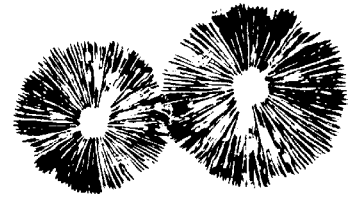


# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Number 387 December 2002



DECK THE ELK WITH S'ROOMS  
AND GOODIES...

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Gloria Barber  
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# 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

## CALENDAR

- Dec. 10 Membership Meeting and "Cookie Bash," CUH, 7:30 PM
- Dec. 16 Board Meeting, CUH, 7:30 PM
- Dec. 27 *Spore Prints* deadline (late)



## BOARD NEWS

Brandon Matheny

Ramona Owen volunteered to schedule field trips, and Marian Maxwell volunteered to coordinate field trip hosts this spring. Quinault Foray Co-Chair David Hunt volunteered to chair another foray next year, possibly at a new venue. David, along with Karin Mendell, will chair the exhibit once again; additional venues for the exhibit will also be considered. D. V. Corey and Tim Leavitt were approved for free memberships in 2003 in appreciation of their service to the club. The 2003 Survivor's Banquet will be a potluck at CUH; Marian Maxwell and Ramona Owen will co-chair. Patrice Benson and Karin Mendell will coordinate with Dr. Ammirati on an identification workshop in Fall 2003. The membership forms will be revised to facilitate our membership database. This year's show raised about \$5000 for the club. Admissions were just below 1000, and 99 new members joined. The Lake Quinault Foray also raised around \$650 for the club. Currently, PSMS has a balance of just over \$4000 for 2002. The board approved a switch to Arrow Printing & Graphics to print our newsletter, beginning with the January issue. The board is considering a small dues increase in 2003.



## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, December 10, at 7:30 PM at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

**Holiday Cookie Bash:** Once again it's time for our annual holiday gathering organized by your PSMS Board. Eating, socializing, sharing slides, and a "creative expression contest" will be our program this month. Please bring your favorite holiday treat to share—a plate of cookies, appetizers, fruit or cheese, etc. Please use a disposable plate or label your containers clearly with your name.

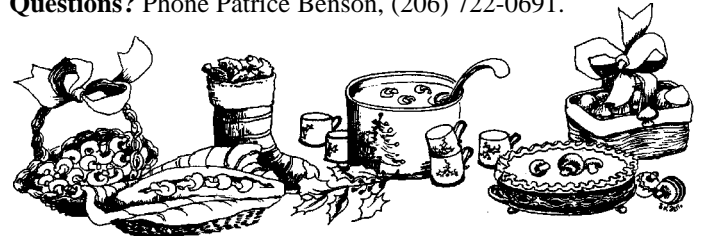


**Slide Show:** We will have both slide and digital projectors during this transition between technologies. Everyone is invited to bring a few slides (five max.) to share. If you have digital photos to share you can email them to Patrice at [bensomp@amgen.com](mailto:bensomp@amgen.com) or bring them on a CD the night of the meeting.



**Creative Expression Contest:** Again this year, we will wait to be dazzled and amazed by the many, varied, and unusual "fungi inspired" artistic expressions of our members. Entries may be in any medium: photographs, drawings, paintings, edible artwork, sewing, sculpture, etc. The only rules are (1) the artwork must be created by a PSMS member and (2) it must have a mycological theme! And yes, there will be prizes! All entries will be judged by popular vote. Please arrive by 7:15 PM to have your entry numbered and displayed. Everyone please remember to vote for your favorites! There will also be door prizes; those who bring a mushroom recipe will get three extra tickets.

**Questions?** Phone Patrice Benson, (206) 722-0691.



## MEANY LODGE MINI-FORAY

Coleman Leuthy

All we heard about this year was dry conditions. However, with 60–70 people in the woods September 27 and 28, the tables at Meany Lodge were full. We had about 140 identified species and perhaps 100 non-identified specimens on the sorting tables. It is always surprising what a group of people can find.

The weather was good with sun on Saturday. That night the wind brought down many colored leaves, and by afternoon there were sprinkles in the air. Trip leaders did a fine job in the field and at the display tables talking to the many interested people. Many thanks to Russ Kurtz, Harold Schnarre, Doug Ward, Don Lennebacker, Raoul Aime, and especially Jerry Stein for doing yeoman work and hanging in there at the identification tables.

Lorraine Dod held two sessions on cleaning and preparing edible mushrooms. I gave an evening talk on the gilled fungi and a review of the mushrooms on display on Sunday morning. We appreciate the excellent food we had all weekend, which was prepared by the Meany committee, who also prepared the menu and a program with activities. Thanks also for the help in setting up and opening the lodge by present and former committee chairmen and other Meanyites.

It rained hard Friday night and early Saturday morning, November 9, but there was a nice calm break in the weather when I went down at 6:00 AM to sweep out the shelter, clean off the picnic tables, and start a fire. Soon the head park ranger came by and turned on the lights and electricity for us in the shelter. Our delightful host for the day was Kitty Loceff. She and friend Sigrid Rupp (who flew up from Palo Alto, California, just to come to this field trip!) were the first to arrive. Kitty and Sigrid were a wonderful hosting team, greeting all who arrived with a warm "hello" and smile. They also had a nice spread of munchies and hot coffee for the members as they wandered in. Thanks, Kitty and Sigrid!

Twenty-six people signed in. After we got a good-sized group collected, I gave a brief survey of the fungi that had been collected early and were on the tables, and then I gave some suggestions for possible collecting areas. PSMS member Colleen Compton helped with lots of things throughout the day, and her assistance was much appreciated. We also had three members of the Kitsap Peninsula Mycological Society (Bremerton) stop by for the day. It's always great to see members of other mushroom clubs, because rarely do the numerous mycological societies in our state get together. We had people trickling in throughout the day, and several members, including our host Kitty, tried their hand at splitting the big rounds and sections of Hemlock firewood I brought with me with an eight pound maul. The Chum (aka Dog) Salmon were spawning and very abundant in the shallow stream running into Hood Canal by the shelter, and many people were amazed at the sight. Some non-PSMS people were pulling the huge fish out of the stream until I informed them that it was illegal to handle, remove, or disturb spawning salmon and their delicate streambed habitat. They quickly put them back.

About midday the weather became threatening, and once the rain started, it didn't stop. We all alternated going outside by the campfire to warm up briefly (but getting wet in the process) and then going back into the shelter. The stone stoves in the shelter were poorly designed, with all the heat going up the chimney and none radiating into the shelter, so we didn't bother with a fire inside.

A small group stayed for potluck, and we all huddled in the shelter out of the rain. Fortunately, we had lots of great snacks, hors d'oeuvres, and other food, and we all enjoyed the good company. I made a quick dash back to our cabin to get a six-pound lasagna out of the oven, which arrived right in the nick of time.

Only 52 species of fungi were brought in and identified, probably because the rains had just started only a week earlier. Most of the good edibles found were way past their prime, with bacterial and fungal decay. But some were usable, and a few Matsutake in good condition were found. Interesting species included *Cortinarius percomis*, which has a strong odor of ripe pears, and the large earthstar *Astraeus pteridis*.

We had quite a few new members, and most were complimentary, so I was assured we were all doing our jobs well. Those who stayed to the end all worked in unison to clean up and clear out. Despite the heavy rain, everybody was in good spirits and seemed to enjoy the day.

*A mushroom expert is not just anyone who says they are. They eat the mushrooms first.* —Pat Neal, *Sequim Gazette*, 11/13/02



This last of the fall field trips was held November 16 at the big shelter at Deception Pass State Park overlooking beautiful Cranberry Lake, one of the nicest areas to visit and collect in on the north end of Whidbey Island. We were all pleased that Harold Schnarre volunteered to host, and we enjoyed the chance to talk with him and catch up on news. Thank you, Harold, for the great job (as usual)! Harold also spent a lot of time getting a good workout by chopping up all the firewood I brought. Twenty-nine people signed in for a day that appeared to start out favorably weatherwise, but showers off and on throughout the day made the comfort of the big shelter and fire hearth welcome.



Too few people signed up to stay for potluck, so we basically ate our potluck throughout the day. Karin Mendell brought a nice home-made vegetable soup, and many others had lots of edible contributions that were enjoyed by all. It was great to see Claude Dilly, who stopped by for part of the day. Joshua Birkebak and his dad went deeper into the park and came back with several large Matsutake. Unfortunately, the one large specimen that Josh was kind enough to let me set out for the display for all to enjoy was later taken by some unknown person. Whoever you are (and you know), we need to tell you that this is not the kind of behavior we expect from members of PSMS. OK?

Some early arrivals who brought mushrooms got help with their collections from Josh. Larry Baxter glued himself to the ID table with me all day long, and we identified 116 different species of fungi. New member Stephanie Medina pitched right in and was very helpful arranging the identified specimens on the picnic tables with labels and push pins throughout the day. Thanks Josh, Larry, and Stephanie!

Interesting or unusual species included *Cantharellula umbonata*, a big collection of *Russula stuntzii*, and a nice collection of what appeared to be *Agaricus bisporus*. Only rarely do we see this species come in from the wild. Part of the collection was given to Margaret Dilly, our expert on the genus *Agaricus*, who agreed that it could be that species, pending further investigation.

I wish to convey my warmest thanks to all of you who have contributed to the field trips in some fashion, as organizers, as hosts, as identifiers, or just by being generally helpful doing all the things that made our fall field trips so successful. Your efforts have created many enjoyable outings for our members. If you've always wondered how you can contribute to PSMS, please consider coming forward and volunteering to host at our fun and educational field trips this next year. Hoping to see y'all early next spring and good collecting to you!

**NOMINATIONS PLEASE!**

**Ramona Owen, John Thomas, Marian Maxwell**

It's that time again, folks. We need a few hands to help maintain the course of this fine club. Please consider running for Vice-President, Secretary, or a Board seat. It's fun and deepens one's experience with PSMS! Nominate yourself or someone else (make sure you get their permission first). Give the name(s) to one of us on the Nominations Committee, along with a biography of no more than 50 words. We also need a close-up photo or we can take one at the January membership meeting. Voting ballots will be inserted in the February *Spore Prints*.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Karin Mendell

The tremendously busy 2002 fall mushroom season is now behind us!

I truly hope that all of our members, new and seasoned, got to take part in some of the wonderful adventures we sponsored. Though it was a very lean season for choice edibles in quantity, PSMS provided wonderful opportunities for our members to study, collect, identify, cook, and savor wild mushrooms in a variety of settings. We have heard and read wonderful, appreciative comments from members who were delighted by their experiences at our two forays this fall, the Meany Lodge Mini-Foray and the Quinalt Foray. Our field trips, though not blessed with prolific amounts of edible mushrooms, were attended by 26 to 55 people, the biggest attendance being at the old Masonic Lodge location. Many delighted participants remarked how much they enjoyed these outings.

Students who are just completing our identification classes have also expressed their gratitude and pleasure for the opportunities these classes have afforded them.

I would like to take a moment, again, to thank all of our wonderful volunteers who make these activities possible. We have the most excellent members, who share their love for mycology and our organization by giving of their time to work as teachers, identifiers, field trip schedulers, and hosts. In addition, all of our members who participate in these field trips and forays give generously of themselves helping with cooking, cleaning lodges, and campgrounds. I'm continuously amazed by the amount of shared effort that makes all of our activities so successful. It really is one of the reasons this group continues to grow and prosper over the years. If you missed the opportunity to take part in some of our seasonal events this fall, be sure to remedy that this spring!

Longtime PSMS member Earl Harrison died October 3rd. Our condolences go to his wife, Margo, who now lives in Shelter Bay, La Conner.

## BEN WOO SCHOLARSHIP FUND Ramona Owen

Many thanks to those who recently donated to the Ben Woo Scholarship Fund, set up in honor of longtime PSMS contributor and friend, Ben Woo. Scholarships are available annually to anyone wanting to apply to the Board for financial support of their mycologically related project. Osa and Wade Sommermeyer kindly contributed to the fund for the second year. Alison Colwell and Paul Stamets gave PSMS, respectively, a lovely ceramic mushroom sculpture and a set of books to be raffled at our annual Exhibit, donating the proceeds to the scholarship fund.

## QUINALT FORAY David Hunt & Karin Mendell

Participants this year were greeted by a blazing fire in the great stone fireplace. Temperatures had been in the low 20s, but fears of fungicide by freezing were somewhat alleviated by the sight of a large log by the entrance covered with perfect Honey Mushrooms, *Armillaria mellea*.

By early evening more than fifty people had signed in, many on their first formal encounter with the world of fungi fun. The number of children was especially gratifying.

After a potluck dinner, Tony Tschanz, one of our newest members, talked about the soon-to-be-ubiquitous Global Positioning System (GPS) and its potential value to mushroom hunters. It was too late for one member, who had previously found herself hopelessly disoriented in the wilds of Southern Hood Canal.

Under the guidance of Dr. Fred Rhoades, foray mycologist, over 185 species of mushrooms were identified. Most were of more scientific than culinary interest.

Once again we were blessed with great food, prepared by our delightful cooks Jamie and Dennis Notman. Donations of mushrooms from a number of members and an extraordinary team of volunteers enhanced their efforts. Every task no matter how large or small was done quickly with joy and goodwill.

*Have a Happy Holiday!*

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