



# WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 3

August/September 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](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org)

## President's Corner

BY DICK DOUGALL

When this issue of the Newsletter reaches you, we will have already had two great foray opportunities, i.e. the Indiana Chapter one-day foray on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and the NAMA Foray at Clarion University sponsored by our club on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>—7<sup>th</sup>. In the next issue, we will be recapping the highlights of those events. There will also be opportunities to see pictures of those events on the web.

Don't forget about the Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray coming up on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. This foray is the one event that brings the largest group of our club members together for a great day of mushrooming, learning, socializing, and, of course, eating. Check out the article filling in the details elsewhere in the Newsletter. It is great fun for the whole family.

Also in this Newsletter, there is an article about the promotions of Jim Tunney to Club Mycologist and Joyce Gross to Club Identifier. These titles signify their important contributions to the identifying and educating aspects of our club.

Many members don't believe they can learn to identify many

mushrooms. With our Button Program, club members have surprised themselves by easily earning buttons for knowing 10 and 25 different mushrooms. Once they start charting the mushrooms that they know, they discover the personal satisfaction being able to put a name on new mushrooms they find. They also become aware of the amazing number of different mushrooms we have in our area. Though some mushrooms will be easy to recognize, others defy even the experts from pinning down their exact names.

Don't forget that fall is a great time to find edible mushrooms. Hen of the Woods (Sheepshead), Honey Mushrooms, Blewits, boletes, and others can often be found in quantity at this time of year. Our Lincoff Foray can be a great opportunity to see these mushrooms on the tables, and seeing the habitats where they are found. Our experienced club members are usually very willing to share their knowledge with newcomers. Hopefully, the rains will be plentiful to give us all good mushroom hunting at a great time of the year.

## Annual Lincoff Foray planned

Just a reminder of details about the foray. You must be a member to attend. Until September 1<sup>st</sup>, the foray registration price is \$30 for members, \$10 for Students and

children 11 to 18. Children 10 and under are free, so bring the kids! They enjoy walking in the woods. After September 1, the price for

*(Continued on page 5)*

## WPMC Meetings

### August 16—Title: Update on Lactarius

**Speaker:** John Stuart, WPMC Education Chair

**Summary:** The genus *Lactarius* comprises over 250 species, many of which are great edibles. The talk will go over identification characteristics, species common to our area, which are edible or poisonous, when and where they are found, features of the latex milk, and some of the new taxonomy changes.

### September 20—Title: Some Interesting Mushroom Websites

**Speaker:** Dick Dougall, WPMC President

**Summary:** The Internet is becoming a major source of information for mushroomers. Starting with the club's own website, Dick will guide us through a variety of websites

that he has found useful. They will range from those serving as field guides to those showing videos of mushroom growing phenomenon. Dick will share his list of sites with members.

### October 18—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 15—Title: Cooking with Mushrooms (Tentative Title)

**Speaker:** To be determined.

**Summary:** To be determined.

## Indiana County Chapter Meetings

**August 10** — The topic of discussion will be the future of the Indiana County Chapter of the WPMC.

**September** — There will be no September meeting.

**October 12** — This will be the final meeting of the year and will include a Blewit hunt, pot-luck dinner and a season wrap-up for 2011

*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 or Ginny Sleigh at 724-349-9173 or e-mail them at ICCWPMC@comcast.net.*

## Washington/Greene County Chapter Meetings

**August 23** — Topic to be determined.

**September 27** — Topic to be determined.

**October 25** — End of season wrap up, next year's plans, and mushroom feast

The Washington/Greene chapter of the WPMC holds its meetings from 6 to 8 p.m. every 4th

Tuesday, March through November, at the Peters Township Library, 616 E. McMurray Road in McMurray, phone 724-941-9430.

For more information about the Washington/Greene County Chapter, call Brian and Bonnie Davis at 412-334-4069.

## 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. For more information, call Mary Ellen Dougall at 412-486-7504 or e-mail at marielled@verzion.net.

# 2010 Photography Contest Winners — Fungi as Art



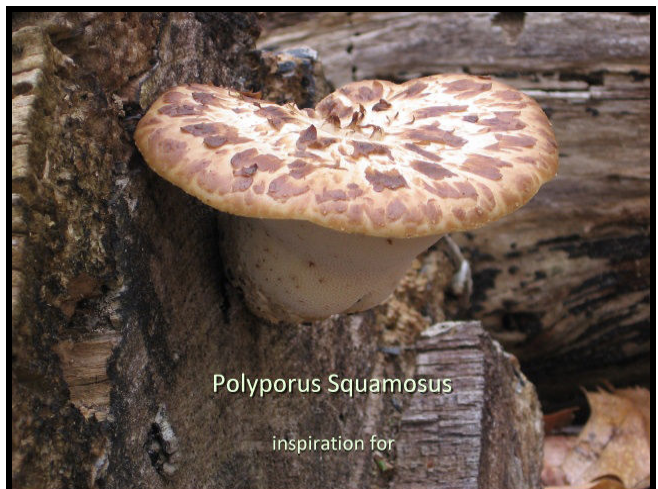
Coral mushroom at Deer Lake Foray, 2007 — Shirley Caseman 1st place.



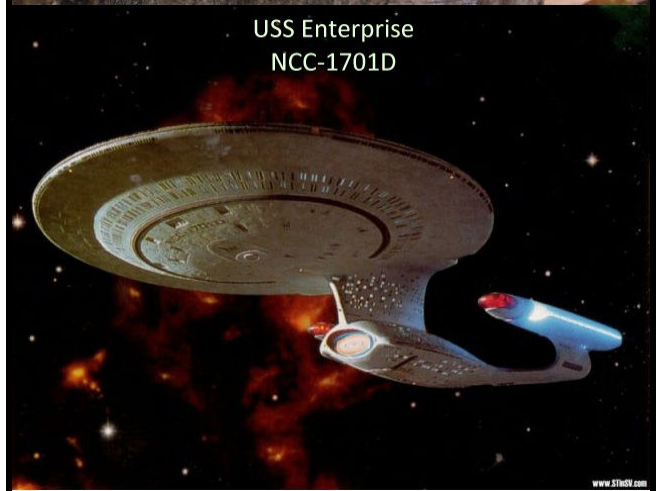
Violet toothed polypore — Cecily Franklin, 2nd place (tie).



Polypore view — Christine Breakstone, 2nd place (tie).



USS Enterprise  
NCC-1701D



Design inspiration — Richard Franklin, 3rd place.

## 2011 WPMC Photo Contest

Each year the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club holds a photo contest for members of the club.

All members are encouraged to submit their favorite photos for consideration.

For more information and the guidelines for the contest, or to submit your photos, contact Photography Chairperson Rebecca Miller at [rmtreesplease@gmail.com](mailto:rmtreesplease@gmail.com)

# 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/pamushroomclub](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pamushroomclub)*

**August 6 – 10:00-12:00 Camp Guyasuta, Allegheny County.** Meet **Cecily Franklin** and **Dick Duffy**. Camp Guyasuta is located in Sharpsburg, near the Highland Park Bridge. From Route 28 (North or South) or from East Liberty, take the Highland Park Bridge and follow the signs to Sharpsburg. This will put you onto Main Street. After approximately 0.25 mile, turn RIGHT onto 23rd Street and follow the road to the Camp Entrance (under Route 28). Turn left at the sign, then right at the Parking Lot.

**August 4-7 The Western PA Mushroom Club** will sponsor the **NAMA Annual Foray** in Clarion, PA. For details, visit [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org)

**August 11-14 – Join the North East Mycological Federation** for the annual NEMF Foray at Paul Smith College in Paul Smith, NY. See their website for more details. [www.nemf.org/files/2011/2011.html](http://www.nemf.org/files/2011/2011.html)

**August 12-14: 3rd Annual CPWMC Wild Mushroom Foray.** The Central Pennsylvania Wild Mushroom Club (CPWMC) invites you to attend the 3rd Annual Central PA Wild Mushroom Foray at the beautiful **Sieg Conference Center** near Lock Haven. Join us for a

weekend of hunting, identifying, and learning about the prolific fungi of Central PA (see registration form for schedule). You must be at least 18 to attend. The Sieg Center is provided by courtesy of Lock Haven University and Dr. Barrie Overton. It is located in rural Pennsylvania in an old growth forest of hardwoods and hemlocks. A trophy trout stream (Fishing Creek) flows through the heart of the conference center. For more information, go to [www.centralpamushroomclub.org/events](http://www.centralpamushroomclub.org/events)

**August 27, – 10:00-12:00 Salamander Park** in Fox Chapel, **Allegheny County.** Meet **Dick Dougall & Dick Duffy.** Salamander Park is located on Fox Chapel Road. Directions from PA Route 28 South: Take exit 8 toward. Turn left onto Fox Chapel Road. Continue past the junction of Squaw Run. Salamander Park is 0.2 miles further on the left.

**September 3 – 10:00- 12:00 Settlers Cabin, Allegheny County.** Meet **Jim Tunney.** From Pittsburgh go west on I-376. Take exit 60B toward Crafton/PA-60 S. Turn right onto Campbells Run Rd. Take the 1st right onto Ridge Rd. Turn right onto Papoose Dr. Turn left onto Te Pee Dr. Take the first right and meet in the parking lot.

**September 10—10:00-12:00 South Park, Allegheny County.** Meet **LaMonte Yarroll** Browns-ville Rd & Corrigan Dr, See their website at: <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.

**Sept 17 – Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray** Don't miss it, register today!

**September 23-25 - Meet the Mycological Association of Washington** at Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown, **Somerset County**, which is where they've had excellent foray weekends in September of every year but two since 1988. Walt Sturgeon will be a guest mycologist and possibly Roy Haling, who is an adjunct professor in mycology at the New York Botanical Gardens. The record number of species there was about 260, and sometimes found vast quantities of choice edibles (well, pretty good amounts) like black chanterelles, horse mushrooms and Boletus separans. Visit [www.mawdc.org](http://www.mawdc.org)

**September 23-25 - Meet the Michigan Mushroom Hunters** at Proud Lake Recreation Area in Milford, MI. for their Fungus Fest. They will have hunts, seminars, luncheon, and educational programs. For more information go to <http://michiganmushroomhunters.org/Events/Public%20Events%20Forays.htm#September>

**October 1 – 10:00-12:00 Harrison Hills Park, Allegheny County.** Meet **Joyce and George Gross.** Pick up PA Route 28 towards Natrona Heights (Allegheny Co. Belt System [red, green, yellow or blue], PA Route 910, Route 356, PA Turnpike [Exit 5 - Allegheny Valley], or Interstate 270-Route 422). Get off Rt. 28 at Exit 16 (Millerstown/Freeport) and turn right if you've been traveling northbound, or left if traveling southbound, onto Route 908 for approximately 0.8 mile. You will come to a flashing red light at an intersection of a four-lane highway. Turn right (Freeport Rd.) and get into the left-hand

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Annual Lincoff Foray planned

*(Continued from page 1)*

members goes up to \$35. Non-members pay a membership fee plus their foray registration fee.

The foray is headquartered at the Parish Hill Building in North Park, just north of Pittsburgh, PA. Mushroom walks start at 9AM, so please allow time to register, pick up information packets, and select your walk. Experienced club members will be leading walks in the

park and surrounding areas.

The afternoon has scheduled talks by guest mycologists and the cooking demonstration.

There are self-guided walks for those wishing to continue mushroom hunting. We will have a Chinese Auction and a Sales Table with club merchandise.

When you have some free time in the afternoon, you can review the mushrooms which were found on the walks. My-

cologists will be working to identify them. At the end of the day, Gary Lincoff will lead a table walk with the other invited mycologists. They will discuss interesting aspects of the mushrooms found.

Of course, you should not forget the Mushroom Feast prepared by our club cooks. It starts at 5 PM.

You can register online at [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org).

### Lincoff Foray 2011 Schedule

**7:30 - 9:00** — Registration, Walk Organizing, Preliminary Remarks

**9:00 - 12:00** — Morning Walks

**12:00 - 1:00** — Lunch

**1:00 - 2:00** — Gary Lincoff Talk — “All the Polypores and Crust Fungi You’d Ever Want to Know — and What You Can Do with Them”

**2:00 - 3:00** — Tom Chulick cooking demonstration — Tom is executive chef/ owner of the Backdoor Café in Johnstown, PA

**3:00 - 4:00** — David Fischer Talk — “How to Identify and Eat 200 Different Kinds of Wild Mushrooms Without Getting Sick or Dying”

**4:00 - 5:00** — Gary Emberger Talk — “Keys, Key Construction, and Identifying Fungi Growing on Wood”

**5:00 - 6:15** — Mushroom Feast – Prepared by Club Cooks

**6:15 - 6:45** — Gary Lincoff Table Walk

**7:00 - 7:30** — Clean Up (everybody helps)

**SEEKING DONATIONS:** The Club is looking for Donations to the Chinese Auction to be held at the Lincoff Foray. Anyone with items, please contact the foray chairs, Dick Dougall (412-486-7504) or Jim Wilson (724-265-2398) or e-mail them at [Lincoff\\_Foray@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:Lincoff_Foray@wpamushroomclub.org) to make arrangements to get them to the club.

## WPMC Walks & Forays

*(Continued from page 4)*

lane. The entrance to Harrison Hills Park is 0.8 miles on the left, just beyond the Harrison Hills Fire Dept. and Harrison Hills Chiropractic on the right.

**October 1-2 (Sat. Sun.)** Join the **Ohio Mushroom Society** for their Fall Foray, at the **Wilderness Center, Wilmot, OH**. For more information go to <http://www.ohiomushroom.org/oms/Events.htm>

*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 three 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.*

# A Stick to Call Your Own

By Bob Sleigh

Even for those of us who don't let the cold weather and snow keep us indoors, winter always involves more downtime than any other part of the year for outdoor lovers. It's a great time to get things organized, repaired and ready for next year and to plan this year's adventures. It's also a great time to build a walking stick.

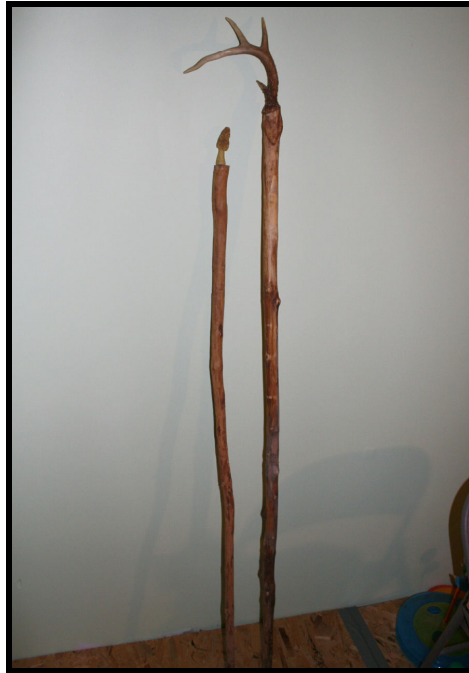
OK, now admit it, you have always wanted a good walking stick. A stick to call your own with the nice little custom touches such as carvings, a leather grip and maybe a compass. Building a custom walking stick is only as difficult as you make it.

Granted, if you're looking for something made from exotic wood with fancy carvings and a finish you can see your face in, this isn't it. Some of these fancy sticks are truly beautiful and the makers are very talented individuals, but I just can't see myself carrying one of those works of art through the woods very often.

What I'm talking about making here is a utilitarian stick. One you won't be afraid to bang around a little, one stout enough to take the banging around. A stick that can wear its battle wounds with pride and provoke a memory from nearly every one.

Quality walking sticks are usually made from fresh cut saplings that are carefully dried to prevent cracking. The process can take a couple years and still result in an unusable piece of wood. With a little searching through the woodlands we can cut this process out completely and still have a stout stick that will serve well for years.

Since patience is not my best virtue, I let Mother Nature do most of the work preparing the blanks I use for my sticks. If you spend any time at all around the parks and hiking trails you have seen examples of this type of stick many times, in fact you have probably used a few yourself. They are the ones picked up along the way from a fallen tree or dead



*Bob Sleigh crafted an antler-topped walking stick for himself and a morel-topped one for his wife, Ginny.*

sapling that has naturally dried and aged and are then left leaning against a tree at the end of the walk.

Both of the in-progress sticks pictured here were found this way. Yeah, they both have some minor cracking and maybe a small soft spot here and there, but none of the flaws affect the stick's usefulness or appearance. In fact many times these small flaws can be worked into a carving that enhances the flaw in a positive way.

What we are looking for is a solid piece of standing wood with very little or no sign of insect inhabitants. Your blank should be a little longer than what you need to facilitate trimming to size and with the bark on should be a little larger in diameter than your preferred diameter.

Type of wood is of not much concern to us here, although hardwoods are preferable and will allow for more intricate carving, softwoods are lighter and easier to carve.

I start all of my projects by removing the bark and cleaning up any soft

spots or other defects. A drawknife is the perfect tool for this process, but a large hunting knife or small hatchet works also.

My next step is to cut the stick to length. Start by trimming the bottom back to a point where a rubber cane tip can be slipped over the end. Some trimming may be necessary to get a tight fit with the tip. Cane tips are easily found at your local drug store or medical supply.

Finding the proper length for your stick is as easy as taking it for a walk. While walking pay attention to where you hold the stick and if necessary mark the top and bottom of your grip. Now you simply cut off the top of the stick a distance of your choosing from your grip. I prefer about 8 to 12 inches above my grip to help balance the stick in my hand.

That's it, you have a usable walking stick that will serve you well and not be a great loss if forgotten in the woods. But, that's not what we wanted when we started this, is it?

My next step at this point would be to sand the entire stick with medium fine sandpaper and smooth off any bumps or projections that won't be worked into a carving. Where you go from here is only limited by your imagination. Walking sticks are as unique as the persons using them and should be a reflection of your personality and interests.

Any number of items can be added to your stick, the only limitation is your imagination and the size of the stick.

My antlered stick shown here is a reflection of my hunting heritage and also works real well to move brush and leaves out of the way when hunting mushrooms and other wild edibles.

My wife's Morel mushroom-topped stick reflects her love for this fine edible mushroom and also her difficulty in finding them. The mushroom decoy is a constant reminder of what she is looking for.

To make the stick easier to use,

*(Continued on page 7)*

## What to do if You Don't Have a Clue — Part Two

BY DICK DOUGALL AND JOHN STUART

Yet another method uses **Matchmaker** which is available as a free computer program ([www.matchmakermushrooms.com](http://www.matchmakermushrooms.com)). It asks for data to be entered all at once (giving each mushroom its own "bar code" rather than going through a key) and uses the mushroom's specific characteristics to narrow down your search to one or a few species that are the best match. The program has a bias toward mushrooms of the Pacific Northwest, but this overlaps by about 60% with Eastern mushrooms.

There is an old axiom that "if there are multiple ways of doing something, none of them must be really good." This seems to be the case in mushroom identification. Each field guide takes a slightly different approach but is a variation on the same general theme. All have their drawbacks. We have described some options if you are on your own with no experts to assist you. The great advantage of being a member of the WPMC is the availability of first class identifiers who can save you hours of time plus give you their tips on how to put a name on the specimen you found.

One of the best ways to learn a new mushroom is to have it identified, take it home, get out all your field guides and look at each book's description of the mushroom. Each one adds a little more information and you can analyze the charac-

teristics they describe with the actual specimen in your hand. This helps cement the new mushroom in your mind and achieve the total pattern "right brain" impression that will help you recognize it in an instant when you run across it again.

There will always be some mushrooms that seem to defy identification, and it is possible that you may have discovered a new undocumented species. You need to decide how much effort you want to expend on areas like LBM's (little brown mushrooms), Russulas and Cortinarius species that may be very time consuming or whether you are content with going to a genus rather than species level. The time is coming when we will have a cheap genetic sequence analyzer that will quickly and accurately identify our unknowns on the spot.

To recap, write down key information about the mushroom and take some photos. Use a number of different sources to develop a possible identification. Don't forget that other people are a useful resource in coming up with possibilities. Then, try to verify your possibilities with a variety of field guides and photos. Don't get discouraged. Both of us have spent several seasons investigating a specific mushroom before we have become confident in our identification. Good luck in your efforts!

## A Stick to Call Your Own

By Bob Sleigh

*(Continued from page 6)*

and more comfortable to carry, some type of handgrip is advisable. I prefer leather for its durability and ease of replacement if needed.

Split cowhide would be my preference here if it were easier to find. Instead I use leather shoelaces designed for work boots. The laces can be found in just about any large department store.

Begin by soaking the leather in water for several hours to soften it and allow it to stretch some while being applied. With careful wrapping the leather can be tightly wound around your grip area and held in

place without fasteners.

After your grip dries the leather will have shrunk and become very tight. Installed properly this grip will last for years without becoming loose.

By drilling an appropriately sized hole just below your grip and attaching a loop of leather or soft rope through the hole you can easily add a wrist strap. Adjust the length of the loop to suit your tastes.

When it comes to carving you have two choices; have someone else do it for you or do it yourself. Small wood carving kits retail for about \$55 and have more than

enough tools for the novice carver.

Practice on some scrap wood before tackling your stick and you might be surprised what you can do.

One word of warning though, this can become very addicting once you get started. Every time you are in the woods there will be pieces of wood calling to you, wanting to go home with you, wanting to be your next walking companion.

Good luck, have fun, and if you come up with something you're proud of send me a photo. I just might let you know where you can buy one of those Morel decoys for your own use.



## The 11th Annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray Saturday, September 17, 2011

**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, David Fischer, & Gary Emberger; cooking demonstration; Chinese 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 based at the Parish Hill Building in 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 1<sup>st</sup> the fee is \$30 per person for WPMC members  
 After September 1st, members pay \$35 per person by check, Paypal or at the door  
 Non-members pay \$35 per person plus the 2011 membership fee (\$15 for an individual, or \$20 for a family). After September 1<sup>st</sup>, membership fee is for 2012.  
 Students (with ID) and children 11 to 18 are \$10 each. Children 10 & under free  
 (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, 70 Woodland Farm Road, Pittsburgh 15238.  
 New members: please include membership application and 2011 dues.

**To register and pay online:**

Go to the club website: <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org>  
 Click on the 2011 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 Co-chairs: Dick Dougall (412-486-7504) & Jim Wilson (724-265-2398),  
 Email: [Lincoff\\_Foray@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:Lincoff_Foray@wpamushroomclub.org)



## 2011 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. Anyone 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

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

(please print clearly or attach address label)

**Annual dues: - \$15 Individual -- \$20 Family -- \$10 Full Time Student**

Dues enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed, signed and dated form (with check payable to *Western PA Mushroom Club*) and Release Form signed in 2011 will be in effect until termination of membership. (Please return with payment) to:

**WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238**  
e-mail contact: [WPMC.membership@gmail.com](mailto:WPMC.membership@gmail.com)  
or visit [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org) to pay using credit card.

Normal Meeting Location

Please indicate your preferences below:

Beechwood Farms: \_\_\_\_\_  
Indiana County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Washington County: \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning in 2011, the WPMC Newsletter will be available in full color electronically by e-mail or in black and white by US Postage. Please indicate your preferences below:

Newsletter Options:  
Electronic (e-mail): \_\_\_\_\_  
Hardcopy (US Postage) \_\_\_\_\_  
Future WPMC Information:  
Electronic (e-mail): \_\_\_\_\_  
Hardcopy (US Postage) \_\_\_\_\_

Signing and dating the release is an absolute requirement for membership. Unsigned or undated membership applications will be returned.

### Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS: Signature (if Participant is under age 21, signature of Parent or guardian); please print name.

Signature	Print Name
1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____

## Club Members Promoted

A major part of the WPMC mission is to educate people about various aspects of the world of mushrooms. Being able to identify wild mushrooms is an important part of this mission. Club Mycologists and Club Identifiers play an important part in this aspect of club events. Based on continued demonstrations at club meetings, walks, and classes, two club members have been awarded these titles.

Jim Tunney has been recognized as strongly demonstrating his outstanding identifying and cultivating knowledge over many years. Club Mycologists have voted to promote him to the mycologist level. The photo from our June Meeting shows Dick Dougall presenting Jim a framed certificate recognizing this promotion.

A Club Identifier is a person who passed the 150 level in our Button Program and has given presentations on various aspects of identification at club meetings and classes. Joyce Gross has met these criteria, and our present Club Mycologists and Identifiers strongly supported her promotion.

We congratulate both of these club members on their new statuses.



## Indiana County Chapter Walks

**August 6** — Hemlock Lake County Park, near Glen Campbell. As the name implies, this park contains a large amount of hemlock stands interspersed with mixed hardwoods.

**September 3** — Old Smicksburg Park, Smicksburg. This is the newest addition to the Indiana County Parks system. It contains only 33 acres, but don't let its size fool you, there is a wide variety of habitat available.

**October 1** — S.B. Elliot State Park, near Penfield, PA. This will be the ICCWPMC's first Sheephead

Roundup at one of the state's premier areas for this delicious edible. Bob and Ginny will be spending the weekend at one of the park's cabins and celebrating Bob's birthday. At last check there were still cabins available, so come and join us as we explore literally thousands of acres of prime Sheephead habitat.

*All Indiana County Chapter walks begin at 9 a.m., unless otherwise noted. For more information or directions call 724-349-9173 or email at [iccwpmc@comcast.net](mailto:iccwpmc@comcast.net).*

## Washington/Greene County Chapter Walks

**September 24 — Fall Walk and Festival** — Ryerson Station State Park, 361 Bristoria Road, Wind Ridge, Pennsylvania 15380, in Greene County.

Meet Brian Davis and Alan Johson, Park Ranger at 9:45 a.m. at the park office. For more information call Brian and Bonnie Davis at 412-334-4069.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
MUSHROOM CLUB**

202 Wadsworth Dr.  
Glenshaw, PA 15116

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<b>Committees</b>								<b>Club Mycologists</b>					
<p><b>Club E-Mail Contact</b> Valerie Baker contact@wpamushroom.club.org <b>Cultivation Chairs</b> Mark Spear mcsbujold@gmail.com 724-297-3377 Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com 412-441-3958 <b>Education Chair</b> John Stuart Jons2art@comcast.net 724-443-6878 <b>Historian</b> Joyce Gross jagart@verizon.net 724-339-8547 <b>Hospitality Chair</b> Shirley Caseman pbft1@verizon.net 412-871-0185</p>		<p><b>Indiana County Chapter</b> Bob Sleigh lccwpmc@comcast.net 724-349-9173 <b>Membership Chair</b> Jim Wasik wpmc.membership@gmail.com 412-967-9359 <b>Lincoff Foray Chairs</b> Dick Dougall (See President) Jim Wilson Mushroomjim4@email.com 724-265-2398 <b>Mushroom Display</b> La Monte Yarroll piggy-wpmc@baqaqi.chi.il.us 412-854-5684 <b>Mycological Recorder</b> Bob Lucas rnlucas@microspell.com <b>NAMA Foray</b> John Plischke morelbp@aol.com 724-834-2358</p>		<p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Ginny Sleigh iccwpmc@comcast.com 724-349-9173 <b>Photography Chair</b> Rebecca Miller rmtreesplease@gmail.com 724-297-3377 <b>Program Chair</b> Dick Dougall (see President) <b>Publicity Chair</b> Bonnie Davis bonnie18davis@yahoo.com 412-334-4069 <b>Sales Chair</b> To be named <b>Toxicology Chair</b> Frank Lotrich lotrichfe@upmc.edu 412-216-8508</p>		<p><b>Walk &amp; Foray Chair</b> John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com 724-832-0271 <b>Washington/Greene County Chapter</b> Brian Davis magnumdavisb@verizon.net 412-427-3343 <b>Web Master</b> Joe Luzanski pastpresjml@wpamushroom.club.org 724-872-7867 <b>Workshop Chair</b> To be named <b>Yahoo Groups Moderator</b> Mary Jo Smiley cmtpt@zbzoom.net 724-494-1468</p>		<p><b>Robert Boice</b> blgym@msn.com 724-446-0524  <b>Kim Plischke</b> ladiebugzkp@aol.com 724-832-0271  <b>John Plischke III</b> (see walk &amp; foray chair)  <b>La Monte Yarroll</b> (See Mushroom Display)  <b>Dr. Fred Schrock</b> Indiana, PA  <b>Jim Tunney</b> (See Cultivation Co-chair)</p>					
<b>Recent Past Presidents</b>				<b>Identifiers</b>									
<p><b>John Stuart</b> (See Education Chair)</p>		<p><b>Dick Dougall</b> (See President)</p>		<p><b>Joe Luzanski</b> (See Webmaster)</p>		<p><b>Jack Baker</b> vbbak-er8@hotmail.com</p>		<p><b>Dick Dougall</b> (See President)</p>		<p><b>Bob Lucas</b> (See Mycological Recorder)</p>		<p><b>Joyce Gross</b> (See Historian)</p>	