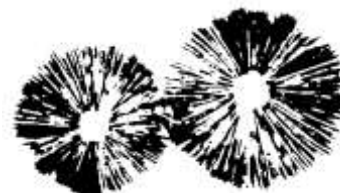


# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 481

April 2012



## Joy Spurr Memorial Foray

Please join us at this 3-day/2-night educational mushroom experience, May 18-20. Join guided forest walks, hear expert speakers, talk to guides and crafters about the many roles and uses of fungi. Joy Spurr's mushroom images will be featured in the evening lectures.

Check in as early as 3 p.m. Friday, May 18. The foray ends after lunch on Sunday, May 20.

You must be a member of a local or national mycological society to register. Cost includes lodging (rustic, dorm style with hot water and electricity), meals, and all activities from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. RV hookups are available on site.

Cost: Adults \$95, children \$45. Location: Cispus Environmental Learning Center, Randle, WA.

Questions: Please email them to [education@psms.org](mailto:education@psms.org).

Registration: On-line; go to [www.psms.org](http://www.psms.org) and choose "events."

## Judge sees truth behind Miss Mushroom's veil

APRIL 1, SEATTLE – The recently crowned Miss Mushroom North America will have to give up her crown after a judge ruled that she lied during the weeklong annual talent and beauty contest held last month at the Seattle Center.

Miss Hebe Loma of Chula Vista, Calif., who registered for the pageant under the name of Corti N. Arius, was disqualified for lying about her identity, among other disqualifying violations.

"I wore a veil and thought I might get away with it," she said after the judge's ruling. No reason was given for trying to deceive the judges, but Miss Loma, during her performance for the talent show portion of the contest, also claimed that she had juggled flaming conks, when she actually juggled rotted sticks that were aflame but held resupinate fungi "not even resembling conks," said pageant judge Ron Post.

Miss Haema T. Opus Mycena, the runner-up who won the pageant's dance competition even though her legs are attached to a log, will now assume the title. For the winners of other individual competitions during the Miss Mushroom contest see ...

## Plants, wildlife of eastern Australia face threat from introduced myrtle rust online news sources

The Gold Coast City Council has been working with biosecurity officers in eastern Australia since cases of Myrtle rust at several locations have been confirmed – including a Queensland botanic garden and local forestlands.

The rust, native to South America, threatens to cripple forests, plantations and horticultural businesses and experts warn it could be catastrophic.

"It has the potential not only to impact the horticulture industry but could kill large tracts of native Australian bushland,"

Dreamworld life sciences manager Al Mucci said.

The fungus, *Puccinia psidii*, also called Eucalyptus rust, affects plants when its distinctive yellow to orange-colored spores land on shoots, leaves, buds and fruits. Leaves become distorted while badly affected young plants are stunted.

The fungus has spread to more than 80 properties across the Gold Coast and Scenic Rim. Director of Biosecurity Queensland's Myrtle Rust Program Mike Ashton said infected premises included botanic gardens,

nurseries, private residences and the Lamington, Springbrook and Nicoll Scrub national parks.

It could also decimate the koala population. Koala numbers may be as low as 1000 on the Gold Coast and between 45,000 and 80,000 across Australia.

Spores of the rust, which can survive for up to three months in the environment, are spread by wind and the movement of people, vehicles, animals and even bees.

## Spring is here: Tips on preparing for a PSMS field trip

### Apparel

The Pacific Northwest is wet. Wear warm clothing, preferably in layers, and waterproof shoes or boots and bring your rain gear. Pacific Northwest vegetation is usually thick, and the sky is frequently overcast. Bring a compass and whistle and a map of the area and remember to use them.

### Mushroom gear

You will need a wide-bottomed container for your mushrooms. This can be a basket or bucket. To protect individual specimens for identification, take some wax paper or aluminum foil. Do not use plastic sacks; they tend to turn

the mushrooms into slime. Bring a sturdy knife suitable for cutting and prying and perhaps a soft brush to clean up the edibles; some people even bring a small garden trowel for digging.



### Collecting

If you know you have a good edible, cut off the stem cleanly and brush off as much debris as possible. Store like species in a rigid container where they won't get crushed or pick up more dirt. Try to keep the mushrooms cool and dry, and process them soon.

(NOTE: June 9 spring field trip was incorrectly listed as June 8)

## Spore Prints

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Annual dues: single or family \$30; full-time students \$20

## APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

This month's presentation is titled "Coleman S. Leuthy - A friend and PSMS member." In photographs and words, Brian Luther will pay tribute to and honor the memory of his close friend Coleman Leuthy, a long-time PSMS member and former president (1986-1988) who passed away Feb. 1 after a lengthy battle with multiple myeloma. Since 2004, Coleman co-hosted an annual PSMS field trip over the Memorial Day weekend at his cabin on Eagle Creek near Leavenworth. In his memory, this event will continue as The Coleman S. Leuthy Mountain Maple Field Trip.

In the 1980s Coleman was a leader in the drive to raise funds so that PSMS could locate at the Center for Urban Horticulture. He also organized an annual PSMS-Mountaineers mushroom weekend at the Meany Ski Lodge near Stampede Pass. In recognition of his service to PSMS over the years, Coleman was selected as the 2012 recipient of the Golden Mushroom Award. His relatives plan to attend and accept the award.

Our speaker Brian and his wife Pam have been members of PSMS since 1971. Brian serves as Chair of the PSMS Identification Committee and also as Field Trip Chair. An active researcher in mycology, he continues to focus his efforts on the resupinate fungi and is involved in documenting these fungi on Cypress Island in the San Juan Archipelago. Now retired, he actively volunteers his time and also writes, lectures, hikes, leads nature walks, grows native plants, and maintains a big garden at Eagle Creek.

Will people whose last names begin with L-Z please bring a dish of goodies to share after the meeting?

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Marian Maxwell

Welcome to our new members on the Board of Trustees: Larry Lee, Debra Lehrberger, Danny Miller, and Tim Sage. Welcome back Ed Sakai and John Goldman, treasurer. Thank you for re-electing me for another term as president! We had great people running for the board (again!).

Thank you to Luise Asif, and Sandy Bartell who will be our alternates for 2012. Thank you to outgoing board members Pacita Roberts, Jim Hughes, Tony Tschanz and Luise Asif. It was a pleasure serving with you for the last two years. Thank you Patrice Benson, Teddy Basladynski and Joanne Young for your efforts in recruiting for our board positions.

Finally, after a long wait over the winter, our field trips are just around the corner. April 28 is the date for our first field trip this spring. Remember, to view the list of our club's field trips on our Web site, you must log in with your user name and your password. We will have a new member orientation shortly after the presentation at the April meeting to explain our field-trip format and to answer questions regarding field trips.

Even though the mushrooms have been "in hibernation" over the winter, your board of trustees and many longstanding members have not! On March 11 we had a five-year strategic planning session facilitated by Denis and Vivien Benjamin. Five top areas of interest were targeted: Ways to develop and improve field trips; Determining the optimum membership number and the expectations/limitations of membership involvement in PSMS;

Reinvolving the Society in conservation; Determining the best location for PSMS when our CUH lease expires in 2014; and training new identifiers.

Action plans were developed and people stepped forward to implement these plans. Thank you John Goldman, Milton Tam, Denise Banaszewski, Patrice Benson, Brian Luther, Hildegard Hendrickson, Andrea Rose, Reba Tam, Teddy Basladynski, Pacita Roberts, Linda Haba, Debra Lehrberger, Larry Lee, Daniel Winkler, Ron Post, Joanne Young, Alissa Allen, Irwin Kleinman, Kim Traverse, Danny Miller, Sherwood Stolt, Evelyn Tay, Don Lennebacker, Cathy Lennebacker and Carlos Cruz. Everyone contributed with great ideas to determine key strategies in effecting the changes we want over the next five years. Thank you Denis and Vivien for helping us to plan for the future!

Our March 17 banquet was a lot of fun! The foods were superb and we had a great time with the silent auction of tchotchkes and kitschy items, raising over \$800 for the Ben Woo Scholarship Fund. Remember that we are still selling raffle tickets (\$5 each) for Alexander (Sasha) Viazmsky's original watercolor painting of morels, which he donated! Proceeds from this benefit the Scholarship Fund as well.

Part of our April meeting will involve a tribute to Coleman Leuthy, our longtime friend and PSMS member, and Golden Mushroom recipient for 2012, who passed away at the end of February.

## Retreat tackles Society's long-term issues

About 30 Society members joined forces on Sunday, March 11 to look into the future of PSMS and devise a game plan to confront serious issues facing the club over the next five years. The retreat took place amid the trappings of a spacious and comfortable Polish Association meeting house on Capitol Hill.

Facilitators Denis and Vivien Benjamin boiled down a long list of issues into general areas of concern that were presented to participants during small group sessions.

The list of topics: what to do when the current lease with CUH runs out in 2014; assessment of and possible changes to field trip planning; upgrading and expanding our complete array of educational and i.d. activities; rethinking club involvement in conservation issues and political engagement; issues surrounding sustainability of mushroom harvests; and how to increase members' involvement in the society's many activities through active volunteering.

At the end of day, action plans were created for a number of issues. There was general agreement that the retreat exceeded all expectations, and a suggestion that more events like it may be part of the club's future. To find out more about these issues, contact: [president@psms.org](mailto:president@psms.org).



Vivien Benjamin tells a small group they can take a break from the task of assessing PSMS field trip protocols at the March 11 strategic planning session.

**Editor's note:** You may notice some changes and a few missing features in the April and May Spore Prints while the regular editors are out of town. The updated board list (see President's Message) will appear in the May issue; also, the board notes are missing from this month's issue. The editor apologizes for any inconvenience. Brian Luther's column on resupinate fungi will resume in June.

## PSMS CALENDAR

April 10	Membership meeting
April 16	Board meeting
May 6	Mushroom Maynia

## Canberra death cap deluge online news sources

A deluge of rain in southeastern Australia recently brought out an added danger – rising crops of death cap mushrooms in the nation's capital.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Paul Kelly of the Australian Capital Territory said recent heavy rain and seasonal factors meant a lot of mushrooms were appearing in gardens and lawns around Canberra.

The deadly *Amanita phalloides* responded to similarly cool and wet conditions in Canberra around Christmas and New Year, when an Asian man and woman died after eating death caps, prompting health officials to issue warnings.

In January, two Canberra residents also died after one of them mistook the mushrooms for an edible variety and used them in a meal.

### Foraging

I get thank-you notes from those people  
I take out to hunt matsutake.  
In the afternoons we see the sky  
Dripping into the shiros while we  
Don't get wet at all. On the stove top  
The earthy bounty just fries itself,  
We make gourmet soup without even  
Washing our hands or removing grit.  
Mountains seem to await our return,  
Keeping their fairy rings dewy, fresh.  
In spring, music of the spheres annoints  
the green path where we walk in mornings  
among puffballs, lemon-gold corals,  
Morels. It could be that way, it could.

-Anonymous

## What's up with NAMA?

If you're not aware of what's happening at the North American Mycological Association, take a look! You can find out more about NAMA, even join online, at [www.namyco.org](http://www.namyco.org) and don't miss the newest feature of the site, the recently revived Registry of Mushrooms in Works of Art. This year's 52nd Annual NAMA Foray is December 13-16 at the Mission Springs Conference Center in Scotts Valley, Calif., near Santa Cruz. Chief mycologist ElseVellinga and special guest David Arora are scheduled to be there.

PSMS is scheduled to host the 2014 annual NAMA foray in Port Townsend. Planning for that event has already begun!



## Dr. Robert L. Gilbertson: 1925-2011

Bob (Gil) Gilbertson was the first of a line of prominent mycologists to study under Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz, the founding father of PSMS. Bob graduated with an M.S. in Botany from the University of Washington in 1951. The title of his thesis was "Polyporaceae of Flathead Lake region of Western Montana." He went on for a Ph.D. in mycology and forest pathology under the noted polypore expert Josiah L. Lowe at the State University of New York College of Forestry at Syracuse, New York. After that he held positions at the University of Idaho and Syracuse. His final position (held since 1967) was at the University of Arizona, Tucson. Bob passed away at age 86 on Oct. 26, 2011, after a battle with prostate cancer.

## Brian S. Luther

Dr. Gilbertson was an expert on polypores and resupinates. Among his publications are "Fungi that Decay Ponderosa Pine" (1974), "Basidiomycetes that Decay Aspen in North America" (along with J. Page Lindsey, 1978), the 2-volume set "North American Polypores" (along with Leif Ryvarden, 1986 & 1987) and "European Polypores," again 2 vols. (along with Ryvarden, 1993 & 1994).

Several species of fungi have been named after him, including *Laetiporus gilbertsonii*, one of our two native chicken of the woods. For a brief review of this last mentioned genus, including a key to the species in North America, please refer to Luther (2008, Spore Prints No. 447, pp. 4-5, December), available online @ psms.org

## VOLUNTEERS: IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MUSHROOM MAYNIA



Children are a focus for many special activities at the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. The Burke's special day for PSMS (children and adults!), **Mushroom Maynia, is Sunday, May 6** from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. During a past Mushroom Maynia (shown at left) some eager girls are mixing mushroom spawn with growing medium, hoping to cultivate oyster mushrooms like those at right. **To volunteer at this event, phone Pacita Roberts** at 206-362-2713 or email: [pacitaroberts@gmail.com](mailto:pacitaroberts@gmail.com) Don't forget: there is a hospitality room at the Burke so you can relax and eat potluck with friends!



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