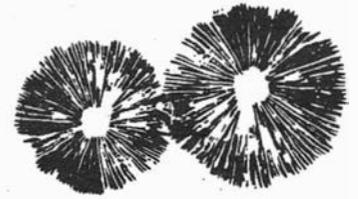


# SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Number 321 April 1996

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Marshall Palmer**

Joining PSMS ten years ago, I was immediately impressed with the commitment of our members to the society's goals and activities. Classes were offered, exhibits were held, mushrooms were identified, recipes were shared, speakers were presented. All of these, and more, have continued to take place in our society. They happen because of our greatest asset: the generosity of our membership.



As a new term of office begins for some of our Board members it's important for us to recognize the contributions that have been made by those whose terms are ending. Each of your Board members spends several hours per month in meetings and on the phone, performing assorted tasks and errands. In their terms of office, Colleen Compton, Mark Schnarre, and Dick Sieger have given up many hours of personal time so that we could enjoy numerous field trips, identification classes, meeting programs, exhibits, and delicious mushroom recipes. Our hats go off to them! Perhaps no office is more essential to the continued existence of PSMS than that of Treasurer, a position requiring professional skills and exceptional dedication. The Treasurer enjoys no vacations—bills must be answered, taxes and license fees must be paid, books must be balanced, financial statements prepared. We have been fortunate to have been so capably and graciously served in this regard by Mary Taylor. All of us owe her a great deal of thanks. Well done, Mary.

Four other members begin new terms on the Board this month. We can be thankful that Dan Tanabe has agreed to accept the responsibilities of Treasurer and has already been busying himself in becoming acquainted with our finances. Sara Clark is familiar to many of us through her identification and teaching skills. Joanne Young has presided as Exhibit Chair over one of our most well-attended annual exhibits in recent years. Irwin Kleinman is returning as a trustee, bringing a rich historical perspective, having been involved in almost all manner of PSMS activities. Let us welcome these volunteers and help them get their jobs done.

And now—may the rains begin!

## SURVIVORS' BANQUET

**Marshall Palmer**

The generosity of our members was especially evident at our 1996 Annual Survivors' Banquet on March 1. Eighty members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous repast created by Chef Walter Bronowitz and his Culinary Arts students of Edmonds Community College, served under the direction of John Casey.

Many PSMS members pitched in to prepare table arrangements of flowers provided by Russ Kurtz and Lynn Phillips. Donating collections of dried mushrooms were Lorraine Dod, Mary Lynch, Russ Kurtz, Kern and Elizabeth Hendricks, Patrice Benson, Lynn Phillips, Cindy Hoover, and Curt McClive. In an exceptional gesture, several members who were not able to attend the banquet still donated mushrooms to the chefs: Charles Pregaldin, Marilyn Denny, Kevin Roscoe, and Robert and Janet English. Thanks to you all.

**PSMS  
Survivors'  
Banquet**

**March 1  
1996**



# Spore Prints

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**PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
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## CALENDAR

April 8	Basic ID class (pre-registration was required)
April 9	Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
April 15	Board meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Basic ID class (pre-registration was required)
April 20	Steelhead Park field trip
April 21	Microscopy group, 2:00 PM, CUH
April 22	Basic ID class (pre-registration was required)
April 26	<i>Spore Prints</i> deadline
April 29	Basic ID class (pre-registration was required)
May 4	Fungi Perfecti field trip (pre-registration required)
May 6	Basic ID class (pre-registration was required)

## BOARD NEWS

**Agnes Sieger**

Marshall Palmer reported on the banquet plans. Board members were requested to help set up the pre-meal punch and the flowers for the tables. Table place settings are provided by the Edmonds Community College Culinary Arts program. Charles Pregaldin has purchased all major parts for the PSMS computer except the CD drive. Mary Lynch will write a grant letter to Microsoft, which donates computer equipment and software to nonprofit organizations. The PSMS booth at the flower and garden show went very well; the dried mushroom exhibit was a draw. The South Vancouver Island Mushroom Society has asked PSMS to join in a joint foray. Patrice Benson will coordinate the details with Deanna Lickey of Friday Harbor. We hope to have a foray at the Kiwanis Lodge on the Olympic Peninsula next fall. Irwin Kleinman has reserved American Ridge Ski Lodge for June 14-16 and September 27-29. Marshall will show the 1994 Exhibit video in a small area at the April and September meetings.

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, April 9, 1996, at 7:30 PM in the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle

Our speaker this month will be Will Littke, Forest Pathologist with Weyerhaeuser. Will is a former student of our founder, Dr. Danie! Stuntz, and is very knowledgeable concerning mycorrhizal relationships in our forests. Will was a key participant in the chanterelle production study on the Olympic Peninsula in recent years. He will be providing us with an overview of the role of mushrooms in forest ecology.

Will persons whose last names begin with the letters N-Q please bring a plate of refreshments for the social hour?

## MEET COLLEEN COMPTON

**Inga Wilcox**



Born and raised in Montana, Colleen grew up on her parents' ranch. She had many animals to play with and loved hiking in the woods and picking wildflowers. While herding cows, she noticed wild mushrooms, but her mother told her not to go near them because they were poisonous. After high school, she came to the University of Washington to study dental hygiene. She received her Bachelor of Science degree and worked both in this state and in Tucson, Arizona, where she noticed the local fungi but did not pursue any study of them. Her focus was her career, specializing in dental hygiene for the developmentally disabled. Returning to Seattle, she has been working in that field for more than 20 years. She is at the dental clinic at Fircrest School, where she gives students from the university and community colleges hands-on training. She also gives lectures on campus.

Through one of her students, she met Denny Bowman who introduced her to PSMS, which she joined in 1988. She loves to cook, so she became interested in mycophagy and chaired that section at the 1994 exhibit; she also chaired Hospitality at the NAMA conference, co-chaired the Cispus Foray together with Kathreen Otwell, and has been in charge of hospitality at the PSMS monthly meetings. "A great way to meet and talk to people," she says. She also served on the Board for two terms, participated in the Entiat "fire-rehab" study, and staffed the booth at the annual flower and garden show.

Her favorite mushroom is *Boletus edulis*, which she sautés, deglazes with balsamic vinegar, finishes with cream and garlic, and serves over elk steak! Colleen also hikes, snowshoes, rides mountain bikes—she did a long trip through Baja California—jogs around Green Lake, and does aerobics.

Colleen loves everything she is doing now and enjoys the wonderful people of PSMS. But when she retires, she plans to return to her native Montana. "It takes less time to get into the forests to enjoy the outdoors." She wants to enjoy the beauty of the state and marvel at the Montana sky, which truly is "big." Thank you, Colleen Compton.

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*Sturdy yet fragile  
Mushrooms climbing a tree  
Stairs for a farie*

—Elio Schaechter

## MICROSCOPY GROUP

Brandon Matheny

March's session featured a few in-depth looks at assorted fresh *Mycena* species, Tremellales, chunks of polypores, one *Tubaria* species, and a *Xylaria* species and included one high school senior, Joel (who plans on studying fungi in college). We could have had a look at some neat stipitate black cup fungi growing on fallen coniferous limbs, but I forgot and left them at home. The gospel must be spreading, because our numbers increased by one this time. The group could make a substantial contribution to the study of fungi for the society if we could obtain a video camera with a removable lens and a tripod (which a resourceful person could convert for microscopy) or procure a more sophisticated camera made especially to fit a microscope. Any generous benefactors out there? The group is also finding that our library could use some additional publications to aid in microscopic identification. Thanks to Curt McClive, Bill Bridges, Brian McNett, and Dick Sieger, who all have much to offer. Everybody gets "co-mentor of the month" this time. As usual, all are welcome at the next microscopy meeting, to be held in the board room at CUH on April 21 at 2:00 PM—this time for a sure showcase of more Basidiomycetes and the ever **MORE** Lovely Ascomycetes. For any information, please call Brandon at 524-6467.

## RARE BRITISH MUSHROOMS

Maev Kenney

*The Guardian Weekly* via *Mycofile*, Vancouver Myco. Soc.

The builders have been warned to keep off the grass. "On pain of death," the property agent thunders.

The house they are working on, a 1790 dilapidated treasure called Llanerchaeron, is rare. But the lawn is fabulously rare: It contains four fungi on the lists of nine European countries as being on the point of extinction, and six more on the British list.

The house, semi-ruined and empty, was left to the National Trust in 1989. Volunteers cleared the choked grounds and patched the worst holes, but there was no money for more. Then London antique dealer Pamela Ward died and left the trust a lot of money and all her possessions, with the stipulation that they be kept together. The empty rooms of Llanerchaeron were the solution.

The lawn, which will become a no-go area, has been neglected for so long that it counts as ancient grassland. The fungi, which flourish only in very poor undisturbed soil and cannot abide nitrogen, love it. If the lawn should be damaged, Maurice Rotheroe of the British Mycological Society says, it would take 50 years to restore it to the same state of precious dereliction.

## FIELD TRIPS

Wayne and Patrice Elston

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *We will be on our honeymoon in Ireland for the entire month of May.* This means that MOST of the field trips are HOST-LESS! Hosting is an opportunity to meet fellow members, give back to your society, and hang out with the identifiers, soaking in their knowledge! There is always time to hunt mushrooms as well. Please call (206) 831-5581 as soon as possible to let us know which weekend, day, or days you can host.

**General Instructions:** Unless stated otherwise, the meeting time at field trips is 9:00 AM at the chosen site. Please bring a basket, knife, wax paper, compass, whistle, water, lunch, and a dish to share if you wish to join the potluck. Wear warm clothes. Include rain gear in your car or pack and wear hiking shoes or boots. Feel free to bring your friends, family, and sociable dogs.

From 9:00 to 9:30 or 10:00 AM, we check in, have munchies, and talk about the mushrooms we'll be searching for and the area around the camp site. We then head out to hunt in small groups.

Identification is from noon to 4 PM. Potluck time is between 4 and 6 PM, decided on by the participants in the morning. The potlucks are always delicious, fun, and highly recommended.

The weekend field trips can be attended one or more days. Meeting time is 9:00 each morning, with a potluck breakfast on Sunday for interested parties.

Here is the complete schedule for the spring field trips. (Detailed instructions for the May and June field trips will appear in the May and June *Spore Prints*.)

April 20

① Steelhead Park, Rockport  
(95 miles NE of Seattle)

There are two possible routes, both lined with cottonwood trees under which you can look for *Verpa bohemica*. Either take exit #208 from I-5 at Arlington and go east on State Hwy 520 through Darrington and north to Rockport or continue north on I-5 to exit #230 at Burlington and go east on State Hwy 20 to Rockport. Steelhead Park is on the river bank. We might be able to see bald eagles. Field-trip hosts are Wayne and Patrice Elston. We have reserved bunkhouse A1 with a barbecue grill for day use.

May 4

② Fungi Perfecti farm in Olympia

Limited to 30 people. Meet at 11:00 AM for a tour, followed by a potluck. Call Wayne and Patrice for reservations and a map. No drop-ins!

May 11–12

③ Swauk Creek Forest Camp

May 25–26

④ Crystal Springs Forest Camp

June 1–2

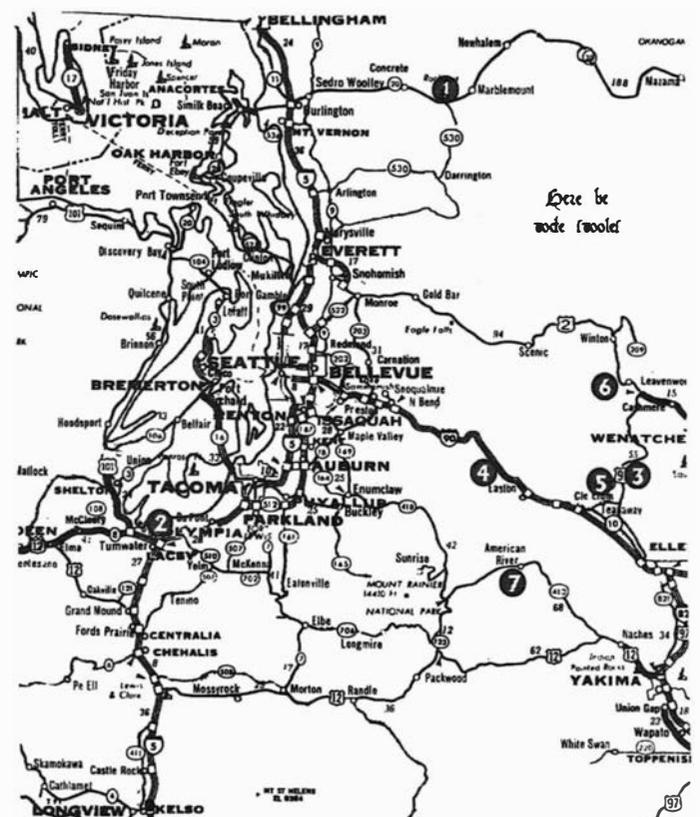
⑤ 29 Pines Forest Camp

June 7–9

⑥ Chatter Creek Forest Camp

June 14–16

⑦ American River Lodge



## NOTES OF THIS AND THAT

**Mushroom Missionaries:** On February 5, **Dick Sieger** gave a talk on urban mushrooms to the Tacoma Mushroom Society. **Ben Woo** gave a talk to the Tacoma Mushroom Society on March 4. **Denis Benjamin** presented "Tales of Poisonings" to the South Vancouver Island Mycological Society on March 7.

**New Product:** April First Industries, maker of the popular necktie pressing attachment for laser printers, has announced a new product—a computer circuit board that utilizes the heat from Pentium chips to broil mushrooms.

**Mushroom Farm:** Michael and Lynn Monroe of Snohomish inform us that their Fungus Among Us Mushroom Farm is the largest commercial organic shiitake farm in the state; besides their commercial shiitake business, they also sell organic shiitake, oyster-mushroom, and reishi growing kits and a mushroom cookbook. They will take orders by mail. Write P.O. Box 352, Snohomish, WA 98291 or call (360) 568-3403

**Telluride Conference:** The 16th annual Telluride Mushroom Conference will be held August 22-25, 1996. For information, contact Fungophile, P.O. Box 480503, Denver, CO 80248-0503 or phone/FAX (303) 296-9359.

## LOO ROLLS

**Catriona Bonfiglioli**  
Australian Associated Press

Sydney, Jan. 10 AAP—Termites' taste for munching "loo rolls" has been harnessed in a bid to measure how well Australian mine sites are being rehabilitated. To a homeowner, termites are pests. To a soil specialist, they are engineers for improvement, breaking down organic matter and digging holes which provide new soil with vital air and water. The number of termites reflects the state of soil development. "When you put toilet rolls out in the field they get wet," says CSIRO scientist Dr Alister Spain, "fungus grows on them and they become attractive to termites." The scientists then collect the termites from each roll to identify how many, and which species, have moved into the area.

## GOLDEN MUSHROOM AWARD Patrice Benson



The fourth PSMS Golden Mushroom Award for lifetime service was presented to Harold and Beth Schnarre at the Survivors' Banquet in March. Harold and Beth met in Chicago long ago, and PSMS is glad they did! They were married November 25, 1960, in Seattle and have lived here ever since.

Many members volunteer to make this organization function smoothly. Harold and Beth have spent most of their time as members serving in many ways. They started, as so many do, by volunteering to host field trips. Field trips are where many new members get their first information about mushrooms, and to be greeted by Beth and Harold and given directions and tips by these nice folks must have been pleasant indeed. Beth first served as an alternate Trustee and later as a full Trustee for 4 years. Harold served as a Trustee and then as Treasurer from 1990 until 1992. Beth then took on the job of Book Sales Chair, and when Beth took it on, so did Harold as her associate! They served faithfully through the 1993 NAMA Foray, where they hauled books up all those steps and then down again, filling their motor home to provide books to our guests.

Harold and Beth have two children, Kate and Mark, and one grandchild. They have managed to make the love of mushrooms a family affair—Mark is just finishing his term as a PSMS trustee. The Golden Mushroom Award is our way to thank and honor Beth and Harold for all their countless hours of service. May we continue to benefit from your knowledge and service.

**Call Wayne and Patrice, (206) 831-5581, now to volunteer or there will be no hosts for the spring field trips.**

page 4



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