

From: Pikes Peak Mycological Society <PPMSmail@gmail.com>
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The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society
2003

VOL. XXVIII

ISSUE 4

JULY

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday, July 28th

WHAT TIME? 7:00 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:30

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. You may use either.

PROGRAM:

This month we will have a program emphasizing safety and survival in the wilderness. A beautiful mountain meadow by day can become a fearful, threatening place at night, especially if you are alone, injured or lost and not prepared to deal with it. Sheryl Olson, our guest speaker, will teach us how to survive the unexpected night out. Using minimal equipment, she will demonstrate how to build an emergency shelter and a fail proof way to start a fire. She will discuss a variety of ways to signal for help when cell phone service is not available and emphasize the basic essentials of a survival kit.

Sheryl, also a helicopter flight nurse, is an expert in the art of survival in the wilderness. She teaches survival, navigation and wilderness medicine courses throughout the United States. We invite you, your family and guests to join us and learn from this talk on survival so that you will be prepared to survive should your day-long outing turn into an unplanned overnight experience.

Sheryl Olson and Lori Randall, yoga instructor, are conducting a Women's Wilderness Skills and Yoga Retreat August 21 -24 in Lincoln City, Oregon. Lodging will be at the beach front Sea Horse Motel. The cost for the 4 days is \$275.00 and includes all instruction, equipment, breakfast and daily lunch. Space is limited to 20 people. If you have an interest in this event or you know anyone who does please get further details and register by calling Sheryl at (719) 685-9501.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: by Bud Bennett

I must be looking for mushrooms in all the wrong places. I went along on the June 24th Snowbanker's foray. We found some *Caloscypha fulgens*, *Mycena* and a few others, but there was very little snow. No matter – everyone had a good time. Soon after, I found my first *Amanita muscaria* of the season on Mt. Herman, and a *Hygrophorus speciosus* in my yard. With our recent spell of hot/dry weather, even the *Suillus* in my neighbor's yard have disappeared. I have taken several hikes at 10,000 feet without seeing any interesting fungi, though I have been compensated with a fabulous display of wildflowers. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for more rain as the monsoon season approaches.

Many thanks to Bob Noyd for his efforts in procuring the PPMS T-shirts for us and bringing them to the last meeting. I think the combination of design, shirt color, ink, etc. work very well indeed, and I

have worn mine on several outings so far this year. At \$8 each, they are definitely a good value and may become a collector's item. There are a few extras so if you missed a chance to get one at the June meeting you may still get one. The extra shirts are not expected to last beyond the Mushroom Fair in August.

Mystery Mushroom

Lee Barzee's identification of the mystery mushroom for June as *Calvatia booniana* was the first drawn from the hat, so she is the winner of the \$5.00 award. Correct entries were also in the hat from Bud Bennett, Ken Pals, Don Pelton, and one slip correctly identified the mushroom but not the identifier. (Be sure and sign your slips). There were a total of six entrants. Lee Barzee has, in accordance with the rules, agreed to provide us with the next Mystery Mushroom, which can be found on page 4. Some of the finest people in our club participate in this contest.

FORAY SCHEDULE AND RULES

We will be publishing the foray schedule with the leaders' names and phone numbers in the newsletter each month. 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 George Davis at 630-7140** and I will put you on the schedule. Some forays will probably be to un-scouted areas and you may find only a pleasant experience in the mountains. Foray leaders do not guarantee success.

Schedule

Winnie Fairbanks	264-8719	Aug. - 2nd weekend
Christa Howard	392-1379	Aug. 16th

June 24th Foray Report by Lee Barzee

This was the foray to Monarch Pass for "Snowbank fungi", a unique group that, in an ecological sense, may be decomposers, parasites, or mycorrhizal. We 'shroom hunters are aware of controls of distribution of conifers and heed the saying "the limits of the fungus is the limits of the tree". However, here, the absolute requirements are:

1. Snow drip and melt (a tendency to keep the wood moist)
2. Soil moisture content (for mycorrhizae the right weather conditions)
3. Elevation with the ability of snow pack to hold its moisture and slowly release it into the ground (Snow that does not last long enough delimits "Snowbank fungi").

This year Monarch was very dry; only a few high snow lenses were left and most mushrooms were absent; disappointing compared to July 6, 1995. Snow crusted drifts of 5 feet and numerous different species found.

George, Frieda, Bud and I did find a few true snowbank dependables anyway:

1. *Caloscypha fulgens*. The mycelium in a spruce seed pathogen: often distributed by squirrels.
2. *Mycena overholtsii*. Base of stipes, dense white hairs.
3. *Lyophyllum montanum*. Often poking out of snow.
4. *Hygrophorus subalpinus*. Known only from the mountains of Western North America.
5. Three different species of *Cortinarius*.
6. Two LBMs unidentified (but not *Galerinas*).

Bud was able to photograph (close-up using tripod) some handsome characteristics (see picture in attachment). Frieda carefully collected most difficult specimens for later identification attempts. *Caloscypha* was dominant but many specimens were shriveled and shrunken for lack of moisture. Warm winds contributed to desiccation. We also explored the beginning of Boss Lake Trail but found the same paucity of mushrooms and of flowers. George aimed his trusty camera to catch a shot of the pretty subalpine violet, *viola adunca* while Lee discovered a large population in a bog of the globe flower, *Trollius laxus* var. *albiflorus*.

All told we had a beautiful day. "Snowbank fungi" are psychrophiles. This term applies to life forms that flourish at extremely low temperatures, usually in the arctic regions of the planet. Snowbank mushrooms reproduce and grow best at temperatures, from -10 to 20°C (14 to 68°F). They must deposit their spores before summer when all growth is suspended.

"Snowbanker" fruitings are a joy to hit upon but choosing the time of one's trip is sort of like a lotto win.

July 11th Foray (Leader, Frieda Davis).

This foray had been canceled due to an almost total lack of any evidence of mushroom fruitings and the same fate befell the foray scheduled for the **3rd weekend in July**, leader **Esther Price**.

Mushroom Fair by Ken Pals **Fountain Creek Nature center August 23, 2003** The Pikes Peak Mycological Society and El Paso County Parks are partnering again for the 6th year in hosting a Mushroom Fair, Saturday, August 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Fountain Creek Nature Center. This event will provide adults with opportunities for looking at and examining fresh, wild mushroom specimens, viewing exhibits and learning more about the fungi of Colorado. In addition there will also be displays and crafts designed for the enjoyment of children. The public is invited to bring specimens for identification. There is a \$2 cost per person this year; members of the PPMS do not need to pay. The revenue will be used to enhance interpretation in El Paso County Parks. Please be sure to mark your calendar, pray for more rain and begin to spread the word about the fair. It is a great time and offers an excellent opportunity to learn more about our local fungi and to gain new members for the PPMS. Please give Ken Pals a call at 520-6745 (work) or at 471-0687 (home) if you would like to help with the fair. We need all members to contribute fresh mushroom specimens for identification and display.

Colorado Mycological Society

Mushroom fair will be held on August 17 at the Denver Botanic Gardens. This is always a class act and Dr. Orson Miller is expected to be the Mycologist at the fair. They always appreciate contributions of mushrooms for the fair. Contact Larry Renshaw at 303-648-0048 for further information.

Creede Mushroom Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, August 23 & 24, 2003. Larry Renshaw, President of the Colorado Mycological Society (CMS) will be leading forays searching for Boletes and Chanterelles for a cook and taste, with wine included. Registration fees for one day for adults are \$25, \$40 for both days. Children 14 and under who are accompanied by an adult participant may register for \$15 for one day or \$25 for two days. Contact Larry Renshaw at 303-648-0048 for further information.

Crested Butte Wild Mushroom Festival

August 14-17, 2003. An informative, interesting and always fun-filled event that includes forays and identification sessions, workshops, cooking classes with luncheons, and fine local restaurants featuring mushroom based meals in the evenings. This year's Wild Mushroom Festival promises to provide many opportunities for learning and fun for novices and experts alike. Cost for the entire Crested Butte Wild Mushroom Festival is \$65.00 (excluding cooking workshop/luncheons, which are \$18.00). For further information or to sign up go to the web site "CBMUSHFEST.COM" or call 800-545-4505.

Telluride Mushroom Conference

August 21-24, 2003. Highlights: Mushroom Feast, Forays, Workshops, and "Shroom Parade" The annual Telluride Mushroom Festival, designed for people interested in edible, psychoactive, and poisonous mushrooms, will be held in Telluride, Colorado, Aug. 21-24. The festival includes mushroom lectures, forays, hands-on

identification and cultivation workshops, mushroom poetry, and a mushroom parade-which runs down the main street of Telluride and features festival participants dressed as mushrooms, spores, and other elements of the mycological world. Complete information about the Festival program, registration, lodging, and travel is available on the Festival's web site: www.shroomfestival.com or call 303-296-9359. The \$295 registration fee includes: Entry to all lectures and workshops. All Meals (the Telluride Chefs' "Mushroom Cook-Off Feast" on Friday night, the "Mushroom Tasting Party" on Saturday night; a light breakfast (coffee, juice, fruit, and bread or pastry) on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; and a sack lunch (packed by you after breakfast with our lunch fixings) on Friday and Saturday. All meals will either be entirely vegetarian or have a vegetarian option. Vegan meals will not be served.

Bits And Pieces:

"...The world is not given to us by our fathers, it is loaned to us by our children" Audubon.

Emerson said, "The world laughs in flowers." I think it also smiles in mushrooms.

Recipes

Here is a recipe from Bud Bennett to go with all those mushroom recipes you have amassed over the years.

Rhubarb Cream Cheese Bars

(Bud Bennett)

Mix ½ cup margarine, 1 1/2 cup flour, ½ cup oatmeal, ½ cup brown sugar and ½ teaspoon salt until crumbly. Press half of this mixture into 8x8 pan. Beat 8 oz cream cheese, ¾ cup sugar, 1 egg, ½ teaspoon nutmeg and ½ teaspoon cinnamon until smooth. Stir in 1 ½ cup diced rhubarb. Pour over crust. Top with remaining crust mixture. Bake at 350F for 45 minutes. Store in refrigerator.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM by Lee Barzee

Most folks ignore me; they don't collect me nor photograph me much. However, I am not insulted, I am tough and enduring, actually perennial. I simply continue to go about my work. I am not edible. I do not have teeth but I do a lot of devouring. Like other species I AM attractive when young with some color, or is it my form that has the appeal? My fertile lower surface is pale yellow to white. I do not stain brown, thus cannot be drawn upon.

I have no stipe. I am rather broad (5-40 cm) so I wear a belt. I'm very fond of ponderosa pines and I am very populous all season in my habitat. As in "Cheers", everyone knows my name. (Especially foresters).

Do you? What is it?

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

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