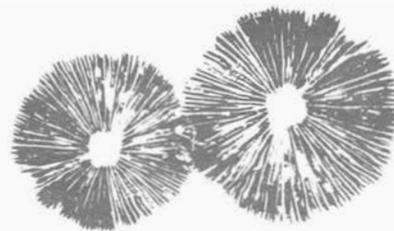


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 247

December 1988



SEASON'S

¡Felices Navidades
o Pascuas!

Glaedelig Jul!

Veselé vánoce!

God Jul!

Hauskaa Joulua!

Wesotych Swait!

Fröliche Weihnachten!

с Рождеством!



Bonne Année

Merry Christmas!

Buon Natale!

Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

Kellemes karácsonyi
ünnepeket!

¡Feliz Natal!

Noeli ya furaka!

Joyeux Noël!

Vrolijk Kerstfeest!

GREETINGS

QUICK NEW YEAR'S QUICHE

Seattle Times

3 eggs	¼ tsp salt
½ cup biscuit mix	dash pepper
½ cup melted butter	1 cup shredded swiss cheese
1½ cups milk	½ cup mushrooms

Put all ingredients except cheese and mushrooms in blender and mix for a few seconds to blend well. Pour into a 9-inch pie pan. Sprinkle the cheese and mushrooms on the top and gently push below the surface with the back of a spoon. Pie pan will be full to the rim. Bake at 350°F for 45 min. Allow to set 10 min before cutting.



MUSHROOM ASTROLOGY

Bob Lehman, LAMS

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): You love the sport and adventure of mushroom hunting -- any concrete benefits being of secondary importance. You think in terms of expeditions, and you wax eloquent about the noble quest for earthly treasure. You love forays, and you love to share your exuberance and your mushroom theories with fellow mushroomers. You like taxonomy, but tend to gloss over the details of identification in order to focus on the bigger picture of evolutionary relationships. Before eating anything, you would do well to check your identifications with a Gemini or a Virgo.



Spore Prints

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Calendar

Dec. 13 New members' orientation 7:00-7:30 p.m., CUH
Dec. 13 Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
Dec. 16 *Spore Prints* deadline
Dec. 19 Tour of CUH's exhibit facilities, 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 19 Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
Jan. 2 *Spore Prints* mailing, 10:00 a.m., CUH

BOARD NEWS

Dick Sieger

October: Our listing in the white pages will be changed from "Mushroom" to "Puget Sound Mycological Society." To welcome new members, a special field trip was planned for Masonic Park on the weekend after the exhibit. Field trip potluck dinners will be earlier, during daylight hours. The Hendrickses were asked to hold their popular beginners' sessions before membership meetings. Name tags will cost \$3.00. Board meetings will start at 7:30 p.m.

November: 1,049 people paid for admission to the 1988 exhibit, and income exceeded expenses by about \$2000. PSMS will be affiliated with NAMA for another year, but a letter will be sent expressing displeasure with their inaction on the commercial exploitation problem. Two sites, St. Joseph and CUH, were proposed for the 1989 exhibit, to be held the second or third weekend in October; a committee will see if CUH is feasible. The trustees confirmed their commitment to a successful building fund drive and discussed ways to maintain momentum. A nominating committee -- consisting of Bob Hamilton, Margaret Holzbauer, Dan Schwenk, and chair Patrice Benson -- was appointed for the spring election.

Credits: Cover elves and bird on page 3 are from old postcards (1940 and 1932) supplied by Brian Luther and included in the PSMS November membership program.

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, December 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Urban Horticulture, 2501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle.

Once a year we break from our usual program of mushroom study to simply eat and enjoy. This is the time. Bring a plate of cookies, cake, cinnamon rolls, or hors d'oeuvres and enjoy the party scene prepared by Grace Jones and Beth Schnarre. Also bring your color slides. Prior to food time will be 45 minutes or so of photographs, favorites from the past year or before. They need not be mushroom slides, just any slides you enjoy and are willing to share.

YOU have the starring role in our traditional holiday program, where we share cookies, slides, and mushroom tales with friends old and new.

-Gilbert Austin

CONSERVATION AND ECOLOGY

Margaret Dilly

Mushrooms have certainly been in the news of late, not only because of the poisonings, which we need to be concerned about, but also because commercial harvesting is rearing its ugly head again. Dr. Bandoni from the University of British Columbia is very upset about the matsutake harvest and would like to see export banned. Even though this fungus has been abundant this year after many lean years, we should not lose sight of the long-range picture. The forest ecological system is fragile, and both mycologists and tree pathologists are showing concern.

As interest in mushrooming mounts, recording the harvest becomes increasingly important. In compliance with the mushroom bill (SB 2640) passed this year, the State Department of Agriculture is developing tally sheets for both commercial and recreational harvesting. These will be available by spring.

We need to do our part and comply with their requests, both for recording our finds and supplying information on mushroom buyers. This will enable a better evaluation of harvest practices and help preserve for future generations the hobby we so enjoy.

The CEPS coalition has voted to go to Olympia once more and push for two new bills. One would insist that the Department of Natural Resources receive compensation for commercial harvest of mushrooms on DNR land. The other would be similar to the Specialized Forest Products Act requiring commercial harvesters to obtain permission from the land owners. This bill will set limits for recreational harvesting, and input is needed from you to help set them. We have considered either 5 lb per species with an aggregate of 15 lb plus one (to allow for the big one at day's end) or 10 lb and an aggregate of 30 lb plus one. Your views are important. Contact either Lori Knox or myself. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

MUSHROOM MISSIONARIES

Monte and Hildegard Henrickson led a mushroom walk at the *Rhododendron* Species Foundation in Federal Way on October 30.

George Rafanelli conducted a talk/slide show and mushroom walk at Discovery Park on October 15. He also conducted a mushroom walk at the *Rhododendron* Species Foundation on October 30.

MILLERSYLVANIA FIELD TRIP

Peggy Burbridge

Twenty-three members attended the Millersylvania field trip, and 13 stayed for dinner. The morning was lovely, but by afternoon the rain came. Fortunately, the shelter was large and had electric lights.

Many choice edibles were found, including yellow chanterelles and *Lepiota rachodes*. The identifiers were Margaret Dilly, Sara Clark, Larry Baxter, and Nick Popoff. They identified 41 species, including 11 different amanitas.

The specimen table was full of other mushrooms, but State Park policy is to close the gate at dusk and time ran out, so these were not identified.

FALL FORAYS—LOOKING BACK

Ralph Burbridge

Although the early dry days of September looked bleak for a good harvest, the rain finally came, and our members enjoyed good hunting in the latter days of the fall season.

We can now look forward to the spring of 1989. We hope all our members will join in the hunt and also enjoy our exciting potluck dinners. The forays offer everyone an opportunity not only to increase their knowledge of mycology but to make new friends and be active participants.

This spring, we will revert to our practice of announcing field trip sites in advance. Be watching forthcoming issues of *Spore Prints* for the schedule. We look forward to great hunting.

OFFICE HOURS

Candy Brewer has volunteered to man (woman?) the PSMS office at CUH on Thursdays from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. While she is there, she will help refer telephone calls and organize and check out books and slides. Drop in and make her acquaintance, and browse through the PSMS library.

NAMA MEMBERSHIPS

Coleman Leuthy

I support Denis Benjamin, who wrote last year "As an amateur mycologist, I encourage you to become an individual member of the North American Mycological Association. You will be kept apprised of what is happening at a national level through their newsletter and *Mcilvainea*, receive information from the Toxicology Center, and be invited to participate in the national forays. A membership in NAMA is another way to involve yourself and keep informed."

Membership renewals in NAMA are due now. As a member of an affiliated society, your cost is only \$12.00 a year (vs \$15.00). Make checks out to NAMA and mail to Coleman Leuthy, 2455 E. Lake Washington Blvd., Seattle, 98112. I will verify your membership and forward them to NAMA.

Thank you: Inge McGuire, Coleman Leuthy, Jessie and Erwin Rouleau, Charlotte and Bill Turner-Zila, Bob Hamilton, Margaret Dilly, Bob Judd, Amelia Schultz, and Candy Brewer for getting *Spore Prints* mailed in October. The next mailing will be January 2, 1989. Everyone is invited to join in and help.

--Millie Kleinman

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gilbert Austin

The Building Fund: PSMS is not a fund-raising organization. Money is not our purpose. We are concerned with the study, and enjoyment, of mushrooms -- for ourselves and for the public at large.

But for right now we are, also, into money raising. Just for a few more months. Until June 30, 1989. We have committed ourselves, by that date, to have raised \$25,000 as a contribution to the Center for Urban Horticulture.

We have done this because, in return, PSMS will be entitled to cost-free office space, storage space, and boardroom use through the second decade of the next century!

Members new or relatively new to PSMS perhaps do not appreciate the comfort, security, and operating ease which our present location provides. Before we were in CUH we moved from one set of arrangements to another, none of which proved long lasting. Mostly the arrangements were good, but each became increasingly expensive. And storage, regardless of the location of our meeting place, was a constant and unresolved problem. We met in the Monroe Center for several years. Prior to that we were in the Museum of History and Industry, and before that in the Seattle Center and the Pacific Science Center.

Members of the board of trustees therefore 2 years ago decided to avail of an offer by the Center for Urban Horticulture for a more or less permanent home. In return for a sizeable contribution to CUH, we received office, storage, and boardroom space plus meeting hall space by monthly rental.

As of today, we can reasonably project \$17,000 by next June 30. This leaves \$8000 to be raised. With a membership of well over 600, our money goal should be easily achievable.

As I noted at the beginning of this column, we are not a fund-raising organization. I am certain that every PSMS member will be pleased to put the building fund behind. We have until June 30; it would be pleasant to accomplish the goal even before then.

And remember, that for those who itemize their income tax returns, contributions to the PSMS Building Fund can be included. You will receive a documenting letter from the University of Washington for the gift.

The Fall Season Ends: With the onset of December, and snow in the passes, it is time to close the book on the 1988 fall season of mushroom exploration. By all accounts it was an unusually productive season, both for those seeking only the edibles and for those exploring for specimens. Members new to our joint hobby should not assume that all years will be the equal of the fall of 1988! Dry years do occur. Witness 1987 and 1986. We simply continue to explore every year, whether dry or wet, while hoping for good ones like that just ended.



*We wish you a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!*

AMANITA PHALLOIDES POISONING

From a talk by Preston Alexander, President,
Oregon Mycological Society

As most of you probably know by now, on Saturday, October 22, five people in the Portland area picked and ate *Amanita phalloides*. Four required liver transplants to survive. The fifth has kidney problems and may require one yet.

The mushrooms came from a county park near Vancouver on the Washington side of the Columbia River, where Asians have traditionally gone to gather chestnuts. Unfortunately, *Amanita phalloides* looks almost identical to *Volvariella volvacea*, the paddy straw mushroom, which is sold commercially all over Asia. Many consumers never see it growing in its natural habitat. The two Korean women did cook it with some rice first to see if the rice turned red, but Asian folklore is no more reliable than European. The mushrooms passed with flying colors, and the victims cooked up two bucketsful in a stir-fry. One of the feasters said it was good -- not great, but good. Each person probably ate 10 or 12 caps. One cap is enough to kill an adult.

Ten hours later, they began experiencing cramping, nausea, and diarrhea, which lasted for several hours. At that point, three of the people went to the hospital. The others thought it was just food poisoning, and that they would get better by themselves.

I tried to identify the culprit from the vomit, but couldn't get a Meixner reaction or find spores, a volva, or gill trama. Hearing there was one mushroom left at the residence, we went to look, and found two people sick there as well.

Two to 3 hours after the victims first entered the hospital, before the species was identified, we made the commitment to treat it as an *Amanita* poisoning. We put them on forced fluids and gave them charcoal. After about 24 hours, we started a high dosage of silymarin, about 1½ grams a person a day orally. Some of it apparently worked, because the amount these people had eaten should have killed them after about 72 hours.

Unlike most of the reports in the literature, where the victims get better after a couple of days and then get worse, the original symptoms of cramping, diarrhea, and dehydration stayed pretty much constant. The levels of enzymes and serum factors in the blood that indicate damage to the liver and kidneys and the function of the rest of the body did peak, but not a lot and later than expected.

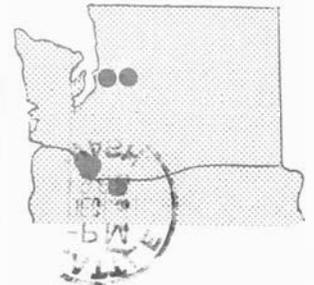
After 3 to 3½ days, their livers were too badly damaged to sustain life, and a frantic search began for a way to save them. When their livers were replaced, they were shrunken and necrotic; they had nodules where large masses of cells had been digested and were full of fibrous tissue. Clearly, the patients were close to death.

Fortunately, they didn't suffer brain damage. After about 4 days, a lot of victims start having seizures and abnormal EEG's.

Although the Portland Poison Control Center has a state-of-the-art optical disk that gets updated three or four times a year with the most current information, they had almost nothing on how to treat alpha-amanitin poisonings. So what happens is that physicians have to rely on people like myself who don't understand a whole lot, or they have to try to find published research papers. By the time they are able to go to the libraries or to have the articles sent over by FAX, as we did here, 24-36 hours have passed. By then, methods they could have used are worthless.

Jan Lindgren went back that Monday and found 40 more *Amanita phalloides*. Some were white; most were ivory colored. They looked almost exactly like paddy straw mushrooms.

Locations of deadly amanitas reported in Washington and northern Oregon. These mushrooms may also occur in other locations.



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Dues are due in January.
See Margaret Holzbauer.