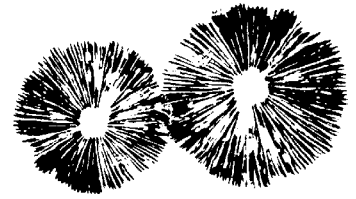


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 376 November 2001



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joanne Young

Exhibit: By all counts the 38th Annual Wild Mushroom Show was a great success! Congratulations and thanks to our hard-working show chairs, Coleman Leuthy and Karin Mendell. Their fine leadership and thorough preparation made everything go well (even with a fire drill)! Despite meager wild mushroom fruitings, we had plenty of good specimens for the display, thanks to all who went out collecting! The public had a good time, volunteers had a good time, and preliminary financial reports look like we're well into the black. We'll have a more complete report in a few weeks. Thanks to all of you who helped to make the show such a success!



Cookie Bash: It's not too soon to start digging out your favorite cookie and hors d'oeuvre recipes for the annual Cookie Bash in December. Traditionally, instead of a scheduled speaker, members show five or six slides of their recent adventures. Then we socialize, swap stories, and feast.

Nominations: Nominations are open for new officers. This year we vote for a President, a Treasurer, and five board members. Nominating/Election committee members are Pacita Roberts, Marian Maxwell, and Patrice Benson. Elections take place in February for two-year terms beginning March of 2002. If you would like to get more involved with PSMS, this is a great way to do it. Contact one of the Election Committee members, or any board member, to nominate yourself or to suggest a possible candidate.

Wish List: PSMS is looking for a volunteer to do the layout for the 2002 membership roster. It needs to be done sometime between February and May 2002. We would also like to obtain a digital projector for meetings, outside events, and teaching. Is your office upgrading?

Kudus: PSMS would like to thank the following people for their generous gifts to PSMS. Thanks to Wade and Osa Sommermeyer and James Van Damme for donating to the PSMS scholarship fund. To Ben Woo for giving PSMS a fabulous Nikon microscope with binocular and trinocular heads and a dual eyepiece for teaching! To Paul Stamets of Fungi Perfecti for his generous donation of ninety copies of *The Mushroom Cultivator*.

MUSHROOM MISSIONARIES

John Goldman and **Karin Mendell** prepared and manned a table at Sky Nursery. **Dick Sieger** and **Margaret Dilly** presented slide shows on "Urban Mushrooms" and "Beautiful Mushrooms," respectively, at the Vancouver, B.C., Mushroom Society's annual exhibit on October 20.

*What did the zoospore say
as it was leaving the zoosporangium?
"After you, I encyst!"*

38TH ANNUAL WILD MUSHROOM EXHIBIT

Coleman Leuthy & Karin Mendell, show co-chairs

The Exhibit went quite well—in spite of the opening, when a chef flamed brandy and the fire alarm went off. Ben Woo found a switch and shut it off. Coleman called and said no fire or smoke, but the truck was on its way. They looked around. The captain was upset about turning the fire alarm off, claiming so one ever resets an alarm system. Then one of the firemen left the control center in the north pod of the old brig, and somehow the door was allowed to shut, locking the captain inside. WOW! He was upset, and one of Seattle's fire trucks was shut down and out of service, as they go nowhere without the captain. Coleman realized that they were looking at him for a solution. He finally remembered that he had the security company's phone number and went out and got it. The firemen drove the fire truck up to the entrance, and eventually the security man showed up and let the captain out.

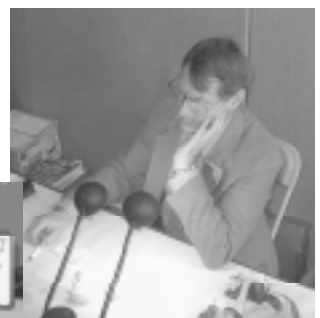
Everything worked out. We did not get closed down, and the captain even ventured with Joanne into the Exhibit to see some mushrooms.

The exhibit itself went quite well. The attendance was better this, our second year at Sand Point/Magnusen Park. It was the tremendous effort of the subcommittees and their many supernumeraries helping that made this year a great success. Hearty congratulations to the exhibit workers, all of whom applied themselves so well to the job. You made it happen!

38th Annual PSMS Wild Mushroom Exhibit

Identification Chair Brian Luther
ponders an ID puzzle ☐

Tray Arrangement Chair Marilyn
Maxwell, Exhibit Co-Chair Coleman
Leuthy, and kibitzer Mike Lovelady ☐



*Exhibit goes
discover the
fascinating world
of fungi ☐*

Spore Prints

is published monthly, September through June by the

PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, November 13, 2001, at the
Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E.
41st Street, Seattle, Washington

Our speaker this month will be David Pilz, a botanist working with the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station in Corvallis, Oregon. David specializes in studying the harvest of forest fungi, and has conducted research on matsutake, chanterelles, and morels in cooperation with numerous landowners, forest managers, and harvesters.



International commerce in chanterelle and matsutake mushrooms harvested from coniferous forests of the northern hemisphere exceeds a billion dollars annually. Careful picking of these mushrooms has little impact on subsequent fruiting, but forest management practices critically influence their productivity because they are ectomycorrhizal with trees. Pilz's presentation will describe a theoretical framework for predicting the production of edible mushrooms.

Would people with last names beginning with the letters A-F please bring a plate of refreshments to share at the meeting?

BRYCE KENDRICK RECEIVES LAWSON MEDAL

Congratulations to Dr. Bryce Kendrick upon his reception of the Lawson Medal, the most prestigious award given by the Canadian Botanical Association/L'Association botanique du Canada (CBA/ABC). The medal, which is named in honor of George Lawson, regarded as Canada's first professional botanist, was awarded in a ceremony at Kelowna, Canada, on June 26, 2001. Bryce is well known to many members of PSMS as a teacher par excellence, fascinating speaker, and friend of amateur mycological societies (and amateur mushroomers) everywhere.

According to CBA/ABC President Joseph F. Gerrath, "This year's award was given in recognition of cumulative, lifetime contributions to Canadian botany by a senior researcher and teacher. This person would be a strong candidate for being called 'Mr. Canadian Mycology,' but he does have a name, which should be familiar to everyone here. In his letter to me accepting the Medal, he wrote, regarding his name, that, 'it is, as far as I am aware, unique among biologists.' Indeed, there is only one Bryce Kendrick.

"Bryce received his Ph.D. from the University of Liverpool in 1958 and then spent several years as NRC Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Scientist at the Plant Research Institute in Ottawa. In 1965 he joined the faculty at the University of Waterloo and remained there until his retirement in 1994, becoming Full Professor in 1971 and Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs in 1985. He is now Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Waterloo and was, until recently, an Adjunct Professor at the University of Victoria. Although retired, he continues to teach mycology, as a distance education course, using his universally admired textbook, *The Fifth Kingdom*, which is now available in a CD ROM version. For this course, I am told that Bryce has constructed one of the largest mycological websites: <http://www.mycolog.com>. Bryce was also very active in establishing the Southern Vancouver Island Mycological Society and has led many fungal forays for this group, as well as serving terms as President and Newsletter Editor.

CALENDAR

November 13 Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
November 17 Deception Pass Field Trip
November 19 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH Board Room
November 20 *Spore Prints* deadline

BOARD NEWS

Agnes Sieger

John Goldman agreed to help Education Chair Colin Meyer with the ID classes.

Russ Kurtz reported that there were no tables at the Ranger Creek field trip, and it was a wind tunnel. The board discussed possible alternative sites with shelters and picnic tables.

Ed Foy is ready to do a cultivation class on oyster mushrooms for 20 people. Colin Meyer will spruce up pages on the PSMS Web site, especially the show page. Karin Mendell reported that there was still lots of work to be done on the annual exhibit. The fee for the Quinault Foray was changed to \$40. Michael Blackwell will be handling meals.

Some people have expressed interest in doing a cookbook. Colin Meyer will look into designing an electronic version. We have requests for speakers and hike leaders from Seward Park and the Waldorf School.

Patrice is looking into obtaining a digital projector. We need to do an inventory of the library.

It was agreed that copies of the membership database will be kept by Colin Meyer, Patrice Benson, Joanne Young, and Pacita Roberts as backups.

“Twenty-two graduate students have completed their degree research under his supervision, and he has been author or co-author of some 217 publications, with more on the way [both students and publications].”

Thanks to Adolf Ceska of the South Vancouver Island Mycological Association for calling this award to our attention.

TUMWATER FIELD TRIP Ben & Marianne Sakamoto

The first day of Fall, September 22, was bright and sunny. Twenty-four enthusiastic mushroom hunters gathered at the Tumwater Campground to look for whatever they could find. Ben and Marianne Sakamoto and dog Tucker were there to greet members as they arrived.

Unfortunately, pickings were slim owing to the dry conditions and no rain the past few weeks. Mushrooms that were found were quite dry and not in good condition. No identifier was present, but several members made some very good educated guesses. Included in the finds were amanitas, several varieties, boletes, chanterelles (white), several Matsutake, clitocybes, russulas, corals, one Shaggy Mane, and a very large polypore.

Some members brought potluck to share; others ate lunch out in the field. Others went back over Stevens Pass to look for mushrooms on the more rainy side. The field trip broke up around 3 PM.

Although the mushrooms were few and far between, it was a pleasant way to start the Fall season.

CHATTER CREEK FIELD TRIP

Matt Ironside: The cool dry weather didn't stop more than 25 members from making the trip to Chatter Creek for the field trip on September 29. Those that gathered included new members and veteran hunters alike. For those working on improving their identification skills, Brian Luther, our identifier for this trip, gave excellent tips on identifying the variety of *Suillus* species that came to the collection table, and for the pot hunters, there was a nice potluck that included white chanterelles and *Hericium* picked for the pot.

Brian Luther: Sixty two species of fungi were identified and displayed, including 37 gilled mushrooms, 11 boletes, 7 polypores, 3 cantharelloid fungi, 3 hydroid fungi, and one Gastromycete. Interesting finds included several collections of the polypore *Climacocystis borealis*, a nice specimen of *Polyozellus multiplex*, some beautiful finds of *Fuscoboletinus ochraceoroseus*, *Albatrellus flettii*, and *Hygrophorus speciosus*. Clearly the rarest species brought in was a collection of *Boletus fibrillosus* consisting of four fruiting bodies in prime condition at various stages of development. An unusual find.

TWANOH STATE PARK FIELD TRIP Brian Luther

My daughter and I got up early on October 20, threw some wood in the car, and went down to sweep and clean out Kitchen #2 shelter about 7:00 AM before members arrived. Shortly after we started cleaning, the Park Ranger (Larry) came around to give us newly lined garbage cans and turn on the electricity, and we talked for quite a while. He gave us full use of the regular campground, as well as the Group Camp site. Our hosts, Don and Cathy Lennebacker, arrived about 8:00 AM, got a nice fire going, set out

goodies and coffee, and made everybody feel welcome. By 9:00 AM we had a good sized group assembled. I spoke briefly about the collections that had just been put on the tables, and then decided to lead them all up into the park, serving as their guide. I told them before we left that I was going to lead them right to chanterelles, and in the end we had buckets full and a lot of happy newcomers as a result. I don't know how we managed to luck out on the weather (again), but it was mild with an occasional patch of blue sky. Our timing was perfect because it rained on Sunday.

One-hundred and one species of fungi were identified and displayed, as well as several unidentified species of *Hydnellum*, *Cortinari*, and *Inocybe*. Interesting finds included *Leccinum manzanitae* (mycorrhizal with Ericaceae), *Asterophora lycoperdoides*, *Pluteus atricapillus*, *Truncocolumella citrina*, and *Hygrophorus pusillus*. Lots of Yellow and White Chanterelles were found, and a nice collection of *Sparassis crispa* was brought in. Don Lennebacker gets the prize for finding the only Matsutake.

Ten or twelve people stayed for a small, but satisfying potluck. After cleaning up, the Lennebackers, along with Frances Ikeda and Lynne Elwell, set up for the night at the campground. I stayed for a while with them and enjoyed conversation, wine, and a nice camp fire.

We were lucky that Karin Mendell and Steve Curtice had reserved this facility as early as they had, because there was a new rule change, which went into effect just after we reserved, that obligates the rangers to close the park for the season on October 15 from now on, because of budget cuts, instead of October 31. This means that we cannot reserve the park next year at the same time, because they'll be closed. So, starting next year we have two options: (1) just use the Kitchen #2 Shelter for day use the weekend after the Exhibit, knowing that we'll have no water, garbage service, or electricity, or (2) reserve the Group Camp facility (with all amenities available) for the weekend before the Exhibit.

Altogether a very successful field trip.

COPRINOID NAME JUGGLING B. S. McGinty *Arizona Fun-gi*, Spring 2001 via *The Mushroom Log*, Ohio Mush. Soc., May/June 2001

A recent article in the journal *Taxon* (vol. 50, Feb. 2001) has suggested that the genus *Coprinus* be split into four genera. Why is this happening to our favorite deliquescent genus?

It all began at Duke University in the early 1990s, when a student named John Hopple began work on his doctoral dissertation at Duke University under the leadership of Dr. Rytas Vilgays. Hopple and Dr. Vilgays put forth the idea that at the molecular level the genus *Coprinus* was not really a closely related group, but rather four separate groups that were mingled in with *Psathyrella* (among other things). The trouble didn't end there!

Coprinus comatus (Shaggy Mane), the species that the genus concept was based on, did not even fall in with the majority of other species of *Coprinus*! Instead it stood out on its own little "island" separated from the rest of the "Coprini" by a sea of other genera. Joining *C. comatus* on this "island" was its close relative *C. sterquilinus*, and sitting on the shore nearby was the *Coprinus*-like secotiid fungus, *Montagnea arenaria*. The once "stable" genus *Coprinus* had been undone, and now it was in a mess. What could be done? It would take a brave soul to sort it all out!

Fast-forward now several years to 2001, when a brave soul has finally stepped up to the task! His name is Dr. Scott Redhead, and

(cont. on page 4)

Coprinus (cont. from page 3)

he is a professional mycologist who works for the Canadian government. Dr. Redhead was charged with sifting through a mountain of historical mycological literature in order to sort out what “old” names could validly be used for these new genera in accordance with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (the “law” for naming things like mushrooms).

If these proposed changes take place, the name *Coprinus* would be kept with its namesake species, *C. comatus*, and this genus would now be included in the family Agaricaceae (Coprinaceae would disappear). The old familiar *C. atramentarius* (Tippler’s Bane) would be transferred to the genus *Coprinopsis* (along with the other closely related species) to become *Coprinopsis atramentaria*. The lesser-known *Coprinus micaceus* and its related species would comprise the genus *Coprinellus*, and a new generic name, *Parasola*, would cover a group of “parasol-like” species such as *Coprinus plicatilis*. Of course, *C. plicatilis* would then become *Parasola plicatilis*. These last three genera would now be placed in the proposed family Psathyrellaceae.

Before you throw your arms up and refuse to use another binomial again, take heart in the soothing words of Scott Redhead in his article “Bully for *Coprinus*—A Story of Manure, Minutiae, and Molecules” from the recent edition of *McIlvainea* (vol. 14, 2000):

“Do we suggest that you run out and adopt these names immediately? No! Be conservative initially, especially in field guides. If taken up by authors in field guides, they should be taken up cautiously with caveats attached, at least for the next few years while the data accumulate and the theories are tested. Molecular systematics is beyond the infancy stage but it is still just a toddler.”

This author will end his shaggy tale with a caveat of his own: Be prepared, because the science of molecular systematics may soon dramatically change the way we talk about mushroom species; however, all this name juggling won’t change the taste of a fresh *Coprinopsis atramentaria* fried in butter!

Dr. Redhead notes: “*C. atramentaria* (even in butter) is still poisonous with alcohol [even when the name changes the toxin is still coprine].”

SURRENDER YOUR BOLETES FOR SCIENCE

Steve Trudell

Francisco (“Ankie”) Camacho works in Tom Bruns’s lab at UC Berkeley. He is studying the taxonomy of *Boletus edulis* and closely related species. Although he has lots of collections of *B. edulis*, *B. pinophilus*, *B. barrowsii*, *B. aereus*, *B. appendiculatus*, *B. fibrillosus*, *B. mottii*, etc., from Oregon and California, he doesn’t have many from Washington. And he’d like some.

So, if you find any of these boletes, would you please dry a small portion of your collection (perhaps half each of one to three mushrooms) and send it to him along with notes as to species, date, location, associated trees, and any other info you have time to add. Maybe a photo if you have your camera handy. Note he doesn’t need or want large amounts of material—this isn’t a ploy to send Washington boletes to Berkeley restaurants! However, he would like to receive collections of as many different species as possible from this group. His address is

Dr. Francisco Camacho
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311/321 Koshland Hall
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