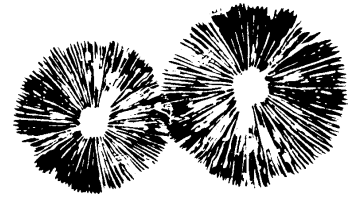


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 382 May 2002



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Karin Mendell

First of all, I want to say "Thanks" to everyone for giving me this chance to lead and follow my PSMS friends for the next two years! I really enjoy the opportunity to get to know many of you better while working on all of the amazing activities that PSMS does. I would also like to wholeheartedly thank our terrific immediate past president, Joanne Young, for all her help, guidance, support, and wonderful attitude. Joanne, with the help of Lynn Phillips, our past Treasurer, has left PSMS in strong shape. Thanks to both of you!



What's going on in PSMS, this Spring?

Field Trips: Steve Curtice is again serving as our Field Trip Chair. Thanks, Steve, and keep up the great work! The new Field Trip Committee will be a big support in his efforts to give us all a fantastic Spring "more!" season. (Now if the weather would just cooperate!) He has some new helpers and many veterans assisting with location selection and all the details. We will be looking for a new Host Coordinator to work with Steve. This is an easy job. Please talk to me at the next meeting if you'd like to know more about this important job or would like to volunteer!

Spring Classes: John Goldman, working with Colin Meyer, has again made a quality set of Beginner and Intermediate identification classes available to all our members. Thanks so much to you both for all these efforts, and to all our wonderful volunteer instructors! The ID classes are a very important asset to our members.

New Roster: Bob Mendell is working with our database manager, Pacita Roberts, to format our membership information in an long awaited, updated roster. If your phone, e-mail, or home address have changed, please make sure that you give that information to Pacita Roberts so she can update our database for inclusion in the roster. Pacita's e-mail is r6379@u.washington.edu.

Annual Exhibit: The Sand Point South Pod (old brig) is again reserved as the location for this year's Annual Wild Mushroom Show. We look forward to even larger attendance with our third year here. Each year it gets a little easier to adjust to this new location. Now, if we just don't set off the fire alarm again this year! A little of that excitement goes a long, long way!

I am the Show Chair again this year, but I am looking for an ambitious Co-Chair. We also need to have someone step forward for Publicity Chair and many other positions. Your Board members may be looking for recruits in the near future!

Lake Quinault Foray: Great news on the foray front! Cathy and Don Lennebacker, along with David Hunt, will be coordinating this Fall's Quinault Foray, which is scheduled for November 1-3. They have recently gained commitments from a mycologist and a chef!! That's the hard part, done!!

Newsletter Mailing Problems: I want to assure all of our members that your Board and new President are very aware of the continuing problems we've had with late and delayed delivery of your *Spore Prints*. We have continued to make adjustments to improve this process over the past year, but are aware that the problems persist. I would like to thank Ramona Owen and Bernice Velategui for their all their efforts to find the root of this problem. Even Doug Ward returned last month to see if it was just his magic touch that was missing. But as you know, the April mailings also ran late. All evidence seems to point to the US Postal Service's handling of our bulk mailing. We are considering a return to first-class mailing, but the cost is much higher. We continue to struggle with this issue at every Board meeting. We will continue our search until we find an answer.

Here's to another great PSMS year!

FIELD TRIP REMINDERS

Karin Mendell

For this Spring's field trips, we want to remind hosts and members of the following details:

- Hosts are asked to supply two air pump pots (coffee and hot water for tea) and pastries/muffins. (Please save your receipts for reimbursement.)
- Members must bring their own picnic supplies (plates, utensils, etc.). Reuse - Recycle!
- Bringing folding chairs will help you relax after a strenuous hunt.
- Important: Because of changes in the key situation at CUH, Karin Mendell will be holding the host kit (1 box of field trip supplies). Please call her at (425) 868-7918 to arrange pickup of the kit before your field trip.
- Plan to stay and enjoy (and host) the potluck following the mushroom picking.
- Have fun meeting other new and long-time members!

Though we have hosts for Spring, we will need you again this Fall. So please consider hosting a field trip then. It's a great way to develop lasting PSMS relationships.

THANK YOU, CLASS INSTRUCTORS J. Goldman

What do Ben Woo, Hildegard Hendrickson, Brandon Matheny, Colin Meyer, and Patrice Benson have in common? They all volunteered their precious time to teach the ten beginner and intermediate ID classes this month. Those who are taking the classes are in for a treat, as these folks are very knowledgeable and want you all to be the same. Our club can only function when people volunteer and "share the wealth." PSMS wants to acknowledge them and say a big "Thank You."

Spore Prints

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PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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CALENDAR

May 11 Field Trip, Circle H Ranch
May 14 Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
May 18 Field Trip, Twenty-Nine Pines
May 20 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Board Room
Intermediate Class, 7:30–9:30 PM, NHS Hall, CUH
May 21 *Spore Prints* deadline
Beginner Class, 7:30–9:30 PM, NHS Hall, CUH
May 28 Beginner Class, 7:30–9:30 PM, NHS Hall, CUH
May 29 Intermediate Class, 7:30–9:30 PM, NHS Hall, CUH
June 1–2 Field Trip, Bridge Creek Campground
June 3 Intermediate Class, 7:30–9:30 PM, NHS Hall, CUH
June 8 Field Trip, Swauk Creek Campground

BOARD NEWS

Brandon Matheny

New officers and trustees met for their first board duties. Our CD will roll over for a 6 month term. Our treasury note expires the end of May. A decision about its status will be made at the next meeting. A “club” credit card does not appear to be a viable option. We are getting on average about three new members per week via our Web site. Spring identification classes are set to go. A new Host Coordinator is needed for field trips. We now have a mycologist and a cook for the Lake Quinault Foray to be held 1–3 November. Ramona Owen volunteered as Arts & Crafts Chair for this year’s Exhibit. A 2002 PSMS roster looks to be formatted soon. Drafts of the scholarship guidelines and grant application form were presented. Erica Cline, a forestry graduate student at the UW, was approved to receive a scholarship grant.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 2002, at 7:30 PM in the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

Our speaker at the May meeting will be Nancy Smith Weber. Nancy comes from a mycological family and spent many summers in the field hunting mushrooms for her father and meeting other mushroomers. She grew up in Michigan and received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. At present she is a Courtesy Professor in the Department of Forest Science at Oregon State University. Her official research is on the diversity of morels, related cup-fungi, and truffles of western North America. Her current hobby is studying the diversity of fungi (now over 300 kinds) in her quarter acre lot.

Nancy has been a foray mycologist for several forays and a speaker at many mushroom clubs around the country. She also is senior or co-author on several books and papers, including *A Morel Hunter’s Companion* which she has been revising. Her topic for the meeting will be “The True and the False Morels: A tale of Two Families.”

Would people with last names beginning with the letters U–Z please bring a plate of refreshments to share at the meeting?

NEW FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Karin Mendell

Several eager PSMS volunteers met this March at Hildegard Hendrickson’s house to form a new Field Trip Committee. (We also enjoyed her homegrown kiwis, apples, and lovely raspberry juice from her very own raspberry vines.) The agenda included the following items:

- We solicited, and will continue to solicit, advice about field trip locations (especially about how mushroom fruiting coincides with specific elevations and the unusual weather conditions this spring). We cancelled the field trip May 4 to Silver Springs campground, since it’s still snowbound.
- We discussed how we could make PSMS less dependent upon state and national parks for our destinations. Reservations are now necessary at *all* of these locations, with difficulties getting through to contracting agencies and increasing costs that frequently require large credit card charges.
- We decided to purchase new field trip equipment, specifically a propane camp stove with a pack of propane supplied and two 2 × 4-ft portable plastic tables (for those locations that have no tables). We decided that bringing this equipment will be at the discretion of the hosts, not mandatory, but it will be available.
- We decided to try out a new location on May 11, the Circle H Ranch (near our old Bullfrog Flats site; see directions under “Revised Field Trip Schedule”). If this location works well, we will visit there again in the Fall. We are also making contact with the Masonic Lodge outside Granite Falls in the North Cascades, a site favored by PSMS in the 1970s, which Brian Luther recommends fondly.
- Finally, we urge members to consider friends, family, and acquaintances who might welcome 20–30 “environmentally friendly” PSMSers onto their private lands during mushroom seasons.

All these efforts will help PSMS be less dependent on federal lands. It is good time to move in this direction, since more state and federal budget reductions are predicted in the near future.



ay is Morel Month!



REVISED FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Steve Curtice

Note: This is *not* the same schedule that appeared in the April newsletter. Because of the unseasonably cold weather, some of the field trips originally scheduled have been cancelled and others added.

11 May

Circle H Ranch

(2000 ft elev, 75 miles east of Seattle)

Take I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass. About 25 miles beyond the pass, take exit #74, the “West Nelson” exit from I-90. Go to the right. After ± 2 miles you will see a sign to the Circle H Ranch. You will see two interlocking squares (the square dance symbol). The Circle H Ranch is on your right.

PSMS will be paying a fee for rental of the Circle H Ranch, but the owners ask that \$2.00 per person also be collected from all visitors. We ask that PSMS members pay this “per person” fee to your host (Lynne Elwell), and she will forward these fees to the owners. Remember that this is our first visit to this new location. We’ll see how it works for us!

18 May

Twenty-Nine Pines

(2500 ft elev., 102 miles east of Seattle)

Take I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #85. Follow signs to Hwy. 970 east of Cle Elum for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Turn left on Hwy. 970 and go $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Turn left onto Teanaway River Road. Continue about 6 miles, bearing right at the fork onto the Teanaway North Fork Road and continue another 6 miles just past the new fish hatchery on the left and Jack Creek. Twenty-Nine Pines is on the left. There is no shelter or water, but there are outhouses. Host: Harold Schnarre.

1 June

Bridge Creek

(2400 ft elev., 150 miles east of Seattle)

Take Hwy. 2 over Stevens Pass and proceed 34 miles to Leavenworth. (You can also take I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #85, go over Swauk Pass to Hwy 2, proceed left for 6 miles through Leavenworth.) On the west edge of town, turn south off Hwy. 2 onto Icicle Creek Road. Bridge Creek is 11 miles up Icicle Creek on the left. Once on the Bridge Creek Campground road, take the left “Y” before the bridge and continue to the metal barricade, which is the gate for the group camp which is reserved June 1 for us. People are reminded to close the barricade each time after entering or leaving because otherwise campers will help themselves to our reserved area, at our expense. This has happened many times in the past. Hosts: Don and Cathy Lennebacker.

8 June

Swauk Creek

(2500 ft elev., 110 miles east of Seattle)

Take I-5 over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #85. Follow Hwy. 10 east of Cle Elum for $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Turn left onto Hwy. 970. After 7 miles bear left onto US Hwy. 97 (north) and continue another 16 miles. The camp is on the right. Swauk Pass is 4 miles beyond the camp. Hosts: Russ and Val Othus.

MacDONALD PARK FIELD TRIP

Brian Luther

Thirty three members signed in on Saturday, March 30, for this traditional half-day field trip and excuse to get out into the woods. It was a surprisingly pleasant day, with even an occasional sun break. A wonderful spread of coffee and goodies greeted people, thanks to the efforts of Elizabeth (Beth) Lisaius, who was our gracious host for this outing. Thanks again, Beth! Others brought edible contributions, including some delicious apples and kiwis from Hildegard Hendrickson’s garden.

Hildegard and I alternated discussing introductory topics such as “why we’re here,” *Verpa bohemica* and cottonwoods, development of *Verpa* fruiting bodies, special preparation/cooking of verpas, and potential problems with eating them. We also discussed proper field trip collecting implements and techniques, appropriate clothing, and general field trip protocol so that new members would have an idea of what to expect and how to be prepared for up-and-coming field trips.

The group was divided, with half going with Hildegard and half following me into the woods. My group was “skunked,” as early PSMS member Bill Pollard used to say, but Hildegard’s group got the prize for finding the only *Verpa* (*Ptychoverpa bohemica*) of the day. Yes, that’s right, only one *Verpa* was found. The unusually cold and snowy conditions for most of March had set us back by approximately three weeks, by my estimation, so we were too early this year; this was confirmed by the lack of green showing on the cottonwoods. Timing is everything with verpas, and sometimes our field trip scheduling and predictions are right on and other times we miss the mark. That’s one of the things that makes mushroom hunting challenging and interesting.

Ten species of fungi were collected, identified, and displayed, along with several lichens and two slugs (can you tell we were getting desperate). I briefly discussed each collection for the group, including some personal experiences with native slugs (you had to be there!). One of the collections was an Artist’s Conk (*Ganoderma applanatum*), which my daughter, Arnica, happily set out to do something with artistically. (She drew a horse on it.)

The lack of mushrooms didn’t even put a dent in the overall enthusiasm, and everybody enjoyed the opportunity to get out into the woods with good company. It promises to be an excellent field trip season, with lots of morels, thanks to our Field Trip Chair, Steve Curtice, who—along with a committee of devoted assistants including Karin Mendell, Hildegard Hendrickson, Don and Cathy Lennebacker, John Goldman, Doug Ward, and Joanne Young—has put together a dynamite schedule of Spring field trips.



Brian Luther explains how to find verpas (when they’re there)

PSMS BOOTH WINS AWARD

Long after we thought we were done with the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, a small box showed up on Karin Mendell's doorstep. It contained a beautiful wood and gold engraved plaque, titled "2002 Northwest Flower and Garden Show Award for Educational Excellence." Karin did call the name listed to ask if this was some sort of new "thank you for participating" award, and it was apparently more than that!

This is one of only three awards granted for educational booths displayed at the Flower Show. We should have received this during the show, but apparently there was some delay. A hearty thanks, again, to Haryana Chilstrom (our artist/booth designer), Cathy and Don Lennebacker, and Lynn Elwell, who provided sage advice from past Flower Show experiences. The plaque will be displayed in the PSMS office at CUH. Well done!

ST. EDWARD PARK FIELD TRIP

Colin Meyer

Saturday morning, April 6, was cold, breezy, and overcast. To fend against the weather, hosts Alissa Allen and Colin Meyer prepared hot coffee and picked up two dozen fresh ones from King Donut.

At 9:30 when most members had arrived, Colin gave a quick introduction to verpas and on collecting mushrooms for the table and for identification. Alissa lead about 20 members on a walk through two woody habitats, ending in the cottonwoods along the lake shore, where verpas were found.

Fifteen species of mushrooms were identified, including *Plectania melastoma*, a small black cup fungus dusted with rusty crystals on the outer surface, and *Pluteus cervinus*, the deer mushroom, collected by past president, Doug Ward.

There wasn't a potluck planned for this half-day field trip, but Karin Mendell was kind to bring hot soup to warm everyone up. The breeze blew the clouds apart enough for a little early afternoon sunshine, and a good time was had by all.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We want you! We have a couple of jobs that need talented PSMS individuals to step forward. Please take a look at the following tasks and see if they interest you!

- 1. Field Trip Host Coordinator.** This is the person who coordinates bringing you those lovely PSMS hosts at all your field trips. (You know, that nice somebody who makes sure there's hot coffee and tea and snacks early on the field trip, just when you need it.) The coordinator works with Steve Curtice, our terrific Field Trip Chair, who schedules all the locations for our trips. This task usually takes about an hour per season (Spring or Fall) to call and schedule hosts for each field trip after the locations and dates are fixed. We give you lots of potential hosts' names (gathered from our field trip sign-in sheets).
- 2. Graphic Artist for Web-Site Enhancement.** Is there a PSMS artist out there who would like to assist with the graphic art aspect of our Web site? You would have the privilege of working with our fantastic Web Master, Colin Meyer, and that opportunity in itself should make this a desirable position.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please phone Karin Mendell at (425) 868-7918 or e-mail k.mendell@attbi.com.

Thanks to all our PSMS volunteers! You make it all possible.

McGEE, MS



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