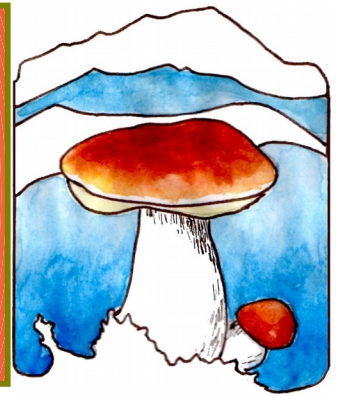


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2014

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June 2014

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday, June 23, 2014 – The fourth Monday of the month.

WHAT TIME? 6:30 pm; The meeting will come to order at 7:00 pm.

WHERE? Bear Creek Park, [Administration Building](#)

WEBSITE: www.pikespeakmushrooms.org

CONTACT: PPMSmail@gmail.com

PROGRAM:

We will screen Taylor Lockwood's mushroom video, "The Good, The Bad and The Deadly." - the basics about toxic mushrooms and their edible look-alikes. It's essential information for mushroom hunters, cooks, parents, pet owners, and medical professionals.

Foray Report:

By LeRad Nilles

Foray report for Sunday May 18 2014

A group of seven went to Beaver creek. Christa found two yellow morels, Frieda found one both different species. A few people found some dug mushrooms and I found a small Oyster a few days old. I had to leave half the group went up a canyon at a higher elevation where Tom found a number of morels.

Foray for Monday May 26 2014

Four of us went to Stagecoach Rd. Broadmoor stables Emerald Valley Road is closed for construction no morels many Hard Conc Mushrooms on logs near the creek and red orange brain like jelly mushrooms on logs possibly *Dacrymyces palmatus*.

Snowbanker's Foray is this Saturday

We will be going to Monarch Pass on 6-21-2014 so collect your baskets and have some fun in the mountains.

In accordance with the By-laws, dues, in the amount of \$20.00, are due and payable on or before the April monthly meeting. If you still have not paid, please pay at the June meeting or mail the payment to PPMS, c/o Frieda Davis, 10 Swallow Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0039. Thanks!

**This is your last chance!
PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES:**

Photographing Mushrooms

By Bud Bennett

I've been photographing mushrooms for a while – about 15 years – and I've learned a few things. Most of the photos that I've seen taken by amateurs are pretty bad. There are some simple things that you can do to that will improve your photos tremendously.

Don't Hurry The Process

It helps, at least it helps me, to plan ahead for taking photos. If I know that I am going to be taking photos then I tend to avoid the frenzy of hunting for edibles, which doesn't lend itself to a leisurely pace in most instances.

This also means that you should spend some time scoping out the site and the specimen. Is it a good specimen – fresh, without a lot of scarring or bite marks? Is enough of the specimen visible for identification purposes?

Your knees will hurt and get dirty. Take a knee pad with you.

Groom The Site

There is almost always detritus nearby or in front of the specimen. Take some time to evaluate the site and remove twigs, grass, or pine needles that detract or interfere with the view.

Steady As She Goes

Use a tripod. Mushrooms tend not to sway in the wind like wildflowers so a tripod will yield a significantly crisper image. Also, use the camera's built-in timer to take the picture so that you don't jiggle the tripod as you press the shutter button.

There are lightweight (< 1 pound) tripods that fold up to less than 15 inches long that can be strapped to your pack or carried inside.

Use high aperture and long focal length

OK, this is a bit technical, but I'll try to make it simple to understand. At small focal lengths the lens tends to distort the image. You've all seen photos that show items that are supposed to be straight, but curve a bit instead. To avoid this get farther away from the specimen and zoom in to fill the frame. The problem when you do this is that any jiggle in the camera will blur the photo – so use a tripod.

Mushrooms tend to be round things (unless you're viewing them from above). The camera has a problem keeping the entire mushroom in focus unless you decrease the aperture of the lens (this is the same as increasing the f-stop). I usually shoot with an aperture set from f16 to f22. Unfortunately, a smaller lens aperture means less light getting to the sensor so the shutter speed slows down, sometimes to several seconds – use a tripod. If your camera doesn't allow any settings for aperture, then getting farther from the subject and zooming in will also help to keep more of the specimen in focus.

If your camera has the ability to change the point where it will focus you can put the focus point near the middle of the cap, as opposed to the edge, and perhaps get more of the mushroom in focus.

Cloudy Days are Better

Digital cameras have the same problem as the older film cameras – they don't handle bright and dark very well in the same image. The camera likes to think that everything is a neutral shade of

gray and exposes the subject accordingly. The photos will be more correctly exposed if the light source is uniform – from a cloudy day.

You can help things a bit if you use a fill flash, but I don't care for the look of flash photography. You can also use a white card or reflector to bounce light up underneath the specimen so the camera doesn't have to work so hard. Really serious nature photographers put a small white tent over the subject to provide a uniform light source.

Don't take it from me...

I've provided some tips which I regularly find useful, but there is a lot of good information out there to help you take better mushroom photos, if you're so inclined.

There are several good sources of information on the web:

Digital-photography-school.com

[Top-ten mistakes](#)

[Top Ten Rules of Photo Composition](#)

Bit's & Pieces:

El Nino possibility at 90%

El Nino begins as a giant pool of warm water swelling in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, that sets off a chain reaction of weather events around the world – some devastating and some beneficial.

Most of Colorado gets drier during an El Nino event, but the front range gets wetter due to the counterclockwise-rotating pressure systems that create upslope conditions. The front range benefitted from an El Nino in 1997 which produced an awesome mushroom fruiting.

The latest El Niño prediction comes from the [European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts](#) (ECMWF), which is considered one of the most reliable of the 15 or so prediction centres around the world. "It is very much odds-on for an event," said Tim Stockdale, principal scientist at ECMWF, who said 90% of their scenarios now deliver an El Niño. "The amount of warm water in the Pacific is now significant, perhaps the biggest since the 1997-98 event." That El Niño was the biggest in a century, producing the hottest year on record at the time

and major global impacts, including a [mass die-off of corals](#).

From [theguardian](#).

33rd Annual Telluride Mushroom Festival

Telluride, CO, August 16-19, 2014

Pre-festival workshops and an early-bird walk will also be held on August 15.

Set in the beautiful San Juan Mountains, the Telluride Mushroom Festival offers something for everyone, from guided forays in the San Juan mountains, to presentations on mushroom cultivation, anthropology, remediation, and significant research.

This year's festival very consciously looks at the role of mushrooms across a broad spectrum of human life. Festival activities include everything from the ever-popular (and sometimes outrageous) mushroom costume parade, to sessions for the mushroom gourmet, to discussions about how recent scientific research has led to exciting new developments in the fields of behavioral pharmacology, oncology, and other areas of human health and medicine.

For more information visit the festival website: <http://www.telluridemushroomfest.org/>

North Korea unveils new mushroom sports drink

The North Korea news agency announced that researchers at the Microbial Institute of the State Academy of Sciences had developed a "very effective" new mushroom drink to help athletes recover from exertion.

They are cultivating the fungus to make the drink. No word on how it works or...how good it tastes. Full story: [theguardian](#).

What's Cookin':

This is the recipe for the mushroom appetizer we brought to the last meeting - Mark and Joanne Williams

4 Tbs Butter
3 Tbs Finely chopped shallots or green onions
1/2 Lb Fresh mushrooms, finely chopped (we used button, but any will work)
2 Tbs All purpose flour
1 Cup Heavy Cream
1/2 tsp Salt (or to taste)
1/8 tsp Cayenne pepper
1/4 Cup Finely chopped parsley, or 1 Tbs dried parsley flakes
1/3 Cup Finely snipped fresh chives or 1 1/2 Tbs dried chives
1 tsp Fresh squeezed lemon juice

In a large saute pan, melt the butter. Add shallots and cook three min. stirring frequently. Add mushrooms, increase heat to moderately high and cook 8-10 min., stirring frequently until some water cooks out of mushrooms and is evaporated.

Remove pan from heat. Sprinkle flour over mushrooms and stir in. Put pan over medium heat, gradually stir in cream and then cook, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and simmers for 2-3 min. Remove from heat, stir in salt, cayenne, parsley, chives, and lemon. Mixture can be cooled, put in container with lid and refrigerated for a couple of days.

This mixture can be put on your favorite toast or hard cracker, or whatever you would like! Enjoy.



The Pikes Peak Mycological Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of mycology, publishes Spore-Addict Times monthly from April-September. Membership is open to anyone wanting to study mycology. Annual dues are \$20 for individual and family memberships. **Submission of ideas, articles, reviews, letters, artwork and recipes are welcome.**

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May's mystery mushroom was *Hygrocybe conica*

Mystery Mushroom

By Frieda Davis

I am a robust white mushroom with a viscid, not slimy, smooth cap. My lamellae is decurrent, very waxy, pale pink at first, then white. My stocky stipe has a white veil, leaving a thin, flaring, partial veil in the stipe center. If you can find me on our next trip to Monarch Pass you can eat me and they say I am delicious.

Who am I?

(Bring your answer to the general meeting. The winner with the correct answer gets \$5 and also provides next month's mystery mushroom)

The Spore-Addict times is the official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society (PPMS) and is published monthly April – September. 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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