

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 575

October 2021



WILD MUSHROOM SHOW, AND COLLECTING FOR THE SHOW, OCTOBER 23–24, 2021

Derek Hevel

If you haven't heard yet, our live annual Wild Mushroom Show is back this year and will again be held at North Seattle College. NSC is located just west of Northgate Shopping Center and is easily accessed from I-5. This year, the show will be held in the new cafeteria in the Health Sciences & Student Services building. Doors will open to the public at noon on Saturday, Oct. 23, and at 10 am on Sunday, Oct. 24, but we will start the setup process on Friday.

Because of the ongoing pandemic and for everyone's safety, we will require 1) proof of vaccination for all volunteers and guests, and 2) masking up while indoors. Unfortunately, unvaccinated kids may not attend the show this year by vote of the PSMS board. We may adjust our plans as show time approaches, based on the status of the pandemic and the governor's pandemic guidelines, so we will keep close tabs on the situation and provide updates as they come.

The show is all at once a fund-raiser, a classroom, an eatery, a boutique, a garden, a laboratory, a fun house, and a crafts project! Lots of different mushroom-related activities will recharge your interest in mushrooms. There will be lectures on a variety of mushroom topics, mushroom cooking/tasting, photos of mushrooms, commercial vendors, arts and crafts, and a cultivation table with oyster mushroom-growing kits.

All these activities help us introduce the public to the incredible diversity of mushrooms and other fungi.

The primary feature is our mushroom display, which includes hundreds of species in as many shapes, sizes, and colors of mushrooms as you can imagine. In order to create our display, we need everyone to get into the woods and bring back prime specimens of as many mushroom species as possible. If you hadn't noticed yet, the fall mushrooms are starting to pop. Beginning the week of October 18, please collect and bring in every mushroom you can find. Here are some guidelines for doing that:

Where to Collect: Find mushrooms on your own or organize a small group to collect at your favorite spots. We strongly encourage members to forage far and wide to collect those late specimens wherever they can be found. In early October, experts have suggested collecting display specimens in the foothills of Mount Rainier, the Olympic Peninsula, and the Washington Coast, but it is impossible to predict when and where our show mushrooms will flush. Also, don't forget those urban mushrooms! Look in lawns, gardens, and landscaping. If you can, please self-organize for a collecting trip in the week or two before the show. We're counting on YOU to make the display happen!

How to Collect: Before you go, stock up on plastic containers, foil, and wax paper bags to hold your specimens. Bring a garden trowel to dig if necessary to remove the entire mushroom intact, including underground structures. Then wrap each collection individually and put them in bigger cardboard boxes. Care for them all the way to the show

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PSMS PUBLIC IDENTIFICATION CLINICS TO RESTART

Wren Hudgins & Danny Miller

After missing ID clinics for three mushroom seasons, we will resume in-person ID clinics at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture, starting on Monday, October 4, 2021. We will be there for the usual interval of 4 pm to 7 pm. Mondays are chosen for the clinic in hopes that specimens collected over the weekend will still be in good enough shape to identify by Monday afternoon, assuming proper interim storage of course (no plastic). In keeping with club guidelines, we can welcome only those who have been fully vaccinated. Indoor masking is recommended and we will probably be wearing masks ourselves. ID clinics in past years have become crowded, with highly packed groups of people all trying to see this or that characteristic of a specimen as it is described. We will do our best to keep people spaced apart, but since we don't have absolute control over this variable, we recommend masking.

In recent years PSMS has been losing mushroom identification talent as skilled IDers relocate to other areas. We will, of course, do the best with the talent we still have, but we will also strengthen the educational component of the ID clinics in hopes of encouraging prospective identifiers to develop their ID skills. We welcome those who want to maximize this learning experience by staying for the entire three-hour duration. Also new this year, we will offer educational mini-lectures when time allows.

Please remember that if you are bringing in specimens to be identified, your experience and your learning are both enhanced when you spend time with your own specimens first, trying to identify them. We will help anyone, time allowing, but are most interested in aiding the serious learners to further their skills.

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because they must stay fresh and intact through Sunday. For example, store smaller specimens separately in their own container with moss or duff, and mist (but not soak) them to keep them fresh and colorful. For geotropic mushrooms (those that quickly reorient their gills toward the ground), including amanitas, stand them upright in empty milk cartons so their stalks don't bend. Also, don't forget the little ones and the most common mushrooms, since everyone assumes someone else will bring them in. Better to have too many than none at all. Delicate inky caps should be collected on Friday or Saturday morning since they dissolve to ink so quickly. For the naturalistic displays, please also bring organic matter like duff, grass, leaves, bark, and moss. Include a few leaves from the nearest trees or grass for the grass-inhabiting varieties, both for ID and for display.

Record Collection Details: Put all your finds from one location in one container and add a paper label with your name, phone number, and location. A slip of paper is enough! You can keep your secret edible locations to yourself since we are trying to feed science, not our stomachs. We ask for your name and phone number on the chance that a researcher may request further info, but the written location alone is invaluable.

Drop Off Your Mushrooms: Show receiving is on Friday evening after 4 pm and Saturday morning outside the new cafeteria at North Seattle College (go to the SOUTH side of the campus and look for the PSMS signs). The receiving area is just east of the intersection of College Way N. and N. 95th St. We'll be waiting for your mushroom deliveries!

Board News

By Su Fenton

The board met with Derek Hevel and Marion Richards who are co-chairs, along with Molly Watts and Milton Tam, of the Annual Exhibit Committee to talk about progress in organizing the Fall Show. It is always a huge challenge to create, with all the moving parts, that lovely show that we all enjoy. But it is much more difficult this year, trying to make it interesting, fun and COVID safe. Once again, make note that you must be wearing a MASK indoors and show PROOF OF VACCINATION at the door. There can be no exceptions, not even for the youngsters under 12. Next year, they will all be vaccinated and be able to join the party.

Remember, if you get a chance to hunt for mushrooms before the show, the exhibit table can always use your interesting specimens. Contact the committee members to find out where and when to take them. The board is looking for volunteers in a couple of areas: someone to chair the Harvesting Regulation Committee, to keep abreast of the rules and regulations and the Book Sales Committee needs someone to take over the task of ordering new books.

VOLUNTEERING!

A huge Thank You to all the wonderful people who have volunteered to help with the fall Wild Mushroom Show, October 23-24. You still have an opportunity to help, especially for admission since we need to monitor vaccinations and enforce masking. Also: Books, Tasting, Collecting are all areas where there are openings.

Register at <http://mms.psms.org/members/evr/regmenu.php?orgcode=PSMS> or contact volunteers@psms.com.

We need monitoring help at the Monday ID Clinic to ensure attendees are vaccinated and masked. Dates and time where help is needed are **Oct 11; Oct 18; Oct 25**, from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Another issue that the board is pondering is how to increase the number of skilled identifiers in the club. If you are interested in growing your knowledge base in this area, be sure and go to the field trips, attend the ID Clinics, take classes as they are offered. Stay tuned for more ideas to come!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ATTENDING THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

SCOTT MAXWELL, PSMS VICE-PRESIDENT

Our general meeting will be held on Tuesday October 12, 2021 at the Center for Urban Horticulture on the University of Washington campus. In line with the mandates provided by the University of Washington and the State of Washington, Masks will be required and by vote of the PSMS Board, proof of Vaccination will also be required. We hope that by next year we can include children under 12 again since PSMS has always been a family friendly organization.

Entry to the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 7:30 p.m. We will be having a hybrid In-Person / Zoom meeting. Verbal participation will be restricted to in-person only to prevent Zoom Bombing.

Britt Bunyard will be our guest speaker. The topic he will present is “The Amanitas of the Pacific NW and Beyond”. In Britt’s words: “Amanitas arguably are the most recognized and fascinating of all mushrooms. *Amanita* species mostly are big and showy, and ubiquitous over most of the planet wherever terrestrial plants grow. These mushrooms have been the subject of lore, make the news headlines with regularity, and Amanitas have even changed the course of world history. Many *Amanita* species are highly prized as choice edibles and commercially available in markets around the world. Others are infamous for annually causing death to careless pickers—indeed 90% of mushroom-related fatalities are due to *Amanita* species.”



Britt Bunyard, PhD, is the founder, Publisher, and Editor-in-Chief of the mycology journal *Fungi*. Britt has worked academically as a mycologist his entire career, teaching a number of university courses and writing scientifically for many research journals and popular science magazines. He has served as an editor for mycological and entomological research journals, and mushroom guide books. A popular evangelizer on all things fungal, Britt has been featured on NPR’s *All Things Considered*, PBS’s *NOVA* and *Wisconsin Foodie* television programs; and interviewed or quoted in *Discover* magazine, *The Atlantic*, *Vox*, *Vogue*, *Forbes*, *Saveur*, *Eating Well*, and other magazines and newspapers.

Britt serves as Executive Director of the Telluride Mushroom Festival. He has authored several books, including *Amanitas of North America* (2020; The FUNGI Press), *The Beginner’s Guide to Mushrooms* (2021; Quarry Books), *Mushrooms and Macrofungi of Ohio and Midwestern States* (2012; The Ohio State University Press), and the forthcoming *The Secret Life of Fungi* (Princeton University Press) due out this winter. In 2021 Britt was awarded the Gary Lincoff Award “For Contributions to Amateur Mycology,” by the North American Mycological Association—NA-MA’s most prestigious honor for American mycologists.

BOOK REVIEW

Brian S. Luther

Mushrooms of British Columbia

by Andy MacKinnon & Kem Luther

Issue date: Sept. 3, 2021

Softbound, 480 pages, with 516 color photos.

USA \$29.95, Canada \$34.95

Royal BC Museum, Victoria, Canada

Because it provides good basic introductory information about mushrooms in general and is limited in scope, as most regional field guides have to be, this book is a fine choice for beginners. No keys to the groups or species are provided, but the Guide to Mushroom Groups on pp. 30–31 is a good quick reference to help those using the book to get to the right place. The fungus descriptions are detailed enough to give a good understanding of each species, and under the category “Fruiting,” habit and habitat are also mentioned, with additional notes on edibility. No advanced details are included, such as microscopic features, keeping it at a

basic level so it’s not overwhelming for novices. However, a few rare defining macrochemical reactions using KOH, are noted (i.e., for *Lactarius olivaceoumbrinus*, p. 73; *Hygrophorus chrysodon*, p. 86; *Gymnopus fuscopurpureus*, p. 200). The authors have told the readers (pp. 14 & 479) what KOH is, However, other mushrooms covered in this book that also have striking reactions to KOH are not mentioned, so there isn’t uniformity on this information.

The authors have done a good job of providing the latest mycological nomenclature, based on this rapidly changing situation due to new DNA studies. This can be very confusing for beginners, because books just a few years older often have different names for the same fungus. So, bringing us up to date, as they have, is always important in science. Also, for the most part the authors have done well at mentioning earlier names that species will commonly be found in other or older books, but sometimes they miss these. At the end of each description they provide a useful etymology of the Latin or Greek in each name, which helps beginners understand the meanings; also the glossary is helpful to readers unfamiliar with

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basic mushroom terminology. The index at the end gives pages for most, but not all, of the scientific names of the fungi included. For *Tapinella atrotomentosa*, you have to use only the common name of Velvet Rollrim to find it in the index, even though a related species is listed by its scientific name.

Most of the photos are good representatives of the species, but some do not show the mushroom's details well enough to be diagnostic, especially for beginners. An example is the photo for *Rubroboletus pulcherrimus* (p. 325), which shows only a very young button, cut open, but not a mature specimen. The photo provided for *Tricholoma focale* (p. 154) is also not typical for the usually bright, coppery colored cap, which is characteristic for that species. It also would have been good if the *Tricholoma sulphureum* group (p.150) and *T. inamoenum* (p. 162) had been put next to each other, making it easier to compare these very similar smelly mushrooms. For *Phaeolepiota aurea* (p. 280) there is a smaller inset photo on the left, but no mention of what this fungus is. All the other photo insets throughout the book are mentioned on the same page. There is also an error in ID, where the photo does not match what the text says. The photo for *Suillus lakei* (p.

327) actually shows *Suillus ampliporus* (formerly *S. cavipes*), a species found only mycorrhizal with Larch trees. If you read the description for *S. lakei* it correctly states that the stem is "solid," but the photo clearly shows a hollow stem in longitudinal section, typical for *S. ampliporus*. The colors and overall form are also indicative of *S. ampliporus*, not *S. lakei*.

In spite of these little glitches, the authors are to be commended on this introduction to some of the common macrofungi of B.C. As such it's also applicable to the Pacific Northwest in general. As pointed out on p. 2, this publication is only the third mushroom field guide to focus on the mushrooms of British Columbia. The previous books are much older, more limited in scope, and very outdated in the names used. This book should also appeal to a wider audience outside of Western North America and be welcomed by interested people anywhere who would like to get a basic background in common genera and species of mushrooms overall, some of which included are widespread or familiar in other parts of the temperate Northern Hemisphere. As I've always said about collecting mushroom books, "the more the merrier" to learn new things and to refresh or reinforce previous knowledge.

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