

Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2008

Vol. XXXIV

ISSUE 5

August 2008

MONTHLY MEETING:

The monthly meeting for August is replaced by the overnight foray that Freia Bradford and Bud Bennett are hosting, into the Sangre De Cristo mountains, on August 25-26. See the foray schedule for more information.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: by Elsie Pope

Last month's program was a short course in Colorado ecosystem zones, their representative conifer or evergreen trees, and the most common mushrooms associated with them.

The grasslands to the east support a lot of flowers but not so many mushrooms. Rainfall is sporadic, but after showers you may find the giant white western puffball, *Calvatia booniana*, and the tan *Calvatia cyanthiformis*, *Agaricus* species, *Coprinus* species, and *Lepiota rachodes* in our own lawns and gardens. Along the lower water courses you may find *Pleurotus pulmonarius* and *Morchella esculenta*.

The Foothills Zone ranges from the grasslands up to near 6000' in elevation, characterized by Gambel oak, alders and aspens with their *Leccinum insigne*, *Flamulina velutipes*, and *Armillaria astoyae*. The conifers of the foothills are the dwarf juniper, *J. communus*, the Rocky Mountain juniper, *J. scopulorum*, the one-seed juniper, *J. monosperma*, piñon pine and ponderosa pine. On cooler northern slopes may be Douglas fir and Colorado blue spruce.

The Montane Zone rises in elevation from around 6000 feet to 9000 feet. The lower slopes are dominated by ponderosa pin and Douglas fir with Colorado blue spruce along water courses and white fire, *Abies conolor*, in low canyons. Broad swathes of lodgepole pine occur in dense stands, and limber pine may be found on rocky ridges. This habitat is rich with mushrooms;

russula, *amanita*, *bolete*, *tricholoma*, *suillus* species, and *chanterelles*.

The Subalpine Zone rises from 9000 feet to the tree line (about 12000 feet in Colorado), where snow lies late into spring, dominated by the tall spires of subalpine fir, *Abies lasiocarpus*, and Englemann spruce. Limber pine and bristlecone pine reach the upper limits of elevation. Moisture loving mushrooms abound: the *hebelomas* and *cortinari* species and many from the Montane Zone. The upper Subalpine and Alpine Zones are home to the snowbank mushrooms.

You don't need scientific names or a botanic background to identify the signature conifers of the ecosystem Zones, just a few simple observations. The native junipers dominate the foothill areas from the Garden of the Gods southward. The taller, more upright Rocky Mountain juniper is green with blue/black berries. The shorter, bushier one-seed juniper is yellow-green with coppery berries. The dwarf juniper grows higher into the Montane Zone, only knee-high, but spreading. The foliage is bright green and prickly.

The pines have long needles in clusters and woody cones. Ponderosa pine is a big tree with long needles and large woody cones. It dominates the Montane Zone. Piñon Pine is a small and rounded tree associated with junipers in the foothills. Nut bearing cones are flat and rounded. Lodgepole pine occurs in dense stands of tall narrow trees from Montane to Subalpine Zones. Cones are small and tight to the branches. Limber pine and bristlecone pine seem similar and occupy upper Montane to Subalpine areas. Obvious differences: limber pine limbs are extremely flexible, and the bristlecones have bristly cones and dark green needles dotted with white resin.

Spruces have flat, prickly needles and papery pendant cones. The Colorado blue spruce occurs in streamside or moist montane habitats. The other

spruce is Englemann spruce, a very tall and narrow tree of the Subalpine Zone.

The firs have soft needles and papery upright cones. White firs are silvery green with soft, flat needles, and grow at lower elevations. Subalpine firs are the tall, dense, spire-like high altitude trees with dark green foliage.

Douglas fir is a big tree of the Montane Zone occurring on cooler northern slopes. It is not a true fir; it's in a genus of its own. It looks spruce-like, but the soft needles surround the twig. Cones are small and pendant with protruding bracts.

We have rain, so there must be mushrooms out there. Good luck to everyone on the forays and at our August meeting, the overnighter in the Sangre de Cristo and Wet Mountain area. The September program will be on mushroom preparation and preservation, a favorite topic of us mycophagists.

FORAY REPORT:

About a foray to the crags we did on Aug. 7th: Jack Richards, Helmut Zenger, Frieda Davis, Esther Price and Judy Willey found some very small mushrooms on the creek sides and a very few larger mushrooms in the montane forest. Cortinarius species, one old wormy boletus edulis, Russula aeruginea and rosacea, Lactarius alnicola, Clitocybe gibba, Inocybe sororia and Sarcodon imbricatus were the most familiar.

FORAY SCHEDULE

To go on any of the forays simply call the leader to find out where and what time to meet. You must have your dues paid for the current year and you must have a signed liability waiver on file to go on forays. **If you want to lead a foray call Esther Price at 632-5880. Esther is also the contact for ad hoc forays. Check with her to see if anyone has decided to go on an ad hoc foray that does not appear on the schedule.** Some forays will probably be to unscouted areas. Foray leaders do not guarantee success.

- Sat. Aug. 23, Dennis Craig (719) 596-5676. Dennis is thinking Black Forest or Horse Thief Falls.
- August 25-26, Overnight foray in the Sangre De Cristos. Bud Bennett (719)783-9209 and Freia Bradford (719)784-3838. This will be a 1½-day foray into the Sangres and/or Wet Mountains. Some details are still pending.
- There may be another overnight foray: a September foray to Creede via Lake City.

Keep in touch through your foray leaders, PPMS newsletter, and calling committee.

Sangres Foray Details:

Monday, 25 August: Meet at 10:00am at Hermit Park in Westcliffe – From Main street in Westcliffe, take Hwy 69 south, turn right onto Hermit Road you will see pavilion on your left side. We will foray and have a picnic lunch in the Sangres until approx. 5:30pm, weather permitting, then on to a BBQ dinner at Bud Bennett's house (The Bennett's will provide all the food. Bring drinks, or dessert if you wish.)

Tuesday, 26 August: 9:00am meet at McKenzie Junction to foray in the Wet Mountains. (Sandwiches for lunch can be obtained at the local Subway store on Hwy 69.) Hopefully, we'll be on the road home by 5:00pm.

Places to Stay:

At this point the free rooms are taken. We recommend the following.

Westcliffe Inn

South Hwy 69 (this is just a minute south of town before you get to the Ace hardware)
Westcliffe, CO 81252
719.783.9275
www.westcliffeinn.com

Rates: \$70 + tax, all rooms contain a queen size bed. Rate includes continental breakfast. Hot tub.

The Courtyard Country Inn B&B

410 Main St.
Westcliffe, CO 81252
719.783.9616
www.CourtyardCountryInn.com

Rates: \$90 for a queen bed, \$100 for 2 double beds. Includes full breakfast



Sangre de Cristo Mountains

Projector Status

Frieda Davis presented the new digital projector at the July meeting. It was met with general approval from those present. Frieda asked that members bring their digital photos to be displayed during the potluck dinner meeting in October.

Photo Gallery:

Beggars can't be choosers. The lack of moisture in June and July has diminished the mushroom fruitings in the wild, but not in a greenhouse environment. These LBMs were found under some celebrity tomato plants on August 8th. The big fat black tube at the left of the photo is the 1/4" irrigation line.



This *Coprinus micaceus* and others on this page were found near Music Pass in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on August 13th. The Sangres have been getting rain since August 1st.



The next photo is *Panaeolus semiovatus*. It is most often found growing on dung.



The *Cortinarius* specimen in the picture below is shedding so much spore material that it is turning its stalk rusty red.



The Pikes Peak Mycological Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of mycology, publishes Spore-Addict Times monthly from April-October. Membership is open to anyone wanting to study mycology. Annual dues are \$15 for individual and family memberships. **Submission of ideas, articles, reviews, letters, artwork and recipes are welcome.**

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The mystery mushroom for June was Flammulina velutipes. Martha Zenger was picked as the winner from nine correct entries.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

by Martha Zenger

Since there is not formal meeting this month, the Mystery Mushroom contest will be postponed until the September meeting.

The Spore-Addict times is the official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society (PPMS) and is published monthly April – October. All articles appearing in this newsletter may be freely reproduced, unless otherwise noted, for use in other newsletters provided the 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.

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