

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington, 98109
October 1976 Number 125



LETTER FROM MC CALL (IDAHO)

Scott Chilton

Who could believe that forested lakes and meadows touched with frost lie a few miles south of the parched hills of Lewiston, Idaho? Apparently the Foray Committee of the North American Mycological Society knew when it scheduled the 16th Annual Foray at McCall and Donnelly, Idaho, on the shores of Lake Payette in the Payette National Forest. Despite a temperature of 24° F. on September 7th, the morning before the foray began, a hard frost did not penetrate the deep pine and larch forest. The 220 members of NAMA, coming from as far afield as Alaska, Texas, Florida, and Scotland, collected over 300 identified species of mushrooms in three days.

Professor Orson Miller (V.P.I.) served as official foray mycologist, but there was no lack of other professional mycologists. Among those I remember meeting were Daniel Stuntz, Fred VanDeBogart (PSMS Trustee), Ron Peterson (U.Tenn.) Ed Tylutki (U.Idaho), Harry Thiers (San Francisco State Coll.) David Farr (USDA Beltsville), Joe Ammirati (U.Toronto), and Marcia Wicklow (Boise State U.), and Kent McKnight (USDA, Beltsville).

Several seminars were held by both the Education and Toxicology Committees. Former PSMS President, Ben Woo, brought a sample of Amanita phalloides from Seattle, an area previously thought to be virtually free of that deadly mushroom. PSMS member Kit Scates received the Association's highest honor, the Award for Outstanding Service to Amateur Mycology, which includes life membership in NAMA. NAMA President Harry Knighton thanked the relatively young Southern Idaho Mycological Association, and Ellen Trueblood for hosting the foray. The next foray will be in Athens, W.Va., near Bluefield, in July 1977.

TRI-CITIES MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY FORAY, OCT. 22-24

The 3rd Tri-Cities Mycological Society Foray will again be held at Camp Wooten in the Blue Mountains. David Hosford (Central Washington State College) will be head mycologist. Lodging is provided Friday and Saturday, and three meals Saturday, and two on Sunday. Registration Fee is \$6 per person. Cost for the five meals is \$12. To register write immediately to Donna Andersen, 912 North 62nd, West Richland, Wa., 99352 (phone: 1-509-547-3657).

CALLING ALL CAMERA FANS FOR THE THIRD YEAR

Joy Spurr

By popular demand, the December membership meeting again will have a photo presentation by our members. We are not going to be concerned about nitty-picky regulations. We just want to show your slides, prints, etc. We will project 35mm color slides. If you have large prints (either black & white or color) we will find a place to hang them. If you have small prints there will be plenty of table space. There will be time for each participant to talk about his/her photos.

One little rule: put your name on your slide or print. Everyone who has pictures to show should contact Joy Spurr at the October or November membership meeting or phone her at 723-2759.

PUFFBALL STUDY CONTINUES

Bob Ramsey

Although I have combed some 250 species of Gasteromycetes out of the literature as having been reported from the Northwest, the list still needs confirmation and refinements. To avoid bogging down in this area, I have assembled some 43 species reported from the order Lycoperdales, which contains the "true" puffballs. In doing so, I have followed the lineup favored by Alexander Smith, which I realize is at variance with other authors. At any rate, if I can find any information on a few suspect reports, we'll have a key one of these days for puffballs of the Northwest.

The cards of detailed descriptions have been filled out on all but two of the 43. If anyone has information on Vascellum lloydianum or Lycoperdon spadicum, I would appreciate hearing about them. A spread chart of all the species is now being filled out to provide comparisons at a glance. Once it is complete, the key construction will begin. When it is done, I hope the results will prove simple enough that anyone will ask why I went to all the trouble. However, providing a key based on eyeball and hand lens visuality may prove more difficult than one might first imagine. You can hold up two puffballs and see that they are different but how do you describe those vital but so subtle differences? Especially, when similar subtle differences exist within the individual species!

On the last day of August, Georgia and I were at Ocean Shores, hoping to get our first look at a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a rare bird on Washington shores. It was said to prefer turf areas, such as the golf course. We did everything but play a round, but failed to attain the elusive prize. As a consolation, however, I got my first look at Vascellum depressum, a puffball comparable to a short Lycoperdon perlatum. What caught my attention was the method of opening, in which the top disintegrates. The top actually splits and curls back in stellate lobes which then disintegrate, leaving a circular crater slightly less than the full diameter of one to two inches. There were hundreds of Vascellums scattered throughout the grassy areas and perhaps thousands smashed by the mowing of the fairways. Two women were gathering those with solid white centers. It seems likely that they were reasonably edible although I only took time to gather enough for study. Although this is my first recognized contact with Vascellum depressum, it is likely that I have passed it by as a Lycoperdon perlatum in the past. Even this time, I initially took it as a variant of L. perlatum. So take a little more time when you see something different about a puffball and pass it on to me. I've got a lot to learn yet.

BITS AND PIECES

Remember the Fall Classes are still in progress. Milt Grout was quite taken when some 90+ persons showed up for the first class.

A giant puffball, 36 1/4 inches in circumference was the winner of the giant puffball contest at the Colorado Mycological Society's Mushroom Fair on August 22. Runners-up measured 21 3/4 and 19 3/4 inches respectively.

Membership Meeting

Monday, October 11, 1976, 8:00 pm, Eames Theater,
The Pacific Science Center.

Program: A special treat is awaiting us, as Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz will give a talk. At this time, however, he had not decided on his topic, and will surprise us. But everybody who has heard his previous lectures knows that they are educational, interesting and witty.

The rest of the meeting will be devoted to completing the committees and other organizational material for the Annual Exhibit.

BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

President Orth punctually called the meeting to order, and as the first order of business, the minutes of the August Board meeting were read and approved.

The Board then listened to routine committee reports. Most functions are in good hands.

Technical and general Exhibit requirements were thoroughly discussed in order to synchronize all activities. Just about every committee needs additional members, and a last appeal will be made at the October membership meeting.

The Board is concerned about the fact that the management of the Pacific Science Center, as it did numerous times last year, has notified us that we cannot use the Eames Theater for the November and December membership meetings. It seems PSMS has to move when "very important programs" are planned at the Science Center. Yet the alternate facilities, namely the Science Theater or Spacearium are not at all suitable for PSMS' purposes. What should we do?

AMANITA PHALLOIDES FOUND IN SEATTLE

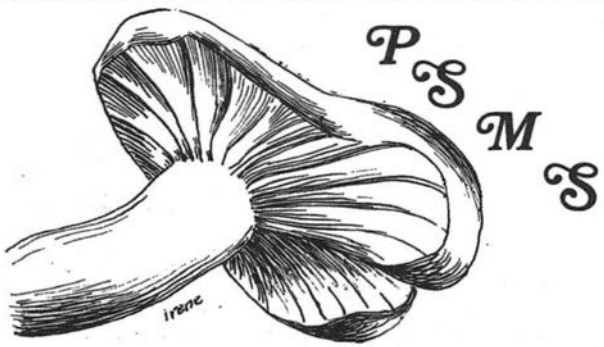
H.R.H.

Our first president, Ben Woo, last month found in a Seattle yard several specimens of Amanita phalloides, also known as the Death Cap, one of the deadliest mushrooms. Ben brought 2 specimens to our September membership meeting. He also took some to the NAMA Foray in McCall, Idaho.

Except for a single occurrence some 10 years ago, this mushroom had not been seen in Washington state. It had been assumed the Amanita phalloides had not made it further north than northern California. And we hope that this find remains a single one for many years to come.

To ensure an adequate "crop", I am told Ben watered the mushroom with a sprinkling can when it was dry, or sprinkled slug bait around it during damp weather, since the slugs just seemed to love to eat it.

An extensive article about Amanita phalloides can be found in Scientific American in the May 1975 issue. Ben also reported that A. phalloides smells like rotten potatoes. The color of the cap is olive to grey-green, streaked with radiating dark fibrils and, occasionally, with patches of the veil remaining on the cap. The gills remain white and are soft, unequal in length, wide, very close-set, and narrowing to free. The slender stem is white or yellowish. The stem is at first solid but soon becomes hollow from the top downwards. The base is thick and bulbous, well set in the ground and covered with a whitish, thick-skinned, ragged membranous sheath or volva. The ring is at first a membrane stretching from the margin of the cap to the stem. The flesh is white and soft, sometimes with greenish-yellow streaks under the skin of the cap, and has a mild taste. It is deadly poisonous even in small quantities.



Spore Prints

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Milton Grout (immed. past president)

ALTERNATES Margaret Holzbauer; Mitchell McGuinness.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

CALENDAR

- Oct. 9 & 10 Fieldtrip to the Dalles Forest Camp
- Oct. 9 & 10 Port Townsend Mushroom Show
- Oct. 11 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm
- Oct. 16 & 17 THE 13th ANNUAL EXHIBIT
- Oct. 18 Monday, Fall Class, Eames Theater, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 18 Board Meeting
- Oct. 22 Deadline for Spore Print Material
Send all articles, art work, photographs, to the
editor, 4029 E. Madison, Seattle, Wa., 98102
- Oct. 23 & 24 Fieldtrip to Lake Arrowhead
- Oct. 25 Monday, Fall Class, Eames Theater, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 30 & 31 Fieldtrip to Oak Patch
- Nov. 1 Monday, Fall Class, Eames Theater, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 8 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

REMINDER: If you have not volunteered to work on a committee to put on the Annual Exhibit, do it right now, by picking up the phone and calling Lyle McKnight at 772 - 5567



FIELDTRIPS

M. Hendrickson

Oct. 9 & 10 Dalles Forest Camp (approx. elev. 2,200')
Go east on State Highway #410 to about 25 miles south-east of Enumclaw. The camp is on your right. Hosts for this fieldtrip are Irene Nelson and Howard & Fay Melsen.

Oct. 9 & 10 Port Townsend Mushroom Show hosted by the Jefferson County Mycological Society, held at Fort Worden State Park (located on the beach by Port Townsend).

Oct. 23 & 24 Lake Arrowhead. Travel toward Shelton. At top of hill, before entering Shelton turn left and follow the signs to Lake Arrowhead. It's a ways past the turn, quite a ways (beyond Cloaquillum) Dave and Jennie Schmitt are hosts for this fieldtrip.

Oct. 30 & 31 Oak Patch Camp (near Bremerton)
Go to Belfair, turn left to Tahuya, go past Belfair State Park, turn right on Elfendahl Pass Rd, a little over two miles. Watch for the sign: "Tahuya River Valley" and take the gravel road straight ahead of this sign. Follow the gravel road about 3 miles, Oak Patch Camp is on your left. The hosts for this trip are Andy & Betty Yuhl, and George and Simone Lane.

SODA SPRINGS FIELDTRIP REPORT N.Orth & L.Hufford

At Soda Springs (September 18 & 19) 106 varieties of mushrooms were overflowing on the ledges of the shelter onto the tables. Jennie Schmitt had some puzzles to ponder. With the help of some other knowledgeable members, however, Jennie identified several interesting specimens, like the elusive Boletus eastwoodiae, Lepiota clypeolaria, and Leucopaxillus albissimus. As usual, most of us stood in awe and appreciation of the work involved.

Though the bounty was plentiful in some varieties (topped again by George & Simone Lane's boxes of Lyophyllum multi-caps), the much sought Matsutake was scarce. Last year's abundance was too much of a contrast for many of us.

The weather was lovely and a great number of people registered in this delightful campground. We also attracted many interested campers who recognized our interest and joined us enthusiastically for information. Winston & Laurel (Hufford) with Jack & Navarre (Orth) enjoyed the hosting, assisted by all our cooperative members.

Fifty-one of us participated in our pot luck. There was quantity and diversity, as usual. Then we sat around the grand fireplace to reminisce, joke, and envision future forays around our beautiful Northwest. The young, and the very young were a pleasure, as was a guest student named Greg.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Syl Caditz (phone 322 - 4180); Victor & Nancy Cook (325 - 1650) Lil DePartee (322 - 2230); Gary & Penny Finholt (782 - 5206); Richard & Dariene Hacker (329 - 6402); Sharon & Richard Haynes (789 - 1368); Kenneth & Rose Kukes (546 - 1943); Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm E. McIntosh, Olympia; Steve Garey & Karla Roupe (782 - 3473); Alan J. Veigel (523 - 4834); Edward J. Wittmann (522 - 7654); Jean & Doug Woodfill (783 - 3549); Linda Zbigley (725 - 6046).

NOTE: Buzz Walters phone number should read 243 - 3758 (it is not correct in the directory, and Buzz wondered why he did not get any phone calls).

MASONIC PARK FIELDTRIP REPORT

H.R.H.

The first fieldtrip of the new fall season was attended by 66 eager mushroomers. The Masonic Park was a beautiful setting and the large shelter with the fireplace was needed since it started to rain late Saturday afternoon and continued during the night, and early Sunday morning.

A total of 42 fungi were identified by Charlie Volz, Jack Orth, and yours truly taking the easy ones. But several more species stumped us. Cantharellus cibarius, Boletus edulis, and some Lactarius deliciosus were found by most to take home. As usual, Monte enjoyed taking out newcomers on their first hunt.

The "hardy" hunters who braved the Sunday morning rain found many mushrooms for the pot, but they still could not top the boxes of Chanterelles found by George and Simone Lane.

The Saturday evening potluck was delicious and attended by about 40. It was only after the meal was over that Navarre Orth informed me that she and Jack were celebrating their 39th anniversary. For their celebration Jack took her to the potluck and she brought the food. Happy Anniversary from all of us (even if it is late).

Hosts for the outing were yours truly, and Mildred Bronner, who served during the busiest hours and did most of the work. The Kessners and the McKnights also assisted. Thank you to all of them.

ASPEN MUSHROOM CONFERENCE

Scott Chilton

The third Aspen Conference on Toxic Mushrooms sponsored by Beth Israel Hospital of Denver, and chaired by Dr. Emanuel Salzman, was held in the well-known ski resort and music center at 8000' in the Colorado Rockies.

About half of the 150 attendees were, as in previous years, physicians. Courses in toxicology, taxonomy, and microscopy were offered throughout the week, in addition to field trips and identification sessions. Professor Alexander Smith served again as head mycologist. George Grimes, former president of the Colorado Mycological Society, taught basic taxonomy, while Dr. Rolf Singer, assisted by Linnea Gillman, USDA., held advanced instruction in microscopy. Dr. Rumack (Rocky Mountain Poison Center), Chilton (PSMS) and Lampe (Univ. of Miami) shared the course in toxicology. Dr. Steven Pollock (Univ. Texas) and Jonathan Ott (Nat. Univ. of Mexico) gave joint lectures on the use of psychotropic fungi. Joy Spurr (PSMS) reported on mushroom hunting in Europe.

The same rains which caused the tragic flood in nearby Thompson Canyon a month earlier provided over 200 identified mushroom species. As last year, the most common species was Cortinarius collinitus. Amanita muscaria continued to dominate the toxic species available for the doctors to study.

An Aspen resident, fond of Amanita highs, provided a half gallon jar of dried Amanita muscaria labelled "Help Yourself," but these were eventually removed by the management. A sprinkling of poisonous Inocybes, Clitocybes, Entolomas and Hebelomas were also on the tables.



PICKLED CHANTERELLES: Bring 1/2 cup each vinegar and water to boil, add salt, sugar, and spices of your choice (mine are pepper corns, mustard seeds, bay leaf and dill weed) Boil for 5 minutes. Add approx. 2 quarts of chanterelles and sliced onion. Bring the total mixture to a full boil and cook for several minutes. Fill hot into clean jars and seal. Put into the refrigerator if you don't process them in a water bath. Wait 2 to 3 weeks before eating.

COLLECTING MUSHROOMS FOR THE ANNUAL EXHIBIT

The mushrooms displayed at our Annual Exhibit are collected on Friday preceding the Show (October 15th this year) or Saturday (preferably in the morning) the day of the Show. George Rafanelli (phone 767-4408) and Martin Hansen (phone 242-8717) coordinate the collecting effort so that all areas around Seattle are covered and we get the diversity of species (usually around 300) displayed.

If you have time to go out Friday or Saturday call either George or Martin and they will direct you to an area. You don't have to be able to identify the mushrooms you find in the assigned area or where you know some fungi grow. Your task is to collect them in the proper manner (pictorially and verbally explained below), and bring them to the Pacific Science Center parking lot (off Roy Street) starting approximately 5 pm Friday evening, where somebody will take them over.

The proper tools for collecting for the Show are a small garden trowel, a knife, and many boxes, cut-off milk cartons, berry-baskets, etc. as shown on the picture below. Even a small axe may be required for some wood growing fungi.



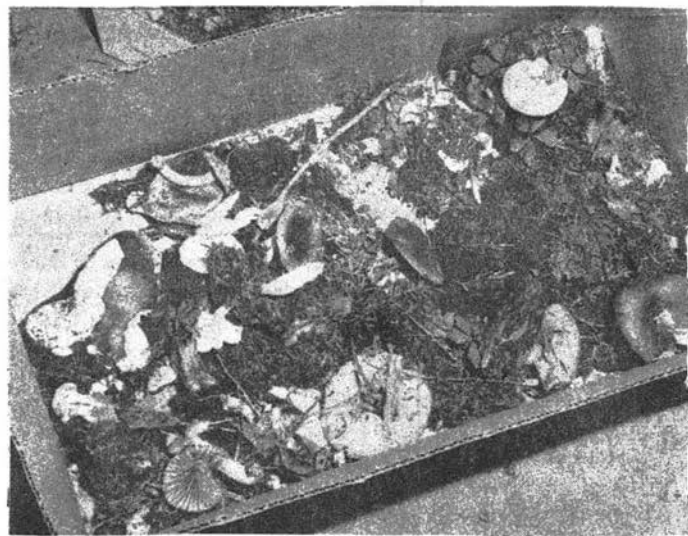
You should collect some specimens of every variety you find, young, old, edible or not edible, poisonous, woody, etc., etc. With the trowel get some of the dirt around the base as this will keep the fungi fresher and in better shape to last through the Show.

Keep every variety separate (that's why we need the berry-boxes and cut-off milk cartons) and place them in the container in the position in which they normally grow.

Don't stack them, and don't crush them. If you are out on a sunny day, keep your car parked in a shady place if you have some mushrooms stored in it. If Friday is a really hot day, you might sprinkle the specimens. If the mushrooms are properly cared for they will come through and withstand the dryness of two days on display and still look fresh on Sunday.

Also remember, many fungus varieties are fragile and delicate and must be given the greatest care, so that they arrive at the exhibit in their natural form and can be displayed.

The picture below demonstrates the improper way of collecting mushrooms for the Show. Now you know what to do, so our collection this year should be the best ever.



MEMO TO NEWCOMERS

Monte Hendrickson

This article is addressed especially to the new members who are attending Milt Grout's class. I well remember our first attempts at mushroom hunting, and the frustrations of not knowing where? when? and how? to hunt, and not being able to identify our finds. Therefore, I encourage you to attend as many of PSMS scheduled fieldtrips as you can. None are too far that they can't be done in one day (if you don't have a RV or camping gear) if you get an early start. Milt is providing the information about how to identify in class. But to put this knowledge to use, come on out where the action is. The fieldtrips are run very informally. You arrive at the fieldtrip site at your convenience and are greeted by a host. The host will answer your questions and get you started. Usually, during Saturday morning you can probably find experienced mushroomers leaving the camp.

Also the pot luck suppers on Saturday evening are an event that should not be missed (bring one dish, hot or cold, and a place setting). After returning to camp, you can examine the table with the identified mushrooms. That's where you learn. There is no substitute for feeling, smelling and tasting. Unless we have killing frost, all of the October trips are in areas of prime hunting, and should provide plenty of fun and mushrooms for the pot. Hope to see you there.

RE-RUN FROM NOVEMBER 1975 SPOREPRINTS M.H.

Were YOU there? While fresh in mind I would like to give with roses and/or brickbats, whichever applies. There is no doubt in anybody's mind that we had a top quality Show in 1975, the word most often used is "professional". And we should be very proud of our accomplishment.

But I wish to point out that this is strictly a volunteer effort (no paid help of any kind) and year after year I have seen mostly familiar faces (too few do the majority of the hard work of setting up, operating, and cleaning up) and these same people work on several committees and tasks.

If our fine Show is to continue in the professional quality that we and the public have come to expect, we need more of the newer members to get involved. You can be assured that your few hours of participation will bring you good fellowship and new friends in return. Hope to see YOU there Oct. 1976. Special need exists for strong hands and backs on Wednesday Oct. 13th at noon, and Thursday evening for construction. Also all other committees, besides construction still need help. Sign up during the membership meeting on October 11th.

The Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society is holding its annual Mushroom Show on Sunday, October 10, 1976 at the West Side Improvement Club, 912 S. National, Bremerton.