

MushRumors

The Newsletter of the Northwest Mushroomers Association

Volume 28, Issue 4

December 1, 2017

By Eric Worden

This year's Wild Mushroom Show was a great success in inspiring new community members to join our group! Thirty one new member/families signed up at the show. In addition, 16 existing members found it convenient to renew their memberships while at the show.

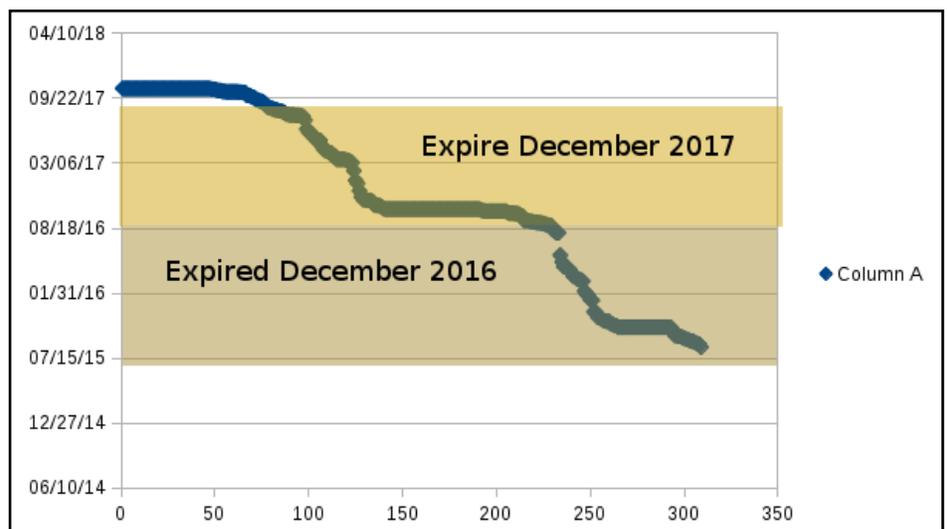
Our current membership total is 226! However, due to the annual nature of the show, the seasonality of mushroom activities, and our calendar-year membership period (they expire on December 31), most (148) of our current members will have their memberships expire at the end of the year unless they renew. A graph of members by last pay date shows that this same pattern occurred last year. This graph evenly distributes all members across the chart horizontally, but positions them vertically by their last renewal date. We can see that a lot of people sign up or renew shortly before or during the show, then there is a lull during the winter, before club activities resume in the spring. Note that when you join or renew during September or later, your membership lasts through the following year.

Our club relies on membership fees, in addition to Wild Mushroom Show revenue to pay for our club activities and expenses. To support the club, and to remain on the mailing list, please remember to renew! Annual memberships are \$15 for families or \$10 for students. If you forget, you will get a reminder email in the spring. You can renew online with a credit card or PayPal at <http://www.northwestmushroomers.org/join-or-renew-membership>. You can also mail checks to our PO Box below.

Northwest Mushroomers Association
attn: Membership
PO Box 28581
Bellingham, WA 98228-0581

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Don't Forget To Renew Your Membership for 2018!

NMA Mini Foray

Sept 14, 2017

By Christa Simmons

Twelve members met at Safeway parking lot and car pooled to the Forest Site along South Pass Rd where we met Pam and Evan, also members, who live in the area. We all signed in and collected a few Indemnity signatures. We came out of the forest around noon and all but Martha and I found chanterelles. Well, we did find a few small funnel-shaped chanterelles (*Cantharellus tubaeformis*-I call them yellow feet).

Russ came out with chanterelles and lots of additional mushrooms and asked Christine to identify additional edibles. He had quite a collection.

Although Pam and Evan had to leave at this point, they were kind enough to tell us about another forest in the area which had been productive for them in the past.

So most of us headed off to the 2nd place. Again most of us found some more chanterelles including quite a few white ones. It is definitely a place to return for another hunt. We saw another group that had arrived earlier that came out of the forest with baskets full of chanterelles and even two *Sparassis crispa* (cauliflower mushrooms).

I did get lost for awhile....but eventually got out with the help of another mushroom hunter and my fellow members.

One thing I learned at this second site was how hidden the white chanterelles are. I probably walked over many more than I picked. I had never found any before, and now I know why.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NMA
P.O. Box 28581
Bellingham, WA 98228-0581
www.northwestmushroomers.org

The Northwest Mushroomers Association meets 7–9 p.m. on the second Thursdays of Apr, May, June and Sept, Oct, and Nov. Meeting location is the downtown Bellingham Public Library.

We will inform you in advance of any changes in time or venue. Fungal forays and field trips are scheduled for the Saturday after each meeting. To stay apprised of forays, events and more, please join our googlegroups email list by signing up as a member.

Membership dues are \$15 for families and individuals and \$10 for students. Please make checks payable to NMA and mail "Attn: Membership" to the address above, or use Paypal online at northwestmushroomers.org/join-or-renew-membership/

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NEWSLETTER

MushRumors is published on Feb 1, June 1, Sept, and Dec 1, online at northwestmushroomers.org. Club members are encouraged to submit stories, photos, recipes, and artwork.

Submissions should be made three weeks prior to the date of publications to Vince Biciunas at vince.biciunas@gmail.com

NMA Foray Sept 16, 2017 - Lookout Arts Quarry

By Eva-Maria Gold

This foray was unique in that it was held in conjunction with the Cascadia Skillshare and Barter Faire at the Lookout Arts Quarry. The goals of the Faire are to help revive lost skills, showcase some new ones, and provide a place to come learn from folks in the community with experience in these crafts and trades. It was fun to share our knowledge, as well as learn from those coming to join us.

Though the weather has been dry for the past 3 months (with only 2 days of rain about a week ago), we explored not only the Lookout Arts Quarry site where the Skillshare was held, but also wandered across the street to the Squires Lake Trail (where most of the mushrooms were found).

We had at least 31 participants in the foray – and additional folks coming up to talk with us, and check out our finds! Thanks to our many members who helped with sharing their knowledge with members and non-members alike, and taking folks exploring and learning about foraging.

Christine Roberts did a wonderful job as our identifier, ably assisted by Fred Rhoades and Buck McA-doo. Given the dry weather, we were not surprised that there were few mushrooms to be found. We had more lichens (14) than mushrooms (12) but it was most instructive all the same.

Foray Finds:

MUSHROOMS

Fomes fomentarius
Fomitopsis pinicola
Gandoderma applanata (“Artist’s conch”)
Gandoderma tsugae
Gymnopus peronatus and its *mycelia*
Laetiporus conifericola
Peziza sp.
Polyporus badius
Rhytisma punctata (Maple tar spot)
Tapinella atrotomentosa? (very young)
Trametes hirsuta
Trametes versicolor

MOSESSES

Neckera menziesii
Orthotrichum lyellii

FERNS

Athyrium felix-femina (gametophytes)

LICHENS

Cetrelia cetrarioides
Cladonia chlorophaea - An additional *Cladonia* that Mark found (but it was mislaid when first transferring to the new table)
Cladonia ochrochlora
Cladonia furcata - believe it is this species because of the branching
Evernia prunastri
Lepraria pacifica
Parmelia hygrophila
Parmelia sulcata
Parmotrema arnoldii
Peltigera membranacea
Peltigera neopolydactyla
Pertusaria ophthalmiza (a crustose lichen)
Ramalina farinacea
Usnea dasopoga (formerly *U. filipendua*)
Usnea spp.

Sept 16 Foray Photos!



Submitted by
Eva-Maria
Gold



Submitted by
Eva-Maria
Gold



Submitted by
Eva-Maria
Gold



Eva-Maria Gold
Submitted by
Mark Johnson

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| March, Saturday | Annual Survivor’s Banquet at Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship |
| April 12, Thursday | NMA Meeting |
| April 14, Saturday | Foray |
| May 10, Thursday | NMA Meeting |
| May 11-13 | Mushroom Mayhem at Alta Lake State Park in Pateros, WA |
| June 14, Thursday | NMA Meeting |
| June 16, Saturday | Foray |

Note From The Treasurer

The 2017 NMA Fall Mushroom Show was outstanding, even from a financial standpoint! Our books, posters and T-shirts were selling at a rapid pace. And, thanks to all of our renewing members and the new members who joined at the Show, the NMA coffers are fairly full.

If you attended the Show, you were probably questioned at the Entry Table about how you learned about the Show. Thanks for taking the time to answer that question. This information helps us figure out the most efficient and least expensive ways to let the community know about the 2018 Show.

The “season” is fast approaching, so don’t forget about our NMA T-shirts, books, and the Morel Game as gift ideas. Contact Linda Magee by email at: LSMAGEE@GMAIL.COM or by telephone at 360-205-2742, if you would like to make a purchase or want more information about the items.

The money we raise though our product sales and membership fees enables us to pay for speakers at our meetings, NMA brochures, and rental fees for our meetings, our ID class, the Show, our forays, and the Survivor’s Banquet.

We invite you to come to these events to learn more about all things fungi and enjoy the company and enthusiasm of like-minded folk.

Linda Magee
NMA Treasurer

NMA Foray Sept 30, 2017 - Lummi Island

By Richard Mollette

The day dawned foggy and misty, then cleared about 8:00. Mostly everyone met at the Otto Preserve chalet by 9:30 due to an irregular ferry schedule and a house traveling down Marine Drive. Orientation was conducted by Janine Shaw, board member of the Lummi Island Heritage Trust (LIHT), Dr. Fred Rhoades, and me. About 22 people were in attendance from varying points of the compass, including a couple from Mission, B. C.; a couple from Guemes Island (off Anacortes), a newly arrived family who had recently migrated from CA to Ferndale, and a visitor from Seattle. People sorted themselves into three groups: the first, led by Annie Franzmann (LIHT) went to the Baker Preserve, which involved a rather steep hike; the second, led by Linda Sheek (LIHT) was the fairly level pasture and wooded Curry Preserve; while the third, which was self-directed, explored the Otto Preserve. Before departing, we were reminded that foraging for vegetation other than for mushrooms during the mushroom foray, is not allowed on any of the Lummi Island Heritage Trust preserves.

I remained behind as the NMA host with Janine Shaw to set up the meeting room for sample display and refreshments. Two long tables were put together and covered with butcher paper in preparation for identification. The paper was labeled with the names of the three preserves being covered. People would be able to place their samples on the paper. Fred could simply write the mushroom and lichen names directly on that and later roll it up and take it home to create a foray list and add any new samples to the preserve's master list. Indications are that this might be a good year for the *Lepiota* group.

Folks began to return about noon with an abundance of mushrooms and kept Fred busy identifying this one and that one. The variety of pot luck was interesting, as always. By 1:30, clean up was complete and people headed out to catch the 2:00 ferry.

Postscript: Sixty species were collected of which fourteen were new. Fred mostly followed the nomenclature used by Siegel and Schwarz in *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast*.



*Baker Group at
Lummi Island For-
ay Submitted by
Pat Rafferty*

NMA Foray November 11, 2017 - Bowman Bay, Deception Pass State Park

By Linda Magee

Boy, did we have fun!

The venue was unbeatable. It was chilly, but thankfully little wind and no rain. The Parks Department allowed NMA to use the picnic shelter that overlooks the Bay, even though that area is closed for the season. Thanks to Margaret and Claude Dilly for making that possible! The shelter easily accommodated our group and operated as our cozy headquarters for enjoying the views, grabbing a hot beverage, then relaxing, eating, socializing, and admiring the fruits of our foraging.

We had about 30 attendees—veterans and newcomers alike. Jackie French of the Parks Department joined in the foray and was overwhelmed by the “hidden wonders” we found underfoot. We will share our species list with her, along with identifiers’ comments on the common, unusual, and rare finds we made. Jackie hopes to put together a “Mushroom Board” so visitors to the Park can discover yet another amazing facet of Deception Pass State Park.

As always, a big “we couldn’t do it without you” to our intrepid id’ers, Margaret Dilly, Fred Rhoades, Erin Moore, Buck McAdoo, and Mark Johnson. They are indeed a well-balanced crew. They managed to identify all the species listed while paging through reference materials, examining specimens, fielding attendees’ questions and conducting mini-classes on certain types of mushrooms. And, they still found time to sample the delicious pot-luck offerings. But, their work was not finished after the foray. They continue to work on identification of some of the foray finds. And thanks to Christine Roberts, too, who could not attend the foray, but has helped with the post-foray identification efforts.

I would be remiss if I didn’t brag about our foray pot-luck lunches, where the generosity and creativity of our group really shines. There’s nothing like delicious food, a beautiful view, and enthusiastic people to brighten up your life.

Now, check out some of the photos accompanying this article to get an idea of the energy at our Dilly Foray.

Next, take a look at the species list to get an idea of how many species we found. If you want to really get to know a mushroom, I suggest you take the list and get on the internet to check out some of the species more closely.

Nature worked hard this year and gave us many wondrous things. So now, She’ll be taking some time off.

We’ll start our group forays again in March 2018. Please watch the NMA Google Groups email, newsletter, website, and Facebook for announcements on upcoming forays. We hope to see you there.

Report on Some Species Found During Bowman Bay, Deception Pass Foray

By Buck McAdoo

This was an unusual fall for fungi. First The Great Dearth. Then the inconvenient snowfall. Who thought anything would be up less than a week after said snowfall? But the Deception Pass Park area always surprises. There are so many different habitats and so many of us out looking, that the species piled up. As one of several identifiers I was too busy at the tables to go on a significant ramble on my own. As each rarity came in, I had to scramble out with my camera to record it. Here are some of the more peculiar finds, along with photos:

Stereopsis humphreyi - Found in two separate locations by Sue Koch and Harold Mead. Harold says he has observed it here before, just didn't know what to call it. It is a rare species except on Haida Gwaii (formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands). It seems to associate with spruce, and according to Paul Kroeger, likes to be around wet places. It doesn't have gills, an oversight that both Fred and Mark pointed out, and is more commonly seen in the tropics. There are approximately 4-5 other species of *Stereopsis*, but none look like this one. I have seen it once before, in north central Tibet, also with spruce. It took awhile before my memory clicked in.

Cortinarius sp. - An interesting Cort sharing the same bog with *S. humphreyi*, it had pine needles plastered to both cap and stem. Both must have been viscid at one time—ergo Section *Myxacium*. Except Joe is now indicating it is not a *Myxacium*. So much for detective-style surmising.

Also found by Harold, it had a rusty cap disc fading to lilac at the margins, purple gills, and a violet stem apex. Dr. Ammirati would like to see where it fits. Heck of a nice find.

Homophron spadiceum - This was a cespitose cluster found under spruce by Kandace Ackelson and her friend. Although not that uncommon, this was my first sighting of it. The spore deposit was a dark flesh-brown, which really threw me off. Most *Psaths* have purple-brown spores. Under the microscope, it had thick walled metuloids for cheilocystidia., and vermiform caulocystidia. Using these characters, plus spore size and growth habit, I was finally able to surface it from the rest of the taxa in the A.H. Smith *Psathyrella* monograph. (This *Homophron* was formerly in *Psathyrella*.)

Leucoagaricus sp. - Perhaps the prize of the foray, whoever found it, mucho kudos for bringing it in. It is an unusually tall *Lepiota* type species. Stems were white and smooth except for the membranous ring. The cap disc was a dark brick red, almost black, fading to pallid flesh color and then white at the margin. The stems of the two specimens were attached at their bases. According to Dr. Else Vellinga, it belongs in the *Leucoagaricus rubrotinctus* group. A DNA sequencing is called for.

Pluteus magnus - This was only the second time I have seen this. It likes piles of sawdust and looks just like the Deer Mushroom, only much larger. The Deer Mushroom, of course, is really not the Deer Mushroom any longer, but that's another story. It should be deemed edible and perhaps with the same parsnip flavor of the Deer Mushroom, now called *Pluteus exilis*. It's an acquired taste. If you happened to like it, this would be a bonanza.

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 11 Nov 2017 Foray Species List: | <i>Clitocybe nebularis</i> | <i>Hygrophoropsis auranti- aca</i> | <i>Mycena galericulata</i> |
| <i>Agaricus arvensis</i> | <i>Clitocybe sp.</i> | <i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i> | <i>Mycena quinaultensis</i> |
| <i>Agaricus deardorffensis</i> (formerly <i>A. mollerii</i> , <i>A. praeclaresquamosus</i>) | <i>Coprinus comatus</i> | <i>Hypholoma capnoides</i> | <i>Phloemanina (Mycena) speirea</i> |
| <i>Agaricus hondensis</i> | <i>Cortinarius alboviolascens</i> | <i>Inocybe grammata</i> (for- merly <i>I. albodisca</i>) | <i>Mycena tenerrima</i> |
| <i>Agaricus sp.</i> | <i>Cortinarius brunneus group</i> | <i>Inocybe insinuata</i> (former- ly <i>I. geophylla</i>) | <i>Phaeolus schweinitzii</i> |
| <i>Agaricus subrutilescens</i> | <i>Cortinarius cinnamomeoluteus</i> | <i>Inocybe pudica</i> | <i>Pholiota astragalina</i> |
| <i>Aleurodiscus amorphus</i> | <i>Cortinarius neosaguineus</i> | <i>Laccaria laccata</i> | <i>Pholiota terrestris</i> |
| <i>Xerocomellus diffractus</i> (<i>Boletus chrysenteron</i>) | <i>Cortinarius traganus</i> | <i>Lactarius "deliciosus"</i> | <i>Pluteus magnus</i> |
| <i>Xerocomellus (Boletus) zelleri</i> | <i>Cortinarius sp.</i> | <i>Lactarius luculentus var. laetus</i> | <i>Porodaedalea pini</i> |
| <i>Bondarzewia mesenterica</i> | <i>Dacrymyces chrysospermus</i> | <i>Lactarius rubrilacteus</i> | <i>Postia fragilis</i> (red-staining cheese polypore on madrone) |
| <i>Calocera viscosa</i> | <i>Ganoderma oregonense</i> | <i>Lactarius rufus</i> | <i>Psathyrella gracilis</i> |
| <i>Calocera cornea</i> | <i>Geastrum saccatum</i> | <i>Lactarius scrobiculatus</i> | <i>Homophron spadiceum</i> (<i>Psathyrella spadicea</i>) |
| <i>Chlorophyllum brunneum</i> | <i>Gomphidius glutinosus</i> | <i>Leucoagaricus sp.</i> | <i>Pseudohydnum gelati- nosum</i> |
| <i>Chlorophyllum olivieri</i> | <i>Gomphidius oregonensis</i> | <i>Lepiota cristata</i> | <i>Russula abietinus</i> |
| <i>Chroogomphus tomento- sus</i> | <i>Gymnopilus penetrans</i> | <i>Lepiota flammeotincta</i> | <i>Russula cremoricolor</i> |
| <i>Chrysomphalina auran- tiaca</i> | <i>Gymnopilus ventricosus</i> | <i>Lepiota fuliginescens</i> | <i>Russula fragrantissima</i> |
| <i>Clavaria vermicularis</i> | <i>Gymnopilus confluens</i> | <i>Lepiota rubrotinctoides</i> | <i>Russula purpurea</i> |
| <i>Clavulina cristata</i> | <i>Gymnopilus fuscopurpurea</i> | <i>Lepista nuda</i> | <i>Russula xerampelina</i> |
| <i>Ampulloclitocybe (Clito- cybe) clavipes</i> | <i>Gymnopilus peronatus</i> | <i>Leucopaxillus albissimus</i> | <i>Stereopsis humphreyi</i> |
| <i>Clitocybe dealbata</i> | <i>Hebeloma incarnatum</i> | <i>Marasmiellus candidus</i> | <i>Strobilurus albipilatus</i> |
| <i>Clitocybe deceptiva</i> | <i>Hebeloma mesophaeum</i> | <i>Marasmius oreades</i> | <i>Strobilurus trullisatus</i> |
| | <i>Helvella lacunosa</i> | <i>Atheniella (Mycena) adonis</i> | <i>Stropharia ambigua</i> |
| | <i>Hericium abietis</i> | <i>Mycena filopes</i> | <i>Suillus caerulescens</i> |
| | <i>Postia fragilis (red-staining cheese polypore on madrone)</i> | | |
| | <i>Heterobasidion annosum</i> | | |

Bowman Bay, Deception Pass Foray

November 11, 2017

Submitted by Gennaro Carbone



Mushroom of the Month

By Buck McAdoo

Mushroom of the Month

Panaeolus antillarum (Fries) Dennis

It is sometimes helpful to highlight a fungus found on one of our forays. It might even show up again. This mushroom of the month surfaced at our June, 2017 foray at Silver Lake. Fred Rhoades had led a small group to the horse paddock nearby. They returned with a solitary glistening white mushroom that was found on horse manure. The gills had that salt and pepper look that one associates with the genus *Panaeolus*. The mature spores are black, but they don't all mature at once, so the gill faces remain mottled as a result. Check out our photo of the spores. The pale ochre ones are immature. The dark brown spores of a sort of flattened almond shape with a central germ pore at the end are the mature ones. And the pallid spores that look like acorns cut in half width-wise are most likely collapsed spores.

Panaeolus semiovatus is another large, white, fleshy *Panaeolus* found on horse dung. It almost always has velar material and a smooth cap surface. The *Panaeolus* brought in by Fred and his group had no velar material and a cap surface that was slightly longitudinally wrinkled. I knew instinctively that we had something else.

Once back at the office, Fay Fenske from the Bellingham Public Library was able to procure for me the thesis by Ewald Gerhardt on the genus *Panaeolus*. The thesis is in German, but the main dichotomous key to species is in English. In this key, a viscid cap cuticle led one immediately to *Panaeolus* Subgenus *Annel-laria*. Once here, the absence of a veil or the presence of a veil as a dentate cap margin led one to number 2. If the specimen had a fugacious (soon disappearing) appendiculate margin, it was *Panaeolus semiovatus* var. *phalaenarum*. If there was no velar material on the cap margin, we had *Panaeolus antillarum*. Voila!

The odd thing is that *Panaeolus antillarum* was first discovered by a Danish pharmacist in St. Croix of the Virgin Islands prior to 1828. Elias Fries then introduced it to the world as *Agaricus antillarum* in his *Elenchus* of 1828. Saccardo moved it to *Psilocybe* in 1887. Then R.W.G. Dennis, a British mycologist, placed it in *Panaeolus* in 1961. At the same time, he declared *Panaeolus sepulchralis* and *Panaeolus solidipes* to be synonyms. What had once been thought of as an 'adventive' species, i.e. one that has been introduced to a different zone but is not yet fully acclimatized, was no longer truly adventive. To put it another way, a mushroom that has been reported on by Arora, Atkinson, John Allen, Christiansen, Clements, the Bessettes, Faubion, Graham, Guba, Gussow, Hard, Hesler, Kauffman, McIlvaine, McKnight, O.K. Miller, Murrill, Sommer, and A.H. Smith can no longer be a mushroom that has in recent times escaped from the tropics. It has a long history here, just under a different name.

However, the polish team of Halama, Witkowska, Jasicka-Misiak, & Poliwada thought of it as adventive when they found it in the northeast corner of Poland. Their excellent description is used here. Caps are described as conico-convex, rather fleshy, and up to 5 ½ cm wide. They are pure white at first, becoming grayish in age. The texture is matte becoming sticky and shiny when wet. In age the caps become wrinkled. The gills are very crowded, adnate to adnexed, and mottled black and pale gray. The gill edges are conspicuously white pruinose, a sure sign that cheilocystidia are present. The stems are 3-15 ½ cm long and up to 8 mm thick. They are either smooth or become fibrillose-striate near the apex. There is no velar material. Spores are black and the odor is slightly fungoid to mildly herbaceous.

Microscopically, spores are described as limoniform with a central germ pore. They are smooth, thick-walled, and generally described as 'flattened' in some guides. Measurements were noted as 14.8-18.4 x 10.6-12.2 microns. Cheilocystidia and caulocystidia are present. A lot of importance is assigned to the pleurocystidia, but not everyone agrees on their aspects. Our Polish team demonstrated polymorphic pleuros, differing in shape from clavate to fusiform to even mucronate. They used the term 'sulphidia' instead of pleurocystidia. These cystidia had refractive contents such as one encounters in chrysocystidia, but did not turn yellow in KOH, which is the hallmark of chrysocystidia. Frankly, I found both clavate and subfusiform

cystidia but seemingly without refractive contents. This, of course, can be attributed to the fact I don't have a phase contrast lens which can bring forth details like this.

Dr. Noordeloos, on the other hand, noted that *P. antillarum* had abundant chrysocystidia in his article in *Fungi Non Delineati* 4. Guzman and Piepenbring, describing specimens from Panama, also noted yellowish encrustations in the pleurocystidia. Meanwhile, I felt lucky enough just to find a few pleuros.

The happy news is that these discrepancies seem relatively easy to check out. The species occurs all over the world from—Australia to New Guinea to Cambodia to India to China to South America to Nevada to Arizona to New York to Kansas to Alabama to the Philippines and the Caribbean. Stamets felt that tropical specimens were thinner and fruited on cow dung. Specimens in northern latitudes were stouter and preferred horse dung.

A few notable look-alikes are as follows:

Psilocybe cubensis – A grayish-ochre, bell shaped taxon of southern cow pastures that differs by bluing at the stem bases.

Panaeolus semiovatus – Another fleshy white *Panaeolus* that differs by having obvious velar material, usually a ring on the stem.

Panaeolus semiovatus var. *phalaenarum* – Differs by its dentate cap margins, longer and narrower spores up to 20 microns in length, and germ pores that are not centrally located.

Panaeolus subfirmus – Another look-alike found on cow dung in meadows. Caps are pale ochre with a grayish tinge fading to white hygrophanously, and there are no pleurocystidia nor chrysocystidia.

As for edibility, here are the opinions that count:

O.K. Miller – ‘Non poisonous but not a desirable edible.’

Yokoyama – Reported on a couple from Japan who ate many specimens. The man was fine but his spouse had diarrhea for several days.

Stamets – ‘Edible, but not high on my list of culinary delights.’

Guzman & Piepenbring – ‘Edible, at least not offensive when ingested.’

Lohmeyer & Kunkele – ‘Taste is full bodied and fungoid.’

Hemmes & Desjardin – ‘Edible, but not recommended due to hallucinogenic mimics.’ McIlvaine – ‘It is one of the best of toadstools.’ (as *Panaeolus solidipes*)

Arora – ‘The relatively large size makes it the only non-hallucinogenic *Panaeolus* worth eating.’

Cetto – ‘Senza valore.’

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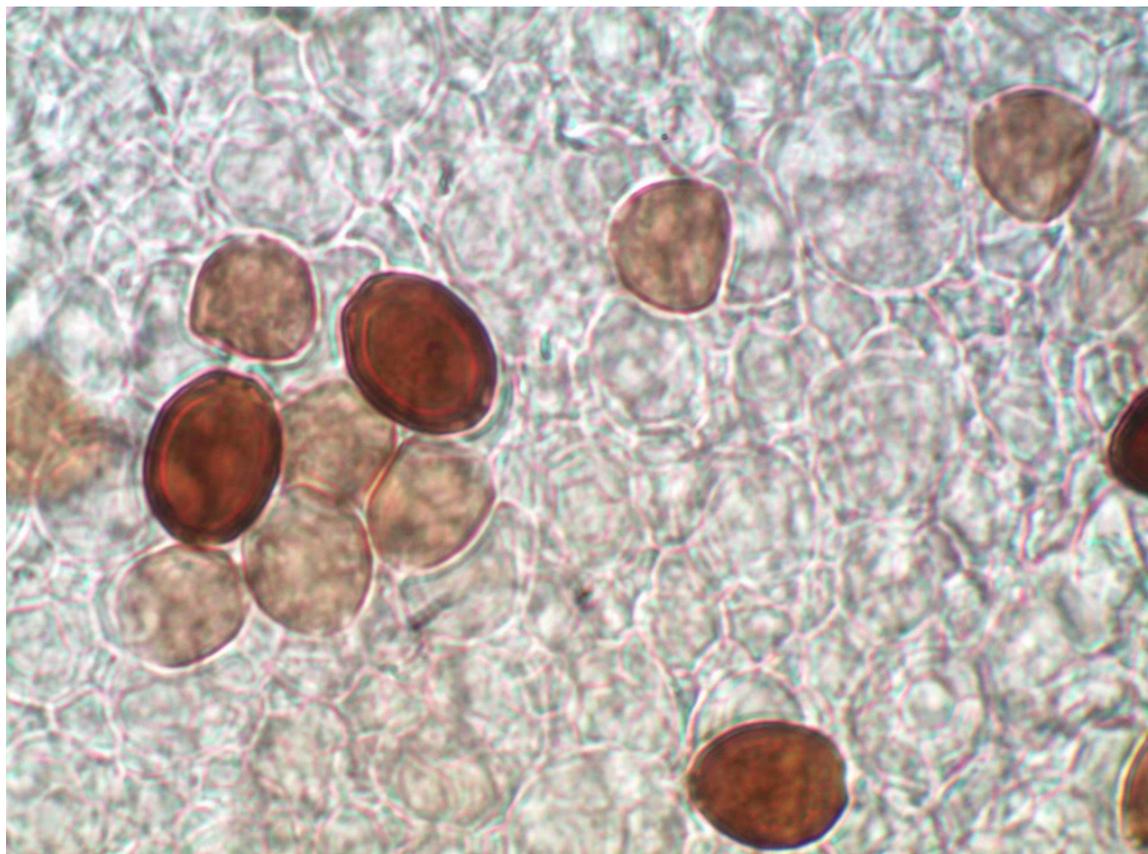
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Mushroom of the Month Photos



Panaeolus antillarum
Buck McAdoo



Spores of the
Panaeolus antillarum
Buck McAdoo

Discussion of the Annual Fall Wild Mushroom Show

By Fred Rhoades with input from: Buck McAdoo, Dick Morrison, Jeremy Ferrera, Brian Compton and Terri Wilde

Given all our experiences in the weeks prior, we were all surprised to see the number of species collected for our show this year. A big thanks to all the collectors who, despite the dearth of things, managed to scour our mushroom environments and amass a total of 252 different species. This included 161 gilled, 66 non-gilled, 24 lichens and one, lonely slime mold. Of these, the following were newly recorded species for our show: *Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis*, *Marasmiellus pluvius*, *Mycena laevigata*, *Hypsizygus tessellatus*, *Laccaria tortilis*, *Conocybe rickenii*, *Cortinarius dionysae?*, *Tubaria conspersa*, *Pholiota lactea*, *Hypholoma elongatum*, *Stropharia albivelata*, *Boletinellus merulinoides?*, *Auricularia auricula*, *Gloiodon occidentalis*, *Cryptoporus volvatus*, *Oligoporus leucomallellus* and *Ascocoryne sarcoides*. Those species listed with “?” did not get critical microscopic examination after the show but the identifications are likely correct. Of the true mushrooms (i.e. not lichens, not slime molds), the vast majority of the species collected are plant-decomposing species. Only a few of the normally abundant mycorrhizal species in genera like *Cortinarius*, *Inocybe*, *Lactarius*, *Russula*, *Tricholoma* (and none from *Hygrophorus*) were present and the abundance of many others (chanterelles, boletes, teeth fungi) has been reduced.

So what is happening this year? Although no one knows for sure, here is my analysis, also based on the increases in mushrooms just this last week since the show (but still lacking in mycorrhizal species). I believe that the mycorrhizal host trees were severely stressed by the summer drought and heat in 2015. Last year's showing of mycorrhizal species was even more dismal than this year. And then again, this summer, despite the abundant spring rains, turned out to be another hot and dry one. There is evidence back in the Cascades, in the form of dead and dying conifer and alder seedlings, that these conditions put additional stresses on their mycorrhizal relationships. If the summer conditions haven't out rightly destroyed some of these mushrooms, they have at least sufficiently weakened the host trees so that their sharing of carbohydrate to their mycorrhizal companions has been curtailed. As always, the future will tell but, with the certain climate change that is upon us, we may be seeing a switch in summer conditions that will ultimately change how our forests behave.

A couple of differences this year in the way mushrooms were displayed met with approval by members of the club and our visitors alike. We pulled the edible and look-alike trays to the side where they could be staffed by a constant expert. Also, there was a display of species with potential medicinal activity. I encourage those members who appreciated this arrangement to let us know further and, next year, volunteer to staff these displays and work on them to help make them even better.



*Specimen at Annual Fall Wild
Mushroom Show Submitted by
Zachary Brown*

Photos of the Annual Fall Wild Mushroom Show By Zachary Brown



Comments on the Annual Fall Wild Mushroom Show

By Buck McAdoo

It was a strange season. The woods were not bursting with fungi. Still, it was exhilarating to see the variety upon the tables. Everyone out looking must have gone to different locations. Rather than report on the entire scene, I will restrict my comments to what I observed.

The Collybioids – These were dominated this year by *Connopus acervatus*. This species grows in large clumps and has a very pleasant aromatic odor. It has small, beige colored caps and smooth dark red-brown stems. There must have been 4 giant clusters in the Collybia box. Other Collybioids included *Gymnopus peronatus*, *Gymnopus dryophilus*, and *Rhodocollybia maculata*. No exciting new ones there.

Clitocybe – Harold Mead was working on them. It's a nasty group. There was *Ampulloclitocybe clavipes*, *Clitocybe nebularis*, and *Pseudoclitocybe cyathiformis*. There are numerous grayish to pale ochre-brownish species. Harold hefted one with a canescent stem. You need a microscope to separate them and where's the time?

Cortinarius – Jeremy Ferrera is attracted to these. We worked out several, including *Cortinarius venetus* var. *montanus*. The common *Cortinarius anomalus* was there, but as usual, maybe five species we couldn't put names to in the time allotted. One Cort that hadn't made it to the show before was *Cortinarius dionysae*, which had been found by Jack Waytz on the Lower Lookout Mountain Trail. Young gills are purple, stem context is also purple at the apex, but the caps are innately fibrillose and brown.

Other particularly interesting species out on the tables were *Pholiota lactea*, a *Marasmius* with a gnarly cap shape and rooting stem base that smelled like it was starting to rot, *Crepidotus epibryus*, and *Stropharia albivelata*. All were firsts for the show. *S. albivelata* was for many decades in *Pholiota* because of its brown spore print, not the usual purple-brown of *Stropharia*. It has a smooth, tan cap with a darker rusty to sometimes mauve-brown disc, pale gray-brown gills, and thick white rhizomorphs at the stem base. It is a rare mushroom in our area. *Crepidotus epibryus* is a flabelliform mushroom without a stem. It is unguulate, meaning it is attached by its cap to the stick it is on, the gills facing upward. The *Crepidotus* monograph has it recorded from Colorado, Michigan, and Tennessee. *Pholiota lactea* has been recorded from Mt. Rainier National Park. It is said to be gregarious on soil. The example in the show was a cespitose cluster. In either case, it is a species I hadn't seen before.

Wandering around the tables, I only spied two mistakes, but only looked at gilled mushrooms and boletes. The specimen labeled *Gymnopilus bellulus* was a *Galerina*, and the large cluster labeled *Psathyrella piluliformis* was a *Mycena*. This i.d. was so far off that Fred figures a label must have fallen onto the mushroom by mistake.

It was fun working with everyone and in general the identification classes are paying off. With so many of us working on them, it is welcoming to see so few errors.

Two new committees forming for next year's Wild Mushroom Show

By Fred Rhoades

Edible, Look alike and Medicinal Committee

Did you like the way the show this year featured separate tables at the side that focused on edible species, look alike species to those edibles and a few species that may have medicinal properties? This was the work of Terri Wilde. She is chairing a committee to look into how to better organize these displays, and, hopefully, help staff them during our next show. If you would like to be involved, please email Terri Wilde (wildefoods@yahoo.com) or Fred Rhoades (fmrhoades@comcast.net).

Labeling Committee

A group of members has helped organize the show labeling, particularly for the species displays in the center of the room, but the committee could also look at labeling and signage throughout our show. If you have ideas about how our show signage and labeling could be made better, please join our group. Email Pam Borso (borsope@aol.com) or Fred Rhoades (fmrhoades@comcast.net) if you are interested.



Homophron spadiceum Submitted by Buck McAdoo

Who Am I ?

Send your ID of the Mystery Mushroom to Vince, and be the first to get it right.
Winner gets to choose the next Mystery Mushroom
No idea has been received yet, Can you guess who I am?



Hint:

This was found on a Douglas-fir in Whatcom Falls Park, midday.

Submitted by Holly Roger