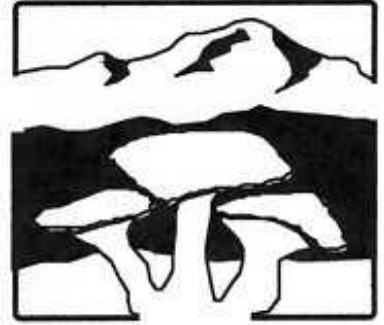


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2006

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May 2006

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday May 22, 2006

WHAT TIME? 6:30 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:00 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:

Freia Bradford will present a program on Mushroom preservation.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: by Bud Bennet

It's déjà vu all over again. Both the fact that I'm President again (until July), and that the climate is looking like a repeat of the infamous 2002 drought/fire season. It may even be drier than 2002 if the pond, now really a puddle, in my back yard is any indication. I don't have much hope that rains will come, but things can change in a hurry as we've seen before. I tagged along on the first foray of the year, which was a bust. It was too dry. But if we can't find them, we'll buy them – see below.

We elected new club officers at the last meeting. This year's nomination committee had to really twist some arms to get volunteers for some of the unfilled positions. I am president (pro tem) because nobody else would come forward. Don't get me wrong, I am happy to do it. But this is my third turn at the wheel and there

really should be a new person getting this experience. It is really not difficult. All the programs are in place or there is someone responsible to provide the program. At this point, all that the president has to do is show up at the meeting, swing the gavel a few times, and keep the meeting moving along (a very loose understanding of Robert's Rules is required.) There is plenty of help available if you need it. So how about it? Is there anybody out there interested in taking over as president after the June meeting?

We've got some good programs lined up for the year ahead. At this meeting Freia Bradford will show us how to preserve the mushrooms we find. In June, Bob Noyd will talk about native trees. The July meeting will be a presentation of three or four mushroom kits to give you an idea of what they are about and how they perform. A guest speaker will present in August. Ken Pals will give the second installment of Mushroom Jeopardy in September. I wish that I could be here to see them all!

PLEASE PAY YOUR 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**. 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.

Elizabeth Raz has correctly identified last month's mystery mushroom to be *Sarcosphaera coronaria*. Other correct entries: Don P., Bob Noyd, Frieda Davis, Lee Barzee, was drawn first, but disqualified because she took the photo...

(Jacquin, 1778) Schröter, 1893. (Saccardo, 1889; Smith, Smith & Weber, 1981; Brietenbach & Kränzlin, 1984; Arora, 1986; States, 1990; Phillips, 1991/2005; Lincoff, 1992; Evenson, 1997.) Herb. Kuo 08060502.

Sarcosphaera crassa and *Sarcosphaera eximia* are synonyms; "*Sarcosphaera exima*" is a misspelling in Smith, Smith & Weber (1981).

Sarcosphaera coronaria

[[Ascomycetes](#) > [Pezizales](#) > [Pezizaceae](#) > [Sarcosphaera](#) ...]

By [Michael Kuo](#)

[Cup fungi](#) are not often easy to identify, but *Sarcosphaera coronaria* is distinctive enough to stand out from the monotonous masses. When young the clustered cups are nearly closed, and grow submerged in the ground with only the top portion sticking out. With age the cup opens up and the edges split and peel backwards in vaguely star-like rays. The inner/upper surface is pale lilac, and the flesh is thin and brittle. *Sarcosphaera coronaria* is common from the Rocky Mountains westward, growing under conifers or, less frequently, under hardwoods. [Peziza ammophila](#) also grows submerged in the ground, but it is brown and prefers coastal sand to inland soil.

Although *Sarcosphaera coronaria* is reported as "edible" by some authors, it has affected some people negatively . . . and it doesn't look very appetizing, anyway. I do not recommend experimenting.

Description:

Ecology: [Saprobic](#); growing alone or (more commonly) in clusters, partially submerged in the ground; under conifers and hardwoods; spring, summer, or fall; common from the Rocky Mountains westward but reported in Michigan and New York.

Fruiting Body: Bowl-shaped, ball-like, or goblet-shaped when young, with a small opening near the top; usually splitting into "rays" by maturity and folding back to be star-shaped or saucer-shaped; up to 20 cm across when mature; upper/inner surface whitish becoming lilac to pale lilac brown, smooth or finely scaly; lower/outer surface whitish, roughened (and covered with dirt), sometimes bruising yellowish; stem rudimentary or absent; flesh brittle, whitish.

Microscopic Features: Paraphyses cylindrical, with rounded apices. Asci with blue tips in IKI or Melzer's reagent; 8-spored; 300-360 x 10-13 µ. Spores 14-22 x 7-9 µ; elliptical with blunt ends; with 1-3 oil droplets (most commonly with 2); smooth or slightly roughened.

Further Online Information:

[Sarcosphaera coronaria](#) at MykoWeb
[Sarcosphaera crassa](#) at Roger's Mushrooms
[Sarcosphaera coronaria](#) at Fungi of Poland





Bearded morels! Morels with roots! Has anyone out there ever encountered one? This is artists rendition of gold morels and calypso orchids. Thank you Lee!

In our area calypso orchids are found with black morels. Cottonwood trees and grassy riparian areas are associated with gold morels.

On the subject of morels, I must admit my first solo, last minute foray resulted in 5 morels. Those were found in a vicinity of water where ground was very wet. After thoroughly scouting two favorite areas I came to conclusion that those may be the only morels I'll find this spring. PPMS favorite riparian area is very dry and does not hold much hope for spring fungi.

However two agaricus sprouted on May 7 in my back yard in Monument! This took me completely by surprise considering how early it was. Coincidentally that was the day I found the 5 black morels, some orange cup fungi and something resembling Tremella foliacea.

Bits and Pieces

On behalf of all PPMS members I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Simone Thompson for being brave and taking over as the editor of Spore -Addict Times. She did great job. Big thank you goes to her husband Wilbur for providing technical support.

Despite the fact that I have been a PPMS member for many years many of you do not know me as I have not been attending meetings for the past couple of years. I'll try my best to deliver informative newsletter and in timely fashion. I think I will enjoy putting it together especially after I work out all the technical details of Microsoft Word. In the mean time please be patient with me as I cope with numerous constraints.

Do send suggestions, articles, photographs and any other related information.

I

Recipe for instant mushroom soup

I came up with this one after looking on some packaged soups in Vitamin Cottage. It is best to make a single or a double serving as the heavier ingredients settle down in a multiple serving batch. The ingredients except mushroom powder are available in bulk in Vitamin Cottage.

3 Tbs instant potato flakes
2 Tbs powdered boletes
2 tsp powdered beef broth
2 Tbs milk powder
2 tsp dried chives
14 oz water

Combine the above ingredients and simmer for 10 min. Add salt to taste. Makes single serving.

Graz Benda

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Mystery Mushroom by Elizabeth Ras

I consider myself quite dainty. My orange brow cap, 1-4cm, is conspicuously furrowed and I have dark brown scales on top. I grow on dead wood, especially aspen, solitary or a few together. I play a significant role in nature by recycling dead wood in the forest.

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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