



PIKES PEAK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 1980

November Meeting. Our last meeting of the year will be Monday, 3 November, at 7:30 pm at Rastall Center on the Colorado College campus - probably Room 212. We've ordered two sets of NAMA slides on the identification of gilled, white-spored mushrooms, just to keep in practice and to whet your appetites for spring.

Some People Can't Wait for Spring! Frank and Judy Urban don't want to wait, so they're leaving for Australia and New Zealand to hunt for mushrooms - it'll be spring and summer while they're there. We'll expect a report at the first meeting of 1981, probably in March or April. I know they're taking their copy of Miller along with them.

Books made it too!
Books and T-Shirts. Here we've got good news and bad news. The good news is that the T-Shirts are in. The bad news is that the books aren't. With a little luck they'll be here by the meeting.

Research - Good and Bad News Too.

First, the good news. The New England Journal of Medicine (as reported in the October 1980 Reader's Digest) says that mushrooms are good for your heart. Scientists have found that Auricularia polytricha, the "tree ear" fungus of China, slows clumping of blood platelets which reduces some problems associated with heart disease.

Next, some bad news. A respiratory disease, called Mushroom Worker's Lung, has been identified among some workers at commercial mushroom farms. This apparently is an allergic reaction that results in chest pain, breathing difficulties, headaches, nausea, and fever. The culprit is the spore of Aspergillus fumigatus, a common fungus found in the compost used at the mushroom farms (Science News, August 23, 1980).

Finally, more good news. An application of modern fermentation techniques has resulted in development of a liquid compost that can be prepared in less than one day (as opposed to three weeks for traditional techniques). This process conserves fuel, space, time, and materials, and sounds like it should result in lower commercial mushroom prices. (Science News, September 13, 1980).

SEE YOU AT THE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd MEETING !!!

QUESTIONNAIRE - SPRING 1981

1. What did you like about the club during the past year?
2. What didn't you like about it?
3. Are you happy with the current meeting times (First Monday at 7:30)?
If not, when would be better for you?
4. Are you interested in taking George Grimes Basic Mushroom Identification Class this year or do you know of anyone else who might be? How many?
5. Are you interested in taking Linnea Gilman's Microscopy Class this year?

Do you have a microscope we might use for the class?

6. STRAW BALLOT for Officers and Committees

President _____	Foray _____
Vice-President _____	Refreshment _____
Secretary _____	Newsletter _____
Treasurer _____	Telephone _____

Please feel free to put your own name down if you want a particular office or job.

MEMBERSHIP

Please enter/renew my/our membership in the Pikes Peak Mycological Society for 1981.

NAMES (all family members): _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Memberships are \$5 perfamily. Make checks payable to Pikes Peak Mycological Society. Send to: Judy Urban; 22 Crossland Rd.; Colorado Springs, CO 80906.