

Fungifama

September, 1996

The newsletter of the **South Vancouver Island Mycological Society**

Volume 3.7

SVIMS

President:	Hannah Nadel
Vice President:	Paul Young
Secretary:	Brenda Callan
Treasurer:	Sue Thorn
Director:	Jocelyn Lalonde
Director:	Renata Outerbridge
Director:	Dennis Ingersoll
Fungifama:	Richard Winder
Membership:	Hannah Nadel
Meetings:	The first Thursday of every month (except December, January, July, and August) 7:00 p.m. Sharp at the Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside Rd., Victoria. Dues are currently \$15 per year per household, \$7.50 per half year.

WINDER'S WOODLOT

You're seeing this issue a little quicker and shorter than usual this month so we can also bring you the registration forms for the joint fall foray with VMS on time. Winder's woodlot happened to be up in the boreal north of Fort. St. John again for this issue, where I had to explore the forest literally crawling on hands and knees to see and photograph the amazing variety of fungi there. So there is not much to report for Sooke. The usual *Agaricus* species have been absent. I guess we'll blame it on the weather. This hasn't stopped me from enjoying a small batch of chanterelles I found and cooked on a camp stove while camping at Lizard Lake. They were small and somewhat dried-out, but just the thing for breakfast in the woods, and maybe a bit better tasting than the big soggy kind. -RSW

SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

September meeting: Mike Doyle of the Search and Rescue Society of BC gave a lively and informative presentation on safety in the woods, just in time for our frantic fall foray season. The points he stressed we should heed when we go off on a mushroom hunt are: 1) to let someone know where we are going, and 2) to be prepared in case we get lost. Minimum preparedness consists of carrying a big plastic garbage bag, preferably orange or yellow. If you're lost and the temperature drops, just punch and stretch a hole for your face on one side of the bag near a bottom corner, then pull it

over your head and body. In a sitting position you'll remain remarkably warm and dry! The bright color helps searchers find you. You should also carry matches or a lighter in a waterproof container. Other useful items include a whistle (three blasts are the universal signal for distress), a small flashlight, a mylar blanket, and a small reflective device for signalling during daylight. Water is also a good idea. To avoid getting lost, turn periodically to see where you have been as well as where you are going. Familiarize yourself with your path and remember landmarks. If you're really serious about this, you might want to mark your path with bright flagging tape, and take it down as you retrace your steps. If you own a compass, use it. Did you remember your map? If you do become lost, it may be best to stay in one spot. This could increase your chance of being found sooner. Mike also informed us a bit on how searches are conducted. As much information as possible is gathered on the missing person (where last seen, personality, physical condition, etc.). Previous cases have provided the search organizations with likely scenarios for each type of person, so they then set out to search in the most likely spots. The Search and Rescue Society has data on mushroom hunters, some of it not exactly comforting! Lost mushroom hunters are usually in good physical condition, 65-70% are in good mental condition, 50-60% are not adequately equipped, 45-55% are not adequately clothed, and 90% are found within 5 miles of their last known position. Apparently 90% stay in one spot, 30-50% move during the night, 66% move downhill if they can, and there is a 50% chance of detecting them in bad weather (that is, they take cover and are hard to find). That bit about mental condition- is that a general condition or after getting lost? Hmmm... ☺ Many thanks to Jocelyn Lalonde for suggesting and setting up the program! -HN

China Beach Foray: On Saturday, September 14th, Dennis Ingersoll lead eight of us (and one beagle and one pygmy owl) on a successful foray to China Beach and Muir Creek. The beagle was the first to score a successful find, two of the cookies in my lunch bag. A few chanterelles, admirable and king boletes, and two spectacular fruitings of chicken-of-the-woods were the highlights of the day. At Muir Creek, President Nadel offered a quarter to the first finder of a bolete, and had to pay out to the newsletter editor almost immediately when he discovered a king bolete button. Rumor has it that Hannah will be bringing lots of quarters to the Renfrew Rally... -RSW

CHECK CHECK

Attention anyone who paid for SVIMS membership since last October by check: Several checks inadvertently went stale before there was a chance to deposit them. If your check never cleared, please contact treasurer Sue Thorn (if she doesn't get to you first) to rectify the error. -RSW

UPCOMING EVENTS

21 September The Third Annual Renfrew Rally

Leader- Richard Winder. Chanterelles and boletes will be on the agenda. Meet at 10:00 a.m. At the Recreation Centre parking lot in Port Renfrew (near the big map and whale). We will only wait 15 minutes for stragglers, people getting coffee etc. Before proceeding to Lizard Lake. A word about safety and courtesy to foray leaders: let's experiment with a (hopefully painless) protocol to avoid the uncertainty in counting heads at the end of the day (did they slip and break a leg or get lost, or did they just leave?). You will be asked to leave a slip of paper with your name on phone number on it in a box under the leader's car. As they leave, participants will take their slips from the box. The remaining slips will tip off the leader that someone has not returned. **If you leave without taking your slip, expect a phone call!** For the trip from Renfrew to Lizard Lake or any other sites, the lead car will be responsible for keeping the next car in sight, the next car will be responsible for keeping the car which follows it in sight, etc. To the last car. Before all cars leave a site, absence of parties in the car which follows you should be reported to the leader. As always, for safety reasons we advise you to always keep a partner in sight during the foray. Happy hunting and remember to pack a lunch!

3 October Monthly meeting – mushroom mania night

Bring a few fresh mushrooms each of no more than 3 different types of mushrooms. We'll break up into small groups including at least one person with identification experience and go through the process of identifying the fungi. Please bring your books and any handouts from previous identification workshops. Don't forget that it's best to bring young as well as mature (not rotten) specimens of each species, and if you can make a spore print, too, you will get a hug from the president! Promises, promises! Also bring mushroom goodies if you can, and let's make it a real mushroom Mania evening.

October is also the month to nominate officers for the next year. Voting will occur in November at the Annual General meeting. Vice President Paul Young will take nominations at the October meeting or by phone or mail. We need a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and about two directors. Let the old guard retire, for a change, and offer your services! The past officers will always be glad to lend a hand. -HN

4-6 October The Clarence Schmok Fall Foray

The Vancouver Mycological Society invites SVIMS members to a foray based at the Last Resort in Manning Park. Please fill out the registration form included with this mailing with all due haste if you plan to attend. Details are included in the form.

12-13 October Cowichan scout trip (tentative)

Approximately one week before the fall mushroom show, it might be nice to camp near Honeymoon Bay to scout out collection spots for the fall show. Lobby your foray committee!

20 October Annual Fall Mushroom Show

Held at Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary. Field trips and set up: Don't forget to keep the 19th free to help collect and set up specimens. We'll meet on the 19th at the north parking lot of the Pacific Forestry Centre at 9:00 a.m. To car pool and break up into groups to collect around Victoria and as far as Cowichan or further. Bring a lunch and collecting gear and boxes. Half-day trips can be arranged for those short of time. Or just go off on your own, but don't hide and eat all those pine mushrooms like Dennis Ingersoll did last year! Specimens from field trips or around your home can be brought to the nature centre in boxes on the afternoon of the 19th or after 8:00 a.m. on the 20th. The doors will open to the public at 10:00 a.m., so don't wait until the last minute.

Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to identify and set up specimens on Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday morning. We might have some art work again to hang. Volunteers will be needed to man the tables and answer questions. Our bake sale was very popular last year and provided much of the funds to cover the cost of the show, so we'll need more volunteers to provide or sell backed goodies along with drinks. Bring your goodies Sunday morning, or even later. People will also be needed to sell the SVIMS mushroom calendar and to take memberships in the society. At least two volunteers are needed in the parking lot to organize the parking and give directions for additional parking in the area. Last year Ken Kissinger did most of the work, and it would be nice to give the main volunteer some time off to look at the show.

7 November Annual general meeting

This will be the last formal meeting for 1996. Officers for 1997 will be voted on. A slide presentation and talk will be given by Bryce Kendrick, recently retired as a mycology professor from the University of Waterloo and author of the widely acclaimed text, *The Fifth Kingdom*. Bryce has so many good presentations to give that we're not sure yet which he'll choose. You can be sure it will be extremely interesting.

? November, December, January Potluck banquet (Time TBA).