

- JANUARY MEETING** Monday night, January 11th, 8:00 p m, Eames Theatre, Pacific Science Center. Dr. Stuntz will discuss microscopic features of mushrooms and their importance in modern taxonomy. We will have several microscopes set up with mounts of spores, tissues and other interesting parts so that you may see the actual materials discussed. Identification session will also be held for those who have hot-houses, or who have collected the rare *Snoballomyces frigidus*.
- RETROSPECT 64** Finishing our first year as a Society, we can look back on some pretty respectable gains. Starting from scratch, we have become organized, built membership to over 170, held meetings, gone on field trips, issued certificates, got out bulletins (some of them on time) and put on a pretty fair mushroom exhibit. All of us have made new friends, learned new things, and few of us have been poisoned in the process. For these things, we are grateful for the staunch support of Dr. Ray and the Pacific Science Center, for the good humor and generous light shed by Dr. Stuntz, for Miss McKenny's gracious assistance, and for the enthusiasm and hard work of you the members. You are all therefore awarded laurels, on which some of you may rest while others remember that composted laurel leaves are an excellent medium for growing *Agaricus augustus* and *Lepiota rhaecodes*.
- PROJECT 65** For the year ahead it is very tempting to be snug and continue the comfortable program of the year past. But we are a group oozing with talents and full of energies and we don't leave well enough alone or we wouldn't be out chasing mushrooms when other people are still in their beds. So for the new year, let us propose a challenging project, one which would involve every member in a large or small way, and which promises a real contribution to our science.
- We propose the survey of a genus, taking for a start the *Agaricus* of the Puget Sound area, a concentrated study for one year by all of the membership. Previous studies admit about 40 species, some of which are not well defined. We have the opportunity to expand the list, and also to increase the knowledge of the distribution and habits of growth of the different species. For the professional, the limitations of time preclude the intensive treatment of more than a few genera in the course of a lifetime. For us as a Society, equipped with many more eyes, legs, wheels and hours, the main problem would be to determine how best to marshal these resources and focus them on a study of this type.
- There will be many benefits to us as individuals and as a group to engage in this enterprise. We will gather and learn to research the literature of the genus; we will learn to make field notes and collate data on distribution and habits of the various species; we will photograph our collections and we will dry them and put together a herbarium of the genus; we will study and learn the taxonomy of our mushrooms. At the end of the year, we may find we have enough of value to publish our findings. And not least, all excess edible specimens, of which there are many in *Agaricus*, may be put to the pot.

For a starter, in February we will print and distribute a key to the genus excerpted from the master's thesis of Bill Isaacs, who was a former student of Dr. Stuntz. Following that, probably in April, Dr. Stuntz will discuss Agaricus in terms of its characteristics, its taxonomic problems, the rare birds in this area and the techniques for collection and annotation. A printed form for field notes will be prepared and issued to the members. Details of the various committees will be worked out later.

In selecting the genus Agaricus, we expect that our mushroom gourmets will participate fully in the testing of the edibility of the species. When we get more scientific and more esoteric, we will take up Amanita.

Onward to '65 ---- YEAR OF THE AGARICUS?

NEW MEMBERS

Hwa-Di Y. Woo	2412 - 13th Ave S	98144	EA 3-3546
Tullio Fontana	4522 - 15th Ave S	98108	PA 2-5381
Garth L. Putnam	1628 North 167th St	98133	LI 2-4210
Curtis W. Stucki	9519 - 48th Ave NE	98115	LA 4-1642

65 ELECTION

The March meeting will be the Annual Meeting, marking the first anniversary of the Puget Sound Mycological Society. We are open to suggestions on how best to mark the occasion.

Election of Officers and Board Members for the coming year will be on the March agenda. A Nominating Committee will be designated shortly, and will report at the February meeting. Nominations by mail or from the floor will be accepted at the February meeting. We have scads of talented and qualified people to take advantage of.

Happy New Year and Gung Hay Fat Choy,

Ben Woo