

Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

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May 2009

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday, May 18, 2009 – Moved forward one week this month due to the Memorial Day Holiday. It is usually held the fourth Monday of the month.

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:

Rob Hallock, from the Denver Mycological Society, will talk about snowbanker mushrooms. Snowbanker mushrooms are the first to appear after the snow leaves the hillsides in the high country. These are very interesting species – come and join us.

Goodies after the May meeting will be provided by ...

President's Notes: by Judy Willey

Welcome to our former and new members to a new season with the Pikes Peak Mycological Society. We hope that we all have a prosperous year of foraging for our fungi. We also look forward to our new logo and website.

Thank you all for supporting my presidency. It is going to be a tough act to follow Elsie Pope. Did you see how happy and wonderful she looked at our first meeting? Thanks again, Elsie, for your years of dedication and leadership.

May 4th I found an Agaricus in the Garden of the Gods. This gives hope that we will have a good year for specimens. I look forward to our future forays.

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. If you still have not paid, please pay at the May meeting or mail the payment to PPMS, PO Box 39, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0039. Thanks!

FORAY REPORT:

April 25, Beaver Creek – A few eager Beaver Creekers turned out, but nothing was found. They did see a pair of mating red-tailed hawks as a consolation prize.

May 9, Beaver Creek – Fifteen 'shroomers' went to Beaver Creek (the wilderness area-not the ski resort) to look for morels or any other spring mushrooms. It was DRY and warm-the grass was 12-14" high with 4-5"of dried up tops. Only one very small dry Morchella esculenta and a tiny collection of tiny parasol mushrooms were found. Nature did provide the scent of sweet current blossoms and some long-ago fruit trees were still blooming . A geo.cache was found. Four hunters continued to Bear Creek for some Pleurotus. A beautiful, enjoyable day (even without 'shrooms) for everyone! By Esther Price.

FORAY SCHEDULE

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 Esther Price at 632-5880. Esther is also the contact for ad hoc forays. Check with her to see if anyone has decided to go on an ad hoc foray that does not appear on the schedule.** Some forays will probably be to unscouted areas. Foray leaders do not guarantee success.

The Snowbanker's trip, usually held in June, has not been scheduled as yet. The date will depend upon the snowmelt.

There will be a joint foray with the Denver club this summer. The date is not yet determined.

Photo Gallery:

These photos are all taken from Frieda's April program presentation.



Lepiota rachodes – past its prime. Photo by Annette Campbell



Lepiota – more all in a row. Photo by Annette Campbell



Annette's Dinner Plate



Mushroom People – Jack Richards and Christa Howard. Photo by Christa Howard.



Bud Bennett found this Phallus multicolor in Cairns, Australia.

Newsorthy:

Scientists believe mushrooms may be a secret weapon in the fight against flu

New research shows that eating mushrooms can help fight off infections and viruses by boosting the body's natural immune system.

Mushrooms also improved hormone-like proteins called cytokines that play an important role in defending the body against viral infections and tumours.

The research, carried out at Tufts University in Massachusetts, America, studied what happened to people's immune systems after eating white button mushrooms.

Dietitian Glenn Cardwell welcomed the research, saying: "Laboratory research found the intake of mushrooms may promote innate immunity – the body's first line of defence – against viruses.

"Further studies involving influenza infection are now under way to test these findings."

Mr Cardwell said the current trials are examining the impact of different mushroom intake levels against the flu virus.

He added: "What they are essentially looking for is how mushrooms – one of Nature's true superfoods – can be used as a real food 'elixir of immunity' to help prevent influenza."

Mr Cardwell said concerns over the impact of influenza, particularly swine flu, highlighted the need to eat a balanced diet including foods that can naturally boost the immune system.

"While it is always tempting to reach for a quick fix vitamin or medical supplement, real food alternatives, such as the mushroom, are a healthier long term choice," he said.

Driving on Mushroom Fumes

Excerpted from Forbes Magazine dated May 25, 2009

Microbiologist Gary Strobel has ventured deep into nearly every big rain forest on earth. Wearing his jaunty red knit cap, he has frolicked with lemurs in Madagascar and stared down deadly fer-de-lance snakes in Ecuador. Strobel scours the jungles for specialized bacteria and fungi. He bags his quarry in a Ziploc, and hauls it back to his lab at Montana State University.

Strobel seeks microbes called endophytes. They live on every plant, often in symbiosis with their host. This symbiosis often spurs endophytes

to create novel and useful substances. "Mother Nature does not work with single compounds. It's the family that gets the job done," he explains. Over three decades Strobel, 70, has licensed more than 20 specimens to the likes of Eli Lilly, Chevron and Dow Chemical.

It can be years before he knows what he's got. In 2001 he brought back twigs of an ulmo tree from Chile's Patagonian rain forest on which lived the fungus *Gliocladium roseum*. It wasn't until 2007 that Strobel discovered that the fungus emitted a remarkable mixture of volatile gases. "When I found out what these gases were, every hair on my arms stood up and I began to shake," he says. Octane, heptane, pentane, esters of nonanol, heptanol, hexanol--all hydrocarbons common to diesel fuel. His realization: The gases could potentially be bottled and put into an engine.

This "mycodiesel" (after the Greek word for fungus) could be his biggest find ever. Strobel cautions that fermenting fungus into huge vats of cheap biodiesel is still years away. First, he has to figure out how to vastly increase the fume production. Even then, there is no guarantee of commercial success. The biodiesel market is in bad shape at the moment, competing as it does with fuel made from \$50-a-barrel oil.

A New Look For The Newsletter

The prospect of a new logo and more color for the "Spore Addict Times" was discussed during the April meeting. PPMS members voted to proceed with a contest for a new logo. There is a \$25 prize for the winning entry. If you think you have a good idea for a new logo, send it thither to your friendly newsletter editor (in any format – soft or hard copy) and it will be automatically entered in the contest. The more colorful banner of this issue is just a thought starter.

Our Very Own Website

Gwyn Quillen's daughter, Amber Meola, of Meola Design, has prototyped a website for us. Check it out at: <http://www.pikespeakmushrooms.org>. A steering committee for the website was created at the April meeting. The committee consists of Gwyn Quillen, Bud Bennett, Dennis Craig (and kibitzer Bill Halvelka). Contact any committee member with a concern or suggestion regarding the website.

We also have a new contact email for the club: PPMSmail@gmail.com.

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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April's Mystery Mushroom was Polyporus arcularius. All four entries were correct.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

by Bud Bennett

I am good sized and young – about 3 inches across my smooth, convex cap. My cap is also a lovely shade of lavender and the edge is inrolled. My gills are decurrent, close and grayish purple in color. My stalk is equal and stocky and fibrillose. If you take my spore print it will be pinkish.

It is late summer and I am partying with a few of my siblings in a compost pile.

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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