



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

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August/September 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WPMC meetings	2
Forays	4
Mushroom Tracks	5
Club/Chapter walks	6-7
An almost deadly mistake	10
Members earn mushroom ID buttons	13
Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray	14

The newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: April/May, June/July, Aug./Sept., Oct./Nov., and Dec. Articles, photos, news items and other submissions should be sent to the editor at least 6-8 weeks prior to targeted distribution for the best chance of inclusion. The editor cannot guarantee that submissions will be included in the next newsletter. The editor reserves the right to make spelling or grammatical corrections and may suggest content changes to the author. Material published in our newsletters may be used in other non-profit publications only with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

Club officers

President — John Stuart
Vice President — Joyce Gross

On the web:

www.wpamushroomclub.org

President's Corner

By John Stuart

The Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray, our premier event, is always a special occasion, but this year it will be even more so. This is the foray's 10th anniversary and we have invited a top notch group of mycologists to assist Gary in putting on the afternoon program.

They are Tom Volk, Walt Sturgeon, and Matthew Foltz. These people are in demand all over the country, and it is a real treat to have them all here at the same time. The morning will offer a variety of walks with local walk leaders and identifiers. We hope to break last year's record 202 species found. There will be table demonstrations of look-a-likes placed side by side so you can more easily identify the differences between species. This is the only meeting where we consistently get such a large volume of different mush-

rooms that makes something like this possible. Gary Lincoff and the others will share their identification tips and broad knowledge of what we have brought in at the informative table talk. Chef Tom Chulick will give a mushroom culinary lesson. Our own cooks are already planning the legendary mushroom dinner. To end the day we have reserved the Queen's Room in Grazie's Restaurant at the Oxford Athletic Club for a 10th anniversary celebratory after party.

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club has grown a lot over the past three years and we now have branch chapters in Indiana and Washington/Greene counties. The Lincoff Foray is being held at Parish Hill, North Park, which can handle 150 occupants. We now have over 550 members, so you are advised to register early to avoid disappointment once the quota is filled.

Mid-Atlantic Foray a Tasty Proposition

By Brian and Bonnie Davis

This year marks the 10th Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray, featuring Gary Lincoff and a host of fungi experts from across the country who will share their vast knowledge about wild mushrooms. Club members and other mushroom enthusiasts attend the all day program to harvest and identify mushrooms

(Continued on page 3)



Club members cook a large variety of food for the foray.

URGENTLY NEEDED: If we are to have the popular Chinese Auction at the Lincoff Foray, we need somebody to Chair it. If interested, please call Dick Dougall at 412-486-7504.

2010 WPMC meetings

August 17—Title: Mushrooms in Allopathic, Naturopathic, Homeopathic and Holistic Medicine

Speaker: Frank Lotrich

Summary: Dr. Lotrich will compare and contrast how mushrooms are conceived of and used in these four different branches of health care. This survey will range from finding medicinal cures for cancer, to investigating supplements to enhance fitness, to immune stimulants for boosting disease protection, to improving ones combined spiritual and corporeal health.

September 21—Title: Agaricus in Pennsylvania and Everywhere Else

Speaker: Rick Kerrigan, Director of Research for Sylvan Mushrooms

Summary: Rick is an expert in the study of the genus *Agaricus*. This is the genus of the common button mushroom. However, there is a great deal of diversity in this genus which makes it hard for mycologists to discriminate among very similar species. Recent use of DNA se-

quencing has helped sort out the species and relate the information back to old American names and concepts as well as to European species. Rick will give us the latest picture of the overall genus.

October 19—Title: Election of Officers & Open Forum

Summary: Officers for next year will be elected. Club members will be encouraged to share mushroom stories, experiences and slides. Results of the club's photography contest will also be presented.

November 16—Title: Cooking with Mushrooms (Tentative Title—more information later)

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from March until November. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held at Beechwood Nature Reserve on Dorseyville Road, Fox Chapel. Please see their website (www.aswp.org) for directions and other information.

Indiana County Chapter meetings

August 11 – WPMC President John Stuart will present the program, which will include information about the anatomy of mushrooms, the "humungous fungus," and mushroom parasites.

September 8 – Bob Sleigh will present a program on the medical and nutritional benefits of mushrooms commonly found in the our area, as well as some that do not grow in Western Pennsylvania.

October 13, 2010 – Meeting topic to be announced.
This will be the final meeting of the year.

All ICC WPMC meetings begin at 6 p.m. at Blue Spruce Lodge, Blue Spruce Park, near Ernest. For directions or more information call Bob and Ginny Sleigh at 724-349-9173 or e-mail them at ICCWPMC@comcast.net.

Edible Mushrooms

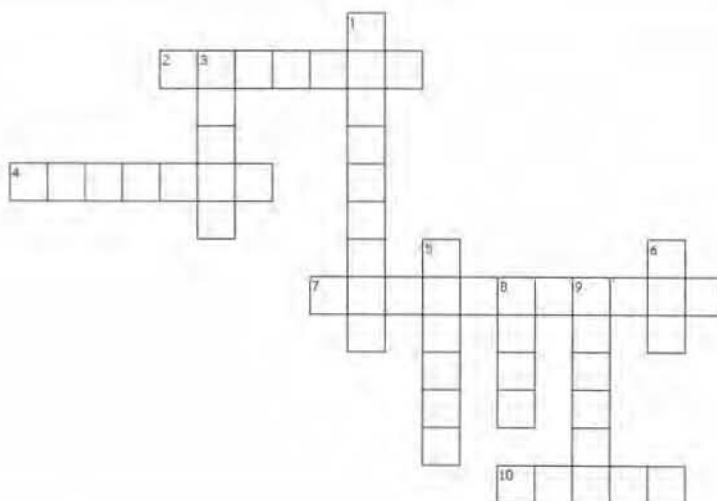
By Becky Plischke

Across

2. *Laetiporus sulphureus*
4. *Hypomyces lactifluorum*
7. *Sparassis spathulata*
10. *Agaricus arvensis*

Down

1. *Fistulina hepatica*
3. *Armillaria mellea*
5. *Clitocybe nuda*
6. *Grifola frondosa*
8. *Pluteus cervinus*
9. *Pleurotus ostreatus*



Mid-Atlantic Foray a Tasty Proposition

(Continued from page 1)

and expand their knowledge . . . reason enough to pay the modest entrance fee. But wait, there's more.

At the end of the day there is the spectacular mushroom tasting — correction — I mean feasting, on probably the largest wild mushroom buffet in the country.

Days before, and during the walks and programs, sanctioned club cooks begin preparing their favorite recipes to share with the 150 foray attendees. Last year we had roughly eighty (not a typo, EIGHTY) different dishes, prepared and served to the starving mushroom enthusiasts that had spent the better part of the day hiking in the woods.

Feeding, and more importantly SATISFYING, that many people with limited kitchen facilities is no small task. Think of the normal wedding buffet where there are five or six entrees, and then let the 80 dishes to taste sink in. What makes this tasting even more amazing is a substantial amount of the mushrooms are donated by club members. If you consider how protective most mushroomers are of their hunting grounds, it boggles the mind how many pounds of their prized delectable delights are donated, shared, and consumed at this event.

Now that you're salivating, allow me to share with you a sample of the kinds of dishes that will be part of the feast. Every dish, including deserts, will have mushrooms as a key ingredient. We're not talking button mushrooms here. The vast majority were harvested in the wild and identified by experienced club mycologists.

You can expect to be served chanterelles, black trumpets, hen of the woods, morels, dryad's saddle, wood ears, horse, Boletes, sulphur shelves, purple wine caps, oysters and more, and many of the mushrooms will be prepared several ways. There will be multiple hot soups and pasta dishes, vegetable medleys, pizzas, breads, casseroles, stews, meat and mushrooms, mushrooms stuffed with stuff, and stuff stuffed with mushrooms, which is a whole lot of mushroom stuff to stuff onto one plate. No one goes away hungry, and seconds are permitted.

The success of the mushroom buffet is due to club members donating their time, cooking experience, and prized mushrooms for all to enjoy.

If you would be interested in preparing a mushroom dish or would like to volunteer as a cook the day of the foray, contact Kim Plischke at 724-832-0271 or email her at ladiebugzkp@aol.com.

WPMC cookbooks available; recipes needed

The WPMC has published two great wild mushroom cookbooks, filled with recipes that have been cooked and taste-tested by the "chefs" who submitted them. Many of the recipes have been prepared and served at the Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray. Everyone is looking forward to another one with great anticipation. Volume 3 is close to being ready for publication. We need more recipes from

YOU! Get published in a cookbook; show your family that you are a true gourmet cook. Your recipes must be ones that you have tried and enjoy. It cannot be one that has been published by someone else unless you have made changes to make it your own.

Please email your gourmet wild mushroom recipes to Becky Plischke at morelbp@aol.com or mail them to 129 Grant Street, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Val's Sulfur Shelf Mac By Valerie Baker

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1 onion, minced | cut in strips |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 1/2 to 3/4 can chicken broth |
| 1/2 green pepper, cut in strips | 1/4 cup black olives, sliced |
| 2 c elbow macaroni | 1 can tomato soup |
| 3 Tbsp margarine | 1 tsp Italian seasoning |
| 2 c Sulphur Shelf (chicken) mushrooms, | Salt & pepper to taste |

Sauté the onion, garlic, green pepper, macaroni and mushrooms in margarine for about four minutes, turning often so as not to burn the macaroni.

Add soup, broth, olives and seasoning. Simmer and cook until pasta is soft enough to eat, about 10 minutes, stirring mixture often and adding more broth as needed for a moist but not soupy mixture. Serve with Parmesan cheese

2010 Forays



AUGUST 12 – 15

The North American Mycological Association's (NAMA) annual foray will be held August 12-15 at Snow Mountain Ranch in Winter Park, CO. Anyone interested in attending should contact Bonnie Davis (bonnie18davis@yahoo.com). Bonnie will be looking into group lodging options for anyone wishing to attend. Additional information about this event can be found at <http://www.namyc.org/events/index.html>

SEPTEMBER 23 - 26

The NorthEast Mycological Federation, Inc. (NEMF) will hold its 2010 annual Sam Ristich Foray September 23-26 in Kerhonkson, NY. This year's event is number 34 and it is expected to be well attended by members of the Federation's 18 clubs. For additional information and sign-up, please visit <http://www.nemf.org/files/2010/2010.html>.

The NEMF's clubs are:

- ▶ Boston Mycological Club (BMC)
- ▶ Cercle des Mycologues de Montreal (CMM)
- ▶ Central New York Mycological Society (CNYMS)
- ▶ Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association (COMA)
- ▶ Connecticut Valley Mycological Society (CVMS)
- ▶ Eastern Pennsylvania Mushroomers (EPM)
- ▶ Long Island Mycological Club (LIMC)
- ▶ Mid Hudson Mycological Association (MHMA)
- ▶ Maine Mycological Association (MMA)

- ▶ Montshire Mycological Club (MMC)
- ▶ Monadnock Mushroomers Unlimited (MMU)
- ▶ Mid York Mycological Society (MYMS)
- ▶ New Hampshire Mycological Society (NHMS)
- ▶ New Jersey Mycological Association (NJMA)
- ▶ New York Mycological Society (NYMS)
- ▶ Rochester Area Mycological Association (RAMA)
- ▶ Susquehanna Valley Mycological Society (SVMS)
- ▶ Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club (WPMC).

OCTOBER 8 —10

The 2010 Camp Sequanota NAMA Endorsed

Weekend Foray will be held from Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10. It will be held right off Route 30 in Jennerstown, PA., just an hour and a half from downtown Pittsburgh. This is a joint foray between the WPMC and the Mycological Association of Washington, DC.

The cost including lodging and meals, double occupancy, is only \$135. It is a really reasonable price considering it includes 2 nights lodging and meals.

For those only coming Saturday, the cost is only \$48.25 including meals. Registration forms can be found on both club's web site at www.wpamushroomclub.org and www.mawdc.org or you can contact foray registrar Connie Durnan at czdurnan@msn.com or phone 202-362-1420.

Newsletter submissions welcome

As the new editor of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club newsletter, I encourage and welcome submissions, ideas, requests, suggestions and photos from any of our members.

All submissions, etc., for the newsletter should be emailed to me at iccwpmc@comcast.net. By doing so you give the WPMC permission to publish your submission.
Ginny Sleight



Mushroom Tracks



By Bonnie and Brian Davis

Welcome to the third edition of mushroom tracks. Those faithful readers of all our articles (both of them) know where we got the title for our column...all the mushroomer is to leave behind in the woods is some cut mushroom stumps and their boot tracks. That means we do not leave empty water bottles and snack wrappers in the woods, just our boot tracks.

Or in this case, boot and tire tracks. Now we know everyone doesn't have a four-wheel, off-road vehicle to take to the woods in pursuit of fungi and, in fact, we don't either.

Most parks and private property prohibit off-road vehicles, just as they prohibit on-road vehicles from parking and driving in undesignated places. So how and where would you leave tire tracks? Well, on the roads and parking lots, of course.

We are talking about harvesting a choice edible in a rather unorthodox manner and area...we call it neighborhood mushroom hunting. Certainly most of our choice edibles are found and harvested by taking a walk in the woods.

But once you learn this mushroom, and realize it can be found in many neighborhood mulch beds and be seen from the road (while walking or driving). Driving to and from your home takes on a whole new meaning, especially in the spring after some heavy rain.

The PURPLE WINE CAP, *Stropharia Rugosoanata*, grows in mulch beds from early morel season through fall. The cap has a burgundy/brown tint, and the underside gills that are attached to the stem ranges from a light purple to a dark purple (almost black) with a white stem.

The spore print is dark purple-brown to blackish. Like all eccentric wild mushrooms enthusiasts, we always have a few containers and a knife in our vehicles, as one never knows when/where they will appear.

The wine cap is delicious when prepared simply in butter and garlic, and a wonderful accompaniment to most meat dishes.

It sprouts and matures rapidly after a good soaking rain, but also dries out rapidly. We often pick some that are somewhat dry and place them in chicken stock for a few hours before dinner. They absorb moisture readily and reconstitute nicely and

are difficult to tell apart from the fresher ones, once cooked.

We are not advocating trespassing on private property. There are many landscape beds at malls, churches and parks. There are even more mulch beds at most residences. Wine cap spores are easy to cultivate and as such, several homes next to ours also have mulch beds that produce wine caps.

We actually have asked and obtained permission from several neighbors to harvest them, strange looks and all. Earlier this spring, when coming home from work, I noticed some fresh wine caps in the mulch bed next to the garage. I took off my dress shoes, slipped into my ready and waiting mushroom boots, grabbed one of several available containers and a knife, and began to harvest.

I got just about enough for dinner, but decided to check my neighbors for a few more. JACKPOT. Had to go back to the garage and get a few more containers. I was in mushroom heaven; despite the strange looks I was getting from the two guys cutting his lawn.

One guy couldn't stand it any longer, asked what I was doing and if I was going to eat them. I said "of course I'm going to eat them, they're a choice edible."

The look I got was somewhere between "you're nuts" to thinking he had it bad cutting grass for a living, but at least he didn't have to forage for his dinner under his neighbor's dining room window!

Now many people have dogs and take them for a walk. If the idea of harvesting wine caps in your neighbor's front yard or some community parking lot bothers you, try looking for them in the mailbox mulch beds.

Technically it's private property, and technically it's in a right-of-way. I, of course, choose to subscribe to the right-of-way line of thinking. Now at six in the morning, while taking the dog for a walk, it sure gives you something more fun to "pick" up and bring home than the dog's morning present.

Bonnie Davis is the publicity chair and workshop chair. Brian Davis is the sales chair. They are also co-founders of the newly formed Washington/Greene County Chapter of the WPMC.

2010 WPMC walks and forays

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 minutes 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

July 31 – 10:00-12:00 North Park, Allegheny County. Meet **John Stuart at the Ledgewood Shelter.** 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. You never know what different mushrooms we will find. For park map and directions, go to: 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 2.9 miles to a red light at North Park Entrance. Turn left on Babcock Blvd. Follow the signs to the Swimming Pool parking lot, and find the car with a mushroom basket on its roof.

July 31- Prince Galitzen State Park, Cambria County. Meet **John Plischke and John Plischke III** at the park amphitheater. Walk, hunt and identify mushrooms at 3:00 then stay for the slide show and talk at 8:30 pm Saturday. We will be camping, come join us. Prince Galitzen State Park is reached by PA 36 and 53 and US 22 and 219. From US 219, at Carrolltown turn onto SR 4015. At Patton, take US 36 east to Glendale Lake Road. From US 22, Cresson Exit, follow

PA 53 north. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/p-gall.htm>

August 7 - 10:00-12:00, – Deer Lakes Park, Allegheny County, Russelton. Meet **Jim Wilson and Jim Tunney.** From the PA Turnpike get off at the Allegheny Valley Exit 48. Turn toward New Kensington. Turn left (east) onto Freeport Road. Follow to Pearl Avenue and turn left. Continue on Pearl Ave, it becomes Russelton Road. In Russelton, turn right at the first intersection. Look for a drug store, bank and liquor store and turn right. Go a short distance to a Deer Lakes Park sign, turn left into the park. Just past the first lake, there is a large parking lot; meet there.

August 12-15 – NAMA Annual Foray See page 4

August 14 - 10:00-12:00 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 immediate left just before a lawn & garden store with a John Deere sign. Go about .8 miles 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 ½ miles and turn left on PA 528 N, follow the directions above. We will drive to a secret location.

August 14-15, Join the Central PA Mushroom Club for their Foray. Check their web site for more information. <http://www.centralpamushroomclub.org/>

August 21 – 10:00 – 12:00 Emmerling Park, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall.** Enjoy this mushroom walk along a part of the Rachel Carson Trail. From Route 8, go east on Route 910, or from Route 28, go west on Route 910. The park is on Cove Road almost directly across from the Indiana Township Municipal Building. Meet in the large parking lot in the park.

August 28 – 10:00-12:00, South Park. Meet **Bonnie and Brian**

Davis, LaMonte Yarroll and the Washington Green Chapter. Brownsville Rd & Corrigan Dr, For park map and directions, go to: <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/facility.asp> Take Route 51 South. Turn slight right onto Fairhaven Road/Provost Road. Provost Road becomes Brownsville Road. Continue to the Park. Meet at the Cabin, which is the same place as that day's Mushroom Classes. Walk in the morning and take the Bolete Class in the afternoon.

September 5 – 10:00-12:00, South Park. Meet **Harriett Yarroll and LaMonte Yartoll** Brownsville Rd & Corrigan Dr, For park map and directions, go to: <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/facility.asp> Take Route 51 South. Turn slight right onto Fairhaven Road/Provost Road. Provost Road becomes Brownsville Road. Continue to the Park. Meet at the Nature Center. We will drive to the walk location in the park.

September 10-12 Join the **Eastern Penn Mushroomers** for the **Helert Miknis-Memorial Foray.** This year's annual EPM foray will be held at **King's Gap Environmental and Training Center** near Carlisle, PA. Contact Bill Miknis at fivebill@verizon.net or see their website for more information www.epennmushroomers.org

Sept 11 – Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray — North Park—Don't miss it, register today!

September 18 - 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

(Continued on page 7)

2010 WPMC walks and forays, *continued*

(Continued from page 6)

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.

September 23-26 - The Northeast Mycological Federation 2010 annual Sam Ristich Foray
See page 4

September 25 - 10:00-12:00, - Deer Lakes Park, Allegheny County, Russelton. Meet **Jim Wilson**. From the PA Turnpike get off at the Allegheny Valley Exit 5. Turn toward New Kensington. Turn left (east) onto Freeport Road. Follow to Pearl Avenue and turn left. Continue on Pearl Ave, it becomes Russelton Road. In Russelton, turn right at the first intersection. Look for a drug store, bank and liquor store and turn right. Go a short distance to a Deer Lakes Park sign, turn left into the park. Just past the first lake, there is a large parking lot; meet there.

October 8-10 - NAMA Regional Foray See page 4.

October 8-10 - Join the OMS for their Fall Foray - Penitentiary Glen Nature Center. See their web site for more information. www.ohiomushroom.org

Indiana County chapter walks

August 7 — 9 a.m.— Join Bob and Ginny Sleigh at Yellow Creek State Park. From Indiana proceed 10 miles East on Route 422 and turn right onto Route 259 south. There is a sign for the park here; it will be about 2 miles from the end of the four lane portion of route 422. Follow 259 South 1.2 miles to the park's Day Use area entrance and turn right into the park. Meet in the picnic area on the right just after a small bridge and walk/drive to locations from there. The park covers more than 3,000 acres including a 720 acre lake.

August 21 — 9 a.m.— Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh at Blue Spruce Park in the large parking area on the left just past the ballfields. We will drive and/or walk to locations in the park from there. Blue Spruce has a wide variety of habitat that makes the chance of finding some kind of fungi growing very good. Terrain ranges from flatland wooded and grassy areas to heavily wooded ridgetops and everything in between.

September 25 — 9 a.m.— Pine Ridge Park near Blairsville. Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh in the large parking lot at the end of the park road by pavilion #2. We will drive and/or walk to locations in the

park from there. Pine Ridge Park covers 635 acres including large stands of mature hardwoods. The eastern boundary of the park abuts State Game Lands 276, adding many acres of varying terrain for the more adventuresome. More information can be found at <http://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks/bs/bs.html>.

October 9 — 9 a.m.— Hemlock Lake, near Glen Campbell - Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh at the eastern shore of Hemlock Lake, we will walk or drive to locations in the park from there. As the name implies there are large stands of Hemlock in the area mixed in with a substantial amount of hardwood trees. For directions or more information call 724-349-9173 or email ICCWPMC@comcast.net.

October 23 — 9 a.m.— Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh at Blue Spruce Park in the large parking area on the left just past the ballfields. We will drive and/or walk to locations in the park from there. Blue Spruce has a wide variety of habitat that makes the chance of finding some kind of fungi growing very good. Call 724-349-9173 for more information.

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 accept the mushroom 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. Whether you decide to eat a mushroom, is ultimately only your decision.

Plischke offers key to some non-gilled fungi attacking *Lactarius* & *Russula*

BY JOHN PLISCHKE III

Editor's note: There are many examples of fungi that parasitize mushrooms, covering them with powders, pimply crusts, and so on. Sometimes the parasite fungus so transforms the host mushroom that it's impossible to tell what the host was. Author John Plischke offers details of fungi that attack other fungi.



Hypomyces lactifluorum

A. Typically found in an orange to reddish colored stage, and typically covering entire host. Under the loupe it looks pimply.

Hypomyces lactifluorum

The Lobster Mushroom can start off whitish but is seldom found in this color. Typically it is found orange-ish colored but ages reddish and can then get purplish tones.

For a more accurate macroscopic ID look for the orange stage, since several look-alikes share the white stage but do not turn orange or red. The Ascospores are 35-48 X 4.5-8um. Common hosts include *Russula brevipes*. It is unknown if it has an anamorph. KOH makes the pimple purple. Edible and Choice.

B. White to whitish occasionally buff covering the gills and at least some of the stalk host. Basically a white lobster mushroom that stays white.

Hypomyces macrosporus A drop of KOH will not make it turn red or purple. The ascospores are 34-42 X 5-7um. It is not known if it has an anamorph.



Hypomyces macrosporus

White Lobster. Edible. KOH non purple

This mushroom cannot typically be told apart from Hypomyces bannigiae macroscopically but Hypomyces macrospores ascospores differ by having a line through the center of them like a pill.



Hypomyces lateritius

C. Typically white to whitish colored but turning yellowish colored. Growing on the underside of the caps covering the gills. The gills become fused together

forming a solid mass. Typically the caps and lower stalks are not affected. Affected mushrooms seem much harder than their unaffected counterparts.

Hypomyces lateritius *Byssonectria lateritia*, = *Peckiella lateritia*. Its Ascospores are 16-26 X 3.5-6um. Hosts include *Lactarius uvidus*, *Lactarius camphoratus* and other *Lactarius*. The perithecia pimples turn yellowish with KOH. The suspected anamorph is ***Acremonium tulasnei*** but it can be found before the pimples are formed. It also differs by being cottony. Conidia 5-6.5 X 4.5-6um.



Hypomyces lateritius

Only on Gills

Only on Lactarius

D. Typically irregularly spider web like to cottony covering the gills. Whitish colored **Hypomyces ochraceus** or the **Anamorph** (see more below to tell the two apart)



Hypomyces ochraceus = *H. armeniacus*

H. armeniacus. Hosts can include both *Russula* and *Lactarius* and *Clitocybe clavipes*. The teleomorph *Hypomyces ochraceus* that is very rarely found and has the pimple look, it is typically when found fallen on soil or debris after the mushroom disappears or has almost gone, but where the remains would be, it is beige with white sometimes orangish. Ascospores are 32-40 X 5-8um.

The anamorph is the more common of them and is ***Cladobotrum verticillatum*** is what we typically find on the host mushrooms.



Hypomyces armeniacus anamorph

on *Clitocybe clavipes*



on *Lactarius*

Hypomyces bannigiae

E. Typically a solid whitish or white to buff covering over the hosts gills. Make sure to compare with *Hypomyces macrosporus* but this is different microscopically. It is not cobweb-like ***Hypomyces bannigiae***. Grows

(Continued on page 9)

Key to some non-gilled fungi attacking *Lactarius* & *Russula*

(Continued from page 8)

in the East. The ascospores are 34-42 X 5-6.5µm. A drop of KOH will not make it turn red or purple. There is no known anamorph. One of the reported hosts is *Lactarius piperatus*. This mushroom is uncommon to rare.

Hypomyces banningiae This mushroom can not typically be told apart from *H. macrosporus* but *Hypomyces macrosporus* ascospores differ by having a line through the center of them like a pill.



Byssonectria luteovirens and *Hypomyces viridis*. The Ascospores are 30-35 X 4.5-5.5µm. It is unknown if it has an anamorph.

G. Growing on *Lactarius* and *Russula* appearing as yellowish but ageing grayish colored hairs covering at least the cap of the host ***Syzygites megalocarpus***.



F. Typically found in the greenish form covering the gills and upper stalk on *Russula*.

It starts off white then turns yellow but vary rarely encountered in these two color forms, then finally greenish when mature and as typically encountered ***Hypomyces luteovirens***

The Yellow Green *Hypomyces* typically grow on *Russula* sp but vary rarely can be found on *Lactarius*.

It can also grow on *Amanita*, puffballs and boletes as well as many other species over 50 plus.

Common name Troll Doll Fungi. They have zygospores that are round to roundish in the center with resembling a cattle horn coming out at two opposite ends.

Mushroom Identification Courses planned

By Dick Dougall

The WPMC is presenting two mushroom courses on August 28, 2010 at The Cabin, a building in Allegheny County's South Park. The courses are:

Introduction to Wild Mushrooms from 9 a.m. - noon. The course will cover a lot of interesting information on mushrooming, their role in the ecosystem, Lincoff's 12 mushroom groups, basic collecting tips, mushroom toxicity, poisonous mushrooms, some of the best edibles, and rules to follow to keep you out of trouble. Cost of the course is \$5 to be collected at the door.

An advanced course on **Boletes** from 1 to 4 p.m.

Boletes are a large group of mushrooms that contain a number of great edibles with only a small number of poisonous species. Although some of the boletes are distinctive, most have many similar characteristics making identification to species hard. The course will focus on identifying boletes commonly found on club walks and forays. Cost of the course is \$10 to be collected at the door.

Registration is required to attend either course. To register or obtain more information, call Dick Dougall at 412-486-7504. You can also register and prepay online using PayPal at the club's website: www.wpamushroomclub.org.

Misidentification an almost deadly mistake

By Kathy Richmond

Generally, I consider myself cautious and usually fairly accurate when I identify new mushrooms. My husband Dave is pretty good at identification also. I love to spend hours and hours on end poring over my mushroom books and playing with the spores and cuticle with my microscope to get an accurate identification when I want to ID a new find.

Dave does not consider such activity much fun. Consequently, he usually defers to my identification. However, when we find a potentially new edible species we have a "mushroom agreement."

This agreement consists of both of us identifying the species separately, then IF we agree on what it is and IF it is considered to be edible, only ONE of us will eat it. Dave is a physician and I am a nurse. Our theory is that if one of us becomes ill the other one will administer the needed assistance. This is a particularly good agreement since we live in the wilds of Idaho and the nearest hospital is 90 miles away.

My favorite edible mushroom is *Armillaria* (now *Floccularia*) *straminea*. It has a wonderfully mild, nutty flavor. It has a cousin named *Armillaria albolanaripes* that I have been dying (no pun intended) to taste but have not found it in a long time.

Last September when backpacking out of the local mountains in a snowstorm and feverishly trying to finish the 20 mile backpack to our car before dark fell, I spied what I thought was *A. albolanaripes*. I picked three specimens and was looking forward to devouring them the next morning. We finally arrived at our vehicle just before dark and celebrated that we weren't caught again on a 10,000 foot pass in a blinding snowstorm, as we had the previous year.

The next morning I sautéed the mushrooms and served them along with eggs for breakfast. Dave urged me to keep our "mushroom agreement" and be certain of the identify before we consumed them. I refused, but he tried to identify it and came to the conclusion that it was not what I thought it was so he didn't want either of us to eat it. I looked at a picture and description in one of my many mushroom books and agreed that the specimen didn't have a ring like it should, but reasoned that the snow had destroyed the ring. Regardless, I went about to devour my mycophagic delight.

About 30 minutes later I noticed a 'hot flash' coming on. Hot flashes are a regular occurrence for me at this stage in life, so I didn't think much about it at first. However, this was no ordinary hot flash. At first, I became

flushed and my skin became beet red. Then I started salivating excessively. In fact, I couldn't swallow my saliva fast enough before it accumulated again. Then I got severe sweats like I've never had before. I was so wet that I had to entirely change my clothes every five minutes three different times.



Tricholomopsis decora

When I started to see double I knew that something was definitely wrong. I told Dave that I thought I might be having a reaction to the mushroom. We immediately started pouring over the mushroom books again and realized I was experiencing parasympathetic nervous system toxicity, as described in Gary Lincoff's Audubon mushroom identification book. The antidote was intravenous atropine. I induced vomiting (yuk) to get any remaining mushroom fragments out of my system but it was apparently too late. By this time, my blood pressure

had dropped to 60/40 (should be 120/80) and my pulse was only 50 (should be 80). I was going into shock and about to die. Dave, of course, failed to tell me at that time that my blood pressure was dropping out.

He laid me down on our kitchen table, started in IV and administered the atropine to me intravenously, while monitoring my vital signs. Soon, my blood pressure and pulse normalized and the hot flashes stopped but were replaced by an hour of shaking chills so bad that I couldn't get warm in spite of the 4 wool blankets covering me in bed. After an hour, I returned to normal.

After I recovered, I realized that I had just eaten a potentially deadly mushroom and I had no idea what it was. Luckily, I had kept part of the mushroom just in case something like this were to happen.

I immediately pored over my books and microscope and after hours of research I still had no idea what I had eaten. Fortunately, Dr. Orson Miller chose to retire in Idaho and we were having our annual fall foray in 2 days, so I took the specimen to him and he identified it as *Tricholomopsis decora*. The only lame excuse I have for this gross misidentification and error is that after the 20 mile hike out of the mountains the day before I must have been brain dead. Rest assured that I will always keep our "mushroom agreement" in the future.

So, please make a note in your favorite mushroom identification book that *Tricholomopsis decora* is poisonous!! Most of the books listed the edibility as 'unknown.'

This experience has taught me a very valuable lesson. I will NEVER, NEVER again eat a mushroom that I wasn't 100% sure of the identification.

Editor's note: Kathy Richmond has studied mushrooms for years and can identify hundreds of mushrooms.

Mushroom Identification Program going strong

By Dick Dougall

The **John Plischke III Award for Mushroom Knowledge**, commonly known as the Button Program, started in 2009. It was a year when club members and club identifiers were sorting out our mutual expectations for how the program should operate.

As explained in an article in the April/May 2009 issue of this newsletter, a good bit of effort has been involved in getting club members to establish baselines concerning how many mushrooms they believe they know.

As of the Nov 1, 2009, 34 ID Buttons had been awarded to 29 different people. The first button was awarded to Ron Donlan on April 23 for knowing 50 mushrooms. Since then, most buttons have been awarded at the 10 and 25 mushroom levels.

Seven children under 12 years old were awarded buttons. John Stuart was awarded a 100 mushroom button at the Lincoff Foray with a list not too far from the 150 mushroom level.

A couple of 50 mushroom-level buttons were awarded. Two other club members have since received 100 mushroom-level buttons. Joyce Gross and Bob Sleigh received their 100 pins earlier this year. John now has some company at the 100 mushroom level!

Lists at the 10 & 25 mushroom level are not too hard for active club members to attain. Some club members are putting their own approaches to the mushroom lists they submit. One member is only selecting mushrooms he has found and identified by himself during this year.

Another club member was putting only **edible** mushrooms on his list for the 25-mushroom-level button. After reaching this level, he quickly added another 25 non-edibles to his list to earn his 50-mushroom-level button.

I encourage all club members to



Joyce Gross, vice president of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, and Bob Sleigh, co-founder of the Indiana County Chapter of the WPMC, earned their 100-mushroom level buttons recently. Photo by Becky Plischke



At the June meeting of the Indiana County Chapter of the WPMC three young members earned their mushroom identification buttons. They are, from left, Breanne, who earned her 25 button; Bethany, who earned her 10 button; and Danielle, who earned her 10 button. Photo by Ginny Sleigh

consider earning buttons and also to help their children earn them too. Who knows; a little family competi-

tion might result in all family members earning higher-level buttons than they thought they could.

Outstanding Lineup of Mycologists Scheduled for 10th Annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Foray

By Dick Dougall, Lincoff Foray Co-Chair

On Sept. 11, 2010, the Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray will feature some of the best mycological talent in North America.

This might be a frightening thought for some beginning mushroomers new to the club and even some more experienced club members.

It shouldn't be because these mycologists, Gary Lincoff, Walt Sturgeon, and Tom Volk, are very personable and old friends of the WPMC. Our fourth mycologist, Matt Foltz, is a graduate student studying under Tom Volk.

Our Principal Mycologist will be Gary Lincoff, author of the **Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms**, and for whom the foray is named. Gary is one of the nation's best-known mushroom experts.

His afternoon talk this year is entitled "The Mushroom of Penn's Woods West." "Penn's Woods West" is a historic name for western PA. I am sure we will be fascinated by the perspective Gary can put on the mushrooms found in our region. This is very appropriate because our 'Lincoff Foray' now has nine years of records for mushroom species found.

Through these years, mushroomers at our foray have found 507 species of mushrooms. Last year alone, we added 63 new species to our list. Gary's table-walk discussion at the end of the day when he comments on what was found, is another highlight.



Walt Sturgeon of the Ohio Mycological Society will be a featured speaker.

Walt Sturgeon is a member of the Ohio Mycological Society and a highly sought-after speaker at mushroom events. Being from neighboring Ohio and a previous speaker at our foray, Walt is well acquainted with our mushroom bounty. Walt's talk, "Habitat & Seasonality", focuses on the where, when, and why of mushroom fruiting.

Our final mycologists come to us from deeper in the mid-west. Tom Volk teaches mycology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He is a featured speaker at mushroom events all over the country and never disappoints his audiences. To preview a flavor of Tom's wit, check out his website **Tom Volk's Fungi** which can be reached from a link on our website www.wpamushroomclub.org. The title for Tom's talk is not yet available.

Tom Volk will be bringing, Matt Foltz, one of his graduate students, to our foray. Matt is an avid mushroom hunter and a passionate student of mycology. Originally from Michigan, he was an active member of the Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club. For the past two years, Matt has been working towards his master's degree in mycology under Tom Volk. At our foray, Matt will present a beginners workshop.



ners workshop.

One of the daunting tasks at our foray is to identify as many as possible the overwhelming number of mushrooms found by our attendees during the day's walks. John Plischke III will lead this effort. John is a world-class identifier as well as an active member of WPMC. He will be assisted by the other invited-mycologist, as well as our own club mycologists and identifiers.

All of these mycologists are delighted to interact with our foray attendees. Don't be surprised if one of them participates in your morning mushroom walk! They are often available to talk to our attendees and answer their questions in the afternoon. I would like to publicly thank John Plischke for recruiting this great group of mycological talent for our foray.



Tom Volk, a professor of mycology at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, is a favorite with audiences all over the country.

The Tenth Annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010



Featured speaker will be Gary Lincoff, author of the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*. Gary, Past-president of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), is the nation's best-known mushroom expert. He's a charismatic and entertaining speaker and makes learning about mushrooms fun and interesting. His end-of-the-day table-walk discussions are not to be missed. Join us for an exciting day of fungi, fun, friends and mushroom exploration — a day filled with foraging, learning, and feasting . . . but most of all, *fun!*

Program: Guided morning & afternoon mushroom walks; guest speakers: Gary Lincoff, Matthew Foltz, Walter Sturgeon, & Tom Volk; cooking demonstration; auction; mushroom feast: our club cooks prepare a real treat, with *dozens* of unique mushroom dishes to delight your taste buds. This all-day foray will be headquartered at *Parish Hill, North Park* 10 miles north of Pittsburgh, PA.

Morning and afternoon walks will be conducted in North Park and in other woodlands nearby. The habitats for these foray walks have resulted in well over 100 species collected each year.

Admission:

- ▶ Until September 1st the fee is \$30 per person for WPMC members
- ▶ Members pay \$35 per person at the door
- ▶ Non-members pay \$35 per person plus the 2011 membership fee (\$15 for an individual for \$20 for a family)
- ▶ Students (with ID) and children under 18 are \$10 each
(Please note: signing and dating the release form is an absolute requirement for attendance.)

To register and pay by check:

- ▶ Make check payable to: *Western PA Mushroom Club*
- ▶ Mail check and registration form to: WPMC, 244 Lytton Ave, Pittsburgh 15213.
- ▶ New members: please include membership application and 2010 dues.

To register and pay online:

- ▶ Go to the club website: <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org>
- ▶ Click on the 2010 Foray information.
- ▶ Choose the Paypal option (you may pay either using a credit card or a Paypal account).
- ▶ You will receive a release form to sign at check-in.

Registration & Release

Name 1 _____ Name 2 _____

Name 3 _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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 of its officers or members, 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: _____

For more information, contact foray chair Dick Dougall, 412-486-7504 or email: mania@wpamushroomclub.org

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
MUSHROOM CLUB**

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