

About the Mycological History Lecture Series Project

February 9, 2020

Twenty-three years ago, somebody organized a series of four Mycological History Lectures on the Oregon State University Campus in Corvallis, Oregon. Neither I, nor anyone I have asked, has claimed to know who organized the series. Perhaps it was the speakers themselves; Dr. James Trappe, Dr. William Denison, and Dr. Nancy Smith Weber.

At that time, on a whim, I decided that these lectures would be worth recording and I borrowed videotape equipment from the Forestry Help Desk to do so. It was the first time I had ever done something like this, so the quality of the recordings leaves a lot to be desired. That said, the talks are full of information on the early history of mycology at Oregon State University and in Western North America. The sound tracks are audible and I was able to zoom in on most of the slides.

Distribution of the videos was another matter. Originally, it took a long time to copy tapes. When digitization first became readily available, they still could only be shared widely by laboriously burning DVDs. When easier digital distribution came along, I was busy with work.

After I retired, I had more time, but for a few more years, I stayed busy with other endeavors. This project remained low on my to-do list. Then in the Autumn of 2018, I was approached by a Portland videographer (Tristan Stoch) about an interview for a film he was making that would include the history of Pacific Northwest mycological research. Tristan kindly agreed to digitize the original videotapes, add titles to the beginning of each, and provide them to me in both DVD (VIDEO_TS) and computer (MP4) formats.

Once I had the files in formats that could be readily distributed online, I obtained permission for their distribution from Jim Trappe, from Margaret Denison (& her family) and from Marvin Weber (Nancy's representative). These individuals graciously gave their permission to allow the videos to be freely copied and distributed. That said, the videos, and any excerpts from them, are intended for non-commercial educational use only.

Information about how to download, copy and use the video files is on the next page.

The "Credits" on the third page are intended to accompany distribution of the video files, so I also provided the text of this page in a separate file entitled: Credits -1997 The Mycological History Lecture Series.pdf. Both the Credits and this document are also posted on the web site for downloading.

I sincerely hope that viewers will find these lectures both interesting and informative!

Mycologically yours,

David Pilz

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About the Digital Files and Formats

Downloading

The digital files of the Mycological History Lecture Series may be downloaded from: <https://www.pilzwald.com/MycHistTalks/>. I plan to leave them there for several years.

There are two sets of files. One directory has the digital files in VIDEO_TS format which may be used to burn the lectures onto DVDs for use in DVD players. The other directory has the files in MP4 format which is suitable for use on most computers.

Making DVDs.

DVDs in the VIDEO_TS format should play on most DVD players. I have made functional DVD copies of the History Talks by burning these files onto new blank DVD discs.

However, there was a non-obvious method that I had to use to successfully burn the DVDs using my Mac. I don't know if this applies to other types of computers or operating systems.

When I dragged the whole "VIDEO_TS" folder and its contents to a blank DVD disk, I kept getting error messages when I then tried to burn the DVD.

The way I got the DVD burning process to work was that before I burned the disk, I created a new empty folder called VIDEO_TS on the blank disk. Then I copied over to that folder only the content files from the original folder of the same name. Then I could burn the disk successfully and it played in my DVD player. Go figure! Good luck.

MP4 format video files

Most computers have video software that can play the files that I have provided in MP4 format. There are two advantages to watching the talks in this manner. First, unlike the DVDs, a timeline is displayed under the video, so you know how long it is and how much time remains as you play it. Second, it is easy to use the time slider to very quickly move to another part of the talk, rather than using the cumbersome fast forward and reverse buttons on a DVD remote.

Feedback

I don't know how my internet service provider will handle many simultaneous requests for downloading these large files, so if it doesn't work soon, try again later. If you find that any of the files on my website are damaged, missing, or can't be downloaded, please let me know.

P.S. I misspelled C. H. Kauffman's last name on the beginning header of that lecture. It is correctly spelled with two f's and one m, as in this sentence and in the credits.

Credits

The Mycological History Lecture Series

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. Spring 1997

Presentations by: Dr. James Trappe, Dr. William Denison, and Dr. Nancy Smith Weber

Video tape recording by David Pilz, PO Box 876, Corvallis, OR 97339, fungalforest@pilzwald.com

Digitization of original tapes by Tristan Stoch

Distribution by David Pilz, February 9, 2020. (<https://www.pilzwald.com/MycHistTalks/>)

“Sanford Zeller and Helen Gilkey”

Presented by Dr. James Trappe.

March 4, 1997 (47:27)

North American Truffling Society Meeting

Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service

Oregon State University Campus

Corvallis, Oregon 97331

(Permission for distribution: Dr. James Trappe)

“Sex, Parasex, Personalities, and Politics”

Presented by Dr. William Denison.

March 6, 1997 (57:54)

Mouldy Thursday Seminar (BOT 505)

Botany Department, Cordley Hall

Oregon State University

Corvallis, Oregon 97331

(Permission for distribution: Margaret Denison and family)

“Mycological Exploration in Western North America: The C. H. Kauffman Lineage”

Presented by Dr. Nancy Smith Weber.

April 3, 1997 (58:10)

Mouldy Thursday Seminar (BOT 505)

Botany Department, Cordley Hall

Oregon State University

Corvallis, Oregon 97331

(Permission for distribution: Marvin Weber)

“Mycological Exploration in Western North America: Travels with Alex and Helen Smith”

Presented by Dr. Nancy Smith Weber.

April 8, 1997 (1:00:30)

North American Truffling Society Meeting

Forestry Sciences Laboratory, Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service

Oregon State University Campus

Corvallis, Oregon 97331

(Permission for distribution: Marvin Weber)

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