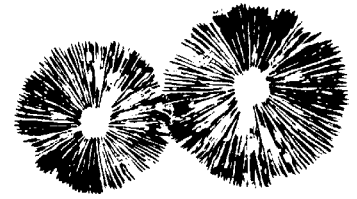


SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 374

September 2001

38TH ANNUAL WILD MUSHROOM SHOW: AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION Karin Mendell

Every year about this time, all the PSMS folks begin to mobilize to perform a small miracle. A group of drab halls and meeting rooms is transformed into a virtual mushroom hunter's paradise. It is a labor of love, perseverance, and monumental support from all of our members that makes this show, surely, one of the nation's finest! If you are a newer member, you'll be amazed. If you are a long-time member, you'll marvel that we've done it once again—and will again feel that profound sense of respect and admiration for our members.

Preparation has been going on throughout much of the summer, and our show posters should be ready for the September meeting. We will again ask that each member present take 5–10 posters and flyers to distribute throughout their community. Hang them up in shopping areas, cafes, libraries, schools—wherever you think they will be noticed! The posters have proven to be our best publicity value. This year's posters feature the graphic design work of Claire Bronson and photography by Taylor Lockwood, and are beautiful. We're delighted to announce that T-shirts will return this year, thanks to lots of effort by Joanne Young!

Many members have already volunteered to lead the committees responsible for putting the various components of the show together. However, **several important committee chair positions remain unfilled**. Please consider taking responsibility for one of the positions listed below. We need your help now! We will also need countless volunteers to staff each committee. Please be available when a Committee Chair calls you for help! We know our members will come through with the support needed to make this an excellent show. If you have specific talents or interests, feel free to contact Karin at k.mendell@home.com or Coleman at kolman.l@zipcon.net, and we will help locate your volunteer position. Thanks, in advance, for all the amazing efforts you all contribute!

OPEN SHOW COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS

Karin Mendell

Hospitality: Two volunteers are needed to staff the kitchen, serving donated refreshments to workers, volunteers, vendors, and presenters during show hours.

Arts & Crafts: Someone is needed to locate and coordinate artist vendors for the show.

Publicity: Karin and Joanne are trying to handle this activity—but it's so important that one solely committed individual would be best.

Tray Tours: Someone is needed to organize the individuals who will lead tray tours (narrated walks around mushroom displays).

Clean Up: Someone is needed to organize clean-up and tear-down activities at the close of the show. We (thankfully!) always have so many people participate—but would like one person to be responsible.

Decoration: Someone is needed to organize collection and hanging of the beautiful fall foliage that is draped and hung throughout all the displays.

Conservation and Ecology: We have not had this display in recent years, but would really like to see it reinstated.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES FOR SHOW SETUP ACTIVITIES Coleman Leuthy

Over the years we have had great help from experienced members bringing their expertise and from newer members bringing their eagerness. We especially need all of your help this year. I would like to see those we have not seen for a while and, of course, everyone who comes out of the woodwork to help with the construction, setup, and staffing of the exhibit.

Thursday, October 11, 6:00–10:00 PM—Pre-Show Transportation Work Party

Since the show will again be located at the old Sand Point Naval Station, we will definitely have additional transportation struggles. Late Thursday the keys will be available to begin moving show materials from storage at CUH to Sand Point. We need “huskies with muscle” and several pickup trucks. We need more people Thursday evening for this move than for all day Friday.

Friday, October 12, Throughout Day—Construction Crew

The construction crew will begin building show display and working areas. Men and women are both welcome to come in and assist with these activities. Carpentry experience is NOT required. Just come on down, and we'll put you to work!

Friday, October 12, Evening Tasks

Hanging foliage, decorations, table cloths and final touches—as much as we can get done. The book and T-shirt sales area is set up Friday evening AND mushroom receiving and sorting.

Sunday, October 14, 6:00 PM—Show Closing Routine

Tear down exhibits, clean up space, and transport materials back to storage and CUH. With your ambitious help, we can be out of Sand Point by 9:00 PM and, with good luck, have the storage completed by 10:00 PM.

Please mark your calendars with the above dates and times.

We are sad to report that long-time member Monte Hendrickson died Sunday, July 15, of kidney failure. Monte and his wife, Hildegard, joined PSMS when he retired in 1972 and immediately became active, taking classes, serving on the board, and going on field trips, where they always arrived by 9:00 AM. Monte would gather the newcomers and take them out for a hunt. Along with Hildegard, he was co-editor of the PSMS newsletter *Spore Prints* for 12 years. Our condolences to Hildegard and their family.

Spore Prints

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PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Annual dues \$20; full-time students \$10

CALENDAR

Sept. 11 Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
Sept. 15 Ranger Creek Field Trip
Sept. 17 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
Sept. 18 *Spore Prints* Deadline
Sept. 22 Tumwater Campground Field Trip
Sept. 29 Chatter Creek Field Trip (see write-up on page 3)
Oct. 6 Lake Wenatchee Field Trip
Oct. 14–15 PSMS Annual Exhibit, Sand Point Brig
Oct. 20 Twanoh State Park Field Trip
Oct. 27 The Mountaineers/PSMS Joint Field Trip
Nov. 3–4 Lake Quinault Foray
Nov. 17 Deception Pass Field Trip

BOARD NEWS

Agnes Sieger

The fall field trip schedule is set. There is some question about the condition of the Chatter Creek campground on Icicle Creek because of the current forest fire. We still need a cook for the Quinault Foray, November 3–4. Joanne passed around a copy of the new exhibit poster, which was done by Claire Bronson from the School of Visual Concepts and features three photos of Taylor Lockwood's. We need to get some people together to discuss the PSMS exhibit on radio station KUOW. John Goldman will investigate switching the investment funds. The board discussed the benefits of getting a digital camera. Karin Mendell reported that there were 20–25 people at the PSMS picnic in July. Sky nursery inquired about PSMS manning a booth at their exhibit September 6–8. The board voted to increase the president's discretionary fund to \$300.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, September 11, at 7:30 PM at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle

The speaker at our September meeting will be Steve Trudell, UW graduate student, past-president of the Pacific Northwest Key Council, and prolific mushroom photographer. Steve's research involves mycorrhizal fungi and forest ecology, and his topic will be "Mycorrhizae: What Are They, What Do They Do, and Why Should We Care?" The last 10 years have seen major advances in our understanding of mycorrhizae and their importance in the world, yet this understanding still is largely confined to those who are mycologically inclined. Come learn about the basics of mycorrhizal biodiversity and ecology and hear about some of the latest mycorrhiza research findings, direct from last month's Third International Conference on Mycorrhizae.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joanne Young

Welcome back. I hope everybody had a great summer, and has had enough of those blue-colored skies! We're overdue for a good mushroom season, so it's time to start your rain dances.

PSMS has a wonderful tradition of having many active volunteers. In fact, anything that gets done for PSMS is volunteered. From membership, to Web site, setting up meetings, organizing and giving classes, doing mailings, taking phone messages, planning, hosting and identifying at field trips, newsletter editing, and more, dozens of volunteers keep the club going year round.

At show time there's even more to do, and it's a great time to get involved. The show is an essential part of our mission to the public, but also benefits our members more than any other single event. If you are a new (or long-time) member, set some time aside to help out in during the show weekend, October 13 and 14. If you can, take the day off on Friday, October 12, to go collecting specimens; it's vital to the show, and a great way to learn.

This year's beautiful exhibit poster was designed and illustrated by Claire Bronson from the School of Visual Concepts. It features photos by the renowned mushroom photographer Taylor Lockwood. Thank you, Taylor, for letting us use your wonderful slides! And thank you, Claire, for your talent, generosity, and humor! The poster was printed by Rolf Vecchi of Qualigraphics in Lynnwood, with color separations by Darryl Schmidt of Trademark. We appreciate the TLC and generous pricing you give to us! Qualigraphics again donated the very fine paper for the poster.

Stay tuned for news about the PSMS Lake Quinault Foray, scheduled for November 3rd and 4th. Thanks to new board members Don and Cathy Lennebacker for organizing it!

We were saddened by the passing of Monte Hendrickson on July 15. He was 92. Monte was a long-time PSMS activist and 1997 Golden Mushroom award recipient, together with his wife Hildegard. For several years Monte had limited mobility, but he continued to serve PSMS from behind the scenes. Until recently, he was still engraving all of the PSMS membership badges. He did much, much more for PSMS, and is remembered fondly for his generosity to the club, especially to new members.

*Did you hear about the fungus and the alga?
They took a lichen to each other.*



FALL FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Steve Curtice

September 15

Ranger Creek

Drive 29 miles east on Highway 410 from Enumclaw. Make a right on road 7160, between the Dalles and Silver Springs campgrounds. Drive ½ mile. Look for the PSMS signs. Day trip only, no fee.

September 22

Tumwater Campground
(elev. 2050 ft, 95 miles east of Seattle)

From north of Seattle, drive east over State Highway 2. Tumwater Campground is about 23 miles east of the Stevens Pass summit, on the left. Watch for the sign.

September 29

Chatter Creek
(elev. 2400 ft, 150 miles east of Seattle)

Chatter Creek Campground is 16.1 miles up Icicle Creek Road out of Leavenworth. Take Highway 2 over Stevens Pass and proceed 34 miles. (You can also take 1-90 over Snoqualmie Pass to exit #85, go over Swauk Pass to Highway 2, and proceed left for 6 miles.) Icicle Creek Road is on the north edge of town. This is a reserved group camp with a shelter. Check in with the campground manager. Friday check-in time is 2 PM. There will be a \$5 camping fee for overnights. Pay the PSMS field-trip host(s). Overnight. **Check the PSMS Web site and the answering machine for an update on possible changes due to forest fires on Icicle Creek.**

October 6

Lake Wenatchee State Park
(elev. 1800 ft, 95 miles east of Seattle)

North of Seattle, go east on State Highway 2 over Stevens Pass. Twenty miles east of the summit, turn left on Route 207. Look for PSMS signs.

October 20

Twanoh State Park

October 27 and 28

The Mountaineers/PSMS Weekend

November 3-4

Lake Quinault Foray

November 17

Deception Pass

FALL FIELD TRIP HOST NEWS!

Karin Mendell

For this fall's field trips, we remind members of the following:

- Hosts will be asked to supply coffee, hot water for tea, and two dozen pastries. Save receipts for Lynn Phillips, for reimbursement.
- **Important:** I will be holding the host kit (the box of field trip supplies). Please call me at (425) 868-7918 to arrange pickup of the kit before your field trip.
- Remember to bring your own picnic gear (plates, utensils, etc.)
- Plan to stay and host the potluck, after the mushroom picking.
- Have fun meeting other new and long-time members!!

If you have not done so in the past, please consider hosting a field trip this season. It's a great way to develop lasting PSMS relationships. Call Cathy and Don Lennebacker at (452) 742-3163 to reserve your opportunity to host this fall !

FIELD TRIP TIPS

Agnes Sieger

Apparel: The Pacific Northwest is wet. Wear warm clothing, preferably in layers, and waterproof shoes or boots and bring your rain gear. Pacific Northwest vegetation is usually thick, and the sky is frequently overcast. Bring a compass and whistle and a map of the area—and remember to use them.

Mushrooming Gear: You will need a wide-bottomed container for your mushrooms. This can be a basket or bucket. Do not use plastic sacks; they tend to condense moisture and turn mushrooms into slime. You will need a sturdy knife suitable for cutting and prying and perhaps a soft brush to clean up the edibles; some people even bring a small garden trowel for digging. To protect individual specimens for identification, take some wax paper sandwich bags or aluminum foil.

Collecting: If you know you have a good edible, cut off the stem cleanly and brush off as much soil and debris as possible. Store like species in a rigid container where they won't get crushed or pick up more dirt. Try to keep the mushrooms cool and dry, and process them as soon as possible.

Field Trip Format: Most PSMS field trips are planned for Saturdays, since this is the most convenient time for many people. It is possible to come early on Friday and stay over to Sunday. The campgrounds, unless otherwise specified, have camping facilities. Almost all field trips have hosts, who set up by 9:00 AM on Saturday with hot coffee and snacks. The hosts greet and sign in members, relay general tips on what is up and where to find it, and introduce newcomers to more experienced members. They also have a map of the area. After signing in, participants gather their gear and head for their favorite hunting grounds. In the afternoon, they come back to the campsite to identify their finds, compare notes, and prepare for the potluck.

Potluck: The potluck starts at 4:00 PM (sometimes later when days are longer). You need to bring your own eating utensils and beverage and a dish to contribute to the table. This can be an appetizer, salad, main dish, or dessert. The food is usually delicious, and it is a great time to swap tales, collect recipes, and share mushroom information with friends old and new.

ANNUAL PSMS PICNIC

L. Felix & K. Mendell

After days of bright sunshine, July 14, the day of the annual PSMS Picnic, was forecast as possible rain and clouds. Instead, we had no rain and intermittent sunshine. About 25-30 folks showed up—a nice assortment of long-time members and some newcomers. The food (as always at our PSMS potlucks) was excellent! Especially memorable were Marian Maxwell's "Baseball Beans" and the delicious hot bread coated with mixed gooey cheeses, olives, and other goodies brought by new members Al and Helen Brown. The wonderful PSMS camaraderie was even better than the food. We were delighted to have two sets of members who traveled quite a distance to join us: Margaret and Claude Dilly and Dick and Agnes Sieger. Charlotte and Bill Zila were present, though we missed Irwin and Millie Kleinman, who had to cancel due to health problems.

A last special mention: Joshua Birkebak surprised us with a most beautiful late summer specimen of The Prince, *Agaricus augustus*, which someone had found in Discovery Park.



Chowing down at the PSMS annual picnic, July 14, 2001

OOPS, WE GOOFED

We are abashed to report that many of the facts in the June article "Wood Mulch Spreads Magic Mushrooms," which we passed on from the *Union Jack* via the L.A. Myco. Soc., were untrue. Thanks to Web surfer John W. Allen of Hawaii, who pointed out that *Psilocybe percivelli* and *Agrocybe putominium* are not hallucinogenic species and provided a copy of an e-mail rebuttal by Dr. Peter Shaw, the researcher supposedly quoted in the article. We are reprinting the rebuttal here for the light it throws on both the academic mind and distortions by the news media.

From: P. Shaw
To: MAPS forum
Subject: MAPS: Invasion of *Psilocybe cyanescens* (overview)
Date: Sun, 14 Jan 2001

Dear All

I desisted from e-posting this article when it first came out, on the grounds that it says nothing that competent mycologists haven't known for years. Since it has been posted, I'll follow it up with a post-hoc analysis. This may tell you more about the media than about mushrooms!

*The background story is that I have been keeping an eye on the mushrooms coming up in woodchip beds in formal gardens in the UK for a few years, and have alternated between amazement at the oddities and bafflement in trying to identify things not in any field guide. One of the aliens in question is of course *Psilocybe cyanescens*, which is in fact very common if you know where to look. More information is given on: <http://www.chezshaw.demon.co.uk/work/research/woodchips/woodchips.html>*

Anyway, these casual surveys turned into an undergraduate project, which turned into offering a 15 minute talk at the annual meeting of the British Ecological Society. You know how it is in academia—they like you to give lots of conference presentations, and when you find a way of giving a high-profile talk based on not much data and no external funding you jump at the opportunity!

The BES has a very savvy press officer who put out a press release about an invasion of hallucinogenic aliens, and the rest is history. The silly thing is that no press actually bothered coming to my talk (though a random Birmingham hippy floated in off the streets, and later expounded a theory that there would be an explosion of new species evolving in this habitat due to its peaceful karma—or some such logic I didn't quite follow)...

*If you really want to follow the story up, get hold of the January edition of *Field Mycology* (publ. by Cambridge U.P., UK, edited by my friend Geoff Kibby). He found 10,000 not 100,000—and none ever in Burnham beeches. (This should have said Epping forest). Even better, Geoff would really like lots of overseas subscribers—so if you like fungi get yourself a subscription to *Field Mycology* (around \$30 per year—check the CUP website).*

COMING ATTRACTION

Cathy Lennebacker

It's not too soon to think about attending the **Lake Quinault Foray**, November 3 and 4. Come prepared for a rustic weekend at Kamp Kiwanis on the north shore of Lake Quinault. Fun friends, great food, gorgeous old growth, and mushrooms. What could be better?

For reservations or more information, see Don Lennebacker at the registration table during the September meeting or phone (425) 742-3163.

McGee, MS



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