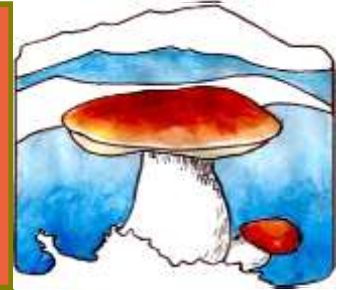


Spore-Addict Times



MONTHLY MEETING

WHEN? Monday, April 23, 2012
The fourth Monday of the month.

WHAT TIME? Mushroom identification 6:30—7:00 pm. The regular meeting will come to order at 7:00 pm.

WHERE? [Pikes Peak National Bank](#),

2401 W. Colorado Ave. (across from Bancroft Park). Enter at the door on Colorado Ave., just west of the bank door. There you will find stairs and an elevator. Use either to go to the second floor. The meeting room is on the second floor near the head of the stairs.

WEBSITE: www.pikespeakmushrooms.org

Membership dues \$20 (\$25 includes printed/mailed newsletter).

For those not yet paid, this is an increase from last year, but the first membership cost increase in many years.

Send check to PPMS, c/o Frieda Davis, 10 Swallow Drive,

Colorado Springs CO 80904

APRIL PRESENTATIONS

Wild Mushroom Foraging

Whether new to mushrooming, or an old pro, this program provides techniques on seeking and gathering mushrooms, to help identify your finds.

by Freia Bradford

Spring Mushrooms




Join us for a power point photo tour of mushrooms that might appear for us in Colorado during the spring season.

By Lee Barzee

Macro Photography

Capturing mushrooms on film requires not only “belly botany,” as Walt Disney termed the close-up view of nature, but an understanding of how to frame the subject and use the features of a camera to your advantage. Artistic photos show the beauty of mushrooms, whereas documentary photos emphasize the nature of the specimen in its environment.

If you have a point-and-shoot model, here are some tips to creating documentary photos:

- **Turn on your Macro Setting**  Set the **aperture priority** (A or Av) to f/16 or the highest option to sharpen the image and it's surroundings. If you cannot change this setting, get as close as possible to focus onto the mushroom, then take a step back (move camera further away from subject) to snap the shot.
- **Lighting:** soften the light; avoid direct sunlight; avoid use of flash. Use white paper on each side of your subject to redirect light. Try using night scene mode which slows the shutter speed. 
- Preserve the environment surrounding your mushroom, but **clean up the area** to highlight your subject. Move away debris. Pick one mushroom from the bunch and flip it to show it's underside in the same photo.
- **Avoid movement** as you press the shutter release to take the photo for a sharper image. Try using the self timer option. Use a flexible tripod or homemade beanbag to position the camera. 
- Take many photos from various angles, **experiment**, and **practice!** Participate in a photo foray. Then, become familiar with a photo editing software that will modify your images.

In Memoriam

Bill Will

Bill Will passed away April 10, 2012.

He was very active in PPMS in his own time attending meetings, forays and overnight forays with his wife Mary.

Those of us who knew Bill will remember him as a Kind and devoted family man who supported his community by being a member of several service clubs.

Denis Gaffney

Denis Gaffney passed away December 26, 2011.

He is survived by his wife Margaret and daughter Pat.

Denis served his country for more than 22 years in the United States Army including in Viet Nam and was a decorated soldier.

Our condolences go out to both families.

Caution: Poisonous

Colorado has several wild, edible mushrooms. But picking wild mushrooms to eat takes a well-trained eye, especially if one decides to be adventurous with eating what one forages. Curious and/or novice mushroom hunters should take part in forays to learn about proper identification. Be aware of what you might be putting in your mouth, because certain mushrooms are potentially toxic and even deadly. Some mushrooms contain chemicals that irritate the stomach or harm organs, while others absorb toxins from the soil that can harm humans or pets. Some people may have just a mild allergic reactions to mushrooms. In other cases, certain mushrooms produce a toxin only when combined with other substances, such as alcohol.

In the event of a suspected mushroom poisoning, the **Rocky Mountain Poison Center (303) 739-1123** recommends you save all available samples of the mushroom, place them in a paper bag and refrigerate them until you can send them for identification, if needed.

Share your mushroom hunting PHOTOS on our Member Website!

Visit the blog on our website <http://pikespeakmushrooms.org> under the Members Only tab.

You'll need the password to sign in. Contact ppmsmail@gmail.com

Send photos of mushrooms to be posted on the website!



Sarcodon imbricatum



Auricularia auricula



Laccaria laccata

Find reports on past forays, Member Reports, and after you log-in for members only, access to documents, such as the foray log sheet.

GENUS		SPECIES		VERIFIED BY	
HABITAT: (Check one or more)				OTHER COMMENTS:	
Deciduous woodlands		On wood			
Conifer woods		Leaf Litter			
Mixed woods		On soil			
Grassland		Swamps & bogs			
WALK NUMBER		COLLECTED BY:-			
		Please return to me		I donate to foray	

Local Mycology Newsletter Story Catches National Attention

NPR report by Nancy Shute, with local mushroom hunter Ellen Jacobson

Adapted from the story originally posted on [January 7, 2012, From THE SALT](#), NPR's food blog

Mystery Solved: Why the Cat Craves Mushrooms (And People Do, Too)

Anyone who lives with a cat knows that fruits and vegetables do not top the feline food chart. So it's a surprise to hear that some cats do crave mushrooms. This tale starts with Ellen Jacobson, an amateur mushroom hunter in Colorado. As she was cooking up a bolete mushroom, her cat Cashew started brushing against her legs. She put some of the mushrooms in a bowl, and Cashew gobbled them up. "He didn't like them raw," she told The Salt. "He only liked them cooked." She was puzzled as to why a meat-loving cat would love fungi. But she soon found that other peoples' cats wanted mushrooms, too.

That oddity is a **clue to how the taste preferences of humans and animals evolved, based on the foods we need to survive.**

Mushrooms have a lot of glutamate, an amino acid that gives them their rich, savory flavor. Glutamate is one of the chemicals responsible for the umami flavor; it's one of the five flavors sensed by humans, along with salty, sweet, sour, and bitter. Humans are omnivorous, and have a wide variety of flavor receptors, which help us identify the many foods that we can digest.

The notion that a cat might crave mushrooms isn't a big surprise to Gary Beauchamp, director of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia. For decades, he has been studying how different species sense flavor. Cats have been a big focus of his research. In 2005, Beauchamp and his colleagues proved that cats, tigers and other felines can't taste sweetness because they lack a functional gene for sweetness taste receptors. It's a good thing that cats don't crave sweets; they aren't physically able to digest carbohydrates. **But they do have genes for the receptors that detect the umami flavor of wide array of amino acids in protein.** So Cashew and any other mushroom-craving cats are really on a hunt for protein, not for fungi, he says. "One experiment nature made was to have certain species that eat nothing but meat," Beauchamp told The Salt. "How that shapes their sensory world can tell us something about how the sensory world of everyone, including humans, is constrained by biology."

But veterinarians say that neither dogs nor cats should eat mushrooms, and the North American Mycological Association **warns that both dogs and cats are attracted by the odor of wild mushrooms, and can be poisoned as a result.**

The Salt cottoned onto this story thanks to Jef Akst, who wrote about Ellen Jacobson and her mushroom craving cats the current edition of [The Scientist](#). **She had found the story thanks to two researchers who had seen Jacobson's article in a mycological newsletter out in Colorado, and wrote about it in a scientific journal.** So you never know where you're going to find a story that solves a mystery involving felines, fungi, and taste.

North American Mycological Association Reintroduces Electronic Registry of Mushrooms in Works of Art

http://namyco.org/art_registry/index.html

March 9, 2012



WonderWorld 2006

The North American Mycological Association is pleased to announce that the Registry of Mushrooms in Works of Art has returned to our website, after a five-year hiatus. The Registry was compiled and curated by Elio Schaechter, Daniel Thoen, and Nancy Mladenoff, with earlier contributions by Hanns Kreisel and Tjakko Stijve.

The purpose of the Registry is to contribute to the understanding of the relationship between mushrooms and people as reflected in works of art from different historical periods, and to provide enjoyment to anyone interested in the subject. This new version has over 1,200 entries, includes many sample images, and covers mushrooms in art from the early Renaissance to today.

For those of you who know Elio or heard him speak at a mushroom club meeting, the Registry is just part of his passion for mushrooms. He has contributed greatly to amateur mycology over the years: Schaechter edited the Bulletin of the Boston Mycological Club from 1973 to 1995 and received the NAMA Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology in 1993. He also helped found the San Diego Mycological Society. In 1997, Schaechter wrote *In the Company of Mushrooms*, published by Harvard University Press. He co-authors a fascinating blog, [Small Things Considered](#), where he often expounds on unusual and unexpected phenomena in the microbial world.

NAMA would like to credit member Marjorie Young who tirelessly formatted the text for all these entries, and Nancy Mladenoff and Daniel Thoen, who curated the contemporary sections. Mladenoff's work was featured in 2005 in *The Mycophile*, [Nancy Mladenoff: Portrait of a Mushroom Artist](#).



The Intruders

The Pikes Peak Mycological Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of mycology. Membership is open to anyone wanting to study mycology. Annual dues are \$20 (\$25 includes a printed newsletter Apr to Sept) for individual and family memberships and may be paid at the meeting.

Submissions of ideas, articles, letters, artwork, and recipes are welcome. Photos and stories may also be submitted to be posted on the website.

PIKES PEAK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 39 Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0039

PPMSmail@gmail.com

President	Dennis Craig	596-5676
Vice President	Mike Essam	
Secretary	Patricia Gaffney	633-1959
Treasurer	Frieda Davis	630-7140
Hospitality	Martha Zenger	277-7067
Foray Coordinator	Eva Mattedi	687-9848
Newsletter Editor	Ashley Anderson	660-2345
Webmaster	Bud Bennett	

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

*This riddle is offered to encourage everyone to practice their mushroom identification skills.
Bring your answer to the meeting!*

*I am an ascomycete. * My fruiting body looks like a flattened disc 3—9 cm across. My flesh can be the color of yellow to brown, wrinkled toward the center. The underside is paler (even to a grey-white). My stalk is short and thick or even just a point of attachment to the substrate. I appear in early spring at higher elevations, but **only last about two weeks. I do have a "thick cap" which is less fragile than other species, but don't eat me!**
Who am I ???*

**if you're using a computer search or book to assist you in this search, this will narrow your search a lot!*

The Spore-Addict Times, the official newsletter of Pikes Peak Mycological Society (PPMS), is published monthly from April to September. All articles appearing in this newsletter may be freely reproduced, unless otherwise noted, for use in other newsletters provided source and author are acknowledged. We consider this to be a reciprocal agreement for clubs that send their newsletter to us unless we are advised to the contrary.

Spore-Addict Times

P.O. Box 39

Colorado Springs CO 80901-0039

