

# SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
2161 East Hamlin, Seattle, Wa. 98112

April 1980

Number 161

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carl Hermanson

In the 1964 Articles of Incorporation, the Puget Sound Mycological Society stated that its purpose and objective was "to foster and expand the understanding and appreciation of Mycology as a hobby and a science". During the past sixteen years the Society has grown in knowledge, membership, and national stature.

We plan to continue these successful years by accomplishing the following in 1980:

Move our Annual Mushroom Exhibit (October 4 & 5, 1980) to a new location that allows PSMS a highly visible, larger display area; greater ease of visitor entrance; a possible restoration of mushroom art displays; a fine, secluded theater for slide/film presentations; and a very reasonable visitor fee.

Increase our educational programs, giving special emphasis to mycological beginners.

As a community service, update our Poison Mushroom Pamphlet, to include basic pictures and a special section on hard to identify little, brown hallucinogenic and poisonous mushrooms.

Promote further research and publications of fungi identification, techniques, and classifications. Continue our investigation of fungi habitat and environment.

Take full advantage of our new facility with its fine meeting hall, classrooms, and ample, close-in parking.

And certainly continue the excellent camaraderie among PSMS members, visitors, and friends, that has made our Society so outstanding.

I am sure that every member will want to get fully committed so that we can achieve our objectives in 1980!

## FIELD TRIPS

Dick Sieger

Remember to volunteer for host duties on these and coming field trips. At the April membership meeting we will circulate a sign-up sheet. If not enough volunteers come forward, we will have to give up the popular format of our field trips because it is not fair that only a handful of members carry the load. And they too would like to go mushrooming. Ideally, there would be at least 6 persons assigned as hosts on any field trip, which means that any one person would at most, serve for half a day, and can enjoy the other activities of a field trip the remaining hours. This appeal goes to every member of our Society!

April 12 & 13 Rockport - Steelhead County Park

There are two possible routes, both lined with cottonwood trees for hunting on the way there. Either take the Arlington Exit from I - 5 and drive through Darrington; OR take the Burlington Exit from I - 5 and proceed on State Highway #20 to Rockport. Steelhead County Park is right on the river. The campground has some hook-ups. There is a fee for all camping.

May 3 & 4 Educational Foray to Thunderbird Park

Thunderbird Park is located five miles east of Monroe on the south side of the Skykomish River on the Ben Howard Road.

Be sure to cross the river in Monroe!

This is a private campground with an enclosed shelter, showers with hot and cold running water, hook-ups for water, sewer, and electricity, for the usual fee. There also is a charge for people staying just for the day.

There will be a potluck on Saturday. Dr. Stuntz plans to bring his Ascomycete Class to this field trip and present a talk after the potluck dinner.

## TOLT RIVER FIELD TRIP REPORT

H. & M. Hendrickson

All the directions given in the last issue of Spore Sprints on how to get there were correct, except the name of the park is now officially changed to "McDonald" Park, so that some members had difficulty finding us. Even "old" members, who were used to entering the park through the "old" entrance had difficulties, because the "old" entrance is blocked now.

However, before the day was over, 60 members came, and all found Verpas. Some had not quite focused their eyes onto the drab cottonwood leaves on the ground and missed the caps of the Verpas that were peaking through. But by the afternoon, even some newcomers had become quite proficient and returned to camp with good quantities in their buckets and baskets and sacks. Since it started to rain at the time the first groups left camp, after Monte had given them a lecture on Verpas, cottonwoods, our Society, other fieldtrips, etc., some new members became discouraged and left after hunting an hour or so. The hardy ones, who stayed until the afternoon and who hunted persistently were the ones with the bounty, which they shared with the less successful ones.

Dick Sieger came carrying several mycological books and keys and identified 17 different species of fungi that were brought in. Margo Harrison let us taste some pickled smelt (on which she had tried a new recipe) and I don't think she had any left over. They were yummy.

All in all, many of our new members became familiar with the first mushrooms of a new season. And the quantities of Verpas found are any indication of the future, the rainy spring of 1980 promises to be better than the dry one of 1979.

## OF THIS AND THAT

H.R.H.

Wife Betty, and daughter Sharon, of our PSMS member Kearney Kozai, have both won the National Curling Championships and are going to Perth, Scotland, for the World Championship Competition. We are proud of you! Good Luck!

Charles Kessner (phone 242-1305) asks that the person who was seated next to him at the Survivors Banquet, and who drives a VW Camper with carburetor troubles to call him. (This member helped on the construction committee at the last Annual Exhibit.)



# P. S. M. S. Spore Prints

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PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
% The Museum of History and Industry, 2161 E. Hamlin,  
Seattle, Wa., 98112. Mail all articles, art or photos to  
Hildegard Hendrickson, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, 98115.

**OFFICERS** Carl Hermanson, President, 1982 (1)  
Rick White, Vice-President, 1981 (1)  
Earl Harrison, Treasurer, 1982 (2)  
Margaret Holzbauer, Secretary, 1981 (1)

**TRUSTEES** - Term expires March 1981  
Margaret Dilly (1); Grace Jones (1); Dennis  
Krabbenhoft (1); Tom McKnight (1); Agnes  
Sieger (1).  
Term expires March 1982  
Margo Harrison (2); Rudy Karzmar (1);  
LomNee March (2); Stan March (1); Don  
Schultz (1).

**ALTERNATES:** John Kunz; Del Miller; Agnes Suit.  
**SCIENTIFIC ADVISER** Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

## Calendar

- April 12 & 13 Fieldtrip to Steelhead County Park
- April 14 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm
- April 24 Monday, Board Meeting, 8:00 pm
- April 29 Deadline for Spore Print Material. Send your material to the Editor, 2559 NE 96th, Seattle, Wa., 98115.
- May 3 & 4 Fieldtrip to Thunderbird Park (Educational Foray)
- May 12 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

### IT IS STILL TIME TO JOIN A MUSHROOM CLASS

George Rafanelli (a past president of PSMS) is holding a class on mushroom identification, Tuesday evenings in Room 148 of Sealth High School (in West Seattle). If you are interested call George (phone 767-4408) for details.

### POSSIBLE RECONNAISSANCE OF LAST YEAR'S BURNS

Dick Sieger (phone 362-6860) would like to hear from some volunteers to check burns this spring. If a burn is found that is producing an abundant crop of morels, we will schedule a special fieldtrip. More on this in the May issue of Spore Prints. Dick knows where the burns are, but he needs people who can go there, probably more than once, since the morels fruit only under the most ideal conditions. We will arrange a way to notify the members if a morel-producing burn is found.

# Membership Meeting

Monday, April 14, 1980. 8:00 pm McCurdy Room,  
The Museum of History and Industry.

Program: Morel Committee Report will be presented by Margaret Dilly. With the arrival of spring most mushroomers' thoughts turn to hunting the illusive Morel. We of the Morel Committee are no exception, however, we are mindful of their existence year round, as we have spent innumerable hours researching the Morels that occur in the Pacific Northwest, in an attempt to determine their true species.

This venture began some eight years ago with a group of interested PSMS members, with Dr. Stuntz acting as worthy advisor. Over the years our collections have mounted to over 500 in number, many of them gathered and donated to us by the general membership.

We have attempted to familiarize ourselves with, and delve into the innermost secrets of these beguiling little darlings, only to be faced with controversy and consternation, and often times, frustration. We have not yet brought this study to a completion, but hopefully, if we retain our sanity and live long enough, we may yet see this day.

As for now, we would like to share with you some of the challenges we met, some of the exciting things we discovered, and the conclusions we have drawn. We hope you will find it as enlightening and interesting as we have, and look forward to seeing all of you Monday, April 14th.

### BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

Our newly installed President, Carl Hermanson welcomed the "old" and "new" board members and officers, and stated that he was pleased to have this job. He presented the Board with his plans and ambitions for 1980 (see President's Message in another section of this issue) and indicated his choices for chairpersons of standing committees (to be presented in the front section of the 1980 Membership Roster, which is about to go to press).

The President thanked Margaret Dilly for organizing a "super" banquet, and was grateful that Margaret agreed to head the banquet committee again for 1980. (More on the 1980 Banquet elsewhere in this issue).

Dick Sieger, fieldtrip chairman, presented a proposal for the dates and places for the spring fieldtrips. However, Dick indicated that he has severe problems in finding hosts for the fieldtrips. As a last effort, a sign-up sheet will be circulated at the April Membership Meeting. If not enough members volunteer for Host Duties, PSMS might be forced to give up the popular format of our past fieldtrips. (See another article in this issue about the duties of hosts on fieldtrips.) This appeal goes to "old" and well as "new" members. Let's not give up a good thing!!!!!!!

President Hermanson and the Board are reviewing the By-Laws of our Society (which need revising since PSMS has moved to a new location) and ask for input so that everything gets covered and no further revision will be necessary. The Board also is reviewing the liability coverage of our Society. Winston & Laurel Hufford attended the Board Meeting since Winston has agreed to chair the 1980 Annual Exhibit. He plans to have chairpersons for all major committees by May. We are fortunate to be able to draw on Winston's talents and expertise in a year when the Annual Exhibit will be in a new



location and we will face new and different challenges. The earlier date of the show requires a scheduling of the first two membership meetings earlier than usual: There will be a membership meeting on September 8th and September 29th. Our Treasurer, Earl Harrison, is preparing our Annual Financial Report, which will be presented in a later issue. PSMS has proposed to the North American Mycological Association to host their 1981 National Foray. This will be a new major event for PSMS. Grace Jones, Membership Chairperson, reported that PSMS has 426 paid up members. She is in the process of compiling and printing the 1980 Membership Roster.

#### MUSHROOM HUNTING FOR NEW MEMBERS M.H.

For those of you who have joined our Society in recent months and have never been on one of our field trips, now is the time to think of Spring and Mushrooms.

When the buds on the cottonwood trees open, we "old-timers" know it is time to begin searching for the first of the Verpa bohemicas which grow under cottonwoods. The Verpa, also known as early morel or cottonwood morel, is the most predictable, plentiful, and easiest to find of the spring mushrooms. The field trips scheduled in late May will produce true morels, and sometimes, Boletus edulis, both highly prized by most collectors.

Now I want to tell you about the "routine" of a field trip. First of all, the field trips are very informal. Come and go when you please. Many members and their guests who own recreational vehicles, tents, etc. arrive Friday evening and stay until Sunday afternoon (or longer). Some people come for one day only, Saturday or Sunday. We recommend the Saturday for better prospects for mushrooms, and so that they can partake of the delicious potluck supper.

When you arrive at the destination, a host and hostess welcome you with coffee and cookies. Everyone should upon arriving sign the field trip attendance register and indicate whether they plan to stay for the potluck supper. It also helps if the newcomers arrive before 11 AM since experienced members always are ready and willing to take newcomers along. It has been suggested that groups should leave the fieldtrip site at 9, at 10, and at 11 o'clock, so that newcomers can plan on having a guide.

On a field trip participants are encouraged to bring in every mushroom they find, because an expert will identify them all. But most of all, we add to our knowledge about mushrooms by seeing, feeling, smelling, and tasting the many varieties of mushrooms that you and your fellow members bring in.

After a good (or bad) day of collecting, you return to the field trip site, tired, and eagerly wait for the delicious potluck supper. Every diner contributes one dish to the meal; it can be a hot dish, a salad, a dessert (the dish should contain enough food to feed the contributor's own family). Every dish in the potluck is gourmet! Every cook brings her/his favorite recipe. After supper, we sit around the campfire, tell mushroom stories, and enjoy great fellowship.

And last, but by no means of least importance, are your clothes. Dress comfortably, but be prepared for the worst possible weather (or sudden changes in the weather). Also you will be crawling over logs, maneuver through thick underbrush, or walk through swampy areas. Spring trips often turn out rainy and cold. Be prepared! Rain gear and sturdy boots are a must (no tennis shoes!).

Carry, and learn to use a compass. It gives you assurance and safety. Finally, for collecting your mushrooms, a basket or a bucket are suitable, but not plastic bags, and also a sturdy knife, since some mushrooms are attached very firmly.

We hope this article has answered many questions for new members, and they are assured now that they are always welcome on field trips. You don't know what you miss by not coming out"

ATTEND LEARN ENJOY & HAPPY HUNTING

#### OUR PAST PRESIDENT SAYS FAREWELL Jennie Schmitt

My term as your president has passed very fast. It has not been an easy time as we have had many unusual problems to cope with. Attendance was way down at the last Exhibit, field trips were poorly attended, members were reluctant to volunteer as hosts for field trips. Our loyal Book Salesperson and Chairperson resigned last fall, and it took a while to replace her. Kathy Ringo, who is taking on this job, I am sure will do a good job in the future.

I have enjoyed these past two years as your president, in spite of all the frustrations that one encounters. The success that I have enjoyed these last two years has been brought about by the help of others, for no one person can do it alone.

I want to thank all of the officers and trustees who have given their time and expertise to our Society. I also want to thank all of the committees and their fine work.

Your new officers and trustees have been elected by you - they are hard at work on the programs for the coming year. They need your individual help, not only on the many committees, but by your participation at the club and committee functions. They cannot do it alone. The success or failure of our club will depend on you - the members.

In closing, I wish each of you the best and many thanks. I must especially thank my right hand man, my chauffeur, my husband Dave, who stood by me all through my term.

#### BOOK SALES

Kathy Ringo has agreed to handle book sales for PSMS members. It has been the Society's policy to offer books to our members at a small discount from list price, if the Society received a discount for placing a large order with a publisher.

Until Kathy is all set up, you may call Kathy (after 6 pm - please - and not during the day, since someone in her family works nights) at 784 - 9630 and place your order, and she or her husband Mike will deliver the books to you at the April membership meeting and collect your money. PSMS has an inventory of some good basic books which should be in the library of every mushroom hunter.

In the next issue of Spore Prints we will have a complete list of all the titles that are available. But if newcomers need to obtain a basic text to get started in this new mushroom season which is already under way, they can place their order BEFORE the April membership meeting.

As a matter of fact, it has been suggested that book sales be handled on an order basis, since books are heavy and bulky, and Kathy and Mike would only need to bring the ordered volumes. Note that book sales, especially at the Annual Exhibit are a fund raising activity of our Society.

Margaret Dilly kept her promise that the 1980 Survivors Banquet would be ELEGANT. Naturally, all of our members and guests arrived full of anticipation. The tables gleamed with white linen and crystal, and the student servers were attired in black and white. The table decorations, created by students at South Seattle Community College were exquisite. So the stage was set for a fabulous evening.

After the champagne reception, we moved into the dining room, where we had reserved our seats through the numbered place cards, which were color-coded in order to make it easier for the wine stewards to see who had ordered wine with the dinner. The meal started with a gourmet salad containing Agaricus brunnescens, and was followed by a tender, boneless game hen served with sauce chausser (containing boletus, chanterelles, and morels) and tomato parmesan, green bean amandine and carrots vichy. For the dessert, the pastry chef and his students outdid themselves. On top of a smooth chocolate mousse were two meringue mushrooms, one white and one pink, which even our experts had difficulty identifying. We heard "Amanita frostii," "Hygrophorus conicus," "Tricholoma equestre," mentioned. And, going against everything we have been taught about eating unidentified mushrooms, we went ahead and ate them, to no ill effects.

Ben Woo was an excellent MC who calmly guided the rest of the program. Dr. Ammirati's excellent slide presentation about "Collecting Fungi on the Alaska Tundra" enlightened us about an area that many of us have little knowledge about.

As usual, the evening came to a close with the drawing of door prizes. Lady luck smiled on several members of the banquet committee, and rightly so.

We are fortunate that Margaret has accepted the chairmanship for next year's banquet, and I hope her very capable and efficient committee will also agree to serve again. PSMS members can already look forward to another splendid banquet next year!

#### THE POTHUNTER'S LAMENT

Joy Spurr

I returned to camp, happy and carefree after a day of collecting in the woods - a novice mushroom hunter with a basketful of Boletus edulis.

Smacking with anticipation, I chose the largest bolete, sliced a half-inch slab from its fresh, firm, meaty cap, and paused to drop a spoonful of butter into the warming frying pan. When I looked back at the mushroom, the cut piece was moving, propelled by little white wiggling creatures partially hidden in holes in the white meat.

I cut another slice.... another .... and still another. The entire cap and stem were perforated with worm holes. I picked an even fresher, younger button from the basket, adjusted my glasses, and cut through the middle of this specimen.... only to peer eye-to-eye with another lively predator.

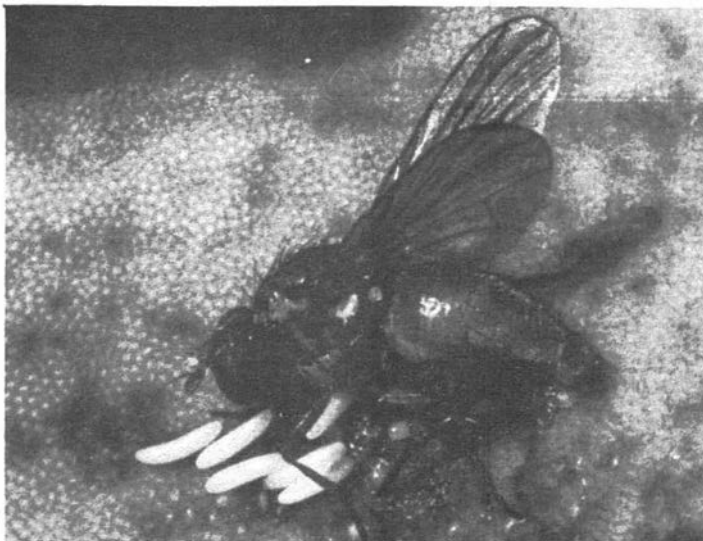
Button after button and worm hole after worm hole had to be thrown away. Ten boletes later, the bulk of my day's collection went back to the woods. One small cupful of tiny clean pieces went into the frying pan. After 15 minutes of stir-fry, I experienced my first taste of the famous Boletus edulis.

That delicious flavor erased all thoughts of the little white competitors. Now, I understood why an old-time bolete - eater once remarked, "Slice 'em thin and dry 'em. Then the

dead bodies shake out easy."

I had sampled the king of boletes, and knew that experienced pothunters never revealed their precious bolete locations. I had found my very own secret bolete garden. But I was not about to dry 'em and shake 'em out!

The perforation of this choice mushroom begins with a small female fly. She lays eggs at the base of the mushroom or on its pore structure. Each newly-hatched larva burrows into the mushroom, eats heartily, and grows. The larva molts three times, then goes into the pupa stage and rests, enclosed in a brown case. Within a few days an adult fly emerges. A new life cycle begins. "Anthomyiid flies commonly breed in rotting or decaying plant or animal matter, although some also breed in fresh plant material," said Dr. John Edwards, University of Washington entomologist. "There are hundreds of species and very little is known about their biology."



— FLY LAYING EGGS ON BOLETUS PORES —

Obviously the relationship between an insect and a fungus is satisfactory to the insect. In return, the insect benefits the fungus by carrying the reproductive spores of the mushroom on its body to other parts of the forest. Some years mushrooms are more heavily infested with insect larvae than others. A few days of cooler-than-usual temperature inhibits an insect's egg-laying activities. Occasionally temperature and moisture conditions combine to encourage such rapid growth of a mushroom that it reaches eating size before the larvae hatch.

Insect activities are not limited to mushrooms that are edible for humans. They thrive on amanitas and galerinas, unaffected by the toxins. Their appetite extends to commercially-grown Agaricus bisporus. Strict sterile conditions are applied in every step of the growing and processing period to insure that only high quality mushrooms go to the market.

When I visit my favorite bolete patch in the spring, I slice each button in the field. If it is larvae-damaged, it stays where nature planted it. Well, the little white creatures were there first. They are welcome to a share of the boletes.

(The above article appeared in the June 1976 issue of Pacific Search. The author and publisher gave us permission for reproduction.)

EDITOR'S COMMENTS: It is the editor's intent to include as many educational articles in each issue of Spore Prints as space permits. We therefore, urge and encourage ALL members to submit both amateur related and technical articles, since we need them all. Please help us in our work!