



# WESTERN PA



# MUSHROOM CLUB

Volume 5, Issue 3                      Editor: Becky Plischke                      August September 2004  
 President: Dick Dougall    V Pres: Glenn Carr    Sec: Joyce Gross    C Sec: Valerie Baker    Treas: George Gross

## GARY LINCOFF MID-ATLANTIC MUSHROOM FORAY

### THE NATION'S LARGEST FALL FORAY

Last year's Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray (MAMF) was the nation's largest fall mushroom foray. We sold out with 188 in attendance. This year **we expect to sell out even earlier**. The club is much bigger and the event will be widely advertised. Don't wait, **send your completed and signed registration form and money in today**. I have already sent mine!

MAMF will be held on September 18 just off the I-76 (PA Turnpike) exit 4, Butler Valley. More details to follow.

There is a great possibility that most who attended last year's event will return. **They came from seven states**. The word has gotten out all over the country about this being a wonderful day of learning mushrooms and socializing. One of the reasons for their return might be last year's mushroom tasting event.

#### Last year's tasting menu included: **WOW!**

Black Trumpet Dip	Sulfur Shelf Snack
Chanterelle Dip	Trumpet Pasta
Boletus Separans Soup	Chicken Etoufee
Chanterelles & Couscous	Beef & Mushrooms
Oysters in Béarnaise Sauce	Candy Cap Cookies
Sheephead & Cheese	Chanterelle Pilaf
Pheasant's Back Jambalaya	Mushroom Log
Mushrooms, Spinach and Feta Cheese	

We don't yet know what the mushroom tasting menu will be this year, as you know, it is somewhat dependent on the weather, but God willing it may be more inclusive than last year.

**You need to pre-register and send your money today.** Several weeks prior to the event, you will get a confirmation package with directions and a list of motels and restaurants.

**Come join us for a full day of Fungi, Fun and Friends!**

### GARY LINCOFF, PRINCIPAL MYCOLOGIST

Gary Lincoff will return as the principal mycologist at the Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray on September 18. Gary is the author of many mushroom books including the National Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Mushrooms. He has written or edited many other books including Toxic and Hallucinogenic Mushroom Poisoning and Simon and Schuster's Guide to Mushrooms.



The Audubon field guide is the biggest selling mushroom book of all time. Bring your copy along. You might be able to talk Gary into autographing your book.

The 1986 North American Mycological Association's Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology was presented to Gary.

This is a tremendous opportunity to meet and hunt mushrooms with the world's most famous mycologist. Registration is limited.

### IT'S A BARGAIN

The cost for this daylong (12 hours of mushroom heaven) event is a real bargain.

You will be taught mushrooms by top national and many regional mushroom experts. There will be scores and scores of mushrooms for you to see and learn. If you are a new mushroomer, you will have the opportunity to learn more mushrooms in one day than you could probably learn on your own in 5-10 years. To me, it is worth the price of admission just for the mushroom tasting. **Don't hesitate. Sign up today before the event is sold out. For our special offer, turn the page.**

## SPECIAL OFFER

The cost of this daylong mushroom event is a real bargain. The price is only \$50 at the door for 12 hours of mushrooming, mushroom tasting and good friendship, **but if you send your reservation today, we will include a free membership in the Western PA Mushroom Club**, a \$15 value. With the club membership, you can attend 9 monthly club meetings, receive the club's informative newsletter and get discounts on club merchandise and special events. You will be able to go on 30 club walks and forays and learn even more mushrooms or just take a nice friendly stroll with your new friends.

Take advantage of this special offer by sending the completed and signed 2004 Membership form and Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray registration **by August 15, you can have both MAMF and a club membership for just \$41. A Club family membership and two tickets to MAMF would be just \$72.**

Many mushroom events that don't have near as much happening as MAMF cost \$150-\$300 or more. This is a very special bargain where you will have the opportunity to learn mushrooms at a very reasonable price.

Because we expect to sell out early, if you don't send your registration in today, you might miss your spot at the event.

**See MAMF Registration Form for details.**

## MID ATLANTIC MUSHROOM FORAY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- 7:30-8:15 Registration
  - 7:45-8:15 Morning Walk Sign Up
  - 7:45-8:30 Sales Table Open
  - 8:30-8:32 President's Welcome
  - 8:32-8:34 Introduction of Mycologists
  - 8:35-8:40 How to Collect Mushrooms
  - 8:40-8:45 Organize Walks
  - 8:45-8:55 Proceed to Cars
  - 9:00-12:00 Collect Mushrooms
  - 12:00-1:00 Lunch (on your own)
- We suggest you pack a lunch and drink or go to one of the nearby restaurants.
- 12:25-1:00 Sales Table Open
  - 1:00-2:00 Gary Lincoff Slide Show and Talk
  - 2:00-2:05 Organize Walks
  - 2:05-4:00 Collect Mushrooms
  - 2:05-6:15 Mushroom Identification
- Identification Team identifies the collection and puts them on display for you to learn
- 2:10-2:55 Cooking with Mushrooms by Chef George Harris (limited to 20 people)
  - 2:55-3:40 Jon Ellifritz Slide Show & Talk
  - 3:00-4:30 Mushrooms Under the Microscope
  - 3:40-4:25 Tina Ellor Slide Show and Talk
  - 4:00-7:00 Review the Collection

- 4:30-5:30 Tom Volk Slide Show & Talk
- 5:35-6:15 Mushroom Tasting - Mycophagy
- 5:30-6:15 Sales Table Open
- 6:30-7:00 Gary Lincoff Table Walk
- 7:00-7:30 Clean-Up (everybody helps)
- 7:30 Leave or come to the party in the lounge and socialize (even if you have a 4 hour drive, you can be home by 11:30)

## 3 DAY FORAY OR COME FOR THE DAY—TAKE YOUR PICK

This year's foray will be held just off the I-76 (PA Turnpike) exit 4, Butler Valley.

**We will be socializing at a lounge the evening before the event. Everyone is also invited to come socialize in the evening after the foray has ended.** Snacks & drinks on your own.

If anyone has any questions, you should contact MAMF Foray Chair, John Plischke at [morelbp@aol.com](mailto:morelbp@aol.com) or 724-834-2358.

## 200 YEARS IDENTIFICATION EXPERIENCE TO HELP YOU LEARN MUSHROOMS

The foray is blessed with many experienced mycologists who can identify hundreds and hundreds of mushrooms. Other mycologists will be coming from other states. The following is a brief synopsis of the Mycologists who will be working the identification tables. **Gary Lincoff** will be the **Principal Mycologist**.

### SPECIAL GUEST MYCOLOGIST

#### Dr. Tom Volk

**World famous mycologist Dr. Tom Volk will be a special guest mycologist at the foray.** Dr. Volk is an expert on morels, sulfur shelf, stump mushrooms, polypores and many others.

He is a professor of mycology at the University of Wisconsin. Tom is a mycologist in great demand. He is a "must have" at the major NAMA and NEMF forays.

Now he is coming to our foray! He is a member of the commission to assign universally accepted names to mushrooms. Tom received the "William H. Weston award for excellence in teaching Mycology" from the Mycological Society of America.

Tom has a "must see" website; it has something for everyone. First, go to our website at [wpamushroomclub.org](http://wpamushroomclub.org), click on Links to Other Sites, then Tom Volk's Fungi. While on our website, click on our very special Species List.





## Nationally Know

### Mushroom Photographer and Identifier

**John Plischke III**, for three consecutive years has been a member of the faculty of both the North American Mycological Association Forays and the North East Mycological Federation Forays.



He has given programs or been guest mycologist NAMA affiliated clubs, including Sonoma County Mycological Association in CA, the

Boston Mycological Club in MA and the Mycological Association of Washington. Last year John was awarded NAMA's Harry & Elsie Knighton Award.

He is a NEMF trustee and both a NAMA trustee and life member. John has given scores of mushroom programs all over the tri-state area.

He has won over 50 awards for his mushroom photography. Last year he won 6 of the 7 top awards in the NAMA Photo Contest. John is a Club Mycologist and our Walk and Foray Chairman.



**Dr. Fred Schrock** is a retired professor of mycology and biology at Indiana University of PA. He did his graduate work at the U of Chicago. He taught courses in General Mycology and Medical Mycology while at IUP. A mushroom enthusiast for years,

Fred has given many mushroom identification programs. Although we have heard Fred say he is more of a lab mycologist, we can attest that he is an excellent field mycologist. He makes learning fun. He is a Club Mycologist and member of NAMA.

**Robert Boice** – has been hunting and identifying mushrooms for years. He is a Club Mycologist. We gave him that title because he knows a great many mushrooms. In addition, he has won numerous awards for photography from the North American Mycological Association. If you go on his walk, ask him for some tips on how to photograph mushrooms.



**Dorothy Fornof** – has been hunting and identifying mushrooms for a long time. A Club Mycologist, she is head of identification of the mushrooms members bring to our monthly meetings. We are very fortunate to have her. Dorothy gives

freely of her mushroom knowledge. Last year she received the Club Award for Outstanding Service.

**La Monte Yarroll** started mushrooming in the mid 90's while living in Tasmania. After returning to the States in 1995, he joined the Illinois Mycological Association. In 2002 he started photographing fungi, amassing hundreds of photos since then. In November, he moved from Illinois to Pennsylvania to join the WPMC, and incidentally start a new job. He is a Linux Architect. La Monte is our newest Club Mycologist.



### Mycological Association of Washington Club Mycologist



**Jon Ellifritz** has been the top person at the identification tables for the Mycological Association of Washington, DC for longer than the 14 years that we have known him. He is industrious and dedicated in putting names to the numerous mushrooms he knows. He is

also MAW's Walk and Foray Chairman. One of Washington's newspapers said of Jon, he "can identify every leaf, stick, fungus, insect, bird call and trailhead in the woods." Jon is a member of NAMA and the WPMC. He has an excellent slide show.

### Ohio Mushroom Society Dr. David Miller

**Dr. David Miller** grew up in a suburb of Chicago where he developed a keen interest in the natural world. He concentrated on plants and mushrooms. He graduated with a major in Botany at DePauw Univ. in 1961. In 1967 Dave got his PhD. in Plant Physiology from Univ. of California, Berkeley. He feels fortunate to have taken a number of mycology courses along the way. He then did a 2-year post-doctoral fellowship at AEC/MSU Plant Research Lab in E. Lansing MI. For 35 years he has been a Professor of Biology and Mycology at Oberlin College in Columbus, Ohio. Dave is a WPMC, OMS and NAMA member.



### ITEMS FOR SALE AT FORAY

Among the items for sale at MAMF will be the club's beautiful tee shirt designed by Joyce Gross. In addition, we will have wax bags, loupes for mushroom identification and the Mushroom Club Cookbook, Vol. 2.

# PUFFBALLS

By  
John  
Plischke III

## THE GIANT PUFFBALL



It grows in grassy areas such as yards.

They are often the size of basketballs.

I like to push down on top and pick the firm feeling ones.

(*Calvatia gigantea*)

(*Calvatia maxima*) (*Langermannia gigantea*) & (*Lycoperdon giganteum*)

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Puffball

**FAMILY:** Lycoperdaceae

**DESCRIPTION:** When collecting this mushroom, I like to gently push down on the top. If it feels firm, I know it's perfect, and I pick it. If it feels soft and pushes in easily or feels mushy, I know it is too old to eat. After trying this technique a few times you will get the hang of it. Although this may sound superstitious, I don't just pull them out and cut them in half to check them because I think that disturbs the mycelium and can hurt future collecting at that location. The Giant puffball gets the first part of its common name because it can get to be a giant size, often as big as a basketball. The puffball part comes after it mature and is well past the edible stage. Once the spores dry out and it gets stepped on or kicked, a huge puff of smoke comes up. I used to like puffing them when I was a kid before I knew what they were but now my superstitious nature prevents me.

**Flesh:** Its flesh is white when fresh.

**Mushroom:** from 6 to 18 3/4 inches wide and about as tall. When found in a group of 3 that are touching, the 2 small ones can be as little as 3 1/2 inches tall and 5 inches wide and the large one will be as big as a basketball. Its skin is about 1/16 inch thick and can be peeled off in big sections with your fingers. If it is really dirty, I will field clean it or part of it so the dirt does not spread all over everything in my basket. It is a giant white roundish ball shaped mushroom. Its smooth skin becomes cracked with age and often has small dimple like holes in the surface of its skin where some insect had probably been chewing. It has small white thread like roots in the very center of the bottom in a less than 1 inch sized area. It does not have gills or pores. It can weigh up to 5 pounds.

**Spores:** White then turning greenish yellow sometimes with a little brown. A single one of these mushrooms has millions of spores.

**Odor:** Mild.

**Taste:** Mild.

**RANGE:** Eastern North America and Europe.

**WHERE TO LOOK:** It can be found growing on the soil in open fields and open wooded areas. Look in cemeteries, fields, meadows, parks, pastures, roadsides, yards, and grassy areas. Occasionally found on edges of short wooded slopes (approx. 20 ft) near roadsides. The areas do not have to be mowed to find them but it makes it a lot easier

to spot. The skull shaped puffball is often found nearby so keep an eye open for it as well. I occasionally see a grassy area where the grass is much taller and darker and growing in a 10 to 20 foot wide fairy ring, which later develops into this mushroom. Make sure to cut it off at the base, never pull it off the ground, so the mycelium is not disturbed and hopefully it will appear again next year, like it often does.

**HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND:** Somewhat common.

**HOW THEY'RE GROUPEd:** It can be found singly, scattered or in small fairy rings. The average collection at one location is one to 3 mushrooms.

**SOCIAL PLANTS:** Grass, clover, ground ivy, dandelion, and narrow leaf plantain are often present.

**WHEN TO LOOK:** They can be found August to October. Usually they come up in spurts; maybe you could collect at 5 different spots one week and then nothing anywhere for several weeks.

**LOOK ALIKES:** A lot of times when you are road hunting for mushrooms, you will see a big white round thing growing in someone's yard. When you go to get it you will be disappointed to find only a soccer ball, softball or volleyball. We use binoculars to check ours so we don't even have to get out of the truck. The edible Western Giant Puffball (*Calvatia booniana*), which does not grow in the eastern U.S. The edible and smaller Skull Shaped Puffball (*Calvatia craniformis*) which looks like a skull and much darker in color, it is softball sized. The edible Purple Spored Puffball (*Calvatia cyathiformis*) is purple inside when mature and too old to eat; it is softball sized.

**EDIBILITY:** Edible and Choice. Eat the pure white fresh ones only. Once it starts getting yellow or darker inside, it is rotting and never eat it.

**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:** It is excellent cut into 1/2 inch thick steak like pieces and fried in butter until it is a golden yellow color, it can also be fried in olive oil with a little garlic or bacon grease. It is also excellent cut up into bite-sized pieces or in steak sized sections then dipped in egg then breadcrumbs or flour then deep-fried in oil or it can be just cup up and used like French fries. It can be put into pancakes made from mashed potatoes to make puffball potato pancakes; my dad likes to add cheese to make it extra delicious. It tastes somewhat like an eggplant and can be substituted for it in some recipes. It does not dry well but can be frozen. It can be made into lasagna, just substitute the puffball slices for the lasagna noodles, however, it is best to partially cook the puffball slices before you begin to make the lasagna, great for diabetics. Vegetarian Giant Puffball parmesan is also excellent.

## GIANT PUFFBALL MAN





## PEAR SHAPED PUFFBALL



(*Lycoperdon pyriforme*)

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Pear-Shaped Puffball, Puffball

**FAMILY:** Lycoperdaceae

**DESCRIPTION:** It is shaped like a pear hence the name.

**Flesh:** white when fresh.

**Mushroom:** 1/2 to 1 3/4 inches wide and 3/4 to 1 7/8 inches tall. It is whitish when very young then it becomes yellowish brown color with some white and tan in it with age and that is the way it is usually found. It has small granular particles on it but it still feels a little smooth. It develops a hole in the center of the top for the spores to release with age. The interior is white and turns yellowish green to yellowish brown or greenish brown with age. The base has white string like mycelium that can be seen when pulled out of loose rotted wood or mulch.

**Spore Print:** Brownish to Greenish brown, often with olive tones.

**Odor:** mild. **Taste:** mild.

**RANGE:** the United States.

**WHERE TO LOOK:** It grows on wood. Look on fallen trunks and logs and also on dead stumps, which are usually somewhat rotted. I have also seen it growing up the base of an oak. The wood can have the bark on it or it can be barkless. Occasionally it can be found on the soil but then there has to be buried wood. It also can occasionally be on mulched paths in the woods sometimes in great numbers.

**HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND:** Common to very common.

**HOW THEY'RE GROUPED:** It can grow in groups, clusters or large groups. Often they can be covering an entire fallen tree trunk or log where 100's can be picked. They are typically touching at places. It can be found singly but rarely. More commonly several handfuls of them are found.

**SOCIAL PLANTS:** Moss can be growing by it, but it is not usually present.

**WHEN TO LOOK:** July to November.

**LOOK ALIKES:** The edible Gem Studded Puffball or Devil's Snuff Box (*Lycoperdon perlatum*), which grows on soil and has spine like particles that can be rubbed off. The Spiny Puffball (*Lycoperdon echinatum*), which grows on the soil and has spines. Remember that there are also other puffballs that have the spines. (*Morganella subincarnata*).

**EDIBILITY:** Edible and Choice.

**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:** Only eat when white inside and make sure to cut them in half because if small ones are swallowed whole they reportedly don't break down in the digestive process. They are great cooked in butter with chopped up potatoes. They are also excellent in puffball potato pancakes.

## MULCHED TRAIL & THOUSANDS



The light colored areas on this mulched trail are the puffballs.

## PUFFBALLS AND POTATOS



Pear Shaped Puffball mushrooms  
1/4 c red & green pepper chopped  
1 teaspoon garlic  
Oil

Diced red potatoes  
1/2 c onion  
Salt & Pepper

Sauté mushrooms in a small pan for a few minutes, then add rest of ingredients & cook for about 20 minutes or until done.

## PURPLE SPORED PUFFBALL



They are often the size of softballs.

It grows in grassy areas such as yards.

The inside turns purple with age.

I like to push down on top and pick the firm feeling ones.

(*Calvatia cyathiformis*)

(*Calvatia lilacina*)

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Puffball

**FAMILY:** Lycoperdaceae

**DESCRIPTION:** When collecting this mushroom, I like to gently push down on the top. If it feels firm, I know it's perfect, and I pick it. If it feels soft and pushes in easily or feels mushy, I know it is too old to eat. After trying this technique a few times you will get the hang of it. I don't just pull them out and cut them in half to check them because I think that disturbs the mycelium and can hurt future collecting at that location.

*Flesh:* white when fresh.

*Mushroom:* 2 ½ to 6 ¼ inches wide and 2 ½ to 6 1/2 inches tall. It is tannish colored. It is roundish but the top is more oval shaped than the base below. It gets fine cracks on it, especially at the top with age. The cracks then start to form little patches that fall off so that the spores can be released. Then the top disappears leaving the base, which often has purple colored spore in it. When fresh the skin can be peeled off in pieces with your fingers and it is about 1/16 inch thick. The inside is white when fresh.

*Spore Print:* The spores are white then yellowish with a hint of green the finely purplish.

*Odor:* mild *Taste:* mild.

**RANGE:** Eastern United States.

**WHERE TO LOOK:** On the soil, lawns, parks, fields, pastures, golf courses, and cemeteries. In mown grass at wood edges.

**HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND:** It is common.

**HOW THEY'RE GROUPED:** singly, several in a small group to scattered but 20 often can be found in a cemetery.

**SOCIAL PLANTS:** grass is typically present.

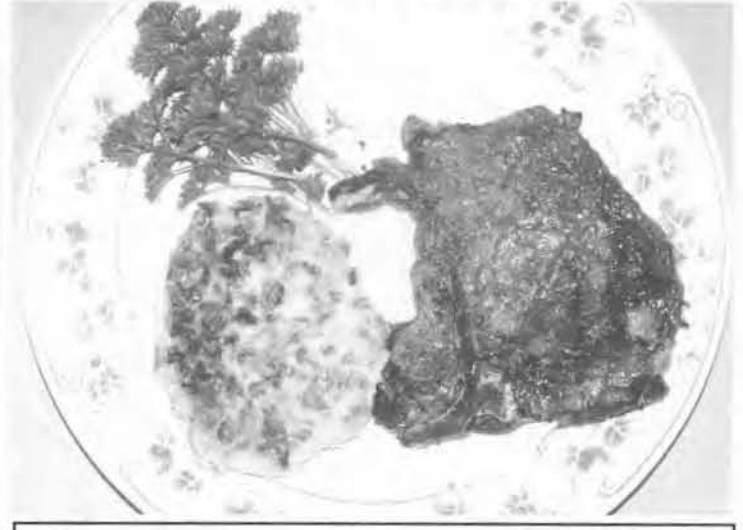
**WHEN TO LOOK:** July-October.

**LOOK ALIKES:** (*Calvatia bovista*) does not turn purple inside when over mature. (*Calvatia craniformis*) looks almost identical but when it matures and rots it does not turn purple inside. The **Giant Puffball** (*Calvatia gigantea*) typically gets much larger and can be the size of a basketball. It also does not get a base underneath the ball. Amanita buttons which may be poisonous.

**EDIBILITY:** Edible and choice. Eat pure white fresh ones only

**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:** They can be chopped and used to make potato pancakes. Use as you would other puffballs.

## PUFFBALL POTATO PANCAKES



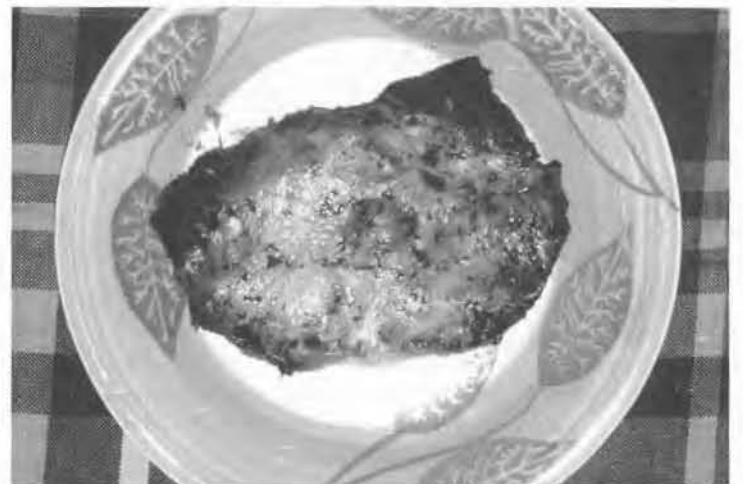
What a great treat!

## SKULL SHAPED PUFFBALL



The Skull Shaped Puffball looks almost identical to the Purple Spored Puffball. The easiest way to tell them apart is to wait until the spores mature but I seldom wait and prefer to eat both species.

## PUFFBALL PARMESAN



Puffball Parmesan is a favorite.



# MORE GARY LINCOFF MID ATLANTIC FORAY—MUSHROOM MANIA

## GEORGE HARRIS, PROFESSIONAL CHEF, EXTRAORDINAIRE

WPMC Club Member George Harris will be presenting a mushroom cooking demonstration that will be limited to 25.

George says the passion of mushroom hunting is as intoxicating as falling in love. Once struck with the arrow from cupid or the finding of one's first morel it becomes an awesome feeling.

He is chef at the new restaurant called SIBA, located on route 228 in Seven Fields Pa. The cuisine is that of Mediterranean, with a sprinkling of wild mushrooms in the French dishes and a few others. He has been chef for a number of other four and five star restaurants. Where ever he has been a chef, he has to have wild mushrooms in the menu. As the picture shows, he loves to hunt mushrooms with his family. George can be contacted about the restaurant by email at: [blue\\_shroom\\_dude@yahoo.com](mailto:blue_shroom_dude@yahoo.com)



## Tina Ellor, Phillips Mushrooms

Tina Ellor, Technical Director of Phillips Mushroom Farms, will be presenting a program on commercial mushroom cultivation. Phillips Mushrooms is the largest producer, packer, and shipper of specialty mushrooms in North America, producing over 30 million pounds of specialty mushrooms a year.



Tina holds a BS in Biology from California State College, and an MS in Botany and Plant Pathology from University of Maine. She has been working in the mushroom industry as a mycologist and technical director for 17 years. She is still thrilled (and a little surprised!) to actually get paid to play with mushrooms.

Among the mushrooms that Phillips produces are: Royal Trumpet, Pom-Pom, Maitake, Beech, Portabella, Enoki, Oyster, Shiitake, and Crimini Mushrooms. They also sell dried: Morel, Porcini, Chanterelle, Shiitake, Oyster, Woodear, Paddy Straw, Portabella, Lobster and Black Trumpet Mushrooms. They can be found on the web at: [www.phillipsmushroomfarms.com](http://www.phillipsmushroomfarms.com)

## Mary Woehrel, President WPMC or the Mushroom Club of Georgia?

A dynamic leader is a necessary element in making any organization work. Mary Woehrel is that leader. She has a zest for life that inspires others and she knows her mushrooms.



Mary became the first president and co-founder of the WPMC. Mary was a volunteer naturalist at Beechwood Farms when she met the Plischke family while leading a mushroom walk. The walk was a success and the Plischkes suggested starting a mushroom club. The rest is history! WPMC became the fastest growing mushroom club in the United States.

Mary moved to Atlanta, Georgia where she started a mushroom club at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Still in its first year, the club has 30 members and another 45 in the wings.

She will return to Western PA for the 2004 Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray. You can contact her about the new Georgia Club at: [marigold4343@yahoo.com](mailto:marigold4343@yahoo.com)

## CUMBERLAND MYCOLOGICAL SOCIETY – TENNESSEE President, Dave Lewis

Dave will be coming to MAMF. Two years ago he found the WPMC on the Internet and John III invited him to join the club; he did. Dave began hunting mushrooms at the age of 6 and has eaten over 200 species. Wow, that is an amazing number!



We don't know 200 edible mushrooms. He has to be eating a lot of mushrooms that are listed as unknowns in the mushroom books. If Dave knows 200 edible species, just how many mushrooms does he know??

Another co-founder of their new club is Gwynn Evans. She has eaten over 250 species. She is a life member of NAMA.

Dave has led forays for the Morel Mushroom Hunting Club. Last year he sent us a nice box of Black Trumpets for the Foray. For more information about the new Tennessee club contact Dave at: [ozone10ec@comcast.net](mailto:ozone10ec@comcast.net)



THE FOURTH ANNUAL  
**GARY LINCOFF**  
MID-ATLANTIC  
**MUSHROOM FORAY**

**Saturday, Sept. 18**

**7:30-8:15 Registration**

**8:30-7:30 Program**

**COMBINATION REGISTRATION AND MEMBERSHIP FORM  
INCLUDES SPECIAL OFFER FOR NON CLUB MEMBERS**

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.



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, Tom Volk**, teaches Mycology and Biology at the University of Wisconsin. Dr. Volk is an expert on morels, sulfur shelf, stump mushrooms, polypores and many others. He is a member of the commission to assign universally accepted names to mushrooms. Tom was here for a morel foray. Now he is coming back. Tom will be presenting a slide show and talk.



Come and enjoy this exciting day with the  
Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club !  
**No refunds**



Let the hunt  
begin!

**FUNGI  
FUN  
FRIENDS**



Cost is only \$50 at the door. If pre-registered and paid by August 15 the cost is \$41 each or 2 for \$72 or 3 for \$98 plus an added bonus of a 2004-2005 Club Membership. This form is an application for the Fourth Annual Gary Lincoff Mushroom Foray and 2005 Club Membership.

If you have any questions contact Chairman John Plischke at 724-834-2358 or [morelbp@aol.com](mailto:morelbp@aol.com)

**Signing & dating release is an absolute requirement for attendance.**

**Make check payable to: Western PA Mushroom Club,  
58 Seventh St Ext, New Kensington, PA 15068**

**Foray Registration Form**

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Name 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE 2004-2005**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_





2004-2005



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB

The purpose of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is to promote the enjoyment, study, and exchange of information about wild mushrooms. Everyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member. Members are entitled to:

- The WPMC newsletter
- Nine monthly WPMC meetings
- Free participation in WPMC Walks
- Fee discount for WPMC Forays
- Fee discount on WPMC sponsored merchandise

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Interests:** \_\_\_\_\_ Learning Mushrooms \_\_\_\_\_ Mushroom Walks \_\_\_\_\_ Club Committees  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Eating Wild Mushroom \_\_\_\_\_ Toxicology \_\_\_\_\_ Cultivating Mushrooms  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Dyeing With Mushrooms \_\_\_\_\_ Mushroom Art \_\_\_\_\_ Mushroom Photography

How many wild mushrooms do you think you know? \_\_\_\_\_

How many wild mushrooms do you think you know well? \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**WE NEED YOUR HELP! Find something you would like to do. Check the appropriate boxes. We can have a lot of Fungi, Fun, and Friends but it takes your participation to make it happen. Please check 3 boxes below.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout for walk locations-lead walks       | <input type="checkbox"/> Compile meeting & walk sign in sheets   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help organize forays                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach-speak to clubs & organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print club materials, flyers, etc.        | <input type="checkbox"/> Call or e-mail members                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work on newsletter committee              | <input type="checkbox"/> Give a program at Club monthly meeting  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute articles, photos to newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Produce or acquire teaching materials   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with webpage & e-group moderator     | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome and orient new members          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line up speakers for meetings             | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on hospitality committee           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host guest speakers and mycologists       | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in special projects         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Record meetings, discussions, events      | <input type="checkbox"/> Record mushrooms that are found         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sell club items, tee shirts, cookbooks    | <input type="checkbox"/> Door prize committee                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicize meetings, forays, events        | <input type="checkbox"/> Present or assist with a club workshop  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Historian                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with sign in at walks and meetings |

**Dues enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 Family, \$15 Individual, \$10 Full time student)**

**Return completed signed and dated form with check payable to W PA Mushroom Club to:**

George Gross, 58 Seventh St. Ext, New Kensington, PA 15068

6/03

**Signing and dating the release is an absolute requirement for membership. If you don't, your membership application will be returned.**

**(over)**

**Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club**  
**2004-2005 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

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 WPMC events for the calendar years 2004-2005.**

MEMBERS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please sign name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please sign name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please sign name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(If Member is under age 21, Parent's signature)



## **Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms of the World**

**Book Review:** by John Plischke

This 371 page book covers 280 taxa. The 250 very well done photographs add a great deal to its value. It not only covers a lot of edible species, but many poisonous mushrooms as well. The book is written in English. It starts out with caution warnings in six different languages urging caution to its readers. It is written by five expert PhD's, each of which brings their unique specialties in the book. The authors are: Ian Hall, Steven Stephenson, Peter Buchanan, Wang Yun, and Anthony Cole.

The first section covers a lot of interesting tidbits. One example is that in the 22 provinces of China, 100,000 tons of the white jelly fungus, *Tremella fuciformis* are produced each year. That amazed me; I had no idea.

This is followed by a 65 pages section on mushroom cultivation. Although this is not what I would call a mushroom cultivation book, it does give an interesting cross section of mushroom cultivation from around the world.

The next section of 26 pages gives an overview of collecting wild mushrooms. It covers such topics as when and where to look, trick or treat, mushroom toxins, spore printing and rules for picking and eating mushrooms.

The bulk of the book is called a List of Mushrooms covering some 180 pages. You will find some mushrooms that you will know; the horse mushroom, some *Armillaria* species, and others. You will also find a number of mushrooms from around the world that you probably have never seen. There are also a good number of poisonous mushrooms covered in this section.

The last section of the book gives references, Chinese names of mushrooms and a list of websites.

This book is not what I would call a field guide; it is too large to carry around in your back pocket. It is also different because it is a narrative rather than a list of specifics, such as you find in a field guide. I think you will find it a little different than the type of mushroom book that you are used to. I find it to be one of the more interesting books on my shelf of mushroom books. Some of the many contributors to the book that you may recognize are William Roody, Walt Sturgeon, Emily Johnson, Orson Miller, Scott Redhead, Jim Trappe, and others.

The book lists for \$39.95. You can buy it on our website at [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org), clicking on Mushroom Stuff and then Bookstore. Fill in the title at the bottom of the page. Then you can purchase the book for \$27.17.

## **CLUB TEE SHIRT**

We are pleased to announce our club tee shirt is still available. You can now wear your WPMC tee shirt and let everyone know about our wonderful club.

Get yours at a walk or meeting for only \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

## **WILD MUSHROOM COOKBOOK**

### **New Edition -- Volume 2**

Filled with new recipes, Volume 2 of the club's cookbook is now available.

Members can have a Mushroom Cookbook for \$5, tax included, or \$6 nonmembers. You can get a copy at a club meeting or send your check payable to the WPMC to Rebecca Byerly, 441 Springdale Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Please include \$1.50 for shipping and handling.

## **ITEMS FOR SALE**

The club has loupes and wax bags for sale at the meetings. The wax bags will keep your mushrooms fresher and a loupe will help you with identification by magnifying key features.

## **ARTICLES WANTED**

Mail or email them to Becky Plischke today [morelbp@aol.com](mailto: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.

## **WPMC WEBSITE**

Elizabeth Barrow, webmaster extraordinaire, has created one of the best mushroom club websites in the country. We highly suggest you put it on your favorites list. [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org)

While there, check out Bob Lucas's Species List. Bob has taken the Species List into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. You can check out the mushrooms found on a walk or our Life List. By clicking on the camera icon you can do a Goggle search of that mushroom and instantly recall the mushroom you saw and may have already forgotten. It is a tremendous educational tool.

## **YAHOO GROUPS**

On our Yahoo groups at: [groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub) you can ask questions, exchange information, find the latest changes on walks and meetings, and find out what is fruiting.

## 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. You can find last minute additions or changes by going to our website at <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org> and click on the link to Yahoo Groups.

**July 17 – 10:00-2:00 North Park, Allegheny County.** Meet **Glenn Carr** at Swimming Pool parking lot. North Park has a variety of habitats, we will go to a secret location. Directions below.

**July 18 – 1:30-3:30 Sunday Hartwood Acres, Allegheny County.** Meet **Dick Dougall** 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 2004** will be held at the **University of North Carolina in Asheville, NC**. A great diversity of mushroom picking sites is found around this area. This summer, the foray is overlapping with MSA (the association of the professionals) so there will be a lot of mycologists to learn from! On the web, see [www.namyco.org](http://www.namyco.org) for the registration form. NAMA membership is required; one can sign up on the registration form. Our own **Bill Roody, Walt Sturgeon, John Plischke III, Gary Lincoff and Tom Volk** will be members of the faculty. Others faculty include: Orson Miller, Walt Sundberg, Coleman McClenaghan, Glenn Freeman, Greg Mueller, Andy Methven, and Bart Buyck

**July 24 – 10:00-2:00 Chanterelle Mania at North Park, Allegheny County.** Meet **Valerie and Jack Baker** at Swimming Pool parking lot. Last year this spot produced bags and bags full of beautiful chanterelles. There were also a good number of boletes and other species. You never know what the season will bring, but it could be very good again. North Park has a variety of habitats, although the area abounds in large oaks there is a large variety of trees and habitats that make this an exceptional place for hunting mushrooms. Directions below.

**July 23-25 Meet the Eastern Penn Mushroomers** for the Helen Miknis Memorial Foray at Penn State University **Mont Alto Campus** (near beautiful Michaux State Forest) Last year 9 of our members attended this foray. Some combined it with a vacation and some came for mushrooms and Chambersburg peaches. Cost is \$150.00 per person for the weekend, including two (2) nights lodging, Friday picnic & Saturday dinner, and Saturday & Sunday breakfast. However, if you want to come for the Saturday program and join us for dinner, the cost would be \$20.00. You will receive final schedule and directions with your confirmation of registration. Our family is camping at Caledonia State Park. Register with Bill Miknis, 3119 Parker Dr., Lancaster, PA 17601 or call 717-898-8897 or email [eye4morels@juno.com](mailto:eye4morels@juno.com) for a registration form. Any question or suggestions call: Cathy Cholmeley-Jones at 717-393-9444 or John Dawson, President, 717-846-1225, [jwd7@psu.edu](mailto:jwd7@psu.edu)

**July 23-25 Chanterelle and Nature Extravaganza, Meet the Ohio Mushroom Society** at a wildflower prairie natural area owned by Guy Denny located near I-71 and I-95. See the OMS website at [www.ohiomushroom.org](http://www.ohiomushroom.org) for more information.

**July 31 - 10 am** Meet **John & Kim Plischke** and the **Conemaugh Valley Conservancy** at the Conemaugh Lake Dam parking lot. At Route 22 New Alexandria red light go 987 north for 4.6 miles. Turn right at the Citgo Station onto Tunnleton Road. At 6.5 miles turn left on Pump Station Road and cross the bridge. At 7.4 miles turn right on Aven Road. At 8.1 miles turn right to Conemaugh River Lake. We will have the slide show in a room *in* the dam! The Army Corps of Engineers will demand seeing a photo ID and would prefer you to pre-register at 814-536-6615 and ask for Margaret. Hint: this is one of the Plischke's chanterelle spots!

**July 31- Aug 1- Blue Knob State Park, Bedford County.** Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III** at the park amphitheater. At 8:00 pm Saturday night there will be a mushroom slide show and talk. Walk, hunt and identify mushrooms at 10:00 am Sunday morning. Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Bedford, Exit 11. Go north on I-99 to Route 869 west (at Osterburg). Follow Route 869 to Pavia, then follow signs through Pavia to park.

**Aug 7 - 10:00-2:00 Moraine State Park, Butler County.** Meet **Jim & 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, for about .8 mile to the parking lot at the end of the road. **OR** take I-79 N to 422 E for about 4 ½ miles and turn left onto PA 528 N, then follow the directions above. We will drive to a secret location and hunt in groups.

**Aug 14 – 10:00-2:00 State Game Lands 95, Butler County.** Meet **Jim Strutz and Wendy Terwilliger** for a mushroom walk in northern Butler County. We will walk along a section of the North Country Trail in State Game Lands 95. Habitat is predominantly mixed hardwoods (oak, hickory, maple, etc.) with stands of pine and some open meadows and grasslands. From I-79, exit at Slippery Rock, follow Route 108 east through the town of Slippery Rock, turn right onto Branchton Road and continue past Routes 8 and 308, shortly after crossing Route 308 turn right into the parking area directly across from the "North Country Trail" marker. From Route 422, follow Route 38 north to Parsonville, turn left onto Old Brick Road and continue until the road comes to a 'T', turn left onto Branchton Road, continue for about 2-1/2 miles and turn left into the parking area directly across from the "North Country Trail" marker.

**Aug 14 – 1:30 and 7:30 Blackwater Falls State Park, Davis, West Virginia** 1:30 walk and identification and 7:30 a slide show and program. Meet at the lodge. From the north, take U.S. Rt. 219 to Thomas, then Rt. 32 south to the park. [www.blackwaterfalls.com](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com) **1.800.CALL.WVA** Call a week before the walk for any additional information.



**July-August:** 7/24-25, 7/31-8/1, 8/21-22 – Meet the **Mycological Association of Washington** for one-day forays on any of these days, sites to be determined, although at least one will be at Michaux State Forest in southern PA, west of Gettysburg. Call MAW's Announcement Line 301-907-3053, box 55 or Foray Chair **Jon Ellifritz** 301-422-7517 or [forays@mawdc.org](mailto:forays@mawdc.org) a few days before the foray for confirmation and directions.

**Aug 15, 12:00 - 5:00 pm:** Meet the **Mycological Association of Washington** for a **Mushroom Fair** at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton Regional Park, Wheaton, MD. Their guest mycologist will be **John Plischke III**. For more info, email Program Chair, Gordon Callahan, at [programs@mawdc.org](mailto:programs@mawdc.org).

**Aug 21 - 10:00-2:00** **Moraine State Park**, Butler County. Meet **Jim Tunney and Susan Baker**. 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, for about .8 mile to the parking lot at the end of the road. **OR** take I-79 N to 422 E for about 4 ½ miles and turn left onto PA 528 N, then follow the directions above. We will drive to a secret location and hunt in groups.

**Aug 28- 11:00 am** **Brady's Run Park**, Beaver County. Meet **John Plischke and John Plischke III** for a program and walk. Head on the Parkway West out of Pittsburgh toward the Airport/Route 60. Pass the Airport on Route 60 and continue on to the Chippewa exit. It is the last exit before 60 becomes a toll road. When you exit at Chippewa, make a Right at the light onto Route 51, south. Continue on Route 51 (about 2 miles) until you come to the red light in front of the entrance to Brady's Run Park. Make a right into the park. About 1 mile down the road (near the lake and beach) you will see a turn up the hill to your right and a sign that says "Ed Calland Arboretum". Turn here and follow the road all the way to the top, you will see a parking area and the pavilion.

**Sept 4 - 10:00-2:00** **Fall Run Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall**. From Rt. 28 go north on Rt. 8 for .7 miles to Saxonburg Blvd (do not turn here). Continue north on Rt. 8 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> red light and turn right on Fall Run Road. Cross Pine Creek and make an immediate left into the parking lot.

**Sept 3 – Promised Land State Park**, Pike County. Meet **John Plischke and John Plischke III**. Take I 80 to I 81 to Scranton, Pa. Then I 84 east to Promised Land State Park. This is one of the biggest PA State Parks. We will have a walk in afternoon at 2:30, meet at the park office and we will drive to a new area of the park. There will be a program in the evening at 8:00 at the park auditorium. Although we have never hunted this park before, this is where the New Jersey Club holds one of its major forays.

**Sept 4 – Beltzville State Park**, Carbon County. Meet **John Plischke and John Plischke III** at 3:00 for a slide show and walk. Beltzville is five miles east of Lehighton, just off of US 209. From the Northeast Extension of the PA Turnpike, take Exit 74 and follow the signs to the park.

**Sept 5-- Nescopeck State Park** Meet **John Plischke and John Plischke III** at the Environmental Education Building at 1:00 for a slide show followed by a mushroom walk at 2:00. Traveling east on I-80: Take Exit 262 (Hazleton, Mountaintop - PA 309.) Follow PA 309 south about 0.75 mile. Turn left onto Honey Hole Road. The park begins along Honey Hole Road a short distance east of the I-80 underpass. Travel about 6 miles along Honey Hole Road to enter the Lake Frances Day Use Area. It will be on your right side just opposite Lake Frances Road.

**Sept 11- 1:00-4:00** **Roaring Run**, Apollo, Armstrong County. Meet **Don Stone and Susan Baker** at the Roaring Run Bike Trail Parking. From the east end off the Rt 66 bridge at Rt. 56. Go South (up stream) on the Kiskiminetas River Road. At 1:15 we will drive to Upper Rattling Run and return at 3:15 to tell tall mushroom tales. After? The Mosey Inn?

**Sept 9-12, 2004 NEMF Foray at Geneva Point Conference Center in Center Harbor on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH.** 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](http://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: Doug Bassett, Ernst Both, Marie Heerkens, Sue Hopkins, Roz Lowen, Dorothy Smullen, Hanna Tschekunow, Bill Yule, etc.

**Sept 18 – Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray** Don't miss it, register today!

**Sept 24-26 – Outdoor Odyssey**, Somerset County, near Donegal, PA. Meet the **Mycological Association of Washington** for the weekend for the old Camp Sequanota foray. The cost has not been determined yet, but it will probably be \$90-100 for the weekend or \$20-30 for Saturday. Details will be at [www.mawdc.org](http://www.mawdc.org) Contact Membership Chair, Sharon Cooperman at [memberships@mawdc.org](mailto:memberships@mawdc.org)

**Sept 30-Oct 3--NAMA's annual Wildacres Retreat Foray** near Asheville, NC. Participation limited to 40 NAMA members, \$175/person, which includes meals and lodging from Thursday night until Sunday morning. For info, visit the Wildacres web page at <http://www.wildacres.org/>, or the NAMA web page at <http://namyco.org>, or email Allein Stanley [allstanley@earthlink.net](mailto:allstanley@earthlink.net) to register.

**Oct 2-3** Meet the **Ohio Mushroom Society** at its Fall Foray at the Lookabout Lodge in South Chagrin Reservation. Tammy Spillis will be the speaker on the topic of Mushrooms and the Quest for Fire. Check their website for more details. [www.ohiomushroom.org](http://www.ohiomushroom.org) or contact Pete and Pauline Munk 440-236-9222

**DIRECTIONS to North Park** [www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/parkphon.asp](http://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 bags, whistle, compass, chair, hand lens, and books for identification. Come 15-30 min early and socialize. Check web site or Yahoo Groups for changes. Bring your membership card and a friend or two.

## WPMC Meetings/Programs by Dick Dougall

Members are encouraged to bring mushrooms from home and place them on paper plates on the table in the back of the room so that club mycologists and identifiers can put names on them so you and all club members can learn new mushrooms.

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

**July 20: Art with the Artist's Conk Mushroom** Kim Plischke, Workshop Chair and **Robin Durr, Dick Duffy and Joyce Gross**, Committee Members. Committee Members would like you to bring along fresh untouched unmarked species of Artist's Conk along to the meeting. Most people know that there is a mushroom called the Artist's Conk which has a surface that marks easily when scratched. However, the Artist's Conk (*Ganoderma applanatum*) can be used in many additional ways. The club has a number of very talented artists on its Workshop Committee. At this meeting, they will give a hands-on demonstration of many techniques of turning Artist's Conks into true art. At the beginning of the meeting **Jim Tunney** will conduct a 10 minute beginner's workshop. The Fascinating Fungi Topic will be **Mushroom Keys**.

**August 17: How to Enjoy Mushrooms Even Without Eating Them** by **LaMonte Yarroll**, Club Mycologist and member of the Educational Committee. Have you ever wondered about people who look for mushrooms without planning to eat them? Did you know that 60% of mushrooms remain unnamed? Do you know the critical roles mushrooms play in ecology? Come catch the excitement of scientific hunting! LaMonte promises plenty of pictures and stories about amateur collectors who've made significant scientific contributions. At the beginning of the meeting **Moni Wesner** will conduct a 10 minute beginner's workshop. The Fascinating Fungi Topic will be **Scientific Names**.

**September 21: Poisons, Toxins, and Stuff Every Shroomophile Should Know** by **Frank Lotrich, M.D., Ph.D.** Frank currently works at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic in the area of "psychopharmacogenomics." That is, he does research examining how genes influence the effect of medications on the brain. He's been a club member for about three years or so. There are many ways for mushrooms to be toxic. People always ask, "What'll this do to me?" and "How bad is it, really?" and "Is there are treatment for it?" Wouldn't you like to know the answers? Come to the talk and find out! At the beginning of the meeting **Jim Tunney** will conduct a 10 minute beginner's workshop. The Fascinating Fungi Topic will be **Drying Mushrooms**.

**October 19: Election of Officers & Open Forum.** Officers for next year will be elected. Club members will be encouraged to share mushrooms stories, experiences and slides. Would you believe we might even have a talent show!

## 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.



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Dick Dougall

### How Many Mushrooms Do You Know?

How many mushrooms do you know? It seems like a simple question, but what do we mean by the word "know." One possible meaning might be "would you eat a mushroom if you found it." There are a few edible mushrooms that I can identify fairly accurately, but I will not eat them. Two of these are the Blusher, *Amanita rubescens*, and the Reddening Lepiota, *Lepiota americana*. Both of these are listed as good edibles in Lincoff's field guide. However, **I will not eat any Amanita**; it is just too dangerous. Also, I will not eat any Lepiota either. They are just too close in characteristics to Amanita mushrooms for my degree of identifying skills.

The vast majority of mushrooms are not edible. How many of these do you know? Knowing might mean being able to give the mushroom a name. Take the very popular mushroom we call the *Hen of the Woods*, *Sheep's Head* or *maitake*. Most recent mushroom books give the scientific name of this mushroom as *Grifola frondosa*. If you look in an older mushroom book, you might find this mushroom called *Polyporus frondosa*. There are presently a lot of discussions among mycologists concerning scientific names. With DNA testing, electron microscopes, and detailed chemical analysis, these scientists are revising the scientific names for mushrooms, and in quite a few cases are moving a mushroom into a new genus based on this information. It is all very confusing.

If you are walking in the woods and find a mushroom, knowing what this mushroom is would mean that you can identify it with a specific mushroom in a field guide. Alternately, you could show this mushroom to a friend who is very knowledgeable about mushrooms, and he/she would agree with you on its name. These are a good working criteria about "knowing" a mushroom.

There is a further complication. Do we want to be able to identify a mushroom by its complete scientific designation, i.e. its genus **and** its specie? For the genus *Russula*, this is very difficult. Identifying that a mushroom is in this genus is fairly easy, because they have a unique brittleness to their flesh. However, the genus is very large with subtle differences between many species. Even experts have difficulties identifying them.

As you can see, answering the question "How many mushrooms do you know?" is not easy. One

approach is to make a list of all the mushrooms you feel you know reasonably well. Our club offers a useful aid on our website [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org). Go to the club's webpage called "Species Lists & Checklist." There, you will find the **Life List** for the club. At present, it contains 542 different mushrooms with links to photos of each. Also on this page, there is a link called "Create your own list." Making your list is easy because you can use your mouse to click on the mushroom's common or scientific name, and it will be added automatically to your list. You can print or e-mail your list, which now contains both common and scientific names. When you have this list, it can give you a real answer concerning the number of mushrooms that you know!

## BEGINNERS WORKSHOP

Now at No Charge

**Important Change: The Executive Board has decided to pick up the cost of this program. However, registration is required because of limited space.**

The Western PA Mushroom Club will present a daylong workshop in cooperation with the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania on Saturday, September 11, 2004.

This workshop is aimed at teaching beginning mushroom enthusiasts basic information about these fascinating objects. Topics will include nomenclature, taxonomy (how mushrooms are related to one another), collecting, identifying, preserving, using keys, and mushroom classification.

The education committee (Jim Tunney, Moni Wesner, and LaMonte Yarroll) will present the workshop at Beechwood Farms Nature Center. The program will run from 9:30 AM--3 PM. Participants should bring their own lunches.

There is no fee for this program. Interested members of WPMC and Audubon are encouraged to attend. Early registration is encouraged, as the program is limited to 40 participants.

Beechwood Farms will accept registrations by phone, or at their nature store. You must register because of limited space. To register by phone, call 412-963-6100.

## 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](mailto:funqi01@aol.com)

# "Largest Mushroom Club in the Ten-State Area"

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club  
58 Seventh St. Ext.  
New Kensington, PA 15068

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Greensburg, PA  
Permit # 1057

## MID ATLANTIC FORAY PUFFBALL BOOK REVIEW MEETINGS & PROGRAMS WALKS & FORAYS

### CLUB OFFICERS

**President:** Dick Dougall 412-486-7504  
[rsdme@imap.pitt.edu](mailto:rsdme@imap.pitt.edu) 202 Wadsworth Dr, Glenshaw, PA 15116  
**Vice President:** Glenn Carr 412-369-0495  
1848 Fairhill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 [gbrown2carrs@cs.com](mailto:gbrown2carrs@cs.com)  
**Treasurer:** George Gross 724-339-8547  
58 Seventh St Ext, New Kensington, PA 15068  
**Secretary:** Joyce Gross 724-339-8547 [ggross@microconnect.net](mailto:ggross@microconnect.net)  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Valerie Baker 412-367-7696  
[ybbaker8@hotmail.com](mailto:ybbaker8@hotmail.com) 1413 Parkmont Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

### COMMITTEES

**Cultivation Chairman:** Mark Spear 724-297-3377  
[mspear@penn.com](mailto:mspear@penn.com) RR4, Box 237E, Kittanning, PA 16201  
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