



WESTERN PA



MUSHROOM CLUB

Volume 2, Issue 5

President: John Plischke

Editor: Becky Plischke

V, Pres: Dick Dougall

Sec: Valerie Baker

December 2001

Treas: Jack Baker



MEET DICK DOUGALL, PRESIDENT ELECT

By Valerie Baker

The WPMC welcomes Dick Dougall as its new President. He is the club's current Vice

President and a charter member of the WPMC. Dick grew up in Schenectady, NY, where he went foraging for mainly Boletes with his parents, who were of Lithuanian heritage. Thus, he only learned the Lithuanian names for the mushrooms they picked to eat.

Dick did his undergraduate work at Union College in Schenectady and graduate work at MIT in Boston where he obtained his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation, he began teaching in the Mechanical Engineering Department at the University of Pittsburgh. He retired in May of 2000 after more than 30 years. At Pitt, he met his wife, Mary Ellen, who was a secretary in the department. They have three sons, one daughter, and three grandchildren.

In retirement, he volunteers at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve where he works at the Native Plant Center and on the Grounds Crew. He helped construct the new Raptor Center. He is a voracious reader, an active member of St. Mary's Church, is learning how to play the dulcimer with Mary Ellen (if we are lucky, the Club may get a concert sometime), and enjoys fishing, hiking and, of course, wild mushrooms.

All members of WPMC wish Dick a very successful 2002.

ARTICLES WANTED

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

We anxiously anticipate your article, recipe, joke, puzzle, story or cartoon for the newsletter.

DUES ARE DUE

This is the last WPMC newsletter issue for the year 2001. That also means, unless you have already renewed your membership for 2002 that **your membership in the club is about to expire**. It is time to sign up for the year 2002.

In our first year, the WPMC grew from zero members to 170. This year we are approaching 250 members, had 32 walks and forays, and some tremendous programs at our meetings.

Mark Spear and Rebecca Miller gave us a tour of the Sylvan, Inc. Mushroom Farm and Factory and sent everyone home with an oyster mushroom kit. If we had to buy the kit, it would cost more than twice the amount of a club membership.

Bob Lucas and Elizabeth Barrow taught us how fascinating mushrooms are under a microscope. Kim and Becky Plischke taught us that some of those useless looking polypores can be used to make beautiful paper.

Mushroom Mania 3 was one of the largest mushroom club forays in the country with 130 people coming from five states. It was a tremendous success.

We have had five outstanding newsletters headed by Becky Plischke. We have one of the top club websites in the country at: www.wpmc4.homestead.com/index.html and a Yahoo Groups to share mushroom finds at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub>

Thanks to our club mycologists and identifiers, our club members have been learning edible and non-edible mushrooms at a tremendous rate. That's a lot of bang for the buck. There is no place to get a better bargain for such a low cost.

Now is the time to fill in the membership form for the year 2002 and send it in along with your check so your membership continues. You don't want to miss out on Fungi, Fun, and Friends! **Don't delay, the time to do it is today.**

Mycological Wonderments in Miller's Tract - July 24, 2001 Slippery Rock University By Dr. Sam Ristich

(Note: Sam is a native of Western PA and a graduate of Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA. Ph.D. from Cornell University)

I would like to expand on several remarkable dramatic natural phenomena we witnessed in Miller's Tract:

- A. Parasitism
- B. Transformational wonderment of three fungi from the imperfect to the perfect stage
- C. Time lapse drama in slime molds

Parasitism

We saw two spectacular examples of parasitism. One had to do with a rust, Puccinia podophyllae, (which is a basidiomycete) on may apple=mandrake=Podophyllum peltatum. Puccinia podophyllae is specific for mandrake. All the developmental stages occur on the underside of the leaves. We saw the black telial stage. Earlier the lesions are orange from the aecial stage, and then the rust "eats up" the chlorophyll leaving white polka dots on the upper surface of the leaf. There were hundreds of polka dotted leaves.

The other parasitic drama deals with a fungus Entomophthora muscae that "zaps" diptera=flies. It is a zygomycete. The target of the fungus was the snipe fly, probably Rhagio spp. We found hundreds of dead flies glued to the underside of skunk cabbage and mandrake leaves. This spectacular drama unfolds like this:

- A. fly "eats" the spores
- B. spores germinate in the gut producing considerable mycelium
- C. mycelium grow through the abdominal sutures
- D. fly gets sluggish and dies on the underside of the leaf
- E. before it dies the fungus produces sticky spores that glue the fly to the leaf

I have found three other epidemics of this fungus on snipe flies, four examples on the seed-corn maggot fly and one example on sarcophagid flies (in Scotland). Check the following books to see some good photos: Webster's Introduction to Fungi pp. 149-54 and Barron's Mushrooms of Northeast North America p.25.

Morphological and Anatomical Dramas

I will discuss the magical changes in two fungi in the Miller's Woods. i.e. Xylaria spp and Ustulina deusta, its first cousin. Also an Isaria flabelliforme that John Plischke brought. Dead man's fingers and charcoal mat belong to the ascomycete family Xylariaceae. Both fungi form gizmos called stromas. In Xylaria, they resemble fingers, while in Ustulina, thick parchment 0.5" x 6-10". In both genera the stroma contain a white powder coating from the conidia=imperfect spores. As the stroma age they change to grey and then black. This color change is visual evidence of the "hanky panky" drama in the stroma--an incredible color morphological and anatomical change to the perfect ascomycete stage. If you slice the surface with a knife you will find perithecia that contain asci with black elliptical spores. What mycological magic nature has wrought!

Now for John's drama with Isaria flabelliforme. It was the flamingo colored one inch flakey gizmo on wood. Isaria is a deuteromycete=imperfect fungus that I call a garbage genus. It contains many morphological forms such as Isaria farinosa, whose perfect state is Cordyceps. For many years the perfect stage was not known. Then Dr. Rogers found its perfect stage, i.e. Xylaria. He renamed the imperfect stage Xylocoremium. Here is the magical transformation:

- A. the crust turns grey
- B. a black stipe forms
- C. the black perithecial stage matures

This is a rare complete transformation. I offer \$5 to the finder!

Other mycological wonderments:

1. John Plischke's Hypomyces citrina parasitizing Exidia glandulosa
2. Gill collar in Marasmius rotula
3. Xylobolus (stereum) frustulosus--stereum with a unique growth form, always on oak.
4. Russula is a unique genus--92% without lamellulae=short gills. Also has sphaelocysts, and spores with ridges that are amyloid in Melzers.
5. Two way Trichaptum biforme. Although it is an annual, if the tree or twig falls and it produces a new pore surface, it will be parallel to the earth's surface.

President's Message

In our second year, the W PA Mushroom Club grew from an energetic new mushroom club to become one of the biggest, strongest, and most active mushroom clubs in the country.

We are now approaching 250 members. We have nine informative monthly meetings. Our five newsletters are chock full of mushroom information. This year we had thirty-two walks and forays to help you learn mushrooms. That is a total of forty-six opportunities for you to have fun and learn mushrooms.

Rebecca Miller, Mark Spear, and Sylvan, Inc. gave us a tour of their state of the art mushroom factory and farm. In case you missed the event, they also gave everyone a present: an oyster mushroom kit to take home. We watched the mushroom spawn develop at home and fruit and had a glorious time eating the results. That one event was worth twice what a WPMC membership cost.

Bob Lucas and Elizabeth Barrow taught us about mushrooms under the microscope. Kim and Becky Plischke taught us how to make paper using mushrooms.

This year we also were able to learn mushrooms from two nationally known mycologists, Dr. Sam Ristich and Gary Lincoff.

Our club web site located at www.wpmc4.homestead.com/index.html is one of the best mushroom club websites in the country and is approaching a true 3000 hits in just ten months. The club's Yahoo groups at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub> is a tool for club members to get the latest up to date information on club activities, ask questions, and exchange information. It has had over 2400 visitors.

130 people attended Mushroom Mania 3. Simply stated we have one of the biggest and best mushroom clubs in the country.

Many of you had asked me to stay on as president. Some of you have expressed the concept that the club would not continue to thrive without me.

Hogwash! Now is the time to change leadership. This club's strength doesn't lie in one man or one woman, it lies in the fact that so many of you are so willing to give of your time and talents. This club has had its great success because of you!

Dick Dougall has been elected the next club President and Dick Duffy the next Vice President. I am absolutely sure they will take the

club to new and even greater heights. They are good and talented men. They have both been very active in club events: Dick Dougall being the current Vice President and a walk leader and Dick Duffy having served as a walk leader.

They also have a secret weapon, they have you. To those of you who have served on my executive board, if Dick Dougall asks you to serve again, please say yes. To those of you who weren't quite so active, if Dick asks you to take a bigger role in the club, please say yes. If you are not asked, please volunteer. I know that Dick is looking for a few more good men and women. Tell Dick you would like to help.

Valerie Baker will remain as Secretary and Jack Baker will remain as Treasurer. They are both Founding Members of the club and two of the greatest strengths the club has.

I am not going away, I have pledged my support to Dick. I plan to stay very active in the club.

If I were to list everyone who helped with the club this year, we would have to double the size of the newsletter. Some people gave hours and hours of time, others occasionally helped clean up after a meeting or carry equipment. We had a tremendous number of people active. Thanks to all of you! You made it happen.

I would also like to especially give extra thanks to members of the Executive Board, our founding members, everyone who helped with Mushroom Mania 3, our Walk Leaders, identifiers, and Club Mycologists.

The first year of our club was good, our second year was great, and our third year with Dick Dougall, Dick Duffy and Valerie and Jack Baker will be fabulous.

If you haven't already sent in your 2002 membership and dues, please do so today.

Once again, thank you!

John Plischke, President, WPMC

MUSHROOM COOKBOOK ONLY 40 COPIES LEFT!

Get your order in today for the Western PA Mushroom Club Cookbook before it is too late. Buy several and give them away for Christmas presents. The price to club members is \$6.50, shipping included.

Mushroom Mania 3 included mushroom tasting. Many of the recipes are in the cookbook, including the soup and all three dips.

Send your order and check to Kim Plischke, 201 Culbertson Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601.



**AN INVITATION FROM
THE NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is affiliated with NAMA, the North American Mycological Association. NAMA has been serving the amateur and professional mycological community for 40 years. NAMA provides a meeting ground for all persons interested in mushrooms. Its purpose is to stimulate public interest in mushrooms and other fungi, to aid those

who wish to increase their knowledge about mushrooms and to promote the scientific study of fungi.

Under its recently elected new President, Phyllis Cole, NAMA is undergoing a rebirth. Its members will have the chance to attend more NAMA organized forays in better than ever locales, both here and abroad. There will be more regional forays as well as special forays for special interest groups such as beginners, cooks, dyers and crafters. NAMA intends to help organize and coordinate micro-forays where 8-12 members travel from afar to foray in an unfamiliar area with a local member-host. They plan a docent program for those interested in learning how to lead mushroom field trips. They will set up for their members list serves and perhaps chat rooms where mycological topics are discussed. And, as always, NAMA will look for opportunities for its amateur members to rub elbows with professional mycologists.

OTHER BENEFITS OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL NAMA MEMBERSHIP

NAMA members receive six issues per year of the newsletter, *The Mycophile*, which gives mycological news and reports, notice of events of interest to members, reviews of recent books, and poison information.

Members receive NAMA's annual journal, *Mcllvainea*, containing articles by leading professional and amateur mycologists.

NAMA's annual and regional forays are open only to members. Forays are held in selected areas of the continent, often with short courses in mycology, always with lectures by professionals; occasionally forays are made to other continents.

Are you a photographer? NAMA conducts a heavily prized annual photo contest and loans slide sets of the winning slides of each contest.

Educational videos and slide shows are available to members and affiliated clubs free or at low cost

Members receive the annual NAMA Directory, which lists all its members throughout North America and their special interests, so almost anywhere you go you can find people who speak your own mycological language. The Directory includes listings of all NAMA-affiliated clubs, the Association's educational offerings, mushroom poisoning report forms and listings of committees so you can get more involved with cultivation, mycophagy, photography, mushroom related arts and crafts, mushroom toxicology and more.

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club recommends membership in NAMA for both beginners and seasoned mushroom hunters. A \$5.00 discount is available because you are a member of WPMC.

BECOME A NAMA MEMBER. SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!

ANNUAL DUES - Check one

- Active Membership (includes family)\$35.00
- Membership outside North America.....\$40.00
- Student Membership.....\$15.00
- Life Membership.....\$500.00

If you are a member of the WPMC, check this box & save \$3

- Member of Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club \$32

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ (Home) _____ (Work)

E-MAIL _____

Send check or money order to:

NAMA Membership
336 Lenox Ave
Oakland, CA 94610



2002



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Interests: Learning Mushrooms Microscopy Club Committees
 Eating Wild Mushroom Toxicology Cultivating Mushrooms
 Mushroom Walks Books Dyeing With Mushrooms
 Mushroom Photography Taxonomy Mushroom Paper Making
 Other _____

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

RELEASE

I (We) realize that when engaged in wild mushroom activities, that serious physical injury and personal property damage may accidentally occur. I (We) 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.

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

Signature _____ Date: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

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

Jack Baker, 1413 Parkmont Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101

7/01

OVER

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Name: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail _____

Address: _____

WE NEED YOUR HELP

WHAT AREA WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH?

PLEASE CHECK THREE POSSIBLE ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Scout for walk locations
- Help organize forays
- Lead walks
- Work on newsletter committee
- Contribute articles, photos, etc. to newsletter
- Assemble and mail newsletters
- Help with web page
- Line up speakers for meetings
- Collect membership dues and record them
- Record meetings, discussions, events
- Maintain contact with other mushroom clubs
- Publicize meetings, forays, events
- Club Historian
- Recruit members, maintain list of members
- Outreach-- speak to other clubs, nature centers
- Call or e-mail members
- Give a program at Club monthly meeting
- Produce or acquire teaching materials, resources, handouts for meetings
- Welcome and orient new members
- Coordinate coffee/refreshment
- Participate in special projects
- Record mushrooms that are found
- Conduct research on questionable mushrooms
- Help with mycophagy (mushroom cooking)
- Help with sign in at walks and meetings
-

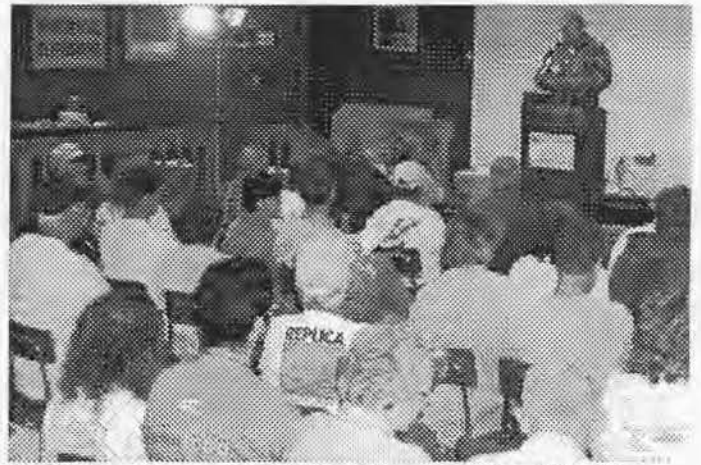
Find something you would like to do. Check the appropriate boxes. We can have a lot of Fungi, Fun, and Friends but it takes your participation to make it happen.

Return completed form to: Jack Baker, 1413 Parkmont Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

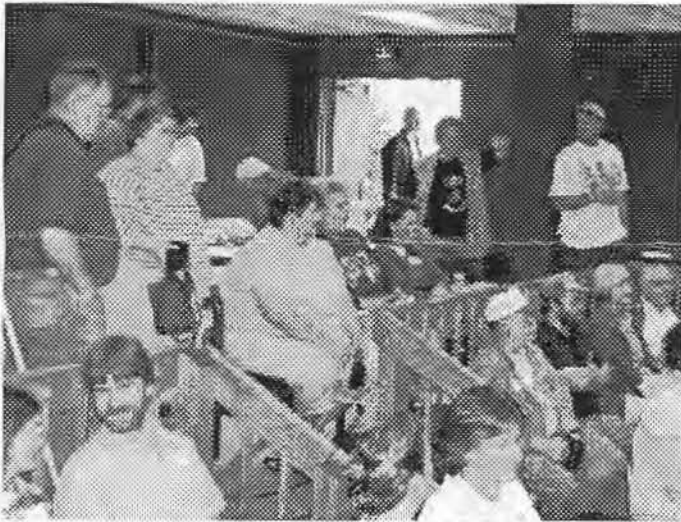
MUSHROOM MANIA 3: 130 PEOPLE ONE OF THE BIGGEST MUSHROOM CLUB FORAYS IN USA



Jack & Valerie Baker, Dorothy & Robert Fornof handle registration. It went fast, most pre-registered.



Club President, John Plischke, organized the five morning walks and got them quickly into the field.



The crowd was so big, there was no place for our Guest Mycologist, Gary Lincoff, to sit.



Gary Lincoff, author of the Audubon Society Mushroom Field Guide, spoke to an enthralled crowd.



Mushrooms were studied and learned in great quantity.

MORE MUSHROOM MANIA 3

If you missed this year's event, don't miss it next year. Mushroom Mania 4 will be held on Sept. 21, 2002. Mark it down!



Mushrooms were pre-sorted at 6 pre-sort tables.



Gary spellbound the audience at his table walk.

Relaxing After A Long Day At Mushroom Mania

Roger & Shirley Hummel, Kim & John Plischke



Dick Duffy, Michael & Rena Belshe



Bob Lucas, Liz Barrow and Gary Lincoff



Mary Lou & Kuni Riegel, Gordon Callahan and Don Stone



CLUB OFFICERS

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Scientific Advisor: **Walt Sturgeon**

Past President: **Mary Woehrel** 412-828-3266
marigold@sgi.net 43 Meadowvale Dr, Cheswick, PA 15024

OUR NEXT VICE PRESIDENT

By Valerie Baker

Our new Vice President, Dick Duffy, is an enthusiastic Western PA Mushroom Club charter member. Before joining the Club, he knew about five edible mushroom species, but now knows many edible and non-edible mushrooms. Morels are his favorites.

Dick grew up in Crafton, PA with his twin brother. He graduated from Slippery Rock University with a Bachelor's degree in Science Education. He became interested in mushrooms while teaching science courses in East Liberty, Scheneley, and Alderdice High Schools for 30 years.

Dick and his wife, Rita, have been married for 29 years and live in Hampton in a log house that was built in 1830. He has been remodeling his house for many years and says it has become an obsession for him. He and Rita have two daughters who live in New York and a son living in Colorado.

Retired now, Dick spends his time working on his house and substitute teaching at various schools in the area. He likes nature, finding mushrooms, reads a lot of books and especially likes to carve wood.

CLUB DOMINATES PHOTO CONTEST FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

For the second year in a row, the WPMC has dominated the North American Mycological Association's Photo Contest. Walt Sturgeon received 2 Honorable Mentions in Open Documentary. Bill Roody won first place in Open Documentary.

John Plischke III won second place and an Honorable Mention in Open Documentary. He also won a first and third place in Open Pictorial, and a Judge's Option Commendation. Kim Plischke won first place in Limited Documentary.

Robert Boice and Elaine Boice have been past NAMA Photo Contest winners.

Steve Simpson won first place in the Morel Mushroom Hunting Club's Photo Contest.

Congratulations to all our Photo Contest Winners
WPMC RULES!

THANKS, JON ELLIFRITZ

We want to give a special thanks to Jon Ellifritz, the Mycological Association of Washington, DC's Walk and Foray Chairman and chief identifier. His help at MM3 was invaluable.

"Largest Mushroom Club in the Seven-State Area"

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
1413 Parkmont Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

NOVEMBER 20 MEETING-DR. JETT
(Edible Wild Plants)

MYCOLOGICAL WONDERMENTS

MUSHROOM MANIA 3 PICTURES

WINTER MUSHROOMS

DUES ARE DUE



FLAMMULINA

By John Plischke III

Velvet Foot (*Flammulina velutipes*)

The Velvet Foot or Velvet Shank or Winter Mushroom is found in the winter months growing on dead elm and other deciduous trees. I like looking for it not only because it is an edible mushroom but also because it grows under elm trees and I get a chance to scout out some new areas where the Giant morels are likely to grow. Extreme care must be used to differentiate the white-spored Velvet foot from the deadly *Galerina*, which has a rust colored spore print

You might have seen them in the grocery Stores, cultivated and sold in cans under the name of Enotake but it looks completely different than the wild ones.

The Genus *Flammulina* has been split into many species. You may want to check out The Genus *Flammulina*: A Tennessee Tutorial by Ronald H. Peterson, Karen W. Hughes, and Scott A. Redhead. You can find it on the web at [Http://fp.bio.utk.edu/mycology/flammulina/default.html](http://fp.bio.utk.edu/mycology/flammulina/default.html)

The article has 30 pages. If you don't have the Internet, I will bring a printed copy of it to the next meeting.