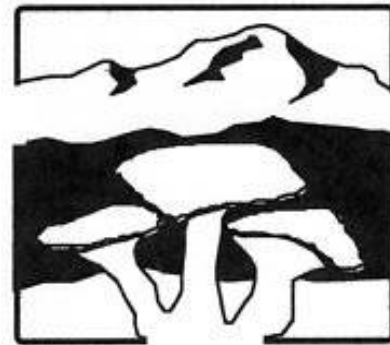


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2007

Vol. XXXIII ISSUE 2 May 2007

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? TUESDAY May 29, 2007 – YES, THIS IS A CHANGE AS WE ARE MEETING ON TUESDAY, DUE TO MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY --- TUESDAY MEETING.

WHAT TIME? 6:30 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:00 PM on TUESDAY (May 29th).

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:

The VERY SPECIAL PROGRAM for this month's meeting will be a presentation by Vera Stucky Evenson, the author of "Mushrooms of Colorado and The Southern Rocky Mountains", a book which is owned and used by many club members. Ms. Evenson is also the curator of the mycology repository and collection of the Denver Botanical Gardens. Her presentation will cover "How to Collect Mushrooms for the Herbarium of Fungi Requirements". She will also take questions following the presentation. Bring your copies of her book if you would like her to sign it for you.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

And the morel to this story is ... what a great beginning to our mycological year. Frieda Davis and Lee Barzee gave us a great program on spring mushrooms, a preview of good things to

come. The photos were the very breath of spring. We thank them both. The mystery mushroom – surprise, surprise – turned out to be *Morchella esculenta*. Everyone had it right, but Martha Zenger won the drawing. She has the challenging task of writing up a more difficult mystery mushroom for May. We thank Esther Price for taking care of refreshments. We are happy to say that Pat Gustavson will serve as vice-president, with Frieda Davis on stand-by. Our roster is complete!

Our first formal foray was to Beaver Creek. Back in Southern Illinois we were told to look for morels when oak leaves were as large as mouse ears. At Beaver Creek, it's when a wren is singing from every thicket, and the ancient apple trees are blooming. Even if we hadn't found morels, it would have been a great foray.

Lee Barzee has arranged for a very special guest presentation for the May meeting. Come prepared to enjoy and learn, and bring a friend! Jeannene Havelka and Aericha Burroughs are bringing refreshments.

Elsie

APRIL 2007 MEETING RECAP:

Our first meeting of 2007 was a great success. As of the publication date of this newsletter, several forays have been scheduled (see details below under Club Forays). As always, to keep yourself safe on a foray, all participants are asked to brush up on the Club's foray rules.

A very interesting and informative program on Spring Mushrooms was presented by Frieda and Lee, which held everyone's attention.

Pat Gustavson volunteered to serve as Vice President. Pat is also serving at the Club Librarian.

Our Secretary, Don Pelton, had his phone number erroneously listed in the April Newsletter. Don's correct phone number is 634-0817. Telemarketers, please take note.

Martha Zenger correctly guessed the Mystery Mushroom of the Month, along with 10 others. The Mystery Mushroom was *Morchella esculenta*.

PPMS Officers as of May 1, 2007

President	Elsie Pope 596-4901
Vice President	Pat Gustavson 495-4344
Secretary	Don Pelton 634-0817
Treasurer	Frieda Davis 630-7140
Hospitality	Open
Foray Coordinator	Eva Mattedi 637-9848
Newsletter Editor	Mark Burroughs 594-9453
Assistant Editor	Aericha Burroughs

Please send newsletter material to Mark at (mburroughs@coloradotech.edu).

If you would like to volunteer for an open office, please contact a club officer.

PPMS 2007 ROSTER:

The 2007 PPMS Roster continues to be tweaked for errors, omissions and so forth. Let Mark or Aericha know if you find any errors, omissions or so forth. A copy will be e mailed to all with an e mail address on file (see the roster to update or verify your e mail address). Due to some compiling problems, the printed version differs slightly from the digital version in terms of spacing. We are working on resolving these problems, so stay tuned.

FORAY REPORT:

Esther Price led several forays to get our season started:

Beaver Creek on Saturday, April 28th.
Some eight members made the trek south, and they were not disappointed. Besides enjoying a beautiful day, many good sized (and near trophy sized) morels were collected at three different areas at Beaver Creek. All participants found blond morels (*Morchella esculenta*) and black morels (*Morchella angusticeps*). Reportedly, many found these in sufficient numbers to enjoy many feasts. Jack Richards was one who found a notable trophy specimen (see picture below).



Several other mushroom specimens, besides Morels, were found. Reportedly, no snakes were encountered during this first trip.

Beaver Creek on Thursday, May 10th
Several different groups of members revisited Beaver Creek and were again rewarded with impressive Morel finds, as well as other mushroom finds. Esther reported that she was most successful when looking under old cottonwood trees and under piles of brush. Her finds included Morels that measured between 5 ½ inches to 7 inches tall, from ground to top, with fruiting body widths of around 2 inches to 3 ½ inches across.

On this trip, Esther reports that she spotted one rattlesnake, between 3 feet and 4 feet

long, who was sunning itself on a pile of brush. She gave it a wide berth, and left it at that. Esther also reported that, as part of her Mother's Day, her family took her back down to Beaver Creek on Saturday, May 12th. As they were driving into the area, her granddaughter spotted a Red Racer (like a big Garter Snake) going across the road, which appeared to measure at least 4 feet in length.

SORTING OUT MUSHROOMS:

In an effort to get a better handle on some of the terminology used by mycologists – those people who study the fungi kingdom – in sorting out and classifying the different types of mushrooms, I decided to look up some of the written wisdom on mushroom identification and classification and share it during this issue.

First, some technical stuff, which I had forgotten from my high school science courses. For organizational purposes, the smart people (scientists, experts and so forth) divide the natural world into kingdoms. There is the plant kingdom, the animal kingdom and, of course, the fungi kingdom (the one mycologists care about and study), among others. Each kingdom is then divided into subgroups, with specific names (see page 9 of Aurora's book). The result is something like this: Kingdom, Division, Subdivision, Class, Order, Family, Genus and Species. Once you are focused on the "Fungi Kingdom", the relevant groupings appear to be "Genus" and "Species". It should be noted that genus and species are typically Latinized, with the genus first letter being capitalized and the species first letter being lower case – like for the Shaggy Mane, *Coprinus comatus* (genus and species). The genus is like a person's family or last name, while the species is like the person's first name.

It appears that, for ordinary folks focusing on the fungi kingdom, genus and species are sufficient descriptors, and the other stuff in between (Division, Subdivision, Class, Order, etc.) are less important descriptors, except for the smart people, who know and use all of

the various grouping descriptors (like class and order, for example).

One more essential bit of technical information is that fungi, it turns out, may be classified by (1) how they produce their spores and (2) the type of fruit body they develop. Using spores and fruit bodies as discriminators, there are three main Divisions (or groups - see above) of fungi: the Zygomycetes (really small fungi: like thread-fungi and pin-molds – note that this is a catch all category or grouping that some texts divide differently), the Ascomycetes (so named because they produce their spores internally, like peas in a pod – see Aurora, page 4) and the Basidiomycetes (so named because they produce their spores externally, like flower pollen – see Aurora page 4).

Holding these thoughts, and focusing on the Ascomycetes and the Basidiomycetes (the Zygomycetes are too small), now go to Aurora, pages 52 through 55.

Starting with the Basidiomycetes, on page 52, the first order shown are the Agarics, from the order Agaricales. These are "gilled mushrooms". The other Basidiomycetes shown, Chanterelles, Boletes, Polyphores, etc., have differing fruit bodies (but the same spore production mechanism) and, hence, are "different" mushrooms (and, different orders).

Further, notice that on page 55, where the Ascomycetes (different spore production) orders are shown, Morels are included, along with Truffles and others, under this division grouping.

So, as can be seen, it really is possible to classify or sort out mushrooms based on their spore production and their fruit body form.

Other books I've looked at generally support this explanation, and I found all of this to be kind of interesting and kind of helpful.

Editors note

Mark Burroughs is the new 2007 editor for the newsletter and Aericha Burroughs is his assistant. You may e mail them with news, announcements or whatever at mburroughs@coloradotech.edu or call them at 594 9453 (H) or 590 6709 (W).

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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MYSTERY MUSHROOM

The mystery mushroom for April 2007 was a *Morchella esculenta*, and it was correctly guessed by 11 people. Martha Zenger was picked as the winner.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

For May 2007 - By Martha Zenger

My habitat is in coniferous and deciduous woods and my season is the autumn.

My cap is 2-4" (5-18 cm) across, domed at first before opening out to be almost flat.

My color is creamy yellow, which darkens with age, staining pale yellow when bruised.

My stem is 2-3" (6-18 cm), quite thin, equal or slightly enlarged toward base and with a clearly marked ring.

My gills are mid-pink before turning dark brown. They are free, broad, close; pallid, then gray and finally dark brown.

My flesh is white and has distinct anise smell.

My spore print is dark brown.

My reputation???

Edibility???

Examine me carefully. – WHO am I?

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.

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