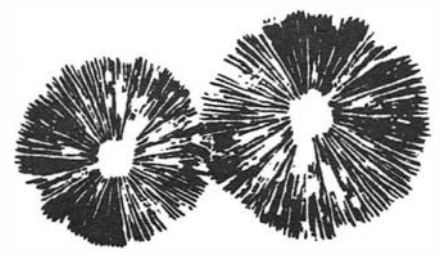


# SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 301

April 1994

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Patrice Benson

For 30 years PSMS volunteers have been true to our stated purpose: "To foster and expand the understanding and appreciation of mycology as a science and a hobby and to assist related institutions and societies in these purposes." We have been actively participating in quite a few ways.



The Barlow Pass Project, a cooperation between PSMS and the UW Department of Botany, is an example of how we can enjoy collection and study of fungi while providing important data useful to the sciences of mycology and ecology. The snow is melting, and again volunteers will be needed to collect in the study plot on Sundays or Mondays throughout the season. Call Carol Smith, 784-7699, to volunteer. This project is closely linked to our tremendous learning resource, Dr. Joe Ammirati. After the mushrooms are brought in from the plot, a few hours are set aside, usually Monday evening, to identify and catalog the fungi collected. It provides a great opportunity to learn a lot about identification of old-growth fungi.

Another effort for fun and learning comes in the form of the Cispus Foray. The PSMS Spring Foray will be May 6-8, 1994, at the Cispus Environmental Learning Center near Randle, Washington. Everyone interested in mushrooms is invited to attend. You don't have to belong to PSMS. For those who missed the recent PSMS microscopy classes, Judy Roger will teach yet another microscope class, and Katie Glew will demonstrate why her lichen class at the NAMA foray was standing room only. Paul Kroeger, past president of the Vancouver, B.C., Mycological Society, will act as Principal Taxonomist. Sign up at the April 12 meeting or earlier by sending the registration form included in last month's *Spore Prints* or by phoning Foray Chair Kathreen Otwell at 820-5479.

Our next membership meeting will provide information and additional opportunities for volunteers interested in helping with a mushroom study involving the Olympic Peninsula. Call Ron Post, 525-9082, for information if you can't attend.

The tone of this message is becoming a theme: Learn more by doing more. Volunteer efforts provide benefits to all. PSMS is an exceptional group of people. So get involved, make friends, enjoy life.

*Thank you, Seattle Central Community College, for a fine and elegant Survivors' Banquet on March 11. And thank you, Michael Blackwell, for foraging for and constructing the center pieces, which we all enjoyed.* — Patrice Benson, Banquet Chair

## GOLDEN MUSHROOM AWARD

Dick Sieger



At our annual Survivors' Banquet, Dennis Bowman received the Golden Mushroom Award for lifetime service. The award, which is given by the board, includes a lifetime membership in PSMS.

No one, not even Denny, knows all he has done for PSMS. He has come to board meetings since 1981, as an alternate, a board member, vice president, and the chair of numerous committees. Our society's leaders know that the fastest way to get out of trouble is to call Denny. He always gives sound advice and takes an active part in solving problems. He once filled in for an exhibit chair who was called out of town in the crucial few weeks before the exhibit; another time he took over for a banquet chair who was out of the country during the banquet.

When Dennis Bowman joined PSMS at the Annual Exhibit in 1981, President Milt Grout asked him to assist the Exhibit Committee. He agreed. And then Milt told him that he would chair the next exhibit. He chaired that one and five more. He tried to retire in 1986, but continued for another year when the chair withdrew. Although these were difficult years for our society owing to the death of Dr. Stuntz and the resulting changes in our leadership, Denny's innovation brought exciting improvements to our show. He featured mycophagy, conservation, microscopy, and a black light demonstration. He showed high school teachers how their students could learn from our exhibit. He directed the production of artistic, award-winning posters. Denny co-chaired exhibit publicity in 1991, and he still works at every exhibit, starting with the earliest construction workers Friday mornings.

Chairing the 1993 Daniel E. Stuntz Foray for PSMS and NAMA, Denny worked hard for 2 years and hundreds of hours. Few businesses could match the accomplishments of his committee, and his efforts were rewarded by overwhelming approval of the foray, and by its financial success.

Denny helped us organize the Cultivation Group, and was an organizer and participant in its 1992 cultivation workshop. He was a charter member of CEPS, the first group to tackle the problems of commercial mushrooming. He chaired a memorable 1987 Survivors' Banquet with a Chinese mushroom feast, and was playwright and director for the 1991 banquet's entertainment. While working hard on the NAMA foray, he also chaired last year's Cispus foray. He encouraged us to have

*(cont. on page 3)*

# Spore Prints

is published monthly, September through June, by the  
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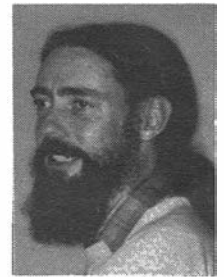
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## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 1994, at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle

Paul Kroeger, past president of the Vancouver, B.C., Mycological Society and chair of the 1990 NAMA Foray at Whistler, will talk on "Fungi of the Northwest—Oddballs and Others." A respected Canadian naturalist, Paul's expertise includes plants as well as fungi, and his projects have included a botanical survey of a hot springs area in British Columbia. He excels as a mushroom taxonomist and will be the principal taxonomist at the Cispus Foray.



Also, Dave Pilz of the Northwest Research Station in Corvallis will brief us on their 1993-94 chanterelle study.

Would persons with last names beginning with the letters N-Q please bring a plate of refreshments for the social hour?

## CULTIVATION COMMITTEE

**Greg Chew**

The Cultivation Group met Sunday, March 13, in the Douglas Classroom. Continuing with our bulking up of mycelial mass, we practiced transferring *Pleurotus* spawn into rye grain substrates. The many members who completed this process should

remember to record their observations of environmental conditions, i.e., substrate temperature and light conditions, and the duration of the spawn run for discussion at our next meeting.



The next meeting will be April 10 at Rod and Milly Myers' home at 8343 N.E. 175th in Bothell. Bring snacks to share. This meeting we will complete the process of *Pleurotus* cultivation by transferring the spawn to pasteurized straw for fruiting.

## CHANTERELLE STUDY

Volunteers are needed for a unique interdisciplinary study to assess biological, socioeconomic, and land-management concerns of recreational and commercial harvesting of chanterelles on the Olympic Peninsula.

Over a dozen sites, up to 40 acres in size, will be monitored at 2-week intervals during 1994 and 1995. Plots will be located on Federal and private land, from southern to northern portions of the peninsula. Depending on numbers of mushrooms, data collection may take from 1/3 to 1 full day. Training will take place in May. If you would like to volunteer, or want more information before making a firm commitment, please contact either Dave Pilz (503-750-7362) or Leon Liegel (503-750-299), Pacific Northwest Research Station, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, Oregon 97331.



## CALENDAR

- April 10 Cultivation Group, 1:00 p.m., 8343 NE 175, Bothell
- April 11 Beginner's class, 7:00 p.m., CUH
- April 12 Membership meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH
- April 13 Mushroom walk, Paul Kroeger, 10:00 a.m., the Arboretum
- April 18 Board meeting, 7:30 p.m., CUH  
Beginner's class, 7:00 p.m., CUH
- April 22 *Spore Prints* deadline
- April 25 Beginner's class, 7:00 p.m., CUH
- May 2 Beginner's class, 7:00 p.m., CUH
- May 6-8 Cispus Foray

## BOARD MEETING

**Agnes Sieger**

In keeping with tradition, the board voted a life membership for the outgoing president and the winner of the Golden Mushroom Award. Barlow Pass is still snowed in. Carol Smith is awaiting instructions from Joe Ammirati about this year's study. Patrice will reactivate the committee to set aside money for a future facility when our lease runs out at CUH. Paul Stamets will provide supplies to inoculate conifer sites with *Hypholoma capnoides*; it was suggested that he contact the Cultivation Group. We will include the PSMS Bylaws in the next roster. Dick Sieger wants to do a book on urban mushrooms. Patrice Benson would like to put together a new PSMS cookbook.

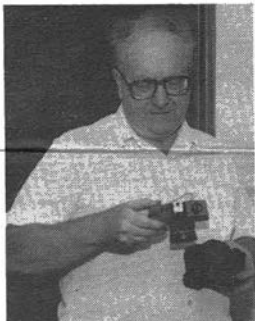
## MEET THE ZILLAS

Inga Wilcox

Learning how to make a mushroom spore print, while on a field trip to Seward Park as a Brownie, was Charlotte Turner-Zilla's first encounter with fungi. Years later, when she and her husband, Bill Zilla, spent time at Lake Quinault walking the "Big Tree Trail," mushrooms growing on trees and in the ground aroused their curiosity. Charlotte promptly went to the Pacific Science Center and enrolled in a class taught by Dr. Susan Libonati-Barnes.

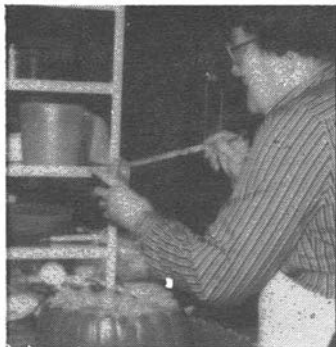


Having had just one class, she was asked by a relative to identify a mushroom. She decided it was a "Slippery Jack." When Dr. Stuntz confirmed it, she was excited about having learned so much in just one session.



Soon, of course, the question of how to prepare edible fungi came up. Basic instructions were available, but she wanted more variety. Serving on the

PSMS board, she urged them to add a cooking demonstration to the annual exhibit. Health questions about safety and audience response were eventually overcome, and Patrice Benson and Denny Bowman added the cooking and tasting program. New vistas were opened in Epicurean cookery. Charlotte could be seen preparing a large pot of mushroom soup while the delicious aromas brought in eager tasters.



Charlotte joyfully remembers chairing the annual banquet in 1983 at the Monroe Center in Ballard. Two hundred mem-

bers were served home-cooked dishes; Roger Spurr served as wine steward; Irene Carpenter brought in buns and rolls shaped like mushrooms; Dick Sieger emceed the evening.

Hosting forays was another favorite activity of Bill and Charlotte. They both enjoy membership meetings and found the recent NAMA conference "just great." "Come and join—help out" is their message to newcomers. "It is the nicest way to get acquainted."

Bill, the son of Czech immigrants, is fluent in Czech and translates for the court and hospitals. Subscribing to a publication by a Czech society here, he is on the lookout for ethnic mushroom recipes, which he passes on to Patrice Benson and Agnes Sieger. His language skills will come into play when Bill and Charlotte visit the Czech and Slovak republics this year.

If you happen to come along 21st Ave. East and Interlaken Blvd, watch out for the "landmark" tree in front of their home. It is the oldest cherry tree in the city and is a spectacular sight when in bloom.

## Golden Mushroom Award, *cont. from p. 1*

summer picnics and organized a couple of those. He served on nominating committees, recruiting some of our society's leaders. He led several special events that introduced education and conservation in our field trip program by demonstrating mycophagy, cultivation, scientific collecting, and identification. When we moved from the Monroe Center to CUH, Denny showed us how to store 2000 cubic feet of equipment in 1000 cubic feet of space. Because of Denny's ideas, we have a telephone listing, an answering machine, a video camera, video recordings of all our speakers, and goodies at our meetings. He built shelves for our library and an overhead mirror for cooking demonstrations.

Denny is a constant mushroom missionary, setting up displays for children's fairs, horticultural exhibits, and food conferences, speaking at meetings and banquets, and demonstrating cooking at The Herbfarm. He collected books for Soviet mushroomers in 1988.

He has always been generous. He shares his collecting sites and his knowledge of mushroom hunting freely. He is especially generous with his mushrooms, having donated them for fund raising, exhibits, banquets, demonstrations, and culinary arts programs.

Denny has worked with us on all these projects with good humor and along the way has been a constant friend to everyone. Congratulations, Denny.

## FORGET PHYSICS, THINK FUNGUS

Fort Worth, Texas (AP) — A petroleum engineer has his eyes on miles of dark, damp tunnels where scientists once contemplated smashing atoms. Naresh Vashisht wants them to harvest mushrooms instead.

Vashisht is president of Omimex Energy Inc., a Texas company that owns a mushroom farm in Alamosa, Colorado, near the New Mexico line. There, 20,000 mushrooms a week grow to table-ready maturity inside a concrete block building with a high roof and steep air conditioning bills.

In contrast, the five-mile tunnel is 200 ft underground and sealed with concrete. The temperature is a steady 70°, the humidity high, the darkness eternal.

In short, Vashisht says, the underground remnants of the incomplete superconducting super collider are prime turf for mushroom growing.

"We can use the lined tunnel. The 5 miles is exactly what we are looking for," said Vashisht. "We would save a lot of energy costs.

In Pennsylvania, they grow mushrooms in old limestone mines," Vashisht said. The tunnels are carved from similar rock called Austin chalk.

The mammoth superconducting super collider was mothballed nearly 5 months ago when Congress halted funds. Texas and the Energy Department had together spent \$2 billion on the project, which was 20% complete.

## MUSHROOM MISSIONARIES

Lynn Phillips and Patrice Benson produced a mushroom cultivation class for Science Day at Madrona School on March 30th. This all-day program highlighted different disciplines of science and provided hands-on opportunities for the students. Mushroom farms were produced using empty 2-liter bottles, straw, and mushroom spawn. The students will watch these cultures grow and fruit in their classrooms.

## BAKED MUSHROOMS AND RICE

### *Oft Told Mushroom Recipes, PSMS*

4 TBS oil  
2 C sliced raw mushrooms  
1 C minced dry onions  
1 C uncooked rice  
Strong chicken broth, to cover  
¼ tsp salt  
¼ tsp tomato paste  
2 TBS minced parsley

Heat 2 TBS oil in a heavy skillet. Sauté mushrooms until liquid evaporates. Remove mushrooms and reserve. Add 2 TBS more oil to pan. Add onions. Stir and cook until they become transparent. Add rice. Stir until rice becomes golden. Cover with chicken broth at least ½ in. above rice. Add salt, tomato paste, parsley, and sautéed mushrooms and stir. Cover. Cook on low heat 20 minutes. Remove cover. Stir and fluff rice.

## CLASSES, STUDIES, TV PROGRAMS, ETC.

**Everett Mushroom Class:** An introduction to local mushrooms. Wednesday, April 13, 7:30–9:00 p.m., Lions Hall, Everett. Co-sponsored by the Snohomish County Mycology Society and the Everett Parks & Recreation Department. Call 259-0300 to register.

**Summer Field Course in the Sierra Nevada [Biol. 314]:** \$130., June 68, 1994. Contact Dr. Dennis E. Desjardin, San Francisco State University, at (415) 338-2439 (FAX: (415) 338-2295; email: ded@sfsu.edu) for details.

**Telluride Mushroom Conference:** August 25-28, 1994 Telluride, Colorado. Speakers include Jonathan Ott (Entheogenic Mushrooms of Mexico), Gary Lincoff (Mushroom I.D.), Paul Stamets (Mushroom Cultivation), Andrew Weil (Mushrooms and Health and Mushroom Cookery), John Corbin (Growing Mushrooms on Straw), Linnea Gillman (Rocky Mountain Mushrooms), Emanuel Salzman (Poisonous Mushrooms). For further information, contact Fungophile, P.O. Box 480503, Denver, CO 80248-0503 or phone (303) 296-9359.

**TV Show:** There will be a PBS special entitled "The Critical Forest" on KCTS, Channel 9, April 20 from 8:00–9:30 p.m. Produced by Alan Honick, it includes Paul Stamets speaking about myco-ecology.

**Mushroom Walk:** Paul Kroeger will lead a mushroom walk at the Arboretum on Wednesday, April 13. Meet at the main parking lot by the Arboretum offices.

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