

no. 77

december
'71

Spore Prints

membership meetings

Monday, December 13, 8 pm, Eames Theater: Slide lecture on AGARICUS by Margaret Dilly, a member of PSMS since 1965. She got her grounding from material made available by PSMS and by taking Dr. Stuntz' summer class three years in a row. At first pot-hunters only, she and Claude now only pick a few of the tastiest for their table, and have gradually become interested in seeing what they can find they never found before, as a matter of mycological interest.

Special Feature: a movie on growing "The Japanese Mushroom (Shiitake)". Rated G for people, R for mushrooms.



JANUARY - Dr. Robert E. Benedict, Research Associate Professor in Pharmacognosy at U of W will speak on "Mushroom Poisons" (not poisoning, which is a spoon of another color).

dina
chybinski



SPORE PRINTS is published monthly excepting July and August by the PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY, c/o The Pacific Science Center, 200 - 2nd N., Seattle, Washington 98109. *** CONNIE CALVERT, Editor until next June by which time I will expect some one of you who's always had a sneaking wish to be an Editor will have shyly crept up and offered to join me for an issue or two to learn the trade. First offering.

OFFICERS

Robert W. Ramsey	President
Howard C. Melsen	Vice President
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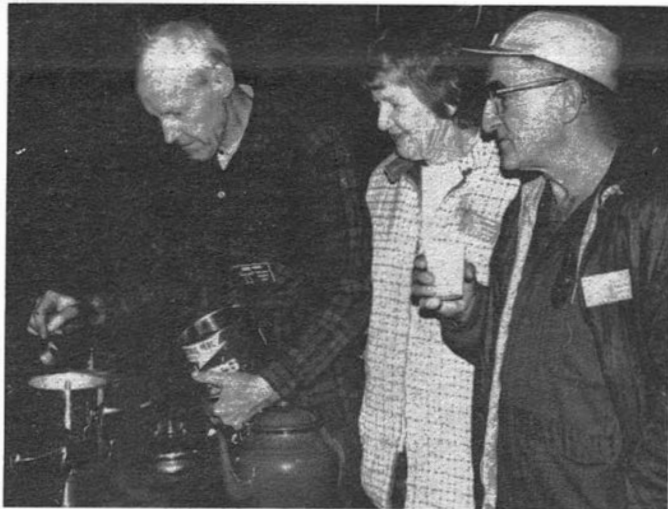
TRUSTEES

Milton L. Grout, Fay Melsen, Ann Levanavich, Harley Perkins, June Perkins, Georgia Ramsey, Isabelle Swaffield, Helen M. Wasson, Caroline Weber, Benjamin Woo and Morrill A. Gatcomb (Immediate Past President).

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR: Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

C A L E N D A R

DECEMBER 13 Monday 6:45	Planning Committee Meeting
8:00	PSMS Membership Meeting
20 Monday 8:00	PSMS Board Meeting
JANUARY 10 Monday 8:00	Membership Meeting
24 Monday 8:00	Board Meeting
FEBRUARY 14 Monday 8:00	Membership Meeting



Martin and Estella Hansen, Ed Cantelton

Photo by Joy Spurr

NOTE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING Monday, Dec. 13 at 6:45 Science Center Conference Room before regular meeting.

All present or accounted for one way or another.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Education - Milton Grout's 2 hour classes x 8 sessions x 8 to 12 hours of preparation for each class - multiply it yourself - is an impressive and serious contribution to our Society.

Photography - Joy Spurr's good organizing job. Her report 1/20/71 to 11/22/71:

Slides added: 142 (60 from Ben Woo).

To Dr. Stuntz for his files: 82. In turn Dr.

Stuntz identifies the un.

Slide file has been used by 12 persons including our speakers to other groups and by the Education Committee.

Total slides borrowed: 793.

This brief report conceals the enormous patient detail work involved in labeling and keeping track of these slides, to say nothing of Joy's personal photographic contribution.

"It is a pleasure for me to work on photography for PSMS because it is a permanent educational project", Joy's report states. Thank heaven for that.

HELP WANTED - General Field Trip Chairman and several more Co-Generals. Duties consist of pleasant, healthy light commanding in the field; offers a wide and rewarding acquaintance among mushrooms and mycologists. GFTC should be able to delegate delegates and if not actually commission the land (once a popular political pastime) at least, uh, commit generalization. Please call Bob Ramsey (Tacoma JU 8,6955) and talk it over.

LAKE ARROWHEAD FIELD TRIP

October 30/31 Field Trip Leader Paul Nestell

As always, the Nestell System produced a happy weekend for 201 (!) signers-in; more were on hand. 138 mushrooms were identified. 144 persons found the Clam and Oyster Feed truly "enough for all", but there is a sadness: three metal folding chairs, stenciled in red "Nimrod Club, Shelton" were said to be missing after the feed. This is a sorry violation of hospitality. Whoever has them might want to return them before they get to be a social albatross.

MILLERSYLVANIA STATE PARK

November 13/14 Leaders Estella and Martin Hansen

123 members and guests, 90 for potluck Saturday night. 134 species identified by Dr. Stuntz and Messrs. Volz, Nestell, Melsen.

Pleasant weather, windy Saturday, three camp stoves, NO DRY WOOD! Three men who shall be nameless tried to buy a pickup load at a local mill, but were thwarted. Two women who shall be named, namely Fay Melsen and June Perkins, on their way from the store stopped at another mill, bought a load ON CREDIT, filled the pickup themselves and returned to camp smiling modestly, where five men unloaded, the least they could do. Ladies' lib, anyone?

This was first time leading for the Hansens. Estella says she has never known such a pleasant, jolly, cooperative group - whatever needed to be done had a dozen volunteers. (The Hansens have a lot of outdoor experience, so they know.) The Hansens think there is very little generation gap in the Myco Society - they saw so many youngsters helping at this field trip, and during the Exhibit, and think they deserve special mention so they will know they are appreciated. And vice versa, Hansens.

Special thanks to the Pollards - Bill raised the plastic shelter; Pauline served coffee all day Saturday.

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



Now that the Annual Exhibit has become history and the successful fall field trips have ended, our attentions turn to the other activities of the Society. The Planning Committee and the Morel Committee must both accomplish serious work in their respective areas before spring activities begin. And there is the political campaign soon to get underway, with Jim Bennett

heading the Nominations Committee this year. The whole thing culminates in the Annual Banquet in March, now being put together by Carolyn Weber's committee.

Meanwhile Milton Grout's education sessions are winding up with big dividends for those who participated. A big job going on during all the other projects.

Members come and members go but those who stay find something to their liking - a great educational and outdoor activity in which all the family can participate without spending a fortune for equipment. And one which leaves little mark on the environment from which it was taken. But it doesn't run itself. The big, pulsing heart of the Society is that group of people who have been and are willing to dedicate themselves to doing their best job on all sorts of tasks. I marvel at the way people rise to the occasion to perform jobs perhaps better than they ever have before and perform jobs which they've never tried before, as well. It is well to remember that some of your fellow members are constantly involved in the tasks of the Society so that nothing is left untended. The next time a call is made for volunteers, get involved - dare to do something different. You will be the winner.

Robert W. Ramsey
Robert W. Ramsey
President

ATTENTION! MYCOBIBLIOPHILIACS*: FOR SALE AT DECEMBER MEETING

*Mushroombooklovers

Mycophiles never have enough reference books as they move from pothunting to pride in their identifying prowess. Here are excellent gifts for your favorite person (it's okay if it's you). Every book opens a door to a new garden; here are some doorways to the fungi. Tax is included in the price shown, and Helen Wasson, Book Sales Chairman, will be up front to help you. She looks like this.....



OFT-TOLD MUSHROOM RECIPES by PSMS, \$4.15.

THE SAVORY WILD MUSHROOM, McKenny, revised by Dr. Stuntz (color and b&w) \$5.20.

MUSHROOMS AND TOADSTOOLS, Hvaas (color) a limited number, \$5.50.

TWENTY COMMON MUSHROOMS AND HOW TO COOK THEM, published by Boston Myco Society (b&w) \$.80. Handy little field guide.

CANADIAN GUIDE TO COMMON MUSHROOMS (b&w) \$1.05.

MUSHROOM HANDBOOK, Krieger (b&w) \$4.15. A little more technical.

POISONOUS PLANTS AND FUNGI, North (color), a limited number, \$4.55.

SWEDISH MUSHROOM CHARTS, set of 4 in package, \$3.65. Color, labeled edible, etc.

THE ECOLOGY CORNER (we're painting ourselves into it...)

No longer an interest limited to scientists and little old ladies in tennis shoes, ecology is now a concern to each of us - as we live and breathe. Here is a letter from The Times, London, that suggests some of the entertainments ecology provides; You might just be thinking what dead ends mycology, and mycologists, face.

Chameleon and kiskadee

From Mr M. F. Gregg

Sir. Regretfully I am unable to tell your correspondent, Mr J. S. Hollins-Gibson (Letters, August 17) how to get rid of the Austrian wasps after they have done their job. However, Bermuda's experience in a similar plight might be of interest.

A minute scale attacked our cedar trees in the late 1940s. It was found that ladybirds had a liking for this scale and were imported to control it. The resident chameleons welcomed this move and proceeded to devour the ladybirds.

A search produced a bird from the West Indies, the kiskadee, with a taste for chameleons to redress the balance. Alas these birds came to prefer our citrus and other fruit to their previous diet, the chameleons prospered, the ladybirds disappeared and the trees died.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL F. GREGG, Manager
Bermuda Travel Information Office,
Sackville House, 40 Piccadilly, W1
August 20 1971

DUE YOU ? OR DON'T YOU ???

Your membership in this Society expires December 31.

We have about 1,000 members. This means:

- (1) 1,000 Spore Prints mailed every month except July and August. This is pretty plainly drudgery, but June Perkins and her crew do it pleasantly and reliably, month after month, at night, after working all day, and even manage to have fun.
- (2) 1,000 memberships to renew and keep track of. This is some big job for even the most dedicated volunteer, but Fay Melsen does it graciously and faultlessly.

Your sole responsibility at this moment in history is to get your membership renewal in if you want to continue. Enclosed are a form and return envelope. If you have already renewed, ignore them and accept our blessings. Don't call Fay Melsen - she knows all, sees all.

If you do not renew you will be dropped from the mailings after the January Spore Prints. If you fool around and procrastinate you will undoubtedly miss an issue. Do not call Fay Melsen. Check your checkbook first, then wait calmly until the doctor comes. Somebody will have to get your plate back into order...again.

This kind of maddening detail is very wearing on our volunteers and greatly reduces their sympathy toward mycokind. Volunteers have been known to progress from the Mailing Committee to a satisfying post as Public Hangman or Hangwoman as the case may be.

Don't you be the cause. The last ten members sending in renewals will be appointed to the Mailing Committee for life. Send in today! Blame this on the editor CC.



Lycoperdon perlatum



From Dina and Joe Cbybinski, a tradition for you to start...

In Poland this hot beet soup is traditionally served on Christmas Eve, or "Wigilia". Since this is a fast night the soup and the ravioli-like Uszka ("little ears") are flavored with dried mushrooms. Non-fasting Americans may put a beef bone into the stock pot and use its chopped meat in the Uszka:

BARSZCZ WIGILIJNY Z USZKA

(Beet Soup, Christmas Eve, with Uszka)

MUSHROOMS: Pour 4 cups boiling water over 3 oz. dried boletes and let soak 2 hours (in stainless steel saucepan). Boil and simmer uncovered 2 hours until liquid is reduced to 1/2 cup. Drain, saving stock.


BEETS: Meanwhile place 2 1/2 pounds of peeled and coarsely grated beets in stainless pan with 5 cups cold water. Boil, then simmer uncovered for 10 minutes. Over low heat stir in 2 T vinegar (or 1 T each vinegar and red wine) and 2 t salt. Simmer 30 mins. Strain, pressing down on beets, then discarding them. Put beet stock and mushroom stock in pan, add 1/2 t salt, 1/4 t sugar and 1 T lemon juice. Serve with a few Uszka floating in each bowl.



USZKA FILLING: Melt 2 T butter. In it saute 1/2 cup finely chopped onions until transparent. Stir in 1 T bread crumbs and slice mushrooms (see above). Mixture can now be put through finest blade of grinder. Cook over low heat until most of liquid has evaporated. Take off heat, add 1 eggwhite and 1 t salt. Cool to room temperature.

USZKA DOUGH: Beat 1 egg plus 1 egg white, 1 T cold water, and 1/4 t salt with a spoon until smooth. Still beating, sift in 1 cup flour little by little. Knead into compact ball. On floured surface, roll dough into paper thin rectangle 15" x 9", then cut into 60 1 1/2" squares (that's 10 squares x 6 squares). Place 1/4 t filling in center of each square. Moisten edges, fold in half diagonally into triangle and press edges together. Then lift the two ends of the fold and pinch together. Keep finished Uszka covered with damp towel as you work. Boil 2 quarts water and 2 T salt. Stirring water gently, drop in a large handful of Uszka. Simmer for about 5 minutes. Remove with slotted spoon and keep covered while cooking next batch. Arrange in soup plates, ladle barszcz over, and serve!



MYSTERY MUSHROOM



WHITE SPORES
(PALE PINK-BUFF)

Its holiday fragrance of anise or almond, plus a holiday color - pistachio green - make our December mystery mushroom easy to identify. For those using PSMS class key its stipe may be considered large and fleshy when compared with that of more fragile genera. A similar species in a more everyday off-white to biscuit tan color, but equally fragrant, may be found in late fall and early spring under conifers.

ANSWER: Clitocybe odora (Green anise-scented Clitocybe) and Clitocybe squarrosoides - See Page 60 of McKenny/Stuntz.

Continuation of MYCOLOGICAL GLOSSARY

- PANUS - swelling or tumor. Word used by Pliny for a tree-growing fungus
- torulosus - a tuft of hair
- PANEBOLUS - variegated (mottling of gills)
- campanulatus - bell-shaped
- PAXILLUS - a small stake
- atrotomentosus - black furred
- involutus - rolled inwards (cap margin)
- PHOLIOTA - from the Greek, Pholis, a scale
- destruens - detroying (of timber or rails)
- adiposa - fatty
- flammans - flame-colored
- squarrosoides - erect scales
- PLEUROTUS - from the Greek, Pleuron, a side and Ous, an ear
- ostreatus - oyster-like
- porrigens - spread out
- sapidus - sapid or savory
- serotinus - late
- ulmarius - on elm
- PLUTEUS - from the Latin, Pluteus, a protective military covering
- cervinus - a deer (usually darker in color though)
- nanus - dwarf
- PSALLIOTA - ring or collar (old name for Agaricus)
- PSATHYRA - friable, easily crumbled
- umbonata - with an umbo or hump on cap
- PSATHYRELLA - diminutive of above
- disseminata - scattered
- PSILOCYBE - naked head (no veil remnants on pileus)
- foenicisci - of the mower (often in lawns)
- RHODOPHYLLUS - rosy leaf or plant (see Entoloma)

To be continued next month

