

fungifama

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South Vancouver Island Mycological Society

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SVIMS

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Membership: 15\$ per family - contact Hannah Nadel, 7028 Bryrwood Ct., Brentwood Bay, B.C. V0S 1A0

Meetings: First Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the Pacific Forestry Centre, 506 West Burnside Rd., Victoria, B.C.

IN THIS ISSUE:

UPCOMING EVENTS
WINDER'S WOODLOT
SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

WINDER'S WOODLOT

This month has been pretty busy, so Fungifama will be short this time. I know I promised an In Depth article on Making Mushrooms in the last issue, but that will have to wait for next month. Next month I'll also be adding an answer column to address member's mycological questions. So if you have a question, send it on in. Some of the topics I'll be covering over the next few issues: What is a fungus? What is a mushroom? Are raw mushrooms safe to eat? What's the big deal about mycorrhizae? and...What are Kombucha mushrooms? One member even wants to know if the number of cells in a mushroom is constant, since mushrooms supposedly don't shed skin cells like we humans do. Whew! Looks like I've got my work cut out for me.

The Spring rains and lack of frost have the mushrooms starting to pop up already (thanks, El niño). I haven't had time to identify any, but it is nice to see some hopeful signs of what could be a good Spring foray season. Morels have been spotted fruiting as far north as the Puget Sound area a week ago, so we should be on the lookout. I'll see all of you March 25 at Thetis Lake. -RSW

SOCIETY HIGHLIGHTS

The March 2 meeting covered a lot of ground. Prior to the meeting, the foray committee met to discuss foray plans, and some progress was made (see Upcoming Events). Persons wishing to lead other forays this year are urged to contact Fungifama as soon as possible, so that we can coordinate the calendar. At the main meeting, Hannah discussed the intended focus of the group, assuring members that she thinks SVIMS can continue to focus on popular mushroom themes without ignoring other fungal topics. Toward that end, "Mushroom Mania nights" were proposed, where members can bring one or two kinds of mushrooms in for identification in lieu of the normal speaker at the monthly meeting. A day-long ID workshop and a field guide review were also proposed.

After the business meeting, Dr. Scott Redhead gave us a fascinating exposé on the world of commercial mushroom harvesters, both in the Pacific NW and in Northern Québec. Of course, pine mushrooms and morels figured largely in the discussion. Mushroom harvesting is big business in some areas - one town in Washington has even forgone harvesting timber, a boom-bust industry, in favor of the steady income that mushrooms are claimed to provide. Scott gave us a few tips on looking for these mushrooms, look-alikes to avoid, prices paid, etc. At the end, members also got a good look at some mushrooms from Tsunami Mushroom Farms, as well as some Hvgrocbe flavesceus found in Sooke. -RSW

UPCOMING EVENTS

25 March (Saturday) Morale (More!?) Booster- Thetis Lake Park

Yes, we may be a bit early with this one, but let's get out there and cheer them on, at least! Adolf Ceska has volunteered to lead the foray - it will meet at the main parking lot of Thetis Lake Park at 10:00 a.m.

6 April (Thursday) Meeting (Mushroom Mania night)

There will be vote on membership dues at the next meeting (April 6). The Board has proposed eliminating the \$5.00 discount for seniors and students, making all dues \$15.00 per household, and prorating dues for July - December to \$7.50. The Board actually voted on this issue during its last meeting on January 24, but it was later discovered that the Provincial Society Act requires the members to vote on this matter. Mushroom Mania will be a sort of fungal free-for-all wherein the members will pit themselves against a bunch of fresh mushrooms in an effort to try to find their elusive identities! Each

member or household is encouraged to bring with them two or three kinds of mushrooms and whatever field guides or identification manuals they have. Bring extra guides to share with others, and please ensure that your names are in all your books. Try to collect your mushrooms a day or so in advance so you can make a spore print from each kind. Don't forget to note whether the mushrooms were found on soil, live or dead trees, etc., because often this is a major clue to their identity!

8 April (Saturday) Mount Douglas Park Foray

Please contact leader Ken Howse (472-8310) or come to the 6 April meeting for rendezvous details.

16 April (Easter) Bamberton & environs morel foray

Bruce Norris is the leader of the foray - info. will be available at the 6 April meeting, or leave a message for Bruce (743-5192)

29 April (Saturday) Leechtown Foray

Leader- Richard Winder. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the logger's pole at Evergreen mall parking lot in beautiful downtown Sooke. Those who do not wish to take their cars up there (the road is gravel, but OK as far as roads of that type go), please contact someone about carpooling. We'll be looking along the roadsides up there for morels, and checking in the woods there for other things if we don't find any.

27 May (Saturday) Garage Sale fund-raiser

To be held at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 4040 Nelthorpe St. (off of Saanich Rd. North of McKenzie), 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Items that sell- small appliances (that work), toys, tools, books, plants, white elephants, sporting goods, kitchenware, household items, linens, furniture- not large appliances. Included will be a bake sale. To make it work, EVERYONE will have an opportunity to assist. Needed: publicity (perhaps a computer person could make up handbills that we could distribute). The Kissingers, who are arranging the event, will take care of the newspapers. Also needed: Help setting up, pricing items, selling goods, and cleaning up... as well as a holding area such as a garage, etc. for folks that have already started Spring Cleaning. Signs will be needed for the day of the sale. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next meeting, for setting up, pricing, etc. to take place on the day prior to the event, as well as the event itself. For further details, contact Ken and Maria Kissinger at 479-3862.

? September (TBA) Duncan Foray

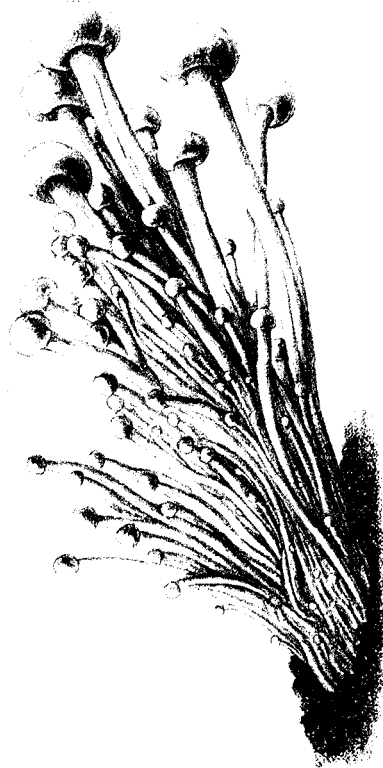
Leaders- Ken Howse, Bruce Norris. Foray to concentrate on pastures in the Duncan area during the Agaricus season, as well as old growth forest in the area. Stay tuned.

7 October (Sat.) Renfrew Rally

Leader- Richard Winder (Stay tuned to see if the bridge at Port Renfrew is in by then).

20-22 October (Fri. nt.- Sun. aft.) SVIMS/VMS Fall foray. L. Cowichan

Shannon Berch has been handling the arrangements. It looks like it will be \$80/person, 60 person capacity.



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