



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 5

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2016

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!

Gary Lincoff Leads Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park

By Adam Haritan

Garrett Taylor (far left) set up this group shot from the Pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest State Park on September 23. In the center are Gary Lincoff (in hat) and his wife, Irene.



COOK FOREST STATE PARK is most celebrated for its stand of old growth trees. Towering white pines and hemlocks over 140 feet in height, along with various hardwood trees in the 225 age class, are easily seen while walking the trails beneath these giants. What may not be so easily seen, however, and what is considered to be an essential ingredient in the health of this particular forest, is the vast network of fungi that permeates the trees, the leaf litter, and the soil.

On Friday, September 23rd, over 50 myco-enthusiasts attended the pre-foray walk in search (and in celebration!) of Cook Forest's unsung heroes—the *fungi*. Mushroom expert Gary Lincoff and Cook Forest's environmental education specialist Dale Luthringer led participants through a variety of ecosystems, the first of which was a stream-side habitat along Tom's Run lined with white pine, hemlock, and birch trees. It was here where most of the mycorrhizal fungi were discovered and collected, including various species of *Amanita*, *Cortinarius*, and *Lactarius*.

Gary remarked on more than one occasion that the mycorrhizal fungi are the "workhorses of the forest." *Inocybe*, *Cantharellus*, *Russula*, *Suillus*, and *Helvella* are just a few of the genera of fungi whose contributions are absolutely essential to the health and longevity of Cook Forest. According to Gary, many LBM (little brown mushrooms)—while boring and drab to some—are certainly worth our time, attention, and serious study.

Two of the more interesting discoveries in this particular habitat were *Cordyceps militaris* and *Cordyceps ophioglossoides*. Both species are parasitic—the former on moth pupae, and the latter on false truffles (genus *Elaphomyces*).

During the second half of the event, participants spent time exploring the area around Cook Forest's fire tower (built in 1929 and retired from service in 1966). This particular habitat, characterized by chestnut oak, white oak, and red oak trees, sits atop a dry ridge overlooking the Clarion River Valley. It was here that participants found many choice edible fungi, including the prized hen of the woods (*Grifola frondosa*), blewits (*Clitocybe nuda*), and honey mushrooms (*Armillaria mellea*).

Compared to last year's pre-foray walk, the fungi were visibly more plentiful for this year's event. Gary mentioned he had always heard from other mushroom enthusiasts that Cook Forest was one of Pennsylvania's best mushroom hunting areas. Up until this year, he didn't quite believe the claim. The preceding rains and cooler temperatures certainly aided in Cook Forest's spectacular display of fungi in perfect alignment for the second annual pre-foray walk. And while Kingdom Fungi was the primary driver behind Friday's gathering, perhaps the most memorable part of the day was the time spent in good company with over 50 enthusiastic fans of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.

Special Thanks to:

Gary Lincoff, Nik Money, & Richard Jacob, our guest Mycologists • **Jim & Sharon Wilson** for running the Sales table • **Mike Ott & Joe Lee** for transporting and setting up the tents • **Cecily Franklin** for organizing and running the Raffle • Mycophagy co-chairs **Charlotte Tunney & Val Baker** • All our cooks • **Jim Wasik & Sandy Sterner** for running the Registration desk • **Martha Wasik** for all her help in designing and printing our posters, postcards and handouts • **All** our Walk Leaders and Identifiers • **La Monte Yarroll, Richard Jacob & Fluff Berger** for organizing the ID tent • **And to the many others whose contributions of time and effort made our 16th Annual Lincoff Foray so successful!**

Mark Your Calendars!

Without a doubt many people are already looking forward to next year which will be held again at Rose Barn on **Saturday, September 16, 2017**. Gary Lincoff is tentatively planning a 2-day walk at Cook Forest for Thursday & Friday, September 14-15.

splurge



Special thanks to **Kym Pelcher** of Splurge shop in the Fox Chapel Plaza for her generous donation of a large velvet mushroom to this year's Lincoff Foray raffle.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the monthly meeting on October 18, WPMC members voted on a new slate of officers for 2017.



President: Richard Jacob is a scientist working in the field of proteomics, identifying and quantitating peptides and proteins. His work has taken him from his hometown of Cambridge in the UK to Germany and the USA. He became very interested in mushrooms when he moved to Pittsburgh and found morels growing in the backyard and joined WPMC so that he could learn how to find more. This new hobby complements his cooking and photography hobbies. Recently, Richard has used his scientific background to pioneer the Club's DNA barcoding project, and he is currently a member of the NAMA Mycoflora Committee. In 2016, Richard was awarded the Harry and Elsie Knighton Service Award by NAMA in recognition of his contributions to the WPMC website and scientific programs. He enjoys taking walks in the woods with his family and having the children hunt edible and interesting mushrooms for him.

Vice President: Adam Haritan attended his first walk with WPMC in 2009 at South Park and became a member 4 years later in 2013. In addition to taking photos during many walks, outings, and events this past year, he served on the board as the Corresponding Secretary. He enjoys speaking on behalf of the Club whenever the opportunity arises, and hopes to become an Identifier someday soon. Outside of WPMC, Adam teaches classes and workshops on topics including foraging, plant ID, tree ID, and mushroom ID. He also runs LearnYourLand.com—a community and online database of Pennsylvania's naturalists and nature-related events.

Secretary: Ann 'Fluff' Berger has been with the club since 2010, and has served on the WPMC Board in various capacities for 4 years. She enjoys foraging, finding new fungi and photographing them, posting her findings on Mushroom Observer and iNaturalist. When not hiking the forest, she enjoys spending time with her kids and babysitting her grandchildren.

Treasurer: Barbara DeRiso, current WPMC Treasurer, has been a WPMC member since 2007 and Treasurer since 2009. She also served as Membership Chair in 2010 and, since 2009, has served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Her initiatives on behalf of the Club have resulted in our establishing a Paypal account for on-line payment of dues and event registration; using in-person credit cards to accept funds at meetings or events; and tax returns being filed electronically using the IRS ePostcard system. She executed the Board's decision to consolidate the Club's belongings in a storage space and generally serves as its manager. She has attended every Lincoff Foray since 2008 and currently chairs the Foray Committee. She typically leads one or two WPMC walks each year.

Barbara is a retired anesthesiologist. Additional interests include organic gardening, learning to speak Italian, and visiting Italy annually, often to hunt and collect mushrooms, and always to enjoy its foods and wines.

NAMA Trustee: La Monte H. P. Yarroll has been an active member of WPMC for 13 years and has been a Club Mycologist for most of that time. Recently, he has been organizing the Lincoff Foray and monthly meeting Mushroom Displays and WPMC Walks. La Monte has attended several NEMF, NAMA and other regional forays, where he has done identification work, including microscopy and chemical testing. He has been a speaker for WPMC and other mushroom events. He leads walks several times a year and self-identifies as the Club's Inedible Fungi expert, concentrating on slime molds, sordariomycetes and crusts. When not collecting mushrooms, he sings, programs computers and raises five fine children with his wife Eve.

Final Meeting of 2016, November 15: Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos

THE FINAL WPMC MEETING of the year on November 15 will include our traditional Pot Luck dinner and member photos. This year we are offering our members the option of showing us their mushroom "talent" instead of photos. For example, you may perform a mushroom song, read a mushroom poem, or tell a few mushroom jokes. Just let us know in advance if you will need any special equipment. Email cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

For the Pot Luck, bring something for 6-8 people. It does not need to be mushroom related but, if so, please use only cultivated mushrooms. The categories are: Appetizers, Salads, Hot Dishes, Cold Plates, Casseroles, Desserts, anything you want—be creative. WPMC will provide soft drinks, plates, dinnerware, napkins, and take-home boxes.

If you would like to bring a set of photos for the Open Forum, please bring no more than 15 pictures for a short presentation on a flash (thumb) drive. JPG format is preferred. The photos don't need to be in PowerPoint; just the pictures will also work. Topics may include mushrooms, vacations, hobbies, etc. Let's see what you're doing in your life (no politics, please). You may narrate your photos or just let them run through without descriptions, using the built-in software.

2017 MEETINGS PREVIEW

April 18 – Britt Bunyard, PhD: Founder, Publisher & Editor in Chief of FUNGI Magazine

June 20 – Doug Oster: Home & Garden Editor for Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Foray Feast Features Fifty Fine Foods



Valerie Baker (left) prepares for the Mushroom Feast with Foray Chair Barbara DeRiso. PHOTO BY CECILY FRANKLIN

THANKS TO CO-CHAIRS Charlotte Tunney and Valerie Baker, this year's Foray Mushroom Feast was an amazing success, with more than two dozen cooks preparing over 50 dishes. Special thanks go to:

- **Sandy Sterner**, who gave up her Foray activities to work in the kitchen with Charlotte and Val
- **Mike Ott** for getting ice for the cooks and helping with whatever else was needed

To the following people who brought mushroom dishes to share, even though they were not asked to do so:

- **Kim Plischke** (unable to attend the Foray)
- **Xiaoyen Cai** (a neighbor of Barbara DeRiso, who has been donating her Shiitake noodle salad for years and has never attended one of our Forays)
- **Becky Plischke, Jim Wasik, Richard Jacob, Mary Ellen Dougall, Joe and Gerry Lee, and Judy Mackenroth**
- **George Harris**, the invited chef, who donated his Chicken* mushroom and Corn soup to the feast

And many thanks to **Barbara DeRiso**, who met us twice at the storage unit to pick up and put away kitchen items, shopped for the food, cooked many mushroom dishes for the feast, hosted Gary Lincoff, and organized the entire Foray!

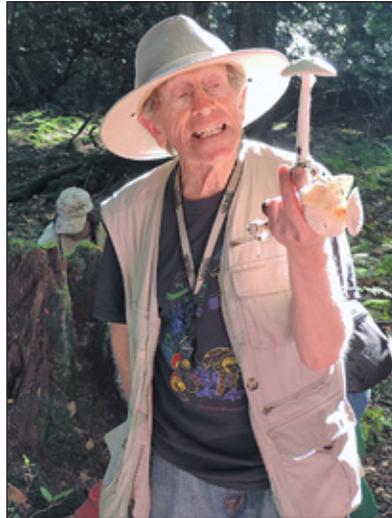
Here's a list of all the cooks:

Valerie Baker, Sarah Banach, Fluff Berger, Xiaoyan Cai, Katie Suchan, Shirley Caseman, Barbara DeRiso & Don Newman, Mary Ellen Dougall, Chef George Harris, Richard Jacob, Marla Kohan, Joe & Gerry Lee, Greg Levish, Judy Mackenroth, Caroline Miller, Kate & Scott Pavelle, Kim Plischke, Becky Plischke, Sandy Sterner, Charlotte Tunney, Jim Wasik, Fran Wayne, Sharon Wilson

And here are all the wonderful dishes: (not including drinks chips, & crackers):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agaricus mushroom rolls Baked apples with Candy Cap sauce Bigos (Polish stew) with Agaricus Black trumpet dip Boletus separans, broccoli & Ramen salad Boletus, bacon & squash casserole Bread stuffing Chanterelle risotto Chanterelle soup Chicken with chicken* mushrooms & rice Chicken* mushroom & macaroni salad Chicken* mushroom potato cheeseballs Chicken* mushroom/corn soup Chicken* mushrooms & shrimp in a Roux Chicken* mushroom cooked in oil & butter Chocolate zucchini cake Cinnamon rolls Cranberry-banana bread Greek dip with Sheephead* mushrooms Green beans, garlic & Agaricus mushrooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hen of the Woods* lasagna Hot & sour soup with Sheephead* mushrooms Hummingbird cake Marinated Agaricus mushrooms Marinated Sheephead* mushrooms Mushroom Bisque Mushroom chili Mushroom mousse dip Mushroom pate spread Mushroom-filled crescent sandwiches Mushroom-shaped sugar cookies Pickled Sheephead* mushrooms Potato-chicken mushroom puffballs Puff potato cheese puffballs Puffball lasagna Pulled pork sliders Pumpkin bread Relish tray with pickled button mushrooms Roast Turkey with gravy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roasted root vegetables with Cremini mushrooms Roasted Sheephead* with olive oil Sheephead*, noodle & squash casserole Sheephead*, rice & spinach Florentine Shiitake noodle salad Shiitake, Cremini & button mushroom soup Spicy soba noodle salad with Shiitake Spicy Tofu Stuffed Agaricus mushrooms Turtle soup Watermelon Zucchini bread. <p>NOTE: *Mushrooms listed as "Sheephead" throughout the food list are also known as Hen of the Woods or <i>Grifola frondosa</i>; mushrooms listed as "Chicken mushrooms" are Chicken of the Woods or <i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i> and/or <i>Laetiporus cincinnatus</i> species.</p> |
|--|---|--|

Pre-Foray Walk & Foray a Success for All Ages!



CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Kim Plischke | 724-832-0271
ladiebugzkp@aol.com |
| John Plischke III | 724-832-0271
fungi01@aol.com |
| Dr. Fred Schrock | 724-463-7453
ambrosia1@verizon.net |
| Jim Tunney | 412-441-3958
aminitam@hotmail.com |
| La Monte Yarroll | 412-854-5684
piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com |

IDENTIFIERS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Jack Baker | 412-367-7696
jabaker2@hotmail.com |
| Fluff Berger | 724-251-9662
wfburger@comcast.net |
| Dick Dougall | 412-486-7504
mush2prof@verizon.net |
| Joyce Gross | 724-339-8547
jagart58@comcast.net |
| Richard Jacob | 215-888-5503
richard@lostculture.net |
| Bob Lucas | rnlucas@microspell.com |
| Blaine Sanner | 724-217-3168
brsanner@hotmail.com |
| Bob Sleigh | resleigh@gmail.com |
| John Stuart | 724-443-6878
jons2art@comcast.net |

Gary Lincoff Foray photos by Adam Haritan

Table display of collected mushrooms by Cecily Franklin

photos below by Garrett Taylor



PHOTO CONTEST BRINGS RECORD NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS!



JUDGE'S OPTION FIRST PLACE:
Joe Lee, Fairy Land of Amanitas



PICTORIAL FIRST PLACE:
Fluff Berger, *Exsudoporus frostii*



PICTORIAL THIRD PLACE:
Jerry Sapp, Jack-o'-lanterns



JUDGE'S OPTION THIRD PLACE:
Lynn Gill, Scarlet Cups



JUDGE'S OPTION SECOND PLACE:
John Baltrus, Bolete Harvest



DOCUMENTARY SECOND PLACE:
Sarah Banach, *Lactarius volemus*



DOCUMENTARY FIRST PLACE:
Richard Jacob, Chanterelle Assortment



DOCUMENTARY THIRD PLACE:
Dick Dougall, *Retiboletus griseus*



PICTORIAL SECOND PLACE:
Cecily Franklin, *Hymenopellis incognita*
(first one documented in Pennsylvania!)

Congratulations to all the winners!

We will be featuring some of the other contest entries in up-coming newsletters.

MUSHROOMS ONLY A MYCOLOGIST COULD LOVE



First Place: Richard Jacob
Cordyceps militaris



Second Place: Patty Houck
Earthstar



Third Place: John Stuart
Stereum gausapatum

Cook Forest Mushrooms Outnumber Local Species

By Dick Dougall

THIS YEAR OUR FORAY was again split between two locations: Friday at Cook Forest and Saturday in the Pittsburgh area, with walks in North Park and Hartwood Acres. The results at these two regions were very different, since the Cook Forest area had normal rains and the Pittsburgh area had very limited rain during the late summer. As a result, lots of mushroom species were found in Cook Forest, which resulted in 216 species being recorded, higher than any previous yearly records for our foray. (A complete list of the mushrooms found is available on our website.) In the Pittsburgh locations, a total of 96 species were recorded, compared to 130 for an average year. This was the third lowest total over the 16 years that we have records for species found in the Pittsburgh area.

The rest of this article will report on the Pittsburgh area results, because we have years of data about this region. The table shown below gives the breakdown of mushrooms by the categories that we have been using. As usual, the category with the most mushrooms was gilled mushrooms, with polypores being second. However, because of the dry conditions, gilled mushrooms only were double the number of polypore species, not their usual four times the polypores. Boletes were extremely limited, with only six species found and none of them new species.

Because of the limited variety of gilled mushrooms, our foray participants expanded their search efforts. This resulted in a much larger percentage of *Ascomycetes*, which came in third among species groups and had a total of six new species. Crust fungi with six species tied with the Boletes for fourth place in the list! These crust fungi included two interesting new species for our foray: *Phanerochaete crassa* (Conifer Parchment) and *Stereum gausapatum* (Bleeding Oak Stereum).

Among gilled mushrooms, only five *Amanita* and two *Russula* species were identified. This is significantly below normal. Although many of the usual edible mushrooms were found, the number and quality of specimens left much to be desired. With over 200 species and lots of samples, the results from Cook Forest were much better for edibles. I was jealous to see that *Boletus edulis*, the King Bolete, was found. Most mushroomers would consider this species at the top of the edible list.



Shown are just a few of the many interesting specimens brought back to the mushroom display tent in North Park.

Although 2016 was not a very productive mushroom hunt for our Pittsburgh walks, we were still able to add 15 new species to the total species count for the Lincoff Foray. It now stands at 565 species. Hopefully, we will have better conditions in 2017 and our mushroom baskets will overflow again.

2016 Species Results for the Pittsburgh Region

CATEGORY	ALL YEARS	2016	NEW
ASCOMYCETES (Cup & Flask Fungi)	52	13	6
JELLY FUNGI	12	1	0
CHANTERELLES	6	1	0
CORAL FUNGI	13	1	0
TOOTH FUNGI	14	2	1
VASE & CRUST FUNGI	21	6	2
POLYPORES	70	21	1
BOLETES	50	6	0
GILLED MUSHROOMS	294	39	4
GASTEROMYCETES (Puffballs & Allies)	22	3	0
MYXOMYCETES (Slime Molds)	11	3	1
Total Taxa (All Groups)	565	96	15



KIM AND JOHN PLISCHKE III led a Pop-Up Walk on October 5 and brought home these edible mushrooms.



First Pop-Up Walk is a Big Hit

YOU HAVE TO BE quick and alert to take advantage of great mushroom-hunting opportunities. Members of the WPMC Facebook Group were given about four hours' notice on October 5 to meet John and Kim Plischke in New Alexandria to look for mushrooms. A relatively small group showed up, but everyone got to take home edible mushrooms, including puffballs, honey mushrooms, bearded tooth, hen of the woods, and meadow mushrooms.

Foray Raffle Raises Money for WPMC



Many donors contributed to this year's Foray Raffle.

PHOTOS BY CECILY FRANKLIN

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS and enthusiastic bidders, this year's Foray Raffle raised nearly \$300 for WPMC. Some of the fabulous prizes included: a subscription to *FUNGI Magazine* (along with a mushroom hunter's knife, donated by Britt Bunyard, Editor of *FUNGI Magazine*); a "I Brake for Mushrooms" license plate frame; a set of mushroom pillowcases, handmade by Cathy Coho; five mushroom-print hankies; a giant velvet mushroom with Swarovski crystals (donated by Kym Pelcher of the Splurge Shop at Fox Chapel Plaza0; an original watercolor of *Amanita muscaria* and other mushrooms, created and donated by local artist Lucia Wong Yip; 1902 vintage mushroom prints & a botanical poster of mushrooms by Illustrator John Burgoyne; *The Mushroom Lover's Mushroom Cookbook and Primer*; hand-made glass tiles with the WPMC logo; a large picture of Dryad's Saddles, *Polyporus squamosis*; and a photo of orange mycenae, *Mycena leaiana*.

Congratulations to all of the winners, and many thanks to our generous donors!

WPMC Adds Recipe Section to Website

By Richard Jacob

WPMC IS DELIGHTED to announce a new recipe section on the website. There are a small number of recipes available at the moment, but we hope to add more in the future. If you wish to publish a recipe, send the details to site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org. Please include one or more pictures of the finished dish if possible. Pictures of the starting ingredients and steps are also accepted and can be used. We request that no direct copies of recipes from books or other websites be submitted. A recipe with a number of changes from the original is fine. If your recipe is based on a published recipe, please include the reference to the original. We look forward to receiving recipes for some of your favorite dishes.

WPMC Members Go Back to School

ON OCTOBER 4, Mary Ellen and Dick Dougall gave a mushroom talk to students in Grades 1 through 3 at Mt. Lebanon Montessori School. This is the third time the Dougalls have presented a program at Montessori and, as usual, the students enjoyed learning about mushrooms. They particularly liked the common names: Dead Man's Fingers, Dog Vomit Slime Mold, and Stinky Squid.

Sewickley Library Thanks WPMC

DURING SEPTEMBER, the Director of the Sewickley Public Library sent WPMC a letter, thanking us for our support of the library's mushroom exhibit. WPMC's contributions included the loan of items from our glass display case, a presentation by WPMC Identifier Fluff Berger, and our donation of Gary Lincoff's book, *The Complete Mushroom Hunter*. "We are very grateful that you chose to work with the Sewickley Public Library on this popular and interesting exhibit. Thank you again."



Above and Beyond... Richard Jacob



Chef Richard did the cooking demonstration for our September meeting.

Mushroom enthusiasts may have any number of different skills and interests: photography, cooking, science, mushroom identification, etc. But here's a guy who does it all! **Richard Jacob, PhD** has not only been an outstanding President for the past two years, but he's also our webmaster, a frequent walk leader and identifier, DNA barcoding expert, gourmet chef, newsletter contributor, and award-winning photographer. So it's no wonder that, at this year's NAMA Foray, Richard was presented with the prestigious **Harry and Elsie Knighton Service Award**.

The annual Knighton Award was established to recognize and encourage persons who have distinguished themselves in service to their local clubs. Some of Richard's fabulous prizes include: a plaque; publicity in *The Mycophile* (NAMA's bimonthly newsletter); a free one-year membership to NAMA; and registration, housing and foray fees for next year's NAMA Foray!

Previous WPMC winners of the Knighton Award include **John Plischke III**, **Dick Dougall**, and **Joyce Gross**.

Editor's note: The next time you see a WPMC member go "above and beyond", please let us know. Email: cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

Earn a Pin for Identifying Mushrooms!



EIGHT WPMC MEMBERS received mushroom identification pins this year, as part of the John Plischke III Award for Mushroom Knowledge. They are: **Karen & Michael Donovan** (10); **Fran Wayne & Lon Schnauffer** (25); **Sarah Banach** (50); **Barbara DeRiso** (75); and **Richard Jacob & Bob Sleight** (150 Identifier).

This brings the total number of WPMC members earning ID Buttons over the years to more than 80. Will YOU be next? Make your own list or use our online Species List Generator. Submit your list to Dick Dougall, Past President and WPMC Identifier, in order to receive your pin.

Lon Schnauffer and Fran Wayne received their "25" Identification pins from Dick Dougall at the September meeting.



NAMA 2016 Shenandoah Foray Report

By Richard Jacob

THIS YEAR'S NAMA FORAY on September 8-11 was organized by the Mycological Association of Washington and the New River Valley Mushroom Club. The meeting was held at the 4-H Educational Center, a retreat and conference center at the top of Shenandoah National Park near Fort Royal in Virginia. The Foray organizers teamed up with park rangers to allow access for a fungi survey. Although the location was perfect, unfortunately the weather did not cooperate in the weeks prior, and conditions were very hot and dry.

John Plischke III, as our NAMA representative, attended the Trustees meeting. The big news from that meeting was that the NAMA Board agreed to a Mycoflora project, DNA barcoding all the Amanitaceae that had been found in forays since 1997 and deposited in the Field Museum herbarium. This covers over 241 vouchers and will be a good starting point to elucidating the different species and their relationships.

I attended the Mycoflora meeting, where plans were drawn up for a number of future goals. All the species identified at the Foray were to be sampled for DNA, which was carried out successfully. At the next NAMA Foray, there will be a Mycoflora workshop that I will be hosting. One of the major initiatives is "20 Clubs by 2020." The goal is to have 20 clubs regularly processing vouchers and sequencing specimens by the year 2020. The WPMC program will be used as a model for other clubs to follow.

Every evening at the Foray, a handful of the best and most interesting mushroom collections were displayed, and a specimen I found, *Pluteus americanus*, was announced by Gary Lincoff. *P. americanus* looks just like a deer mushroom, *P. cervinus*, but has a blue coloration on the stem, indicating that it contains psilocybin and psilocin.

John Plischke III presented the results of the photo contest. The winning pictures are online at the NAMA website http://www.na-myco.org/photography_contest_2016.php. After the photo contest, NAMA awards were presented and I was delighted to receive the Harry and Elsie Knighton Service Award. I am the fourth member of WPMC to receive the award, and I would like to thank our Past Presidents for nominating me.

I met about six WPMC members at the meeting, along with many other NAMA members. I learned to identify a few species that I had



*Little Blue Mushroom, *Pluteus americanus*, found by Richard Jacob at this year's NAMA Foray.*

OUTDOOR PHOTO BY RICHARD JACOB; INDOOR PHOTO BY JOHN PLISCHKE III

not seen in our area before. And most importantly, I had a good time. Next year's meeting will be the Northwoods Foray in Cable, Wisconsin. The accommodations and food will be a step up from this year's event, but it will be too far to easily drive. I'm looking forward to presenting the Mycoflora workshop and to seeing some WPMC members attend, in what looks to be an interesting location.

Membership Report

Jim Wasik, Membership Chair

This graph shows how the Club has grown over the years from its beginning in 2000 until October 2016. We broke through 600 the past 2 years and have recovered from a slump in 2013 and 2014 when the Indiana and Washington County chapters closed. As of October 14, 2016, we have 629 members. Thank you for all returning and new members.

Be on the lookout in your e-mail or mailbox for your 2017 WPMC renewals. They will be sent in early January and 2017 Membership Cards, which are in the making, and will be sent out in February. If you have moved or changed your e-mail address, please send me a notice to keep our rosters up-to-date.



membership@wpamushroomclub.org or mail to:

**WPMC Membership c/o Jim Wasik
70 Woodland Farms Rd • Pittsburgh PA 15238-2020**

WPMC Newsletter

The newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. Submissions should be sent to the Editor at least 6-8 weeks prior to targeted distribution. The Editor cannot guarantee that submissions will be included in the next newsletter. The Editor reserves the right to make spelling or grammatical corrections and may suggest content changes to the author. Material published in our newsletters may only be used in other non-profit publications with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:

Cecily Franklin, Editor • Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.

Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

WPMC Meetings

Meetings are held at 7 pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month from March through November at Beechwood Farms • Audubon Society of Western PA 614 Dorseyville Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

**Check our website for a complete list of the year's events.
WPMC Yahoo Groups:**

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub/>

**NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA):
www.namyc.org**

WPMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT 215 Highland Rd 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob Blawnox, PA 15238-2136 president@wpamushroomclub.org
VICE-PRESIDENT 216 Farmington Road 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin Pittsburgh PA 15215 cs4wpmc@gmail.com
RECORDING SECRETARY 137 Hickory Drive 724-251-9662	Fluff Berger Sewickley PA 15143-8212 wfberger@comcast.net
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY 3104 Mary St - Apt B 412-480-1423	Adam Haritan Pittsburgh, PA 15203 adamharitan@gmail.com
TREASURER 204 Woodcock Dr. 412-252-2594	Barbara DeRiso Pittsburgh PA 15215-1546 barbaraderiso@gmail.com

WPMC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT 412-367-7696	Valerie Baker vbaker8@hotmail.com
CULTIVATION 412-441-3958	Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com
DNA BARCODING 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob richard@lostculture.net
EDUCATION 724-251-9662	Fluff Berger wfberger@comcast.net
HISTORIAN 724-339-8547	Joyce Gross jagart58@comcast.net
HOSPITALITY 412-441-3958	Charlotte & Jim Tunney jctunney@verizon.net
ID BUTTON PROGRAM 412-486-7504	Dick Dougall mush2prof@verizon.net
LINCOFF FORAY 412-252-2594	Barbara DeRiso barbaraderiso@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR 412-967-9359	James Wasik membership@wpamushroomclub.org
MUSHROOM DISPLAY 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com
MYCOLOGICAL RECORDING	Bob Lucas rnlucas@microspell.com
NEMF FORAY 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
PHOTOGRAPHY 724-297-3377	Rebecca Miller rmiller.fungi@gmail.com
PUBLICITY 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com
SALES 724-265-2398	Jim Wilson mushroomjim4@email.com
SCHOLARSHIP 724-443-6878	John Stuart jons2art@comcast.net
TOXICOLOGY 412-216-8508	Frank Lotrich lotrichfe@upmc.edu
WALKS & FORAYS 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com
WALKS & FORAYS 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
WEBMASTER 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob president@wpamushroomclub.org
YAHOO GROUPS MODERATOR 724-494-1468	Mary Jo Smiley cmtpt@zbzoom.net

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

2017

Anyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member.

COMPLETE THIS FORM **PRINT CLEARLY**, SIGN AND MAIL

Members are entitled to:

The WPMC newsletter • Nine monthly WPMC meetings • Free participation in WPMC walks • Discount for WPMC forays

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

Interests (e.g.: foraging, identification, cooking, etc.) _____

Please print in plain block lettering. Take special care with email addresses: numeral "1", uppercase "I" and lowercase "L" look the same.

Please return completed, signed and dated form (with check payable to Western PA Mushroom Club) to:

WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 e-mail contact: membership@wpamushroomclub.org
or visit www.wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/ to pay using a credit card.

Please indicate your newsletter/event announcement preference: Electronic via e-mail Hardcopy via US mail (\$5 additional)

Annual dues: \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$10 Full-time Student Amount enclosed: \$ _____

NOTE: Please add \$5.00 surcharge for hard-copy newsletters to dues amount.

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

This Release and Indemnification Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, as it is presently organized and may be later structured ("WPMC") and the undersigned Member (the "Member") on this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

WHEREAS, WPMC is a non-profit educational organization that has as its principal purpose the sharing of mushroom-related information among its members; and

WHEREAS, all officers, directors, identifiers and members serve WPMC in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration for their services; and

WHEREAS, in cases where WPMC charges a fee for its forays, walks, lectures and other events (collectively "WPMC Events"), it is doing so only to cover its direct costs and does not operate in a for-profit capacity; and WHEREAS, the Member understands that there is inherent and unavoidable risk in outdoor activities relating to hunting and consuming wild mushrooms. These risks include but are not limited to the dangers of hiking in difficult terrain, the possibility of misidentifying a wild mushroom, and the possible allergic or toxic reaction that some individuals may have to otherwise edible mushrooms.

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

1. The Member assumes all risks associated with WPMC Events. The Member expressly acknowledges that it is the Member's sole responsibility to hike safely and to determine whether a wild mushroom may be consumed.
2. The Member releases, holds harmless, and indemnifies the WPMC, its officers, directors, identifiers, and representatives from any and all liability relating to any injury or illness incurred by the Member or the Member's family members as a result of participation in a WPMC Event.

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If any portion of the Agreement is declared for any reason to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of the Agreement. This Agreement shall apply to all current and future WPMC events.

MEMBERS:

Signature (if Participant is under age 21, signature of Parent or guardian)	Please print name:
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____