

Spore-Addict Times

The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

October 1991

Enduring the off season

Are you concerned about what you will do during the long winter months when there are no forays, no Society meetings? Are you already missing the thrill of harvesting baskets full of boletes and chanterelles? Don't despair. Society members have a variety of ideas for directing your mushrooming energies.

First of all, the season for finding edibles is not necessarily over. Annette Campbell claims she's found *Flammulina velutipes* in December in a city park. She also says that it is neither too late, nor too cold for *Pleurotus* sp. to fruit, if it would only rain.

Lee Barzee suggests dusting off your camera equipment and practicing your photography. Come spring, you'll be ready to capture the first mushrooms on film with greater skill than ever.

Of course you can always cook up some of your dried or frozen wild harvest. The smell of mushrooms simmering (or baking, or frying) on the stove will make any home seem cozier when it's cold outside.

Finally, if you tire of cooking and photography, you might try Lori Ligon's plan: let the memories of this bountiful year's foray's sustain you until spring.

PPMS learns about poisons

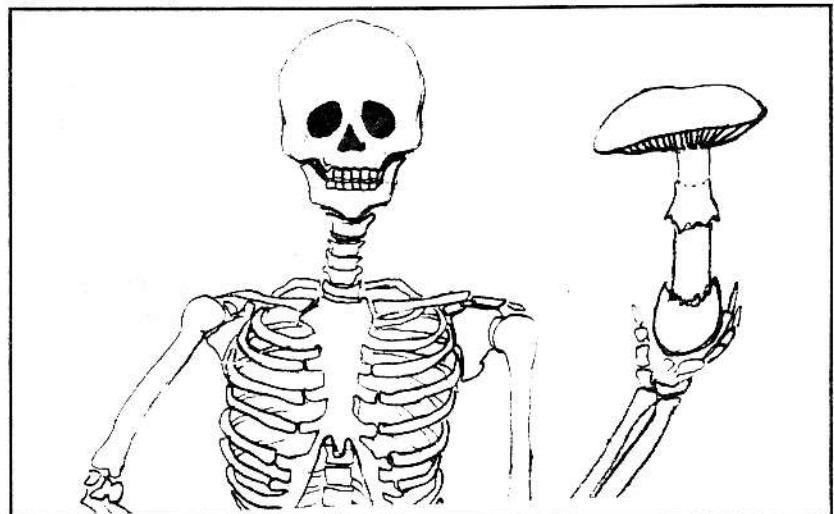
by Annette Campbell

The presentation given by Marilyn Shaw in September was both interesting and informative. Marilyn is on call for the Rocky Mountain Poison Center as their expert in mushroom identification.

Approximately 20% of the calls she receives involve an actual poisoning. When working on a suspected poisoning case, she projects a tentative identification of the mushroom by asking questions on the phone about the mushroom's characteristics, its habitat, and the symptoms of the person (or animal) who is ill. If necessary, she then asks that the mushroom be brought to her home in order to examine it microscopically, while staying in touch with the poison center.

A slide show accompanied her descriptions of several recent cases and a brief explanation of the eight classes of poisonings. The most frequently involved mushroom in the Denver area has been *Chlorophyllum molybdites*, a common and handsome mushroom found in lawns and grassy places. Others mentioned were *Amanita pantherina* and *A. muscaria* (involving both humans and animals), and *Panaeolus foenisecii* ("mower's mushroom"). A couple of mushrooms usually considered edible, but sometimes causing problems are *Marasmius oreades* and *Leccinum* species.

Marilyn's presentation should help PPMS members recognize the toxic mushrooms of the area and avoid becoming statistics for the NAMA poison case registry.



Don't let this happen to you! (art by Annette Campbell)

Members approve liability waiver

At the September meeting of PPMS, members approved the new liability waiver that all members and foray guests are now required to sign. It is reproduced at right for informational purposes only.

Members who have not yet signed the waiver should contact the Society secretary to obtain an official copy. The secretary maintains a file of all signed waivers.

PIKES PEAK MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY LIABILITY WAIVER

I hereby acknowledge that there are inherent risks involved in the collection, identification and ingestion of wild mushrooms.

In consideration of this acknowledgement, the acceptance of these risks, and my voluntary participation in any activity relating to the Pikes Peak Mycological Society, I agree to assume these risks and hold the Society, its members and their guests harmless from any claim for damage or injury which I, any member of my immediate family, or my guests, may suffer as a direct or indirect result of these activities. It is my intent to be legally restrained from asserting any claim connected herewith and I understand that this agreement is unconditional and may not be waived by any person for any reason whatever.

Name. Please print _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Election of 1992 officers

Perhaps the most important activity at the October meeting will be the election of PPMS officers to serve in 1992. As dictated by Society bylaws, this year's vice-president, Mike Chladek, will serve as next year's president.

For the other board of director positions, the nominating committee, outgoing president Mary Will, and a moderate amount of arm-twisting have produced the following nominations:

Dan Lacy for vice-president,
Annette Campbell for secretary,
Lori Ligon for treasurer, and
David Watson for newsletter editor.

These individuals have accepted their nominations, but nominations are still open. The Society is still looking for an aspiring foray coordinator. Please consider serving the Society by accepting a nomination to any of these positions.

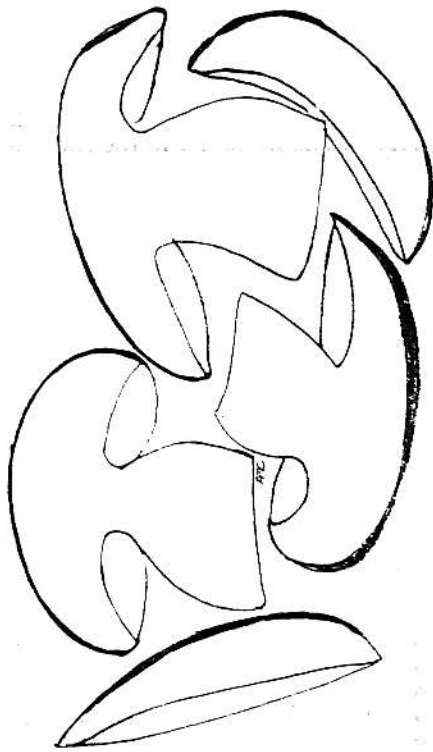
Spore-Addict Times

P.O. Box 1961
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Spore-Addict Times is published monthly from April through October by the Pikes Peak Mycological Society. Submissions of articles, book reviews, letters, artwork, recipes, and ideas are encouraged.

The Pikes Peak Mycological Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing interest in, and understanding of, the field of mycology. Membership is open to all persons interested in mycology. A gastronomic passion for wild fungi is not required. Annual dues are \$10 for individual and family memberships.

President.....Mary Will
(719) 599-0118
Vice President.....Mike Chladek
(719) 597-6723
Secretary.....Annette Campbell
(719) 593-9912
Treasurer.....Liz Ras
(719) 473-1248
Foray Coordinator..Lori Ligon
(719) 635-2213
Newsletter Editor....David Watson
(719) 593-9912



Meeting News

October The Society will meet for the last time this year on 28 October at the Junior League office at 2914 Beacon Street.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

As tradition dictates, this final meeting of the year will be a potluck dinner. Members should take a dish of any kind and their own place settings. Coffee and tea will be provided.

The business portion of the meeting will consist of electing new officers for next year (see the accompanying article).

Also according to tradition, members should take to the meeting their slides and photos of their mycological exploits this year. The meeting will conclude with a photographic year-end review.

Last Month. Marilyn Shaw presented a program on mushroom poisoning at the September meeting. It is reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

Members approved and signed the new liability waiver, reproduced in another part of this newsletter.

Planning of the Society's first aid kit has been postponed until the committee can reconvene.

President-elect looks ahead

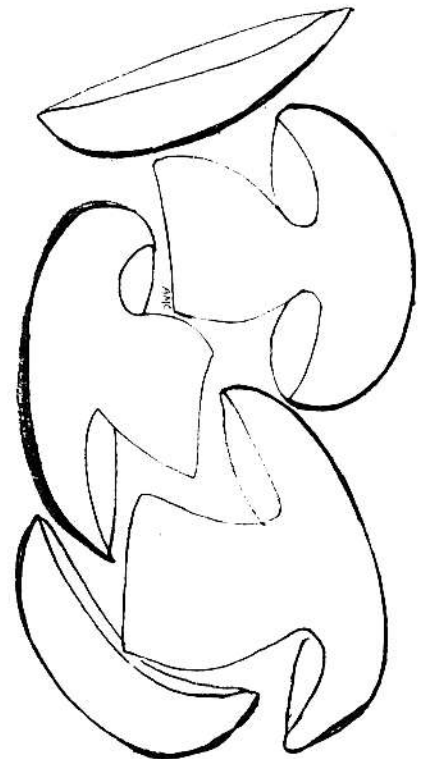
Mike Chladek is looking forward to next year as PPMS president. He has to look ahead; looking back at this season is too distressing.

"When's the best time to pick mushrooms?" Mike asks. "When they're growing!" But where was Mike when the mushrooms were growing? He was dealing with, among other woes, a car that died and a van that needed a rebuilt engine. Without a car, Mike and his wife Jean missed many of the Society activities.

In this year of abundant morels, how many morels did Mike and Jean collect? None.

"I wanted to write a newsletter article about all the things I didn't get to do this year, but one of the things I didn't get to do was write the newsletter article."

On the bright side, Mike and Jean did enjoy some boletes from Black Forest and plenty of lobster mushrooms which he says are delicious. And the foray to Bond Ranch in Phantom Canyon that Mike had to cancel this year should become reality in 1992.



Stems and pieces



Oops! department. Like many myths, "Pegasus of Paradise Ranch" in the September **Spore-Addict Times** was based in fact. The fact is that the human characters in the story were George and Frieda Davis, not Dan and Caren Lacy.

Mushroom Management. On 29 and 30 October, the Oregon State University College of Forestry is hosting a workshop for forest managers: "Biology and Management of Wild, Edible Mushrooms in Pacific Northwest Ecosystems." The \$75 registration fee covers a probing set of sessions that includes "Ecology of Morel Mushrooms," "Timing and Number of Spore Production for King Bolete, Chanterelles and Matsutake," and "History and Development of Popular and Commercial Interests in Wild

Mushroom Harvest." Speakers include not only Oregon State University professors, but also Dr. David Arora and Maggie Rogers, publisher of *Mushroom, The Journal*.

Looking for Books. Sons of Liberty Books is interested in buying any or all of your unwanted mushrooming books. They purchase only books in good condition with all plates present. Write them at P.O. box 452, Manchester, NH 03105, or call (603) 622-5853.

Fungi Calendar. Mad River Press has produced a 1992 Calendar of Mushrooms and Fungi. The photographs and text are by Orson K. Miller, Hope H. Miller, and David L. Largent. A copy will be available for inspection at the October meeting.

Rain Report

The Old Farmer's Almanac was right; the National Weather Service was wrong. The past four weeks could not have been drier. Total precipitation for September was less than half the normal amount. Normal month-to-date rainfall through 21 October was 0.58 inch, but not even a trace of rain has fallen so far this month.

Despite the recent drought, year-to-date rainfall is below the normal of 14.36 inches by only 1.5 percent.

The NWS outlook through mid-November calls for normal precipitation and a slight chance of above-normal temperatures. On the other hand, the 90-day forecast through December predicts a slight chance of above-normal precipitation and below-normal temperatures. With a little luck, we'll have a nice wet winter.

Spore-Addict Times October 1991
Pikes Peak Mycological Society
P.O. Box 1961
Colorado Springs, CO 80901



Lee Barzee

38 Friendship Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

