

SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2161 East Hamlin, Seattle, Wa. 98112

June 1980

Number 163



THUNDERBIRD PARK FIELD TRIP REPORT

The educational field trip to Thunderbird Park held May 3rd and 4th was blessed with beautiful weather, even though there not very many mushrooms found in the immediate vicinity. For the fresh fungi one had to seek higher elevations. Dr. Stuntz identified all the specimens brought in. Members of his spring quarter class at the University attended this outing. About 50 persons enjoyed the delicious potluck supper. After dinner, Dr. Stuntz gave a talk on Ascomycetes, concentrating on the spring mushrooms in this group. It is always a fun outing at Thunderbird, even if the weather does not cooperate, since the barn is a safe shelter. Hosts for this trip were Ron and Sharon Boehm as well as Paul and Hazel Rule.

Crystal Springs Field Trip Report

Grace Jones

This was the week end of the big morels and the big blow-out (Mount St. Helens). The weather was beautiful, with lots of sunshine. Not everyone found morels, but those who went out with Dave Schmitt on Saturday came back with lots of huge morels. One member even came back with a box of Boletus edulis.

Jennie Schmitt identified 39 species. Around 40 people stayed for the delicious potluck. Yours truly forgot to total the register, so we don't know how many signed in.

The next day, five of us went up Red Top Mountain and got caught in the ash fallout on Highway 97. It was real hairy and when we reached the I - 90 interchange, the state patrol was turning all cars back to Seattle. It was a never to be forgotten week end.

Hosts for this trip were Don and Bessie Ross and Paul and Grace Jones.



INVASION OF MONSTER MUSHROOMS

H. R. H.

Again we are fortunate to get this information from clippings from British newspapers, and U.S. military newspapers in Germany, sent in by one of our members. Thank you.

It is reported that last October, both in Britain and near the Ramstein Air Force Base in West Germany, there were fields covered with mushrooms which were up to 18 inches tall and weighed one pound or more. The mushrooms were identified by Dr. Derek Reid of Kew Gardens as shaggy inkcaps (the newspaper articles showed pictures but did not give the scientific name of the mushrooms). Dr. Reid and other experts believe that the inkcaps could grow a third bigger than normal, but not more. They are wondering if there is some strange mutation at work, in which these mushrooms are growing to threatening proportions? It would be the same thing as when you get a man seven foot high. Dr. Reid assured the natives that the mushrooms were not dangerous. That the worst that could happen is that they could drop ink from their spores on to the lawn, and you might bring it on to your living room carpet on your shoes. (See more about deli-

quescing mushrooms in Ed Cantelon's article on shaggy manes.) Dr. Reid thought that unusual weather is the probable cause, since all varieties of fungi thrive in warm, moist conditions. And Britain and Germany did not get any frost until later in the year. For those who still were nervous, Dr. Reid had the best answer: "Casserole them with a knob of butter and preferably a spoonful of cream and stew for about five minutes. That is what I did with mine."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSHROOM CONFERENCE

The Seventh Annual Rocky Mountain Mushroom Conference (formerly the Aspen Mushroom Conference) will be held at the Wildwood Inn, Snowmass Village, Colorado, Aug. 10 - 15, 1980. The conference is designed for amateur and professional mycologists, botanists, teachers, nurses, medical personnel, physicians and others interested in the identification and toxicology of mushrooms. For information on registration and housing, contact the Department of Professional Education, Rocky Mountain Poison Center, West Eighth and Cherokee, Denver, Colorado 80204 or call 303-893-7774. Members of bonafide mycological societies with verifying letters from an officer of the organization may attend the conference for a \$125 fee. Brochures are available at our June membership meeting.

(NOTE: This is a different conference than the one listed in last month's Spore Prints, which will be held Aug. 7 - 10 1980 in Gothic, Colorado).

FOREIGN BOOK PURCHASES

NAMA reports that a recent letter from a German publisher explains that the current high prices for texts in Germany are caused by the international devaluation of the dollar. Quote: "Ten years ago our U.S. customers paid \$25 for a book priced at DM 100; today the customer pays \$60 for the same book at the same price, and I don't get a penny more." unquote.

If you are interested in foreign books, you may contact Lubrecht & Cramer, RFD 1, Box 227, Monticello, N.Y. 12701 for all of Lubrecht & Cramer publications and many other foreign publishers. Lists of publications are often distributed by this publisher, and payment is accepted in Yankee dollars. There is no charge for postage on orders placed in advance.

Krypto, F. Fluch-Wirth, CH 9053 Teufen, Switzerland, has most extensive listings and will supply almost anything in print. Issues occasional lists. Payment in Swiss Francs (these are purchased from a local bank in the form of a draft). The present exchange rate is .562 Swiss Francs per \$1.00, plus whatever fee the bank adds. Krypto adds postage and a "bank fee" and bills along with shipment.

Two well known English sources are: Anthony D. Lilly, Char-enton, Cliff Road, Hythe, Kent, England, and also Wheldon & Wesley, Ltd., Lytton Lodge, Codicote, Hitchin, Herts, England.

For out of print works contact: John Johnson, RFD #2, North Bennington, Vermont, 05257.

Membership Meeting

Monday, June 9, 1980, 8:00 pm McCurdy Room
The Museum of History and Industry

Program: An excellent program is planned for the June Meeting. Howard Melsen, a past, two-term president of PSMS is going to present an educational program on a selected mushroom genus. Howard has taught a course in mycology at Everett Community College, frequently is the identifier at our fieldtrips and very knowledgeable on fungi. It will be a beneficial lecture for our newcomers as well as a good review for our other members.

BOARD NEWS

H.R.H.

As everybody knows by now, the fieldtrips to Clear Lake on Memorial Day Weekend had to be cancelled because that area had been in the main path of the ash fallout from the big Mount St. Helens eruption. At press time it could not be determined whether the fieldtrip to Tumwater was on or off. Also, President Hermanson was meeting with our NAMA members and the Board to discuss the possible effect of the ash fallout on the national NAMA foray which had been planned for Cispus in the Fall 1981. Suggestions for alternate locations are welcome!

Winston Hufford, the General Chairman of our coming Fall Exhibit, reported on the work that already is in progress toward the Annual Exhibit. With the new location in the Flag Pavilion everything is different and new this year, and needs much thought and planning. Stan March, Publicity Chairman, already has submitted the publicity material to Sunset Magazine since their deadline is so early.

Earl Harrison, Treasurer, presented to the Board the annual financial statement, and pointed out that the loss was caused by a combination of poor attendance of the 1979 Exhibit, book inventory re-evaluation, Banquet expenses and a decline in the membership. In the meantime, we have received the check from the Pacific Science Center, so that the cash flow has improved. Earl pointed out that a paid-up membership of about 500 is required for adequate cash flow for current operations. He also suggested that PSMS develop a budget for the coming year. The financial report for 1979 appears on page three for your analysis and consideration.

JUNE LAVIN'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE ASH FALLOUT

June Lavin had a dramatic experience with the May 11th Mount St. Helens eruption. She had gone to the Lake Rimrock area to hunt mushrooms when the ash fallout occurred, and because of the poor visibility, a caravan of some 10 plus vehicles formed, traveling about 15 mph. In this trying and slippery situation, a sports car tried to pass, skidded and pushed June's car off the road and into the Tieton River where it landed up-side down. The driver in the car following stopped, ran down into the river, kicked in the window on the driver's side, and pulled June out of the car. The driver's family (who lives in the area) put up June until Wednesday of that week, since any travel in the area was impossible until then. June made it home safely to Seattle by Wednesday, but at press time, her car, pulled out of the river, was still over there. I am sure this was a mushrooming experience June will not forget. At the time of the accident, June had about five pounds of morels in her car which all floated down the Tieton River, as well as the cooked amount of a puffball left over from the meal the night before.



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). Jennie Schmitt (imm. past pres.)

ALTERNATES: John Kunz; Del Miller; Agnes Suit.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISER Dr. Daniel E. Stuntz

Calendar

June 11 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST

Aug. 18 Monday, Board Meeting, 8:00 pm

Sept. 8 Monday, Membership Meeting, 8:00 pm

Sept. 29 Monday, Membership Meeting

Oct. 4 & 5 The 17th Annual Exhibit

Have a nice summer - see you in the fall !

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

John Carney; Theodore Chaney; Joe and Peg Haggerty; Darlene and Mike Kohout; R.B. Maguire. —

Jack & Navarre Orth's correct phone number is: 387-7793.

LAST CHANCE TO PICK UP YOUR 1980 ROSTER

The June membership meeting is your last chance to pick up your 1980 membership roster. After this date, the membership chairman, Grace Jones, has to mail them to you, which is not only a lot of work, but also expensive. So cooperate, and PICK IT UP.

PSMS MEMBERS TRAVELING IN EUROPE

We know of the following PSMS members traveling in Europe this summer: Harriet Tiedt; Martin and Mabel Hansen; Doug and Ruby Carmichael; and Leonard and Marjorie Schaller.

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MEETING - SECOND NOTICE

Per Article V., Section 2 and Article X of our Society's By-laws, the Board of Trustees has designated our regular membership meeting on June 9, 1980 as a SPECIAL MEETING.

The Board of Trustees has approved and will submit to the membership certain changes in the Bylaws for their approval at the June 9, 1980 Special Meeting. The following is a short statement of the proposed changes:

1. To correct the address of the Puget Sound Mycological Society's principal office
2. To make changes in the text so that the Bylaws conform to the requirement for electing two officers and five trustees at each annual election, as provided by the Amendment of the Bylaws on May 10, 1976.
3. To eliminate reference to officers, trustees, and members by gender, to comply with modern practice.
4. To add some references to other sections of the Bylaws to make the text easier to use.

None of the above changes to the Bylaws alter in any way the intent of the present Bylaws.

BOOKS H.R.H.

Mushrooms, A Separate Kingdom, written by Dr. David Jenkins (illustrated in watercolors by Mrs. Loni Parker) is an unusual kind of book. It does not try to identify mushrooms but covers a great deal of mycological history. One review says "it is a delightful combination of facts, beauty, and excellent printing and planning." It contains 101 pages (8 x 10") Price \$16.95. Order from Oxmoor House, P.O.Box 2463 Birmingham, Alabama, 35201.

1980 ANNUAL EXHIBIT COMMITTEES Winston Hufford

General Chairman

ARTS & CRAFTS	Florence Mals	878 - 2708
	Bernice Velatequi	
BOOK SALES	Kathy Ringo	784 - 9630
	Michael Westby	
COMMERCIAL		
CONSTRUCTION		
FREEZE DRY	Dr. Patricia Winter	486 - 4264
GREENERY	Paul Rule	1-794 - 8987
HOSTESS	Laurel Hufford	481 - 8459
IDENTIFICATION	Charles Volz	363 - 5465
LABELING	Helena Kirkwood	784 - 1095
MEMBERSHIP	Grace Jones	772 - 5024
MUSHROOM COLLECTION		
MUSHROOM RECEIVING	Ed & Ella Cantelon	242 - 6115
PHOTO & SLIDE SHOW	Joy & Roger Spurr	723 - 2759
POSTER PLACEMENT	Claude Dilly	782 - 8511
PRESERVATION	Jennie Schmitt	1-876 - 3177
PUBLICITY	Stan March	885 - 0375
	Dennis Krabbenhoff	839 - 2454
SECURITY	Earl Harrison	932 - 1612
SORTING BOXES	Jim Bennett	784 - 6236
TRAY ARRANGEMENT	Margaret Dilly	782 - 8511

HELP FOR THE EXHIBIT IS NEEDED NOW

As you can see from the listing above, the plans for our biggest Exhibit ever are started. Heads for most of the necessary committees have been appointed. However, they cannot do the job alone, they need your assistance. You may contact them at the next membership meeting, or give them a call and have them add your name to their committee. You will find that it is a very rewarding experience to contribute your talent and services to our Society's biggest endeavor. And since we are going it "alone" this year, in a new location, any new and different ideas that could be introduced are welcome. Phone Winston Hufford, 481 - 8459, our General Chairman of the Exhibit and discuss your ideas with him. But don't just think about them, do something, and do it NOW.

Because it takes time to implement ideas, and it may not be possible to implement them if you make your suggestions at the last minute. Every IDEA counts!

PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
RESULTS OF OPERATIONS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1979, 1978 and 1977

	1979	1978	1977
Membership			
Dues	\$ 3,465.50	\$ 5,814.30	\$ 3,666.00
Less - Membership Expenses	(923.87)	(645.76)	(629.67)
- Bulletin Costs	(2,333.97)	(2,005.77)	(2,178.51)
- Field Trips	(103.42)	(178.58)	(314.77)
- General Expense	(850.65)	(652.45)	(796.26)
Net	\$ (746.47)	\$ 2,331.74	\$ (252.49)
Banquet			
Receipts	\$ 1,237.95	\$ 1,062.00	\$ 1,843.75
Less - Expense	(1,758.55)	(1,320.10)	(2,059.31)
Net	\$ (484.60)	\$ (258.10)	\$ (215.56)
Exhibit, Classes			
Book Sales	\$ 2,729.73	\$ 5,366.79	\$ 5,084.21
Income - Exhibit, Classes	2,681.05	4,297.52	3,652.10
- Cost of Books Sold	(3,950.29)	(3,651.68)	(3,329.53)
Less - General Exhibit Expenses	(2,161.39)	(1,795.11)	(2,002.41)
- Donations, Scholarships	(2,095.00)	(3,473.73)	(1,606.63)
- Depreciation	(160.73)	(117.78)	(110.65)
Net	\$ (2,956.63)	\$ 615.01	\$ 1,693.01
Royalties	\$ 657.28	\$ 1,023.00	\$ 392.37
Interest	388.18	568.92	906.22
Net gain (loss) for year	\$ (3,142.18)	\$ 4,280.57	\$ 2,518.35

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

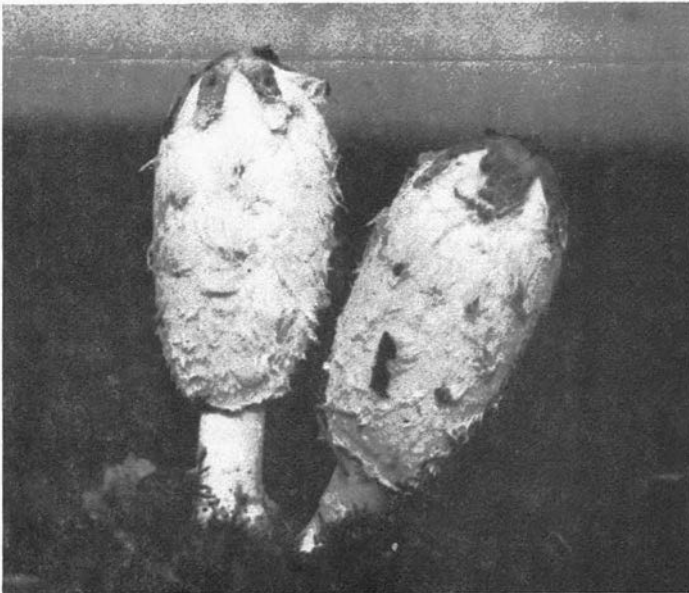
	1979	1978	1977
ASSETS			
Cash - Checking	\$ 7,118.17	\$13,467.81	\$ 2,100.24
- Savings	7,381.30	7,049.51	13,946.43
- Restricted (Note 1)	1,254.89	1,138.50	732.60
Total Cash	\$15,754.36	\$21,715.82	\$16,779.33
Due from Pac. Science Center	\$ 2,435.55	\$	\$
Book Inventory	4,685.02	4,941.79	5,675.05
Equipment, net of depreciation	502.88	498.81	431.59
Mycological Library	949.77	449.73	449.73
Total Assets	\$24,330.58	\$27,596.15	\$23,336.30
LIABILITIES			
State Sales Tax Due	\$ 128.48	\$ 251.87	\$ 272.59
Equity - January 1	27,344.28	23,053.71	20,545.36
Gain (loss) for Year	(3,142.18)	4,280.57	2,518.35
Total Equity	\$24,202.10	\$27,344.28	\$23,063.71
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$24,330.58	\$27,596.15	\$23,336.30

Note 1: Account established for "set aside" funds for educational or scientific purposes.

THE PANTHER STRUCK EARLY THIS YEAR H.R.H.

A clipping from the April 26, 1980 Portland Oregonian (sent to me by one of our members) reported about a man picking mushrooms in his back yard, which he cooked and ate. Within 15 - 20 minutes he suffered a seizure so terrifying that he smashed his head again and again on a coffee table, severely bruising his forehead and smashing his nose. His wife (who did not know of his mushroom lunch) found him in this stage and called an ambulance. The man suffered other seizures, was confused, had hallucinations, and was severely disoriented. Soon after arriving at the hospital he stopped breathing for 4 - 6 hours. He was maintained on a respirator and was in a coma for 12 - 18 hours. Nobody knew what really was the matter until he recovered enough to recall the mushrooms. The man recalled his hallucinations vividly: "Geometrical forms were crowding in on me from all directions. It was terrifying to such a point that you couldn't stand it, then multiply that by ten or so." Later the mushrooms growing in his back yard were identified as Amanita pantherina.

This is not going to be a "shaggy dog" story - Shaggy Mane is more to my liking. This mushroom is sometimes referred to in European publications as Lawyers Wig. The proper botanical name is Coprinus comatus. Coprinus is from the Greek Korpos, meaning dung. Comatus, in Latin means shaggy, with hairs. This species is the most interesting, and probably the best known in the inky cap family. They mature quite rapidly, and if gathered for the table, must be used soon as they will quickly turn to ink. This mushroom is well known to many people; it is easily recognized, since it looks much like a closed umbrella. It has a pleasant flavor and is quite mild. It occurs in summer and fall seasons. Usually the fall fruitings are the most abundant. It is often found along the edges of gravel roads. At times huge clumps of caps will even push up the edges of black-top surface. Since this mushroom is quite tender, it is really amazing that it can exert such power.



There are two little secrets that we have learned recently that make it easier to keep this mushroom for short periods of time. It has been found that if the mushrooms are turned upside - down, they will not mature as quickly as they would otherwise. The other secret is, to cover them with cold water, so that they are completely submerged.

The first indication of advancing maturity is indicated when the lower edge of the cap begins to turn pink. Up to this point they may be prepared for the table. When the cap begins to open, it curves upward and turns black, and soon the whole cap is a drippy black mass. Placed in a jar, a number of these caps will become a black fluid that may be used as ink.

There is another mushroom in the inky cap family which has a gray cap, Coprinus atramentarius. This one is usually smaller than Coprinus comatus, and usually grows in clumps of several specimens. It has been found that this mushroom should not be eaten if alcohol is consumed in the same 24 hour period. Some persons will experience a very adverse effect. It could very well be a frightening experience, with palpitations of the heart, perspiration, chilled limbs, and other symptoms of illness. In most cases, it all soon disappears without serious consequences.

Another species in this family, Coprinus micaceus, has glistening small scales on the cap that resemble flakes of mica, hence

the name. It often grows on wood or on buried wood, and also grows in clusters. It is a good edible mushroom, and is best collected for the table when it is quite tiny, perhaps not more than an inch in height. Some publications give the same precautions for this mushroom in regard to the consumption of alcohol as for C. atramentarius, while others disagree.

My family has gathered Shaggy Manes for many years. I remember one particular instance very well. On a visit to Montana to the old homestead, we gathered enough Shaggy Manes to fill the trunk of the car. My mother's younger sister spent most of the afternoon peeling Shaggy Manes and placing them in the refrigerator in a plastic bag. The next day they were an unidentifiable black inky mass. Two of the things that I learned soon after joining the Society: most mushrooms need not be peeled, and do not store them in plastic bags! Some mushrooms may be stored in plastic bags in the refrigerator, if they are first wrapped in paper towels.

PSMS BOOK SALES AND BOOK INVENTORY

For the benefit of our PSMS members, the Society has acquired an inventory of mycological books and publications. Most titles are available at a discount from the retail price.

If you plan to purchase book(s) for yourself or as a present to a friend, call Kathy Ringo (784 - 9630) AFTER 6 pm please, and order the title(s) you want. She will bring them to the June membership meeting. Also keep the list of titles presented below in a handy place, and order some books during the summer. You will have to pick them up at Kathy's.

PICTURE BOOKS

All Color Book of Mushrooms	\$ 3.20
Color Treasury of Mushrooms	\$ 2.10
World of Nature : Mushrooms	\$ 5.30

BASIC GUIDES

Arco, Guide to Collecting	\$ 8.85
Christensen, Common Edible Mushrooms	\$ 3.60
Fungi for Fun	\$ 2.80
Haard, Foraging for Wild Mushrooms	\$ 9.40
Hvass, Mushrooms and Toadstools	\$ 5.50
Lange & Hora, Collins Guide to Mushrooms	\$ 7.10
McKenny & Stuntz, The Savory Wild Mushroom	\$ 6.25
Miller, Guide to North American Mushrooms (paper)	\$ 9.45
hard-bound	\$17.95
Smith, Field Guide to Western Mushrooms	\$17.40

STUDY

PSMS Study Book	\$ 4.10
Irene O'Connor KEY	\$ 1.05
Gene Butler, Key to Genera	\$ 5.25
Pacific Search Picture Keys	\$ 1.05
Poison Pamphlet (by PSMS)	\$ 1.05

HOW TO IDENTIFY MUSHROOMS TO GENUS

I. Macroscopic Features	\$ 2.30
II. Field Identification of Genera	\$ 3.30
III. Microscopic Features	\$ 3.30
IV. Keys to Families and Genera	\$ 3.30

Orders have been placed for:

British Columbia Museum Guide to Common Mushrooms
Tylutki, Mushrooms of Idaho and the Pacific Northwest -
Discomycetes.

FOOD

PSMS Cookbook	\$ 7.30
Mac Maniman, Dry It - You'll Like It	\$ 4.15
Donna Myer, Answers to your Mushroom Questions	\$ 4.15