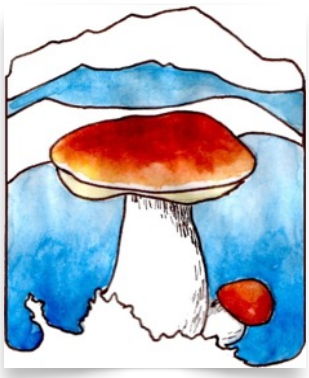
The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society 1974 - 2015 Vol. XLI Issue 6 September 2015

Spore-Addict Times



MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday, September 28, 2015 – The fourth Monday of the month.

WHAT TIME? 6:30 pm; The meeting will come to order at 7:00 pm.

WHERE? Bear Creek Park, Administration Building

Website: www.pikespeakmushrooms.org

Contact: PPMSmail@gmail.com

PROGRAM:

Bud Bennett will present a photo summary of this summer's photos that were submitted by club members. There was a quite a bit of variety this year due to the rainfall early in the summer, so there should be plenty to different species to see.

Last Chance to Send Photos

In order for this month's program to be successful your mushroom photos are needed. Send them via email to the club contact.

Last Month's Meeting Notes:

Britt's presentation was on "The strange things that mushrooms do":

1st part of the story:

Someone found a "solid-stem morel", weird part is that this "morel" has basidio spores, Kathy Kripps, an editor of Fungi Magazine, worked on this mushroom for a year. Turns out, it was a Cortinarius scoralatus - first time seen in France over a hundred years ago, a basidio mycete cortinarius. Seems like it turned itself inside out.

2nd part of this weird story comes ..

His son calls him to look at these puff-balls, was persistent. cut in half, and it started milking out. Turns out, it's not a puffball, but a zelleromyces cinnabarinus a sequestrate lactarius.

There are many other examples of mushrooms that morph/evolve into other forms to sustain life. For example: Macowanites sp. - psuedo-truffle form of a russula – almost all genera of mushrooms have a hypogeous species.

There is parallel evolution of the mycelial body plan.

The deadly galerina contains amatoxins, found in amanitas. Galerina marginata, rust brown spores. Amatoxins have evolved many times. It's toxic to humans, but not all animals. A. muscaria does not have amatoxin, but has muscamole and muscarines; inocybe contains muscarin and psilocybin

Habitat dictates the way a mushroom evolves. Evolution has led to "...endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful..."

If you're frustrated with perpetual name changes, don't blame the taxonomists. Blame the fungi!

Foray Report — by Hoa Pham

PPMS Foray #6: Emerald Valley, Wye Campground, Clyde w/ Britt Bunyard

Date: 8/18/2015

Total Foray Attendance: 12

Hoa Pham, Brian Barzee, Britt Bunyard, Mike Essam, Joanne & Mark Williams, Rita Soller, LeRad Nilles, Willi Walker, Rich & Cris Mock, Emma Gerhold.

Our foray group started off at the El Paso County Park Admin Building Tuesday at 9:30am and headed to Emerald Valley where we spent about 45 minutes

along a creek bed. We collected a number of scientific finds and headed to the Wye campground.

On the way to the Wye, we came across a big ol' bull elk and Britt ran into the forest to get better pictures … probably not the brightest idea, but heck, he made it back in one piece and got a couple nice pictures of the beastie! Once at the Wye campground, we forayed for an hour or so and had lunch and Britt helped us identify our finds and explained how to recognize distinguishing traits of certain mushrooms.

Mike Essam is intent upon an identification

From the Wye, we moved onward to our last stop at Clyde and forayed for a couple hours, some individuals left a little early and the foray officially ended around 4:30pm. Brian, Mike and Britt continued on to the end of FS RD 376 (McReynolds Reservoir)

Here are some (but not all) of the species found on the entire foray, courtesy of Vera Evenson: Clavulina cinerea, Clavulina rugosa, Calocera viscosa, Floccularia fusca, Clavariadelphus ligula, Floccularia albolanaripes, Geastrum saccatum, Hygrophorus inocybiformis, Agaricus cf. arvensis, Clavariadelphus cf ligula, Lepiota magnispora, Lactarius repraesentaneus, Russula sanguinea, Hydnellum suaveolens, Gyromitra infula, plus a Galerina, Gymnopus, Inocybe, Albatrellus, Lactarius cf barrowsii, Amanita muscaria var. flavivolvata, Cantarellus roseocanus, Helvella crispa, Fomitopsis cajanderi, Trametes hirsuta, Clitocybe cf cerrusata, Marasmius sp., Polyporus cf badia, Leccinum aurantiacum, Leccinum insigne.

Amanita barrowsii

Take a Hike

by Bud Bennett

This August we had two grandkids for a week. They could not be more different in their outlooks – the 12 year-old is not athletic and prefers to spend his time playing video games on any device he can get away with. Going outside is complete anathema. The 9 year-old is very athletic and always on the go. It is a challenge finding an activity that both will like to do.

We got the usual groans when we announced that we were going mushroom hunting one morning. On the way to the trailhead we told them we would add an additional 15 minutes to the hike every time we heard anything resembling whining. By the time we arrived 30 minutes was tacked on.

We did not see any mushrooms for the first mile or so, but then they made sporadic appearances. The boys began to get excited and kept calling, "Hey Grandpa, what's this one?" or, "Can we eat this one?" Most of what we found was a Russula of some sort, and quite a few LBMs. Further into the cooler, moister part of the forest we found some chanterelles - quite old and moldy.

The big find of the day was a plethora of wood ears (Auricularia auricula). They were sprouting on the downed spruce uphill of the trail. I don't think I'd every seen so many in years past. We collected them on the way back to the car. Both boys were climbing all over the trees like monkeys holding fistfuls of the dark fungus. We had over three pounds of them collected by the end of the hike.

More importantly, the whining never happened. The boys had joined in the thrill of the hunt and even suggested going further than we had planned, just to see what we would find around the corner.

For lunch that day we had tortellini mushroom soup. There were no complaints.

Could a Mushroom Save the Honeybee?

Scientists say the mysterious phenomenon, known as colony collapse disorder, may be the result of at least 60 environmental factors that combine to cripple honeybees – including pesticides, disease, malnutrition, loss of habitat and climate change.

But at a bee laboratory in eastern Washington, Steve Sheppard fills their feeding tubes with murky brown liquid from the forest. His bees are getting a healthy dose of mushroom juice.

If left untreated, varroa mites typically destroy a colony of honeybees in less than two years. Varroa mites have devastated U.S. beehives since the late 1980s, when they arrived here from Asia. The reddish-brown pests, which are no bigger than the head of a pin, invade colonies and multiply rapidly. They hide among bee larvae developing in the honeycomb, feed on infant bee blood and lay several eggs each.

Paul Stamets and Sheppard are feeding liquid extracts of wood-rotting mushrooms to mite-infected honeybees. Initial findings suggest that five species of the wood-rotting fungi can reduce the honeybees' viruses and increase their lifespans.

In addition, the scientists are trying to fight honeybee viruses by taking aim at the varroa mite itself. Insect-killing fungi have been used as an alternative to synthetic chemical pesticides for years, and previous studies show that one type of entomopathogenic fungus can weaken varroa mites in beehives. This fall, the scientists plan to expand both experiments by partnering with commercial beekeepers.

The Pikes Peak Mycological Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of mycology, publishes Spore-Addict Times monthly from April-September. Membership is open to anyone wanting to study mycology. Annual dues are $25 for individual and family memberships ($30 for a printed newsletter). **Submission of ideas, articles, reviews, letters, artwork and recipes are welcome.**

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Last month's entry was Hygrocybe acutoconica

Mystery Mushroom

What am I?

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