



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

RICHARD JACOB

THIS YEAR'S COOK FOREST pre-foray walk was spectacular. Conditions were perfect for a lot of mushrooms, and I learned about many species new to me that we do not see in the Pittsburgh region. Over 200 species were identified at the event and ranged from varieties of *Cortinarius* and *Lactarius* species to *Cordyceps*; a number of coral mushrooms; and a polypore, *Ischnoderma benzoinum*, whose only known location on the east coast is Cook Forest. Gary Lincoff was a perfect guide, as always, and the identifiers and mycologists did an excellent job identifying so many species.

A number of WPMC members attended the NAMA 2016 Shenandoah Foray. The conditions were dry, but a number of interesting species were found. NAMA is starting to promote the mycoflora project and DNA barcoding, and I am delighted to say that our club's DNA barcoding efforts are going to be used as an example and template for other clubs. Look out for pictures and write-ups on both the NAMA and Lincoff Forays in this newsletter.

As of this writing, we do not have any more walks scheduled for November and December. However, depending on the weather, I expect that there will be one or two more. Please check the website and/or the Facebook pages for notifications of further walks. We also recommend taking a walk by yourself, as there are still plenty of mushrooms to find, even after the first hard frost.

We have one more meeting for the year, the annual "Pot Luck Dinner and Member Photos." This year talented club members will also be able to take the stage to entertain us. We are starting to organize meetings for next year and I am delighted to announce that Britt Bunyard, editor of *FUNGI Magazine*, will be our April guest speaker. We also have Doug Oster, Home and Garden Editor for the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*, booked for June. Special thanks to outgoing Vice President Cecily Franklin for organizing both of these events.



Our Guest Mycologists were Gary Lincoff (left) and Nik Money.

PHOTO BY CECILY FRANKLIN

16th Annual Lincoff Foray on September 24 is Another Success

By Barbara DeRiso

IN ADDITION TO ALL the mycophiles who journeyed to our walk in Cook Forest, 101 folks joined us on Saturday at Rose Barn in North Park for our traditional Foray activities. After a warm welcome by club president Richard Jacob and guidance by past-presidents Dick Dougall and John Stuart, participants set out in all directions—North Park, Hampton Park and Hartwood Acres—to hunt mushrooms, accompanied by guest mycologists Gary Lincoff and Nik Money.

At mid-day, the hunters returned with their quarry. As we did last year, we established an outdoor identification tent, where specimens were delivered and sorted. Selected specimens were catalogued and then forwarded to the display tables indoors.

After lunch, we returned to the lecture hall, where Guest Mycologist Nik Money presented "The Birth, Life and Extraordinary Death of a Mushroom Spore." Next was an authors' book signing while Chef George Harris did a cooking demonstration. Later, Gary Lincoff presented his talk on "Little Brown Mushrooms." Wrapping up the formal presentations was club President Richard Jacob, with an update on our club's DNA barcoding initiative. Then guest mycologists started the Table Walks, while club chefs put the finishing touches on dinner preparations.

During the afternoon, Jim and Sharon Wilson staffed the sales table, while Cecily Franklin sold raffle tickets.

As usual, Mycophagy co-chairs Charlotte Tunney and Valerie Baker set out a fantastic array of mushroom-based dishes, and we feasted. After dinner, Gary Lincoff led a second round of Table Walks. Then we cleared the tables, put the leftovers into take-home containers and called it a day.



Sharon Wilson co-managed the Sales Table at the Foray with Jim Wilson (not pictured).

PHOTO BY CECILY FRANKLIN



WPMC Identifier Blaine Sanner returned from the woods with a bag full of edible mushrooms.

PHOTO BY CECILY FRANKLIN

More about the Foray inside!