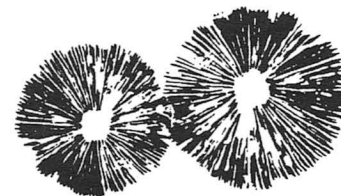


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 Number 331 April 1997



SURVIVORS' BANQUET REPORT

Sara Clark

The music is still ringing in my ears. What a bash! Walter Bronowitz and his able students created a menu of incomparable delight utilizing the varied fungal contributions so benevolently contributed by PSMS members for our feast. Considerable thanks go to the contributors—Patrice Benson, Sara and Geoff Clark, Magda and Marsi DiGiovanni, Lorraine Dod, Christine Dotson, Patrice and Wayne Elston, Janet and Robert English, Marshall Palmer and Cindy Hoover, Frances and Frank Ikeda, Irwin and Milly Kleinman, Russ Kurtz, Sheryl Lamberton, Mike Lovelady, Mary Lynch, Brandon Matheny, Sheila Parr, Lynn Phillips, Charles Pregaldin and Marilyn Denny, Masako Sekimoto, Michelle Seidl, and Joanne Young.

We had the pleasure of presenting the Golden Mushroom Award to Hildegard Hendrickson on behalf of both Hildegard and Monty in acknowledging many years of service and encouragement to the members of PSMS. We shared some door prizes and were serenaded before and after dinner by Brandon Matheny and his fellow band members, Mike Smith and Sean Walsh. They were joined by Steve Bell on his saxophone, creating a new sensation, Darryl and the Death Caps. The dining was beautifully orchestrated, organized, and served by John Casey and the gracious students in the Culinary Arts Program of Edmonds Community College. Our hats off to them.



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GOLDEN MUSHROOM AWARD

Patrice Benson



The Hendricksons, an early PSMS foray

Part of the festivities at the Survivors' Banquet on March 14 was the presentation of the fifth PSMS Golden Mushroom Award for outstanding service, which was received by Monte and Hildegard Hendrickson.

Monte and Hildegard met in Austria after World War II. They married in 1960 after Hildegard finished three de-

grees at the University of Washington. They have two sons, Joe and Andy, and three grandchildren. Hildegard has just retired as Professor of Finance at Seattle University after 29 years of teaching. Now they will have more time for one of their interests: mushrooming and mycology.

The Hendricksons are well known to older members of PSMS, since they were a keystone of our group for many years. There was a time when the society was moved from place to place after the Pacific Science Center, the first home of PSMS, was remodeled. Monte and Hildegard volunteered their phone number and their home address for use by the society. They really held us together, and for that we shall be forever grateful.

Hildegard, with Monte's help, served as *Spore Prints* editor for 11 years. For many years Monte was in charge of engraving the PSMS membership badges. In addition to teaching beginning classes, they were traditional hosts for the learning field trip at MacDonald Park in Carnation each spring. They are most thoughtful to new members and are therefore fondly remembered by some of our now experienced mushroomers who got their start with the help of Monte and Hildegard. For happily spending countless hours in service to PSMS, they truly merit a Golden Mushroom.

UPCOMING MUSHROOM EVENTS

Mushroom Expedition to Cuba: Gary Lincoff, Roz Payne, and Manny Salzman are sponsoring a mushroom and travel expedition to Cuba, June 15–30, 1997. An application listing the members of the group must be submitted to the U.S. Government shortly. For additional details, interested persons should promptly contact Fungophile, Attn: Manny Salzman, P.O. Box 48053, Denver, CO 80248-0503 or Tel/Fax (303) 296-9359.

Telluride Conference: The 17th annual Telluride Mushroom Conference will be held August 21–24, 1997, in Telluride, Colorado. For further information, contact Fungophile, P.O. Box 480502, Denver, CO 90248-503 or Phone/Fax (303) 296-9359.

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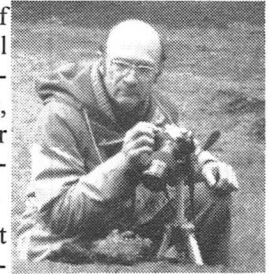
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MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, April 8, at 7:30 PM at the Center for Urban Horticulture,
3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle

Our speaker for April is Gene Butler of Chehalis, Lewis County, who will present a beginners' survey of the mushrooms we can expect to find this spring, starting with verpas, morels, and other ascomycetes and going on to coral mushrooms, puffballs, and *Boletus pinicola*.



Gene should certainly know what's out there and how to find it. A lifelong Washington State resident, he was the founder-organizer of the Lewis County Mushroom Society, is the author of the 1978 volume *Keys to Mushroom Genera*, is a past president of the Pacific Northwest Key Council, and is a member of the North American Mycological Association. A former resident of Snohomish County, he was



an organizer of the mycological society there, and for 2 years taught mushroom identification at Everett Community College. Even you old-timers should learn a thing or two!

Would persons with last names beginning with U-Z please bring a plate of refreshments for the social hour?

CALENDAR

- April 7 Basic ID Class (must be registered)
- April 8 Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
(Gene Butler on spring mushrooms)
- April 11-13 Steelhead Park field trip
- April 14 Board meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Board Room
Basic ID Class (must be registered)
- April 21 Basic ID Class (must be registered)
- April 25 *Spore Prints* deadline
- May 3-4 Crystal Springs field trip
- May 10-11 Twenty-Nine Pines field trip
- May 13 Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
(Nancy Smith Weber)
- June 10 Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
(Joe Ammirati)

FEBRUARY BOARD NEWS

Agnes Sieger

Lynn Elwell and Dan Tanabe have volunteered to help Field Trip Chair Mike Lovelady with the field trips. The board voted to send postcards listing upcoming speakers and field trips to the people who did not renew their memberships. Marshall Palmer and Dan Tanabe met with CPA Linda Canney regarding our income tax status. The 1997 budget was discussed and approved. Dennis Krabbenhoft donated about 20 books to the PSMS library. The UW Extension Office next to ours at CUH has been receiving requests for information about mushrooms and has asked PSMS for help. Suggestions were entertained for a locations for the PSMS summer picnic.

MUSHROOM DYEING WORKSHOP Sara Clark

On March 1, we gathered on a blustery, rainy, wonderfully Seattle-type wintry day to mess around with fungus in the dye pot. We tried 11 species, each participant taking home the dye samples from each trial. We shared a few mushroom-dyed yarn creations and finished up just as the sun came out. When the fall field trips come along, we'll put the dye pot on the camp fire and see to what use we can put the inedibles.

MARCH BOARD NEWS

Agnes Sieger

Sheila Parr will continue with mail ordering the PSMS cards made from the 1984 exhibit poster. PSMS will experiment with sending the newsletter bulk mail and contributing the savings in postage to a building fund for use when our present contract expires with CUH. Patrice Benson will mail a postcard reminder to the people who did not renew their memberships. The Jefferson County Mycological Society has inquired about a joint field trip with PSMS and the Oregon Mycological Society to Fungi Perfecti in Olympia on April 26. Joanne Young, Sheila Parr, and Frank Ikeda have left the Board. Doug Ward, Charles Pregaldin, and Mike Lovelady will fill their remaining 1-year terms, leaving Dan Corey as the only alternate. The USDA Forest Service has donated some books to PSMS. They are not yet available because the new library shelves are not up yet. Marshall Palmer, Joe Ammirati, and some others have formed a committee to provide information to the UW Extension Office so they can answer calls about mushrooms and PSMS. The niece of noted ceramist Wilma Madison has left a collection of museum-quality ceramics to PSMS, along with Alexander Smith's book *Mushrooms in Their Natural Habitats* and the slide collection that goes with it. Wilma's sister has a similar collection, which PSMS may be able to borrow for display at the exhibit.

SPRING FIELD TRIPS

We urge those of you who are new to PSMS to attend the field trips if you can. Some people stay overnight; some just stay for the day. Register with the hosts when you arrive, and be sure to stay over for the potluck Saturday afternoon. To participate, bring one dish (hot dish, salad, or dessert) to feed the number of persons in your party. PSMS furnishes coffee.



One or more hosts will be at each field trip 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. There is also an identifier to identify your finds. New members should try to arrive by 9:00 AM, so they can be taken along by an experienced member.

Please bring a basket, knife, wax paper, compass, whistle, water, lunch, and a dish to share if you wish to join the potluck. Wear warm clothes. Include rain gear in your car or pack and wear hiking shoes or boots. Feel free to bring your friends, family, and sociable dogs.

April 11–13 **Steelhead Park, Rockport** (elev. 300 ft, 95 miles NE of Seattle)

There are two possible routes, both lined with cottonwood trees under which you can look for *Verpa bohemica*. Either take exit #208 from I-5 at Arlington and go east on State Hwy. 520 through Darrington and north to Rockport or continue north on I-5 to exit #230 at Burlington and go east on State Hwy. 20 to Rockport. Steelhead Park is on the river bank and is frequented by bald eagles. For Friday and Saturday night, we reserved Adirondack shelter A2 which has bunks for eight campers.

May 3–4 **Crystal Springs Forest Camp** (elev. 2400 ft, 60 miles east of Seattle)

Drive east on I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass. Continue east for 8 miles and take Stampede Pass exit #62. Turn right at the stop sign. After ¼ mile, before the bridge, turn right to enter the camp.

May 10–11 **Twenty-Nine Pines Forest Camp** (elev. 2500 ft, 102 miles east of Seattle)

Take I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #85. Follow Hwy 10 east of Cle Elum for 2½ miles. Turn left on Hwy. 970 and go 4½ miles. Turn left onto Teanaway River Road. Continue about 6 miles to the Bible Rock Children's Camp. Bear right on the Teanaway North Fork Road and continue to Twenty-Nine Pines on the left, just past Jack Creek Road. There is no shelter.

May 17–18 **Tumwater Forest Camp** (elev. 2050 ft, 95 miles east of Seattle)

May 24–25 **Swauk Creek Forest Camp** (elev. 2500 ft, 110 miles east of Seattle)

May 30–June 2 **American River Lodge** (elev. 3100 ft, 130 miles southeast of Seattle)

June 7–8 **Chatter Creek Forest Camp** (elev. 2400 ft, 150 miles east of Seattle)



"MAGIC MUSHROOMS" NEW BRUNSWICK CUSTOMS STYLE

Thomas Maler
condensed from *Mycelium*, 23:1,
Mycological Society of Toronto

At this time of year, we have only dried or pickled mushrooms, along with a few cherished fungophile memories of the summer and fall. I am not quite sure whether to pickle or dry the memories of our summer vacation to New Brunswick, thanks to the customs folks at the St. Stephen, N.B., border. One thing is sure, just like the dried mushrooms, these memories will last forever.

We were going sea kayaking on New Brunswick's Grand Manan island. We began the trip at our cottage on Lake Kassabog, where, much to my delight, my son Tim found some *Craterellus fallax* (Black Trumpet). Next day, I dried them and put them in between two paper plates taped together with masking tape and stuffed them under the front seat in the car. Off we went.

Because we went white water rafting on the Ottawa River the first day, we stayed overnight in Cornwall and crossed into the U.S. the next morning. That was a mistake. We should have supported the U.S. instead of the Canadian tourist industry.

The next night, we camped under Mt. Washington in New Hampshire and went on. We reached the famous St. Stephen crossing into New Brunswick at about 9:00 PM N.B. time, after buying one bottle of Kahlua Cream at the duty-free store. We declared the bottle, of course, and the customs man in the booth asked us how long we had been in the U.S. Christine, who was driving, replied "two days," which was true. The suspicious man wanted receipts for where we stayed, which we did not have and so he sent us into the office. There, our troubles began. The customs official, Bonnie Doughty, was every peaceful citizen's nightmare.

Christine readily explained that, although we had stayed the first night in Canada and the next night in the U.S., we did spend two days in the U.S. Apparently, you must spend 48 hours in the U.S. to qualify for duty-free merchandise. We were informed that we had committed a terrible, horrible criminal offense and that our bottle was going to be confiscated. We were not allowed to pay the duty or anything else.

The woman then proceeded to search the car and recovered the paper plates with the dried mushrooms. She asked what they were, and I replied that they were dried Black Trumpets we had picked at our cottage in Canada. She was unimpressed by my explanation and told me "I think these are magic mushrooms" without any shred of evidence and without having any clue as to what they were. She then victoriously marched inside with her trophies, one bottle of Kahlua Cream and some dried "magic" mushrooms. By then, it was approximately 9:45 PM.

I was told to fill out some forms, and she searched Christine's purse, took my driver's license and ownership certificate, and disappeared into the depth of the building for about 45 minutes. After she reappeared, we had to fill out more forms, sign a transfer of the bottle to Queen's warehouse, and witness the pouring of it into the bathroom sink.

By the time the drug squad (Bonnie Doughty and her supervisor) took over, it was around 10:00 PM. A discussion followed, with more accusations of magic mushrooms and more fruitless explanations that they were choice edibles from our cottage. We were told that they would have to test the mushrooms and I agreed. Another half hour later, I asked them to keep the mushrooms and mail them to us when they had finished and to let us go so we could find a hotel and put our tired 9-year old to bed, since we had to catch a ferry to Grand Manan at 9:00 AM the next morning.

cont. on p. 4

Customs Nightmare, cont. from p. 3

My request and its many repeats much later were fruitless. The officials returned a few times, saying that the tests were negative, but they did not let us go. They hijacked a poor unsuspecting Agriculture Canada guy from P.E.I., asking him whether he knew these "magic" mushrooms. The man, who obviously knew a lot about potatoes, just told them that he thought they were ordinary mushrooms.

The next witness was a U.S. customs official, who also could not identify these suspicious black things as "magic." Christine now stopped urging me to be nice to them, because it did not help. I was also hopping mad because they totally lacked any consideration for Tim, who was very tired and upset. I started demanding that they let us go immediately, and all of a sudden the drug squad supervisor handed me the paper plate and told me we could go.

By now it was 11:30 PM, and the man who had originally sent us over was on his break smoking a pipe. He told us that he was sorry that he had started this whole ordeal. He even phoned around trying to get us a motel room, but everything was full. I stopped at Tim Horton's to get a coffee, since we had no idea how long we'd have to drive to find some accommodations. Lo and behold, there was the agriculture guy from P.E.I., entertaining the donut shop with our story. He told me he could not believe what he saw.

On the way to Grand Manan, I kept thinking of an old, great movie by Lina Wertmueller, called "Seven Beauties." The villain in this movie was a horrible female Nazi concentration camp commandant and a hero of the movie, played by Giancarlo Gianini, was making overtures to her, so he could get some food to help him survive.

Mushroom Missionaries: Steve Bell gave a talk to Earth Save on March 17 about the nutritional value of mushrooms.

*The largest field mushroom on record
was found in France in 1924.
It was 15¾ in. in diameter and weighed over 4½ lb.*

KUDOS TO RUSS PARKER

Brandon Matheny

Many thanks to Russ Parker for his maintenance and upkeep of the PSMS microscopes. Russ recently assembled another compound microscope for the club and built a handsome box for it as well. In addition, Russ continues to accept instruments in need of some adjustment. Russ, your service is greatly appreciated!

FUNGI MAY HAVE RULED THE WORLD

Bill Freedman - *Mycena News*, 46:7
via *Mycographia*, 19:3, Mt. Mazama Mushroom Assoc.

Paleobiologists agree that about 250 million years ago, at the end of the Permian period, 95% of marine and land animals died and their species became extinct. The cause for this die-off can only be suspected at this time. It has been presumed that a drop in sea level may have precipitated the marine extinctions.

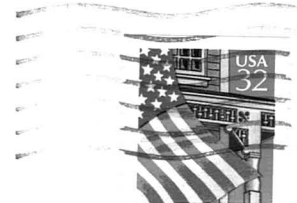
However, in the March 5, 1996, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* in the Netherlands, paleobotanist Henk Visscher describes "a feeding frenzy" of wood-rotting fungi. Fresh research results from the Alps and Israel match those from five other continents. This dramatic event cannot therefore be attributed solely to oceanic changes.

A series of massive volcanic eruptions in Siberia is thought to have occurred at the time of the extinctions. The lava and ash eruptions lasted for about a million years. Molten basalt poured out so massively that the entire earth could have been paved with a 6-m-deep layer. Acidic gasses and carbon dioxide could have heated the earth and poisoned the air and water, killing most of the plants and animals.

During most periods of geologic history, plant pollen and spores outnumber fungal remains in sedimentary rocks. But at the end of the Permian, preserved fungal remains predominated as they fed upon the dead wood. Fungi ruled the world for a while, acting as scavengers cleaning up the woody debris following the cataclysm of the most extensive global extinction on record.



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