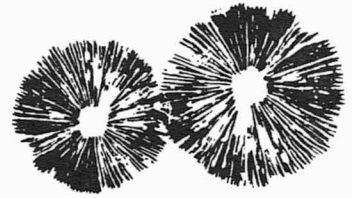


SPORE PRINTS



BULLETIN OF THE PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Number 354 September 1999

A TRADITION FOR THIS TOWN: Ron Post & THE PSMS ANNUAL EXHIBIT Brandon Matheny

It looks to be a great fall for mushrooms, given the damp weather we've had this summer in the mountains. With a little help from that big mushroom cultivator in the sky, we should have good publicity for the exhibit, great displays, and plenty of interest from the public at this year's 36th annual exhibit, October 9-10. What a great tradition for this town! Based on the number of calls to our office and e-mails from the public, interest in PSMS and mushrooms continues to grow steadily. So, we need your help as volunteers for this year's wild mushroom show.

Several important chair positions are unfilled this year. Please consider yourself available! Publicity is already starting, and the ball is beginning to roll. Please give us a hand by taking a chair position and/or time slots for one or several of the committees at our September program. If you cannot make the September program but wish to volunteer for one of the committees (see below), please e-mail Ron at <info@psms.org> or Brandon at <matheny@u.washington.edu>. Or simply leave a message on the club's answering machine (206 522-6031) to discuss where your talents could best be put to use.

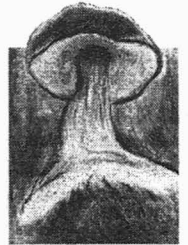
A few changes may be in the works for this year's show. These changes are not set in stone. We may accept specimens, arrange trays, and label next to the display hall instead of down at the

"head house." This will require more coordination on Friday and Saturday morning, and it means people bringing in food for the hospitality area must enter from the courtyard side of the building. However, mushroom collections will be kept cooler (important for display), and it will facilitate delivery of trays to the display floor immensely. We will use tarps, lights, and space heaters to help sorters, arrangers, and labelers stay comfortable.

When you sign up at the September meeting, try to leave time for yourself to enjoy the exhibit. I know that many of us work long hours each year, and sometimes we don't get to enjoy the fungi. We'll have a few special door prizes this year as an incentive for any volunteers who can help construct the displays during the day on Friday, October 8. Also, please remember to go collecting in groups of two or more and use sensible precautions as always.

Many of us continue our participation in PSMS because of the hospitable and gracious people who share our interest in fungi. Let's remember that and make this year one of our finest efforts. Seattle is changing, and we should not let the pace of life get out of our control or the interests we share get lost.

Thanks, ahead of time, for your effort during this year's annual exhibit.



36th Annual Wild Mushroom Exhibit

1999 Exhibit Committee Chairs

Committee	Chair	Phone No.			
Exhibit Co-Chair	Ron Post	206/522-6031, Ext. 3	Identification	Brian Luther	206/522-1051
Exhibit Co-Chair	Brandon Matheny	206/722-8458	Kids Table	Joshua Birkebak	206/767-3581
Arts & Crafts	_____	_____	Label Database	John Kunz	206/362-7402
Banner	_____	_____	Labeling	Colin Meyer	206/722-6687
Black Light	_____	_____	Membership	Bernice Velategui	206/232-0845
Book & T-Shirt Sales	_____	_____	Microscopy	Brian McNett	360/377-4307
Brochure	Ron Post	206/522-6031, Ext. 3	Moss Collection	Gilbert Austin	425/888-2606
Clean-up	Lynn Elwell	425/885-5580	Mushroom Collecting	Russ Kurtz	206/784-3382
Commercial Display	Fungi Perfecti	1-800-780-9126	Poster Design	Joanne Young	206/633-0752
Conservation & Ecology	_____	_____	Publicity	D.V. Corey	206/362-6592
Construction	Harold Schnaree	425/778-0854	Receiving	Coleman Leuthy	206/322-2554
Cooking	Patrice Benson	206/722-0691	Parking & Security	_____	_____
Cultivation	Ed Foy	_____	Signs	_____	_____
Decoration	_____	_____	Slide Show	_____	_____
Feel & Smell	Dennis Krabbenhof	206/874-2382	T-Shirt Design	Joanne Young	206/633-0752
Hospitality	_____	_____	Ticket Sales & Greeters	_____	_____
			Tray Arrangement	_____	_____
			Tray Transport	_____	_____
			Tray Tours	_____	_____

Spore Prints

is published monthly, September through June by the

PUGET SOUND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Center for Urban Horticulture, Box 354115
University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195
(206) 522-6031 <http://www.psms.org>

OFFICERS:	Doug Ward, President Joanne Young, Vice President Lynn Phillips, Treasurer Mary Beth Tyrholm, Secretary
TRUSTEES:	Steven Bell, Patrice Benson, Jim Berlstein, D.V. Corey, Lynn Elwell, John Floberg, Fran Ikeda, Brandon Matheny, Ron Pyeatt, Jerry Wire Marshall Palmer (Immed. Past Pres.)
ALTERNATE:	Colin Meyer
SCI. ADVISOR:	Dr. Joseph F. Ammirati
EDITOR:	Agnes A. Sieger, 15555 14 th Ave. N.E., Shoreline, WA 98155

Annual dues \$20; full-time students \$15

CALENDAR

September 14	Membership meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
September 18–19	Squire Creek field trip
September 20	Board meeting, 7:30 PM, CUH
September 24	<i>Spore Prints</i> deadline
September 25–26	Crystal Springs field trip
October 2–3	Twanoh State Park field trip
October 9	Annual Exhibit, 12:00–8:00 PM, CUH
October 10	Annual Exhibit, 10:00 AM–6:00 PM, CUH

BOARD NEWS

Agnes Sieger

Correction: Joanne Young did not agree to co-chair the exhibit, but to assist the co-chairs as needed. Because of apparent miscommunication, there was no summer microscopy class. We do not have a field trip chair as yet. Doug Ward will make up a tentative list of sites for fall field trips. Steven Bell and Corey are working on the electronic version of *Spore Prints*. Steven is gathering pictures for the bolete study. Ideas were discussed for the “members only” page.

We finally have a good supply of pins for mushroom labels at the annual exhibit. Colin Meyer and Brandon Matheny are working on a database for labels. The board approved Cori Omundson’s design for the 1999 exhibit poster. Ron Post suggested we try not to use the CUH head house for the exhibit this year; he is working on an alternative. Because a potential conflict with football schedules, Joanne suggested we consider some alternate sites for next year’s exhibit. Lynn Catlin, a naturalist with Camp Long in West Seattle, has offered that site free of charge and has also volunteered to chair the event.

Because of a demanding work schedule, Dan Tanabe has resigned from the board. Alternate Jim Berlstein will fill that vacancy.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, September 14, at 7:30 PM at the Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle

We kick off the fall mushroom season with a cooking demo by our own Patrice Benson. Patrice is locally renowned in cooking circles for her knowledge of mushrooms and how to cook them! Radio gourmet Mauny Kaseburg calls Patrice the “Marquessa of Mushrooms” and has featured several of Patrice’s recipes on her programs. A past president of PSMS, Patrice founded and currently chairs the Mycophagy Committee at the annual exhibit (also known as Cooking and Tasting). She is a member of “Les Dames d’Escoffier” and frequent guest teacher at The Herb Farm. There will be tastes for everybody at the end of the demo!



Also this month we will go over the details of the PSMS Annual Wild Mushroom Exhibit, and reveal and distribute the 1999 exhibit poster. Bring your pens and calendars and sign up for the exhibit in October.

Would persons with last names beginning with the letters F–M please bring refreshments for the social hour?

29 PINES FIELD TRIP REPORT Ross & Valerie Othus

Great foray at 29 Pines. Hosts Ron Post and Pat Pyeatt had coffee and donuts awaiting everyone’s arrival. Mike Lovelady shared his knowledge with all to ensure a successful hunt. Perfect weather, prefect day—everyone found their share of morels.

Marsi and Magda DiGiovainni hunted mushrooms near Cle Elum, found some large pink coral, and shared them with attendees. Six adults and two children shared potluck over a large bonfire, next to Teanaway River. Fun was had by all. It just doesn’t get any better than this. The campground is great. For any on you who haven’t been here, put this on your calendar for next year.

BRIDGE CREEK FIELD TRIP REPORT Brian Luther, Ross & Valerie Othus

Bridge Creek on June 5 marked the final spring outing for PSMS. Twenty-four members attended, some with guests. Ross and Valerie Othus hosted. Brian Luther brought his microscope and was there to identify and educate those of us less knowledgeable. Brian was assisted on the spore identification process by Dick Sieger. Twenty-seven species of fungi were identified and displayed. There were 13 agarics (gilled mushrooms), two polypores, two puffballs, one resupinate, one coral, and eight Ascomycetes. Interesting or unusual species found included *Geopora cooperi* (a subterranean Asco) and *Mycena overholtzii* (a species that normally occurs only on wood or logs surrounded by melting snow). Weather conditions not being perfect, only a few morels were found.

Almost everyone stayed for the potluck and campfire—and many stories. Several camped overnight. It was a great weekend!

Just for general interest—a large section of Icicle Creek Road was completely washed out a week or so after we had our field

trip. Because of the unbelievable snow melt and sudden runoff, a side creek overflowed and caused extensive damage, stranding people about five or six miles up. We lucked out.

NOTE: Bill Mitchell, you left your wife's purple jacket. It is now in the PSMS office.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

The following is a tentative schedule for the fall field trips. Weather conditions may change, so before attending a trip, call PSMS, (206) 522-6031 (option 3), or check www.psms.org (member's only page: User ID is *Hypholoma* and Password is *fasciculare*).

Doug Ward



September 18–19 Squire Creek County Park (elev. 350 ft, 65 miles NE of Seattle)

Drive north on I-5 to the Island Crossing exit, #208. Turn right on Route 530, go east through Arlington, and continue toward Darrington. Thirty miles from the freeway, there is a big sign for the park, which is on the left. Meet at the top shelter. There is a charge for day use and camping.

September 25–26 Crystal Springs Forest Camp (elev. 2400 ft, 60 miles east of Seattle)

Drive east on I-90 over Snoqualmie Pass. Continue east for 8 miles and take Stampede Pass exit #62. Turn right at the stop sign. After ¼ mile, before the bridge, turn right to enter the camp. There is a charge for camping.

October 2–3 Twanoh State Park (elev. near sea level, 20 miles SW of Seattle by ferry)

Twanoh State Park is on the south side of Hood Canal between Belfair and Union. Take the downtown ferry from Seattle to Bremerton. From Bremerton, drive south on State Highway 304 to Highway 3. Continue south on Highway 3 past Belfair, then bear right onto Highway 106 and continue another 7 miles to the park. Alternatively, you can drive south on I-5 to Tacoma and cross the Narrows Bridge. This adds 60 miles to the trip.

October 16–17 The Mountaineers / PSMS Weekend

This is a two-day event in cooperation with The Mountaineers at their Meany Ski Lodge east of Snoqualmie Pass. Saturday includes collecting, setting up display tables, and an evening program. Sunday includes a review of collections, local collecting, and preparing mushrooms for part of our lunch. Accommodations are dormitory. Bring a sleeping bag and pillow, personal items, and a lunch to eat Saturday while collecting. The cost is \$30 and includes Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and Sunday lunch. No alcohol in lodge. No pets. Registration is required. Call The Mountaineers, (206) 284-8484, between September 15 and October 1 to sign up. People cancelling after October 13 must pay for food. The Mountaineers can arrange car pooling. Pay at the Lodge.

Participants will meet at the Crystal Springs Forest Campground at 9:30 AM to go collecting (see directions with Crystals Spring field trip write-up). Group leaders will bring participants back to the lodge about 3 PM. For more information, call Coleman Leuthy, (206) 322-2554.



October 23–24 Annual Lake Quinalt Foray

November 6–7 Lake Wenatchee USFS Study Group

MAGIC MUSHROOM SEASON STARTS IN BALINGUP

AAP

PERTH, June 16 (AAP) – The normally quiet West Australian farming town of Balingup would rather be known for its arts, crafts, jams, chutneys, and fruit wines. Instead, it is fast earning a reputation as the magic mushroom capital of Australia as dozens of day-trippers make the 240-km journey south of Perth for the annual *Psilocybe* season.

Senior Constable Peter Duncan from Donnybrook Police said the patience of the 300 residents of Balingup is now running out, with farm gates left open, nude romps in the forest, and wild-eyed strangers knocking on doors in the middle of the night to ask where they were.

"It's getting beyond a joke," Const. Duncan said. "When they trip on these things they do things that normal people don't do. It's basically an LSD trip. Last year there were complaints a lot of people got their gear off and ran buck naked through the bush swinging from trees."

The mushrooms are found in state forest in the Blackwood Valley, which is accessible by a road on one side and properties on the other. Cold, wet weather conditions signaled the start of the magic mushroom season two weeks ago; the season usually lasts six weeks. Const. Duncan said. He said 12 people have so far been charged with possessing a prohibited drug and another 40 cautioned for being in the state forest. "It appears that this year a lot are coming from Perth."

Balingup Progress Association president Helen Christensen, who has lived in the area for 18 years, said what started as a few people in the know making the trek had increased dramatically since news of the mushrooms spread. Maps were being sold identifying the route to the magic mushroom patches in the forest, she said.

"It's a reputation we don't need," she said. "We're trying to survive here on the small, little village atmosphere with tourism. A lot of this will put off people who want to come down here for a nice weekend."

"At one stage they used to have picnic tables and be picnicking on the side of the road, making sandwiches out of these things and tea out of them," she said. "The local shop did a roaring trade in honey, because I think they are pretty unpalatable to drink."

Despite the stereotypes, Mrs Christensen said it was not only hippies and students making the trek. "There's lots of expensive vehicles, so there are obviously well-heeled people in there."

CALLING ALL ARTS AND CRAFTS! Jim Berlstein

Anyone having any mushroom-related pictures, paintings, or other crafts that they wish to sell or are willing to display at the annual mushroom show are encouraged to call Jim Berlstein at (206) 361-5117 or e-mail berlstein@aol.com. We really need some stuff! All painters, photographers, sculptors, or interpretive dancers are urged to contribute to the show.

THANKS FOR THE POSTER

Thanks to Cori Omundson for designing and illustrating the poster for this year's mushroom exhibit! Cori is a professional graphic designer working at the design firm Image Ink in Bellevue. She donated her considerable talent (and time) to the poster project. Now she's ready for her first mushroom hunt.

WASHINGTON (AP)—A mold that produced the first penicillin, grandfather of all antibiotics, has been acquired by the Smithsonian Institution. The mold is a round, gray, flat, fuzzy looking substance about an inch and a half wide, encased in glass. Next to it is a facsimile of the reverse side, showing the handwritten inscription: "The mould that makes Penicillin. Alexander Fleming."

Fleming, a Scot, developed penicillin in 1928. He had been working on the possibility of an agent to kill bacteria, but succeeded by accident. A culture of bacteria left unprotected was contaminated by a mold—a fungus from the air.

He noticed that bacteria were killed in an area around the fungus. He managed to grow the fungus in a broth, but had trouble extracting the substance that killed the bacteria. Other researchers made progress in the 1930s, but they could only produce tiny quantities.

The first patient to be treated with penicillin—a British policeman suffering from blood poisoning in 1941—died because the dose was too small. Not all the bacteria were killed.

Under the pressures of World War II, an American pharmaceutical firm found a way to mass produce it in 1944. Penicillin and its successors have saved millions of lives, but scientists worry that bacteria are developing ways to resist antibiotics faster than new ones can be found.

Pfizer Inc., the original mass producers, bought one of the two slides that Fleming gave his laboratory assistant, paying \$35,160 at a London auction in 1996. The company lent it to a Smithsonian traveling exposition, "Microbes: Invisible Invaders, Amazing Allies," now on show in Washington at the International Gallery of the Smithsonian. Sotheby's auction house authenticated the inscription as Fleming's handwriting.

Pfizer's board formally made a gift of the slide to the Smithsonian in June 1999. After the exhibit closes in Washington, DC, September 6, it will travel to the Chicago Academy of Sciences and at least nine other American cities through January 5, 2003, before going into the National Museum of American History.

June 25, 1999 – The discovery of an ancient association between a bacterium and an ant may provide new insight into the identification, production, and use of antibiotics, a study shows. The 50-million-year-old relationship between fungus-growing ants and the fungus they cultivate and eat has long been considered a model of symbiosis. Researchers at the University of Toronto have found that another factor is involved in this relationship, a bacterium that is carried on the ants' bodies. This bacterium produces an antibiotic that specifically targets the virulent parasite that invades the fungal gardens, thereby protecting the fungus that sustains the ants. "Since the complexity of this well-studied symbiotic relationship was greatly underestimated, this suggests that antibiotic-producing bacteria may also be key components in symbiotic associations of other organisms," said principal investigator Cameron Currie. "The type of bacteria found on the ants are a well-known source for human antibiotics," he said. "So further study of these chemical interactions may provide valuable new knowledge about the discovery and application of antibiotics." The study was published in the British journal *Nature*.

ODDS AND ENDS OF INTEREST

Congratulation to Marilyn Droege, who has won a place award in the third annual Denver Botanical Garden botanical illustration exhibition for her painting "*Amanita muscaria* var."

The Spokane Mushroom Club's annual Priest Lake Foray at Hill's Resort will be September 24-26. Foray mycologists are Lori Carris of WSU, who will speak on "Grass Smuts of the Northwest and Australia," and Michael Castellano of OSU, who will speak on "Buried Treasures: Truffles Near and Far." For information telephone Sue Ferguson, (208) 765-5086.

"This is a sin. To treat a mushroom like this, without humanity, is unforgivable. They have crucified this mushroom."

—Antonio Carluccio, top Italian chef describing British service-station cuisine



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