

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

200 Second Avenue North, Seattle, Washington, 98109

October 1979

Number 155



PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP ON AT LEAST ONE COMMITTEE FOR THE COMING EXHIBIT Rick White

The 16th Annual Exhibit is only about one and one-half weeks away, and a lot of the work still has to be done. Below we again print the various committees necessary to put on our professional Exhibit. If YOU have not volunteered to help on at least one, please pick up your phone NOW and call the person in charge of that committee. You don't have to be an expert, just willing to put in a few hours of your time in a very rewarding activity. This also goes for the collecting of the specimens for the Show. You don't have to be able to identify the mushrooms you find. Just bring ALL of them in to the loading dock by the Science Center, preferably on Friday, after 5 pm, but also Saturday and through Sunday morning.

This year's theme for the Show is: Mushrooms Everywhere. Wouldn't it be nice to see people everywhere!

1979 MUSHROOM EXHIBIT COMMITTEES

ART WORK	LomNee March (885-0375)
BOOK SALES	Helen Wasson (243-6173)
CLEAN-UP	Dick Leonard (363-8049)
COMMERCIAL DISPLAY	Bob Hanna (767-6381)
CONSTRUCTION	Tom McKnight (486-2118)
DECORATION	Dennis Krabbenhoft (839-2454)
FREEZE-DRY	Dr. Patricia Winter (486-4264)
FUNGUS COLLECTION	George Rafanelli (767-4408)
GREENERY COLLECTION	Paul Rule (794-8987)
HOSPITALITY	Pete & Mary Schneider (725-7423)
GREETERS	Bob Hanna (767-6381)
IDENTIFICATION	Charles Volz (363-5465)
LABELING	Helena Kirkwood (784-1095)
MEMBERSHIP	Grace Jones (772-5024)
PHOTOGRAPHY & SLIDE SHOW	Joy & Roger Spurr
PRESERVATION	Jennie Schmitt (876-3177)
PUBLICITY	Stan March (885-0375)
SECURITY	Dave Schmitt (876-3177)
SORTING & BOXES	Jim Bennett (784-6236)
TRAY ARRANGEMENT	Margaret Dilly (782-8511)

GENERAL EXHIBIT CHAIRMAN Rick White (641-9193)
ASSISTANT GENERAL CHAIRMAN Tom McKnight (486-2118)

BRING COLD FOOD WHEN YOU COME TO THE SHOW

This year the refreshments for the people working on the Show will consist of cold food only. Therefore, it is best to bring food which will not need refrigeration. The main fare will be sandwiches, cold salads, pickles, crackers, etc. (Note, this is a change from prior years, but this year we do not have access to the kitchen facilities in the Science Center). Marlene Friend is chairing the Hospitality Committee and could use more help. Call her at 783-4316 (early morning or dinner time is best).

NOTE: To gain free admission to the Exhibit, every PSMS member must show his/her membership card. Don't forget your membership card at home!

FIELD TRIPS

Dick Sieger

- Oct. 14 Hamlin County Park (180')
Sunday afternoon only with no pot luck. Travel north on Metro Bus Route #377 and get off at Fircrest School, NE 155th and 15th Ave. NE. Walk north along 15th NE to the light at NE 160th. Turn east into the park and meet at the kitchen shelter near the cannon.
- Oct. 20 & 21 Fort Worden State Park (14-1/4')
Take the new ferry run from Edmonds to Port Townsend. The park is a mile north of the ferry dock. Overnight accommodations are available in the park and in Port Townsend. Campsites may be reserved by calling the park. Walk-on ferry rates are reasonable. Call Dick Sieger in Seattle, 362-6860, a few days ahead and transportation will meet your ferry in Port Townsend. We are the guests of the Jefferson County Mycological Society which is having its annual exhibit on Sunday. There will be a Saturday pot luck dinner.
- Oct. 27 & 28 Oak Patch Camp (100')
Go south of Bremerton to Belfair and past Belfair State Park. Turn right on the new blacktop road uphill, and continue for about 3 miles to the wide gravel Oak Patch road. This is a private camp for retarded men. There is no fee, but donations are encouraged. The residents will join us for pot luck, so bring extra food.
- Nov. 3 & 4 Millersylvania State Park (200')
Travel south on I-5. About 10 miles south of Olympia, take exit #95 and go east under the freeway. Continue for about 3 miles and turn north. The park is about a mile.

NAMA ISSUES A SPECIAL CALL FOR PAPERS

The journal *Mycologia* extends a special call for papers to all persons interested in contributing to American amateur mycology. We welcome mushroom societies and clubs to consider publishing their foray experiences and lists that may contain new state records, range extensions, or notes on habitats. Also more biographical histories are needed on amateur and professional mycologists.

Mycologia will consider technical and non-technical articles dealing with all groups of fungi. Manuscripts should be sent to Richard R. Doyle, Dept. of Chemistry, Denison University, Granville, OH 43023.

Membership Meeting

Monday, October 1, 1979, 8:00 pm in the new IMAX - Eames - Theater in the Pacific Science Center.

NOTE THE DATE OF THE MEETING!

Program: Something Old, Something New About Amanitas.
This is our last opportunity to hear Scott Chilton talk on this topic, in which he is the undisputed expert. Scott has been appointed Professor of Chemistry at Saint Louis University and will move to Saint Louis in December. We congratulate him on his advancement in his profession.

BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

The Board discussed some of the comments that were made by the members about the Imax Theater (see editorial in this issue).

Dr. Joe Ammirati has been appointed to the mycological faculty at the University of Washington. We will invite him to attend our monthly meetings and fieldtrips.

The preparations for the Annual Exhibit are progressing, but more help can still be used on most committees.

The book cases have been purchased to shelf PSMS library holdings. When all is moved, our members will be invited to visit the library.

EDITORIAL

Hildegard R. Hendrickson

The remodeled Eames Theater is beautiful. The seats are cushioned and very comfortable. The huge white screen in the front is awesome, glaring to the eyes and a bore to look at during a lecture. But the Eames Theater (or better the new Imax Theater) is not an ideal meeting place for our monthly meetings any more. The lighting is very dim and subdued that one feels like being in a nightclub. There is no room for visiting with your fellow PSMS members and friends except in the aisles, which quickly become crowded and block the access of other members to their seats. The restrictions put on by the Science Center (do not go beyond the front barrier..... no one is to exit from the left side, etc.) make you feel very regimented. And most of all, the area available for inspecting the specimens is totally unacceptable. How can one, in the dim lighting fully recognize all the important, fine features of a mushroom?

~~It may be that the aims and objectives of the Science Center as well as those and the stature of PSMS have changed over the years and the longtime relationship is not the same any more (i.e. refer to past statements in Board News) and a good, hard look by our Officers and Trustees must be taken to decide a crisp, definite course for PSMS. If the wavering continues many more faithful members will get turned off which will be a loss for our organization. If you feel the same let the Board and Officers hear from you! And also if you feel otherwise.~~

AMANITA PHALLOIDES FRUITING IN SEATTLE AGAIN

Ben Woo's Amanita phalloides fruited again this year, and Ben brought a specimen to the September membership meeting. Until a few years ago, only one showing in southern Washington had been found by Joy and Roger Spurr.

LARGE PUFFBALL FOUND IN SEQUIM

Ken and Emma Chaplin, who moved to Sequim this spring are finding several large puffballs in their orchard. The largest weighed four pounds and measured 31 inches in circumference.



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c/o The Pacific Science Center, 200 - 2nd Avenue No.
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(839-2454); LomNee March (885-0375) Tom
McKnight(486-2118); Agnes Sieger (362-6860)

ALTERNATES Stan March (885-0375); John Lockwood
(522-4640); Rudy Karzmar (632-7321).

SCIENTIFIC ADVISER Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

Calendar

- Oct. 1, Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm
Note this is the FIRST MONDAY in October
- Oct. 6 & 7 The 16th Annual Exhibit
- Oct. 8 Monday, Fall Mushroom Class, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 14 Sunday Afternoon Mushroom Walk through
Hamlin Park
- Oct. 15 Monday, Fall Mushroom Class, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 20 & 21 Fieldtrip to Fort Worden State Park
- Oct. 22 Board Meeting, 8:00 pm
- Oct. 22 Monday, Fall Mushroom Class, 7:00 pm
- Oct. 26 Deadline for Spore Print Material. Send articles
photos, announcements to the editor, at
2559 NE 96th, Seattle, WA 98115
- Oct. 27 & 28 Fieldtrip to Oak Patch Camp
- Oct. 29 Monday, Fall Mushroom Class, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 3 & 4 Fieldtrip to Millersylvania State Park
- Nov. 5 Monday, Fall Mushroom Class, 7:00 pm
- Nov. 12 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm



The small group who came to the first field trip (September 8 & 9) were rewarded with good weather, and good early season mushroom hunting. Boletus edulis, in fine condition were found by several people. There were groups of the white chanterelles, Cantharellus subalbidus, in a few scattered places. An interesting terrestrial polypore, Albatrellus pescaprae, was prominent, and Suillus grevillei was plentiful under larch. The uncommon Boletus pulverulentus was found and there were encounters with Gomphidius subroseus, Suillus lakei, and a wasps' nest. Eighteen people enjoyed a splendid potluck.

THUNDERBIRD PARK FIELD TRIP REPORT SEPT. 15-16.

Almost everyone found a few chanterelles in the Sultan Basin, although they weren't plentiful. Some of us collected Agaricus campestris in a pasture (after obtaining permission) 37 members attended and 29 stayed for the potluck. Hosts were Paul & Hazel Rule, Del & Ruth Miller, Bob Hanna and Margaret Holzbauer.

Art & Myrtle Fick identified 46 species, and Paul Rule identified a nice bunch of cat tails correctly as cat tails.

MUSHROOM SHOW IN PORT TOWNSEND

John Parker extends an invitation to all PSMS members to the joint fieldtrip and Jefferson County Mycological Society Mushroom Show on October 20 & 21st. This will be held at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend. There will be a big league potluck Saturday evening. Bring your favorite potluck contribution, and don't forget your PSMS name tag.

LITTEST PSMS MEMBER ON THE GO

Three-months old Matthew Elof, son of Ron and Sharon Boehm not only attended his first possible membership meeting in September, but also has been camping and mushroom hunting with his proud parents.

THANK YOU ED CANTELON - AND KEEP GOING

Ed Cantelon has written short articles about those mushrooms which newcomers would like to seek first. They were illustrated with an excellent photograph of the described mushroom. All newcomers should concentrate on one mushroom at a time. Learn all possible methods of identification, and then move on to the next one. Thank you, and I hope you keep up the series.

LOS ANGELES FORAY IN FEBRUARY 1980

The first Los Angeles Foray with Dr. A.H. Smith and Dr. Harry Thiers as leaders will be held February 8 - 10, 1980 at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA. This is the start of the spring collecting season in southern California. The program will include field trips, taxonomy, slide shows, a panel discussion, microscopy and mycophagy. For additional information write to Dr. Martin Stoner, Dept. of Biological Science, California Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA91768

NEW BOOKS TO WATCH FOR

How to Know the Gilled Mushrooms by Alexander H. Smith expected Summer or Fall 1979

The Mushroom Hunter's Field Guide (all color edition) by Alexander H. Smith, expected Spring 1980

Lactarius, Monograph by L.R. Hesler & Alexander H. Smith expected Summer 1979 (approx. \$25)

1979 WAS THE YEAR OF THE MOREL IN EASTERN USA

For Minnesotans, the spring of 1979 may be remembered by many as the year when ANYONE could find morels. Their long bitter cold winter, the extra wet spring plus the Dutch Elm Disease epidemic may all have contributed to the abundant crop of morels in Minnesota.

The New Jersey Mycological Association also reports that their 1979 morel season lasted longer than usual with several members finding morels "in the hundreds."

Just shows you not everywhere did they have a drought like we did in the Pacific Northwest.

RECUPERATING

We wish a complete and speedy recovery to Howard Melsen, a past president of PSMS who underwent surgery recently. Get well, Howard, or you miss the fall mushroom season.

MUSHROOM DIP

North Idaho Mycol. Assoc.

1 cup dried Morels (or 2 cups chopped fresh)

1/4 cup minced onions

1/4 cup butter

1 - 3oz .pkg. cream cheese

1/2 cup plain yogurt (or sour cream, or cottage cheese)

1/4 cup cooking sherry wine

1/2 tsp. garlic salt

1/4 tsp. accent

Salt and pepper to taste

Rinse Morels well, cover with warm water and set aside 10-30 minutes. Drain and chop fine. Add onions and saute in butter until liquid is gone. Cool. Mix softened cream cheese yogurt, seasonings and wine. Fold in cooled mushrooms and refrigerate. For thicker spread, use less yogurt. (Very good on baked potatoes).

BOOKS, BOOK, BOOKS

Growing Wild Mushrooms by Bob Harris, paperback, 88 pages 46 illustrations and 16 color plates. Publisher: Wingbow Press, 2940 Seventh St., Berkeley, CA 94710; price \$4.00

Introduction To The History of Mycology by G.C. Ainsworth 359 pages, 106 illustrations, 1976. Cambridge University Press, 32 E. 57th St., New York, NY 10022. about \$22.00

The Fungal Spores by C.T. Ingold, 301 pages, 199 illustrations 1971. Oxford University Press, Ely House, London W1 (there is also an American outlet) about \$24.

Molds, Mushrooms and Mycotoxins by C. Christensen, 264 pp. 8 color plates, 1976. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, Minn., \$10.00

The Fungus-Growing Ants of North America by W.M. Wheeler, 136 pages, 30 photographs and 65 figures. Reprint from the original 1907 edition. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, NY 10014, paper, \$2.50

Mushrooms of San Francisco. A Walk to Land's End by Roger Bland. 64 pages with illustrations by Sally Bland. Land's End Press, 3426 Judah, San Francisco, CA 94122, 1978, \$4.95

The Whole Fungus, edited by Bryce Kendrick, 2 volumes, 28 chapters, 793 pp., available for \$16 plus \$2 postage and handling from Dr. Bryce Kendrick, Dept. of Biology, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1. Over 3,000 Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes are discussed.

BEWARE OF LITTLE BROWN MUSHROOMS Ed Cantelon

In the fall little brown mushrooms are everywhere, on the ground, on downed logs, and even on standing trees! They all look very much alike; the characteristics that separate the many species often require very close scrutiny. A few of the little brown mushrooms are edible, some are harmless, others are still unclassified, and finally, several of them are known to be poisonous. In the poisonous group, and quite difficult to identify, the Galerina autumnalis, produces the same toxins as the deadly Amanita phalloides. Mushrooms in the "little brown group" are small, typically the cap is an inch to two inches in diameter, the stem is centrally located they may be smooth or with some soft scales. The gills on the under side of the cap may be white, tan or brown. The spore print, which is a definite aid in identification, will closely conform to the color of the mature gills. Spore color is more important in field identification than spore shape. Under the microscope, the spores vary in size, and shape, and ornamentation, but not to the degree that exact identification may always be determined.

Some mushrooms do react to various chemicals. Some mushrooms may be classified by differences in the structure of the tissue when examined under the microscope. All this is quite technical, and beyond the scope of the beginning mushroom hunter. The thing we are trying to stress here is, that it requires some study and experience to learn to identify any of these little brown mushrooms.

It is dangerous policy to guess a mushroom is safe to eat, or to rely on any of the old, and equally dangerous "tests". There are no tests that a beginner can make that will prove the edibility of any mushroom! Perhaps, we could temper that statement a bit and say, if the person were to eat the mushroom and get a trip to the hospital, it would prove the mushroom to be of questionable edibility. The edibility of all mushrooms has been established down through the centuries, by human experience. Many people have died in the process. Many more have died because they were either careless or bold. The many field guides available are a great help in learning to identify mushrooms, but the guiding hand of an expert is really imperative to positive learning.

In the last few years, we have observed a most alarming incidence of young persons seeking the so-called "magic" mushrooms. These are more properly called hallucinogenic mushrooms, and from what we can learn, were used in relation to local religion by the natives of northern Mexico. With the arrival of the Spanish, the use of these mushrooms for religious purposes was vigorously suppressed. Even today, in some remote sections of Mexico, these ancient practices are still being quietly observed.

About five years ago, young people started showing an interest in local mushrooms that are similar to those found in Mexico. These young people invaded farmers' fields and cow pastures in a frantic search for this new narcotic. The short-run effect of this search was soon evident. The farmers took a dim view of broken fences and gates left open which allowed their stock to wander off. Law enforcement officers started making arrests, and convictions followed for trespassing. Now we understand, law enforcement is becoming familiar with the specific mushrooms that contain certain controlled substances. With this knowledge and physical evidence, charges can be brought against suspects for unlawful possession of these substances. Of the long-range effects of ingesting these hallucinogenic mushrooms, much is yet to be

learned. It is suspected that at least some permanent brain damage could be expected from prolonged use of these mushrooms. We recently talked to a mother whose nineteen year old son was in a state mental institution as a result of using these mushrooms.

In the same habitat, the cow pastures and grasslands, grow many of these little brown mushrooms. Some of them are harmless, and others are down-right dangerous. An expert examined one young man's find, and discovered he was gathering everything he came upon. Some of them were poisonous. This same expert told of examining a package of dried mushrooms purchased by a young man for one hundred dollars. These mushrooms were represented to be "Liberty Caps", a favored "magic" variety. They proved to be honey mushrooms (Armillaria mellea) a perfectly safe and wholesome mushroom.

An excellent source of accurate information is Toxic and Hallucinogenic Mushroom Poisoning, a Handbook for Physicians and Mushroom Hunters by Gary Lincoff and D.H. Mitchell M.D., published by VanNostrand Reinhold Company.

ARMILLARIA MELLEA

Ed Cantelon

The honey mushroom, Armillaria mellea is a good, edible mushroom. It grows on wood that is either living or dead. If the host tree is living, it soon will no longer be so, since the honey mushroom will destroy it. This fungus is called 'honey mushroom' because of the similarity of color. It appears in so many guises, differences in color, differences in shapes and sizes, that it requires considerable experience to identify every specimen. It is sometimes found in great clusters on old stumps, heavily dusted with white spores; at other times it appears in just small groups, or even as a single specimen.



Three of its characteristics do not change: it always grows on wood; the spore print is white, and on young specimens there is a ring on the stem. Normally, only the caps are eaten, the stem tends to be tough. They may be prepared in any of the usual ways that commercially grown mushrooms are used, or they may be easily dried for future use.

We might mention in passing that Armillaria is from the Latin 'Armillā', meaning 'bracelet'. This of course, alludes to the ring or annulus on the stem.