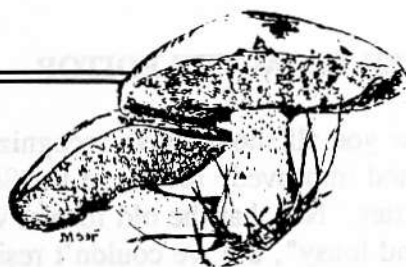

SPORE-ADDICT TIMES



Pikes Peak Mycological Society of Colorado Springs

April 1990

MEETING TOPIC

The April meeting will take place on Monday the 23rd of April, the fourth Monday of the Month, in the Downstairs Conference Room at the Otero Savings Bank at the intersection of Highway 115 and East Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard. As customary, the meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the call to order at 7:30 p.m.

The program will be a mushroom identification workshop, led by Lee Barzee. This will be a multi-lingual, multi-media event as all members will be comparing Lee's slides and descriptions against mushroom guide books. Everyone is required to bring one or more field guides, preferably guides initially written in foreign languages (and translated) or an unfamiliar guide. Lee will also give us tips on using guides by more efficient methods than flipping through the mushroom pictures until you see one that looks like the specimen you're trying to identify.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Dues are due. Please send \$10.00 to Liz Ras, 1014 Arturus Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 or pay at the April Meeting. You need to pay soon to guarantee uninterrupted membership privileges and continued newsletters.

We are pleased to announce the Officers for 1990:

President: Walter Johnson 591-6788
Vice president: Mary Will 599-0118
Secretary: Annette Campbell 593-9912
Treasurer: Liz Ras 473-1248

The Otero Savings Bank will probably be this year's regular meeting place as Colorado College has adopted a new policy prohibiting meetings for outside clubs. As next month's meeting would fall on Memorial Day, May 28th, we will probably need to reschedule.

Please help us have an interesting year by taking a few minutes to respond to the attached survey of potential meeting topics. Your input is needed and will be very much appreciated.

FORAYS

We would like to thank the following people for their help on the foray calling committee:

Lee Barzee 634-4715
Doris Bennett 597-5410
Mike Chladek 597-6723
Frieda Davis 630-7140
George Singer 390-8271

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By now you all should have recognized the "new and improved" format of the Society's newsletter. Not that the old format was "old and lousy", but we couldn't resist playing with the column format. We have also initiated this Letter from the Editor feature to replace last year's Presidential Pabulum. As pabulum literally means "...insipid piece of writing..." you will note that not much has changed.

I enjoyed being the president and editor last year and I hope to complete another year as your mycologically oriented, esoterically inclined, editor-in-chief.

If you would like to see your viewpoint expressed in this newsletter feature, please contact Ray Acciardi at (719) 634-8081.

UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

TELLURIDE MUSHROOM CONFERENCE will be held August 23-26, 1990. This is the tenth anniversary of the Conference and a very special program has been planned to celebrate this event.

Plenary sessions of the Conference will be addressed by Terence McKenna (The Invisible Landscape) on Hallucinogenic Mushrooms and Shamanism; and by Ray Sokolov (The Fading Feast: A Compendium of Disappearing American Regional Foods) on Mushroom Cookery.

Other courses will be conducted by: Gary Lincoff (Audubon Field Guide to North American Mushrooms) on Mushroom Identification; Paul Stamets (The Mushroom Cultivator) on Mushroom Cultivation; Andrew Weil (Health and Healing) on Psychoactive Mushrooms and Mushroom

Cookery; John Corbin on Growing Mushrooms on Straw; Linnea Gillman on Rocky Mountain Mushrooms; and Emanuel Salzman (Mushroom Poisoning) on Poisonous Mushrooms.

The forest in the Telluride area generally produce a wide variety of wild mushrooms - particularly edible species. Daily forays will be held in the national Forests surrounding Telluride. For more information contact Fungophile at (303) 296-9359.

MUSHROOM OF THE MONTH

If any of you were lucky enough to see the movie BEAR, you know that *Amanita muscaria* was depicted to give the bear cub some very cute and pretty hallucinations. Fatal (usually) only in large doses, the major toxin in this mushroom is ibotenic acid which converts to muscimol. Real life reactions, according to David Arora in Mushrooms Demystified, commonly are nausea and vomiting, but principally the toxin effects the central nervous system. Confusion, drowsiness, mild euphoria, loss of muscular coordination, profuse sweating, chills, visual distortion, sometimes hallucination, delusions, and/or convulsions are common. This mushroom has been used for centuries as both an intoxicant and a hallucinogen. Treatment of muscimol poisoning is largely supportive, reassuring the victim that the effects are temporary.

Identification of *Amanita muscaria* is not difficult. Most distinctive is the bright orange to red caps covered with dense warts (universal veil remnants) in young specimens.