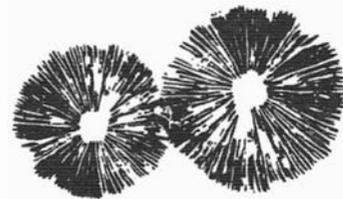


SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 316

November 1995

THE 1995 EXHIBIT

Joanne Young

What began as the "Year of the *Boletus* and Matsutake" became the "Year of the Urban Mushroom." Fungus fruiting all over town brought the public in droves.

The exhibit was packed both days as about 2000 visitors attended. According to our records, ticket sales were over \$7500 and 145 new members joined the society. Book sales were brisk, and T-shirts sold out.

The success of the show is due to the effort and enthusiasm of all the members who pitched in to help, especially the 35 committee chairpeople. Friday night, receiving was a little scary, but tenacious mushroom collectors came through and produced a good array of specimens once again. Whew!

Thanks to Patrice Benson and Pacita Roberts, we had great publicity. A special thanks to Hamilton Custom Press for a generous discount and excellent quality in printing the show poster (Trademark Separations did the prepress work). The poster was so popular that many were stolen.

Marian Maxwell worked tirelessly with the talented crew of tray arrangers to produce the displays. Michael Blackwell arranged a superb cooking show. Some of Seattle's best chefs treated the crowds to exquisite tastes. Special thanks go to the identifiers, headed by Brian Luther, for contributing their knowledge and dazzling the public.

To those members who brought new ideas to the show and those who contribute year after year, congratulations and many thanks. Without naming everyone who contributed, I'd like to bring attention to the people who do the behind-the-scenes work of setting up the show. It's a big job and once it's up it vanishes behind the displays. So, many thanks to all the people who worked to assemble the exhibit, decorated, hauled tables, sand, hardware, and moss, then took it all down and packed it away.

Next year's show is October 12 and 13. Let's do it again!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patrice Benson

Beautiful weather combined with the excellent leadership of Joanne Young and dedicated volunteers provided Seattle with the best Wild Mushroom Exhibit in recent memory. More than 2000 people attended the show on October 21 and 22. New additions to our abundance of mushroom displays provided extra interest to the intellect, and an espresso stand, a cookie lady, and a super duper wonderful cooking demonstration chaired by Michael Blackwell provided more food for the senses. Thank you to the many volunteers who met their commitment to help with the production of this 32nd Wild Mushroom Exhibit. A financial report will follow as soon as all of the expenses are processed.

The video begun during last year's exhibit was shown during the last part of the show. Many thanks to those who made this possible, including PSMS, the Stuntz Foundation, and, most importantly, Mary Robbins, who produced, filmed, and edited our first ever professional video. A few copies will be available for sale and through the PSMS library.

An enthusiastic welcome to the 145 new members who signed on at the exhibit. We hope that you can participate fully in all of our activities both as students and as volunteers! We plan to provide new up-to-date rosters for all members by the November membership meeting.

It's not too soon to start gathering slides and planning what to bake for the annual cookie/hors d'oeuvre bash on December 12. Traditionally, members show four or five slides of general interest for a short time. Then we socialize, exchange mushroom stories, and feast on the bounties of our season. Wear festive attire if you prefer, but bring a good attitude!

Nominations are open for new officers. This year we vote on a President and Treasurer as well as five board members. Phone Dick Sieger (363-6860), Frank Ikeda (723-3390), or Marshall Palmer (527-6207) to volunteer or nominate someone (with their permission).



Spore Prints

is published monthly, September through June by the

PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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SCI. ADVISOR:	Dr. Joseph F. Ammirati
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CALENDAR

- Nov. 14 Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
- Nov. 20 Board meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
- Nov. 24 *Spore Prints* deadline
- Dec. 12 Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH

BOARD NEWS

Lorraine Dod

September: Patrice Benson is working on show publicity. Howard Whisler's students at the UW have been invited; we will ask them to help with parking/security. People are needed to help Brian Luther with identification. Frank Ikeda will research renting an espresso stand. Paul Stamets is donating five mushroom kits, which will be raffled off at the November meeting. Russ Kurtz has invited the local people and rangers to the field trip at Kamp Kiwanis. Irwin Kleinman requested money to reserve the American River Ski Lodge. Beginner and intermediate classes will start next week. The charge is \$30.00 for each set. Joanne Young said she can get Ron Post's conservation brochure printed in time for the show. Patrice will check with the Stuntz Foundation about a donation to print it.

October: Great conservation brochure! PSMS thanks Rolf Vecchi of Qualigraphics for donating the paper and printing the brochure. The video of our mushroom exhibit is complete. Voice-over is by Phil Harper and Patrice Benson. Special people like Brian Luther, Russ Kurtz, and Marian Maxwell are featured. The new PSMS library hours will be 7:00-7:30 PM on PSMS meeting nights and board meeting nights. For other access, contact Lorraine Dod at 644-0826. Books may be checked out for one month to PSMS members only. Show your membership i.d.

North American Mycological Society membership fees for 1996 are due in November 1995. Send your \$17.00 to NAMA rep. Lorraine Dod, 1336 139th Ave. NE, #30-7, Bellevue, WA 98005.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, November 14, 1995, at 7:30 PM in the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle

Judy Roger will share her boundless experience with mushrooms in a program that will enlighten beginners and experts. Dr. Stuntz introduced Judy to the study of mushrooms as an undergraduate at the UW, and she joined PSMS in 1972. She now lives in Oregon and is an active member of the Oregon Mycological Society, editing its newsletter, teaching classes, and leading the Chanterelle Study Project. Until recently, she was also co-editor of the NAMA newsletter, *Mycophile*. Many PSMS members will remember Judy from her excellent microscopy classes at Cispus and PSMS. Recently, Judy resumed her formal study of mycology as a university student. Welcome back, Judy.



At this meeting and at the December meeting, the nominating committee will present its slate and will accept nominations from the floor. This year we will be electing a President, Treasurer, five Elected Trustees, and three Alternates.

Would people with last names beginning with R-T please bring a plate of refreshments for the social hour?

MEET IRENE O'CONNOR BERG

Agnes Sieger



Of Finnish extraction, Irene was born in a small town outside Chicago and didn't learn English until she started school. She lived in Chicago for 20 years, where she met her future husband, Bill O'Connor, who was from the Puget Sound area. In 1946, they moved to Amanda Park by Lake Quinault and bought the Loch Aerie Resort. Irene ran the resort while Bill, a commercial fisherman, was out fishing.

They became interested in fungi in the early 1960's when Bill was tromping through the woods and noticed all the mushrooms. "He thought they ought to be good for something or the Lord wouldn't have made so many of them." Bill went to the library to find out about them, but at the time there was practically no popular literature on fungi.

After seeing an article in the Sunday paper about "this great man at the University of Washington who was an expert on mushrooms," Bill started corresponding with Dr. Stuntz and was soon bombarding him with mushrooms. "Some of the mushrooms, I think that they were boletes, were rotten and smelled up the post office," Irene recalls.

To fill in the shortage of field guides, Irene, a self-taught artist who had previous publishing experience, decided to write and illustrate her own simple field guide, *A Glance at Mushrooms of the Olympic Rain Forest for the Occasional Visitor*, in 1973. In all, she has written four other books, *An Introduction to Quinault Valley Rain Forest*, *The Hazardous Life of the Salmon*, a Finnish cookbook (in Finnish), and a paper-craft book featuring her original designs, and has illustrated a book on mosses. All but the cookbook are still in print, and are available at places such as the Lake Quinault Lodge and the Forest Service Information Center, where Irene also maintains a colorful display on rain forest mushrooms.

A member of PSMS since 1966 (she missed being a charter member by 2 years), Irene designed the PSMS emblem and contributed illustrations to many of the early *Spore Prints*. She tried to get a mushroom club started in Aberdeen, but everyone lost interest after they learned the good edibles. Bill died in 1984. In his memory, Irene started a campaign to get his favorite mushroom spot classified as a mushroom preserve by the Forest Service, with the stipulation that it could never be logged. After hundreds of letters, "Bill's Bog" is now the only mushroom reserve in the world.

Recently remarried to Whitey Berg, a fellow resident of North Shore Drive on Lake Quinault, Irene is enjoying her second honeymoon and looks forward to maintaining her role as the Fungi Lady of Lake Quinault for many years to come.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

American River, September 22–24 Robert English

Last year, I turned 45 at Crystal Springs, on a foray; the woods were dry and fungi were scarce. This year, I turned 46, camped at the American River Ski Lodge searching dry woods for fairly scarce fungi. I can't remember two birthdays that I enjoyed more.

At least 30 people showed up, and everyone had some success. But the best part of all was Saturday evening. First there was a potluck dinner. After a day in the woods, everyone was hungry, and there was plenty of food. I tried to eat some of everything, and I would have, had there not been so much. Then we moved out to the campfire and had marshmallows and brown bears. Gayle Arnzen collected a nice basket of *Tricholoma magnivelare*, and after the marshmallows and brown bears we roasted matsutake over the fire. They were excellent. While Gayle was collecting fungi in the woods, her partner, Tom, was collecting a limit of cutthroat trout in a mountain lake. He cooked those fish Sunday morning, and they disappeared in a hurry—very, very good.

My daughter, Claire, was stung on her lip by a hornet. Her lip swelled to double its normal size. I told her she had the most kissable lip in town.

Brian Luther and Larry Baxter identified. Brian, Larry, and I had a chance to collect with our five children near Soda Springs Sunday morning, and it was a real pleasure. Brian and Larry have a wealth of knowledge about trees and plants as well as mushrooms. They are very willing to share this with the kids in a way they can grasp. It was a pleasure to watch, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Folks, we had fun.

This was my first time as host of a foray. I would recommend it to anyone who would like to become better acquainted with the people in our group. Thanks to all who helped.

Kamp Kiwanis, September 30–October 1 Brian Luther

This cozy retreat with numerous individual cabins and a lovely spacious lodge is nestled on the north shore of Lake Quinault surrounded by the Olympic National Park. It was a minimum 3- to 3½-hour drive from Seattle, but we've never had a field trip site so scenic, with a grand view of Lake Quinault and the surrounding mountains. This facility was available to us through the special efforts of Russ Kurtz, Irene O'Connor, and her new husband, Whitey Berg, to



M. DiGiovanni & R. Kurtz
compare spaghetti sauce

whom we are all most grateful. The lodge itself had a spacious dining area with plenty of tables and a wonderful adjacent kitchen with all of the amenities of home. The large fire hearth area was always cheerful and welcoming because of the enormous 3-ft chunks of wood that kept the fire going.

It had just started raining the middle of the week, and even though the woods were moist and fresh looking, the fungi that were found had been up for some time and were very dry or decayed. Even so, 94 different species were identified by Sara Clark and Brian Luther. Most of the time, PSMS field trips attract only club members, but what I found especially nice about this foray was the community participation. We had many local people bring in mushrooms for identification, look at the displays, and ask questions. It was good to see friends such as Phyllis Miller, whose family pioneered the area. Phyllis's mother, Elizabeth (Eudie) Marston, wrote a book about her childhood experiences as a pioneer in the rain forest (*Rain Forest*, Branden Press, 1969, 275 pp.). A spectacular specimen of *Sparassis crispa* was brought in by Irene O'Connor Berg and seemed to be the centerpiece of the display.

The potluck dinner was extra good, with more hot dishes than usual because of the wonderful kitchen that was available.

Kamp Kiwanis needs to be a regular part of our scheduled field trips or forays at least once a year. Even though it's a long drive, everything about this place calls you back.

Soda Springs, October 7–8

Patrice Elston

A small group of mushroom gatherers found an abundance of varieties of fungi at this Naches Valley field trip. We kept Brian Luther busy identifying by lamp and firelight long after dark. By potluck time, a dozen of us (and four dogs in their pajamas) came together to share stories, food, and wine, including the Siegers' delicious chicken stir fry filled out with fresh *Leccinum* and chanterelles. Many of us camped over and hunted on Sunday as well. A few folks were lucky in finding white and yellow chanterelles, matsutake (my first one was 20 ft from the shelter), and *Boletus edulis*. Beautiful weather with a little evening rain and a gorgeous setting—a fine Northwest autumn weekend.



Brian Luther decorates
Ganoderma applanatum

Mountaineers/PSMS, October 14–15 Larry Baxter

It was a beautiful autumn weekend. The fall colors were resplendent. Twenty five PSMS members and over 60 Mountaineers attended. Saturday morning, PSMS members Harold Schnarre, Mark Schnarre, Marshall Palmer, Brandon Matheny, and Marsi DiGiovanni led groups of eager fungal seekers into the hinterlands. Mid afternoon, the groups started arriving at the lodge to have their treasures identified. Identifiers for the outing were Brian Luther, Coleman Leuthy, Sara Clark, and Larry Baxter. One hundred and twenty five species were identified. Some of the more interesting were *Rhodocollybia oregonensis*, *Ischnoderma resinosum*, *Hygrophorus agathosmus*, *Tricholoma caligatum*, and *Phlogiotis helvelloides*. Some edibles were found as well. Saturday evening, we had a fabulous meal designed with mushrooms of the season by Mary Lynch and Sheila Parr. The evening was finished off with an excellent slide presentation by Brian Luther. On Sunday, folks collected mushrooms until about noon. After another hearty noontime meal, again with mushrooms of the season, everybody cleaned up and headed for home.

MICROSCOPY CLASSES

Marshall Palmer



Judy Roger will teach two all-day classes on the use of microscopes to examine mushrooms. The course will be held on Satu day, November 18, and repeated on Sunday, November 19. Judy was a student of Dr. Daniel Stuntz and until recently was the co-editor of the NAMA *Mycophile*. She conducted microscopy classes for us in February 1994 and held a microscopy workshop at our Cispus Spring Foray later that year. Graduates of her classes have been enthusiastic about her teaching ability and knowledge of mushrooms.

Students attending the class will learn how to use a microscope, how to prepare mushroom slides, and how to recognize microscopic features of mushrooms. Graduates will be certified to use the society's microscopes.

The small size of each class, 12 people, will ensure that each student will receive individual attention. PSMS will provide microscopes, equipment, and chemicals. People who want to work through the noon break may bring a lunch.

The class will cost \$30.00 (refundable if we can find a student to take your place). Classes will begin at 9:00 AM in Isaacson classroom, next door to our office at CUH. The classes may be over-subscribed, so we will accept the first 24 applications received by mail from PSMS members. Questions? Call Marshall Palmer, 527-6207.

To reserve space, mail your request to

Microscopy Class
Marshall Palmer
PO Box 95677
Seattle, WA 98145

Enclose the following:

A \$30.00 check payable to "PSMS"
Your name, address, and phone number
The day of the class (Saturday or Sunday)
Permission to substitute the alternate day (if possible).

MICROSCOPE RECALL: If you currently are using a microscope from the PSMS office, please return it by the November membership meeting so that it can be used for our microscopy classes. After the classes, microscopes will again be available for use by qualified members.

MUSHROOM MISSIONARIES

Coleman Leuthy attended the New Mexico Mushroom Society's annual foray in the western Jemez mountains August 18-20 where he helped with identification and set up the display table. An *Albatrellus* similar to *A. confluens* was later determined by Dr. Ammirati to be *A. subrubescens* (Murr.) Pouz. This is the first recording from New Mexico. Coleman also attended the Spokane Mushroom Club's meeting at Priest Lake, Idaho, September 22-24 and spent Saturday helping with identification.

BOOK SALES

Sheila Parr

Book sales at the show were exceptional. Almost 500 sales were recorded, with many of our regular book titles being sold out. Special thanks to Beth Schnarre, poster lady, who was there with me throughout the show. I also want to thank all the other workers who worked at selling books and those who helped me set up and take down. Most books will again be in stock for our November 14th meeting. An exception is *Mushrooms Demystified*, which is out of stock at all the suppliers and should be available again at the December meeting. Once again, I wish to thank everybody. It was just an absolute sellout.

JOB OPENINGS

We need persons for the following PSMS jobs: **House Chair** for the monthly meetings; this involves locking and unlocking the doors and setting up the slide projector. **Mushroom Class Coordinator.** **Flower Show Chair** for the PSMS booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show on Presidents' Day weekend. To volunteer, call Patrice Benson at 722-0691.

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