

# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
2559 NE 96th, Seattle, Washington, 98115

April 1985

Number 211



## FIELD TRIPS

Watch Steelhead Park in Rockport  
Insert This is a regular spring field trip. You may camp  
for in this beautiful campground located on the Skagit  
Date River. There are full hookups, if desired (for the  
customary fee). On Saturday there will be a pot-  
luck dinner in the shelter. Every party brings one  
dish (hot dish, salad, or dessert) to feed the num-  
ber of persons in their party. PSMS furnishes cof-  
fee. A host (Hildegard Hendrickson) will be at the  
shelter all day to welcome our members, give them  
encouragement, send them out to collecting sites,  
keep them warm with coffee, and sustain them  
with cookies. New members should try and arrive  
by 9:00 so they can be taken along by an experi-  
enced member. An expert identifier will identify  
your finds.  
There are two possible routes, both lined with  
cottonwoods, so you can look for Verpa bohemica  
on the way. Either take the Arlington exit #208  
from Interstate 5 and drive through Darrington, or  
take the Burlington exit #230 to Rockport. Steel-  
head Park is on the river bank. Bring your binocu-  
lars, because if we are lucky we may see some  
bald eagles.

April 20 Saturday Field Trip to Ostrom's Mushroom Farm  
By popular demand we repeat this field trip again  
this year. The tour of the facilities will begin at  
10:30 am in the parking lot. Be sure to wear sturdy  
water-proof shoes since mushroom growing requires  
a damp environment, and the floors can be slippery.  
We will be touring the facilities where Agaricus  
bisporus are commercially grown.  
Go south on Interstate 5 and exit at #111 - Marvin  
Rd. Turn left to go south. Cross Old 99 on Marvin  
Rd. Continue a short distance to Steilacoom Rd,  
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. The tour will be-  
gin promptly at 10:30 and will last till about noon.  
Fresh mushrooms, on a pre-ordered basis only, will  
be available for members, at the prices listed be-  
low. You may place your order with Monte Hend-  
rickson at the April membership meeting or by cal-  
ling 523-2892 no later than Wednesday, April 17th.

Product/Pack (sales tax included)	PSMS Price
10# Bulk Pack, large size	\$ 16.50
10# Bulk Pack, mixed mediums	\$ 13.50
10# Bulk Pack, petites	\$ 12.50
10# Bulk Pack, matures	\$ 10.00

8 oz. Tray 75¢ each  
Ostrom's does not raise Shiitake any more.

## SIGN UP FOR THE INTERMEDIATE CLASSES WILL BE ON A FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED BASIS

The Intermediate Mushroom Identification Classes will be

held from 7 - 9 pm on the dates listed below:

- April 15, Monday, Ascomycetes - cup fungi, morels, etc.  
will be presented by Dick Sieger  
April 22, Monday, The Boletes will be covered by George  
Rafanelli  
April 29 Monday, the genus Agaricus & Hygrophorus will  
be explained by Margaret Dilly  
May 6 Monday, Ramaria, Clavarias, and other spring  
fungi will be discussed by Coleman Leuthy

The classes will be held in Room 104 of the Monroe Center.  
Due to the room limitations, it will be necessary to register  
for the classes at the April membership meeting, and regis-  
tration will be on a first-come - first-served basis.

These will be truly intermediate level classes, and it is  
assumed that those signing up can already recognize the  
groups of fungi listed above. These intermediate classes will  
help those identify the species within a genus. We will key  
the species from any fresh specimens available and from color  
slides. Please purchase Key Council Macroscopic Keys for  
these fungi prior to the class. The Keys will be available at  
the April membership meeting as well as at the classes.

As stated in another part of this issue, the Beginners Orienta-  
tion Classes are held on the Monday of the regular member-  
ship meeting at 6:45 pm. In April the edible mushrooms we  
find in the spring season will be covered.

## THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW

Lori Knox

Yes, there should be some law to protect our wild mushrooms  
from overpicking. What are you doing about it?

The PSMS Legislative Lobbying Group will have its second  
meeting, Tuesday, April 16, 1984 in Room 104 (the Library)  
of the Monroe Center. At this meeting we will pool our re-  
search on export statistics, laws in other countries, and re-  
lated topics.


Hopefully, we can present this information to the membership  
at the May membership meeting and get the members opinions  
in a poll or questionnaire. Every member can and should  
help us in this effort. For more information, please call Lori  
Knox at 364-7216.

## ARE WILD FUNGI GETTING SCARCE?

H.R.H.

As you could read in another section of this issue, PSMS has  
a group of concerned members who want to do something  
about the overharvesting of wild mushrooms, especially  
Chanterelles. Many of our members have been stating that in  
their opinion, they have been finding fewer wild fungi when  
they have gone out in the woods. Of course, most of us as-  
sume that the reason we don't find many is that someone else  
who collects fungi for sale, has been there before we arrive,  
and picked the area clean.

As far as the spring season in 1984 was concerned, we prob-  
ably cannot entirely agree with these assumptions, because  
the morels fruited in exceptional abundance in our area. But  
then, morels, so far, have not been exported. On the other  
(continued on page 4)



**P. S. M. S.**  
**Spore Prints**

is published monthly, except July and August, by the  
**PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
 2559 N.E. 96th, Seattle, Washington 98115  
 Direct all mail to this address

**OFFICERS** Margaret Dilly, President, 1986 (1)  
 Gilbert Austin, Vice President, 1987 (1)  
 Ferris Anderson, Treasurer, 1986 (2)  
 Betty Hamilton, Secretary, 1987 (2)

**TRUSTEES** Term expires March 1986: Ed Bush (1); Sally  
 Ann Hansen (1); Betty Okura (1); Pacita  
 Roberts (1); Ron Skoor (1).  
 Term expires March 1987: Ernie Boa (2); Judi  
 Boa (2); Dennis Bowman (1); Andy Green (1);  
 Charlotte Turner-Zila (2).

**ALTERNATES** Morley McCall; Brian Read.  
**SCIENTIFIC ADVISER:** Dr. Joseph Ammirati  
**LIBRARY** in Room 104 of the Monroe Center.  
 Hours: Tuesdays 6 - 9 pm; Thursdays 10 am - 2 pm.

## Calendar

- April Watch Insert for date: Field Trip to Rockport
- April 8th, Monday, 6:45 pm Beginners Orientation Class  
 8:00 pm Membership Meeting
- April 15 Monday, Board Meeting, 7:30 pm
- April 19 Deadline for Spore Print Material. Send to the  
 Editor, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA 98115.
- April 20 Saturday, Field Trip to Ostrom's Mushroom Farm
- May 13 Monday, Beginners Orientation Class and Mem-  
 bership Meeting.

### WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Janine & Robert Helzer: 839-8083; Kathleen Horton & Don-  
 ald Westlund: 532-4146; Mark & Cynthia Jarand: 821-3995;  
 Irena & John King: 284-7412; George & Fran Patterson: 454-  
 9652; Damaris Rice & Theodore Dorpat: 523-1305; Anna  
 Zeigler: 789-1461. Please correct the spelling of David  
 Hawkinson's name (we misspelled it last month, sorry).

### BEGINNERS ORIENTATION CLASS FOR APRIL

The topic for the Beginners Orientation Class for April will  
 be a slide-illustrated presentation of the edible mushrooms  
 we can expect to find during the spring mushroom season.  
 The Beginners Class has reached the point where we will try  
 and identify the edible fungi we will find on the coming  
 field trips, so you know what to collect and what to leave.

## Membership Meeting

Monday, April 8, 1985 pm in the auditorium of the  
 MONROE CENTER located at 1810 N.W. 65th, Seattle.

Program: Cara Stiles will present a slide-illustrated lecture  
 on MUSHROOMS - MACRO TO MICRO. This is a new ap-  
 proach and should be very educational. Cara Stiles is a stu-  
 dent of Dr. Michael Beug of the Evergreen State College.

### BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

President Margaret Dilly called the meeting to order and in-  
 troduced and welcomed the newly elected Trustees. Our new-  
 ly elected Vice-President resigned as Trustee, and Pacita Ro-  
 bertson was appointed to the unexpired term as Trustee. The  
 continuing or newly appointed committee heads can be found  
 in the 1985 membership roster which will be available for  
 pick up at the April membership meeting.

Lori Knox attended the meeting and stated that she and an  
 interested group are meeting to draft recommendations geared  
 to stopping the commercial collecting of wild mushrooms.  
 More about this in another section of this newsletter.

The Education Committee is holding a meeting to set up the  
 educational program for the fall.

Dennis Bowman reported that the preparations for the 1985  
 Annual Exhibit are already going on, including possibly an-  
 other professional poster.

Betty Okura received congratulations for the superb organiza-  
 tion of the successful 1985 Survivors Banquet. Brian Read is  
 taking the chairmanship of the Banquet next year.

A new standing PSMS committee, Hosting, was created. It is  
 chaired by Charlotte Turner-Zila and will be evident at our  
 membership meetings.

### FEBRUARY BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

At this Board meeting there mostly committee reports. Last  
 report on the Survivors Banquet; Ron Skoor, House Chairman,  
 (i.e. getting the auditorium ready for the monthly member-  
 ship meetings, etc. sure could use extra help in setting up  
 the chairs and tables and then again in putting them away.)  
 Dennis Bowman is already into the 1985 Annual Exhibit and  
 said the company that designed last year's poster is interested  
 in doing another one this year. The spring field trips are be-  
 ing discussed. Hopefully the weather will cooperate.  
 The 1985 membership roster will be printed in the next weeks.  
 Ferris Anderson will be the registered agent for the PSMS cor-  
 poration.

### BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS,

Judi Boa

As usual, books will be available for sale at the April mem-  
 bership meeting. Sample copies of the following are available  
 for inspection: Ainsworth & Bisby: Dictionary of the Fungi;  
 Phillips: Wild Food; and Larry Lonik: The Curious Morel.

Now in stock are: Mitchell Beazley Pocket Guide (only a  
 small supply of 22 was received and no more are available).  
 Also Mushroom Madness, the new Oregon Mushroom cookbook.

Last chance to order "Guide to Some Edible & Poisonous  
 Fungi of New York" by Dr. Alan Bessette.

### SPRING EDUCATIONAL FORAY

Brian Luther

The Olympic Mountain Mycological Society of Forks, WA,  
 is sponsoring a Spring Mycological Foray on April 13 and  
 14. For more information contact Brian Luther at 522-1051.

As I begin my second year in office I look forward with much enthusiasm and back over the past year with pride. Through the hard work of many dedicated members much was accomplished.

Through our efforts the membership has grown and our reserve of talents has increased. A home has been established for our library, with many new books and a microscope added. The Fall Exhibit was successful and profitable. We fared ourselves with an outstanding poster. Programs were excellent. Meetings, field trips, and the Annual Banquet were well attended. Many books were sold and many classes were offered. Lots of mushrooms were consumed and no one was poisoned.

Let us not rest on our laurels. We need to move ahead with new ideas and challenges. The new Board is eager to serve you. Handling the club's business is a big responsibility and the support you give the Board is equally important.

Gilbert Austin was elected as Vice-President. Providing the programs for the monthly membership meetings is the responsibility of the Vice-President. If you have a subject or a topic you would like to have presented, please contact him and let him know. He is very receptive to your suggestions.

Gilbert has been replaced as Field Trip Chairman by Andy Green. Andy is all set to give this monumental task his very best. He will need good support, so let's all get behind him and do our part. Contact him today and volunteer to assist where and when you can.

Education is undergoing some changes. During the past two years we have lost our two major educators (Dr. Stuntz and Milton Grout). Coleman Leuthy and a large committee of dedicated members, with varying degrees of mushroom knowledge are formulating classes for both the beginner and the more advanced. Watch Spore Prints for notices of them.

In closing I would like to remind you of the Standing Committees so vital to the success of this club. They are listed in the front of your new 1985 Membership Roster along with the names and phone numbers of the persons heading them. Get busy and call some of them and get involved! It's really a lot of fun. Together, let's make this year ahead the best ever.

#### GETTING THE 1985 EXHIBIT TOGETHER Dennis Bowman

Dr. Patricia Winter, chairwoman of the freeze-dry display at the Annual Exhibit is asking for volunteers to assist her in the refurbishing of this display for the 1985 Exhibit. Dr. Pat who has chaired this committee for the past 12 years has expressed the need to collect and dry new specimens to replace those damaged and broken. She states that this much needed task will be fun, interesting, and educational for those who participate. Dr. Pat is working with our scientific adviser, Dr. Joseph Ammirati, to coordinate the collecting and drying of the spring mushrooms, and asks that those interested please contact her at 486-4264 for additional information.

Pacita Roberts is looking for one or more persons with an interest and/or experience in sales to assist her in the ongoing marketing of our 1984 exhibit poster. Those interested, please contact Pacita at 362-2713 during evening hours.

Both, Pacita Roberts and Dr. Patricia Winter will be seated at the Exhibit table during the April membership meeting. Please stop by to introduce yourself and ask the questions.

With the capable Master of Ceremonies, Ben Woo, in charge, the Annual Meeting of PSMS convened. The atmosphere was festive, the program very enjoyable, the food and service excellent, everyone was happy, and our mission, to have a good social evening was accomplished.

TO the many members who so graciously gave of their talents,  
TO all those who so willingly donated their precious supply of dried Boletus edulis (64-1/2 oz. in all) and Shiitake,  
TO those who donated so generously the many wonderful door prizes,  
TO all 180 who attended the Banquet,  
You made our efforts worthwhile! A Big Thank You to all you great people!

As in any task, it takes a group of people to make this type of event possible. Below are the names of those who made it possible:

Joy Spurr . . . selection of the master of ceremonies  
John Kunz & Hildegard Hendrickson . . . speaker  
Monte & Hildegard Hendrickson . . . publicity; ticket printing; served as final editor of the program, its printing and folding, besides being my counselors.  
Agnes Sieger . . . program typing  
Edith Godar & Marie Guillas . . . tickets and reservations  
Marge Okuma, Grace Jones, Marie Hilton . . . decorations  
Elizabeth Whalen . . . door prizes  
Margo Harrison . . . made the fudge for dessert  
Judi Boa . . . made and donated the meringue mushrooms  
Sara Clark . . . place cards  
Elsie Burkman . . . program cover and Spore Print design  
Margaret Dilly . . . adviser  
Ed and Patricia Bush . . . greeters and hosts

Following are the names of the people who made it possible for you to have sauteed Boletus edulis on your prime rib: Judi and Ernie Boa; Margo and Earl Harrison; Monte and Hildegard Hendrickson; Edith Godar and Marie Guillas; Ben and Ruth Woo; Margaret and Claude Dilly; Aino and John Kunz; Ed and Patricia Bush; Betty and Carl Hermanson; Jennie and George Rafanelli (also Shiitake); Stanley Ralkowski and Betty Okura.  
(P.S. On behalf of all members who could come to this exquisite banquet, I want to thank Betty Okura for doing such an excellent job in arranging it. Give Betty a Big Hand-of Applause!!!!)

#### FUNGAL DISEASE SIMULATES TUMOR The Mycophile

From Wisconsin comes a most unusual report of an 11 year old boy who seemed to have a brain tumor, but surgeons found a balled mass of fungus that was later determined to be Blastomyces dermatitidis. Investigation found that a neighbor's dog had died of the fungal illness a few months before the boy's symptoms, but a direct connection between the boy and dog could not be confirmed. However, there was an outbreak of the disease among Oak Creek school children who spent four days planting trees in an environmental center at Eagle River. Physicians have confirmed that six cases of the disease occurred in a group of 72 children that made the trip. All are 11 or 12 year old girls. This may be the largest outbreak of the disease in humans. It does offer an opportunity to pinpoint and study the site of contamination. All the children have been treated with amphotericin-B, the standard anti-fungal treatment for this disorder, and all have responded to treatment.

## SCARCITY OF WILD FUNGI (continued from page 1)

hand, the rains came very late in the fall of 1984, and about one week after the rains came, it started to freeze and snow in higher elevations, and the season was over. And we have also heard that last year many of the commercial buyers closed down early, due to the lack of quantities of chanterelles, while in the previous year some 200,000 tons were exported.

The concern of our members is based on the assumption that commercial pickers will repeatedly cover a given area "like a vacuum cleaner" leaving no specimens behind that can spore and rejuvenate or increase the mycelium.

And the fears of our members are probably justified when we hear news like the following from other countries. The Week in Germany (a West German publication) recently published an article stating the "mushrooms are disappearing from the country's dying forests". Saarland's Minister of the Environment introduced the Atlas of the Mushrooms of Saarland which is based on more than 10,000 excursions into the state's forest over the last 40 years. It states that over fifty percent of the 2,183 varieties growing in the Saarland are on the endangered list. Seventy percent of the damage, in particular to arboreal mushrooms, is blamed on environmental changes due to pollution and land development. The other thirty percent is caused by agricultural and forestry methods which limit the habitat of fungi. To remedy the situation it is recommended that the environment be cleaned up and that forest management return to more natural management.

More of the same, bad news, comes from France. The truffle harvest was just seven tons last year, while in the "good old days" hundreds of tons were found. Overharvesting seems to be the main cause of the poor season, but the weather has been too dry too.

From Italy comes the story that "busloads of foreigners" came into the Alps and collected Boletus edulis in such quantities that the fruiting substantially diminished. Current regulations forbid any mushroom collector from having more than 1 kg. of mushrooms in his/her possession at any one time. And in some parts of Switzerland wild mushrooms can only be collected during the week, and not on a week end. Again, the attempt is to prevent overpicking.

From just the incidences cited above, three causes are listed for reduced fruiting of wild mushrooms: the polluted environment, the weather, and overpicking. Maybe, here in our Pacific Northwest, all three are evident. We can help eliminate pollution and (hopefully) overpicking by prohibiting the exporting of wild mushrooms. But we may not be able to do something about the weather.

In any case, please contact Lori Knox if you have additional information on the subject of diminishing fruiting of wild mushrooms, and maybe the group can successfully lobby in our legislature to stop the exporting of wild fungi. Other mycological societies are also getting concerned and maybe there is strength in numbers, if we all unite our efforts.

## REPORT FROM THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP H.R.H.

The announcement in Spore Prints had said that this field trip will be held "rain or shine, mushrooms or no mushrooms." The 16th of March was an absolutely glorious, sunny (the warmest of 1985) day, and just as dry as most of the days in 1985 had been until then. Following the weather in the paper and the lament of the power companies about the low water

level in their reservoirs should have alerted every mycologist to the fact that you cannot find wild mushrooms when it does not rain.

However, our novice mycologists could learn a great deal on this outing. For many of them, did not know what a cottonwood tree looked like and what the habitat of the Verpa bohemica will be, once the usually "dependable" spring rains arrive. 112 members and guests signed the register (but I counted more present) and attentively listened to Monte's lecture in the morning. Then they took a stroll along Cottonwood Lane. Three groups did return with 17 Verpa bohemica and Monte had found one true morel the day before at another location, so the differences between these two fungi could be observed. One party found a collection of Agrocybe prae-cox and some beautiful Sarcoscypha coccinea. For a description of a very interesting find, please read the following article by Dick Sieger.

This report is written on March 23, the following Saturday, when it gusted and sleeted in Seattle. If there is no chance of finding many fungi, I take a glorious day like the 16th any time over a lousy one like today.

## SPECIAL FIND AT CARNATION Dick Sieger.

A sharp-eyed collector at our Carnation field trip found an interesting fungus. It is waxy, brown, and shaped like a tiny golf tee with a long twisted stalk. The stalk is attached to a hard, underground lump that looks like a withered black pea. The whole unit is an inch long and the cup is an eighth inch across. Joy Spurr identified it as a member of the family Sclerotiniaceae. It is a species of Sclerotinia but we are not sure which one. F.J. Seaver's The North American Cup Fungi (Inoperculates), in our PSMS library, describes dozens. You can find pictures of similar mushrooms in Lange & Hora's Collins Guide to Mushrooms and Toadstools, page 43 and in Lincoff's Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms, plate 624.

Sclerotinia species invade leaf blades or twigs during the growing season. A hard, black stroma is formed. In autumn, the stroma falls to the ground and survives winter in a resting stage called a sclerotium. Sclerotia awaken in early spring, producing stalked cups from which ascospores are discharged. Ascospores infect young, tender leaves to continue the cycle. Sometimes, besides cups, a conidial stage forms in which matted strands produce spores.

Sclerotinia species cause diseases in a wide range of plants. They are responsible for brown spot in apples and pears. Botrytis cinerea, a conidial species of Sclerotinia fuckeliana causes enormous crop losses. However, it is also the "noble rot" necessary for producing Sauternes. Botrytis cinerea infects the grapes under special conditions and concentrates sugar and flavor to give the wine its special character. Sclerotinia seaveri was named for Fred Jay Seaver, an important American mycologist. He found it as a young student and sent it to a German mycologist who named it in his honor. This encouraged Seaver to continue studying Ascomycetes.

## FORAYS

Aug. 22 - 25, The Fifth Annual Telluride Wild Mushroom Conference. For information write to Fungophile, P.O. Box 5503, Denver, CO 80217.

Sept. 1 - 17, Himalayan Mushroom Tour. For information write to Fungophile, see address above.

Mycol. Foray to Finland and Sweden, Aug. 22-Sept. 8. Write FINNAIR, 714 Statler Office Bldg., Boston, Mass. 02116.

The field trip to ROCKPORT will be held Saturday APRIL 13, 1985. Monte will leave the shelter at 9:15 am for a guided hunt.

The 1985 Membership Roster is ready for pickup at membership meetings and field trips. Those not picked up will be mailed in June. Please try to pick up yours since mailing costs are excessive. Note that the white pages start with page 3. Layout revisions (i.e. consolidations) during printing reduced printing costs.