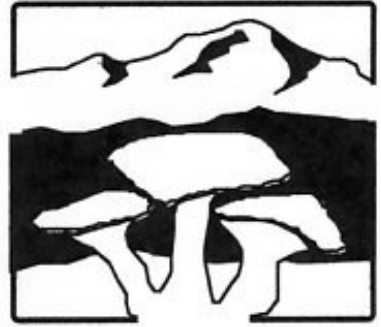


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2005

Vol. XXXI

ISSUE 2

May 2005

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday, May 23, 2005

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:

Trees and Fungi Associations"

The program for this month will be a presentation by Mike Shoemaker, who will travel up from Fort Collins for the occasion.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: by Ilse Stratton

Greetings after my first and maybe last fresh golden morel dinner of 2005! My apologies go to Simone who had to wait for this little insert until I could find, cook and eat a few morels. They were delicious! Thank you, Esther, for leading a most successful foray, and thanks to the nine fellow morel hunters for their great spirit and enthusiasm. We are definitely off to a fine mushroom season as many of you have found out already. What a difference a little

snow and rain can make! And what did I cook up? A morel risotto with green asparagus. Last Monday I watched a chef prepare it on German TV and loaded down the recipe from the ARD Homepage when I came home tonight. The rice, asparagus, white wine, butter and parmesan cheese were waiting at home – just in case we could still find a few morels so late in the season! Now, are you ready for our next foray, the possibility of finding Black Morels (*Morchella elata*, *conica*, *angusticeps*)? A reporter from The Slice will be joining us. Good luck and happy hunting!

PLEASE PAY YOU DUES:

In accordance with the By-laws dues are 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**.

It's your newsletter!

Please send your photos, stories, recipes or any other contributions to:

Simone Thompson
4615 Lasater Tr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80922
Thomspon717@yahoo.com.

Time sensitive items need to be sent before the 15th of each month, thanks.

FORAY SCHEDULE AND RULES

You must have paid your dues for the year and you must have a signed liability waiver on file to go on the forays. To go on any of the forays simply call the leader and find out the details.

If you want to lead forays call Eva Mattedi at 687-9848 or Jack Richards at 591-6996. Jack Richards has asked that everybody will come prepared with a watch, a whistle and a compass. Walkie-Talkies are very helpful too.

Schedule

Grazyna Benda	May 22 th	Mt. Herman Rd. or 488-9751 Lewis Creek
Bud Bennett	June 4 th	Rampart Range 487-8719
Esther Price	June 11 th	Gold Camp Rd. 632-5880
Jack Richards	TBD	Colorado Springs 591-6996 or Penrose area

Mystery Mushroom

Consensus had that the first Mystery Mushroom of the season presented by Bud Bennett was fairly painless to identify as a *Clavaria purpurea*. Pat Gustavson, Don Pelton, Lee Barzee, Ilse Stratton, Simone Thompson, Esther Price, Liz Ras, Frieda Davis and Dennis Craig all identified the mushroom correctly. Esther Price was drawn to receive the \$ 5 price money and has provided us with the Mystery Mushroom this month.

Nannie Lee Griffith, born March 1st, 1909 in Aurora, Texas, died April 13, 2005 in her home. She was one of the first PPMS members, reminiscing about her brings smiles to many faces.

During her lifetime she worked many years for a phone company, with a starting salary of \$ 11 per six day week and ending at \$ 11 per hour.

After her father died when she was five years old she cared for her siblings and later fulfilled a promise to raise her sister's children.

Nannie Lee will be remembered as a spunky lady, a walking historian and a delight to be around.



Photo:
Christa
Howard
May 11,
2005

Foray Report by Simone Thompson

The first foray of the year with Grazyna Benda on April 29 was a big success.

Despite the snow 6 dedicated club members set out to Bear Creek early in the morning. They were rewarded with over 40 yellow and black morels – the start of a great morel season for Colorado.

One week later Esther and I made the trip to the beautiful old homestead.

We were delighted to find an abundance of over 100 morels. Most of the mushrooms we found grew singular or in groups under cottonwood trees. There was one particular large tufted cluster of 15 yellow morels.

On this occasion we also were able to solve the mystery of the symbiotic relationships morels have with other organisms: snakes. We meet 5 snakes, including a rattlesnake, that was ready to take on the SUV.

Christa Howard seems to have found the largest morel so far, she took the picture above.

Whole foods still sales a pound of morels for around \$ 39. So enjoy the abundance and stock up for the years to come...Grazyna speculates that morels grow in seven year cycles.

ALASKA COULD SEE A MUSHROOM BOOM IN 2005

By DAN JOLING, Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Alaska has a history of booms for fur, gold, oil. This summer could see another, a mushroom boom.

Morel mushrooms, treasured for French cooking, often thrive on land in the year following a forest fire, and Alaska set records in scorched earth last year.

More than 6.5 million acres burned, mostly in Alaska's Interior, the vast middle swath between the Brooks Range to the north and the Alaska Range in the south. With the right moisture and temperatures, Alaska could witness a morel gold rush in late spring.

The extension service is putting on workshops in rural communities, showing how to pick, dry and market morels, which when dried can command prices of hundreds of dollars per pound.

Gary Laursen, professor of mycology at the university's Institute of Arctic Biology, said morel hunters should stay away from boggy areas and search where wildfires were hottest, such as hillsides. Morels appear on soil, not the decaying vegetable matter on the ground in a forest.

"If the fire was hot enough to burn away the duff, then overlay all that soil with ash, then you're going to get a prolific fruiting of what are called the ascomes, the fruit body," Laursen said.

Generally, morel season begins as early as the beginning of March in Texas and the Gulf states, and moves north until it reaches

Canada by May. Most commercial morel harvesting in North America occurs in western states and Canada.

Black morels are usually the first to appear, followed by the half-free and yellow varieties. Scientists can merely speculate on their life cycles but know they can show up after fire, timber harvest or insect infestation of trees. But Alaska could be attractive to pickers this year. As of early September, only 1.3 million acres in the Lower 48 state had burned, about one-third the average. But 4.3 million acres burned in the Yukon Territory.



Photo: Simone Thompson, May 14, 2005

Tricky little guys!

FUNGI NEWS:

According to a Fox News report on May 6, 2005 a giant yellow Morel was found in Oregon. The mushroom was one foot tall and measured 14 inches around. The lucky finder was just walking and not out hunting for mushrooms. The fungus is destined for the dinner table.

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.

Mystery Mushroom by Esther Price

I am larger than an LBM but still not a robust ‘shroom.
I am a saprophyte and grow in clusters on dead hardwood (sometimes I seem terrestrial).
I fruit from cool spring periods thru late fall. My cap is tan-orange to yellow at the margins and sticky to dry.
My spores are white and my stripe is coated with brown fuzz.
A cultivated form of me is called Enokitake.
There are lots of me - check my characteristics – enjoy cooking and eating me!

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 - Ilse Stratton 471-9573
Vice Pres. - Bud Bennett ... 487-8719
Secretary - Mary Will 599-0118
Treasurer-Frieda Davis 630-7140
Hospitality- Christa Howard 392-1379
Anna Wiese599-7733
Foray Coord: Eva Mattedi ... 687-9848
Jack Richards591-6996
Newsletter Editor: Simone Thompson
--597-5322 thompson717@yahoo.com
Asst. Editor – Grazyna Benda...488-9751
graz.benda@adelphia.net