

Spore-Addict Times



MONTHLY MEETING

WHEN? Monday, July 25th, 2011
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.
You may use either. The room is on the second floor
near the head of the stairs.

WEBSITE: www.pikespeakmushrooms.org

JULY PRESENTATION

Marc A. Donsky

Marc Donsky is a native of Denver, Colorado and has been growing mushrooms for over 30 years. For the past ten years, he taught Bio-chemistry at University of Colorado @Denver.

While there, he had a small research group working on cultivation, mycoremediation (using fungi to degrade contaminants in the environment), analysis of commercial and cultivated *Cordyceps*, and heavy metal accumulation in mushrooms. His will be presenting an overview of the work from his lab and others, and the potential of fungi.

Barcoding Fungi

Earlier this mushroom season, we learned about a new fungi genus named cryptomycota, creating an entirely new branch on the tree of fungi. This was found to be genetically unlike other known branches of fungi and thought to be “ancient.” The lack of a chitin and the mapping of the mycological DNA determined it to be different.

A recent article in FUNGI magazine on mapping the genetic codes of mushrooms discusses this race to identify species and “put things in order; who is related to whom and to answer questions about evolution.” But it’s not quite time to toss out your hand lenses. This is almost a *sprint* to map the codes, as short DNA sequences are used to identify species—thousands per day in a single laboratory, instead of the full code.

For now, keep your identification of macroscopic traits for mushrooms current, keep working on your skills for under the microscope identification and consider the DNA barcoding concept for the future for the mushroom hunters—but someday, they’re be “an app for that” mushroom identification.

*Abstracted by the PPMS Newsletter Editor from “[Barcoding Fungi: How to Tell a Klots from a Glotz](#)”
by Britt A. Bunyard in FUNGI Magazine Vol 4 No. 2: Spring 2011*

Mushroom Hunting

Little Polypores on the Prairie

Polypores are saprophytes that decompose organic materials and typically get their nourishment from breaking down cellulose and lignin of wood. Polypores are commonly found in the conifer ecosystem, breaking down some of the most resilient wood.

So, what is this report of polypores on the Montana prairie decomposing grass instead of wood?

Mycologist, Cathy Cripps, a researcher at Montana State University, recently reported finding an unusual prairie polypore. She has submitted an article that is not yet published, describing the mushroom named *Polyporus cryptopus*.



It's thought to be a rare find, but watch for it to potentially appear on a foray through the semi-arid native grasses. The grasses are considered an unexpected host for these mushrooms.

Suillus for the Five-needle Pine: Update

Last season, Cathy Cripps, a mycologist researching at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, sent a request out to our region looking for help in locating a *Suillus sibiricus* under the five-needle pine trees, such as Whitebark Pine, Limber Pine, and Western White Pine.

This *Suillus* has a bright yellow, sticky cap with reddish patches at the margins. It has yellow pores and a yellow or white stem with reddish dots.



Suillus have a mycorrhizal association with the five-needle pines. The needles of these pines are bundled in groups of five, unlike the spruce or Ponderosa pines. The five-needle limber pines usually grow at a lower elevation in our area, on hot, dry sites. So, it is not an area mushroom hunters would typically seek out. But, the pines have been dying rapidly and could use the mushroom's help.

PPMS members brought *Suillus* specimens that Esther Price found to Cathy Cripps at the 2010 NAMA Foray, for which she was very appreciative— calling them her “Citizen Scientist Heroes.”

A recent email report from Vera Stucky Evenson to one of our members said Cripps is successfully growing baby pines in her laboratory with the inoculum of the *Suillus* spores.

Member Website News!

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

Edibles

Chicken and Morels

- 3 cups morels, sliced lengthwise
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast (pounded flat if desired)
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 cup heavy cream (white wine may be used as substitute)
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup flour
- 3 shallots, chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 300 degrees

Melt 2 tbsp butter in a large skillet over medium heat. As it is melting, flour the chicken breast, using enough just to dust each piece. Put the chicken in the skillet and cook, turning over after lightly browned on first side (8—10 minutes).

Remove chicken from the skillet and place in a casserole pan. When oven is fully heated, bake the chicken.

As the chicken is cooking, melt 2 tbsp butter in a skillet over medium heat. Add the morels, shallots and garlic. Cook for three minutes, stirring frequently.

Pour in chicken stock and cook until reduced to half the volume. Then add the cream, salt and pepper, and lemon juice. Cook until sauce is reduced to desired consistency.

After chicken is fully cooked, pour sauce over the chicken and serve.

Enjoy.

Up-Coming Mushroom Festivals and Events

August 4-7, [NAMA Forey 2011](#) Clarion, PA. Southwest Regional Forey scheduled Sept in Arizona was cancelled.

August 17-21 Crested Butte Wild Mushroom Festival includes forays, cooking workshops involving local restaurants, medicinal insights and more. For more information, call 800-545-4505.

August 18-21, 2011 31st annual [Telluride Mushroom Festival](#), Telluride, CO \$160 for 2 days, or \$15—20 per speaker/event. Speakers include: Paul Stamets, Gary Lincoff, Michael Beug, Britt Bunyard, David Rose, and more.

September 6 - 20, 2011: [Introduction to Mushroom Cultivation](#), Durango, CO The class runs from 6:00pm to 8:00pm on Thursdays. Cost is \$84 total for the three dates.

Sept 9-11, 2011 26th Annual [Mushroom Festival](#), Kennett Square, PA where the majority of the mushrooms consumed by Americans are grown, this event includes a run/walk, cook-off with a celebrity chef, and farm tours.

Sept 18-25, 2011 7th Annual [Sicamous Fungi Festival](#) in Sicamous, British Columbia features music AND mushrooms with experts Larry Evans, Paul Kroeger, and others on hand to give lectures and lead forays.

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 \$15 (\$20 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.

PIKES PEAK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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MYSTERY MUSHROOM

Growing on a cow pie, either singular or with a few others, I have a snow-white, powdery, bell-shaped cap about 2–4 cm across. My 4–10 cm stalk is white and hollow. My gills are crowded and narrow—white when young, but become black and dissolve as I age. I have no odor or taste.

Who am I ???

June's Mystery Mushroom was *Lactarius uvidus*.

Donald answered correctly and won the drawing.

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.

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