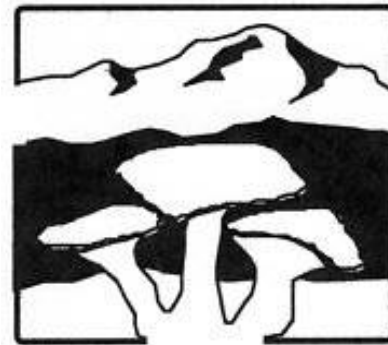


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974 – 2007

Vol. XXXIII

ISSUE 6 September 2007

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday September 24, 2007 – The Fourth Monday.

WHAT TIME? 6:30 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, September 24, 2007.

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:

A special program by Lee Barzee this month will address “Having Fun With Fungi: Taste, Joy, Intrigue, Sex and Drama!” This presentation will have something for everyone.

PRESIDENT’S NOTES:

What can I say? I wasn’t there. Two days after the hornet sting I was finally able to wear a shoe. I hear I missed a good one too. Ken Pals’ Jeopardy was so good that they went into Double Jeopardy! I hope you all learned some fungi facts to add to your store of mushroom lore. Thanks, Ken, for another fine program.

In September, our peerless founder, Lee Barzee will present a fascinating program, and, again, we will learn more about our favorite subject.

We thank Lee for the refreshments at our last meeting and Pat Gustavson, Vice President for

presiding so ably over the August meeting. Since I missed bringing refreshments last month, I’ll help Willi Walker who volunteered ‘way last spring.

AUGUST 2007 MEETING RECAP:

Over 20 enthusiastic members and guests attended the August meeting. As reported above, Vice President Pat Gustavson stepped into the meeting leadership role, due to Elsie’s encounter with the hornet (NOTE: possible fine for Elsie for disturbing the hornet’s “space” without permission). Never the less, with steely eyed resolve and uncompromising determination, Pat, assisted by the gavel, skillfully directed the meeting and maintained decorum.

Several guests from a local hiking club attended our meeting, and two of them offered cautionary stories about the consequences of eating mushrooms of uncertain origin or type. A key point that was made was that mushrooms in the U.S. may differ from similar looking specimens in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world. The bottom line, with regard to mushrooms, is always be sure of what you’ve got before consuming them.

The recent overnight trip to Buena Vista and St. Elmo was discussed at length, and all agreed that it was a super experience from start to finish. Over 20 club members participated in different portions of the trip.

But, as it turned out, the Pinon Court was a little inconsistent in giving members their club discount – some received it and some didn’t. Also, Frieda reported on the motel manager’s intransigence regarding the clean up and disposal of trash. For future trips, the club may be well

advised to look elsewhere for hospitality and lodging.

Regardless, the Buena Vista evening get together and bar b q, prior to the next day's foray to St. Elmo, was a great success. The food was delicious, the banter was entertaining and the setting was perfect. While it is hard to pick a single highlight for the evening and the trip, the opportunity to see the International Space Station and the U.S. Space Shuttle pass overhead in close formation just after 9 PM (MDT), had to be near the top of the list of highlights – thanks to Judy for getting the information on this. What a sight!

The next day saw the group going to St. Elmo depart promptly on schedule at 9 AM by car caravan. The road to St. Elmo is surprisingly well marked and drivable, with beautiful scenery to entertain riders during the trip up the mountain. The day's weather was perfect for a foray, and the environment around St. Elmo seems to host a wide variety of fungi.

As Lee reported to the August meeting, during the St. Elmo foray portion of the trip, (and I think I got these numbers right) the group collectively picked a total of 53 different species of fungi, of which 12 were choice edibles and 6 were poisonous – quite a haul by any measure. The consensus seemed to be that the Buena Vista/St. Elmo club trip was one of the best ever.

Following the discussion about the Buena Vista/St. Elmo trip, Frieda introduced some discussion about our dues policy for new members during the year they join. The issue appears to be on the date of membership and the dues assessment for that year. The policy has been that a new member joining on or after September 15th does not pay dues for that calendar year. However, a previous policy may apply whereby a new member joining on or after August 1st does not pay dues for that calendar year. Frieda asked Don to research the club archives to determine if there is an older policy on dues for new members during the year they join the club. Don will do so and report his findings at the September meeting.

Frieda also discussed a pending Ph.D. dissertation effort related to mushrooms, where a

Duke University student, Bernadette O'Reilly is asking if anyone has found *Entoloma abortivum*, or aborted *Entoloma*. If so, please note the date, collector's name and site data (GPS location is a bonus). Keep mushrooms from different sites separate. Include a photo if possible – Frieda can provide further information.

Frieda also reported on a web tool offered by the Denver club to identify mushrooms. The web site is www.mushroomexpert.com.

Tom reported on his visit to the Telluride Mushroom Festival. He said there were between 100 and 200 participants, and the presentations and exhibits were excellent.

Lee Barzee raffled off a chip and dip dish for the benefit of the club. It was won by Gerry Wyatt.

Finally, Ken Pals led several sessions of Mushroom Jeopardy. He also talked a little about his role with the Fountain Creek Nature Center, which addresses such areas as plants, bugs and mushrooms.

Lee Barzee graciously provided very enjoyable refreshments for the social time following our meeting.

As always, please send newsletter materials to Mark in time for publication in the newsletter (e mail: amburroughs@comcast.net or US mail: Mark Burroughs, 5806 Spurwood Court, Colorado Springs, CO 80918).

FORAY REPORT:

Besides the Buena Vista/St. Elmo trip and foray reported on above, the forays about which I have received info are described below.

Foray #1: On August 26th, Bud and Renee Bennett visited the Wet Mountains and were able to travel to the end of National Forest Road 369 (see discussion in August Newsletter – Foray Report). There, they were able to collect more than three pounds of *Boletus edulus*! Bud reported that there was evidence of heavy picking in some areas at that location.

Other Forays: Several other forays have taken place, but no foray reports about them have been received at press time. Please don't forget to take a minute to send an e mail

(amburroughs@comcast.net) or make a phone call (594-9453) to Mark or Aericha so that the results of your foray can be appropriately publicized in the club newsletter.

Picnic: While it technically doesn't count as a foray, Mark and Aericha Burroughs decided to take a trip to the Cheyenne – Laramie, Wyoming area on August 12th. Reportedly, Wyoming Route 130, which parallels I-80 for about 40 miles to the south (begins outside of Laramie and ends just east of Rawlins) has a nice picnic location at Mirror Lake. Mirror Lake is all that it is advertised to be, and it was a very enjoyable time. Following the picnic, the question naturally arose as to what mushrooms might reside in the area, as it is at about 8,000 to 9,000 feet and has lots of conifers and aspens. A stroll through the woods at several spots yielded a few chanterelles, lots of other mushrooms but no white matsutake mushrooms (*Tricholoma magnivelare* – Evenson p. 108). The white matsutake is regarded as the *crème de la crème* of mushrooms by many oriental gourmets, and it is aggressively sought after by mushroom pickers in the southern Rocky Mountains (see end note, below). Disclosure: We had heard that there might be white matsutake mushrooms in the area, which partly motivated the trip. The reality was that we didn't find any matsutake, but we may have been too far to the west. In any event, at one stop on the western slope of WY 130 we did hit pay dirt by finding (actually Aericha found them) an eight foot wide circle of chanterelles – they were prime and choice and big, so that alone justified the trip.

Mushroom Info Sources: Prior to the Wyoming trip, Aericha had discovered that an oriental food store in Aurora, CO (Han A Rum) was selling white matsutake mushrooms (Evenson, page 108) for \$7 a pound. The same store was also offering some young white matsutake mushrooms for \$12 to \$15 a pound as well. Anyway, upon following up with the store and its Korean proprietors, it was revealed that this was an especially good season for white matsutake mushrooms of the Wyoming variety, and since the supply was up, the price was down. The supply remained high for about a week, but then the harvest fell, and there were no more to

be had. This suggests that tracking the availability and supply of desirable mushrooms at selected food stores may offer insight about the availability of those mushrooms in the woods – just an idea, but it might prove helpful. Of course some retail outlets sell farm grown mushrooms, rather than naturally grown mushrooms from the woods, so the source aspect has to be considered.

One other piece of useful information might be of interest – according to some knowledgeable oriental mushroom gourmets, the Wyoming variety of the matsutake is preferred to the Colorado variety. The Wyoming soil composition in the mountains can differ considerably from that in Colorado. For example, there is more quartz stone (the shiny stuff) in the Wyoming mountain soil than at comparable mountain locations in Colorado (we have lots of plain old granite – the dull stuff). Also, there are likely climatic conditions that differ between the two states. In any event, the taste of the Wyoming variety of Matsutake is valued more highly than the Colorado variety, or so the story goes.

White Matsutake Specimen???: A church acquaintance of Aericha's recently gave her a couple of suspected white matsutake mushroom specimens that she had picked at an undisclosed location in Colorado with some other friends (exact locations generally seem to be a closely guarded secret). Aericha plans to bring these specimens to the club meeting next week. They appear to match the written descriptions offered in Evenson, page 108 – *Tricholoma magnivelare*, but there are also some similarities to page 107 – *Tricholoma zelleri*. We hope that our club experts can offer some insight.

End Note: As a final comment, we have been advised that mushroom picking is very serious business to some of the folks who provide them to specialty food stores. Accordingly, if you encounter some of these folks in the woods, you likely can NOT expect to be sitting around a campfire later on and singing Kum Bye Ya together – just something to think about when you are out there on the edge.

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 August 2007 was a *Russula brevipes*, parasitized by *Hypomyces lactiflorum* (Evenson, p 76), and it was correctly guessed by several people. Lee Barzee was picked as the winner.

MYSTERY MUSHROOM

For September 2007 - By Lee Barzee

When young, my cap is darkish brown (the diameter measurement may double your pocket metric ruler).

My white gills are decurrent, my flesh hard.

My thick stipe tapers downward deep into the soil.

I have a double membranous veil. No spice odor.

I'm usually found under sub alpine conifers.
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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