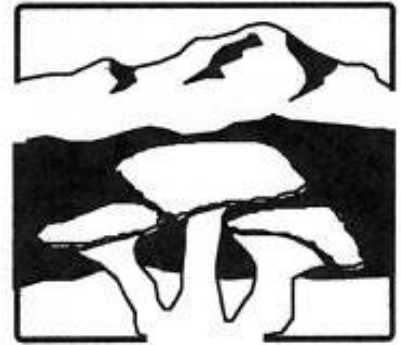


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2007

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MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? MONDAY June 25, 2007 – NOTE: We are back to meeting on the fourth Monday - MONDAY.

WHAT TIME? 6:30 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:00 PM on MONDAY (June 25th).

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 meeting will focus on foray management, policies, rules and activities. It has been awhile since the membership discussed this topic, so please bring your insights and ideas with you and please contribute during the discussion. We do this periodically in order to keep our members safe while they are enjoying our Colorado mushrooming activities.

Liz Ras and Sigrid Adams will bring refreshments for the June meeting. We thank them for doing so.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

MYCOLOGISTS HAVE MORE FUNgi! So says Vera Evenson who presented the program at our May meeting, and we all agree! Her program offered a review of the 5th Kingdom, with slide photos of awesome fungi illustrating their various properties. But, Vera is also

Curator of the Herbarium of Fungi at the Denver Botanic Gardens. As such, she gave us instructions on how to collect a specimen for identification and further study. The Herbarium can also use a properly collected study specimen that possibly might be preserved for science. You may find a state record or a species new to Colorado, so collect it properly. Some of the instructions for collecting are obvious (such as NO PLASTIC), but one I found especially important was note-taking in the field; make note of the place where the specimen was found and the habitat, including a sample of the host or surrounding vegetation and note ephemeral features that dry up quickly such as veil attachment, color, odor and taste.

We enjoyed Vera's program, but it was a special gift to accompany her on a "learning" foray as she examined every specimen brought to her attention. During a philosophical discussion over lunch in the field, Vera made the observation that ornithologists might exclaim over sighting a strange or special bird, but they don't immediately wonder if it's edible. We can be mycologists first and gourmands second, and enjoy what we find to widen our knowledge. This is what Lee has always tried to teach us.

A comment on the article in last month's Times, Sorting Out Mushrooms. It was a very elementary and simple breakdown on mushroom classification and identification, and we all can find it quite useful. (Editor's comment: the material on sorting out mushrooms was from David Aurora's book, "Mushrooms Demystified". I apologize for only giving a partial credit.) Continue to enjoy this wet and wonderful season.

A number of you saw the B.C. comic strip pertaining to a mushroom chart drawn on a cave wall. Unfortunately, copyright laws, being what they are today, we cannot reproduce it for the newsletter without permission, but it was a good comic strip.

Elsie

MEETING NOTES:

Esther Price won the drawing for the Mystery Mushroom (see details below). She will strive to challenge us with a mystery mushroom for June. We thank Jeannene Havelka and Aericha Burroughs for taking care of refreshments for the May meeting.

MISSING BOOKS:

Esther Price's copy of Vera Evenson's book on "Mushrooms of Colorado" came up missing at the end of the May meeting. If you happened to pick up her copy by accident, please bring it to the June meeting. This particular copy of Esther's has years of field and other notes included, it is quite worn, and it has great personal value to her, so please take a look to see if you might have picked it up by accident. Esther would appreciate a call if you happen to find it or know anything about it (Esther's number is 632 5880).

Also, a copy of the same book "Mushrooms of Colorado" is missing from our library, and our librarian, Pat Gustavson, would like a call if you have borrowed it (Pat can be reached at 495 4344).

These missing books suggest that, with multiple copies of the same books being brought to meetings, it might be a good idea to prominently and uniquely mark our own personal copies. As a teacher, I like to use magic markers to draw different colored line combinations or patterns on the white edge of my personal text books, as the lines are easy to see and they seem to prevent mix ups.

DUES ARE DUE:

Dues for the 2007 year are due to Frieda Davis (630 7140) by July 15, 2007. To avoid being dropped from the distribution of the newsletter, as well as other undesirable outcomes too numerous to elaborate, please send your dues (\$15.00, payable to PPMS) to PPMS, P.O. Box 39, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0039, or send them to Frieda Davis, 10 Swallow Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. Also, you may contact Frieda at the June meeting or by phone, and make arrangements to get your account up to date. Again, the dues are still only \$15.00 per family per year, so they are well worth it.

FORAY REPORT:

A number of forays have been completed or are soon to be underway. The way forays work, is that Eva Mattedi (687 9848) is our Foray Coordinator, and as such, she is the first point of contact if you volunteer (or are coerced) into leading a foray. Simply call her and let her know of the particulars – when, where, meeting location, etc. – for the foray. Then, please e mail the membership with the details, and call those without e mails.

After the foray (and this is important), please e mail me, Mark Burroughs, with the results of the foray – the foray report (again, tell me when, where, approximate number of members attending, mushroom findings, snake sightings, and other interesting and relevant information). My NEW e mail (NEW e mail) is: amburroughs@comcast.net. For a good model of a foray report, please see Esther Price's foray report below.

Learning Foray: In the PRESIDENT'S NOTES, Elsie described the "learning" foray led by Vera Evenson. This was reportedly quite a special experience for all who attended.

Jack Richardson Led Foray: Jack led a group of members on a June 7th foray to the Rampart Range Reservoir area. This was a very successful foray in that many morels (*Morchella esculenta* and *Morchella angusticeps*) were found. Additionally, a snake or two was sited.

Seen nearby is a picture of some morels found by Esther Price on one of our recent forays during May. Technical difficulties prevented its inclusion in the May newsletter. As can be seen, at \$50 per pound – recent price at Whole Foods - this is a rather nice find.



Esther Price Led Foray: On June 14th, 10 members of PPMS met at the tennis courts near Argus and 21st Street (Bear Creek Park Courts) at 8:30 AM.

All members had been contacted by e mail or phone, and Esther Price had agreed to lead the foray when asked by Eva Matetti (Foray Coordinator).

Heading up Gold Camp Road, the group played hop scotch with a rather large road grader all the way to the Y Campground.

After a picnic lunch, Lee led the group in identifying the collected specimens. Some specimens required further work, but the finds included:

- *Morchella augusticeps*: About one half of these were *Morchella semilibera* (common name is “cone head”)

- *Hygrophorus conicus*

- *Gyromita esculenta*: Note that ‘esculenta’ means edible, but this mushroom contains the toxin monomethylhydrazine (otherwise known as rocket fuel – DO NOT EAT THESE)

- *Agaricus sylvicola*

- *Cortinarius croceus*

- *Suillus lakei*

- *Collybia dryophila*

- *Polyporus arcularius*

- *Picnoporus cinnabarina*

- *Geastrum quardrifidum*

- Numerous other little brown mushrooms (or LBMs)

Elsie reportedly found some morels in a rock ledge, which is quite unusual – elaboration is requested at the June meeting. Finally, Elsie ate a tiny puff ball – possible fine in order?

As can be seen, this foray report is quite specific, detailed and complete. If you ever wondered how to write up a foray report, this one by Esther serves as a great model. Again, foray reports may be e mailed to Mark at amburroughs@comcast.net or snail mailed to Mark Burroughs, 5806 Spurwood Court, Colorado Springs, CO 80918. If you have any questions, give me a call at 594 9453.

MUSHROOM COOKING TIP:

Bill and Jeannene Havelka provided this useful cooking tip for your favorite mushrooms.

1. Rub your favorite oil all over your cleaned and sliced mushrooms.
2. Spread the mushrooms on a cooking sheet covered with aluminum foil.
3. Put the cooking sheet into the oven under broil and cook for 5 to 6 minutes.
4. Allow to cool and enjoy.

This method will save you time when you have a large quantity of mushrooms. Thanks to Bill and Jeannene for this helpful cooking tip.

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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MYSTERY MUSHROOM

The mystery mushroom for May 2007 was an *Agaricus silvicola*, and it was correctly guessed by several people. Esther Price was picked as the winner.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM For June 2007 - By Esther Price

I'm a rosy colored, modest sized 'shroom with decurrent gills and a rather thick stalk which narrows toward the bottom with yellow at the base.

I have a white veil which leaves a superior ring on the sturdy stalk.

The spore print is smoky gray to black.

I grow best around Douglas-fir and conifers, and *Suillus lakei* is often found around me, particularly in Colorado. I am?????

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