

Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

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July 2008

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday, July 28, 2008 – The fourth Monday of the month.

WHAT TIME? 6:30 pm; the 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. You may use either. The room is on the second floor near the head of the stairs.

PROGRAM:

We are going back to our traditional meeting times this month. All of you who wish to may come at 6:30pm to socialize and trade mushroom talk. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

The program will be another study session, but this one is for everyone. We will brush up on Colorado's ecosystem zones. Hopefully, we'll be going up to where the mushrooms are, so we'll talk about the foothills, mountain, and sub-alpine zones and the trees and representative mushrooms of each zone. We'll have some good handouts, but your input will be part of the program, too. We will have conifer specimens to study, and we hope to have some of the fungi to match.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: by Elsie Pope

I haven't been out of my own back yard lately, so I hope you foragers are having some luck. A covey of small 'shrooms showed up in places where I had recently watered out back. Using my new found abilities to identify fungi, I took a mature specimen, noting its habitat, and measured its pilius, stipe and all. It had gills (that narrowed the filed greatly), and using Vera Everson's book I

know it had to be within pages 58 to 153. Narrow it again! Fragile, with buff colored caps and white-fringed edges, crowded grey lamellae that produced purple brown spores, and a backyard habitat, I had my *Psathyrella candolleana*. Vera's notes indicate that this small mushroom is highly variable, so it took Lee Barzee to examine the little specimen and confirm its identity. Do you have any little mysteries in your backyard? Key them down – it's a game!

We certainly enjoyed May's program with archaeologist, anthropologist and raconteur William Whately entertained us with a lively and fascinating presentation. I wish I had taken note of all the names he dropped, but the most impressive was Big Foot! We honor him for his ten-year crusade to repatriate the remains of Native Americans to their native soils.

THE WILD MUSHROOM – Author Unknown

Well the sunset rays are shining
Me and Kai have got our tools
A basket and a trowel
And a book with all the rules

Don't ever eat Boletus
If the tube-mouths they are red
Stay away from the Amanitas
Or brother you are dead.

Sometimes they're already rotten
Or the stalks are broken off
Where the deer have knocked them over
While turning up the duff

We set out in the forest
To seek the wild mushroom
In shapes diverse and colorful
Shining through the woodland gloom

If you look out under oak trees
Or around an old pine stump
You'll know a mushroom's coming
By the way the leaves are humped

They send out multiple fibers
Through the roots and sod
Some make you mighty sick they say
Or bring you close to God

So here's to the mushroom family
A far-flung friendly clan
For food, for fun, for poison
They are a help to man.

FORAY REPORT:

June 28: Eight people showed up, had a report that it was real dry up on pikes peak so went to emerald valley – no mushrooms, but Frieda, Lee and Esther found a lot of different flowers.

July 12: No Foray...cancelled due to lack of sightings and moisture.

Jack Richardson went to Baldy Mountain with Peter on the 11th...not a thing! Eva Mattedi said nothing to be found even at the bottom of valleys on the North side (that seemed moist) on Rampart Range Road.

As you may have heard, Colorado Springs precipitation is almost six inches below normal for this date. Denver is reporting the fourth driest year so far since records have been kept in 1872.

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. July 26, Frieda Davis (719) 630-7140
- Thurs. August 7, Eva Mattedi (719) 687-9848
- Sat. Aug. 23, Dennis Craig (719) 596-5676
- 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. There is room for 4-8 participants -

depending upon bed sharing - beyond that will require camping (on private property) or a reservation at a local hotel. Details are still pending. Since there will be limited accommodation, it is suggested that interested parties make contact with the foray leaders soon.

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. Happy hunting.

Projector Status

At the June meeting it was decided to purchase a digital projector for the club. The rationale for this purchase is that NAMA is phasing out its analog presentations (i.e. slideshows) in favor of a digital format – DVDs. Many of our presenters have their material on laptop computers and we've been forced to borrow a projector from one of the members.

Frieda Davis and Bud Bennett have researched the availability of projectors that we can afford and have decided to purchase an Epson Powerlite 77C. This is a LCD-type projector that should be able to project from either a laptop computer or a DVD player. There will be an update at the July meeting.

Newsorthy:

Antibiotic-producing mushroom discovered

By Helen Flores
Friday, July 18, 2008

A group of government scientists recently discovered an antibiotic-producing microorganism from a type of mushroom which has been found to be effective in treating diseases of livestock, particularly swine, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) reported yesterday. The scientists from the DOST's National Research Council of the Philippines, led by Dr. Asuncion Raymundo, a plant pathologist, found that the mushroom species *Clitopilus passeckerianus* produces the antibiotic called pleuromutilin. The DOST said pleuromutilin prevents the bacteria from producing protein, an essential component of its diet. Without protein, bacteria stops reproducing and consequently die.

Pleuromutilin also acts as the building block for the production of tiamulin, a biological compound effective in treating common hog diseases such as mycoplasmas, arthritis, enzootic

pneumonia, and dysentery, the agency said. "This latest NRCP research proves that the mushroom could no longer be ignored nor relegated as among the bottom dwellers in the plant kingdom.

First death cap mushroom found in

Australia - Friday, 18 July 2008

AAP, ADELAIDE - A deadly mushroom known as the death cap has been found in South Australia for the first time.

Health authorities said the *Amanita phalloides* mushroom was discovered recently growing in the University of Adelaide's Waite Arboretum. Its identity was confirmed by DNA analysis. Ingestion of the death cap has previously resulted in two deaths in Australia, and worldwide its consumption has caused more deaths than any other mushroom.

The specimen found at the Waite Arboretum was probably the result of spores traveling from interstate with the mushroom common in suburban Canberra and Melbourne.

Photo Gallery:

The photo below was taken a few years ago, when the world was wetter, on Captain Jack's. This tiny mushroom has a common name – eyelash cup. Zoom in to see why. To photograph it you will need a very good macro lens and a tripod.



Scutellinia scutellata

The next photo is another mystery mushroom that was too pretty to pick for identification. Does anybody have a guess as to what it may be?



Mystery Mushroom

What's Cookin':

Since fresh wild mushrooms are very scarce this year, here is a recipe that will work with either store-bought or wild mushrooms, if you're so lucky.

Stir-fry and Curry Sauce

½ package dried Udon noodles
 3 Tbsp sunflower oil
 1 clove garlic
 1 medium onion, sliced
 1 small red bell pepper, sliced
 2 cups zucchini, cut into 3/8 inch cubes
 2 cups mushrooms (buttons or wild)

Sauce:

2 Tbsp hot water
 ½ vegetable or chicken stock cube, crumbled
 4 Tbsp tomato ketchup
 1-2 tsp hot curry powder
 ½ tsp salt (optional)
 Fresh cilantro leaves

- Mix the sauce ingredients, except the cilantro, together in bowl.
- In a large pan, bring a quantity of water to a boil, add the noodles and cook for 3 minutes (or use package directions). Rinse with cold water and drain.
- Heat the oil in a wok or skillet until very hot and stir-fry the garlic and onion for one minute. Add the bell pepper, zucchini, and mushrooms and stir-fry for 4-5 minutes or until the zucchini is softened slightly.
- Add the noodles and sauce to the vegetables and stir-fry for 1-2 minutes. Garnish with Cilantro. Serve immediately.

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 *Albatrellus ovinus*. Esther Price was picked as the winner.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

by Esther Price

My common name is taken from my stalk, which is covered on the lower half and base with dark brown velvet. I'm saprophytic on dead aspen in the mountains and dead elms and hardwoods in the city- usually clustered. My cap is brownish in the middle to pale yellow on the margin. Grown up I'm about 4 cm across and convex to nearly flat. My gills are pale yellow, adnate to adnexed. My stalk is sort of long and thin, fibrous and may extend into long blackish rizomorphs. My flesh is yellowish, my odor and taste mild. My spore print is white. What is my Genus? Species? What family do I belong to? Please work on this one especially those in class!

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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