



The Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society

1974-2021

Vol. XLVIII April 2021

Issue 1

President's Notes

by **Ben Kinsley**

Spring is here, and while we're not out of the proverbial woods just yet, we're ever closer to emerging from this global pandemic. Colorado has opened up vaccinations to all adults and at the time of this writing, El Paso County has dropped to level yellow on the COVID-19 status dial. Moisture is in the forecast and I'm confident we'll all be getting back into the actual woods very soon, baskets and knives in hand.

I want to thank my fellow PPMS officers for all their hard work and creativity in adjusting to the unknowns of 2020. Despite the pandemic and a major drought, we still managed to have a great season, and to foray safely and (on occasion) fruitfully. Thank you to all the members who signed up, masked up, and stayed 6 feet apart on these outings. One benefit of remote meetings is that we were able to host a number of inspiring lectures by guest speakers from around the world. If you missed any of these great talks, they are archived and available on the PPMS YouTube channel.

I'm happy to announce we have some exciting events planned for this season. Because we're still in the midst of vaccinations, and our meeting location is still functioning at a very limited capacity, we will begin our season by holding meetings remotely once again. Our April and May meetings will be held on Zoom and broadcast live on YouTube as we did last season. We do not yet have a set plan for June or July, however if we are able to safely host in-person events we will do so. We have reserved the meeting room at the Bear Creek Nature Center for our August and September meetings, and we hope to resume fully in-person events by then. Updates will be communicated via email and on Facebook, so keep an eye out as the season progresses.

This year is a particularly exciting time to be a Colorado mycophile. The annual North American Mycological Association (NAMA) foray is happening (in person!) this year at Snow Mountain Lodge in Granby, Colorado from August 12-15. You must be a member of NAMA to attend. PPMS members can claim the \$5 discount for members of affiliate clubs. See our website or Facebook with links to join NAMA and expect more information and registration details to be announced soon.

Almost immediately following NAMA will be the Telluride Mushroom Festival from August 18-22. Tickets for this year's festival are limited, so be sure to get yours ASAP if you plan to attend.

We have a great mushroom season ahead of us, and I know we are all very much in need of some forest therapy. Our scouts are out and about and as soon as we see signs of mushroom life we will begin to lead forays. So be sure to renew those memberships, and we look forward to seeing your faces (likely at a 6' distance to start) among the fungal life soon enough.



Spring Plerotus sp. popping up in the mulch garden



PIKES PEAK
MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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2019 PPMS OFFICERS:

President	Ben Kinsley
Vice -President	Jennifer Bell
Treasurer	Beth Leake
Secretary & Webmaster	Alyssa Hartson
Newsletter Editors	Jessica Langley Mercedes Whitman
Librarian	Isabel Gring
Herbarium Liaison	TBA
Hospitality	TBA
Foray Coordinator	James Chelin

WEBSITE

www.pikespeakmyc.org

CONTACTS

President: president@pikespeakmyc.org

Vice President: vicepresident@pikespeakmyc.org

Secretary: info@pikespeakmyc.org

Treasurer: treasurer@pikespeakmyc.org

Newsletter Editor: editor@pikespeakmyc.org

Librarian: library@pikespeakmyc.org

Webmaster: webmaster@pikespeakmyc.org

Membership Options

New Members:

Individual Membership: \$30/ year

Family Membership: \$40/year

Renewing Members:

Individual Membership: \$25/ year

Family Membership: \$35/year

Lifetime Membership

Individual: \$300

Family: \$400

To Pay Online via PayPal: <http://pikespeakmyc.org/join/>

Send renewal checks to:

PPMS Treasurer c/o Beth Leake

1370 Golden Hills Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Please make checks payable to PPMS.

All statements and opinions written in this newsletter belong solely to the individual author and in no way represent or reflect the opinions of the Pikes Peak Mycological Society. To receive this publication electronically contact Beth Leake at:

treasurer@pikespeakmyc.org

Archived copies of the newsletter are available in the Newsletters section of our website.

Submissions for the next issue of Spore Addict must reach the editors, Mercedes Whitman & Jessica Langley, by May 30, 2020.

editor@pikespeakmyc.org

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month, starting at 6:00 pm. Due to the COVID crisis and limitations on group gatherings, meetings will be broadcast live on Youtube. As the season progresses, we hope to host in-person events. The meetings are recorded and can be viewed anytime on the Pikes Peak Mycological Society [Youtube channel](#).

April 28

Topics: "Foraging Ethics" presented by Alyssa Hartson, PPMS Secretary and Webmaster

"How to get started hunting mushrooms in Colorado" presented by James Chelin, PPMS Board Member

When: 6:00 p.m. 2021 Season kick off announcement

Where: Broadcast LIVE on Youtube

May 26

Topic: TBD

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Broadcast LIVE on Youtube

June 23

Topic: TBD

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Broadcast LIVE on Youtube

July 28

Topic: TBD

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: TBD

August 12-15: Annual NAMA Foray

Snow Mountain Lodge in Granby, Colorado

...More info coming soon...

Note: must be a NAMA member to attend. PPMS Members can claim the \$5 discount for members of affiliate clubs. Join NAMA here: <http://www.namyco.org/join.php>

August 18-22: Telluride Mushroom Festival

Visit TMF site for more info

August 25

Topic: TBD

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Bear Creek Nature Center

245 Bear Creek Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

September 22

Topic: TBD

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: Bear Creek Nature Center

245 Bear Creek Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

October 27

Topic: Potluck

When: 6:00 p.m.

Where: TBD



**"Supreme good fortune
- we're both alive!"**

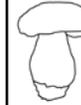
MEMBERS CHECKLIST:

Is your email & phone number up to date?



Send contact info to: Beth
treasurer@pikespeakmyc.com

Have you paid your DUES?



If not, please send to:
Treasurer c/o Beth Leake
1370 Golden Hills Road,
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Care to Volunteer?



Reach out to: Alyssa Hartson
info@pikespeakmyc.org

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

We mean it!! We can't do this without you. Looking ahead to next season, we are seeking volunteers to do a number of things. Please contact Alyssa Hartson, info@pikespeakmyc.org, or Ben Kinsley, president@pikespeakmyc.org if you are interested in:

- coordinating forays
- writing for the newsletter
- hosting an event
- herbarium liason
- record keeping on forays
- leading a foray
- hospitality

Avoid the Landfill!

A long-term project of decomposing old shoes

by Mercedes Perez Whitman

My main issue with throwing away clothing items that aren't in the condition for donation is that I know that if I put them in the trash they'll end up in a landfill. Back in February 2020, I had to thin out my wardrobe which included a pair of Converse I'd once worn almost everyday for years. I felt inspired by people like Willabey Arevalo and Tradd Cotter to myceliate my shoes. They've both experimented with breaking down varying trash and clothing items at home. In [Organic Mushroom Cultivation and Mycoremediation](#) by Tradd Cotter, he explains his process of myceliating denim with oyster (*Pleurotus* spp.) mushroom spawn, hoping to remove the color from the indigo carmine. He was successful and also found that materials from natural plant fibers, noting cotton, hemp and bamboo, are potential mushroom food.

Oyster mushroom mycelium and other fungi have been gaining more attention for their abilities to remove harmful substances in an area from contaminants ranging from varying kinds of chemicals, bacteria and heavy metals. Converse shoes are made of cotton canvas with a gum rubber sole made of natural rubber, the latex being sourced from a rubber tree. It's a polymer, or a chemical compound made of multiple repeating molecular units of the same kind.

To set up an environment to degrade my shoes, I used spent oyster mushroom (*P. ostreatus*) spawn blocks from local mushroom company Microvora and broke them up and added them to sterilized straw and coffee grounds in a five gallon bucket. I then stuffed my shoes with the mixture and placed them in the bucket, adding enough of the mixture to surround the shoes by at least a few inches in either direction. I kept them covered with a lid placed loosely on top of the bucket and then left the bucket in a shadier area of my yard and checked on it every couple months. It was a rather haphazard experiment but I was always surprised to find how myceliated my shoes were each



Setting up my bucket with spawn and sterilized substrate to fill the shoes and bucket.

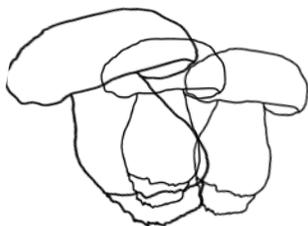


How my shoes looked after a month in the bucket

time I checked. I added water occasionally but otherwise barely did anything to the bucket.

Just over a year later the canvas has been significantly degraded while the rubber's been myceliated but is still intact.

I'm sure further degradation would be present had I monitored the bucket more closely, kept it moister and warmer and added more substrate. I'm not in much of a rush though, I'm just happy to see results. Once I feel satisfied with the amount of degradation that's occurred I'll likely just bury what's left in my backyard.



My shoes after five months in the bucket



My shoes after eight months in the bucket - degradation more apparent on the cotton canvas.



My shoes after 14 months in the bucket - significant myceliation of the gum soles

PPMS Library Available to Members!

by Isabel Gring

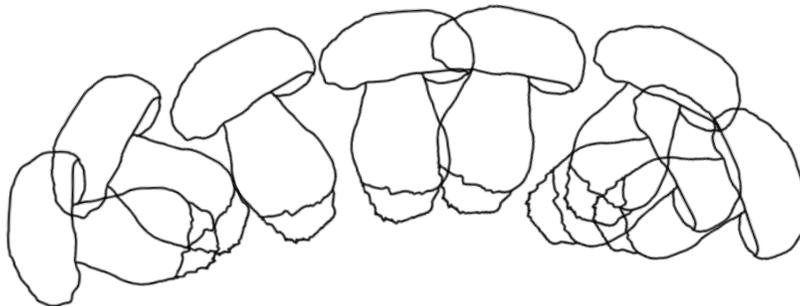
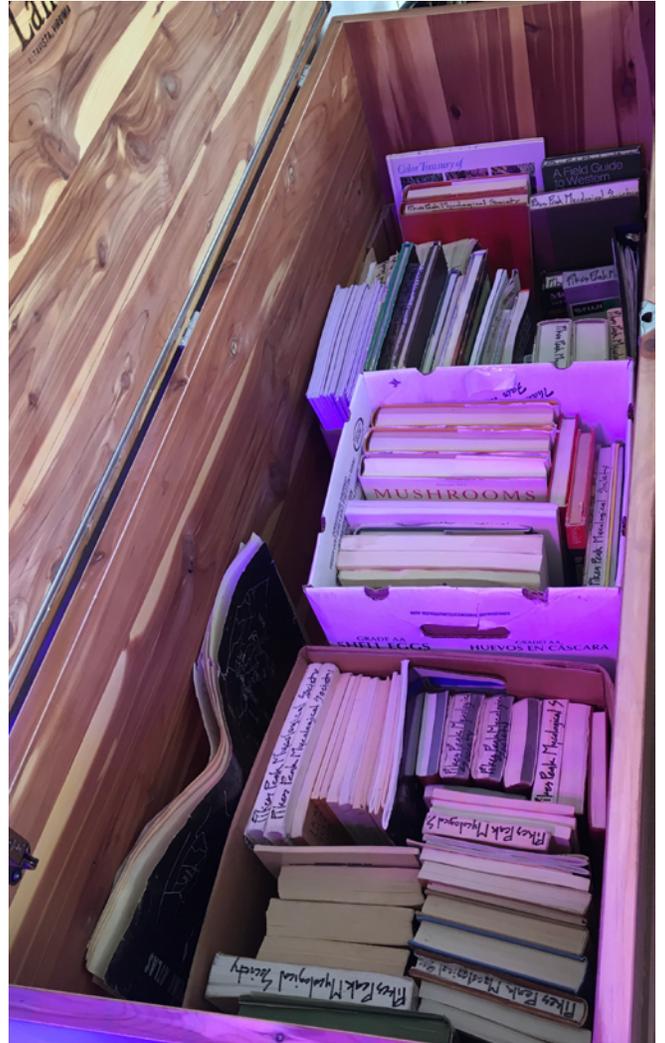
If you have ever wondered where to find mycological information or need easy access to books on the subject, you should check out the PPMS library. I am Isabel Gring, the PPMS librarian and I wanted to remind everyone that this library exists, and that when we are able to attend meetings in person, members are free to borrow books, magazines, articles, and other items from the library.

All you have to do to borrow a book is ask me in person or email me at: library@pikespeakmyc.org.

Books will be loaned for one month and can be renewed upon request. I currently do not have a limit on how many books someone can take out at one time, so feel free to request as many as you like within reason. I have been working to organize the library and I have found it a wonderful resource on mushroom information for everything from taxonomic manuals to cookbooks to field guides. If you are interested in what the library has to offer, please email me and I can send you a list of all the library's books with short descriptions.

Please feel free to email me with any further questions you may have about the library.

A list of library books available for member checkout can be found on our resources page: www.pikespeakmyc.org/resources/



New Online Shop and PPMS T-Shirts

Thanks to Alyssa Hartson, new PPMS logo T-shirts are available for purchase either in person, or online. The classic “Eat More Mushrooms” bumper sticker is also available online. Just visit:

www.pikespeakmyc.org/shop/

Available in dark grey and light grey

\$25.00 s-xl

\$30.00 xxl

+\$5.00 shipping & handling per shirt

These earth-friendly shirts are a cotton/poly blend made with recycled materials and organic cotton. Fits true size with minimal to no shrinkage.

Proceeds from shirt sales help fund our monthly speakers, meeting space rental fees, tech fees and educational programs.

Show your support with your purchase of one of these high-quality, collectible shirts.

