

**From:** Pikes Peak Mycological Society <PPMSmail@gmail.com>  
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# The Spore-Addict Times

The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society      VOL. XXVII      ISSUE 2      May 2001

## MONTHLY MEETING:

**WHEN?** TUESDAY, May 29th, 2001

**NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE**

**WHAT TIME?** 7:00 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:30 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.

**PROGRAM:** As this season has shown, the morel mushroom is one of the easiest to identify and the hardest to understand of all edible mushrooms. Dr. Bob Noyd will try and peel away some of the mysteries, but not all by any means, from this fungi. His program, "The Magnificent Magical Morel Mushrooms" promises to be both stimulating and educational and perhaps it will even make it a bit easier for us mere mortals to find these elusive little mushrooms.

**PRESIDENT'S NOTES:** by Bob Noyd

The falling rain should mean some successful forays in the coming weekends! I would like to take about 15-20 minutes of the meeting to discuss the club's mushroom forays and expand on that to find out what the members' attitudes, motivations, likes, and dislikes are. We will explore how you feel about the club in general and how you feel about the way we do things. We should be able to find out what is important to you and what is not. For example some members are collecting at the foray site a day or two before an announced foray. How do you feel about that? The Denver Mushroom Club keeps the foray location a "top secret" to prevent this behavior - a sad commentary. The thoughtless behavior of a few inconveniences and upsets many. We want the club to reach out to the membership and we want to deliver on our commitments to you.

We would like to continue the "mushroom of the month" as a regular feature of our meetings. It is a fun way to learn a little more about a mushroom you, the presenter, select. If you would like to volunteer to take a month, please let me know. I believe the more members that are involved in the meetings and activities, the more connected we all will feel and the better the experience will be.

### **FORAY SCHEDULE AND RULES**

We will be publishing the foray schedule with the leaders' names and phone numbers in the newsletter each month. To go on any of the forays simply call the leader to find out where and what time to meet. You must have your dues paid for the current year and you must have a signed liability waiver on file to go on forays. If you want to **lead a foray call Glenn Lorang**, our foray coordinator, **at 576-1742**. Some forays will probably be to un-scouted areas. Foray leaders do not guarantee success.

### **Schedule**

June 2	Frieda Davis	630-7140
June 9	Pat Gustavson	495-4344
June 16	Gerry Clark	687-9372
June 23	Dennis Craig	596-5676
July 28	Brian Barzee	634-4715
August 18	Eva Mattedi	687-9848
*August 24	Dennis Craig	596-5676

\*Note: To collect all kinds of fungi for the Fair.

**Foray leaders are responsible for securing a replacement leader if they can't go on the specified date.**

## NOTICE NOTICE

If your phone number has changed or if this newsletter was **FORWARDED** to your new address please call me (630-7140) and let me know.

### PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES:

In accordance with the By-laws, dues, in the amount of **\$15.00**, are due and payable on or before the **April monthly meeting**. Please pay at the meeting or mail the payment to **PPMS, PO Box 39, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0039**. Your prompt attention to this helps us know how many members we will have for the coming season and how we can best serve the needs of our membership.

#### **Foray Report:** by George Davis

The first foray of the year is always a notable event. That event happened this year May 5th, just in time to possibly collect some early rising morels. The forecast for that Saturday was mid 60's and partly cloudy. As sometimes happens, the storms that we had been subjected to for several days hung on for one more day. Six of us headed for Beaver Creek in a light rain that had been pretty steady for the past three days. Prior to that we had experienced a heavy snowfall, in some places as much as two feet. The road to the creek was an absolute quagmire. Traffic had literally cut it to pieces. We all had four-wheel drive vehicles so we felt fairly confident that we would make it. The brave souls on that "survivor type" foray had a ball. We managed to stay warm even though we got wet. And we collected between 45 to 50 *Morchella esculenta* and several pounds of very fresh *Pleurotus pulmonarius* (see *Mushrooms of Colorado*). Mushrooms seem to just shine like a beacon in the rain. The fact that we went on such a day speaks to the level of interest by some in this club for group forays. A very interesting day!

#### **A short story about the best Morel hunt ever.** by Brian Barzee

On Friday, the day before our club foray, I went to scout out some potential hot spots. After spending 12 hours, and fifty dollars on fuel, I came home dejected over the lack of finding the



elusiv Ascomycetes we have come to seek with more interest than any other indigenous edible fungus. I was thinking that the last resort was to lead the group to Beaver Creek, an area well hunted for morels with some success in years past.

However, in the previous years, Beaver Creek has seemed to me to have run its course for these tasty and well hidden fruits of nature. I was reluctant to return with the club to this difficult

hunting area. It is an area that gets hunted by many people from outside the club and by those in the club that go a day or two before the official foray. "We need a new spot to hunt", was all I could think of after the long day of unsuccessful scouting. Less than one hour after I returned, the doorbell rang, and a young man and his daughter stood on the porch with two plastic bags filled with about twenty pounds of golden morels (*Morchella esculenta*). His question to mom, "Do we have morels in

Colorado?" Ten minutes later after much oohing and awwwing, We had our new place to hunt and It was to be the "a once in a lifetime" occurrence. Right here in town? Yes!!! Only seven foragers showed up on Sat. morning. In the first forty minutes everyone had five to ten **pounds** of the biggest golden morels I have ever seen in Colorado. I will ask for reports from those lucky seven at the next meeting. What a great start to what promises to be a great year. Thanks to all who showed up and

Bon Appetite!! A big thank you and welcome new club member, goes out to Jerry Spitzer for the great morel tip!!

**Beginners Luck?** by Dale Collins

I have come to the conclusion that Morels, as fish in the stream and money at the gambling table, have developed a sense heretofore undiscovered. If you have spent the evening in anticipation of tomorrow's "find" and approach the day's hunt with honed and acute awareness you become easy for the Morels to detect. They must shrivel



and pull back to hide under the grass as you approach and rejuvenate to their full golden glory as you move from sight. This must be true, because my wife of 21 years, Tina, doesn't necessarily like to fish, isn't big on gambling, and doesn't even like mushrooms. Yet when in a situation where she must hold a fishing pole she not only catches the most fish - but the biggest one. She is absolutely devastating at the poker table, but

couldn't tell you which hand beats a flush. And now she has done it again.

Beginners luck? I no longer think so. Obviously the 19 large Morels that Tina found Saturday were taken off guard when she wandered by enjoying the day and walking her dog. Without sensing the expectations of her husband and his PPMS friends, they didn't stand a chance. (The rest of us found a few, I suspect they were the slow learners of the bunch. We also gathered about 20 pounds of *Pleurotus pulmonarius*, editor).

### Recipe for May 2001

**Mushrooms and Spinach Baked in Casserole** from Lee Barzee (This is the wonderful mushroom dish Lee brought to the potluck in 1999)

1 pound of mushrooms  
3 cups cooked chopped spinach  
1 tsp. salt  
2 tbs. (more or less) chopped onion  
2 tbs. melted butter  
1 cup canned evaporated milk  
1 cup freshly grated American cheese  
Add garlic and salt to taste.

Thoroughly clean mushrooms. Slice off the stems. Sauté both caps and stems for several minutes with round side down first until brown. Line a flat baking pie dish that measures about 10 X 1 1/3 inches with spinach that has been seasoned with salt, chopped onion, and melted butter. Arrange sautéed mushrooms and stems over spinach. Prepare sauce with evaporated milk and cheese. Bring to simmering point and allow to cook for 2 to 3 minutes. Let sauce stand about five minutes. Sprinkle mushrooms with a little garlic salt. With a spoon, pour sauce over them carefully. Bake about 20 minutes at 350 degs. F.; then broil for several minutes until top is brown. May be used as main lunch or dinner dish, or as an accompaniment.

**Slime mold shows possible intelligence** (from the Denver Post Sunday Oct. 15, 2000)

Toshiyuki Nakagaki of the Biomimetic Control Research Center in Nagoya, Japan, and colleagues put pieces of the amoeba *Physarum polycephalum* in a tiny maze carved into plastic film, and then placed pieces of food at separate exits.

The pieces of amoeba coalesced into a single organism, which reconfigured itself so that it ran directly between the two food sources along the shortest route possible, solving the labyrinth.

“To maximize its foraging efficiency, and therefore its chances of survival, the (organism) changes its shape in the maze to form one thick tube covering the shortest distance between the two food sources,” the researchers wrote in the September 28 (2000) issue of Nature. “This remarkable process of cellular computation implies that cellular materials can show a primitive intelligence.”

**Spore-Addict Times**  
**PO Box 39**  
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**Lewis and Clark** entered the following in their journal June 18, 1806: “One of the men found some black morel mushrooms, which Lewis roasted and without salt, pepper or grease-truly an insippid taistless (sic) food”.

The Pikes Peak Mycological Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of mycology, publishes Spore-Addict Times monthly from April through October. Membership is open to anyone wanting to study mycology. Annual dues are \$15 for individual and family memberships. Submissions of ideas, articles, reviews, letters, artwork and recipes are welcome.

**PIKES PEAK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
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