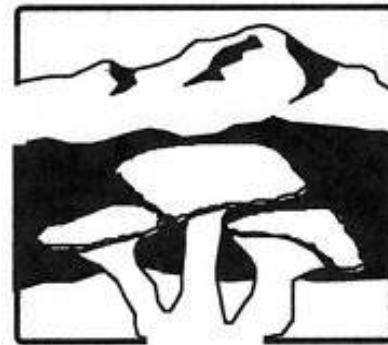


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2007

Vol. XXXIII ISSUE 4 July 2007

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday July 23, 2007 – Note that the fourth Monday comes a little early this month.

WHAT TIME? 6:30 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, July 23, 2007.

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:

The program for this month's meeting will be for all attendees to share their best mushroom experience or story with the membership. Frieda has graciously agreed to share one or more of her best "George mushroom stories". Think back on your many experiences with mushrooms and bring the best to the meeting to share with all of your fellow mycologist members.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

Snowbankers to the rescue! One of our very best programs at PPMS came about sort of accidentally last month. We had intended just to talk about our very successful spring forays and make some plans for the summer, but the Snowbankers gave us a great, nearly impromptu program on this seldom collected fungi.

Lee Barzee especially loves the snowbank mushrooms and has studied them for years, leading early forays to the Monarch Pass area

with other interested members. At high elevations where Alpine fir and Engleman spruce occur, the deep snows slowly retreat as the days warm, but the nights remain cold. According to Lee's report, fruiting begins beneath the snow; the relatively warmer mushroom melts a hole in the snow above it and rises up through it. More fruiting bodies are found around the edges and in the outflow of the melting snowbank. At its maturity, the mushroom may be located far away from the receding snow.

The Snowbankers brought back fascinating specimens including *Oligoporus leucospongia*, the dominant *Lyuophyllum montanum* and the *Gyromitra gigas*. Frieda Davis gave a fine presentation on identifying MMs (mysterious mushrooms). Esther Price brought in a beautiful example of an artist's work, *Ganoderma applanatum*, dried and etched with a woodland scene.

After a fine early season, we mycologists are waiting out the dry spell, eagerly anticipating the first *Amanita muscaria* – the harbinger of the boletes. Here at home I'm looking for the first *Lepiota rachodes* in my own yard. They're so beautiful and so edible!

Big news about the coming over-nighter is provided below. This promises to be quite an event.

Doris Bennett and Eve Hart are bringing refreshments for the July 23rd meeting.

Elsie

JUNE 2007 MEETING RECAP:

As described by Elsie, above, the June meeting was a great success. A number of

forays have been completed (see details below under Club Forays). As always, to keep yourself safe on a foray, all participants are asked to brush up on the Club's foray rules.

Liz Ras correctly guessed the Mystery Mushroom of the Month, along with several others. The Mystery Mushroom was *Gomphidius subroseus* (see Aurora, page 483).

Liz Ras and Sigrid Adams graciously provided very enjoyable refreshments for the social time following our meeting.

As always, please send newsletter materials to Mark in time for publication in the newsletter (e mail: amburroughs@comcast.net or US mail: Mark Burroughs, 5806 Spurwood Court, Colorado Springs, CO 80918).

FORAY REPORT:

The dry season being here, there are only a few forays about which to report.

Foray #1: A group of members led by Frieda Davis went on a combined wildflower hunt/mushroom foray on June 28th. Some five members participated. Due to erosion on Gold Camp Road, the group was unable to drive up as far as planned, and consequently, they had to hike in part of the way. Frieda found several black morels (*Morchella angusticeps*), but conditions were already turning and few other mushrooms were found. However, many, many wild flowers were observed

Foray #2: A group of members went on a mushroom foray to the Craggs on Thursday, July 5th. This foray was led by Glenn Lorang, and approximately eight members participated at various times. (Editor's note: a recent newspaper article in the Gazette suggested that the main road through the Craggs will be regraded (it needs it) during the next few weeks, so check first if you plan on going there). Esther Price scored a very "special find" of a very colorful *Lachnellula arida* – there are golden yellow fungi about as round as a pea, which were covering a number of small branches from a dead spruce tree. Coincidentally, Lee Barzee, studied this specimen under her mentor, Dr. Orson K. Miller

Jr., late of the University of Montana and several other major universities. Dr. Miller was a noted mycology expert of world-wide renown. Due to the uniqueness of this mushroom, it is not widely referenced or described in many contemporary mycology reference texts. Accordingly, Lee provided her personal comments about this very special find in the write-up that follows:

Lachnellula arida – These wonderful little golden discs covering the dark spruce branches make a dramatic contrast that is hard to miss during a foray, particularly after any recent rain or hail. Thanks, Esther. This find warmed my heart to see it had admirers in our own PPMS! (Particularly, since I had studied it in mycology class and lab.)

It is found montane to alpine on fallen branches of conifers, often a "snowbanker" species, although it is not commonly known.

It is an ascomycete of the family Hyaloscyphaceae; its identification can only be determined microscopically. Besides, when it dries it just seems to disappear. However, you will be surprised to see that when it is placed in water, the same tiny golden beauties revive like jewels. (The spores develop in the ascii organs located in the gold!)

The fruiting bodies are 3 – 5 mm; cup to plate shaped; attached to the substrate by a short stalk; outer surface is gold to yellow; margin is thickly set with brown hairs (may be seen using an XX lens) and it grows gregariously.

There are several other fascinating species in this genus. One, much smaller with white hairs, etc. is known as *Lachnellula calyhiciformis*, which Lee has collected in Canada. These do their work silently breaking down dead branches – and Lee poetically describes this by saying "they're dear little recycling helpers."

Unaware of the specialness of this find, when Esther brought her *Lachnellula arida* back to the parking area, she decided to put it on the ground immediately behind Mark's Blazer (she was riding with Mark and Aericha), rather than on the tailgate. While Esther was off looking for

Lee to show her the find, Mark returned to see the branch on the ground behind his Blazer. Thinking it had just fallen from a nearby tree, and to prevent any possible tire damage, Mark proceeded to kick the branch away from the parking area just as Esther was returning with Lee. A quick shout to “STOP!” on the part of Esther startled Mark enough to prevent him from damaging the specimen, and the day, and find, were saved. (However, a possible fine for Esther may be in order for littering the parking area.)

Other finds on this foray, while somewhat sparse, included the following:

- Cortinarius sp.
- Agaricus xanthodermus
- Galerina alpinus
- Flammulina sp.
- Gyromitra gigas (This one was found by Tom and had us all fooled for awhile, thinking it was an old morel from last year, but it was indeed a “fake morel”

(Note: If the genus is known, but the species is uncertain, it is customary to simply put “sp.” for the unknown species, as shown above.) A big thanks to Esther for identifying the above finds from this foray.

Denver Meeting Note: Several members attended the Denver mycological club meeting on July 9th following the July 5th foray. Denver members generally reported sparse pickings and finds, due to the dry weather, and they had very few specimens to display for their meeting. When Lee and other PPMS members arrived with their foray findings, including the *Lachnellula arida*, they stole the show at the Denver club meeting!

Travel Foray Note: Esther’s granddaughter from New Mexico, Wylie, participated in the July 5th foray while visiting Esther and other family members. Esther drove her back home several days later, and while returning, she stopped at La Vita Pass to investigate the mushroom situation. She reported the following finds:

- *Leccinum insigne*: A spongy mushroom commonly found near aspen trees.

- Cortinarius sp.: A spore print proved difficult to obtain, which precluded any further identification of the species.
- Other mushrooms: She is continuing to look at these.

BUENA VISTA OVERNIGHT TRIP;

Saving the best news for last, one of the highlights of the 2007 mushroom season will take place on August 20th and August 21st. PPMS members and guests will travel to Buena Vista (travel recommended for August 20th) for a foray to the St Elmo ghost town, beginning on the morning of August 21st. Other optional side trips during the day may also be scheduled. Freia Bradford will be leading this event (she can be reached at 1-719-784-3838 or 429-5577).

Details of the trip will be discussed at the upcoming July 23rd club meeting. For planning purposes, Freia has spoken with the Pinon Court Motel (1-719-395-2433), and they have agreed to provide cabins (complete with kitchen, refrigerator and grill) for approximately \$85 to \$95 per family per night (the added \$10, or the total of \$95, buys an extra bedroom) – please mention PPMS when you call, as any additional discount will depend on the number of reservations.

For those traveling to Buena Vista the night before (August 20th), which is recommended in order to allow for an early start on August 21st, Freia has proposed an evening bar-b-q, with each member/family bringing their own main dish (steak, fish, or whatever) and a shared dish (salad, desert, bread or whatever) for the group. Freia advises that plastic ware and paper plates will be provided.

This area is reportedly one of the best in Colorado for a foray, and this trip should prove to be one of the highlights of our season.

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.**

PIKES PEAK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 39
Colorado Springs, Co. 80901-0039

President	Elsie Pope 596-4901
Vice President	Pat Gustavson 495-4344
Secretary	Don Pelton 634-0837
Treasurer	Frieda Davis 630-7140
Hospitality	Open
Foray Coordinator	Eva Mattedi 687-9848
Newsletter Editor	Mark Burroughs 594-9453 (amburroughs@comcast.net)
Assistant Editor	Aericha Burroughs 594-9453

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

The mystery mushroom for June 2007 was a Gomphideous subroseous, and it was correctly guessed by several people. Liz Ras was picked as the winner.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

For July 2007 - By Liz Ras

I consider myself quite dainty, fragile and beautiful. My cap is brownish pink and scalloped with a pointed top.

My stalk is 3-6 cm long and very thin, with a hairy base.

When I am cut, I stain blood red.

My spore print is white.

You find me mostly single or clustered on decaying aspen wood.

Who am I?

Spore-Addict Times

P.O. Box 39

Colorado Springs CO 80901-0039

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.