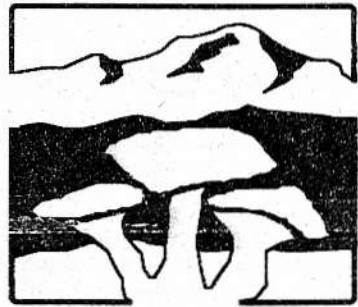


Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

April 1992

Society member to speak at Telluride conference

Walter Johnson, past president and current member of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society, is part of the Colorado faculty of this year's Telluride Mushroom Conference. An *Amanita muscaria* expert, Walter, together with Emanuel Salzman, Mark Niemoeller, and Andrew Weil, will present "*Amanita muscaria*: Sacred, Psychoactive, or Poisonous?"

Walter plans to treat members to a preview of his part of the program at the July PPMS meeting.

This twelfth annual Telluride Mushroom Conference will be held, of course, in Telluride, Colorado, 20-23 August. Other speakers include Gary Lincoff, Paul Stamets, John Corbin, and Linnea Gillman. Program topics range from "Growing Mushrooms on Straw" to "Mushrooms of Thailand and Burma." There will also be daily forays in nearby forests and the traditional mushroom costume parade.

The \$175 registration fee covers meals and admission to the program. To register contact

Fungophile, Inc.
P.O. Box 480503
Denver, CO 80248-0503

My winter mushrooms

by Lee Barzee

January 1, 1992. Yes, New Year's Day! While I was visiting in St. Louis, my son Steve took me on a day hike about 50 miles outside the city. The weather was a damp, chilly, 40° but not raining; it was a kind of hot-thermos-along day.

The trail through dense hardwoods, straggly vines and shrubs was a shadowy delight for several miles with sunlight splitting between leafless tree branches to a floor thick in old rotting leaves. Mosses and lichens in many wintery green shades covered downed sticks and logs. Brambles grabbed me if I stepped just off the trail. What a difference from blue-skiied, snowy-peaked January in Colorado!

Fungi shone out to me! Polypores galore beckoned and beacons: "turkey tails" in greens and whites, layers of peachy-orange ruffles, brackets, and biscuits as just out of the oven.

In deeper woods I found bright orange fuzzy-capped *Phyllotopsis nidulans* (as found in Colorado) grouped linearly along a dark moist log. It glowed almost neon with a sun shaft momentarily spotlighting it. Not a polypore, it has pale orange gills. The genus fits into the Tricholomataceae family. Do you remember the clues? (soft flesh, gills, white spores, on wood)

On wetter logs I found the jelly wood ears, *Auricularia auricula* (also found in Colorado). Later I saw the

black jelly fungus *Exidia glandulosa*. It was rubbery, fused, bubbly-looking, and shiny. It really is black—blackier than the dark wet bark it was attached to. Though I have seen and photographed a different species of *Exidia*, I have not seen this species in Colorado. I regretted that I hadn't brought my camera.

Another wonderfully decorative little mushroom I found growing on wood was *Schizophyllum commune* (later microscopic work confirmed the species). It was whitish to very light grey and appeared frosted like a small winter sea shell left on the log when the tide changed. This fungus has a firm to leathery texture. It has no stalk, and it grows on wood, but it is not a polypore. It has sort-of gills, but it's not in the Tricholomataceae family. The gills are uniquely longitudinally split and are actually folds; the spore print is white. Most mycologists now place it in a new family, Schizophyllaceae with only about ten genera. In contrast, the Tricholomataceae family includes many more genera and over 600 species.

This interesting fungus was the highlight of my hike. To me it was a pretty little collectible shell, its gills presenting a rather pearly pink cast. The frost of the cap was hairs, thick yet delicate, along the inrolled cap margin. A lovely wintery ornament to behold! Thanks, Steve.

Now is the time

An open letter to all members from Society president Mike Chladek

Yesterday is dead and gone, but tomorrow is *not* out of sight — contrary to the lyrics of that well-known country song, "Help Me Make It Through the Night." Although last fall our anthem more accurately would have been based on lyrics that might have said, "Help Me Make It Through the Winter." Another song comes to mind now that seems equally appropriate: "Just remember in the winter far beneath the winter snows, lies the seed that with the sun's love in the spring becomes the rose." Wow! Those are beautiful words, real faith-building words. Again appropriately, we could even substitute spore for seed, rain for sun, and a favorite mushroom for rose. By now you probably suspect that "mushroom-madness" is alive and well, even growing, and might even be contagious. As you read on, beware! Caution is advised. Spore addicts are everywhere and are increasing in numbers and strength daily.

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Spring is here (I think) and once again we see the world around us being born again. Once again we have a renewed opportunity to revel in the natural beauty of our land, to become rejuvenated, and to experience the joy of this rebirth together. Now is the time when it might seem easier to nurture an attitude of thankfulness—perhaps thankful that we are alive at all, alive in Colorado.

For a "fungi-freak" this may

also be the time when great expectations are born or when enthusiasm for mushrooms begins to grow within us. And, just as you expected, the thoughts of morels, *Pleurotus*, and other magnificent delicious fungi are already becoming more and more intense in your mind as the outdoor weather conditions become more conducive to "myco-mania." Tell me, do you now feel your enthusiasm mushrooming? (Gee, is that an original phrase?) Maybe you are even praying for rain that would help to guarantee more bountiful future harvests.

Our strength depends on the greater joy and satisfaction that comes through doing things together.

Do you know that at least two people in our club have already found some clusters of *Pleurotus ostreatus* (oyster mushrooms —remember these terms for future trivia games)?

Perhaps you—like me—are getting the feeling of being left behind again. I recall that Jean and I really missed out during that great morel fruiting season last year. However, we *were* able to harvest a few boletes, *Leccinum*, and *Lepiota rachodes* later in the season. We are now looking forward to seeking all those elusive fungi once again, for in order to find, one must seek. Right? Right on!

As I encourage your continued membership and active participation in the Pikes Peak Mycology Society and solicit your support for the coming season, I'd like to emphasize what this club is all about as I see it. Certainly it is about more than just picking mush-

rooms, eating mushrooms, or even learning about mushrooms. Our strength as a club depends, for the most part, on us experiencing the greater joy and satisfaction that comes through doing many things *together* versus doing these things by ourselves. In a nutshell, it is plainly *sharing* and *caring*: sharing common interests and goals as well as encouraging one another as we explore the world of fungi.

Because we are such a diverse group of mushroom lovers, it will naturally be a challenge for the club to meet the needs, desires, and goals of each and everyone of us in the club at all times. As president, I encourage each of you to become the most knowledgeable and con-

continues

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.

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Foray Coordinator.. ..
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Now is the time, *continued*

ificent "spore addict" that you can be. The club as a whole will surely benefit because of it. And as we proceed together, hopefully we will all grow in knowledge and wisdom as we become more aware of all the ramifications and pitfalls inherent in the study an appreciation of fungi. And, I might add, we will be able to speak "Fungese" more fluently. I'm sure that in the end, we all want to be able to say that there really is fun in fungi and that it was a worthwhile experience for everyone.

Anyway you look at it folks, *now is the time*. Now is the time to get with the program. Of course you already know that, don't you? We begin our regular meetings this month — on Monday, 27 April.

Meeting Format

As usual 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. will be a time for social greetings, perusal of foray gatherings, show and tell, and probably other incidental mayhem on a very casual basis. As a general guideline, the formal part of the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. and should last until approximately 8:45 p.m. depending on the program content, speaker, members present, or limitations of the meeting place.

Following the program, refreshments will be available as usual. And even allowing some necessary cleanup time, we should all be able to get out of the building by 9:30 p.m. (Could all this be only wishful thinking on my part?)

Actually, I *am* hoping that someone will *v-o-l-u-n-t-e-e-r* to bring some cookies or other tidbits for public consumption at our first meeting. Otherwise, I will have to bake some cookies (since my wife, Jean, will still be away). If you now feel inspired, please call me at our new phone number, 380-9199.

Happy trails! See you on the twenty-seventh.

27 April, 1992
Monday

Society meeting at

7:00 p.m.

George Davis will talk
about "The Jekyll and
Hyde Nature of
Mushrooms"

George's talk will reveal "some interesting but little-known facts and recently-discovered characteristics of mushrooms."

Mike Chladek plans to devote additional meeting time to other mushroom trivia and to an historical review of the Society.

Mike asks that members bring to the meeting their historical and memorable slides of Society activities.

Mike also asks that you come prepared to discuss your preferences for possible future programs or classes.

Membership renewals due

The economy might get you down, but your PPMS dues won't. It's still only \$10 for an individual or family membership.

Please send your dues to the new treasurer, Lori Ligon at

2394 Stepping Stones Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80904

or pay at the April meeting. Please ensure that your dues are paid no later than the May meeting.

Meeting place & schedule set

All regular PPMS meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of each month, except in May when the fourth Monday is Memorial Day.

Meetings are planned for the following days:

27 April,
26 May (Tuesday),
22 June,
27 July,
01 August (Saturday picnic),
24 August,
28 September,
26 October.

Again this year, all regular meetings will be held in the Junior League office at 2914 Beacon Street, just south of Fillmore Street. The August picnic will be at Fox Run Park, pavilion number 2.

Stems and pieces

NAMA foray close to home

For the first time since 1983, the North American Mycological Association is holding its annual foray within easy driving distance from Colorado Springs.

From 13 to 16 August, the foray will be held in Angel Fire, New Mexico, near Taos. The foray can accommodate only 250 participants.

Watch this space for additional information as it becomes available.

Foray coordinator needed

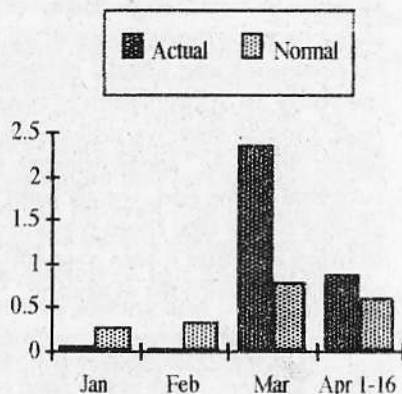
Regrettably, George Singer will be unable to serve as PPMS Foray Coordinator this year. The search is on for a worthy replacement for George.

Please consider accepting a nomination for this important position. Your primary responsibility would be finding foray leaders rather than leading forays yourself.

If you are interested, contact Mike Chladek.

Rain Report

Colorado Springs Monthly Rainfall (inches)



Totals as of 16 April
Normal year-to-date: 1.96 in.
Actual year-to-date: 3.30 in.
(168 percent of normal)

Thirty-day outlook
Through 16 May: normal

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