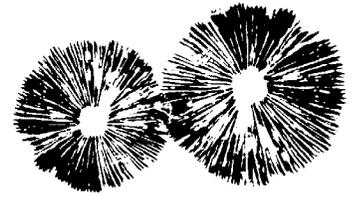


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 389 February 2003



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Karin Mendell

Your PSMS board members and officers are gearing up for several interesting events this coming spring. Remember, even though it will be a while before we see mushrooms fruiting, there are still many opportunities to enjoy the company of your PSMS friends!



Thank You to Outgoing Officers

But before we look at those activities, I want to take a moment for a special thank you to outgoing PSMS Secretary Brandon Matheny and board members Colin Meyer, Emily Routledge, and Marian Maxwell.

Brandon Matheny has been a valued regular in PSMS since 1996. His intense interest in mushrooms grew as a member of PSMS, and he began a survey of the mushroom species in the Hazel Wolf Wetland area near Issaquah. In July he should complete his Ph.D. work at the University of Washington under Dr. Ammirati. His area of study has been the genus *Inocybe*. He will be leaving us to continue his Post-Doc work at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Brandon's contributions to PSMS are too numerous for complete listing here. He has been a regular identifier on our field trips for many years, a constant volunteer at the fall mushroom show year after year (doing everything from construction to identification, labeling, and working with the public). He has served as Secretary for the past two years and been both education chair and exhibit chair. He has taught beginner and intermediate identification classes generously over the years. He has a wonderful dry sense of humor that is lethal! He will be so missed at PSMS. We understand his commitment for the next four years, but we also hope that he will not be able to stay away from the Pacific Northwest much longer than that. We sure hope to see you back here someday, Brandon! Good luck with your efforts!

Colin Meyer has served two 2-year board terms back to back. But his contributions to PSMS have extended far beyond regular attendance at the meetings. Colin has managed our PSMS identification classes (scheduled class rooms, lined up teachers, been present at the start of each session to sell books to students) for the past four years. For those of you who may not regularly attend field trips, you might not be aware that he has been a regular identifier for us many times at those events. He is our outstanding Web Master and has also established and manages our member-group list where all PSMS members may chat and share ideas, concerns, recipes, and the latest fungal finds of the season. Colin is a regular fixture at our fall shows, both behind the scenes managing our labeling efforts and helping with identification and working at the ID table with the public. And besides all that, he's a vastly interesting and unique member who is always willing to share his interest and love for mushroom hunting, identification, and camaraderie with other PSMS members, new and veteran alike. Thanks for your many contributions, Colin! You've been a pleasure to work with!

Emily Routledge became an active board member after moving up from alternate to fill an open position. She brought with her so much enthusiasm—it has just been contagious over the past year. Emily was our publicity chair for the 2002 fall show. She was completely devoted to this assignment and came up with all kinds of new and exciting approaches. She was able to garner several enticing interviews and photo ops. that helped to make our show the great success that it was last year. In addition, she never shied away from the unglamorous jobs and also spent several hours out in the parking lot at the fall show, directing traffic and guarding PSMS parking for our show attendees! Emily has run into conflicts with her time and a new job and will not be able to return to the board this year. But she has agreed to be our publicity chair for next year's show! You have been such an asset and great fun to work with, Emily! Thanks for everything!

Marian Maxwell is another PSMS member who is always there when we need her help! Most folks know Marian from her years (16 total) helping with mushroom tray arranging for our fall show, nine of which she chaired! But she has been a strong, behind the scenes worker in many, many activities and functions of the club. She was the co-chair for last year's Survivor's Banquet and is doing this task again this year. She has assisted with the identification tables at field trips and last year also coordinated our hosts for those trips. Marion was also a hard working hostess for our December Cookie Bash this past year. She served on our Nominating Committee this year. In general, Marian is one of those great volunteers who almost never say "No" when asked to help!

Her busy family (one son graduating high school this year and a second son still completing high school and active with football, soccer, wrestling, etc.) is the primary demand that is causing her to serve as a volunteer next year instead of a board member. We just wanted to thank you, Marian, and let you know you are a great PSMS member and a delight to have around!

Election Candidates: A big thank you goes out to this year's election candidates, both members who have accepted nominations for a second term (David Hunt, Pacita Roberts, and Ramona Owen, who is leaving the board to run for PSMS Secretary) and members who are running for the first time. Your willingness to serve is a great benefit to our group!

Upcoming Events

On February 19–23, PSMS will again have an educational booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. One of our new members, Maurie Kirschner, is chairing this activity, and we are delighted with her bold nature. (She's never been to the flower show before!) More experienced members Lynne Elwell, Colleen Compton, and Haryana Chilstrom have agreed to help out. There may still be space to volunteer for manning the PSMS booth. Call Lynne Elwell at (425) 885-5580 to check.

In March we'll celebrate surviving another year, with the 39th Annual Survivor's Banquet. Our returning chairs for this event are Ramona Owen and Marian Maxwell. They did a lovely job last year and have come up with some exciting new ideas for this

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Spore Prints

is published monthly, September through June by the

PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Center for Urban Horticulture, Box 354115
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195
(206) 522-6031 <http://www.psms.org>

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Brandon Matheny, Secretary

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Colin Meyer, Ramona Owen,
Pacita Roberts, Emily Routledge,
John Thomas, Bernice Velategui,
Joanne Young (Immed. Past Pres.)

ALTERNATES: Jennifer Cochrane

SCI. ADVISOR: Dr. Joseph F. Ammirati

EDITOR: Agnes A. Sieger, 271 Harmony Lane,
Port Angeles, WA 98362
sieger@att.net

Annual dues \$25; full-time students \$15

CALENDAR

- Feb. 11 Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
Feb. 17 PSMS Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
Feb. 18 *Spore Prints* deadline
Feb. 19–23 Flower and Garden show
Mar. 15 Annual Meeting and Survivor's Banquet, 6:30 PM, CUH

BOARD NEWS

Brandon Matheny

Colin Meyer will continue to organize PSMS identification classes. A spring foray is in the works. Dr. Ammirati has agreed to train up to 15 members in identification starting this spring. Publication of the PSMS newsletter was seamless upon switching printers. A committee is looking into several alternative sites for the 40th annual wild mushroom exhibit. Nominations have been made for vice-president, secretary, and board positions. Several opportunities exist for outreach at various shows, expositions, and discussion groups.

PSMS E-MAIL LIST

Colin Meyer

Just a reminder that PSMS has an e-mail list that may be used to communicate with other members about field trips, mushroom identification, or other PSMS-related topics. To join, send a blank message to psms-members-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To send a message to the list, sent it to psms-members@yahoogroups.com. There is another list, specifically for sharing mushroom photos with other members. To use it, replace "psms-members" with "psms-photos" in the above addresses.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, February 11, at 7:30 PM at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

February's speaker will be Steve Trudell. Steve will present a photographic presentation of mycorrhizal and other mushrooms with musical accompaniment. Steve is a graduate student in forestry at the University of Washington, a devoted member of NAMA, and a great teacher. Please join us for this special treat!

If your name ends with the letters A–M, please bring a treat to share. We will also present some details about the upcoming Survivor's Banquet in March.

DR. AMMIRATI TO GIVE CLASSES FOR IDENTIFIERS

Patrice Benson

Dr Joseph Ammirati, our scientific advisor and a professor of mycology at the University of Washington, has generously proposed to help train amateur mycologists in the identification of mushrooms. There is a severe need in PSMS to increase the number of people who can be called upon to ID at field trips, forays, and mushroom shows and for the Poison Control Center. A lot of our most learned people are getting older and cannot volunteer for much longer. We need to think of our future needs in this area.

This is a rare opportunity and space is limited. To reserve your place, please call Patrice Benson as soon as possible at (206) 722-0691 or reply by e-mail to patrice.benson@attbi.com. An introductory meeting will be held from 7–9 PM on March 31 in Room 401c at Johnson Hall at the UW. *Persons of any skill level may participate*, from beginner to advanced.

These spring classes will be a prelude to serious a study of mushroom identifying beginning in the fall of 2003. Students for the fall classes will be selected based on their commitment to the spring intro classes.

President's Message, cont from page 1

year's program. This is designated our Annual Meeting where we announce the election results and present the Golden Mushroom Award to one extraordinary volunteer. You will be delighted with the board's choice this year—but I'm not saying another word about it! The banquet will be held at our regular location at CUH but on a different night. The date is Saturday, March 15. Space will be limited to room capacity, so be sure see Marian Maxwell or Ramona Owen to sign up in advance. Remember there will be no Tuesday meeting in March.

One note for the folks who have asked me about this. Next year we plan to return to our more "formal" Survivor's Banquet at an outside venue. We have truly enjoyed the wonderful casual elegance of our less formal potlucks. But next year, we'll be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our organization, so it will be a big party!

DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES

If you haven't renewed your PSMS dues yet, please remember to send them in to Membership Chair Bernice Valetgui, 2929 - 76th Ave. SE #504, Mercer Island, WA 98040, as soon as possible.

This year we are voting for a Vice-President, Secretary, and five Trustees. Please read the following profiles carefully and mark your choice on the enclosed ballot. Return your ballot to "PSMS Election," c/o Ramona Owen, 7743 - 33rd Ave. NW, Seattle, WA 98117. A ballot box will also be available at the February meeting. Each family membership is entitled to two votes, and each individual membership to one vote. Ballots received after March 8 will not be counted.



Patrice Benson *Vice-President*

A member of PSMS for 25 years, I have enjoyed my involvement with PSMS in many different ways I've served as Vice-President for the past year and find it one of the most enjoyable jobs in our society. I enjoy enlisting speakers and hosting them, too! I would like to continue serving in this capacity for another term.

Secretary **Ramona Owen**

I've been a PSMS member since 1988. Three years ago I volunteered to do the *Spore Prints* mailing, then became a board trustee—a great collaborative and learning experience! I am running for PSMS Secretary, work I've previously done for a Seattle school enrichment program and at meetings held at counseling agencies I've worked for.



Trustees

Alissa Allen

I joined PSMS 4 years ago. I have hosted and ID'd at field trips and meetings, helped with classes, and arranged trays at the annual exhibit. My mycological interests are varied, from the edibility, toxicity, and medicinal qualities of mushrooms to using them for dyeing wool. I would love to serve on the PSMS board.



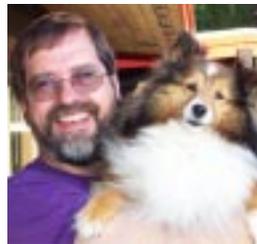
Pacita Roberts

As a longtime member of the society (since 1983), I've had the privilege of meeting many fantastic people, and have enjoyed their camaraderie in the many aspects of mycological pursuits. A current board member, I now hope to continue to contribute to the Society.



Tony Tschanz

This is my 2nd year with PSMS, and I'm enthusiastic to serve and help wherever I can. I grew up in Switzerland and hunted mushrooms with my dad. I earned a Ph.D. in Canada (15 yrs. college). Recently retired as a partner designing high-rises and stadiums internationally, I now have time to contribute to PSMS as much as I can.



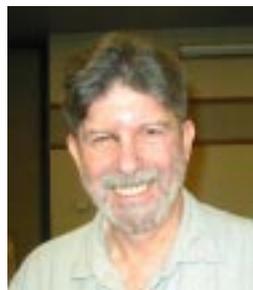
Maurie Kirschner

Mycology is an addictive hobby! I'm always looking to learn more and find ways to share those things that I have learned. Serving on the board would make that all the more possible. I hope to be able to share my enthusiasm with all the great people of PSMS.



David Houston Hunt

The current PSMS board is made up of many very talented, hard-working, and dedicated members. During the past two years I have done my best to bring it into balance. If re-elected to another two-year term, I will continue to do so.



Donna Palomaki

I read books on mushrooms, grow them from Paul Stamets kits, forage for them in markets, cook, and eat them. I'm eager to learn to ID them in the wild. A recovering academic and book junkie, I helped sell books at the 2002 fall show, and I've been helping Trina with the book table ever since. I'm glad to help this wonderful club prosper.



Elizabeth Lisaius

No statement



BEN WOO GRANTS

Patrice Benson

The Puget Sound Mycological Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization chartered in 1964. In 2002, PSMS established a small grant program in honor of its first president, Benjamin Woo. Ben has personified our mission to foster the understanding of mycology as a science and a hobby and to assist related institutions in these purposes. As an organization of volunteer amateur mycologists, PSMS wishes to fund the projects of enthusiasts who need financial assistance to reach their goal related to the study of mycology. Specifics of the grants are as follow:

- Grants will be awarded for small amounts up to \$2000 each calendar year.
- Applications will be due July 1 and December 1.
- Grants will be allocated for projects, studies, equipment, and educational events related to mycology.
- Members of the Puget Sound Mycological Society and educators shall be given preference for the grants.
- Recipients may be requested to present a report or program about the project.

If interested, log on to www.psms.org to download an application form and guidelines. Or e-mail or phone Patrice Benson at patrice.benson@attbi.com or (206) 722-0691.

SURVIVOR'S BANQUET

Marian Maxwell
and Ramona Owen

Well, folks, we've made it again to another fun banquet time! Saturday, March 15, 2003, is the date, and the doors will open at 6:30 PM. This year the potluck theme will be "Foods from Different Countries," so dig out grandma's or uncle's recipe from the old country or find one from an exotic culture and delight us with your dish! Please remember to add a label with country name and the ingredients (for those with allergies).

We ask that those whose last names begin with the letters A-H to bring a dessert, I-R to bring the appetizers/veggies/salads, and

S-Z to bring a main entree. PSMS will provide plates, utensils, cups, punch, coffee, and tea. There will be a permit for alcohol.

Again, we need to have each person send in their fee of \$5.00 to cover incidentals and get their name on the reservation list. Remember, we are limited to 150 people, so get your name/fee in early! Make checks payable to PSMS and please mail to Marian Maxwell, 14269 - 145th Place SE, Renton, WA 98059. You can also make reservations with Marian or Ramona Owen at the February meeting.

The entertainment for the evening will be a collaborative activity. We are all invited to participate in a hat show and a tie/scarf show. So don a creation with a fungal/nature theme and win a prize in either category! We are also opening the floor/microphone to those who can share a poem, song, limerick, or story connected to what we love to do in this great club. For this we need to schedule participants, so contact Ramona Owen (206) 985-7070 with your idea.

People wishing to help with decorations, setup, or cleanup are asked to contact the co-chairs, Marian Maxwell (425) 235-8557 or Ramona Owen.

We're looking forward to great company, yummy food, and good fun!

McGee, MS



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Puget Sound Mycological Society
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Box 354115, University of Washington
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