

January 2014

Golden Valley Lodge #616 Newsletter



Next meeting: Thursday, January 9, 2014

February meeting date is February 13, 2014

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Chairman's Message

Dear Golden Valley Members,

Hope everyone has had an enjoyable and productive year in 2013. But if that wasn't the case, I wish you a better year in 2014.

The Lodge has had some good things happening. The \$250,000.00 contribution from Bethha Kalm by way of Gunilla Thelin and \$10,000.00 from our old time member Carol Mendelson in honor of her parents Ed and Alma Nelson, to our scholarship fund. We have a lot of happy scholarship recipients. Congratulations to all of you. I hope this money helps you complete your studies so you can move on to a satisfying future in your chosen field of study.

We want to recognize some of our newer members for all the good work and willingness and contribution to the Lodge. Be it taking on an office or helping with the food preparations. I will not list any names lest I forget someone and hurt their feelings. We also need to give thanks to our old crew that continues to pitch in. We sure have some wonderful members in Golden Valley!

With this I am wishing you all a very happy, enjoyable, and prosperous new year.

Frank



GVL Happenings

Buffet Buzz

There are still openings on the Dinner Committee list. Be sure to sign up for a spot!

Get Well Wishes

Sending best wishes out to Ruth Wilkening and Laila Jensen for their recent health challenges.

Happy January Birthday!

Isabella Muscarella	3rd	Mary Locke	11th
Birgitta Clark	5th	Jason Trowbridge	11th
Aina Selinder	5th	Elizabeth Eacott	12th
Margit Bennett	6th	Deidra DeHart	13th
Kristina DeHart	7th	Karl Brink	23rd
Dagmar Rydberg	8th	Ruzenka diBenedetto	28th
Rigmor Jonsdotter	9th		



Culture Corner: The Red and White Mushroom



Recently, while Christmas shopping at the World Market, I overheard a woman saying that she was Swedish and could only find certain things there. The Swedish ornament section had those familiar red and white mushrooms in with the Swedish decorations. I thought the red mushrooms were only found in Sweden, but with some research at my favorite Wikipedia sites, I learned that these colorful toad-

stools have been introduced and spread to several places around the world. They seem so cute and charming as decorations and almost too colorful to be real. Here is some information I gathered from the Internet and Wikipedia on this beautiful, well-known mushroom.

Amanita muscaria, commonly known as the fly agaric or fly amanita, is a **poisonous** and **psychoactive** basidiomycete fungus, one of many in the genus *Amanita*. Native throughout the temperate and boreal regions of the Northern Hemisphere, *Amanita muscaria* has been unintentionally introduced to many countries in the southern hemisphere, generally as a symbiont with pine plantations, and is now a true cosmopolitan species. The name of the mushroom in many European languages is thought to be derived from its use as an insecticide when sprinkled in milk. This practice has been recorded from Germanic- and Slavic-speaking parts of Europe, as well as the Vosges region and pockets elsewhere in France, and Romania. Albertus Magnus was the first to record it in his work *De vegetabilibus* some time before 1256, commenting *vocatur fungus muscarum, eo quod in lacte pulverizatus interficit muscas*, “it is called the fly mushroom because it is powdered in milk to kill flies.”

The 16th-century Flemish botanist Carolus Clusius traced the practice of sprinkling it into milk to Frankfurt in Germany, while Carl Linnaeus, the “father of

taxonomy”, reported it from **Småland in southern Sweden**, where he had lived as a child. He described it in volume two of his *Species Plantarum* in 1753, giving it the name *Agaricus muscarius*, the specific epithet deriving from Latin *musca* meaning “fly”. It gained its current name in 1783, when placed in the genus *Amanita* by Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, a name sanctioned in 1821 by the “father of mycology”, **Swedish naturalist** Elias Magnus Fries. Linnaeus and Lamarck are now taken as the namers of *Amanita muscaria* (L.) Lam.

Vikings

The notion that Vikings used *A. muscaria* to produce their berserker rages was first suggested by the Swedish professor Samuel Ödmann in 1784. Ödmann based his theories on reports about the use of fly agaric among Siberian shamans. The notion has become widespread since the 19th century, but no contemporary sources mention this use or anything similar in their description of berserkers. *Muscimol* is generally a mild relaxant, but it can create a range of different reactions within a group of people. It is possible that it could make a person angry, or cause them to be “very jolly or sad, jump about, dance, sing or give way to great fright”.

Fairy Rings

A fairy ring, also known as fairy circle, elf circle, elf ring or pixie ring, is a naturally occurring ring or arc of mushrooms. The rings may grow to over 10 meters



A fairy ring with the red and white mushrooms

(33 ft) in diameter, and they become stable over time as the fungus grows and seeks food underground. They are found mainly in forested areas, but also appear in grasslands or rangelands. Fairy rings are detectable by sporocarps in rings or arcs, as well as by a necrotic zone (dead grass), or a ring of dark green grass. A fungus, mycelium, is likely to be present in the ring or arc underneath.

Oral tradition and folklore

A great deal of folklore surrounds fairy rings. Their names in European languages often allude to supernatural origins; they are known as ronds de sorciers (“sorcerers’ rings”) in France, and Hexenringe (“witches’ rings”) in German. In German tradition, fairy rings



This is not Sweden, but shows the circle more clearly.

were thought to mark the site of witches’ dancing on Walpurgis Night, and Dutch superstition claimed that the circles show where the Devil set his milk churn. In Tyrol, folklore attributed fairy rings to the fiery tails of flying dragons; once a dragon had created such a circle, nothing but toadstools could grow there for seven years. European superstitions routinely warned against entering a fairy ring. French tradition reported that fairy rings were guarded by giant bug-eyed toads that cursed those who violated the circles. In other parts of Europe, entering a fairy ring would result in the loss of an eye. Fairy rings are associated with diminutive spirits in the Philippines.

Western European, including English, Scandinavian and Celtic, traditions claimed that fairy rings are the result of elves or fairies dancing. Such ideas dated to at least the mediæval period; The Middle English term *elferingewort* (“elf-ring”), meaning “a ring of daisies caused by elves’ dancing” dates to the 12th century. In

his *History of the Goths* (1628), Olaus Magnus makes this connection, saying that fairy rings are burned into the ground by the dancing of elves. British folklorist Thomas Keightley noted that in Scandinavia in the early 20th century, beliefs persisted that fairy rings (*elfdans*) arose from the dancing of elves. Keightley warned that while entering an *elfdans* might allow the interloper to see the elves—although this was not guaranteed—it would also put the intruder in thrall to their illusions.

The red-and-white spotted toadstool is a common image in many aspects of popular culture. Garden ornaments and children’s picture books depicting gnomes and fairies, such as the Smurfs, often show fly agarics used as seats, or homes. Fly agarics have been



featured in paintings since the Renaissance, albeit in a subtle manner. In the Victorian era they became more visible, becoming the main topic of some fairy paintings. Two of the most famous uses of the mushroom are in the video game series *Super Mario Bros.* (specifically two of the power-up items and the platforms in several stages), and the dancing mushroom sequence in the 1940 Disney film *Fantasia*.

Aren’t those mushrooms interesting?





Scholarship Recipients (or their designated acceptor) and some members of the 2013 Scholarship Committee.



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 · Photos from December 13, 2013 ·
 · GVL Meeting ·
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 · **Golden Valley Lodge is** ·
 · **Celebrating 67 Years** ·  ·
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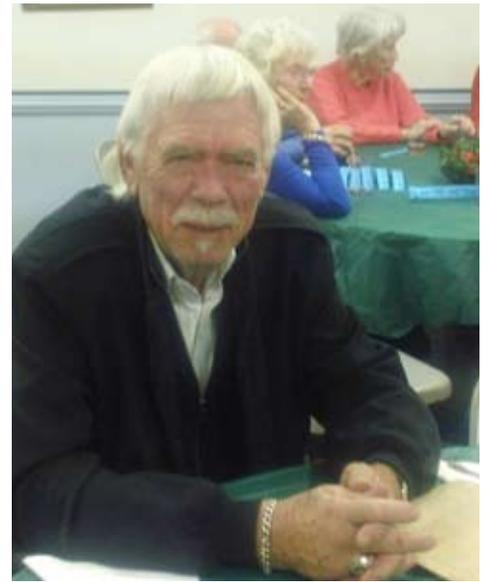


Photo Request

I won't be at the next meeting because my wonderful mother is taking my kids and I on our first cruise.

If you take any pictures, please send them to me for the historical records and/or newsletter. **This applies to any other events as well** since I am not able to attend every event that the lodge has.

Thanks and have a very Happy New Year!

Laurie

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