

# Spore-Addict Times



## MONTHLY MEETING

**WHEN?** Monday, June 27, 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](http://www.pikespeakmushrooms.org),

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](http://www.pikespeakmushrooms.org)

**REMINDER:** Membership dues \$15 (\$20 includes printed/mailed newsletter). Send check to PPMS, c/o Frieda Davis, 10 Swallow Drive, Colorado Springs CO 80904

**Please note: Members not paying by July 15th will be dropped from the membership list.**

## JUNE PRESENTATION

Photo Essay:  
How mushrooms and PPMS  
have influenced our lives.  
Will include home cultivation.  
by Mike Essam

## Mushroom Houses

*Mycelia grow rapidly. Rapidly enough, that after just ten days in incubator, a mixture of oak pellet fuel, wheat bran, gypsum, and hydrogen peroxide formed “a dense matrix capable of structural support.”*

*These modified mycological cells become building blocks. One company called [Planetary ONE](http://www.planetaryone.com) (Open Network Ecology) is a group of designers and scientists who have partnered up to pioneer concepts and projects that will push our understanding of infrastructure and construction, by using mushrooms. Based in New York City, they are developing new ideas for urban structures and have established themselves as an eco-friendly company. In addition to being a sustainable material, the enzymes of the polypore digest a wide variety of cellulose based organic by-products.*

**What is the mushroom used to grow and develop this biological material called Mycoform?**

*Ganoderma lucidum (Reishi)*



# In Memoriam

## Elsie Pope

(12/30/1933—5/15/2011)

Born in Sesser, Illinois 77 years ago, Elsie Pope moved to Colorado Springs, where she was a long-time resident.

Elsie was described as a “Renaissance Woman” by those who knew her. She was a great lover of nature, who enjoyed camping, hiking, and being outdoors. Elsie was an avid gardener, enjoyed cooking and was also a writer. She loved going to the Symphony and musical concerts.

Elsie was a retired Elementary School Teacher. She had a big impact on her students, one of them even spoke at her funeral. Teaching was really her calling and she was always educating others.

Elsie was a founding member of the Native Plant Society in Colorado Springs, former editor for the Horticulture Arts Society Newspaper, member of A.A.U.W., and the Peaks and Plains Bottle Club. On forays or hikes, Elsie would remind others of the importance of not picking the wildflowers or native species. Leave them to be adored in their natural environment.

Elsie was an active member of the Pikes Peak Mycology Society and served as president 1996—1998 and again in 2006—2008. In remembering Elsie at the May general meeting, members ask that we all respect Elsie’s request to be attentive listeners during presentation. Please hold other conversation until the end of the presentation, as all teachers would wish you to do.

The Pikes Peak Mycological Society has donated \$100 in memory of Elsie Pope for a tree planting in connection with the Horticultural Society. The tree will be planted at the Evergreen Cemetery with Elsie’s family present, and more information on this date will be sent to members.



Elsie showing Eve’s granddaughter Rilea the Oyster mushrooms growing in her yard, Fall 2010

The lodge pole pines stand picket duty

And golden shafts of sunlight

Filter through to warm the duff.

Rusting wrought-iron fences with useless gates

Enclose angled wooden tablets,

Wind-drifted silver gray,

Which still proclaim the names

Of those lost in the great silence.

Is that all there is—

Sunshine, dust and silence?

From a grave mound springs

A drift of fairy slippers.

Thank may be all we can aspire to—

That may be enough.

Elsie Pope, 1974

### 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](mailto:ppmsmail@gmail.com)

## The President's Message

# Prez Sez

RAIN! RAIN! RAIN! Who Took The RAIN?

Dennis Craig June 15, 2011

Last month early in May we were having some pretty good rains, then at our May meeting, our speaker Jennifer Frazer reported that morels and other species of mushrooms had been found up north in the Boulder and Ft. Collins areas. Got us a little excited!

We had hope, but along comes June and virtually no rain— right now a good portion of the southwest is even on FIRE! While writing this article, I got out and put on my old PPMS “Fungus Man and Raven” tee shirt to see if it would help! But so far to no avail!

We can only hope, as this past Monday evening, Lee Barzee, Frieda Davis and I ventured up to the CMS monthly meeting at the Denver Botanic Gardens to hear the guest speaker, Dr. Steve Trudell, speak on the “Mycorrhizas: Foundations of Our Forests.” In short, it was about how most all living plants must have fungus and fungus have to have plants, alive and dead, to survive. Certain animals eat the living plants that rely on fungus, and we rely on the plants and animals to live. So, Fungus, Plants and Animals in the big cycle of life all need each other to exist! Very thought provoking.

But while Dr. Trudell was speaking we were entertained with a lightning and thunder storm show along with

RAIN!

Oh could it be the “front range” was going to get RAIN!

As we left after the meeting, heading south towards PPMS country, we watched the wet byways hoping they would stay this way for 60 or 70 miles, but to no avail.

By the time we got to southern metro Denver, they had dried up and we saw only an occasional drop of RAIN on the window shield or an occasional lightning strike in the distance towards the mountains. We can only hope for some RAIN.

Or I hope many of you took the opportunity to go on the annual “Snow Bank Mushroom Foray.” At the time of writing, this has not yet taken place, but plans were underway. I hope good mushrooming will happen and good species are found.

I thank you for nominating and electing me as your president without too much opposition! I want to “Thank” Judy Willey again for her past presidency and to thank all of our new and continued society officers for making our group what it is, “Thank You.” With volunteers, like all of you, our society is vibrant and active. But there is always room for others to get more involved and serve. I also want to “Thank” Bud Bennett, our past president, newsletter editor, compiler of mushroom photos and, now, our new “Webmaster” of our Website: [www.pikepeakmushrooms.org](http://www.pikepeakmushrooms.org).

If you haven't visited it yet, you should.

And finally I want to “Thank” Mike Essam, our Vice President, for doing our program this month.



When no mushrooms can be found, there are still beautiful wild flowers popping up. Calypso Orchids are often found at the same time as black morels.

**The “Three Musketeers” took this photo on a recent foray.** Some members also visited Monarch Pass in mid-June after learning the Denver group has success in their search of snow bank mushrooms.

If you missed the May presentation, this climate-adapted species includes both *Basidiomycota* and *Ascomycota*, often found around high-elevation conifers. Along the edges of **melting snow banks, this “snow mold” eats the simple sugars** from the new vegetation that is feeding on the moisture from the melting snow. Interested in learning more? Read this:

[http://www.fungimag.com/spring-09-articles/13\\_Snow.pdf](http://www.fungimag.com/spring-09-articles/13_Snow.pdf)

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

*My convex, moist, and sticky cap is 3-9 cm across, staining dull purple to wine-colored where injured. My gills are close, narrow, adnate, and creamy, bleeding milk white latex. My stock is 3-9 cm long, and 1.5-2.5 wide. I can be found in high alpine boggy areas, near conifers and willows in late July till September.*

*Who am I ???*

May's Mystery Mushroom was ***Gyromitra esculenta*** (false morel). Jack Richards answered correctly and won the drawing.

Photo Credit: Dave Powell, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



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