

# SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
200 Second Avenue North      Seattle WA 98109  
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1973 DAN STUNTZ FORAY

Notes from Ben Woo

Arrived Friday noon on August 17th in the pleasant little Southern Utah town of Cedar City, alt. 5800, pop. 8946, temperature 96F, home of Southern Utah State College. Road from Seattle consisted of 1200 miles of sagebrush interrupted by the Mormon Tabernacle. A group was forming for an afternoon hunt in Cedar Breaks Monument, 20 miles east on the Markagunt Plateau, at 10,000 ft. The area was cool, pleasant alpine meadows with open forests of spruce, white fir, alpine fir and aspens. Mushrooms were just beginning, with a few *Boletus edulis*, some *Russulas*, interesting *Tricholomas* and *Agaricus* and the usual flush of unidentifiable *Corts* and *LEMs*. Some of the party experienced altitude distress but were quickly revived with liquid infusions from our cooler.

The company was filled in Friday night with the arrival of the rest of the Northwest contingent including Dr. Stuntz, Kit Scates, Fred VandeBogard, Dave Hosford and his wife Gloria. Ed Tylutki of Idaho came with his wife and 8 kids - a formidable collecting team. Groups came from Colorado and Arizona. Dr. Kent McKnight came from Beltsville, Md. Drs. Howard and Margaret Bigelow from Mass. Dr. Brent Palmer was the host, and the tree-shaded SUSC campus was the home ground.

Saturdays program called for collecting in the Kaibab Plateau in Arizona, 140 miles away and bordering on the North rim of Grand Canyon. We found a lot of mushrooms, including a large white *Boletus* of as yet undetermined species. There were *Russulas*, many *Hygrophorus*, *Leucopaxillus amarus*, *Armillaria mellea*, more *Tricholomas*, *Catharellus floccosus*-looking stuff, more *Corts* and more *LEMs*. All the other parties were having similar luck. We also took the opportunity to see Grand Canyon under threatening skies and to drive 150 miles of lightning, thunder, hail, water balls and cats and dogs back to Cedar City.

Under a pleasant blue sky Sunday morning, we led the way back up to Cedar Breaks for our Northwest group who had missed Friday's excursion. We put away some excellent collections of *Agaricus sylvaticus*-like specimens, some more underground things for Hosford and almost ran over a huge patch of shaggy-manes in the roadside gravel.

After that it was canyon-collecting for us - breathtaking views of Cedar Breaks, Bryce Canyon and Zion Canyon. Drove to the top of Brian Head, at 11,315 ft the high point of our trip. Southern Utah is good roads, friendly people, few gas stations, lousy food.

## FIELD TRIPS

by Martin Hansen

- Sept. 15/16 Falls Creek, Lake Quinault. Bill and Irene O'Connor will set up this trip for us. Go 2 miles N.E. on County Rd. 5.
- Sept. 22/23 Soda Springs. Bumping Lake Rd. 174 5 miles south of American River Resort.
- Sept. 29/30 Crystal Springs Forest Camp. Yakima River. Take Stampede Pass exit 10 miles past Snoqualmie Summit (Hwy 90)
- Oct. 6/7/8 Dalles Forest Camp. Naches Highway, 25 miles S.E. of Enumclaw.
- Oct. 13/14 Millersylvania. 11 miles south of Olympia off U.S. 99, or Maytown Junction on Interstate 5.

We are expecting the best pot lucks ever.



Photos of Crystal Springs Field Trip, May 12, 1973, by Roger and Joy Spurr.



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SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

#### CALENDAR

- Sept. 10 Monday 8:00 pm Membership meeting
- Sept. 15/16 Falls Creek Field Trip
- Sept. 17 Monday 8:00 pm Board meeting
- Sept. 21 Deadline for news for Sporeprints. You'd better get that news in to: PMSM, 4029 E. Madison, Seattle 98102
- Sept. 22/23 Soda Springs Field Trip
- Sept. 29/30 Crystal Springs Field Trip
- Oct. 6/7/8 Dalles Field Trip
- Oct. 8 Monday 8:00 pm Membership meeting
- Oct. 20/21 The Tenth Annual Mushroom Exhibit

And I rebel equally against the cultivated mushroom, that insipid creature born of darkness and hatched by damp. I've had enough of seeing it chopped up into fragments and swimming around in sauces which it merely dilutes; I forbid it to seek precedence over the agaric, I insist that it annul herewith its marriage with the truffle, and I hereby show them—the mushroom and its worthy companion sold in tins—my kitchen door!

Colette Prisons et paradis

# membership meeting

Monday, September 10, 8:00 pm Eames Theatre, Pacific Science Center.

Two features will be presented. Jim Bennett will talk about the Annual Fall Exhibit. This is a good opportunity to see what it is all about, whether you've been involved in a PMSM Fall Exhibit before or not. Jim is Acting Chairman for the Exhibit, so he should know.

Martin Hansen, our fearless Field Trip Chairman, will be speaking on the Fall Mushrooms—just what we need to know now. We might hope that he will say a little about field trips for our new members (hint, hint). Now, at any rate, is the time to get ready for the autumn mushrooms.

#### FARMING THE SHAGGY MANE IN BELLINGHAM

This snapshot was taken April 19, 1973, and shows "just part of a patch of Shaggy-manes which started to fruit about the middle of April this year. These mushrooms were growing on/in what had been an old compost heap where they'd included lots of chicken fertilizer and shavings. Incidentally, the green plants are mustard. The owner said the mushrooms first appeared last fall. He had picked large quantities and placed stakes around the area so he wouldn't disturb the spot. He and his friends had picked several buckets-full this spring before he called me.

The patch has about doubled in size since last fall. I picked a large sackfull. They were very firm and large in size, however, we felt they did not have the flavor of the ones we usually pick in the fall. These seem rather bland. . . . Incidentally, this sack of mushrooms really impressed me as it was my birthday and my husband really didn't believe me when I told him I had picked a sack of Shaggy manes, as I'm usually after morels in April."

Mrs. Flahery, who evidently keeps good records, reported that she had picked Shaggy manes in her area on June 26, 1971, and that a friend had picked a large dishpan full on July 10, 1971, a couple of days after a fresh snowfall near Williams Lake, B.C.

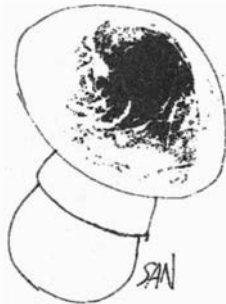
(From Maxine M. Flaherty, Bellingham, via Dina Chybinski.)



The time of the fall Mycological Exhibit, October 20-21, is fast approaching and it's a time when every member is expected to get in and dig—both for mushroom specimens and at helping in any way he or she can on one or several of the various committees. While many have already signed up, the following committees need MORE volunteers:

Construction - - Charles Kessner -needs 10 people  
Cleanup - - Don Peterson - needs 6 people  
Greenery Collection - - Paul Rule - 6 more to load and collect greenery preferably on the 18th and 19th (Thursday and Friday)  
Decoration - - Jack Orth -2 more people needed  
Specimen Collection (mushroom) -Martin Hansen (see special advert. under Mushroom Hunting)  
Arts & Crafts - - Elsie Gatcomb - 12 salespersons  
Book Sales - - Fred Wasson - needs 10 salespersons  
Hosts & Hostesses - - Virginia Peterson - 8 wanted  
Tray Arrangements - - Ed Cantelon - needs 10  
SAND for arrangement trays - 4 men are needed, one of whom could drive a for-hire truck or pull a trailer with his own pickup and be free to do so on Friday, October 19. (Or strong ladies?)  
Hospitality - - Judy Roger - needs 5 (This is nourishment, not handshaking)

Please sign up on the cards which will be put out at the next meeting or call the Chairperson of the respective committee or call Jim Bennett (SU 4-6236).



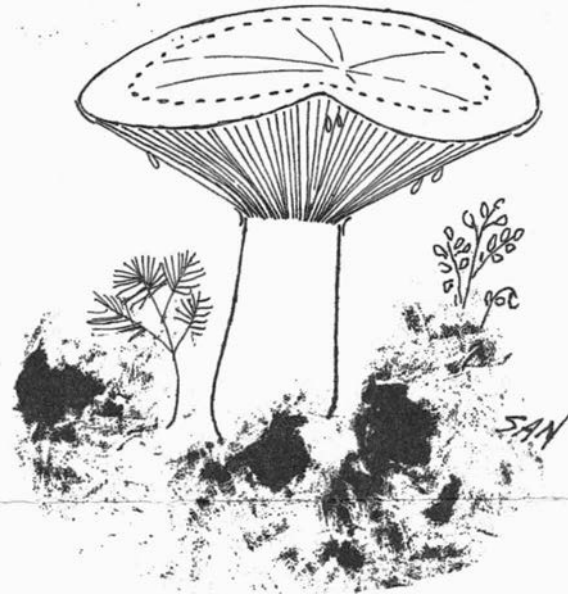
PSMS FALL CLASS TAUGHT BY MILT GROUT

The Fall Class will be held at the Eames Theatre this year. Classes will begin September 17, 1973, Monday, at 7:00 pm, and will be held all Mondays from 7 to 9:00 pm, except meeting nights, through November 19, 1973.

All common genera will be covered. The first half hour or so will be devoted to identification and description, so please come early. Much of the fun of learning is from actual specimens, so part of the course is to bring a variety of specimens with you.

We do not want to free-ride on the Science Center and therefore a tuition of \$5.00 per person will be payable to PSMS upon registration Sept 17. This fee will cover the rental of the Theatre and a new publication—a compendium of PSMS literature over the years, prepared this summer under the aegis of Jack Orth. Jack also will assist in the class.

Reserve a couple of months of Mondays this fall and participate in an enjoyable educational experience.



RETURN OF THE BOARD

PSMS has signed a contract with Pacific Search for the publication of our Mushroom Cookbook. It will have a new face and name and be sold, hopefully, country-wide. Jack Orth has assembled and edited a 27-page textbook for our classes. We now have 590 members. The Board voted \$200 to the Washington Environmental Council (to support mushroom habitats).

A bit about the WEC, quoting Connie Galvert from May, 1972: "We contribute annually to the WEC. It is the only group in the State that is attempting to coordinate the needs of environmental concern with the requirements of industry, and to keep the conversations going, rather than getting on either side of the barricade and throwing rocks at each other. Mushrooms need environment even as you and I, so we encourage WEC in their work." Brava. Chuck Woodruff is the PSMS representative to WEC. Anyone can join as a regular member, however. Call MA 3 1483 for details.

March 30 has been set for the Survivors' Banquet. The Colorado Mycological Society has published "Mushroom Poisoning in Colorado."

FIELD TRIP REPORT by Virginia Kessner

Clear Lake, May 26/27/28  
It was a pleasant if somewhat cold and windy weekend. Sixty-six people signed in—with 60 for potluck Saturday. An impromptu potluck on Monday drew 24.

More morels than boletes were gathered. A little early for the edulis; they are just beginning to show. About 40 other mushrooms were brought in by members and friends and identified by Charley Volz, Brian Luther, and Jennie Schmitt. Good fishing—just ask Howard Hanson about his 5 lb. trout.

MUSHROOM HUNTING

by Martin Hansen

We need your help. The fall mushroom season is fast approaching. Get your baskets and raingear out. We are making a plea to you members to get a day off Friday, October 19, the day before the Exhibit. We will designate places for you to hunt if you wish. We need the mushrooms at the Science Center Friday 19 or early Saturday morning. Someone will be there at the rear door to receive them. Only mushrooms in good condition need apply. Dig them up completely and keep them separate in boxes or what have you. Right side up. Please sign up at the next meeting up front if you can help. Thanks to all members who have signed up already.

MOREL ROUND-UP

by Margaret Dilly

The Morel Committee under the watchful eye and wonderful directing hand of Dr. Stuntz has been busy all summer working on our favorite fungi. The work is slow and at times tedious, but at the same time very exciting.

The Morchella that have been gathered and turned in for study this 1973 season came from a large range of area, including Sultan, Cle Elum, Teanaway, Clear Lake, Camano Island, and as far away as the Blue Mts. The largest specimens were found near Lake Sammamish. The first finds were received in late March and the last the end of June.

Joy Spurr has done an outstanding job with the photography connected with the study. Our study at present is being done from projecting these slides on a graphic screen. It is very early to report any real scientific finds. We are studying the variations in size, shape, and color; the microscopic work has not gotten under yet this summer.

So much for our progress, but again we would like to thank all of you generous people who helped provide us with specimens. We hope you will hang in there and remember us in the spring. We are still a long way from our goal, but we still have a good supply of bags.



EMBARRASSING MOMENTS OF A MUSHROOM HUNTER

This is spring mushroom time, and probably each of us knows someone who is a mushroom hunter. Some mushroom hunters are pretty avid, which means they like it. They like it so much they're likely to stop the car when they spot mushrooms as they are driving along. That was what a SIGNPOST friend did one morning last fall: he stopped at a farm when he noticed a giant puffball ("edible and choice", the book says) out in a field. At the farmhouse door he knocked and knocked. No answer. But at last a small child came to the door. Our friend explained as best he could that he wished to speak with the child's father to ask permission to enter the field. The child disappeared and was gone a considerable time. Eventually the child reappeared, accompanied by father, who had very obviously just arisen from bed. Our friend was much embarrassed by now at the trouble he was causing, but bravely repeated his request to enter the field and retrieve the mushroom he had seen growing there. The farmer observed where he pointed. "That's my kid's basketball," he snapped, and closed the door firmly.

This from the Signpost, Lynnwood, and sent by Georgia and Bob Ramsey.



Pure white and white-spored, this fungal enigma has the following characteristics:

CAP: Convex. Often indented and feathery, but not warted or scaly. The surface is soft and moist, but neither viscid nor waxy. The edges may peel, but are not inrolled.

GILLS: Neat, close, attached, but not sinuate.

STEM: Chunky and rather spongy. It does not snap like chalk. Enlarged, and possibly with fluffy remains, at base. On mature specimens little or no signs remain of the fragile universal and partial veils which quickly turn to powder and vanish.

HABIT: Fairly common, it fruits in fall on the ground near conifers.

EDIBILITY: Unknown. It should be noted that this mushroom's chief claim to fame is its resemblance to a glamorous, world-famous relative—a beautiful but deadly poisoner which has actually been found (and identified) in Washington State only three times.

Answer: Amanita silvicola (the "Woodland Amanita")—Mckenny/Stuntz, page 36. Divergent gill trama—Diagrams B—is diagnostic for Amanita. The lethal dead-ringer, rare in Washington, is the white Amanita, which DOES have free gills, a ring, and volva remains. It is so virulent that anything remotely resembling it should be avoided.

