.



Gomphidius glutinosus
Beatrix Potter

GOLDEN MUSHROOM AWARD

Dick Sieger



At the Survivors' Banquet March 13, Joy Spurr, charter member #169, became the first recipient of PSMS's "Golden Mushroom Award" created by the board to recognize exceptional service. Award winners will receive lifetime membership, and their names will be displayed permanently on a plaque in our office.

Joy, a professional photographer, organized and maintains our library of 2000 slides, which includes many of her own. Joy was a member of the Morel Committee, the first research group in our society. She chairs our Speakers' Bureau, is a frequent field trip identifier and hostess, writes mushroom articles, organized our Christmas slide program for many years, contributed to banquet programs, wrote a key to Tremellales, and worked endless hours giving the slide show programs at our annual exhibits.

A quotation from the January 1987 Spore Prints illustrates why she was selected. "Joy Spurr gave programs to Arboretum Foundation Unit #39, the Somerset Garden Club, The Mountaineers Naturalists, and Madison SPICE Senior Citizens, two classes at the Center for Urban Horticulture, and two classes and a field trip at the Lake Washington Vocational Technical Institute."

Joy says, "I feel very honored to be the recipient of the first Golden Mushroom Award....Roger and I always felt very fortunate to be a part of PSMS and valued the friendship of all the wonderful people we met over the years. I will continue to participate in PSMS club activities as much as possible and help in other ways to remind people of the importance of fungi in our environment. Thanks to all of you."

INTRODUCTION TO LICHENS

Sara Clark

Katie Glew, a doctoral candidate in Mycology at the UW, is offering a lichen seminar to interested members of PSMS. The class will meet in Hitchcock Hall at the University of Washington (at the SE corner of 15th and Pacific) on April 14, 21, and 28 (Wednesdays). The class runs from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. You may come at 5:00 p.m. to look at and work on lichens.

Three useful things to bring, if you have them, are (1) a hand lens, (2) a copy of *How to Know the Lichens* by Mason E. Hale, the spiral bound Pictured Key Nature Series, and (3) a copy of *Mosses, Lichens, and Ferns of Northwest North America* by Vitt, Marsh, and Bovey, Lone Pine Publishing.

To register, call Sara Clark at 284-6177 and leave your name and phone number on her answering machine. If we get more than 20 people, latecomers will get a call notifying them that the class is full. [We don't yet have a room number, so look for signs in the elevator and at the ground level entrance by the temporary parking area near the northwest corner of the building.]

Spore Prints

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CALENDAR

- April 13 Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
- April 14 Lichen class, 5:30 p.m., U.W. Hitchcock Hall
- April 17 PSMS display, Pacific Science Center
Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Seattle Center House
Field trip to Beatrix Potter Exhibit,
12:45 p.m., Pacific Science Center entrance
- April 18 Cultivation Group, 1:00 p.m., Murosako's
home, 16320 76th NE, Bothell
- April 19 Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
- April 21 Lichen class, 5:30 p.m., U.W. Hitchcock Hall
- April 23 Spore Prints deadline
- April 28 Lichen class, 5:30 p.m., U.W. Hitchcock Hall
- April 30 Registration deadline for Cispus Foray
- May 1 Field trip to 29 Pines campground
- May 8 Field trip to Tumwater Campground
- May 14-16 Cispus Foray, Randall, Washington

BOARD NEWS

Agnes Sieger

The Barlow Pass Study will reconvene the end of March. Russ Parker, a retired microscope technician is going over the microscopes. Now we need a machinist with a lathe to make some screws and other parts, and someone to make some carrying boxes. A preliminary budget of \$250 was authorized for microscope materials. The April program will feature Joe Ammirati's students. PSMS will sell keys and books at the Cispus Foray. We will also sell books, bookmarks, T-shirts, etc., at the NAMA foray. Ninety-five members and three guests attended the Survivors' Banquet. PSMS will staff three tables at the Pacific Science Center for the Beatrix Potter Naturalists' Day on April 17.

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 1993, at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle



Our program for April features talks by Dr. Ammirati's four graduate students. Glenn Walker will speak on mating studies in *Melanotus textilis*, Michelle Seidl on preliminary studies of old growth forest fungi in the Pacific Northwest, Katie Glew on alpine lichen communities in the Olympics and North Cascades, and Lorelei Norvell on her work on the taxonomy, ecology, and distribution of *Phaeocollybia* in the Pacific Northwest.

Would persons with last names beginning with E-H, please bring a dish of refreshments for the social hour?

IN THE SCOPE OF AN AFTERNOON

Dick Sieger

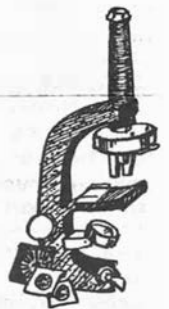


Russ Parker and I spent a pleasant afternoon with the tired, old microscopes given to PSMS. After use by generations of students, they were dirty, worn, and missing parts. Russ took them home, converted a room in his house into a microscope repair shop, and went to work. He acquired some parts, and even a few oil immersion lenses.

Russ is retired now. But, besides being a physician (and handy with a wok), he worked for 10 years as a microscope technician, and has been trained by major manufacturers. He invited me to work with him and learn a little about the care and feeding of microscopes.

Russ put a Bausch and Lomb microscope on the workbench in front of me and one in front of him. The bench was littered with strange tools, liquids, and pastes — even an ancient specification sheet and a sales brochure for the model we were working on.

Russ started taking his microscope apart, telling me what he was doing, and I followed his lead. At first tentative, I soon developed confidence as he tutored me. We used screwdrivers, special wrenches, fiber grippers, and pliers with brass jaws. At one point, Russ soaked a balky condenser in solvent and hammered it apart without damaging the lens or its delicate threaded brass housing. What had been microscopes were now boxes of pieces — from 20 cm castings to 2 mm ball bearings. We cleaned the parts and re-assembled them, using special lubricants, solvents, surgical cotton, and fiberglass brushes. Russ is a scrupulous workman. It took me 8 hours to meet his standards, and I never did finish cleaning and adjusting my lenses.



Russ has rehabilitated nine microscopes to add to the three that we already owned. All have oil immersion lenses and are suitable for exacting mycological work.

Now we need

A machinist to make some parts and some adapters for microscope lights

Woodworkers to build storage boxes

Apprentice technicians to learn repair and maintenance.

A storage place that is dry and secure.

Volunteers, please call Microscope Maven Lynn Phillips, 524-2950.

MEET ALAN YEN

Inga Wilcox



Alan came to Seattle in September 1990 to attend graduate school at the University of Washington. In October, he viewed our annual exhibit and promptly signed up.

Although born in Massachusetts, Alan grew up in Taiwan and speaks Mandarin as well as German, which he finds helpful in reading publications in his field of botany. He did his undergraduate work at the University of California in Davis and has just submitted his thesis for a Master's Degree in botany, dealing with the systematics of sedges. He is staying on to study for his doctoral degree, currently working as a teaching assistant.

Alan had a class in mycology while at Davis and also took an identification class from Dr. Ammirati. During his first year of hunting, he found enough mushrooms to send some to his family and friends. Morels, boletes, and chanterelles are his favorites, and cooking them is fun. He says he has not yet found enough matsutake to develop a special taste for them.

Alan has helped at the conservation table during the PSMS annual exhibit and participated in the Barlow Pass study. A member of the Native Plant Society, he is interested in conservation work. He has participated in a rare plant survey and found some unusual lady's slippers and delphiniums. He says the Leavenworth area is great for both morels and rare plants.

In his spare time Alan likes to garden, growing tomatoes and herbs. He ties his own flies for fly fishing. Photography is one of his major hobbies; his slides were one of the highlights at the December meeting.

Alan truly enjoys PSMS, saying what he likes most is the people. His advice to newcomers is, "Go out, meet people, and have fun."

CULTIVATION GROUP

Scott Lieske

Approximately 25 enthusiasts attended our March meeting, hoping to end up with bags of *Lepiota rachodes* spawn. Unfortunately, the spawn didn't grow as fast as planned, so we shifted to plan B, and fell back on *Stropharia rugosoannulata* and *Grifola frondosa*. Everyone ended up with at least one bag of each and, with luck, should have 'shrooms popping up sometime this summer.

The business part of the meeting revolved mostly around how best to handle our part in the NAMA Foray. We'll keep everyone posted as our plans firm up. At this writing, any and all ideas are still heartily encouraged.

Mike Hess is compiling a "culture bank." Anyone who hasn't already given him a list of their mushroom cultures is urged to do so ASAP. Once we have a master list, we can trade back and forth and won't have to order from a supply house, saving big bucks.

The April meeting will focus on transferring cultures from agar to agar and from agar to grain/sawdust, practicing on up to six different varieties of mushrooms that grow on compost. This should prove to be especially informative to new members who haven't had any actual experience with the process and, in general, a chance to lay your hands on some cultures you may not have. Sterile agar, grain, and sawdust will be available for those who have none. But, if you do have them, please bring what you have — all will benefit. We also need some laminar flow hoods. If you're lucky enough to have a portable one and can't attend the meeting, PLEASE let me know if you can part with it

for an afternoon — I'll pick it up and return it unharmed. If you have one and do plan to make the April meeting, please call 789-1959 before the 10th.

The April meeting will be at Pat and Sue Murosako's house, 16320 76th Ave. NE, Bothell, at 1:00 p.m., Sunday, April 18. Call 789-1959 or 488-0568 for further directions. All PSMS members and guests are welcome.

One last note: Paul Stamets, author of *The Mushroom Cultivator*, is finishing a new book and needs photographs of natural fruitings of mushrooms. If your work is chosen, your name will be published and you will actually be paid for your picture(s)! If interested, contact Paul before May 1 at Fungi Perfecti, P.O. Box 7634, Olympia, WA 98507,

SPRING FIELD TRIPS

Mary Lynch

By the time you read this, the Verpa day trip to MacDonald Park will be past. To fill the hiatus between the Verpa and morel seasons, we have arranged a special treat combining the nostalgia of childhood with scientific awe. After that, it's back to two old favorites, 29 Pines in the Teanaway and Tumwater Campground near Lake Wenatchee. By then, the season should be flourishing nicely. Keep tuned for further exciting developments in the next newsletter.

April 17

Beatrix Potter Exhibit
(Pacific Science Center)

We will gather at a PSMS sign at 12:45 p.m. at the main entrance to the Pacific Science Center, 200 2nd Ave. N. We arranged for special group rates, so one person will purchase tickets and we will enter together promptly at 1:00 p.m. Standard admission is \$5.50 for children (6-13 years old) or seniors (>65) and \$6.50 for others. If we have at least 15 people, we get a dollar discount and free admission to the Imax Theater at 4:00 p.m. for a 40 minute program about tropical rain forests. Come early (noon) and you can meet us at the Center House for lunch.

May 1

29 Pines Forest Camp
(elev. 2400 ft, 60 miles east of Seattle)

Take 1-5 over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #85. Follow Route 970 for 4-1/2 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.

May 8

Tumwater Campground
(elev. 2050 ft, 95 miles NE of Seattle)

From north of Seattle, drive east over State Highway 2. The camp is about 23 miles east of Stevens Pass, on the left. Watch for the sign.

ANGEL OR MUSHROOM?

Reuter - March 4

The Xinmin Evening News quoted witnesses who saw an orange-colored man-shaped object moving around the sky over Shanghai about 7:05 p.m. Twenty minutes later, the man's head shot off red light, and his body glowed with a yellow aura and sent out green tendrils. Slowly the man was transformed into a giant mushroom which hung in the northeastern corner of the sky. About 8:15 p.m. the mushroom grew dark and shrank until it became the size of a soybean, then a star, and then disappeared. [Ed. Note: This isn't an April Fool joke.]

BANQUET MADNESS

Agnes Sieger



Members and guests of PSMS gathered at the Glen Acres Country Club March 13 to celebrate the 30th PSMS Survivors' Banquet, with a twist. We've had potlucks and starched linen, luaus and 20-course Chinese dinners, but never a murder.

The first victim was dispatched, via a corkscrew, off "stage" in the cloakroom halfway through the hospitality hour. Fortunately, there was a "detective" on the premises, who announced the circumstances, described everything found on the body, and laid it out on an evidence table for perusal. Various suspects from PSMS did their best to act suspicious, but it was sometimes an uphill battle.

There was a rumor that the victim had been working for Steve Taylor, or was it Inga Wilcox? Inga kept dropping a computer disk (labeled with the name of a ship mentioned by the victim), and people kept politely picking it up and handing it back to her. Patrice Benson hauled around her 5-lb copy of Joe Ammirati's book on poisonous mushrooms (which the victim had publicly returned to her earlier), finally propping it up in the middle of the table by her plate, all to no comment. Kern Hendricks, promoting his persona of an exporter of psychedelic tea ("I'm nothing but a businessman"), went from building his own plane (true) to buying a new Cessna (everyone congratulated him) to buying two; by the time he worked himself up to five, he was the chief suspect.

After dinner people got into the spirit in earnest (PSMS puts first things first), wandering from table to table to find out what others had seen or guessed. The detective did her part, conveying clues and rumors from place to place when the action slowed. Meanwhile a second victim sat at the end of a table halfway down the room, progressively looking sicker and sicker. He said he had become ill after having breakfast with the victim, his employee, several days before and had just gotten out of the hospital that morning. Would he make it through the dinner? Why did he get up and ask Kern to get him a cup of tea? Sure enough, right

after the announcements, he broke into a peal of hysterical laughter, collapsed, and was carted off.

Later, all the suspects were lined up and grilled, but even then nobody came up with the whole answer. (My husband voted for George Rafanelli, on the theory that he was the one who could best use a corkscrew.) All I'll say is that it involved a PSMS zealot sent by the Conservation Committee to get the goods on an importer of illegal alien mushroom pickers.

Banquet Chair Mary Taylor says, "The banquet work was really done by Carolee Clausen and Margaret Schuler. It was their idea to do the murder mystery. They worked out all the details!"

OF THIS AND THAT

Steve Trudell is giving classes to the Snohomish County group. Denis Benjamin was the speaker at the Breerton club's annual banquet on March 18. Ben Woo gave a talk on boletes to the Tacoma Mycological Society on March 1st. We forgot to mention that Lorelei Norvell is the night manager of the herbarium crew.

Victoria Moore and Bob Williams had a daughter, Cameron "Spore," on February 15th. She attended her first Cultivation Group meeting on March 14th. Larry and Darlene Baxter became the proud parents of a baby girl, Heather Ann, on March 21st (6 lb 8 oz, 20-1/2 in.).

Elizabeth Hendricks has had a quilt accepted for the American Quilt Society show in Paducah, Kentucky. The quilt, called "Chains," features red and green chains on an undulating black and white background.

We are sad to announce that long-time member Mel Kirkwood passed away suddenly March 24. Our condolences to his wife, Helena.

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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

Get your reservations for Cispus
to Mary Taylor by April 30.