

SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 393 June 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Karin Mendell

We are at the end of another great spring PSMS season!

I want to send a hearty thanks to every one of our members who have worked so hard to provide the great activities we've enjoyed this year!

A special thanks to our field trip host coordinator this year, Marianne Sakamoto (and you too, Ben; we know you helped). Thanks to all our great field trip hosts, especially Val and Ross Othus, who for the last two seasons have hosted more than one field trip each season. Your hospitality and generosity have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated. Thanks to Brian Luther and Hildegard Hendrickson, who again coordinated all of the identifiers for our field trips. Another successful season!

A special and heartfelt thank you to Dr. Joe Ammirati and his teaching assistants Dennis Oliver and Dr. Michelle Seidl for our spring classes. Thanks to Patrice Benson for organizing the classes and students. We've heard so many enthusiastic and positive comments about the classes! We hope that many of these fortunate students will, in time, begin to offer their services as identifiers in the future, to help us continue with our great traditions.

We've also had to say "good-bye and farewell" to several beloved members of our organization. Recently we lost Millie Kleinman, Elsie Burkman, and Irene O'Connor Berg. Earlier in the year, Carl Hermanson passed away. They had all contributed much to this organization and they will be truly missed.

We are also saying farewell to Brandon Matheny, who is beginning a post-doc teaching position on the East Coast this Fall. We will miss Brandon and wish him and Stephanie all the best. Come to the June meeting for a last opportunity to shake his hand and send him off with your good wishes!

Thanks again to all our members who make all of our activities so fun and successful by adding their participation. Have a great summer everyone!

PSMS SUMMER PICNIC JULY 19

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

When: Saturday, July 19, 2002

Hosts: Tony Tschanz and David Hunt

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

The shelter is reserved from 11:00 AM to dusk (when the park closes). Early birds can come and share coffee/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 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, charcoal, and lighter 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?).



FAREWELL

ELSIE BURKMAN

by Patrice Benson

Elsie Burkman passed away on May 14, 2003. One of the charter members of PSMS, Elsie was best known for her paintings using, as her medium, mushroom ink. Her work was featured on the 1999 PSMS poster. She exhibited in galleries such as the Seattle Art Museum and the Frye Museum as well as many other galleries in Washington and Alaska since 1964. Some of her many works will be on display at the June meeting, and some of her collection will be for sale, both water colors and mushroom ink paintings. If you own an Elsie painting and would care to display it at the June meeting, come a little early and join the rest of us who will be hanging some of her work. We will miss her smile and cackle, as well as her enthusiasm for life and the natural world.

THE LADY OF THE LAKE — IRENE O'CONNOR BERG by Marian Maxwell

Irene O'Connor Berg, artist, mycologist, author, botanist, and teacher, died April 30, 2003. She was 89. Irene lived in Amanda Park at Lake Quinault since 1946, when she moved there with her husband, Bill O'Connor. They owned and operated the Lochareie, a group of cabins on the lake, from 1946 to 1984. Bill and Irene hosted many mycologists from around the country there. Many local mycologists, including Dr. Stuntz and Brian Luther, spent time at Lochareie studying rainforest fungi.

Bill and Irene were founding members of PSMS. Irene designed our PSMS logo and the bumper stickers. Bill and Irene donated matsutake annually to the Keiro Japanese nursing

cont. on page 3

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>

User name: Password:

OFFICERS:	Karin Mendell, President Patrice Benson, Vice President John Goldman, Treasurer Ramona Owen, Secretary
TRUSTEES:	Alissa Allen, David Hunt, Cathy & Don Lennebacker, Donna Palomaki, Pacita Roberts, Emily Routledge, John Thomas, Tony Tschanz, Bernice Velategui, Joanne Young (Immed. Past Pres.)
ALTERNATES:	Elizabeth Lisaius
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

June 7	Field Trip, Swauk Creek
June 10	Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
June 16	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Board Room
Aug 18	Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Board Room
Aug 19	<i>Spore Prints</i> Deadline
Sept 9	Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
Oct. 18–19	Annual Wild Mushroom Exhibit, Magnuson Park

BOARD NEWS

Ramona Owen

The spring foray at Circle 8 Ranch was a success. PSMS taxes have been filed and our US Bank CD rolled over. The practicality of members choosing to get an annual pass to state parks for field trips was discussed. A web designer and a graphics artist need to be found to enhance our PSMS website and to develop the Annual Exhibit poster. A fall foray is planned with a list of possible lecturers to be contacted and different workshops to be considered. The Annual Exhibit is again scheduled for Magnuson Park, and most committee chairs have been confirmed. Requests continue to come in from the Pacific NW community for PSMS to participate in events as fungi educators and culinary experts. The expectations of new and some longtime members regarding collecting guidance on field trips requires clarification. Dr. Ammirati's identification classes were successful. An upcoming program to honor Dr. Stuntz is being organized. A summer picnic is planned for July 19.



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, June 10, 2003, at 7:30 PM at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

Stuntz Celebration. This June, we will be honoring the memory of Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz. One of his last students, Dr. Susan Libonati of the Burke Museum, will recall his life in photos and stories. Susan invites all to reminisce and promises to share her position of speaker. I'm told that Dr. Ammirati will help out with the memories. Dr. Stuntz was a founder of the Puget Sound Mycological Society and a professor of mycology at the UW for 40 years. A gourmet as well as a bibliophile, he provided free food and libations for all his classes. It is fitting that we will be selling books and enjoying good finger foods—which you are all requested to bring to bring to share at this special meeting. Wine and other beverages will be provided to toast his memory. So put on your finest party hat or attire, bring a fancy hors d'oeuvre, and be prepared to celebrate.

Recognition of Brandon Matheny. Dr. Stuntz left a legacy of learning and fun, reflected in his associate's and student's students. The latest in this long line of beneficiaries is PSMS's own Brandon Matheny, who is completing his tenure as a graduate student in mycology at the UW this June. We will toast his achievement as well as recognize his study topic, the genus *Inocybe*, as one dear to Dr. Stuntz. The study of *Inocybe* means much only to a mycologist, but it will add to the body of mycological knowledge which we all share.

Elsie Burkman Artwork. This meeting will be your last chance to purchase an original Elsie Burkman mushroom painting or water color. So bring your checkbook as well as your plate.

2004 NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

If PSMS is to participate in next year's (2004) Northwest Flower & Garden Show, a leader will need to step forward, immediately. The same crew has led this effort for the past several years, and they are pretty much worn out! In addition, there have been regular discussions at our Board meetings each year as to whether or not this activity is really the best venue for us to share mycology as an educational exhibit.

The deadline for paying the entrance fee (of \$150) is June 18. That gives everyone a few weeks to consider whether or not they would like to lead this activity.

All the information for the past two years has been saved and will be available to pass on to a new committee chair, if someone wants to take the reins.

Please phone Karin Mendell at (425) 868-7918, if you are interested.

HOW TO GET ONE OF THOSE COOL NAME TAGS FOR YOURSELF

Karin Mendell

Have you ever wondered where some members get those clever red name tags? You can order yours from Bernice Velategui at the Membership desk in the back of the meeting hall at every monthly membership meeting. The cost is \$3.00, and it's a wonderful way to help veteran members learn the names of our newer members!

Bernice reminds everyone that she has a dozen nametags that haven't been picked up. *If any of them might belong to you, see Bernice at the June meeting.*

29 PINES FIELD TRIP

Brian Luther

Approximately 65 people signed in May 10 for this traditional morel hunting field trip up the beautiful Teanaway River valley. By the time my daughter and I arrived around 10:00 AM, most people were already out hunting. It was the driest that I've ever seen it at this location and time of year, with only a fraction of the morels being found compared to an average year there. A couple of collections of maybe twenty morels were found, but by and large most people found only a few, if that, and they were much smaller than normal.

The weather looked promising on Saturday, but about an hour before potluck we had a cloudburst, which lasted for a while. Special thanks to our terrific hosts, Ross and Val Othus, for being the welcoming committee and providing goodies and coffee. They had the awning of their RV extended, and many of us were able to take refuge from the downpour under it. Our President, Karin Mendell, stopped in briefly, and we were also delighted to see charter member Joy Spurr for a while. My daughter, Arnica, set up on one of the picnic tables and painted some of the mushrooms that came in.

Fifty species of fungi were displayed and labeled, but most were just specimens. Concerning edibles, several nice collections of oyster mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus* and the related *P. dryinus*) came in along with a few large clumps of *Ramaria rasilispora* as well as miscellaneous Deer Mushrooms (*Pluteus cervinus*). Hildegard Hendrickson gets the prize for the most "oohs and aahs" when she arrived with two good sized *Boletus edulis* in perfect condition. She informed us that both had to be dug out of the ground under one of her favorite and secret bolete trees. In the next issue of *Spore Prints* she will be giving us detailed instructions (with a map) on where they were found, including GPS coordinates (in your dreams!). Larry Baxter and Josh Birkebak did a great job assisting with identification and helping people with their collections.

The potluck was remarkable, with a larger than average number staying for dinner and likewise a wonderful selection of food. After searching (mostly in vain) all day, everybody enjoyed finding an abundant meal spread out, even though our quest of the day was not abundant.



John Floberg

Morel baby Shale Ferdana

Oyster lady (Mai Moon?)



Tony Tschanz

CIRCLE 8 RANCH

Karin Mendell

All of the PSMS Spring Foray participants loved the new location at Circle 8 Ranch.

Ranch owners Olga and Otto Staheli asked that we let PSMS members know that they are more than welcome to come out this summer for camping adventures. Rob Williams, property caretaker, was a helpful and pleasant presence throughout our whole weekend. He also lead a small group out to search the hills for morels (and we really want to thank him again for helping several folks find their first ever morels). Rob asked us to let our folks know that the smaller A-frames are frequently available through the summer and that campsites are always available.

A-Frames or campsites may be reserved by calling Rob Williams at (509) 656-2353.

Thanks again, Olga, Otto, and Rob for the beautiful location and a wonderful weekend mushrooming adventure!

Farewell, cont. from page 1

home. In many a dry year, they provided the only matsutake and *Albatrellus fletii* for the PSMS annual exhibit. Irene received numerous awards throughout her life for her participation in teaching the community about gardening, plant identification, mushrooming identification and gathering, and the ecology of the rainforest. She illustrated and authored *An Introduction to the Quinault Rain Forest* as well as many of the trail guides in the rainforest area. After Bill died in 1985, Irene worked to get Bill's favorite mushroom hunting spot, "Bill's Bog," designated a National Mushroom Preserve. This is the only mushroom preserve in the US. In 1994, Irene married Whitey Berg. Many of you remember meeting them at the fall forays at Lake Quinault. Irene was fortunate to have two wonderful husbands, a testament to the wonderful person she was.

With her passing, we have lost a treasure, but much that she worked for and watched over remains with us. I and many others whose life she touched will miss her incredibly sharp wit, her piercing blue eyes, and her kindness. To Whitey and her family, we extend condolences. Irene, thank you for sharing yourself with us. You were the Lady of the Lake, and we bid you farewell. May heaven hold for you that which you had at Lake Quinault and more—loved ones, good friends, beauty that surrounds you, and, of course, those wonderful mushrooms!

MILLIE KLEINMAN

by Irwin Kleinman

Ludmilla H. Kleinman (Millie) was born in 1929 in Bromberg, Austria. She eventually moved to Pellendorf, a suburb of Vienna, but spent the summers in the rolling hills of Bromberg with her grandmother. At about noon her grandmother would depart the fields through the woods, where she picked mushrooms (mostly *Boletus edulis*), which were chucked into the soup at the last minute. Millie became an expert on the mushrooms she learned at her grandmother's kitchen.

We married in 1947 after WW II, but didn't start visiting the family farm in Bromberg until the 1980s. Along with Millie's youngest brother, we would spend several days in the surrounding woods, picking *B. edulis*, chanterelles, *Lepiota procera*, and *Herichium repandum*. The woods were covered with a black/grayish growth, which we discovered to be *Craterellus cornucopioides*. They had never been picked, because the name in German is "Trumpet of Death." We taught the locals that they were not only good, but second only to truffles.

When we moved to Washington, we did lot of scouting and found our fair share. We helped many a novice fill their baskets, and most of the people we went hunting with knew our secret places. Millie died May 4 and is now picking her share in the Elysian Fields, where I will join her when my time comes.

PSMS SPRING FORAY Karin Mendell & David Hunt

We all had a terrific time at the Circle 8 foray May 16–18. Special thanks to all the fantastic PSMS participants who made it the great weekend it was.

Steve Trudell’s classes in “Learning to Really Look at Mushrooms (Before Grabbing the Keys)” proved to be excellent. His slide shows Friday and Saturday nights were equally delightful. Many grateful thanks to Steve for his time, energy, and patience.

Nearly everyone attending the foray found “some” morels. Some found quite a few. That’s saying quite a bit, considering we had 41 in attendance, not counting Joanne Young, Hildegard Hendrickson, and Patrice Benson, who dropped by to lead collecting walks. Thanks so much, ladies. Also a big thanks to Sean Chenoweth and Russ Kurtz, foray attendees who also led collectors out.

We were all mesmerized by Dave Hunt’s amazing culinary skills—and consequently felt it necessary to eat like little piggies. Some of the delightful menu items were wild mushroom tarts topped with crème fresh (stuffing made of morels, boletes, asparagus, and peccerino cheese), six loaves of homemade tomato/basil focaccias, and a 2000-year old Roman recipe for olive bread. Additional highlights of the Saturday dinner were Squanto’s own mosswetussit clam chowder and djaj mhammar (mildly spiced Lebanese chicken) served on Israeli couscous and Boston coleslaw. The baklava for dessert was delicious. This is not to mention the wild blueberry pancakes and yummy French toast for breakfast. Dave has agreed to share all his recipes on the PSMS member Web list.

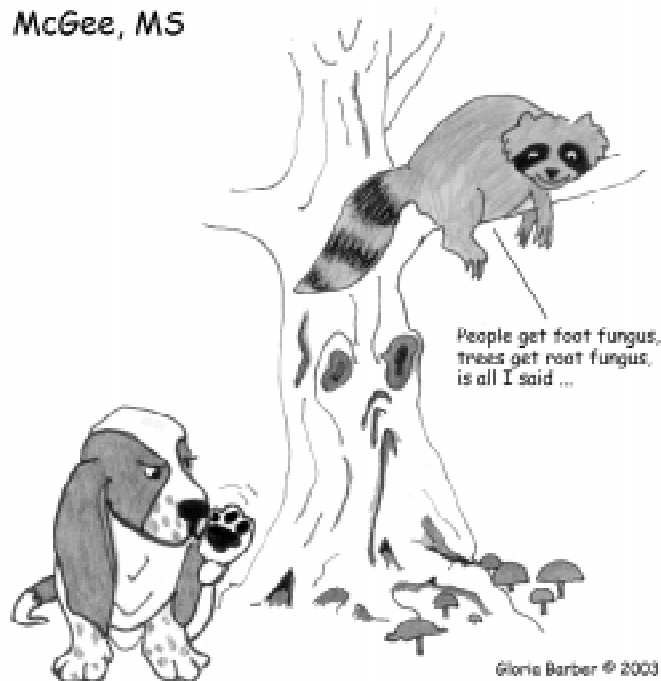
Though we actually had snow and very cold temperatures throughout the weekend, all the morels found were in excellent shape. Maybe that’s because they were found in sheltered areas, but many sitting right out in the open were quite fine as well. We pretty much cleaned out the Circle 8 area, but there should still be some

to be found in eastern WA. The dryness probably will become a problem, much more so than the cold snap, since the temperatures are rising during the day.

Look for the little beauties along creeks, lakes, and rivers, especially in older cottonwood stands, where duff is rich on the ground. In densely wooded areas, a good clue is to look for vine maples, Morels seem to have an affinity for them. There should still be morels to be found for a couple of weeks or so at those lower elevations.

Thanks, again, to everyone who helped to make the Spring Foray such a success! Have a good spring and happy hunting!

McGee, MS



That’s it until September. See you then.



Puget Sound Mycological Society
Center for Urban Horticulture
Box 354115, University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT NO. 6545