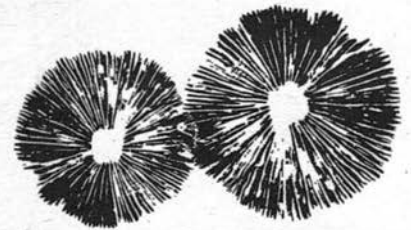


SPORE PRINTS

BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 245

October 1988



MUSHROOMING AT THE UTTERMOST END OF THE WORLD

Tatiana M. Roats



Of the 35 or so members participating in Patagonia Plus, the mushroom study tour of Argentina led by Gary Lincoff, Andrew Weil, and Emanuel Salzman last February and March, fully three-fourths were alumni of previous foreign and domestic forays, so it was like a class reunion coming from all over the United States and Canada. Our guest mycologists, of international renown, were Dr. Rolf Singer and Dr. Rene Pomerleau, the former a pioneering agaricologist on South American agarics, the latter author of a major work entitled *Flore des Champignons au Quebec* soon to be published in English.

After assembling in Buenos Aires from various departure points, we took a brief tour of the city and then the fantastic journey south to the end of the world and a turbulent landing in wind swept Ushuala, Tierra del Fuego. Here we hunted in the city and then in the beech forests of Tierra del Fuego National Park. I had never seen a beech tree, and the effect from a distance is very evergreen; but there is no undergrowth to fight, and the branching is quite high so visibility is excellent and the ground cover a delightful combination of dwarf ferns and mosses. I thought the forest beautiful. Even the windfalls and other wood does not decompose but stays intact due to little rainfall, drying winds, and cool temperature. Nonetheless, our best mushrooming was here -- about 100 species were collected. The most exciting to me was the unique *Cyttaria darwinii*, a parasite on the beech tree (not fatal). The Indians knew and ate them raw, calling them "Indian bread." When we had our ceremonial tasting session at the Albatross Hotel, we had the immature specimens cooked. Their quality remains a mystery, as garlic and pepper masked the taste, but we mostly agreed that the texture resembles very firm corn or hominy. Its curious growth on the beech tree -- a round, yellowish ball, single or in clusters on the branches -- matures into a honeycomb surface from which the spores are expelled. They then harden and fall to the ground, so I was able to bring back my share of souvenirs of "Darwin's mushroom."

Putting aside our interest in fungi (briefly), we cruised the Beagle Channel, purpose, to photograph the islands: one, clustered with sea birds, a pin cushion of Magellan cormorants; another swarming with sea lions; the third, a gathering of Magellanic penguins, in molting phase and very willing to pose. After the cruise en route to a tour of an Estancia (sheep farm) where we had dinner, our guide harvested the largest shaggy manes and giant puffballs I'd ever seen. (The logistics of disgorging 37 people from the bus for a mushroom quickie was impossible.) The basket load of mushrooms was cooked by Dennis Alta of New York, and we enjoyed them with the excellent mutton Stroganoff. Before dinner we sampled some pale wild strawberries with some skepticism, but that

quickly disappeared when the sweetness hit our taste buds. As if that was not enough, the dessert of wild raspberry sauce on blancmange was the crowning glory.

cont. on p. 4

1988 NAMA, ISABELLA, MINNESOTA

Ben Woo

Lake Superior is this enormous inland sea of deep blue fresh water, with no visible distant shore. The Minnesota coast, running 151 miles from Duluth to Grand Portage at the Canadian border, is backed by a boreal forest of white pine, black spruce, and graceful birch dappled with lakes and peopled by the ghosts of the fabled French voyageurs who trapped and traded for furs in the endless wilderness of three hundred years ago. History makes no mention that this parade of Pierres ever stopped to smell the mushrooms.

Mushrooms teemed at the 1988 NAMA Foray, held August 20-23 at Isabella, Minnesota. About 160 faithful gathered at the Environmental Learning Center in a relaxed program of hunting and learning. Mycologists were Alan Bessette, Walt Sundberg, and Elwin Stewart. Taylor Lockwood presented a new version of his artistically impeccable blends of music and mushrooms. Gary Lincoff MC'd the tee-shirt contest, which did not include a wet version. Chuck Barrows of Santa Fe, New Mexico, received the NAMA award for distinguished contributions to amateur mycology. Despite a deeply scientific lecture on the dangers of deer ticks and the associated Lyme Tick Disease, no bites were reported, although deer flies were pesky and some kind of "no-see-ums" inflicted some itchy wounds. Mosquitoes, mercifully, were scarce. Weather was dry two days, drenching rain the other two.

Some of the mushrooms were familiar: chanterelles, for example, and *Hydnum repandum*. The most abundant edible was *Leccinum aurantiacum*, following the European model with small caps up to 5 inches and long, slender stems. Despite the abundance of birch, *Leccinum scabrum* was not found, and *Paxillus involutus* was very rare. *Amanita muscaria* was abundant but only in the orange-capped variety, with yellow varieties and white varieties less common. *Boletus edulis* was found but in a medium-sized variety with straight, brown stipes. *Suillus* species were abundant but in a different array from our flora, featuring *S. granulatus*, *S. placidus*, *S. acidus*, *S. americanus*, *S. tomentosus*, and *S. luteus*. Almost all of the *Lactarius* species were different. Russulas were represented by *R. densifolia*, *R. albonigra*, *R. emetica* or *R. silvicola*, *R. luteus*, *R. paludosa*, *R. aeruginea*, and *R. virescens*, with a doubtful *R. variata*. In all, 320 species had been identified as the foray neared its end, with a number of unidentified and to-be-verified collections yet to be added.

Next year's NAMA foray is scheduled for southern Illinois, and the 1990 event will be held in Vancouver, B.C.

Spore Prints

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Calendar

- Oct. 7,8 CUH open house, Fri. 9:00 a.m.-
7:30 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- Oct. 10 Public mushroom i.d., 4:00-7:00 p.m., CUH
Beginners' class, 7:00-9:00 p.m., CUH
- Oct. 11 Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
- Oct. 14 *Spore Prints* deadline
- Oct. 17 Public mushroom i.d., 4:00-7:00 p.m., CUH
Board meeting, 7:00 p.m., CUH
Beginners' class, 7:00-9:00 p.m., CUH
- Oct. 18 Intermediate seminar, 7:00-9:00 p.m., CUH
- Oct. 22,23 Exhibit, noon-8:00 p.m. Sat., 10:00 a.m.-
6:00 p.m. Sun., St. Joseph Church
- Oct. 24 Public mushroom i.d., 4:00-7:00 p.m., CUH
Beginners' class, 7:00-9:00 p.m., CUH
- Oct. 25 Intermediate seminar, 7:00-9:00 p.m., CUH
- Oct. 31 *Spore Prints* mailing, 10:00 a.m., CUH
Public mushroom i.d., 4:00-7:00 p.m., CUH
Beginners' class, 7:00-9:00 p.m., CUH
- Nov. 1 Intermediate seminar, 7:00-9:00 p.m., CUH

PERSONAL NOTES

Coleman Leuthy gave a presentation on wild mushrooms at the Federal Way Library on September 14th.

Dennis Bowman wrote the lead story in the fall issue of *Mushroom, The Journal of Wild Mushrooming*. The watercolor given to him by his 12-year-old Soviet friend was on the cover.

Mark Jarand underwent surgery at Swedish Hospital on September 22, and will be on crutches for the next 6 weeks.

Membership Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle.

Ben Woo, a PSMS founder, its first president, and chairman of this year's annual exhibit, will tell us about the early days of our society. Ben studies *Russula* for the Key Council, is a community leader in the International District, is active in politics, and serves on committees of the American Institute of Architects.

BUILDING FUND

Ralph Burbridge

The next \$600 given to our building fund between now and the annual exhibit will be matched by two generous board members. Turn in a new donation (not a pledge payment) and it will double!

Our building fund deadline is next June, less than nine months away, and we are still \$5,000 short of our goal. Your contribution is tax deductible -- even more important is the overall benefit to our society. Please act now!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gilbert Austin

While it is premature at this time to predict the volume and variety of mushrooms that will be fruiting in late October, we all hope for the best and anticipate a total of 300 varieties or more at the Annual Exhibit!



George Rafanelli, Ben Woo, Rus Kurtz, and others will be talking in detail about the need for mushroom collection for the exhibition. But I, too, wish to underline the importance of broad-based participation. The exhibit will be held October 22 and 23, so fresh specimens can be gathered from October 20. Don't be concerned about whether your collection will duplicate that of others. It's better to have an excess of several varieties than to risk missing one variety or another.

Much of the success of the Exhibit will depend on the extent and variety of our collection, so I urge every member to go out and hunt -- whether in the city, the suburbs, or well outside Seattle. There are certain to be at least a few mushrooms wherever you go. If you have questions concerning the methodology of collection, come to the October 11 membership meeting. Details will be provided at that time.

Last year, a few people commented that they were not able to locate the Exhibit site. Rest assured there will be no problem this time. The Exhibit will be held in the gymnasium and auditorium of St. Joseph Church at Aloha Street and 19th Avenue East on Capitol Hill. Aloha and 19th East is well-known and easily located. There is a Metro bus stop at the corner, and The Surrogate Hostess, a popular eatery, is adjacent to the intersection.

PSMS is most fortunate in having an Exhibit chair of the caliber and experience of Ben Woo. He considers the St. Joseph Church facility first rate -- lots of room and loads of parking. So do try to participate! If possible, come to the October 11 membership meeting and sign up to help on two or three committees. If you can't attend the meeting, telephone Ben Woo (722-6109) or Margaret Dilly (782-8511) to find out

how to help. Helping on the exhibit isn't work; it's a really pleasant experience.

A final suggestion: Pass the word! Publicity is absolutely essential to success of the show. The Exhibit is good value for any ticket buyer, and this year's presentation will be one of our best. So publicize it as widely as you can. Exhibit hours are noon - 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Sunday. If you have publicity suggestions applicable to Seattle area media, please call Publicity Chair Ron Post (932-1729). If Ron isn't home, leave your message on his recorder. He will welcome your help.

REPORT FROM CHONGQING

Charlotte Turner-Zila reports that Gary Smith is alive and well in Chongqing and not too homesick. He is teaching 9 hours a week, and says the people are really friendly. They have offered to drive him any place he wants to go and have already taken him out for a 15 course Chinese banquet. Gary would love to hear from people here at home. His address is

Gary Smith
Chongqing College of Education
Chongqing, Sichuan Province
People's Republic of China

Postage to Chongqing costs 45 cents for 1/2 ounce and 90 cents for 1 ounce. Gary requests that you use either printed or metered postage, as foreign postage stamps tend to disappear in route. (Stamps are valuable collectors items in China because of their low bulk. For the same reason, stamps would make a good gift.)

HELP WANTED: COOKS

Patrice Benson



Attention mycophagists! Mushroom eaters, uncover your culinary talents and perform a cooking demonstration at our exhibit. Please phone Patrice Benson at 722-0691 if you are interested in either assisting or demonstrating. We will be relying on the talents of our membership this year, so don't be shy.

PLASTIC BAGS & SPORE PRINTS

R. & B. Sommer

[*Mycena News*, Mycological Society of San Francisco]

In bringing mushrooms home for identification, we have occasionally encountered fungi that stubbornly refuse to drop spores. White paper or black, music or incantation, the result is the same -- nothing. Trying to out wait an obdurate fungus is hopeless. Recently we came across a method for encouraging shy or stubborn fungi to drop spores. Instead of leaving the mushroom on a piece of paper exposed to air, the fungus and paper are placed inside a plastic bag. Arora recommends covering the fungus with a glass or bowl in order to make spore prints, but the rationale is protection from air currents. The use of the plastic bag is more effective in retaining moisture, which makes it a bad procedure for storing mushrooms for the table but seems superior for obtaining spore prints.

HELP NEEDED THIS WEEKEND

Amelia Schultz

Please call **Amelia Schultz**, 363-4304, to help her set up and staff a display table for CUH's open house this Friday and Saturday, October 7th and 8th. Setup is from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Friday. Public hours are 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

POSSIBLE FIELD TRIP SITES

Ralph Burbridge

Add the following to the list of possible field trip sites published in the September *Spore Prints*:



Crystal Springs Forest Camp: Take I-5 over Snoqualmie Pass. Nine miles east of the summit, take the Stampede Pass exit #62. Turn right at the stop sign. After a quarter mile (before the bridge) bear right to enter the camp.

Remember to call the Society's answering machine, 522-6031, on the Thursday or Friday before the field trip to find out that week's location.

CULTIVATION GROUP

Mark Jarand

On September 17, the PSMS Cultivation Group staged a mushroom cultivation demonstration in Mark Jarand's backyard to be taped for television. A 5-minute segment of the tape will be shown on the Ed Hume Show Sunday, October 16 (Channel 4, 9:00 a.m.). The crew were so fascinated with the *Stropharia rugosaannulata* growing in the carrot patch that they taped another 5-minute segment to be shown later.



Mark Jarand and Ed Hume talk cultivation

MUSHROOM CANNING

Michele Willis

Are you interested in attending a canning lecture put on by the Washington State University Cooperative Extension Service? Please call me at 782-3490. We need at least 12 people to qualify. I'm hoping we can have it the first week in October.

Patagonia Plus, cont. from p. 1

Flying north to El Califate, gateway to the Morene Glacier, we were forced to pause our fungi hunting because of lack of rain in the Patagonian desert. But this is where our reserve interests -- flora and fauna watching -- stepped in. We were treated to the unusual sight of a herd of guanaco (llama-like humpless camels), lesser rheas (ostrich-like birds), soaring condors, beautiful blackneck swans, ashy-headed geese, upland geese, crested caracara, even a species of ibis. Being a neophyte birder, I was delighted with abundance of unique birds which I was seeing for the first and possibly only time in my life. Now approaching the glacier, I wondered what could top the thrill of the last hour on the bus, but my doubt was soon dispelled as I watched the only growing glacier on earth spit out large chunks of ice to the explosive sound of instantaneous lightning and thunder. The fascinated group of viewers was able to get within a stone's throw owing to a system of specially designed walkways. Only our schedule, not to mention the hypothermic wind off the glacier, forced us to leave.

North to Bariloche, the Switzerland of South America, where the dining (wild boar, trout, etc.) and shopping (leather and wool) were excellent. Also chocolate -- the best. But first a mushroom foray at Nahuel Huapi National Park (reached by launch). Again drought conditions prevailed, but we still found about 25 species, including *Polyporus maculatus*, a beautiful polypore, and *Rozites sarmienti*, a relative of our own beloved *Rozites caperata*, the Gypsy.

In the steaming jungle at Iguazú Falls National Park near the southern Brazilian boundary, however, the fungi numbers improved (up to 75) regardless of the fact that we didn't have permission to harvest there. Among them were a bolete similar to *Suillus subtomentosus* and two species of wood ear, *A. de ica* and *A. fuscocucinea*.

Overdoing the superlatives once more (and for the last time, you say with relief), the falls formed by

270 cascades of the Iguazú River were of a majesty I never thought to see after viewing Niagara. Platforms, balconies, bridges, and walkways provided an intimate (if sometimes doubtfully safe) view of these powerful cataracts with their steaming background of trees, ferns, flowers, birds, and butterflies. The heat was truly unbearable, but a triviality, from where I sit now.

MUSHROOM ASTROLOGY

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): You appreciate the ecological role of mushrooms and have a good sense of where different species can be found. However, you may never get to some of their habitats because you like easy activities and often do your mushroom hunting in city parks and residential areas. You are pleased to share your mushroom hunting territory with others (which is a good thing, since this is often other people's homes!) You consider a foray successful if everyone has gotten something of value from it. You fret over identifications. You have a good feel for the edible qualities of mushrooms even though you may not do much cooking.



-- Bob Lehman, Los Angeles Myco. Soc.

Welcome, new members:

Emillo Fonzo, 7048 34th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115
524-7743

Marc Katz c/o Graphicus, 150 Lake St. #206, Kirkland, WA 98033
820-8946

Jeffry and Cynthia McGough, 18018 108th Ave. S.E., Renton, WA 98055
277-1271

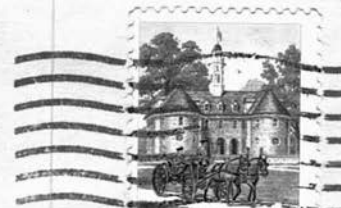
Died: Doris Paduano, PSMS secretary in 1973-74.

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Center for Urban Horticulture
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W.S.
105-108
1500-



June 25, 1788 USA
Virginia 25

RAFANELLI, George & Jennie
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Your building fund donation will be
matched dollar for dollar! Page 2.

INTERMEDIATE SEMINARS

Coleman Leuthy

Seminars will be 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in the board room adjacent to PSMS's office at CUH. Registration is not necessary and there is no charge.

- Oct. 18 Charles Volz: *Tricholoma*
- Oct. 25 Margaret Dilly: pink spored genera and part I of Hosford & Scates' slide program, "I.D. of Friesian Agarics, a Macroscopic Approach"
- Nov. 1 *Ramaria* and part II of Hosford & Scates' slide program, "I.D. of Friesian Agarics, a Macroscopic Approach"
- Nov. 15 Polyporaceae, using Stuntz's key which may be purchased for \$6.10.
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