

FUNGI FAMA

SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY

HAPPY 20th ANNIVERSARY TO US!

It was 20 years ago that seven people got together to toss around the idea of forming a mushroom club in Victoria. As a result of that meeting of minds, the first gathering was held on February 3, 1994 and the club was launched. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the founders for their contributions which has seen our club grow to the 233 members we have today.

Bouquets of mushrooms to **Hannah Nadel**, our first President, along with **Shannon Berch, Adolf and Oluna Ceska, Richard Winder, Brenda Callan, and Gilles Patenaude** and all those who continue to contribute to the success of SVIMS.



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IN THIS ISSUE:

Hannah Nadel	p.2-3	Mycologists Just Wanna Have Fun-gi.	p.9
New Members	p.4	For Your Bookshelf	p.10
Upcoming Meetings	p.5	SVIMS Calendar	p.11
Mushroom Show 2013	p.6-9	The Last Word	p.11



Photo: Jean Johnson

Recognize anybody?



Photo: Hannah Nadel, 1995

HANNAH NADEL—SVIMS FIRST PRESIDENT



Photos courtesy of Hannah Nadel



Hannah with Renata Outerbridge, 1995

While studying biological control of insect pests at the University of California at Riverside in the early 1980s, I joined the Los Angeles Mycological Society to learn more about mushrooms and became fascinated with the interrelationships of fungi with insects and plants. After moving to Victoria in 1990 I joined forces with interested friends and helped form SVIMS in 1994. I also began a hobby of rearing insects from mushrooms, which was especially memorable because of the wriggly, soupy messes discovered in my coat pockets after collecting trips, and the bags of large rotting mushrooms left by SVIMS members on my doorstep. Finally, in 2010, after several stints as a wandering entomologist in eastern Africa and North America, my career brought me to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Otis Laboratory on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, where I grow insects for research and also research ways to reduce threats from foreign insect pests. I am still pursuing my interest in fungi while serving as Vice President of the newly-formed Cape Cod Mushroom Club.

HANNAH NADEL, 20 YEARS LATER

By Jean Johnson

Hannah was a founding member and the first president of SVIMS from 1994 to 1996. Her enthusiasm carried the young Club along and she was a strong advocate of just asking people to take on executive positions. She was aided by the other responsive founding members, some of whom are still with us today.

Hannah is now active with a new mushroom club, the Cape Cod Mushroom Club. It was born last spring and is full of wide-eyed, enthusiastic people, not unlike the SVIMS crowd in the '90s. The president is Wes Price who singlehandedly organized the first meeting and walks, created a website (www.capecodmushroomclub.org), a Facebook page, and started offering workshops.

Hannah offered to be VP despite being completely rusty about fungi (she says) and ignorant of a lot of local species. (Never mind. She states that her creaky old brain is slowly catching on). But the Club still has no newsletter and only two committees, so there is a way to go. Last fall CCMC put on the first Cape Cod Mushroom Fair. Despite one of the driest autumns in mycological memory there were around 100 species of Cape mushrooms on display and the members and public were thrilled. With new members signing up at the Fair the tally is now over 110 members and counting.

It was a delight to hear from Hannah, this 20th anniversary year of SVIMS, and know that she still is a "fungus among us".

SVIMS PAST PRESIDENTS

1994-96 Hannah Nadel

1997-99 Richard Winder

2000 Bryce Kendrick

2001-02 John Dennis

2003-04 Christine Roberts

2005-07 Christian Friedinger

2008-09 Shannon Berch

2010 Richard Winder

2011-12 Jean Johnson

2012 Kevin Trim

2012-present Lee Smith



Photos: Hannah Nadel

**IN THE OLDEN
DAYS!**



**WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS!**



Frozen earth tongues or club corals on cutblock in Aleza Lake Research Forest east of Prince George, photographed by Dr. Hugues Massicotte, UNBC.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| LOUISE PAYNE | RUTH HORIE |
| MARION TRIM | GEORGE EMRYS EVANS |
| BRIAN WOODLEY | BOB COSBURN |
| CHRIS McCANN | SUSAN WEBBER |
| ANNE DENMAN | DONNA ASHFORD |
| EMMY BORSBOOM | ARNE AAMODT |
| NATE POETTER | SAUL ARBESS |
| RON KNIGHT & SOFIA LYETA | TOM KRAL |
| QUENTIN HU | JESSICA LATOURELLE |
| RICHARD SNYDER | SANDRA TURNHAM |
| TERESA STONE | ROBIN KITE & RODERICK |
| CHRIS & SAM HAUSERMAN | JEFFRIES |
| ALAN & GAYLE JOHNSTON | MAXWELL THEOBALD & |
| RANDY MACKENZIE | JANINE THEOBALD |
| NAOMI ELLIS | HAZEL TOWANEY & JACK- |
| ROBERT HERCHAK | SON TOWANEY-SMYTH |
| FRED TRUDELL | |
| CHRIS REGAN | RETURNING: |
| BIBIANA CUJEC | GERALD ANSELL |
| FRED LANG | |
| MAGGIE KRAWIEC & PAVOL
KRESTAN | |
| JOHN & MARY KENDREW | |
| LANCE & VIVIAN MARSH | |
| ALAN FOY | |
| EMILY, DARREN & CEDAR
MARSH | |

FUNGIFAMA DEADLINE

Please submit your stories, announcements, and photos by **March 15th** for the next edition of the newsletter.

jillstanjs@hotmail.com

REMINDER

Annual membership fees are due this month, except for new members who signed up in the fall whose membership began then.

\$20/family

UPCOMING

SVIMS meeting—February 6, 2014

Pacific Forestry Centre, 7pm

NTFP MUSHROOMS AND OTHER ECONOMIC FUNGI

This presentation explores the BC commercial wild mushroom harvest, and also looks at exotic fungi found in Asian markets with some examples of medicinal fungi, and even a little aboriginal ethnomycology and museums foraging.



Paul Kroeger has studied mushrooms for over thirty-five years and is President and a founding member of Vancouver Mycological Society. He is considered a leading expert in field identification of macrofungi of western Canada. Paul has made a special study of “little brown mushrooms” including magic mushrooms and their relatives. He has been involved in many projects and studies about diverse aspects of mushrooms, gaining knowledge about fungal biology and ecology, and biochemistry of toxic, hallucinogenic, medicinal and edible mushrooms. Years of experience create unique insights and understanding of fungal life-ways and interactions in temperate ecosystems.

SVIMS meeting—March 6, 2014

Pacific Forestry Centre, 7pm

A QUARTET OF MYCOLOGICAL MAVENS

Have you ever heard of Dr. Clara Fritz, Canada's first timber pathologist? Drs. Ruth Macrae, Mildred Nobles and Irene Mounce were also dedicated Canadian government scientists who were pioneers in their field of wood decay fungus identification in the first half of the 20th century. They travelled to remote areas to make field collections, and developed innovative keys to identify polypores and other basidiomycetes cultured from wood. They worked on important issues of the time, such as decay of railway ties and airplane grade lumber. They also encountered personal and professional challenges that were often very different from the ones we encounter in the modern workplace.



Dr. Brenda Callan has over 25 years of experience identifying tree diseases and forest fungi. She is a Research Scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, and her lab is at the Pacific Forestry Centre in Victoria, BC, where she also curates the herbarium. Her publications include diagnostic manuals and new tree and plant disease records for BC and Canada. She currently conducts research on the detection and identification of fungi associated with commodities such as conifer lumber and logs. She is also a founding member of SVIMS, and coined the name Fungifama for the club's newsletter.



SVIMS Mushroom Show – Sunday, October 27, 2013

by Jean Johnson



Photo: Jean Johnson

Andy Mackinnon, and Ian Gibson. The public brought baskets, cardboard trays and bags full of mushrooms. One fellow even brought a huge mushroom-covered divot from his lawn. By the early afternoon, the packed room was “high” with spores and smells.

What a remarkable and gratifying mushroom year! With folks finding mushrooms in numbers not seen in the last decade, and amazing numbers of fungi both in urban and wilder locations, the SVIMS Annual Mushroom Show drew a steady and enthusiastic crowd.

Our loyal scientific mycologists and mycophiles helped to ID and explain the mysteries of the Fifth Kingdom. **Shannon Berch, Kem Luther, Kevin Trim, Richard Winder, Renata Outerbridge and John Dennis** spent all day in the ID bull pit with help from

the packed room was “high” with spores and smells.



Photo: Liz Williams

Helga Wolnicki was at the cooking station at the entrance to the Swan Lake Nature House, with the donation “mushroom” cleverly placed to solicit loonies and toonies as folks picked up some tasty appetizers. Helga had received a bounty of edible mushrooms from many folks, including herself, and had a handsome fungal basket on display. Folks donated edibles from the Cowichan Lake foray plus many people brought in edibles to the show: **Kevin Trim, Pauline Hutchinson, Dianne Humphries, Jean Johnson, Karen Burns, Darren Mackas, Ken Wong, Thor Henrich, Kurt Raeder, Heather Leary, Anne Henderson, Pauline Cohen, Brooke De Paoli, Liz and Mary Anne Boileau from Tofino.** Special mention goes to **Jessica Latourelle** from Washington State for the cleanest chanterelles and **Julien Marceau** for bringing in a humongous Cauliflower (*Sparassis sp*) mushroom over 24 inches in diameter.

We don't know everyone to thank for receiving and sorting the mushroom specimens on Saturday after-

noon and evening, but we know that **Shannon Berch, Kevin Trim, May Kald, Agnes Lynn, Kem Luther, Andy Mackinnon, John Dennis, Renata Outerbridge, Richard Winder, Ken Wong, Sharon Godkin, Steve Johnson** and new member **Jaz Grenier** had a lot to do with it. Many of them stayed until 11:00 pm, fueled by the pizza donated from his business by **Q Zhao**. We owe everyone a big thanks for their stamina and dedication. Our apologies for not mentioning any others who also helped.

There was a membership table overseen by **Gary Sawayama, Pauline Cohen** and **Barbara Pendergast** while **Mabel Jean Rawlins** and **Jean Johnson** sold the SVIMS 2014 calendars. **Agnes Lynn** was a standby volunteer, filling in at the Calendar and Membership table and also helping other folks.



Photos: Jean Johnson

The show attracted a record number of **1,100** attendees - the highest number in the history of the Mushroom Show. This was reflected in the amount of donations - **\$580** - which was shared with Swan Lake. **Mabel Jean Rawlins** had put together a very clever **20th Anniversary Issue** of the calendar - combining stunning fungal images with watermark photos of past SVIMS events and executive members. **Thirty five** calendars were sold - another record for the Show.



Photo: Jean Johnson

Scott Mair of the **Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary** printed out very popular mushroom colouring templates for the children's table and helped field questions about SVIMS Education Program currently taking place at Swan Lake until November 13th. This year, each of the 6 programs has been fully registered.

Many thanks to the folks who provided food and goodies for our volunteers: **Shannon Berch** for those delicious chocolate chip cookies and **Zora Creery** who brought her ever-yummy Egg Salad Sandwiches.

As usual, **Ian Gibson** came to enter all the fungal species in our Club's database. He says the final tally will be over 200 species which is at the high range for the Mushroom Show. **Oluna Ceska** arrived in the afternoon with **Adolf Ceska** and they are collating the final species list. Many members stayed to help clean up afterwards and finish off the pizza that has become a tradition.

Thanks to **Heather Leary and Swan Lake** for doing the Publicity for the show.

A special thanks is reserved for **Helga Wolnicki**, who stood outside and cooked from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. **Gary Sawayama** filled in while she took a bathroom break. You may not know, but Helga also spends a whole day cleaning mushrooms the day before the Show. Her aromatic cauliflower, pine, chanterelle, hedgehog and milky cap mushrooms cooking on a grill drew people to the front door of

Swan Lake. She used two-and-a-half pounds of butter!

Many thanks to **Scott Mair** and the **Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary** for hosting our show and providing help when we needed it.

We hope that everyone who contributed gets thanked so if there are any errors and omissions in this summary, they are my own. The people who attended this event, whether SVIMS members or members of the public, all enjoyed themselves. And some of our mushroom specimens lived on—recycled by **Rene Zich** for the **Galiano Mushroom Show** in November.

Q.) What kind of soap do mushrooms use?

A.) Ex pholiota-ating body wash



Photo: Hannah Nadel

Q.) Which mushrooms are best at staying up to date on the forest news?

A.) The ones with decurrent gills



Q.) How many mycologists does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A.) 10, one to screw in the light bulb and 9 to argue about what kind of light bulb it was.



Photos: Jean Johnson

Q.) Why couldn't the Bolete reproduce?

A.) Its tubes were tied

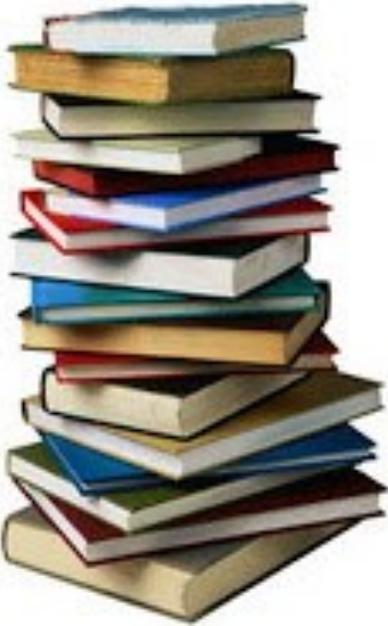


Q.) What grows in the water, eats decaying plants and has grey gills?

A.) A fish, duh

**Mycologists
just wanna
have fun-gi!**

FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF



NAMA is thrilled to present [The Fungus Files: An Educator's Guide to Fungi K-6 \(Second Edition\)](#), a newly revised e-book packed with dynamic and diverse activities designed to be easily adaptable to students of all ages, learning styles and ability levels. This publication is the best thing to come along in mushroom education in a decade. Written by terraBrie Stewart and designed and illustrated by Rost Koval, The Fungus Files can be used by anyone teaching about fungi to school groups, science clubs, local nature groups, and any non-specialist audience. Stewart resides in Edmonton, Alberta. To download this valuable free resource, go to

http://www.namyco.org/images/pdf_files/fungus_files_brochure_new.pdf

A new book by Beug, Bessette and Bessette, forthcoming in March 2014.

With more than 850 color photographs and more than 600 described species, as well as an easy-to-use color key to aid visual identification, this is the most complete guide ever published to North American Ascomycetes, which include morels and truffles.

ISBN: 978-0-29275452-2

University of Texas Press

\$85 US, or \$56.95 online

ASCOMYCETE FUNGI of North America

A MUSHROOM REFERENCE GUIDE

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Alan E. Bessette
Arleen R. Bessette



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2013—2014**

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SVIMS CALENDAR 2014

It's not too late to get your calendar!

\$15



The special 20th anniversary edition has been carefully put together by **Mabel Jean Rawlins** and features striking photographs by club members as well as greyscale ones from yesteryear behind the calendar dates. Many thanks to all the photographers—**Rich Mably, Julien Marceau, Kevin Trim, Brooke De Paoli, Heather Leary, Bruce Pendergast, Diane Humphrey, Mabel Jean Rawlins, Will Hintz, Christine Roberts, John Dennis, Richard Winder, Bruce Kendrick**—as well as Sidney Shutterbugs for helping with the final selection. Thanks also go to **Oluna Ceska** who contributed a page of her wonderfully detailed mushroom drawings, while **Barbara Pendergast and Karen Rowe** sold the calendars and kept tabs on the revenue. It was truly a cooperative effort to bring about a memorable calendar that celebrates the joy of mushrooming. Congratulations and thanks to **Mabel Jean** for a fantastic job in pulling it all together!

THE LAST WORD

As I write this, I am thinking about what to take to SVIMS Annual Survivor's Banquet...and dreaming about what others might bring. Every year the Banquet demonstrates that the club not only encompasses mycologists, naturalists, scientists, mycophiles and the merely curious, but also amazing cooks! There are often inventive mushroom dishes and with the abundance of chants, pines, hedgehogs, cauliflowers from this past, most-wonderful of myco-autumns, no doubt there will be plenty to savour. It's rare to meet a mycophile who doesn't enjoy eating mushrooms—I've only ever met one—and he's not in OUR club!

How good it will be to celebrate the club's 20th anniversary and share memories and laughs at this year's Banquet. Hoping to see you there.

Jill