

Many children (right) enjoyed getting magnified view of the mushrooms at the 10th annual Mushroom Show and Plant Sale on Sunday. One-and-a-half-year-old Walt Sorenson (below) moves in for a closer look at contestant No. 21 of the show's scarecrow contest. Mick and Janet Batchelor and their grandson George (below right) inspect the mushroom show's wares.



Fungi lovers flock to Sunday mushroom show

By Shelly Strom
Emerald Contributor

Novices and experts in mycology — the science of mushrooms — further enlightened themselves at Sunday's 10th annual Mushroom Show and Plant Sale at the Mt. Pisgah Arboretum east of Eugene.

The show, a fundraising event for the arboretum, featured about 150 freshly picked species of mushrooms and other fungi.

Freeman Rowe, an instructor of two sections of mushroom classes at Lane Community College, said he believes mushrooms are "intrinsically interesting, beautiful, delightful to eat and

have a certain quality of danger."

Marsiea Peters, an arboretum board member and coordinator of the display, said that due to the dry weather, this has been a slow mushroom season so far.

Some visitors, like Greg Park, came for expert identification of mushrooms they had picked. Park, an LCC student and botany major who has taken classes from Rowe for two terms, said he feels knowledgeable enough to pick edible mushrooms, but brought some to the show for Rowe to identify anyway.

Peters said that it is impossible for a beginning mushroom picker to identify safe mushrooms on the basis of a picture.



"Because a wrong guess could be lethal, 'there are no old, bold mushroom hunters,'" she said.

Peters encouraged beginners to take a class on mushrooms or consult an ex-

pert. She leads edible mushroom trips and holds workshops through the Willamalane Park and Recreation District.

Not all visitors were specifically interested in the business of fungi. Christopher Rhodes, age 5, said he came to see the puppet show and to build a scarecrow to enter in the second annual scarecrow contest. Although he did taste some of the locally picked mushrooms, Rhodes said he prefers eating those bought from the store.

For those whose palettes were not satisfied by the mushroom show alone, there will be a mushroom symposium at the Springfield Red Lion Hotel this Tuesday and Wednesday.

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