

Spore-Addict Times



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society 1974-2004

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JUNE 2004

Happy 30th Birthday PPMS!

MONTHLY MEETING:

WHEN? Monday, June 28th, 2004

WHAT TIME? 7:00 PM; the meeting will come to order at 7:30 PM.

WHERE? Pikes Peak National Bank, 2401 W. Colorado Ave. (across from Bancroft Park). Enter at the door on Colorado Ave. just west of the bank door. There you will find stairs and an elevator. You may use either. The room is on the second floor near the head of the stairs.

PROGRAM: Please try to attend this meeting as we celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the club and thank the founder for providing all the pleasure it has brought us.
Lee Barzee does not know about this.

Edible Mushrooms and a few Look-a likes

by Lee Barzee, club founder.

If you are expecting the ordinary you will be pleasantly surprised. You may very well add to your arsenal of information on edibles in the Pikes Peak region. Be prepared to take notes on the edibles that you may not have heard of.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES: by Bud Bennett

Mystery mushroom mea culpa. I took some heat for making the mystery mushroom a bit harder than usual. I'm glad there were no vegetables readily available at the meeting. The big differences between *Geopora arenicola* (last month's Mystery Mushroom) and the most popular guess of *Humaria hemispherica* is that *G. arenicola*'s margin is *not* fringed with brown hairs and it is *not* common. Unfortunately (for both you and me) I have been I have been given another try at the Mystery Mushroom this month. This one is easier...honest.

Last month's program by Sheryl Olson was a whirlwind of information. She usually gives much longer survival programs and had to rush to get the basic

information out within an hour. She showed how to keep dry and warm with a plastic bag, make fire in any weather, and itemized a basic survival kit. I hope club members will take her suggestions to heart. I went to REI and picked up a few items I was missing relatively inexpensively.

The June 5 foray was canceled due to lack of moisture. I scouted Rampart Range on May 28, and again on June 2. I found a few Calypso orchids, but no mushrooms of any sort (though I did find a 12 foot measuring tape that is now in my toolbox). Precipitation was in short supply in May, and June is shaping up to be hot and dry also, or maybe not. I'm not expecting a very good year for mushroom hunting, but you never know.

The June meeting will be a special event. Lee Barzee will present the program: *Edible Mushrooms and a Few Look-a likes*. Afterward we will celebrate the fact that the club has been operating for 30 years! I hope to see you there.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES:

In accordance with the By-laws, dues, in the amount of \$15.00, are due and payable on or before the April monthly meeting. If you still have not paid, please pay at the June meeting or mail the payment to PPMS, PO Box 39, Colorado Springs, CO 80901-0039. Thanks!

FORAY SCHEDULE AND RULES

We will be publishing the foray schedule with the leaders' names and phone numbers in the newsletter each month. To go on any of the forays simply call the leader to find out where and what time to meet. You must have your dues paid for the current year and you must have a signed liability waiver on file to go on forays. If you want to **lead a foray call George Davis at 630-7140. George is also the contact for ad hoc forays. Check with him to see if anyone has decided to go on an ad**

hoc foray that does not appear on the schedule. Some forays will probably be to unscouted areas. Foray leaders do not guarantee success.

Schedule

(No forays scheduled)

Snowbank Mushroom Foray:

by Lee Barzee

The snowbank mushroom foray scheduled for June 16th was moved up 5 days due to recent high temperatures and winds; those are fearful desiccating factors to even "snowbankers". Last year's attempt was disastrously affected by the severe drought, yet hope for '04 held strongly. When on the 11th of June at about 9:30 AM we hit



Wilkerson Pass the temp. was 51 deg. but it was so windy it felt like 31 deg., almost extinguishing that hope.

We pushed on however and the nearer we came to

Monarch Pass the harder we scanned the slopes for some sign of snow. Finally we spotted signs of snow on the horizon and once again life was breathed into that weakened hope. Finally we arrived at our special site and spotted snow banks



through the trees. We were so excited we all but skipped lunch to explore!

It was a gorgeous day with no wind and all four of us were rewarded,

finding just the specimens we had secretly expected. Our pocketed walkie talkies, each from separate directions burst out our happy exclamations.

In all we collected ten different species, only two that we did not identify. We took photos of all our



collections; and I chalked up our '04 annual snowbanker foray a success. Later we contentedly enjoyed a fine dinner at one of our favorite

restaurants in Salida before returning home arriving well after nightfall.

Following is a list of snowbank mushrooms found on Monarch Pass on the June 11 foray led by Lee Barzee. Other foragers were Frieda Davis, George Davis and Esther Price. Here is what we found:



Hygrophorus subalpinus, Mycena (sp) in moss, Pycnoporellus alboluteus, Hygrophorus camarophyllus,

Lyophyllum montanum, Guepiniopsis alpinus, Mycena overholtzii, Puffball (sp) Frieda's, very firm Cortinarius? (sp) Lee, nubby Mycena? Frieda's (white gills on wood).

Note: All snowbanker pictures and the one of Lee Barzee searching for mushrooms taken by G. Davis.

Mystery Mushroom

The Mystery Mushroom for May was not solved by any of the participants. Bud Bennett's cunning and knowledge of mushrooms eluded us all except our esteemed founder Lee Barzee who felt she was not a legal contender so declined to accept the prize. Those willing to give it a try are to be commended. They are: Don Pelton, Frieda Davis, Pat Gustavson, Ilse Stratton and a mystery participant. My, how the plot thickens. Oh yes, Lee Barzee, but was she really a contestant since she had a proverbial leg up on the field? Bud gets the distinctive honor of providing us with another challenge for the June meeting. Here are the fruits of his efforts.

June Mystery Mushroom Clues by Bud Bennett.

I am relatively small, with my cap only 2-5 cm broad. My cap is bright orange-red and my stalk is white with orange stains. My stalk does not stain black. Both cap and stalk are slimy as can be seen in the photo. My adnate to decurrent gills are white, well spaced, thick, soft, and waxy. My spore print is white. I am usually found under ponderosa pine here in Colorado. In fact this picture of me in my youth was taken on Limbaugh Trail near Monument late last June. Vera will be no help. Who am I? (See photo on Page 4).

WHAT IS THIS THING? by George Davis

On the 11th of June a lady called and left a message that she had something really strange growing in her field east of Colorado Springs. She said: "it is about 18 inches across and it is white. It has about five sections and it has a stem. I know what puffballs look like and its not a puffball; also its too early for puffballs out here. I want to get rid of it but I would like to know what it is before I just toss it away."

I called her back and discussed it with her at length. It was impossible to tell what it was from our conversation. She invited me out to take a look at it but it would



be at least three days before I could make it out to her place. Later she called me back and suggested that she drop it off at a wild birdseed place we both knew and I could pick it up later. I agreed. I picked it up and brought it home. Then we took it to Lee Barzee for her opinion. We were pretty sure we knew what it was but



the shape was sufficiently untypical to need confirmation using Lee Barzee's wonderful skills and her microscope. We were right in our initial identification
- Calvatia

booniana.

Telluride Mushroom Festival: Forays, Workshops, Chefs' Cook-off, and Parade in Telluride Colorado, August 19-24, 2004. The festival is designed for people interested in edible, psychoactive, and poisonous mushrooms. It includes mushroom lectures, forays, hands-on identification and cultivation workshops, mushroom poetry, and a mushroom parade, which runs down the main street of Telluride and features festival participants dressed as mushrooms, spores, and other elements of the mycological world. Complete information about the Festival program, registration, lodging, and travel is available on the Festival's web site (www.shroomfestival.com/). Or write, Fungophile, Attn. Mushroom Festival, Box 480503, Denver, CO. 80248-0503. Call 303-296-9359.

Bits And Pieces**Giant Mushroom Baffles Experts in Congo**

May 27, 2004 BRAZZAVILLE (Reuters) - A giant three-tiered mushroom which measures a yard across and was found in the tropical forests of the Republic of Congo has left experts in the capital Brazzaville scratching their heads.

"It's the first time we've ever seen a mushroom like this so it's difficult for us to classify. But we are going to determine what it is scientifically," Pierre Botaba, head of Congo's veterinary and zoology center, told reporters on Thursday.

The giant fungi stands 45 centimeters (18 inches) high and has three tiered caps on top of a broad stem. The bottom cap measures one meter across, the second one 60 cm and the top one is 24 cm wide, Botaba said.

The bizarre-looking mushroom was found in the village of Mvoula about 40 miles from Brazzaville and transported carefully to the capital by the local chief.

Mushroom Finger Food: a simple finger food for most edible wild mushrooms. by George Davis
Clean and thinly slice the mushrooms to bite sized pieces. Sauté over medium heat until most of the water from the mushrooms has evaporated. Add more liquid with enough chicken bullion dissolved in hot water to provide the sodium needed. Continue to cook until most of the liquid is dissolved. Add a splash of good white wine and sauté until the mushrooms are slightly crisp. Remove from pan to a serving dish and enjoy the true taste of the mushrooms.

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The Pikes Peak Mycological Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of mycology, publishes Spore-Addict Times monthly from April through October. Membership is open to anyone wanting to study mycology. Annual dues are \$15 for individual and family memberships. Submissions of ideas, articles, reviews, letters, artwork and recipes are welcome.

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Mystery Mushroom

