



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 1

April/May 2011

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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 — Dick Dougall
Vice President — John Tadler

On the web:

www.wpamushroomclub.org

President's Corner

BY DICK DOUGALL

Greetings to all at the start of the 2011 mushroom season. The Club's Executive Committee has been busy setting up some interesting events for this year. We are again having our Morel Madness Weekend in Washington County's Mingo Creek Park April 30th and May 1st. We always get a crowd of enthusiastic morel hunters, particularly for the program and walks on Saturday.

For those club members interested in increasing their mushroom knowledge, we are teaching two courses on Saturday, May 14th at Fern Hollow Nature Center in Sewickley, PA. In the morning, there is a beginners course called "Introduction to Mushrooms." In the afternoon, we are giving an advanced course called "The Ascomycetes." Details are in another part of the Newsletter.

This is a banner year for major mushroom forays available to our club. We are all excited that the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) has selected our club to host its 2011 National Foray. It will be Aug. 4-7 at Clarion University, Clarion, PA with over 20 walks and 20 presenters. John Plischke has assembled a great team to put together this foray. Check our website for full details.

Of course, we should not forget our own Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray on September 17th in Allegheny County's North Park. This one-day foray has been a very popular event for club members every year. More details will be coming later.

In October, 2010, our club partnered with the Mycological Association of Washington, DC to produce a very successful weekend foray at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown, PA. Plans

(Continued on page 3)

WPMC to Host NAMA Foray

The WPMC will be hosting the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) annual meeting and foray in our backyard at Clarion University in Clarion, PA. It will be held from August 4-7, 2011.

This is one huge foray that is held once a year someplace in North America. This foray is so close, there will be no airfare! Chances are it will never be this close again for 50 years or more. It really is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

You should consider making it your vacation destination this year. Think of the money you will

save if you don't have to buy a plane ticket and the money you will save on gas because you don't have to drive far.

You will get to hunt mushrooms and learn mushrooms with some of the best mushroom hunters in the country. It is still early, but we anticipate having 20 walks for you to choose from. We also believe there will be 20 presenters at the foray, some of the biggest names in the country.

What a great way to spend a vacation! Mark the date on your calendar today--August 4-7, 2011.

Meetings

March 15—Title: Some Interesting Mushrooms from Different Parts of North America

Speakers: John Plischke III, Club Mycologist

Summary: John has an amazing collection of mushroom photographs, many of which have won first places in major photo contests. This year he will show mushrooms he photographed at forays in Alberta, Canada and in Colorado & New York State. It will be interesting to see new and unique mushrooms as well as many familiar mushrooms from such a wide geographic area. It is sure to broaden our mushroom knowledge.

April 19—Title: Morel Hunting Basics

Speaker: Mike Lloyd, Member of the WPMC and enthusiastic morel hunter

Summary: Spring is the time of year to hunt for morel mushrooms. These very delectable treasures are surprisingly difficult to find. Mike Lloyd will cover the basics of what all mushroom hunters need to know to be successful in filling their baskets. Mike's talks are always very entertaining.

May 17—Title: Taming the Wild Mushroom

Speakers: The WPMC Cultivation Team, Mark Spear & Rebecca Miller, WPMC members who work professionally on the commercial propagation of mushrooms, and Jim Tunney, Club Mycologist who does a lot of

cultivation work.

Summary: A major portion of this program will be the assembly of kits to grow Pom Pom mushrooms (*Hericium* sp.). This is a new type of kit for the club. The Pom Pom mushroom is a great edible. They will also supply interesting information about this mushroom when cultivated as well as found in the wild.

June 21—Title: How to Enjoy Mushrooms Even Without Eating Them

Speaker: LaMonte Yarroll, Club Mycologist & Education Committee Member

Summary: 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 mushroom pictures and as well as stories about amateur collectors who've made significant scientific contributions.

The Western PA 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.

Educational Programs Planned

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club (www.wpamushroomclub.org) will present two programs on Saturday, May 14, 2011, at the Fern Hollow Nature Center (www.fhnc.org), 246 Glenn Mitchell Road, Sewickley, PA, 15143.

9 a.m. to noon: "Introduction to Mushrooms," This program will cover mushroom identification, Lincoff's 12 mushroom groups, good edibles, how to avoid potentially fatal toxic varieties, and how mushrooms contribute to the ecosystem.

1 to 4 p.m.: "The Ascomycetes" is an advanced course. The Ascomycetes include the

famous edible morel mushroom and an odd assortment of various species, sizes and shapes, including cups, saddles, tongues, fingers and urns. They are characterized by a spore shooting ascus sac that distinguishes them from the spore dropping basidiomycetes. Come and learn about the common varieties found in our area.

To register for either course contact John Stuart at jons2art@comcast.net (724-443-6878). Cost is \$5 for "Introduction to Mushrooms" and \$10 for "The Ascomycetes." Pay at the door.

Meetings

Indiana County Chapter

April 13: What else would you expect to talk about in the middle of April besides Morels? Well there are April showers, runoffs, micro climates, rock outcroppings and also all the connections these have to, what else, Morels.

May 11: Not much beats being able to walk out of your kitchen and pick a fresh bunch of mushrooms without leaving your house. Attendees not only learn how to grow mushrooms at home, but also receive a mushroom kit of their own to take home.

June 8: Mushroom ID and spore printing with Bob Sleigh. This program will cover basic to intermediate identification tips and the creation and use of spore prints for IDing.

ICC meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, April through October, at 6 p.m. at Blue Spruce Lodge, Blue Spruce Park, near Ernest. For more information call Bob and Ginny Sleigh at 724-349-9173 or e-mail them at ICCWPMC@comcast.net.

Washington/Greene County Chapter

The Washington Greene County Chapter has several presentations prepared and some speakers lined up, including WPMC President Dick Dougall and Club Mycologist LaMonte Yarroll.

The April 26th meeting will focus heavily on morels. There might even be some mushroom dishes prepared for tasting at this meeting.

Meeting dates:
Monday, March 28
Tuesday, April 26
Tuesday, May 24
Tuesday, June 28

The Washington/Greene chapter of the WPMC holds its meetings from 6 to 8 p.m. every 4th Tuesday (unless otherwise noted), March through November, at the Peters Township Library, 616 E. McMurray Road in McMurray, phone 724-941-9430. For more information call Brian and Bonnie Davis at 412-334-4069.

President's Corner, *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

are being made to have this foray again this October. No date is yet available, but it is a nice, relaxed foray at a great time of year for mushrooms. Please consider attending one or more of these forays.

Expanding our club with Chapters in Indiana and Washington/Greene Counties enabled us to bring monthly meetings and mushroom walks to our members over a wider geographic area. This will continue again this year.

I would like to remind people that membership in

the WPMC allows club members to participate in any of our events, whether it is with the main club or one of the chapters. Chapter designations for members just make it easier for chapter leaders to contact and get feedback from people most likely to attend their events.

There is a lot of information in this Newsletter. I hope you will plan to take in more club activities this year.

If you have any suggestions or want to become more active in the club, please feel free to contact me.

HELP WANTED!!

Hospitality Co-Chair: Are you willing to help prepare snacks for our club meetings? A Co-Chair would be wonderful. However, if you are able to help even with one month, contact Shirley Caseman at 412-871-0185 or email her at pbft1@verizon.net.

Sales Chair: To sell club merchandise at monthly meetings and Lincoff Foray in September. You would also keep inventory up to date and order new merchandise. If you aren't willing to Chair the Sales Com-

mittee, you could still help by selling club merchandise at one or two monthly meetings. For more information, call Mary Ellen Dougall at 412-486-7504 or e-mail at marIELLED@verzion.net.

Chair or Co-Chair for the Annual Lincoff Foray to be held at North Park on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011. For more information, call Dick Dougall (412-486-7504) or e-mail at mush2prof@verizon.net.

WPMC Walks & Forays

By John Plischke III

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

April 16 – 10:00-12:00 Hampton Township Park, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall and Dick Duffy** at the swimming pool parking lot. From Route 8, turn onto Wildwood Road Extension (not toward North Park). Then turn right onto School Road to Hampton Middle School. Go past the school to the end of the parking lot where the road makes a hard left. Turn left into park at sign to Tennis Courts, just across from Hampton High School. Turn left at another sign to the Tennis Courts. Turn right at the stop sign to the swimming pool.

April 30-May 1 – 11:00 am Morel Mushroom Madness Weekend, Mingo Creek, Washington County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III**. See schedule on page 11. This is the biggest morel slide show and hunt in the eastern US. There will be an evening program on Edible Wild Mushrooms & How to Prepare Them. I 70 to Exit 9 Eighty Four/Glyde. Take Rt. 519 N for 2 miles. At a red light turn right onto Rt. 136. Go 4.4 miles and turn left at a sign to Mingo Creek Park. Follow signs to the park. Check in roadside

near Henry House. **TO PRE-REGISTER WITH THE PARK.** CALL 724-228-6867. We found morels at this program last year.

May 7 -- 10:00-12:00, Highland Park, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh. Meet Todd Kaufmann and Jim Tunney. From the south end of the Highland Park Bridge, take Allegheny River Blvd east to the first traffic light. Turn right onto Washington Blvd. Turn right into the parking lot at the next light (across from Leech Farm Road. Using Mapquest, go to Washington Blvd. & Leech Farm Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15206.

May 14 – 10:00-12:00 Return to Mingo Creek, Washington County. Meet **Bonnie and Brian Davis and the Washington Greene Chapter of the WPMC**. I 70 to Exit 9 Eighty Four/Glyde. Take Rt. 519 N for 2 miles. At a red light turn right onto Rt. 136. Go 4.4 miles and turn left at a sign to Mingo Creek Park. Follow signs to the park. Drive through the park and meet at the lower parking lot at the Y intersection (where we turn to Morel Madness) adjacent to the Henry Covered Bridge.

May 21 - 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 onto Route 28. 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 you will see a Deer Lakes Park sign, turn left into the park. Just past the first lake, there is a large parking

lot, meet there

May 28 – 10:00 – 12:00 North Park, Allegheny County. Meet **Cecily Franklin and John Stuart** at the Swimming Pool parking lot. North Park has a variety of habitats: we always find mushrooms here. 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 walk location. www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/parkphon.asp

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.

You are responsible for not getting lost. If you have that tendency stick like glue to others. We won't wait for you, and we won't come look for you. Don't take the identification of the person standing next to you. They might not know as much as you do. 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. Whether you decide to eat a mushroom, is ultimately only your decision.

Walks

Indiana County Chapter Walks

April 16, 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 about Pine Ridge Park can be found at <http://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks/bs/bs.html>.

April 30 Pine Ridge Lodge Friends of the Parks Program. Bob Sleigh will present a slide show and program on Morels at 10 a.m., then lead a

walk around the lodge to hunt for Morels and other species of mushrooms.

May 14 Blue Spruce Park, near Ernest. Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh in the large parking area on the left just past the ball-fields. 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. More information about Blue Spruce Park can be found at <http://www.indianacountyparks.org/parks/bs/bs.html>.

May 28 Black Lick Valley Natural Area, Dilltown. Meet Bob and

Ginny Sleigh at the Dilltown access for the Ghost Town Trail at 9:00a.m, we will drive to locations within the park from there. The park covers more than 700 acres on both sides of Blacklick Creek with a small parking area and hiking trails available on the South side of the creek. The tract of land North of the creek is an undeveloped area with no hiking trails. Black Lick Valley Natural Area is a rather primitive area with NO restrooms, shelters or other amenities. Facilities are available at the Ghost Town Trail access just a short drive from the area.

All Indiana County Chapter walks begin at 9 a.m. sharp, unless otherwise noted.

Washington/Greene County Chapter Walks

Sunday, April 17, 10:00 am., Wind Ridge, Greene County. Meet Alan Johnson, park Ranger. Take I-79 south to the Franklin mall/Wild Things exit in Washington. Take 18 south to 21 south. There are several signs. Turn left on Bristoria Road. Park office is on the right about 1 mile from 21.

Saturday, April 23, noon, Wind Ridge, Greene County. Alan Johnson, park Ranger. Walked time moved to noon due to a junior turkey hunt ending at noon. See above for directions.

Wednesday, April 27 6:30 pm. Morel walk at Claysville Game lands with Jeff Donahue, director of Washington County Parks and Directions:

Exit I-70 @ Claysville, turn right at the bottom of the ramp. Turn right onto Route 40 east. Turn right onto Route 231 South. After driving under I – 70, turn right onto Beham Ridge Rd. Turn right off Beham Ridge Rd into McGuffey Park (there is a wooden sign). Meet in the small parking area near the playground.

Saturday, April 30, 11:00 am, Mingo Creek Park, Washington County, Morel Madness Program sponsored by the Plischke family and Jeff Donahue of the Washington County Parks. Many signs and routes to get to the park....pick your favorite and stay with it.

Sunday, May 1, 10:00 am, Wind Ridge, Greene County w/

Alan Johnson, park Ranger.

Saturday, May 7, 10:00 am, Washington City Park, home of Pony league baseball, Washington, Washington County. Off 18 a mile past W&J college in the heart on Washington. Turn left at the park sign, meet at the parking lot immediately following the pool guard shack. Jeff Donahue, Washington County Parks.

Sunday, May 8th, 9:30 am, Claysville State game lands, Claysville, Washington County. Just Brian, Bonnie and Trevor the mushroom dog leading this walk. Meet at the Exxon station located immediately off the I70 exit ramp, then follow us by car to the morel-finding sight.



Mushroom Tracks



Successful mushroom hunting begins with winter walks

By Bonnie and Brian Davis

Welcome to another mushroom season and the Mushroom Tracks column. As I write this, it's snowing with ample snow on the ground, the soil and lakes are frozen, and the temperature is in the teens.

Hard to imagine that in roughly nine to 10 weeks, the ground temperature will hit that all-important 50-degree mark, the apple blossoms will be out, and the first of the morels will be popping up.

So, how does one prepare for the upcoming season in these idle months of winter? I mean other than being sure you have a good pair of waterproof hiking boots, knife, basket, and supply of bug spray, not much to do right? That would be partially correct if you are depending on someone from the club to lead you on a walk and take you to the golden fungi fruiting.

Although our club members attending a club-sponsored walk are usually successful in finding mushrooms, most of us who are avid morel hunters have our prized, fruitful, SECRET patches of woods that we would never, ever reveal to another mushroom hunter. These prized mushroom hunting areas are closely guarded as to their location, and handed down to a worthy heir, with the exact GPS coordinates being read in our wills by an attorney who is not a mushroom hunter and has signed an oath to this fact.

So, in the winter months, we take Trevor the mushroom dog to various parks and public woods for weekend walks, going to new areas, in search of tulip poplar, dying elm, and old overgrown apple orchards. Although we find various polypores, including the good edible oyster mushroom, we are paying particular attention to the location, condition, and quantity of the aforementioned trees.

These are the trees that the underground mycelium of the morel has a symbiotic relationship with, and depending on other factors like moisture and an alkaline soil PH, will produce the golden nuggets of spring. With the tree foliage gone and much of the underbrush knocked down by the snow, it is a wonderful time to get off the beaten trails and hit the deep woods. You will be able to see a good distance, which will help you to decide the direction to go for further tree inspection.

The old, large oaks are particularly easy to see from a great distance, and although you won't find morels under them, many of the choice edibles like black trumpets, chanterelles, boletes and, of course, the

Hen Of the Woods have a symbiotic relationship with them. Upon closer inspection of an old oak in winter, we often find a dried black remnant of an old hen at the base of the tree. This tree is then filed in the left mushroom compartment of my brain, because although we missed this year's fruiting, chances are very high that this oak will produce a hen of the woods the following fall.

We also often find old sulphur shelves, known as the chicken mushroom, hanging on dying or dead hardwood. We found an old oak this past fall in North Park, which is as close of a location as I will give, that had at least two season's worth of decayed hens at the base, meaning it's unknown to the local fungi foragers.

Further proof of its hidden treasures was at the top of the tree; it was literally covered with still rubbery but just past their prime sulphur shelves. They started at about 8 ft. off the ground, going many feet up the tree. It would take a ladder to be able to get at them, which is just what we plan to do next fall, bringing along a 55 gallon garbage can for harvesting just the ones we can reach.

A few pictures of this one tree should make quite an entry in the mushroom photo contest, giving credibility to this amazing oak and the story.

So hopefully this article will rekindle your interest enough to get you off the couch and into the winter woods. Remember that the farther off the known trails you go, the more likely the prime elm, tulip poplar, and over grown apple orchard areas you find will be yours to harvest. There is always a risk that a newly found area to you is a favorite harvesting area to someone else, but the more remote you go, the better the chance of finding and keeping a productive mushroom site.

We have stands of elms that we may visit three or four times in the season, watching as the first thimble size mushroom pops up, and leaving them till they are prime to harvest. This would be nearly impossible to do with trees that are close to regularly used trails with easy parking. These type of trees result in a race to the fungi, often being harvested too young with the mind set of better get them small rather than not at all. We prefer to go deeper into the woods, where we can fill our baskets with prime mushrooms, and be the only ones to leave fresh MUSHROOM TRACKS.

The North American Mycological Association

Hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

In the Black Forest of Pennsylvania

2011 Dr. Dick Homola Memorial Foray

Thursday, August 4 – Sunday, August 7, 2011

Name of each participant as you wish it to appear on your name tag. Deadline for registration: **May 31, 2011**

Names: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: Day (_____) _____ Evening (_____) _____ email: _____

Local club affiliation(s) for name tags: _____

Name of preferred roommate: _____ Assign roommate: Male ___ Female ___

Do you require vegetarian meals or have other special concerns? _____

Registration Fees -- All Fees are per person:

Conference: Thursday Aug. 4 to Sunday Aug. 7

3 room nights, 8 meals from Thursday dinner through Sunday brunch, all programs and forays	# _____	@ \$330 each	\$ _____
Waiver Reason _____	# _____	@ 0	\$ _____
Single Supplement _____	# _____	@ \$130	\$ _____

Off site (meals, programs, forays, no rooms) # _____ @ \$255 each \$ _____

NAMA Trustees Meeting: Tuesday Aug.2 to Thursday Aug. 4

2 room nights, 6 meals, Tuesday dinner – Thursday lunch	# _____	@ \$120 each	\$ _____
Single Supplement _____	# _____	@ \$80	\$ _____

Ascomycetes Workshop: Thursday Aug. 4

1 room night, Wed. dinner – Thursday lunch (1 night, 3 meals, microscopes, and all materials)	# _____	@ \$120 each	\$ _____
Single Supplement _____	# _____	@ \$40	\$ _____

NAMA membership (required if not current)

(You must be a NAMA or WPMC member to attend) # _____ @ \$35 \$ _____

Mycology student (limit 4) discount – Subtract # _____ @ – \$100 \$ _____

University _____
 Professor _____
 Professor's email _____
 Professor's phone number _____
 (Does not apply to Voucher Team)

After February 28, 2011 add # _____ @ \$10 each \$ _____

After April 30, 2011 add # _____ @ \$20 each \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make checks payable in US funds to: WPMC/NAMA 2011. Mail to: WPMC/NAMA 2011, Becky Plischke, 129 Grant Street, Greensburg, PA 15601. Questions? Call Becky 724.834.2358 or e-mail morelbp@aol.com

Cancellation Policy: If you need to cancel your plans to attend the Foray, we will refund all but \$50 if you cancel before May 15. From May 16 to June 15, we will refund half your registration fee. NO refund after June 15, 2011.

We must have a signed release for each person attending the foray.

Liability Release and Promise Not to Sue

I understand there is some risk in participating in a mushroom foray and conference, including, but not limited to, those risks associated with mushroom identification, walks, field trips, excursions, meetings, dining, damage to or loss of personal property by theft or misplacement and other expected and unexpected occurrences. I further realize that there is always the possibility of having an allergic reaction to or being poisoned by the eating of wild mushrooms and that these adverse reactions to eating wild mushrooms range from mild indigestion to fatal illness. In registering for or attending this foray, I agree to assume total responsibility during this event for my own safety and well-being, and that of any minor children under my care, and for the protection of my and their personal property. I acknowledge that by signing below I release from liability and hold harmless The North American Mycological Association and The Western PA Mushroom Club, their trustees, officers, employees, contractors, and all other persons assisting in the planning and presentation of this event for any sickness, injury, or loss that I or any minor children under my care may suffer during this event or as a result of attending and participating. I further promise not to file a lawsuit or make a claim against any of the persons or organizations listed above, even if they negligently cause me or my minor children injury or loss. Finally, I agree to hold The North American Mycological Association and The Western PA Mushroom Club harmless from any liability they may incur as a result of any damages to any property I may cause. This release and promise is part of the consideration I give in order to attend this event. I understand it affects my legal rights. I intend it to apply not only to me but to anyone who may have the right to make a claim on my behalf.

This is not an event of Clarion University or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Signature 1: _____ Date: _____

Print Name 1: _____

Signature 2: _____ Date: _____

Print Name 2: _____

Volunteer Options:

If you can help in any way, please let us know. The volunteer time of our members is what continues to make NAMA forays such a success and great time for everyone. The coordinator will contact you with details prior to the foray.

Display & identification area:

Set up: _____ Assist identifiers: _____ Clean up: _____

Mycophagy: Saturday

Set up: _____ Preparation: _____ Clean up: _____

Bring mushrooms _____ Specify type and species _____

I will bring the following items for the silent auction: _____

Vendors:

Items for sale: _____

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
- Fee discount for WPMC Forays
- Free participation in WPMC Walks

Name (*please print*): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ County _____

City: _____ Email _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Interests:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Committees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eating Wild Mushroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxicology | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivating Mushrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dyeing With Mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Photography |

How many wild mushrooms do you think you could identify? _____

THIS IS YOUR CLUB - WE NEED YOUR HELP! What areas would you like to help with? We can have a lot of Fungi, Fun, and Friends, but it takes your participation to make it happen. Please find three things you would like to do, and check the appropriate boxes.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout for walk locations or lead walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Compile meeting & walk sign in sheets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help organize forays | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 |

Annual dues: \$15 Individual, \$20 Family, \$10 Full-time student

Dues enclosed: \$ _____

Return completed signed and dated form with check payable to W PA Mushroom Club to:
WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
E-mail contact: WPMC.membership@gmail.com

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 _____, 2011.

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

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

WHEREAS, in cases where WPMC charges a fee for its forays, walks, lectures and other events (collectively "WPMC Events"), it is doing so only to cover its direct costs and does not operate in a for-profit capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Member understands that there is inherent and unavoidable risk in outdoor activities relating to hunting and consuming wild mushrooms. These risks include but are not limited to the dangers of hiking in difficult terrain, the possibility of misidentifying a wild mushroom, and the possible allergic or toxic reaction that some individuals may have to otherwise edible mushrooms.

NOW THEREFORE, THE MEMBER HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. THE MEMBER ASSUMES ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH WPMC EVENTS. THE MEMBER EXPRESSLY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT IT IS THE MEMBER'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO HIKE SAFELY AND TO DETERMINE WHETHER A WILD MUSHROOM MAY BE CONSUMED.**
- 2. THE MEMBER RELEASES, HOLDS HARMLESS, AND INDEMNIFIES THE WPMC, ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, IDENTIFIERS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY RELATING TO ANY INJURY OR ILLNESS INCURRED BY THE MEMBER OR THE MEMBER'S FAMILY MEMBERS AS A RESULT OF PARTICIPATION IN A WPMC EVENT.**

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

MEMBERS: Signature (if participant is under age 21, signature of parent or guardian) Please print name.

(Please sign name) (Please print name)

(Please sign name) (Please print name)

(Please sign name) (Please print name)

Morel Madness Weekend 2011

Morel Madness is the largest morel foray in the eastern US. The program is free to WPMC members who show their current membership card. The program, Morel Mushrooms and their Poisonous Look-Alikes will be given by John Plischke, who has more than 60 years experience hunting morels and John Plischke III. John Plischke is a past president and a founding member of the WPMC. Saturday evening they will be presenting a program on Edible Wild Mushrooms and How to Prepare Them. John Plischke III has won more than 80 national and regional awards for his photography and is chairman of the NAMA Photo Committee. He is a founder of the Western PA Mushroom Club and the author of Morel Mushrooms and Their Poisonous Look-A-Likes and Good Mushroom, Bad Mushroom.

Discover the exciting world of fungi at the Morel Madness Weekend to be held at Mingo Creek Park. The weekend will include an introduction to morel mushrooms, organized morel mushroom hunting excursions on Saturday after-



noon, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Come for the day or spend the weekend. Bring a collecting basket or bag, pen knife and clothing appropriate for moderate hiking and the weather. Camping is permitted on Saturday evening only. Campers and RV's are welcome, but there are no electrical hook ups.

Pre-registration is required. Call 724-228-6867.

The program fee for non-members is \$5.00 per person. The camping fee for members and non-members alike is \$5.00 per campsite.

For more information about Morel Madness go to the Washington County Parks web site at: http://www.co.washington.pa.us/downloads/parks_2011_2.pdf.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 30

11:00 a.m. Check-In / Registration (Roadside near the Henry House)

12:00 p.m. Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

12:15 p.m. Slide Show "Morels and Their Poisonous Look-Alikes"

1:00 p.m. Morel Hunting Excursions (on your own or with a group leader)

4:00 p.m. Morel Madness Round-Up. Return to Shelter 8 for Show & Tell and Mushroom Identification

4:30 p.m. Dinner, Camp Set-Up (on your own)

6:00 p.m. Evening Mushroom Hunt with Park Staff; Meet at Shelter 8

8:30 p.m. Edible Wild Mushroom Slide Show at Shelter 8

9:30 p.m. Star Party at the Observatory

Sunday, May 1

8:00 a.m. Rise and Shine Continental Breakfast at Shelter 8 (coffee, juice, donuts, muffins, etc.)

9:00 a.m. Morning Morel Hunt; Meet at Shelter 8

12:00 p.m. Program Ends - The rest of the day is on your own.

Annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray

The 11th annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray will be held Sept. 17, 2011.

This popular one-day foray will be headquartered at Parish Hill in Allegheny County's North Park just north of Pittsburgh.

Gary Lincoff will be the principal mycologist. The title of Gary's talk will be: "All the Polypores and Crust Fungi You'd Ever Want to Know—And What You Can Do With Them."

Other mycologists who will be presenting programs include David Fischer and Gary Emberger. David Fischer is a nationally known mycologist

from upstate New York who co-authored Mushrooms of Northeastern North America with Alan and Arleen Bessette. Gary Emberger is a biology professor at Messiah College in South Central Pennsylvania. He has a great website on mushrooms growing on wood.

Along with morning walks in the North Park area, the club's mushroom feast in the afternoon is an outstanding feature of this foray.

Look for more details and a registration form in our next newsletter and on our website, www.wpamushroomclub.org.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB

202 Wadsworth Dr.
Glenshaw, PA 15116

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Committees								Club Mycologists			
Club E-Mail Contact Valerie Baker contact@wpamushroom.club.org Cultivation Chairs Mark Spear mcsbujold@gmail.com 724-297-3377 Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com 412-441-3958 Education Chair John Stuart Jons2art@comcast.net 724-443-6878 Historian Joyce Gross jagart@verizon.net 724-339-8547 Hospitality Chair Shirley Caseman pbft1@verizon.net 412-871-0185		Indiana County Chapter Bob Sleigh iccwpmc@comcast.net 724-349-9173 Membership Chair Jim Wasik Jawasik@verizon.net 412-967-9359 Mid-Atlantic Foray Chairs To be named Mushroom Display La Monte Yarroll piggy-wpmc@baqaqi.chi.il.us 412-854-5684 Mycological Recorder Bob Lucas mlucas@microspell.com NAMA Foray John Plischke morelbp@aol.com 724-834-2358		Newsletter Editor Ginny Sleigh iccwpmc@comcast.com 724-349-9173 Photography Chair Rebecca Miller rmtreesplease@gmail.com 724-297-3377 Program Chair Dick Dougall (see President) Publicity Chair Bonnie Davis bonnie18davis@yahoo.com 412-334-4069 Sales Chair To be named Toxicology Chair Frank Lotrich lotrichfe@upmc.edu 412-216-8508		Walk & Foray Chair John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com 724-832-0271 Washington/Greene County Chapter Brian Davis magnumdavisb@verizon.net 412-334-4069 Web Master Joe Luzanski pastpresjml@wpamushroom.club.org 724-872-7867 Workshop Chair To be named Yahoo Groups Moderator Mary Jo Smiley cmtpt@zbzoom.net 724-494-1468		Robert Boice blgym@msn.com 724-446-0524 Kim Plischke ladiebugzkp@aol.com 724-832-0271 John Plischke III (see walk & foray chair) La Monte Yarroll (See Mushroom Display) Dr. Fred Schrock Indiana, PA Jim Tunney (See Cultivation Co-chair)			
Recent Past Presidents				Identifiers							
John Stuart (See Education Chair)		Dick Dougall (See President)		Joe Luzanski (See Webmaster)		Jack Baker vbbaker8@hotmail.com 412-367-7696		Dick Dougall (See President)		Bob Lucas (See Mycological Recorder)	