

BULLETIN OF THE NEW MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY, VICTORIA AND SURROUNDINGS

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GREETINGS to all who have expressed interest in forming a local mycological society. Over 80 people from Victoria to Pander Island signed up as prospective members during and after the Third Annual Mushroom Display at the Royal B. C. Museum on October 24, 1993. This overwhelming response deserves to be rewarded with a great year of field trips, identification sessions, slide shows, talks, and social events!

So mark your calendars NOW for our first meeting on February 3, 1994, at 7:30 p.m. at the Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside Road, Victoria. The PFC has kindly permitted us to use its conference hall and vast parking lot. in return for this kindness we request that everyone arrive on time or a bit early to avoid harrying the security commissioner who oversees not only the comings and goings at the door, but must also make the rounds inside the building.

Everyone is welcome! Bring your families and entice your fungus-loving friends to this groundbreaking meeting.

We will:

** move toward our goal of forming a society by electing officers and accepting volunteers for a variety of activities;

** accept entries for the Name-Our-Mushrooming-Society and the Name-Our-Newsletter-Contests, to be voted on in the March 3 meeting;

** discuss upcoming field trips;

** enjoy a slide show and witty commentary by Paul Kroeger, a founding member of the Vancouver Mycological Society, who will tell us about the activities of his Society across the strait, and who will include photos of fungi we would expect to find here:

** indulge in refreshments and mingle (bring a mug!!) and don't be shy about bringing your favorite cookies or squares to share).

A display of books dealing with mushroom identification and cuisine will be available to browse in or buy, courtesy of The Field-Naturalist. We will attempt to provide this display during all monthly meetings. This will be a good opportunity to discuss with experienced people which books will meet your needs in the coming years.

A BIT ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SOCIETY

On the night of 15 December 1993, several diehard fungophiles wrenched themselves away from their pre-Christmas activities and squeezed into my tiny cottage during a raging windstorm to discuss the framework for a mycological society for southern Vancouver Island. The ensuing brainstorms shook the cottage's foundations but miraculously failed to provide the proverbial "last straw", and the cottage still stands (although without me - I moved).

Several decisions were reached that night, some of which were as follows:

Monthly meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month (except December and January) at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays were chosen because they would allow us to bring in speakers visiting the Vancouver Mycological Society, which meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

We will meet at the Pacific Forestry Centre unless we find a more suitable place.

A monthly newsletter will outline upcoming events for the month, summarize the events and findings of the preceding month, and will accept comments or other contributions by members.

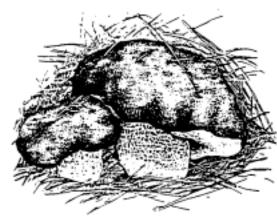
Yearly membership dues of \$15 per household, or \$10 for students and seniors will be collected to help defray the cost of the newsletter, bringing in speakers, etc.

Field trips will usually occur on weekends. Major field trips will be planned in advance and will be announced in the newsletter, along with meeting time and place. Impromptu trips for those in dire need to hunt up dinner or just quickly get out of the house might be planned at any time, and it will be up to you to contact the field trip committee for information.

We hope to learn a lot in the open air, but we will also hold indoor identification workshops under the guidance of local and visiting experts.

In return for help we will be getting from the scientific community, we hope to prepare and donate many fungus specimens to the PFC herbarium (a scientific collection of preserved plants, of which the PFC has over 35,000 groups of specimens), where they will be used for research.















To increase public awareness of fungi we hope to continue the now traditional Annual Mushroom Display in October. With so many eager foragers we are sure to have excellent shows!

And lest we be labelled a dud society, let's not forget that we will have an annual members' social potluck, tentatively set for November.

Thanks are due to Shannon Berch, Brenda Callan, Adolf and Oluna Ceska, Gilles Patenaude, and Richard Winder for braving that dark and stormy night to hatch the spores that will surely give rise to an educational and entertaining mycological experience for us all. But all will be for naught without a large and enthusiastic crowd of fungus hunters, eaters, growers, identifiers, or whatever your interest So plan to come on February 3, tell your friends, and let's get the mushrooming on the road.

You can reach me, Hannah Nadel, for more information at 544-1386 (Brentwood Bay).

