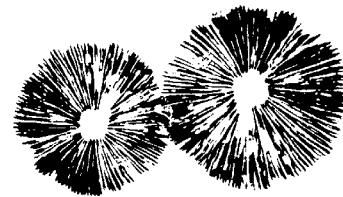


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 383 June 2002



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Karin Mendell

Thank You, Patrice

In my first President's Message last month, one of the important people that I forgot to thank was our new vice-president, Patrice Benson. Patrice has been a stalwart member of PSMS since 1976 and around so long that many of us forget that new members don't know all the wonderful gifts that she contributes to our society. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a little historical background on this wonderful PSMS member and publicly thank Patrice for stepping up from her position on the PSMS Board to serve as vice-president.

Patrice's great-grandparents came from Poland. Patrice grew up in Pennsylvania and had lived in North and South Carolina before coming to Seattle. She has a degree in biology from the University of Pittsburgh.

Patrice is married to Dr Edward Benson and has two daughters, Katie and Jill. Patrice met her husband on a blind date. For two and a half years after their marriage, they worked their way around the globe, from Samoa to New Zealand, to Hong Kong, where Patrice attended cooking school to master Chinese cuisine, and on to London via China, Siberia, Russia, and Poland. Back in Seattle, Patrice spent the next 5 years with the biotech company Immunex and then "retired" home to care for their daughters.

Patrice has taught part of the Beginner ID Classes for PSMS, and given talks about fungi at elementary schools, colleges, and other mycological groups around the state. Besides serving on the Board, she was PSMS President from 1994–1996. She has chaired our Mycophagy Committee for many more than 10 years now, and has coordinated our cooking exhibit at our Annual Fall Mushroom Show for almost 20 years!

Patrice just returned to work at Immunex this year and is an extremely busy woman who still continues to share her time and talents generously with us at PSMS. We appreciate that.

Important Field Trip Lore

During the past two field trips, I received a number of questions that made me realize we need to constantly communicate the following information which many of us take for granted.

- Field trips always start (roughly) at 9:00 AM. Some folks will show up earlier and some later, but the coffee will show up around 8:30–9:00 AM with the host.
- Mushroom hunting on field trips is somewhat self-directed. There is no official "tour guide." If you are a new member, you need to speak up and ask for help.
- The full-day field trips nearly always include potlucks (unless we get rained out). Folks start to set up for them around 4:00 PM, with dinner starting sometime between 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. Please try to bring something to share. The food is always wonderful, and the companionship is great!

- Our first two field trips in the spring, MacDonald Park in Carnation and St. Edward on Lake Washington, are close-in half-day trips, so there is no camping.
- For the past 2–3 years, PSMS has paid for group camp sites, usually once in the spring and once in the fall. There are almost always campsites available in the other campgrounds where we hold our field trips, but we can't always guarantee a site. Also, in some unreserved campgrounds camping is on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Although we have hosts for spring, we will still need hosts this fall. So please consider hosting a field trip later this year. It's a great way to develop lasting PSMS relationships.

MAMALU O WAHINE (WOMAN'S MUSHROOM)

Ben Sostrin, *MushRumors*, Oregon Myco. Soc.,
May–June 2002

There is an ancient legend known throughout the high islands of Polynesia. All the tales are similar: Women sniff a mushroom in the forest and go into fits of sexual ecstasy. The fungus in question is a tropical version of *Dictyophora indusiata*.

John Holliday, a cultivator of medicinal mushrooms who has researched Hawaiian *Dictyophora*, was asked by a nurse why her mother and friend went out smelling mushrooms on Sunday mornings. To investigate the reputed effects, Holliday asked randomly chosen subjects, both male and female, to sniff a fresh specimen.

Of the 20 males, all found the smell repulsive. No physiological responses were noted in any of them. Women, however, found the smell pleasant. In a controlled clinical trial involving 16 women, six had orgasms while smelling the fruiting body of the fungus. The other 10 experienced physiological changes, most notably increased heart rates. These 10 received smaller doses, so their responses may have been dose related.

The legend says that only when the gods are pleased will they bring forth this magical plant, the Mamalu o Wahine, the mushroom that makes women go mad with desire. And only if a woman leads a good and virtuous life will the gods reward her with this special treat, just for her pleasure. Of course, you could lead a non-virtuous life and get in the next clinical trial.

PSMS TO VISIT FUNGI PERFECTI Karin Mendell

Paul Stamets has graciously consented to a visit by PSMS members! The date is Saturday, June 15, from 1:00–6:00 PM. Paul has offered to provide a tour of his cultivation facilities. He has also suggested that we stay and play some volleyball and have a potluck picnic. PSMS members are asked to bring a potluck dish to share, similar to those we provide at our weekend field trips. We want to thank Paul and Dusty, again, for all their continued PSMS support and this lovely opportunity to come out and visit them!

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CALENDAR

June 8 Field Trip, Swauk Creek
June 11 Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
June 15 Trip to Fungi Perfecti, 1:00–6:00 PM
June 17 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Board Room
July 20 Annual Picnic, 1 PM, Shelter 5, Seward Park
Aug. 19 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Board Room
Aug. 20 *Spore Prints* Deadline
Sept. 10 Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
Oct. 19–20 PSMS Annual Exhibit

BOARD NEWS

Brandon Matheny

Tim Leavitt, of the Cle Elum Ranger District, briefly outlined a plan to employ PSMS volunteers to survey for a list of fungal species along the I-90 corridor between Hyak and Easton. The board approved renewal of our treasury note for a 2 year period. Forty membership renewals were generated from the renewal campaign. A rough draft of the membership roster will be presented at the June program meeting. The Circle 8 field trip site looks promising for future use. David Hunt volunteered to co-chair the 2002 Exhibit with Karin Mendell. Marian Maxwell volunteered to be our new chair for field trip hosts. A board meeting has been scheduled for 17 June. Shelter #5 in Seward Park has been reserved for a picnic on 20 July; Fran Ikeda will host the picnic. Space has also been reserved for a PSMS booth at the 2003 Flower and Garden Show. Locations have been selected for fall field trips.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, June 11, 2002, at the Center for Urban horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

Tonight we will be honoring Ben Woo, first PSMS president, in announcing the PSMS Ben Woo Grants. This is a small program established by PSMS to fund the projects of enthusiasts who need financial assistance to reach their goals related to the study of mycology. Ben is the perfect person to name it after, since he personifies our mission to foster the understanding of mycology as a science and a hobby and to assist related institutions in these purposes.

This meeting will be a chance to celebrate in a gourmand way. PSMS member Jeremy Faber will perform a demonstration of an expertly prepared mushroom treat. Jeremy is a chef at The Herbfarm as well as an experienced mushroom forager. It is an appropriate celebration for all of us to join with Ben and our first two recipients of Ben Woo Grants, Brandon Matheny and Erica Cline. Let us raise a toast to our efforts to enlighten the masses about the mysteries of wild mushrooms.

No one needs to bring refreshments. The Field Trip Committee will provide a carrot cake for everyone to thank our hosts and identifiers and all the folks who turn out and make our field trips a great experience!

FIELD TRIP TO CIRCLE 8 RANCH

Brian Luther

The field trip to the Circle 8 Ranch on May 11 was a brand new experience for all of us, as the location was sight unseen. We thought we were going to the "Circle H" Ranch, so we were all surprised when we arrived and it was actually the Circle 8 Ranch. It was unanimous among older members that this was one of the finest (if not the finest) field trip sites we'd ever experienced! Located only a couple of miles off I-90 between Lake Easton and Cle Elum in an area that we usually go right past on the way to other field trips, it had some remarkable attributes: lots of open space with plenty of nice camping spots, several separate buildings available for larger groups, including a large dance hall, bunk house A-frames, etc., large clean bathrooms with plumbing, and a large pond with a row boat. The grounds had a diverse variety of native trees, giving ample opportunities for finding many different kinds of mycorrhizal fungi. I really can't say enough good things about this place. Just think what we've been missing all these years. We owe a special thanks to Hildegard Hendrickson, who suggested we try this location.

Here's the deal—from Memorial Day through Labor Day this facility is booked solid with square dancers, but as you can see we were able to squeeze a field trip in ahead of this and should also have no trouble getting in for a field trip sometime later in the fall after the dancers are gone. The square dancers' schedule and ours, luckily, don't seem to overlap or compete.

The weather for the day was splendiferous, being sunny and warm. Lynne Elwell did a terrific job of hosting for the day (as usual), made everybody feel welcome, and had lots of early morning munchies out for everybody. Forty or so people signed in, and including kids we had a good sized group at this outing. The kids all had a blast either swimming in, boating on, or playing around the pond.

Most everybody found at least some morels, and all that I saw were in gorgeous condition. Just coming into the camping area, we passed by a planting area bordered with white painted rocks, and everybody just drove right past this spot until Mike Lovelady

discovered it had 20 or 30 prime, young morels growing in it. Mike and morels—I've said it before and I'll say it again: There's some form of supernatural attraction between the two.

Thirty-six species of fungi were identified and displayed. A number of interesting looking cup fungi were found, but upon microscopic examination most had immature asci and thus could not be identified to species and added to the above list. Adjacent to the open field and campground sites was a fabulous shed with a big old wood stove, picnic tables, good lighting, and electrical outlets. This allowed me to set up a mini-mycology lab for demonstrating microscopy. Early when I arrived I tried out the wood stove and it works great. Wow, I wish that every field trip site had such a nice facility for setting up a field lab!

It was a relatively small group who stayed for the potluck, and the food was good and satisfying. Don Lennebacker wanted to barbecue some sausages and hauled a gas grill out of the shed to use, but couldn't get it to work. To save the day Ross and Val Othus had a mini-hibachi that they dug out of their motor home for Don to use. The sausages, by the way, were delicious. After dinner, I gave everybody the chance to see something under the microscope, including morel asci and spores.

I think we should give some consideration to this as a possible PSMS foray location also, because what I saw of the facilities and amenities there, it might support such an event, although I didn't notice if there was a large kitchen or not. This place was an outstanding discovery and for those of you who missed this trip, you can be sure we'll be back there on a regular basis during the mushroom seasons. Remember, Circle 8 Ranch.



FIELD TRIP TO 29 PINES

Brian Luther

We were all fortunate to have Harold Schnarre as our host for the field trip to 29 Pines on May 18. Everything was well organized with plenty of PSMS arrow signs out for members who had never been here before so you immediately knew you were in the right place. Coffee, hot water, goodies, a cheerful smile and hello, and a warm campfire always come with Harold's hosting. Thanks, Harold!

The day's weather was very fickle, with off again, on again sprinkles or light showers, but the temperature was comfortable. Forty-three people signed in, and morels were the quest of the day, but they were in much shorter supply than on the field trip to Circle 8 Ranch a week earlier. This was mostly because of the generally drier conditions at this location than what we're used to at this time of year. Even so, most members found at least several morels, some being somewhat desiccated already. Darlene Baxter had a bad fall recently and broke her right arm, so she showed up with a new full arm cast, but was in good spirits; we were out in the woods a couple of times during the day together, and it didn't slow her down a bit. Our warmest wishes for a speedy recovery, Darlene!

Harold and Larry Baxter helped me with ID. Forty-eight species of fungi were identified and displayed. A collection of *Boletus edulis* was found, and a larger-than-normal number of *Calbovista subsculpta* fruitings were brought in (in edible condition) along with some nice *Hygrophorus subalpinus* and one *Sarcosoma mexicana*. I'm normally able to search the old camp fire pits and get 10 or so specialized burn-site fungi, which are particularly interesting microscopically, but all of these habitats were much drier than usual and pickings were slim.

About 25 people stayed for potluck, and it was a good one. Lots of food and several freshly prepared morel dishes, which were very tasty. The *Boletus edulis* collection that I mentioned above was sautéed and passed around also. We threw a bunch more wood on the campfire after potluck, and everybody enjoyed socializing, with several families planning on camping the night. Some who had stayed the night before said they saw herds of elk in the meadows near the Teanaway River. Not a whole lot of mushroom rooms, but still a whole lot of fun!

TOXIC MUSHROOMS GO PRIME TIME

Ben Sostrin, *MushRumors*, Oregon Myco. Soc.,
May–June 2002

I received a phone call from my sister-in-law, curious about eating chanterelles—and death. “Slow down. What are you talking about?” I said. According to her, a character on “ER” ate mushrooms she thought were chanterelles. Unfortunately, her liver was shutting down owing to amatoxins. Yes, the doctor gravely told her, she had consumed amanitas. To make matters worse, her sister would not consent to a partial organ donation.

The silly facts were greeted with guffaws by an incredulous OMS Board and confirmed by Fran Opgenorth, an “ER” watcher who has now been outed. With its huge budget and medical consultants, you would think Hollywood could have done better than mix up chanterelles and amanitas.

PSMS SUMMER PICNIC, JULY 20 Karin Mendell

Host: Fran Ikeda

Where: Seward Park Shelter #5 (same shelter as last year)

When: Saturday, July 20, 2002

A big thank you to Luis Felix for getting our reservation again this year!

The shelter is reserved from 10:00 AM to dusk (when the park closes). Early birds can come and share coffee or tea and breakfast treats. The picnic lunch starts around 1:00 PM, but some of us will be nibbling all day!

Directions: Go to the west side of Mercer Island and swim across the lake or, from Seattle, take I-5 to I-90, get off at exit 3 (west side of Lake Washington), go south on Rainier Ave S. about 3 miles, and take a left onto S. Orcas Street, heading east. South Orcas Street ends at Seward Park after intersecting Lake Washington Blvd. S. Once in the park, continue to drive up the hill to the first parking lot on the right. Shelter #5 is nearby. (PSMS signs will lead the way once you are in the park.) If there are lots of events in the park that day, we can carpool folks back and forth from the shelter. But if park workers stop you en route, indicate that PSMS does have a reservation and you need to unload.

Food: Please bring a potluck salad, side dish, or dessert to share. Bring your own meat to barbecue, buns, sauces, eating and serving utensils, and sunscreen (hopefully). Drinks, plates, cups, and charcoal will be provided by PSMS.

Facilities: Shelter, tables, grills, restrooms, kids' playground, tennis courts.

Activities: Bring any games you'd like to share such as badminton or croquet sets. There are also trails through or around Seward Park, swimming, Frisbee catching, kite flying, boating (a public boat ramp is nearby), bicycling, and mushroom hunting (in July?).

I-90 CORRIDOR FUNGI SURVEY (PSMS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!) Karin Mendell

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is developing a plan to improve I-90 on the eastern side of Snoqualmie Pass from Milepost 55 (Easton) to Milepost 70 (Hyak), through the Wenatchee National Forest. The plan will include the addition of two lanes in either direction, creating a total of eight lanes. A freeway of this size could potentially create a major barrier to species migration north and south in the Cascades. The Cle Elum Ranger District is in the process of creating the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. The main focus of this document will be the connectivity of habitat in the Eastern Cascades.

In 1993, the Northwest Forest Plan was passed. This plan represented a change in forest management strategies, away from protection of individual species. Earlier strategies, such as protection of the spotted owl, targeted specific individual species. Under new management strategies, the Forest Service will manage our lands more for habitat types than for individual species. This document listed over 200 species of fungi as protected, not because the species are rare but because the habitat with which they are associated is becoming increasingly rare in the Pacific Northwest.

Twenty-five of these protected species have been found within the I-90 project area. The Forest Service uses these species as an indication of a particular habitat type. The Forest Service will be surveying for these mushroom species in the spring, summer, and fall of 2002. The presence and distribution of these species in the survey area will be mapped. Suggestions for overpasses and tunnels, based on these species distributions, will be made in the EIS to WSDOT.

PSMS members have been asked to help with the surveys. Tim Leavitt, the Forest Service mycologist in charge, has decided to meet every Monday and Tuesday at 9:00 AM with any PSMS volunteers on the SOUTH SIDE (parking lot) of Cabin Creek Road. This is a great opportunity for members with intermediate taxonomy skills to practice the collection and identification of some of the more indiscrete fungi. Your PSMS efforts will help to protect habitat connectivity in the Cascades. Please feel free to show

up at this meeting site. Or you may contact Karin Mendell (who is coordinating PSMS volunteers for Tim) by phoning (425) 868-7918 or e-mailing k.mendell@attbi.com.

FUNGUS EVICTS ACTOR *The Sporeprint,* Los Angeles Myco. Soc., May 2002

Former "Tonight Show" co-host Ed McMahon was recently forced to leave his posh Beverly Hills home on the advice of his doctor. It appears the home was severely infested with the mold *Stachybotrys chartarum*, causing Ed, his wife, Pamela, and several household aids to become ill. A \$20 million lawsuit has been filed against his insurance company, American Equity Insurance Co., alleging a recent clean-up effort after water damage was poorly handled, if not entirely screwed up. The suit also alleges the family dog, Muffin, died as a result of the mold.

McGee, MS

Not like I pictured toadstools...



This will be the last *Spore Prints* issue until next September. Have a fabulous summer!



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