

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
200 Second Avenue North Seattle WA 98109
May, 1973 Number 92



Christiaan Hendrik Persoon preceded the Swedish botanist Elias Fries with his Synopsis Methodica Fungorum (1801), a great contribution to mycological science which has been the starting point work for the nomenclature of several major groups of fungi. In other words, Persoon and Fries did for fungi what Linnaeus before them had established for the Plantarum--a system of two name classification which enables you and me, with the assistance of our revered authority, Dr. Stuntz, to sometimes identify a species within the generic family.

A companion volume of hand-colored plates was also prepared by Persoon to illustrate some of the less common species described in the Synopsis, and titled, Icones Pictae Specierum Rariorum Fungorum of which the University of Washington library has an 1803-06 edition. This title means, in effect, pictured likenesses of rare species of fungi, and should be a rare treat for the interested mycologist.

Persoon was born at the Cape of Good Hope to Dutch parents about 1761. His mother, who died shortly after Christiaan's birth, came from a well-to-do Dutch farmer family, but his inheritance was embezzled by the Orphan Chamber to which he had been consigned after the death of his father; and the young man was destined to go through life with neither love nor money. At about the age of fifteen he left the Cape for Europe, never to return. He attended school in Germany, studying theology at Halle and later medicine at Leiden, finally obtaining his doctorate in botany at Erlangen where he specialized in cryptogamy (study of plants without seeds). Among these, his special pets were puffballs.

Young Persoon settled down to his life's work as a recluse in a mean street on a sixth floor apartment in Paris, claiming that he chose the study of fungi because it could be done alone, in a room. He preferred using a hand lens in his painstaking studies, and was able to make accurate descriptions of specimens which are still available for study. His only support was from his publications and an annuity given by the Rijksherbarium in the Netherlands, to which he gave his collections and his library. Persoonia (1959), a mycological journal, was published as a result of efforts of a group of amateur mycologists (like us) in cooperation with the Rijksherbarium.

Poverty followed the scientist to his grave, but the eccentric man had saved some money "hidden in a little chest" for the purchase of a grave and the erection of a tombstone (1831) which is slowly crumbling with the years, words fading, and letters becoming obliterated.

by Mary Bonamy

membership meeting

Monday, May 14, 8:00 pm, Eames Theatre, Pacific Science Center.

Read all about it: A DOUBLE BILL, ladies and gentlemen! Featuring our very own Jennie Schmitt speaking on Cooking the Wild Mushroom. Find out what to do with all those dee-lectable morsels you've been gathering. Free-serving the wild mushroom will also be touched upon. Greatly sought after secrets will be disclosed. Don't miss!
ALSO: Morrie Gatcomb with SLIDES and a talk on our current quarry Morchella. This is the time to dicoverery everything. Don't miss this devastating duo of mycological majesty!

NOTES: If you don't see your contribution in this month's Bulletin, it isn't (necessarily) discrimination. There just wasn't room. The Mystery Mushroom is on vacation this month.

NEW, NEW, ALL NEW BIG WIGS

The following named members have been elected as officers and board members in the recent PSMS election.

Pres. Howard Melsen	V. Pres. Phil Roger
Treas. Helen Wasson	Secretary. Doris Paduano

Board

Jim Bennett	John Orth
Beverly Bourgeois	Dee Poole
Scott Chilton	Henry Regeth
Roth Kinney	David Spath
Ed Nicholas	Fred Wasson

Alternates

Dorothy Conway Everett Peavey Bill Pollard

Only about half of the membership voted. 539 ballots were mailed out to members; 248 marked ballots were returned.

Vic Nendza, Chrm. Election Comm.

BOARD NOTES: NOUVEAU VAGUE

Keep this list for future reference. By the bye, if you aren't getting your Sporeprints, the person to call is Virginia Kessner (if you are paid up and all that). Keep that for reference too.

Standing Committees

Publications. . . Irene Nelsen
Educational Material. . . John (Jack) Orth
Mailing. . . Virginia Kessner
Books. . . Fred Wasson
Bulletin. . . Auriel Harris
Meeting Programs. . . Phil Roger
Photography. . . Joy Spurr
Membership. . . Jennie Schmitt
Annual Exhibit. . . Ed Nicholas(Chr), Jim Bennett (Co-Chr.)

Publicity. . . Harley Perkins
Arts & Crafts. . . Elsie Gatcomb
Education. . . Milton Grout
Banquet. . . Roth Kinney
House. . . Beverly Bourgeois
Field Trips. . . Martin Hansen
Historian-Librarian. . . Scott Chilton (with Dina Chybinski continuing to keep track of mushrooms found)



SPORE PRINTS is published monthly except July and August by the PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY, c/o The Pacific Science Center, 200 - 2nd Ave N., Seattle, Washington 98109. Mail copy, art, or photos to (Ms.) Auriel Harris, Editor, 4029 E. Madison, Seattle, Washington 98102.

OFFICERS Howard Melsen President
Phil Roger Vice Pres
Helen Wasson Treasurer
Doris Paduano Secretary

TRUSTEES Jim Bennett, Beverly Bourgeois, Scott Chilton, Roth Kinney, Ed Nicholas, John Orth, Dee Poole, Henry Regeth, David Spath, Fred Wasson, And Robert W. Ramsey (Immediate Past President)

ALTERNATES Dorothy Conway, Everett Peavey, and Bill Pollard

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

CALENDAR

May 10 If you aren't going to the meeting but are going to Ostrom's, send in your reservation.

May 12/13 Crystal Springs Field Trip

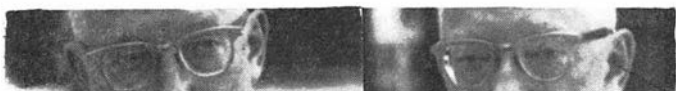
May 14 Monday 8:00 pm Membership meeting

May 20 Sunday Ostrom Tour (see Field Trips)

May 21 Monday 8:00 pm Board meeting

May 25 Friday Sporeprints deadline or die: 4029 E. Madison, Seattle WA 98102

May 26, 27, 28 Clear Lake Field Trip



MUSHROOMS

Now that I have your attention. . . I was the recipient of a PSMS scholarship at our last Survivors' Banquet and wish to sincerely thank all members for this honor. Thank you. This scholarship will be put to good use for I am currently a 3rd year student of Botany at the U. of W. and have a very special interest in fungi and PSMS.
Brian Luther

WANTED

For the PSMS photo file, 35 mm color slides of the following species: Lepiota barssi, Tricholomopsis rutilans, Clitocybe nebularis, Lactarius sanguifluus, Marasmius scorodonioides, Entoloma (Rhodophyllum) lividum. Either an original or a copy will be appreciated. Send to Joy Spurr, Photo File Chairman.

PSMS MOREL COMMITTEE REPORT

For those who missed the last general meeting and for those who were not paying attention: The Morel Committee would like to thank ALL you people who collected morels for us in 1972. You were a great help. 62 true morels were contributed.

Each morel turned in to us was issued a serial number, photographed, and studied microscopically. This information with that from the bag was added to its record. Julie Smith, one of our young members now studying in Germany, worked many, many hours running chemical tests and doing microscopic work. Very little is known about our local Morechella, but we shall continue to collect and study for several more years. From this we hope to draw some firm conclusions and perhaps publish something about our Morechella of the Pacific Northwest.

BUT in the meantime we need more morels. That is where you come in. All we ask is that when you find a morel patch, take one of your precious finds, pop it in a bag, and donate it to our committee for scientific study. We assure you we do NOT eat them. True Morels only--no Verpas.

You need: A pencil, a paper sack (no plastic), a piece of white paper approx. 5 1/2 x 8", and (optional) a wax sandwich bag.

Upon finding a morel (no Verpas): Mark the bag with your name, phone number, date found, locality, (and elevation if possible), and the environment (e.g. under pine, edge of forest, dense undergrowth, open area, whatever). Please list ALL of these or you will have collected for nothing.

Then: Place the white paper in the bag (Don't write on this; it's for the spores.) Carefully remove the morel from the ground with stem attached. Don't cut it. Shake free any soil and place morel on white paper in sack. Pick a small twig or leaf from directly overhead tree or foliage, and place in sack with morel. Optional: a small soil sample the morel was growing in may be put in a separate container and then added to the bag.

DO NOT put more than ONE morel in each sack.

Deliver the morel to Joy Spurr who will have a box for your bag at her front door. Don't even bother to knock. She checks it all the time. Or to Dr. Stuntz at Johnston Hall, Rm. 401, U. of Wash. Or, leave it at a field trip or meeting. Or, call one of the committee members--don't just drop by (except Joy Spurr or Dr. Stuntz). Bags and paper are available from PSMS at meetings, field trips, or call one of the committee:

No room for complete list. Call one of the following for nearest member.

Chairman Morrie Gatcomb (Edmonds) PR 8-4793
Fred & Helen Wasson (south) CH 3-6173
Jim Bennett (north) SU 4-6236

FIELD TRIPS

by Martin Hansen

May 12 & 13 Crystal Springs Forest Camp. Go 10 miles past Snoqualmie Summit on Hwy. 90 and take exit marked Stampede Pass and you're there. Watch for mushroom signs. We are going to check burns in this area. We hope to find morels and maybe gigas in the higher elevations. Check with field trip leader Emory Bronner or his son Larry, or Martin Hansen. They will hopefully be able to direct you to good mushroom hunting (???)

May 20 (By Charles Woodruff) Ostrom Mushroom Farms. The tour is limited to adults and children 12 and over. You must sign up for the tour either at the May 14 meeting or by mail prior to that meeting. Mark the envelope Attn. Field Trip Chairman. We will meet at the Farm at 12:45 pm with the tour to begin at 1:00 promptly. The tour will last about two hours.

Go south on Interstate 5. Just before Olympia (up the hill from the Nisqually flats) exit to Marvin Road, turning left to go south. Cross old 99 on Marvin Road. Continue a short distance to Stillicom Road and turn left. The Ostrom Farm is on both sides of the road within sight of this turn. Park by the white building on the south side. Walk across the Road to the growing sheds.

Those who wish may hunt mushrooms (uncultivated) at Millersylvania State Park, Maytown Junction on Interstate 5, 10 miles south of Olympia. Nothing has been arranged, but it is close to Ostrom's.

May 26, 27, Clear Lake. About 7 miles E. of & 28 White Pass on U.S. 12. Watch for mushroom signs. We hope to find B. edulis. This is a beautiful area and last year we were fortunate enough to have sunny weather and lots of mushrooms. No shelter--we'll have to try to put up plastic in case of rain.



OCTOBER SEMINAR, MARCH SYMPOSIUM

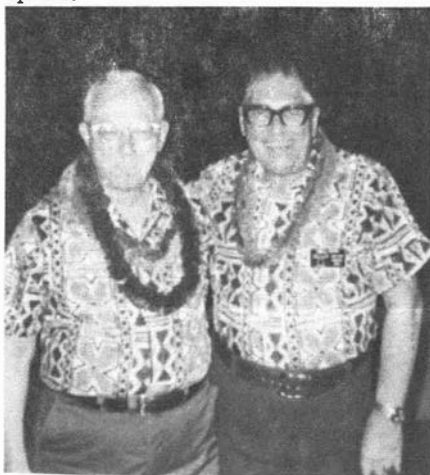
October Seminar: (Prepare—this is in untranslated Proctor-speak. Do you grok?) Saturday and Sunday during the Exhibit, 2-4 hours each day. Informal and panel discussions by representatives of new, experienced, struggling, successful, and aspiring clubs to share problems, joys, and frustrations. Tentative topics: Sat. - Community Programs and Exhibits, including tour of Exhibit floor and back rooms during slack hours. Sun. - What makes a good mushroom club? A small fee each day will cover printed materials and perhaps food.

A two-day Spring Symposium, on Banquet weekend is being considered—for more extensive discussions of what makes clubs work. Send inquiries and suggestions to Charles Proctor, Mushroom Seminar Chairman, 2540 122nd Ave. S.E., Bellevue WA 98005.

ALOHA REVISITED

The Ninth Annual Survivors' Banquet is over, but I think the evening filled with good food, fun, and fellowship will linger on for a long time in the memories of the 314 guests that attended. It was a new trend, we hope, toward a casual, fun-filled evening. As chairman, I thought we could leave the seriousness of our mycological studies aside for the one evening a year that we do celebrate the election of new officers and board for the coming year and say farewell and job-well-done to retiring members.

Big photo: Dr. Stuntz and Fred Wasson in matching mushroom shirts (by Jennie Schmitt). Microscopic photos (they were supposed to be bigger) by Joy Spurr.



**Nui
Le'ale'a!**



The food was great and made so partly by the unselfish giving of their by now dwindling store of morellas by a number of our gung ho members; thanks, peoples, you know who you are. And a special kudo to Bob and Irene O'Connor who sent me their entire supply of the elusive "Matsutake", (I can't even find any myself); we promptly used them in our main vegetable dish. It is this kind of enthusiasm that makes things easier for a banquet chairman to please a lot of people's pallets.

The entertainment of the evening was beautiful music and dancing by a colorful group called the Drums of Polynesia. They were ably assisted in a couple of dances by some of our members. The most outstanding, I believe, was the dance shared by our own Tom Imori and Russ Kurtz—They were never so cute. All kidding aside, they were real good sports.

This year we feted our poison pamphlet authors and their wives. It was a small token of our gratitude for a job well done. The highlite of the evening was the awards meted out as follows:

\$1,000.00	Science Center donation
250.00	Joan Williams scholarship
250.00	Brian Luther scholarship
500.00	Daniel E. Stuntz Scholarship fund to be given to any student(s) that Dr. Stuntz feels needs help.

Last but not least, thanks to my committee who did such a swell job, and especially to Belle Swaffield, (my co-chairman) who did all my leg work and without whose work I could not have had the successful banquet that I think it was.

Good luck to the new chairman Roth Kinney; I hope everyone will get behind him as they did me.

Thanks to one and all,
Helen M. Wasson

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Rockport Field Trip - April 7-8 - by Jennie Schmitt

The weather cooperated to the fullest. We had sunshine both days. A total of 137 people showed up to hunt for Verpa bohemica, the elusive spring mushroom. A total of 85 people were on hand for the best pot luck we ever had. I just don't know where all the food comes from; we all overate.

There was no big catch of mushrooms but, I think most people at least got a good taste though. Quite a few of our new members showed up and I hope they felt welcome; we do our best to show them the ropes.

We had 32 species on the table at last count. Vic & Dorothy Nendza & Dave & Jennie Schmitt were hosts for the meet.

Thunderbird Park Field Trip - April 21-22 - by June & Harley Perkins

FANTASTIC!!—That's the only word that fits the description. The weather was just right, the Morels were plentiful and altogether unexpected, the turnout was terrific even though it was the Easter weekend; 80 signed in for potluck which was out of this world as usual, 41 species of mushrooms identified, WHAT A WEEKEND!

Several bags of Morels sent to the Morel Committee for scientific research.

A special thanks to those that assisted: Ruby & Doug Carmichael, Shirley & Al Mattivi, Joy & Lyle McKnight.