



WESTERN PA



MUSHROOM CLUB

Volume 6, Issue 1

Editor: Becky Plischke

April May 2005

President: Joe Luzanski V Pres: Jim Strutz Sec: Mary Jane Yakulis C Sec: Valerie Baker Treas: George Yakulis



These are a few of the 185 morel hunters at **MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND**

This is probably the biggest morel foray on the eastern side of Michigan. Almost everyone met with success in finding morels. A number of other edible and poisonous mushrooms were also found.

Last year 185 people hunted morels with us at Mingo Creek Park, one of the beautiful Washington County Parks. Mingo Creek is in the southwest corner of PA near Washington, close to the Ohio and WV borders. Well over fifteen hundred morels were found. We think we just scratched the surface. The area has many tulip poplars, ash and abounds in dying elms.

Check-in and registration for this year's huge event will be on **April 30** from 11:00 am to 12:00 at roadside near the Henry House. At 12:00, welcome, instructions and agenda review. 12:15 nationally known mycologist John Plischke III will give a slide show on Morel Mushrooms and Their Poisonous Look Alikes. There will be a short break at 1:00. At 1:15, morel hunting excursions by yourself or with a group leader. At 5:00, morel madness roundup, return to shelter 8 for show and identification.

5:30, free time, dinner, camp set up (on your own). At 8:00, evening slide show, Edible Wild Mushrooms and Their Preparation. At 9:00, campfire social time at shelter 8 fire circle. **Many will be tent camping for the weekend.** We will again hunt morels on **May 1.**

Continental breakfast at 8:00. Morning morel hunt at 9:00, meet at shelter 8.

The fee for non-members is \$5 program only and \$10 program and camping. If you show a 2005 WPMC membership card the program is free and the camping fee is just \$5.

You must pre-register with the Washington County Parks at 724-228-6867 or email Cristine at emeryc@co.washington.pa.us. The event is rain or shine. Oh yes, fungi, fun, friends and morels.

Editor's note: See the other articles on morels, and the Walk and Foray Schedule for directions.

DUES ARE DUE

Unless you have already renewed your WPMC membership for 2005, **your membership has expired and this will be your last newsletter.** It is time to sign up for the year 2005.

Because we have grown to over 485 members, we have the opportunity to offer our members a large number of services.

President Joe Luzanski has nine exciting meetings planned. You will get Becky Plischke's five informative newsletters. Thanks to our club mycologists and identifiers, you will have 30 walks and forays to find and learn mushrooms.

www.wpamushroomclub.org Elizabeth Barrow is webmaster of one of the country's top websites. Check out Bob Lucas's revolutionary new Species List. While there, click on Yahoo Groups to ask questions and share mushroom finds and see walk & meeting changes.

Because of these many opportunities, our club members have been learning edible and non-edible mushrooms at a tremendous rate.

That is a lot of bang for the buck. There is no place to get a better bargain for the cost.

If you don't find a 2005 immediately after your name then your membership has expired. Send your application in today.

IN SEARCH OF THE GIANT MORELS

By
John
Plischke III

To find the Giant Morels, elm trees are essential. Sure, occasionally a few can be found growing under apple, tulip poplar or ash trees but to find that special tree that has 150 to 200 of the largest morels that you can imagine growing under it, you must look under large dying elms. These magical trees can have morels under them that get over a foot tall and 6 inches wide.

When searching for the giants, I skip over the small elm trees that typically only have a few morels under them, but instead make a bee line to the elms that have trunks 3 feet or more in diameter. Bigger elms produce much larger quantities of morels.

There is a definite disadvantage of hunting for morels in this manner since the morels in these mystical spots often grow less than a foot apart and sometimes over 30 feet out in all directions from the tree trunk. It becomes almost impossible not to step on some, and the sight of a morel larger than your shoe that you just trampled, can really cause you heart to ache. Then there is the back pain that is caused from kneeling over for over 30 minutes of non stop picking not to mention the weight of the heavy basketfuls of morels that one must carry back to the vehicle. There is the never ending guilt of not bring enough baskets to put all of the morels in that you found and having to leave a lot of morels behind. Finally, once home there is the problem of not having enough food dehydrators, freezer space and time to process your enormous haul.

FIELD OF MORELS



The Giant morels under this elm were 6 to 12 inches apart from each other and went out about 35 feet in all directions from the elm trunk.



ELM TREES

American Elm trees (*Ulmus americana*) produce greater numbers of morels per tree than any other type of tree. Under this dead elm, I found 165 giant yellow morels in about 5 minutes. The only problem was that the elm was surrounded by multiflora rose. I had to crawl on my belly to pick them. Only look under dying and recently dead elms. Healthy elms are not productive. Dead elms will continue to produce morels for up to several years after the tree has died. Once all the bark has fallen off a dead elm its chances of having morels under it are minimal.

ELM LEAVES

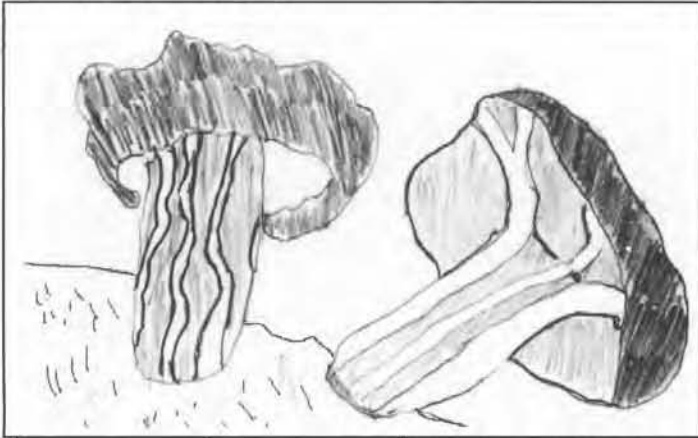


ELM BARK



GYROMITRA

**ROUND SPORED AND UMBRELLA GYROMITRA'S



Spores 8-12
G. sphaerospora



Spores
13-18 X 7-10
G. californica

Macroscopically these 2 species look almost identical. Once the spores are checked there is a big difference. G. sphaerospora grows in the east while G. californica grows in the west.



(Gyromitra sphaerospora)

(Helvella sphaerospora) (Pseudorhizina sphaerospora)

DESCRIPTION:

Flesh: It is thin and brittle.

Cap: 1 to 4 inches wide. It is yellowish brown on top and lighter underneath. It is saddle, lobed or umbrella shaped. It has ribs on the underside that branch out a little. Its margin is typically incurved.

Stalk: 1 to 4 inches tall. It is yellowish brown with some pinkish tones. It is ribbed and has pits

WHERE TO LOOK: On rotting fallen deciduous logs often birch and occasionally stumps or sawdust. Moss can be present.

HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND: Very uncommon.

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: Singly to scattered or in groups.

SOCIAL PLANTS: Typically none.

WHEN TO LOOK: May-July.

LOOK ALIKES: (*Gyromitra californica*) grows in the west into the Rocky mountains.

EDIBILITY: Unknown.

MICROSCOPIC FEATURES: Spores 8-12 X 8-12 um. They are round. It does not have oil drops but some can have a bubble.

(Gyromitra californica)

(*Helvella californica*) (*Pseudorhizina californica*)

DESCRIPTION:

Flesh: It is thin and brittle.

Cap: 1 ½ to 4 ½ inches wide. It is brownish on top and creamy underneath. It is saddle, lobed or umbrella shaped. It has ribs on the underside that branch out a little. Its margin is typically incurved.

Stalk: 1 to 3 inches tall and ¾ to 2 inches wide. It is cream colored with pinkish tones especially near the base. It is ribbed and has pits.

WHERE TO LOOK: On the soil, sometimes next to rotting logs in the fallen wood debris.

HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND: Uncommon.

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: Singly to scattered or in groups.

SOCIAL PLANTS: Moss can be present.

LOOK ALIKES: (*Gyromitra sphaerospora*) grows in the east and has round spores.

EDIBILITY: Unknown.

MICROSCOPIC FEATURES: Spores 13-18 X 7-10 um. They are elliptical.

**KORF'S GYROMITRA Or ELEPHANT EARS



Spores 25-30 X
10-14um
Pointy nobs 1 - 1
½ X 2

The cap is wrinkled and looks like a brain.

The white to cream colored stalk is short.

The white interior can have lots of irregular or wavy chambers.

True morels differ by having sponge like caps and hollow stalks without chambers.

(Gyromitra korfii)

This gyromitra is one of the more common ones in the North East.

Gyromitras look like a brain and are wrinkled. They also lack the sponge like holes of a morel. Some people eat them but it is a very bad idea. The poison may or may not get you today, but can build up in your system and kill. Gyromitra can be a tough group to try to identify to species and there still needs to be work done on them.

SPRING FUNGI

By
John
Plischke III

DEVIL'S URN



(*Urnula craterium*)

The Devil's Urn is found on the ground typically growing on small pieces of dead branches that can often be buried. It is typically blackish colored but often has dark brown tones inside the cup. These mushrooms are usually about 1 1/2 to 3 inches tall and 3/4 to 2 inches wide. Its edibility is unknown but it does not look at all appealing. They are often found while morel hunting.

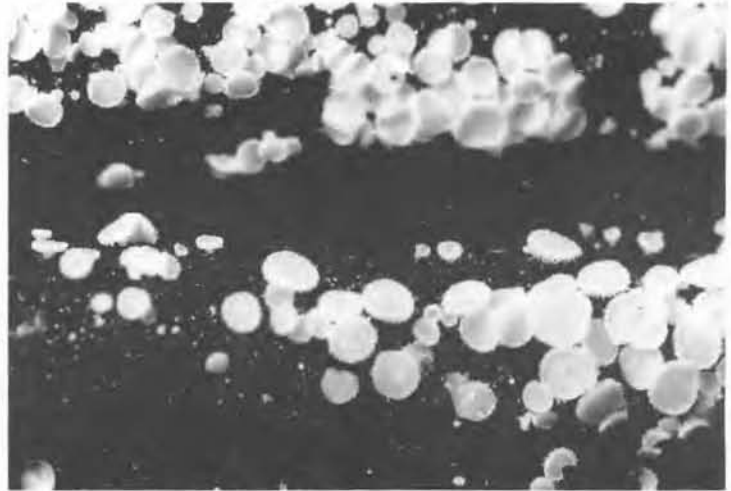
SCARLET CUP



(*Sarcosypha dudleyi*)

The Scarlet Cup is found on the ground typically growing on pieces of dead branches that can often be buried. It is scarlet red colored in the center but is usually much lighter on the sides that are typically off white colored. These mushrooms are usually about 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches tall and 3/4 to 3 inches wide. In the past the Scarlet Cup went by the name of (*Sarcosypha coccinea*) but that species only grows in the western states. Here in the east we have (*Sarcosypha dudleyi*) and (*Sarcosypha austriaca*). They can be found when morel hunting. Its edibility is unknown.

STALKED HAIRY FAIRY CUP



(*Dasyscyphus virgineus*)

If you have trouble seeing the elusive morels then you are really in for trouble if you want to find the Stalked Hairy Fairy Cup. These little guys are about 1/8 inch wide. However, they are fairly common if you gently remove a few leaves from the soil to reveal the little twigs that can be underneath that often have these little fungi growing on them. It is well worth the effort to find these beautiful white colored gems. These mushrooms are found from April to October. Its edibility is unknown.

EARLY SPRING ENTOLOMA



(*Nolanea verna*)

The Early Spring Entoloma often has a little nipple in the center of its cap. The caps and stalks are tannish brown colored and the gills become pinkish colored with age. It grows on the soil and it is often found when hunting morels. This mushroom is poisonous.

DEER VERSES PLATTERFUL MUSHROOM

By
John
Plischke
III

How to Easily Tell Them Apart : A side by side comparison

*DEER MUSHROOM / FAWN MUSHROOM



(*Pluteus cervinus*) = (*Pluteus atricapillus*)

FAMILY: Pluteaceae

DESCRIPTION: It is from 2 ½ to 4 ½ inches tall. *Flesh:* White. *Cap:* From 2 to 4 inches wide and from ½ to 1 inch thick. It's convex becoming almost flat. Tan to a gray brown. It is usually darker when the cap is not fully expanded, then becomes lighter in color with age. It is smooth and slightly sticky when wet. The nipple like parts, when present, on the larger caps can be 1 ¼ wide and stick up ½ inch and can be slightly darker colored. The cap skin peels to the middle of the cap and it is white under the skin. If you try to break the cap off the stem, the middle part of the cap will often stay on the stem. The cap has lines of slightly darker color on it. *Gills:* They are not attached to the stalk or even close to be. They are close and whitish becoming light pink with age.

Spore Print: Pinkish.

Stalk: 2 to 4 ½ inches tall and ¼ to 3/8 wide. It is whitish colored but has darker lines running from the top to bottom of the stem. It is not hollow when cut in half. It is fibrous. The bottom of the stem is often slightly darker in color than the top. It does not have a ring.

Odor: mild. *Taste:* Mild.

RANGE: North America. PA, OH, WV

WHERE TO LOOK: In the woods on rotten logs and stumps, occasionally buried wood and mulch piles or woods remains. I have even found it in the cemetery on a dead maple whose bark and wood dust had fallen to a pile under the tree. It can grow on oak, etc.

HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND: somewhat common.

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: It grows singly, groups and clumps.

WHEN TO LOOK: May to October.

LOOK ALIKES: Entolomas differ by having attached gills but they can on occasion become unattached with age but often there are tell tale marks left behind on the stem. Also most of them grow on the soil as opposed to wood. The edible Black Edged Pluteus (*Pluteus atromarginatus*) differs by having dark colored gill edges that are best viewed from a side view. (*Pluteus sp*) but the Deer Mushroom is the most common member of the group. The Big Deer or Big Fawn Mushroom (*Pluteus magnus*) has a darker colored when immature that can be wrinkled. The edible Platterful Mushroom (*Tricholomopsis platyphylla*) has a white spore print.

EDIBILITY: Edible. (I don't eat it)

KEY FEATURES THAT THEY SHARE

1. They both start to appear during morel season.
2. They both can have white colored gills.
3. They both like to grow on wood.

*PLATTERFUL MUSHROOM / BROAD GILL



(*Megacollybia platyphylla*)

(*Tricholomopsis platyphylla*) = (*Collybia platyphylla*)

FAMILY: Tricholomataceae

DESCRIPTION: It can be 7 inches tall.

Flesh: Its flesh is white.

Cap: 2 to 5 ¼ wide and about 1 inch thick. It is gray brown and flat to sunken in the middle with age. It peels back to the middle. The caps often have cracks in it that shows the flesh. The cap can have fibery lines on it that can be a slightly different color.

Gills: Depth is about ½ inch. Attached to stalk and adnate. There is often a notch by the stem. They are white. They are widely spaced. *Spore Print:* White.

Stalk: It is from 3 to 6 inches tall and from ½ to 1 inch wide. It has ridges and is white. It is wider near the bottom. It is stuffed to hollow with age. It is fibrous and has white thread like mycelium.

Odor: mild. *Taste:* often mild.

RANGE: North America. PA, OH, WV

WHERE TO LOOK: On old stumps, roots, logs, and buried wood.

HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND: somewhat common.

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: It is found singly or in groups.

WHEN TO LOOK: May to October.

LOOK ALIKES: The edible Fawn Mushroom (*Pluteus cervinus*) spore print differs by being pink. (*Entoloma sp.*) spore print differs by being pink.

EDIBILITY: Edible but can cause belly aches, especially if not well cooked. (I don't eat it)

KEY FEATURES THAT DIFFER

1. The Platterful mushroom has white colored gills that stay white even when the mushroom matures but the Deer Mushroom has white colored gills that turns pink as the mushroom matures.
2. The Platterful Mushrooms gills glow yellow under a black light but the Deer mushrooms just show the purple cast from the black light.
3. They have different colored spore prints.
4. The Deer Mushroom has closely spaced gills but the Platterful Mushroom has widely spaced gills.

MOREL MADNESS WEEKEND 2004

Doris & Phil
Cimino

The weekend weather forecast was not good, rain starting in western PA going east. Just our luck!! We decided we were going to take John and Becky Plischke up on their invitation anyway and proceeded to pack our raingear. Becky was extremely helpful in sending us information on motel accommodations and directions to the park.

After a very relaxing and picturesque drive from Long Island, NY through PA we arrived in Washington County just before dusk on Friday, April 23rd checking into a Best Western just a few miles from the park. Early the next morning we hurried over to the park anxious to meet the Plischke's and scope out the area. Upon checking in and registering we were met by the club's Vice President, Glenn Carr and his wife, Gay. When we



Glenn and Gay Carr

Doris with Glenn and Gay

learned that they were headed to search out an area that was good the previous year, we asked if we could join them. After a couple of hours hiking up some very steep hills, Phil found some large Dryads Saddles. Following that, Glenn found several Devil's Urns "Urnula craterium" and some more Saddles. Next, I found my first yellow morel buried in leaves beneath a large elm. We all continued digging in the leaves around the tree and Phil found a second morel, a black one! I started digging more furiously and found five more black Morels!!!!. We did not find any more morels that day but considered ourselves very fortunate to have found some.

Editor's Note: Because of the large volume of morels, about 185 people come from PA, NY, OH, WV and NC to hunt morels at Mingo Creek.

Phil holding a Dryads Saddle.



We all returned back to Shelter 6 at 5pm for show and identification. Although there was not an abundance of Morels compared to last year, there were many different kinds of mushrooms on display, some edible and some poisonous. After dinner, we returned to the shelter for an extremely well done slide presentation by John and John III Plischke. A lively group of approximately 75 people attended. The presentation was very informative and enjoyable. We ended the day by the evening campfire. And, the rain showers did not come until later that evening!!!!

We are very grateful for the hospitality extended to us. The knowledge we gained and the friendships we made were well worth the long trip. And by the way, the morel steak sauce the next evening and the morel egg omelet the following day reminded us all over again of our wonderful trip.



FUN-GUS ADVICE: DIGITAL CAMERAS

By Fun-Gus Basidiome (Mark Spear)

BUYING A BASIC DIGITAL CAMERA

You can run, you can hide, you can plug your ears and hum loudly, but someday you will get a digital camera. Professional level photographers get maximum goodness from conventional cameras and slide film. Slides remain the gold standard for color accuracy and fine detail. But with each passing month the virtues of digital cameras grow and prices shrink. This article is intended to smooth the learning curve for mushroomers getting started with digital photography.

Which camera to buy? An in-depth discussion of this topic is too long and too boring to present here. Here's a tip: Before I buy or recommend a new camera I research it at www.steves-digicams.com.

The beginning photographer should consider a small point-and-shoot camera for mushroom photography. These can produce surprisingly good pictures even when you let the camera make all the technical decisions. These cameras also fit easily into a picking basket or jacket pocket. You won't take pictures if your camera is too cumbersome to have at hand.

Find the best camera deals by scooping up last year's technology, but don't bother with the really low end cameras. Get a camera with at least a three mega-pixels sensor. Five is better. More pixels in each shot means more information, more detail, and more ability to enlarge the photo for printing.

Most mushroom photos require getting in close so zoom and close-up features are important. Just say no to digital zoom. Only consider cameras with optical zoom of 3x or higher. Also, zooms higher than 5x you will probably require a tripod. If you are not planning to carry a tripod don't pay more for a high zoom camera.

Make sure that the camera you get can focus on objects just 2-3 inches from the lens. Check for a macro mode or even a super-macro mode. You'll use this a lot. Expect to pay \$300-\$500.

Experienced photographers should consider a digital SLR. This is a digital sensor in a camera back that

lets you use your existing lenses, attachments and toys. Prices start around \$900 but if you have a serious investment in existing equipment this can still be a bargain.

Ok, so you found a camera. Now it's time to accessorize. The most important addition is a large memory card. When you take a picture the image is converted into a computer file. The file is stored on the memory card. Most stock memory cards hold less than a dozen full sized photos. Consider getting at least a 128 MB card. But remember that there are several card types so make sure to get one that fits your camera.

There are many other accessories you might consider; tripods, lights, remote shutter releases, and so on. I recommend taking a couple hundred photos before deciding what you need to add.

THREE BASIC TIPS FOR THE DIGICAM MINDSET

First tip; convince yourself that each picture is free. There is no film cost, there is no developing cost and you print only the photos you like. There is nothing to loose by taking another photo from a different angle, or with the flash, or changing the exposure, or zooming in or out. Accomplished film photographers have long known that you take twenty pictures to get one you like. The rest of us have lacked the dedication or resources to follow this rule but that's all over now.

Second tip; monitor your monitor twice. The small monitor on the back of the camera sees what the digital sensor sees. When you set up your shot look in the monitor and think about what you see there. Examine the lighting, the framing, and the focus.

Think about the reason for taking the shot. A beautiful forest scene featuring a mushroom is different from a detailed shot of a single specimen. How about shooting mushrooms on the identification table at meetings? Can you see the writing on the paper plates? Use your monitor before pressing the shutter release.

Use your monitor a second time to look at the shot you just took. Is it what you wanted? Should you try again? Should the last picture be deleted on the spot? These are considerations that only come up in digital photography. Don't wait until you get home

to find out you should have taken more photographs of the mushroom you saw in Hawaii.

Third tip; image size and file compression. All digicams come with two options that affect the size of the image files stored on the memory card. One setting is for image size and the other is file compression. For technical mushroom photography, I recommend reckless use of memory capacity by taking photos with the largest possible file size.

Both methods for decreasing file size remove information from the image. A smaller image is better for email and for printing small photos but it contains fewer pixels and less detail. In the same vein file compression can be set to small or economy, medium, fine, or RAW or TIFF. Using file compression you can fit more images onto your memory card.

I always use RAW or TIFF because these files are not compressed at all. The result is what I think of as a "digital negative" containing all possible data. Compressing to JPEG squeezes data out of the image and can result in odd textures (artifacts). Compress your files later, in the computer, but keep a copy of the original, unmodified file as a backup.

For non-technical photographs (a.k.a. snapshots) just use the default settings of your camera and let it do the heavy lifting. It's more fun than a basket of Boletes (well, almost).

BASICS OF PROCESSING DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

So let's say you've got a camera load of nice mushroom pictures. Now what? There is a three step process between you and that framed photo.

First step; Download the image files from the camera to the computer. Digicams come with a wire that plugs into the camera and the computer. Move the image files onto the computer's hard disk. Your camera will come with software to facilitate this. I prefer to cut and paste manually so I have better control of where the files go on my computer.

Second step; Image files are then screened and adjusted. You will be able to delete more than half of your photos after just a glance. Anything out of focus is hopeless and should be discarded. If the color or lighting is a bit off the photo may be

recoverable. Next, look at all the duplicate photos of each subject. Pick the superior delete the rest.

When you have selected the images you are going to keep, save it with a descriptive name. Just click on File ⇨ Save As. Then type a name like "B edulus – A May 04" and click on Save. Believe me, you'll thank me later.

The most common adjustments include cropping, color balancing, and special effects. Cropping is just trimming the edges of the photo away leaving the subject of the photo centered or to enhance the arrangement of subjects in the photo. The photo ends up slightly smaller but better looking.

Color balancing can be complex in theory but easy in practice. You click on the "Color Balance" button. If you like the results just re-save the adjusted photo. If the adjusted photo is worse than the original then undo the adjustment or revert to the original. If you need extreme color fidelity then there are kits you can get to calibrate your camera, monitor, and printer. Manual color adjustment is an art best left for experienced users.

The last adjustment you may want to try is a special effect. This could be anything from removing the background to grafting a mushroom onto a photo of your in-laws. Most cameras come with software to perform some basic special effects like making calendars and cards. Hundreds more effects can be downloaded from the web.

Third step; printing. Inexpensive inkjet printers can make very nice photos. Special photo printers are a bit better but usually not worth the extra cost. The real trick is in the paper. I keep three grades of paper on hand. I usually use photocopier paper because it is cheap. For photo spreads where detail count I use medium quality inkjet paper. This has a bright white surface that makes photos stand out better. For presentations or gifts I use thick, stiff glossy paper. This can cost two dollars a sheet but the results can be hard to distinguish from professionally photofinishing. Make sure you tell your printer what kind of paper you are feeding it.

I've twice mentioned the software that comes with the camera. I don't use it. My advice is to save yourself a lot of difficulty and just buy a copy of Photoshop Elements V3. For \$99 you get most of the power of Photoshop with the ease of use us ordinary mortals need.

MOREL HUNTERS BLESSING

By Mike Lloyd

May your late evenings be filled with soft Spring rain,

May your days be filled with sunshine.

May your responsibilities lighten just a bit—

So that you may take a walk, or two....or three.

May your favorite hunting grounds have as many morels as you remember, or just a few more.

May you discover two or three new spots to include as favorite hunting grounds for future years.

May you enjoy the outdoors and the beauty that nature offers.

May you remember to bring a friend as it is more special when great times are shared.

May you teach a child what others have taught you.

And my last blessing on this beautiful Spring day...

May your favorite hunting grounds not be anywhere near mine!

Happy Hunting

MORELS ON THE ROCKS

Photo by Don Claycomb



This is an excellent example of what would be a Judge's Option category of the photo contest. It fills the frame. It has a catchy name. The only thing that could improve the photo is the removal of the vase in the background.

TAKE US FOR A WALK

If you want to lead a mushroom walk in your area, call John Plischke III at 724-832-0271 or email funqi01@aol.com

If you think you know 100 or more mushrooms, please give John a call and let him know.

ITEMS FOR SALE

The club has loupes and wax bags for sale at the meetings. You can also get a club tee shirt, which illustrates some beautiful PA mushrooms. The WPMC Cookbook Volume 2 with all new recipes is available and in high demand. Contact Joyce Gross at 724-339-8547 or 58 Seventh St Ext, New Kensington, PA 15068.

MUSHROOM TABLE DISPLAY AT CLUB MEETINGS TO CHANGE

By John Plischke

At president Joe Luzanki's suggestion we are going to try a few new ideas at the table display. We are going to ask you to bring your books and try to put a name on one or more of the mushrooms you brought to the meeting. Then hand the plate to a club mycologist for them to sign off on. If you are right, you can be very proud that you dug it out for yourself. If you are wrong, you can ask the mycologist where you went wrong, thereby understanding the mushroom a little better.

When the meeting starts, only the club mycologists will be permitted at the identification tables. The speakers deserve our full attention.

Only after the speaker is done, the meeting is over and the mycologists have put their names on the plates will the mushroom names be considered accurate and safe to trust the identification.

When the meeting is over, some of the club mycologists and identifiers will be asked to do a Table Walk, talking about some mushrooms on the table.

If there is a mushroom that you brought from home, and you would like to talk about, for example, if you found a morel in elm trees on a south slope, etc. Please see me. From time to time you may get a chance to help with the Table Walk.

ARTICLES WANTED

Mail or email them to Becky Plischke today morelbp@aol.com or mail to 129 Grant St, Greensburg, PA 15601.

We anxiously anticipate your mushroom article, recipe, joke, puzzle, story or cartoon for the newsletter. Tell us about a mushroom hunting outing. Write a poem, draw a picture or send in a photo. All will be welcome. Eight people contributed to this newsletter. Thank you!



THE FOURTH ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF



MID-ATLANTIC MUSHROOM FORAY

SPECIAL REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, Sept. 10

**Let the Hunt
begin!**

FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY* 7:30-8:15 Registration, 8:30-7:30 Program

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Featured speaker will be Gary Lincoff, author of the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*. Gary is the nation's best know mushroom expert. He is past president of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA).



Join us for an exciting day of fungi, fun, and friends and mushroom exploration. We will hunt and field-identify mushrooms. Gary Lincoff will give a slide show, talk and autograph his book. We will taste mushroom cooking.



Special guest mycologist, Walt Sturgeon, is one of the nation's premier mycologist and photographer. Walt is a must have at the major NAMA and NEMF Forays. Mr. Sturgeon is a past First Vice President of NAMA and past president of the Ohio Mushroom Society. He will present a slide show and talk and help with identification.

Special guest mycologist, Dr. Ernst Both, started studying Boletes in 1948 in Europe. Since migrating to the US, he has worked with internationally known mycologists, Alan Bessette, Bill Roody, Rolf Singer, Esther Dick, Walter Snell, Alexander Smith, Harry Thiers, Roy Halling, Timothy Baroni, all extremely famous mycologists. He is the King of Boletes!



A host of other mycologist will be on hand to help you learn mushrooms, including: Dr. David Miller, Dr. Fred Schrock, John Plischke III, Robert Boice, Dorothy Fornof, Kim Plischke, and La Monte Yarroll.

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FUNGI FUN FRIENDS

Cost is only \$50 at the door or only **\$25* each pre-registered and paid by May 10**, (*does not include club membership). Children 11 & under free. Registration is limited. We sold out early the last two years, and turned people away. So get your registration in today!

Contact **Dick Dougall** 412-486-7504 rsdme@imap.pitt.edu or **Glenn Carr** 412-369-0495 gbrown2carrs@cs.com

Signing and dating the release is an absolute requirement for attendance. No refunds

Make check payable to: Western PA Mushroom Club, 4879 Christopher Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101
Foray Registration Form

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

Name 3 _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

RELEASE

Knowing the risks, I (we) agree to assume the risks, and agree to release, hold harmless, and to indemnify the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, and any officer or member thereof, from any and all legal responsibility for injuries or accidents incurred by myself or my family during or as a result of any mushroom identification, field trip, excursion, meeting or dining, sponsored by the club.

Signature _____ Signature _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

2005 WPMC MUSHROOM PHOTO CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY: All Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Members, except contest judges, can enter the contest at no cost. Non Club members may participate if club dues of \$15.00 Individual or \$20.00 family are submitted with the entry(s).

DATE/MAILING/QUESTIONS: Entries must be received before Nov 1, 2005 to eligible. They can be sent or given to or questions or further clarification directed to: John Plischke III, 201 Culbertson Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601 or fungi01@aol.com

ACCEPTED IMAGES: This year we will accept 3 formats: 35 mm color slides, color prints, or color digital images. Slides must be in cardboard or plastic mounts, glass mounts will not be accepted. Prints must be at least 3 X 5 inches but no more than 12 inches. Digital images must be less than 65mb per images and must be sent on a CD(s) or DVD or 3.5 disc(s) unless all the entries for the contestant combined take less than 3 minutes to download on a dial up connection, then they can be emailed. Digital entries must be jpeg or tiff.

Please note: any future WPMC contests may or may not accept prints, but if prints are disallowed, instructions will be given on how or where to have your print converted to a slide or to a digital image.

RETURN OF IMAGES: Slides and prints will be returned if requested on the entry sheet that you submit with the images. Digital images will not be returned, be sure to keep a copy on your computer. Please note duplication of images can take several months.



CATEGORIES:

Pictorial: This type of image should be of a beautiful fungi in nature. None of the mushrooms should be knocked down to show the underside. Images in this category must be identified at least to Genus such as Amanita but the species should also be given if known.



Documentary/Scientific/Technical: This type of image should emphasize the features needed to identify the mushroom. This type of picture generally would have both standing mushroom(s) and one or more mushrooms knocked over to show the gills, pores, bulb at the base of the stem or the like, so that it shows the mushrooms key features. Images in this category must be correctly identified by Genus and species.



Judge's Option/Activity/Events/Humor: All other mushroom entries fall into this category. It includes, but is not limited to things such as, mushroom events, like a walk, meeting, or foray, humorous pictures or pictures of a mushroom dinner or food. Images in this category must be titled but Genus or species need not be given unless desired by the contestant.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: Up to 9 images per person can be submitted. This year the images can be all in one form such as slides or they can be in mixed form such as 4 slides, 3 digitals and 2 prints. Send them all in one form or mix them any way you want, as long as not more than 9 images in total are submitted.

This year images can be entered in any or all of the 3 categories as long as the total number of entries of 9 is not exceeded. This year the images can be mixed in any way that you please. For example, if submitting the maximum of 9 entries and all 9 entries were Pictorial, they could be entered in that category, but no slides could be entered in Documentary or Judge's Option since the total was reached. Or 3 images could be entered in each of the 3 categories.

PRIZES/AWARDS: First, second and third place certificates will be awarded for each of the categories. Honorable mention(s) may also be given at the judges' discretion. Award winners will be listed in the newsletter and may have their images placed in the photo section in the WPMC Yahoo Groups. Other prizes may be awarded if donations are found.

LABELING: All images must be labeled. Labeling must include the contestants name or initials, the category which can be abbreviated such P for Pictorial, D for Documentary, or JO for Judge's Option. The images should also be numbered from 1 up to 9. Names or Titles should also be given. Slides can be labeled on the slide mount, prints on the back of the print and Digital in the file name. If the labeling program won't let you use large file names, your name can just be written on the CD, Disc, etc.. The contestant should also include a paper or entry form with the names and listings on it and their name, #, address, phone number and email.

USE OF IMAGES / REPRODUCTION: By entering the contest the contestant gives the WPMC permission to duplicate and use the entered images for club purposes and to manipulate the images and/or and to transfer and/or use the images in other formats. The contestant will retain ownership and copyright of the images but will grant the club use of the images. Possible club uses may include but are not limited to use by the education committee, walk and forays, program, newsletter, and webmaster.

SAMPLE ENTRY FORM OR PAPER TO ACCOMPANY ENTRY: Name: Address: City: State: Zip Code: Phone: Email:
Each entry should have Category of Pictorial / Documentary / Judge's Option
Your name and # 1-9, and the Entry Name

WPMC Meetings/Programs by Dick Dougall, Program Chair

Members are encouraged to bring mushrooms from home for identification. Bring your books and try to name some of your mushrooms. Hand them to a club mycologist to sign off on. Once the meeting starts only club mycologists are permitted at the tables. When the meeting is over and mycologists have checked everything, identifications will be considered accurate.

Make sure to sign in at all meetings, you just might win a door prize.

Meetings/Programs begin at 7:00 pm at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

March 15: Orienteering or Don't Get Lost by **George Yakulis**, Treasurer of the WPMC. Do you feel nervous heading into a large expanse of unfamiliar woods? Is your compass just another thing hanging on a cord around your neck? Would you like to learn more about Global Positioning System receivers (GPS) and how to use them? Come to this meeting and get a refresher on using maps and your compass to guide you through the woods. With a GPS you may even be able to return to that special log or morel spot deep in the woods with confidence.

April 19: Morel Hunting Basics by **Mike Lloyd**, Member of the WPMC and enthusiastic morel hunter. Morel hunting can be frustrating and confusing for many mushroomers. Good hunting areas are not always easy to find (most are kept secret). Spotting morels takes a trained eye. The club's spring forays can be an excellent way to find morels and to develop confidence in one's abilities. Mike will discuss the basics of being a successful morel hunter.

May 17: New Oyster Mushroom Growing by **Rebecca Miller & Mark Spear**, Cultivation Chairman. They are club members who work professionally on the commercial propagation of mushrooms. Mark and Rebecca will present a new type of oyster mushroom that club members can try growing. Kits for this process will be provided. In addition, they will show club members a way of making a simple microscope at home.

June 21: Mushroom Photography by **John Plischke III**, Club Mycologist & Walk and Foray Chair. John has won over 60 awards for mushroom photography including many in the advanced division of the North American Mycological Association Photo Contest. He is Chairman of the NAMA Photography Committee. John will give a program on how to photograph mushrooms, both edible and their poisonous look-alikes. Have you noticed that Gary Lincoff, Bill Roody, Walt Sturgeon, John Plischke III, Bobby Boice, Kim Plischke, Elaine Boice and Susan Baker all know a lot of mushrooms? That is because they have all won NAMA Photo Awards. When you photograph mushrooms you tend to learn them a lot faster. Club mycologists Dorothy Fornof and La Monte Yarroll also photograph mushrooms. Come get some tips on photographing mushrooms. You may learn mushrooms a lot faster and you just might soon be giving programs of your own. You will also learn mushrooms at the program.

July 19: Christmas in July by **Joyce Gross**, Workshop Chairman. Joyce will lead the Workshop Committee as they show how a Christmas tree ornament can be made using a common mushroom.

August 16: Beginner Mushroom ID Part 1: Mostly Gilled by **John Plischke III**, Club Mycologist & Walk and Foray Chair. This slide show will cover both edible and non edible mushrooms, many of which one is likely to encounter in the woods. The program is arranged into groups of mushrooms and often with an edible mushroom then one or more of its look-alikes. Some mushrooms features, such as spore print, gills, habitat and edibility will be discussed. Some of the more popular covered groups include: *Agaricus*, *Amanita*, *Lepiota*, and *Armillaria*. For additional information on the program, go to the club's Yahoo Groups at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub> you must sign in to be able to view the files section. There you will be able to view or print the 2 page pass-out for the program which includes a list of all of the species that will be shown. Print it and get a heads up.

September 20: Reproductive Strategies of Fungi by **La Monte Yarroll**, Club Mycologist & Member of Education Committee. Did you know that the Split Gill (*Schizophyllum commune*) has about 28,000 genders? What does that MEAN? How do we decide whether or not two fungi are members of the same species? The traditional answer has been to conduct a mating study. What is a mating study and what does it tell us about fungi? We'll review typical mushroom life-cycles and look at some of the more exotic variations in kingdom Fungi. Come see how much fun one person has with fungi without eating them.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS to Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve: (<http://www.aswp.org/beechwood.html>)

12 minutes from PA Turnpike Exit 5, Allegheny Valley (New Kensington/Pittsburgh) after tollbooth go south 1.2 miles on Freeport Road towards Pittsburgh. At the fourth stoplight (Eat'n'Park Restaurant on the right) turn right onto Guys Run Road. Go 4.1 miles to the second stop sign. Notice, part way on your journey Guys Run Road becomes Fox Chapel Road without any notification. Fox Chapel Road dead ends into Dorseyville Road. Turn left on Dorseyville and go .7 of a mile to Beechwood, on the right.

WALKS & FORAYS by John Plischke III

We request that no one hunts a walk or foray location for at least two weeks prior to a walk or foray. It is only through your cooperation that we can have successful walks and forays. All walks & forays will be held rain or shine. Come 15-30 min early and socialize. All walks start on time, so be early, if you are late we will already be in the woods. You can find last minute additions or changes by going to our Yahoo Groups at groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub

April 9 - 10:00-12:00 Fall Run Park, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall** and **Dick Duffy**. From Rt. 28 go north on Rt. 8 for .7 miles to Saxonburg Blvd. Continue north to the 2nd red light and turn right on Fall Run Road. Cross Pine Creek and make an immediate left into the parking lot.

April 16 - 2:00-??, Pine Lodge, Indiana County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III** for a Morel slide show and hunt. Take Route 22 east past Blairsville to Route 119 North exit; turn left after exiting then turn left toward Chestnut Ridge Inn. Pass the Inn and veer right onto Strangford Road, as you round a sharp curve, turn left onto Chestnut Ridge Road. Go about 1 mi. look for Pine Lodge sign on the left. Meet at the lodge. <http://www.indiana-co-pa-tourism.org/recreat.html> This is a site that my dad, Robert Boice and I have hunted morels in the past.

April 23 - 10:00-12:00 North Park, Allegheny County. Meet **Valerie** and **Jack Baker** at Swimming Pool parking lot. North Park has a variety of habitats; we will go to a secret location. Directions below.

April 30-May 1 - 11:00 am Morel Mushroom Madness Weekend, Mingo Creek, Washington County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III**. This is the biggest morel slide show and hunt in the eastern US. I 70 to Exit 9 Eighty Four/Glyde. Take Rt. 519 N for 2 miles. At a red light turn right onto Rt. 136. Go 4.4 miles and turn left at a sign to Mingo Creek Park. Follow signs to the park. Check in roadside near Henry House. **TO PRE-REGISTER WITH THE PARK.** CALL CRISTINE 724-228-6867. We found morels at this program last year. <http://www.washpatourism.org/parks.html>

May 7 - 10:00-12:00 Knob Hill Community Park, Warrendale, Allegheny County. Meet **Glenn Carr** and **La Monte Yarroll**. From the east take I-76 (PA TURNPIKE) West to exit 3 at Cranberry. Take US-19 South. Turn right into Thorn Hill Industrial Park. At the light turn left onto Brush Creek Road and then right onto Knob Road. Go about 1 mile and the park will be on the left. There are 2 entrances, take the second entrance. Pull in, bear left and go to the back parking lot.

May 14 - 10:00-12:00, Return to Mingo Creek, Washington County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III** in the parking lot of Shelter 4. See the directions on April 24. We will hunt mushrooms.

May 22, Sunday - 10:00-12:00 Moraine State Park, Butler County. Meet **Jim** and **Charlotte Tunney**. From Butler take US 422 west 8.7 miles to PA 528 N and turn right, then an immediately left just before a lawn & garden store with a John Deere sign. Go about .8 mile to the parking lot at the end of the road near the boat launch by the lake. OR take I-79 N to 422 E for about 4 1/2 miles and turn left onto PA 528 N, then follow the directions above. We will drive to a secret location.

May 28 - 10:00-12:00 Hartwood Acres, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall** and **Dick Duffy** at the parking lot in front of the Mansion (on the opposite side of the park from the Performance Center). We will hunt mushrooms and help you identify them. Directions below.

July 15-18 - NAMA foray 2005 will be held at the **University of Wisconsin LaCrosse in LaCrosse, WI**. A great diversity of mushroom picking sites is found around this area. The host Mycologist is Tom Volk who is a mycology professor at the University. On the web, see www.namyco.org for the registration form.

August 11-14, 2005 NEMF Foray at Mont Alto Campus of Penn State University in Mont Alto, PA There will be lectures and workshops all day Friday and Saturday, as well as many forays to choose from. There is no membership requirement. On the web, see www.nemf.org for upcoming info and registration form for the foray. Our own **John Plischke III**, **Sam Ristich**, and **Gary Lincoff** will be members of the faculty. Other faculty members will include: **Roy Watling**, **Walt Sturgeon**, **Gary Lincoff**, **Bart Buyck**, **Roz Lowen**, **Ernst Both**, and **Glenn Freeman**.

Sept 10 - Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray Don't miss it, register today!

DIRECTIONS to North Park www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/parkphon.asp From Pittsburgh go north on Rt. 8. Turn left onto Wildwood Road onto the Yellow Belt (Ford Dealer and Boston Market on the right). Go 1.3 mi. to a red light; go straight (W Hardies). Continue another 1.6 mi. to a red light at North Park Entrance, road name changes to Ingomar Road at this intersection, Turn left on Babcock Blvd. Follow the signs to the Swimming Pool parking lot and find the car with a yellow ribbon on the antenna.

DIRECTIONS to Hartwood Acres: From PA Turnpike: Take Allegheny Valley (Exit 5). Stay right on the exit ramp. Turn right onto Route 910 West. Go 4 1/2 miles and turn left onto Saxonburg Blvd. at the red blinking light. Follow Saxonburg Blvd. about 2 1/2 miles, entrance will be on your right. This is about a mile and a half from Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

For all walks and forays, bring water and lunch. Dress for the weather. Bring basket, wax or paper bags (no plastic) to keep mushrooms separated, whistle, compass, chair, hand lens, insect repellent, cell phone, and books for identification. Also bring a knife to dig up mushrooms for identification or to cut edibles off to keep them clean. Try to dig up 3 of the same species at different stages of development. Don't pick old mushrooms; leave them to drop their spores. Bring your membership card and a friend or two. You are responsible for not getting lost, if you have that tendency stick like glue to others. We won't wait for you, and we won't come look for you. Don't take the identification of the person standing next to you, they might not know as much as you do. Only club mycologists and identifiers should be used for advice. The Walk Leader will tell you when to be back at the walk starting place where the mushrooms will be put on paper plates and the Walk Identifier or Club Mycologist will put names on only the mushrooms that they know well. Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms. You should go home and check books yourself. Whether you decide to eat a mushroom, is ultimately only your decision.

THE GARY LINCOFF MID-ATLANTIC MUSHROOM FORAY



Was it the largest fall mushroom foray in the USA? We are not sure. Of the 220 expected, only 180 were able to make it. Why? Hurricane Ivan hit the day before and dumped over six inches of rain on the area. Many roads were closed, bridges washed out and trees blocked roads where water hadn't flooded them. **Gary will be back this year on Sept. 10.** Last year the WPMC had 9 club meetings, 34 Walks & Forays and 5 informative newsletters. Check out the pictures of the mushrooms found on Bob Lucas's Species List at www.wpamushroomclub.com **Don't miss out, join the WPMC today!**

Gary Lincoff teaching about mushrooms.



Dr. Tom Volk at the Table Walk.



Wynnea sparassoides or the Stalked Cauliflower Fungus, a rare mushroom, was sent to the Cornell Herbarium by Dr. Tom Volk. You can learn more in Gary Lincoff's Audubon book page 345, photo 753. It was identified by John Plischke III.



16 eight foot long tables were full of mushrooms. Special thanks to Jon Ellifritz, head mycologist for the Mycological Association of Washington, DC for keeping the mushroom tables well organized.

The cost to join the Western PA Mushroom Club is only \$15 individual and \$20 family. The cost of the Lincoff Foray for members who register early is only \$25 each. Many mushroom forays this size cost \$300-350 What a bargain!





Foray Menu

Black Trumpet Dip
 Marinated Sheephead
 Chanterelle Dip
 Black Trumpet Butter
 Boletus Separans Soup
 Chicken Pasta Salad
 Sheephead Barley
 Marsala Mushrooms
 Mushroom Log

Mushrooms & Spinach
 Candy Cap Carrots
 Chanterelle Herb Potatoes
 Shiitake Frittata
 Chicken of the Woods
 Etoufee
 Oysters in Béarnaise Sauce
 Portobello Teriyaki
 Candy Cap Cookies

Special thanks to Susan Baker, Charlotte Tunney, George Yakulis, Evelyn Plischke, and your editor for taking photos at the foray and sending them in to share with club members.



We were fortunate to have a number of club members donate a lot of the mushrooms. Thanks to Mark Spear & Rebecca Miller, Jim Strutz & Wendy Terwilliger, Dave Lewis, Sheryl & John Kustra, Tina Ellor, the Plischkes, and Larry Whalen and John Snatchko for all the garlic.

Photos on the left are of the food lines, pictured on the right are some of the cooks preparing the food.

50 people were listed on the foray program and about 50 more helped. Thank you one and all, you made this foray a huge success!





Club member, George Harris, is a professional chef extraordinaire. He has for years specialized in cooking with wild mushrooms. George conducted a mushroom cooking class for some of those in attendance at the foray. He prepared 3 dishes for the group to enjoy. Two of the recipes are on the club's Yahoo Groups in the file section. We are very lucky to have one of the top chefs in Western PA teach our group some of his cooking secrets.

Thanks, George!

Pictured below are mycologists, Dr. Tom Volk and Gary Lincoff. Who says mycologists don't eat wild mushrooms?

Pictured below are mycologist, Dr. Dave Miller and Dr. Tom Volk. On the far right is Dorothy Fornof, one of our club mycologists. Dr. Miller teaches at Oberlin College in Ohio. He took mushrooms back to use in his mycology class.

Below right is a display of cultivated wild mushrooms brought by mycologist Tina Ellor of Phillips Mushrooms. Phillips Mushrooms can be found at: www.phillipsmushroomfarms.com

Sign up for the foray early, before it is sold out.



"Largest Mushroom Club in the Ten-State Area"

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
129 Grant Street
Greensburg, PA 15601

Return to Sender

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membership has expired.

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CLUB OFFICERS

President: Joseph Luzanski 724-872-7867
president@wpamushroomclub.org 27 Ted Road, West Newton, PA 15089
Vice President: Jim Strutz 412-267-7471
82 Pilgrim Road, Carnegie PA 15106 strutzj@strutz.com
Treasurer: George Yakulis 724-444-6628
4879 Christopher Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101
Secretary: Mary Jane Yakulis 724-444-6628 yakg@connecttime.net
Corresponding Secretary: Valerie Baker 412-367-7696
vbbaker8@hotmail.com 1413 Parkmont Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

COMMITTEES

Cultivation Chairman: Mark Spear 724-297-3377 mspear@altpost.net
RR4, Box 237E, Kittanning, PA 16201
Education Chairman: Jim Tunney 412-441-3958 aminitam@hotmail.com
6041 Stanton Avenue, Apt#1, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
La Monte Yarroll
Historian: Jane Duffy 412-492-0104 230 Indiana Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116
Hospitality Chair: Kim Plischke 724-832-0271 Ladiebugzpk@aol.com
201 Culbertson Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601
Elaine Hruby, Eugene Kadar, Charlotte Tunney and Lorretta Wible
Mushroom Display: John Plischke 724-834-2358 morelbp@aol.com
129 Grant Street, Greensburg, PA 15601 and **Dorothy Fornof** 412-767-9925
Mid Atlantic Foray Chairs: Dick Dougall 412-486-7504 rsdme@imap.pitt.edu
202 Wadsworth Dr, Glenshaw, PA 15116
Glenn Carr 412-369-0495 gbrown2cars@cs.com
1848 Fairhill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101
Mycological Recorder: Bob Lucas 412-422-8976 rnlucas@microspell.com
5840 Northumberland St., Pgh, PA 15217
Newsletter Editor: Becky Plischke 724-834-2358 morelbp@aol.com
129 Grant Street, Greensburg, PA 15601
Photography Chair: Robert Boice 724-446-0524 blqvm@msn.com
152 Beeno Road, Irwin, PA 15642 **Elaine Boice, John Plischke III, Kim Plischke**
Publicity Chair: Valerie Baker (See Corresponding Secretary)
Sales Chair: Joyce Gross (see Workshop Chair)
Speakers Bureau: Dick Dougall (See Mid Atlantic Foray)
Joseph Luzanski, Mike Lloyd John Plischke III
Toxicology Chair: Frank Lotrich 412-661-0950 lotrichfe@msx.upmc.edu
7219 Witherspoon St., Pittsburgh, PA 15206
Walk & Foray Chair: John Plischke III 724-832-0271 funqi01@aol.com
201 Culbertson Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601

Web Master: Elizabeth Barrow 412-521-9337 ebarrow@verizon.net
5840 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217
Welcoming Chairman: Mary Ellen Dougall 412-486-7504 rsdme@imap.pitt.edu
202 Wadsworth Dr, Glenshaw, PA 15116 **Jerry Price**
Workshop Chair: Joyce Gross 724-339-8547 agross@microconnect.net
58 Seventh St Ext, New Kensington, PA 15068 **Robin Durr, Dick Duffy**
Yahoo Groups Moderator: Jim Strutz (See Vice President)

CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

Robert Boice (See Photography Chair)
Dorothy Fornof 412-767-9925
John Plischke III (See Walk & Foray Chair)
Kim Plischke 724-832-0271 Ladiebugzpk@aol.com
Dr. Fred Schrock 610 South 7th St, Indiana Pa
La Monte Yarroll 412-854-5684 piggv@baqagi.chi.il.us
Scientific Advisor: Walt Sturgeon

IDENTIFIERS

Jack Baker 412-367-7696 vbbaker8@hotmail.com
Susan Baker 724-283-9123 smidwife@zoominternet.net
John Bumbarger shrumall@yahoo.com
Doug Dickman 724-626-1542 larshalfass@yahoo.com
Bob Lucas (See Mycological Recorder)
Ed McConnell OURNUTHOUSE2@peoplepc.com
Jim Strutz (See Vice President)
Jim Tunney (See Education Chairman)

WALK LEADERS

Valerie Baker (See Recording Secretary)
Glenn Carr (See Mid Atlantic Foray)
Dick Dougall (See Mid Atlantic Foray)
Dick Duffy 412-486-3913
Robert Fornof 412-767-9925
John Plischke (See Mushroom Display)
Mary Lou Riegel 412-487-1527 mriegel@federatedinv.com
Don Stone 412-441-2027 dastonearch@yahoo.com
Wendy Terwilliger 412-343-3458 wter@peoplepc.com
Charlotte Tunney 412-441-3958 aminitam@hotmail.com
Legal Council: Mike Lloyd
Past President: Mary Woehrel 678-457-4026 marigold4343@yahoo.com
Past President: John Plischke (See Mushroom Display)
Past President: Dick Dougall (See Mid Atlantic Foray)