

February, 1982

PIKES PEAK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Now that the robins have returned and most of the snow melted, are you anxious to get back to thinking of our favorite subject, MUSHROOMS? We may have more winter, but at least it is feeling a lot better outside right now. FEBRUARY MEETING - Doctor Robert Smith of the Colorado Springs Medical Center will speak at our February meeting. It will be held at Rastall Center, upstairs, at 7:30 p. m., Monday, February 22nd. The talk will be on Poisonous Mushrooms. Bob is well acquainted with the subject, since he is on the hot line for the Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center 1-800-332-3073, and the Poison Center of Penrose Hospital in Colorado Springs. He and his wife, Helen, have been avid collectors for years and have spoken before this group on other facets of mushrooming. We are very pleased to have one from our club share with us so willingly. GEORGE GRIMES will not give his annual Mushroom Identification Class this year. His health requires more rest, and he is spending this time to re-work his class and slides. We wish him good health, and look forward to next year, when we can ALL take his brand new class.

According to Viola Garrett, our Treasurer, the first of the year marks the time for our yearly dues. They are \$5.00 a year for a single or family membership. You may wish to take care of this at the meeting, or perhaps mail, her address is 117 North 15th, Colo. Spgs., CO 80904. Phone 634-5248. We would appreciate your cooperation in renewing your membership for another glorious year.

DENVER COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING. On February 23rd (the day after our monthly meeting), Tom Flynn has invited us to Denver to attend. It will be at 7:30 p.m. at George Grimes' Recreation Room of his apartment complex on 1223 Race. His phone number is 333-0914. Everyone from our club is invited, but especially the officers and committee chairmen. They inform us that it will help with our plans for the summer Mushroom Fair. Since carpooling would be appropriate, if you wish to attend, call Barbara Laura at home 633-9447, or at work 578-6362.

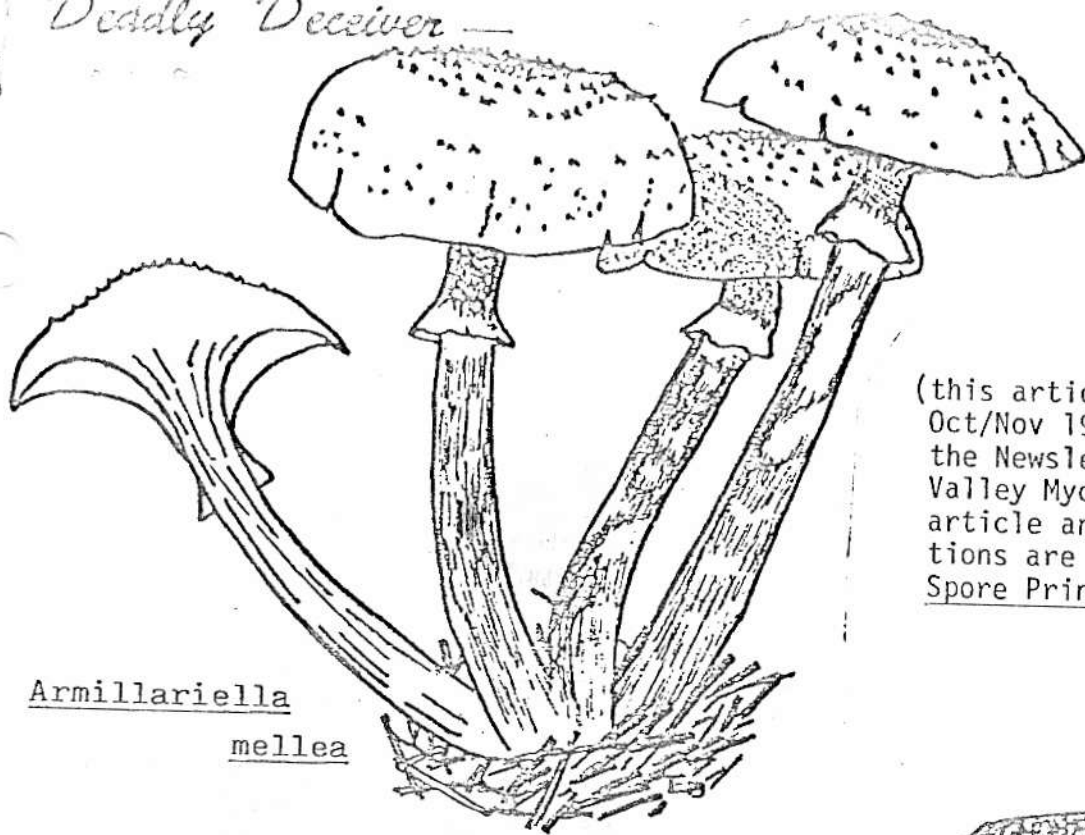
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE met in February on the first warm day. Exciting plans are being worked on for the Spring meetings. They are also working as a nominating committee. If you are called, please seriously consider giving a little extra time to the club. If you feel that you do have the time and interest to participate a little more than just the meeting and forays, please don't be bashful, step forward and call Tedd Hinton at 599-7340. If you have suggestions for the coming year, or criticisms for the past year, please call any of your board. We welcome the input.

Barbara Laura, Pres. 633-9447

Darlene Hinton, Sec. 599-7340

Pat Gustavson, Vice. Pres. 495-4344

Viola Garrett, Treas. 634-6705

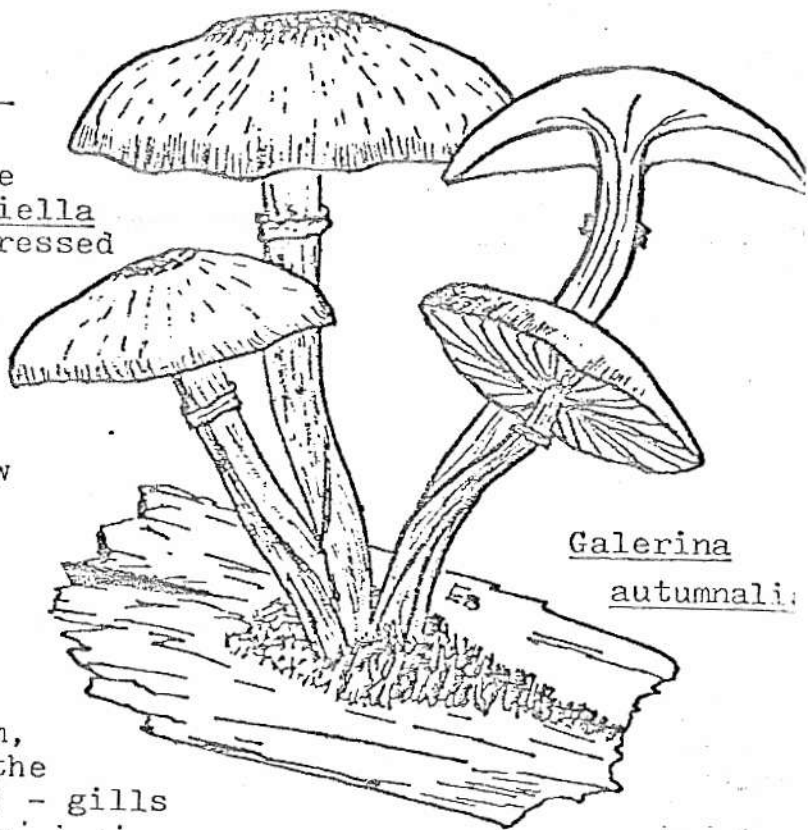


Armillariella
mellea

(this article is reprinted from the Oct/Nov 1981 issue of Spore Print, the Newsletter of the Connecticut Valley Mycological Society. The article and the excellent illustrations are by Ed Bosman, Editor of Spore Print.)

GALERINA Autumnalis —

...can be a deadly deceiver if you are gathering "honey mushrooms", Armillariella mellea. This lesson was indelibly impressed upon members attending the October 25th foray where we found Galerina autumnalis growing profusely at the base of a large beech tree. At first glance, they were dead ringers for the "honey mushrooms"...except, upon closer inspection, the brownish-yellow caps were slightly viscid - not dry with black tufts of "hairs" dotting the cap surface as in A. mellea. The underlying caps were rusty-brown from spore deposits...we would have expected a white dusting if they had been "honeys". Again, like A. mellea, there was a white ring around the stem, but nowhere near as durable. Finally the gill attachment (see sectionals above) - gills



Galerina
autumnalis

are bluntly attached to the stem in Galerina autumnalis, not decurrent (running down the stem) as in Armillariella mellea.

The differences are not only of academic interest to the pothunter, since Galerina autumnalis contains the cyclopeptide toxins present in the deadly amanitas. A careless error by the eager pothunter could be fatal. Like A. mellea, G. autumnalis grows on decaying hardwood logs and stumps, and has been found growing alongside A. mellea. G. autumnalis is not common, but common enough on occasion to warrant caution. The two are different enough for the beginner to tell apart - if you know the characteristics of the mushroom that you are collecting. (G. marginata, equally deadly, is similar to G. autumnalis in all respects except it is usually smaller, and it is not viscid.)