



# Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter December 2009



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The newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published and distributed 5 times per year: April/May, June/July, Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov, and Dec. Articles, photos, news items, and other submissions should be sent to the editor at least 6-8 weeks prior to targeted distribution for the best chance of inclusion. The editor cannot guarantee that submissions will be included in the next newsletter. The editor reserves the right to make spelling or grammatical corrections and may suggest content changes to the author. Material published in our newsletters may be used in other non-profit publications only with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

### Club Officers

*President*  
John Stuart

*Vice President*  
Jim Wilson

## President's Corner

Another good mushrooming year is coming to a close. The morels, chanterelles, and now hen of the woods all cooperated and came out in abundance, although not always on schedule. Those of you who participated in our courses on Introduction to Mushrooming, Advanced Course on Polypores, and lectures on the 35 most commonly found species on the Lincoff Forays are now several steps up the ladder and recognize a lot more when out in the woods. The Gary Lincoff Foray was remarkable for adding to the club's species list and we were lucky to have Gary, Bill Yule, and Noah Siegel give such entertaining talks. I personally found more new species for me this year than any other. We added a new branch club – the Indiana Chapter of the WPMC and it started with a burst of enthusiasm thanks to Bob and Ginny Sleigh. They live in the midst of wonderful habitats and have been eager and very generous in guiding everyone to their prime spots.

Next year the cultivation committee is working on

a surprise. Something unusual that we've never done before. We are thinking about having advanced classes on either amanitas or boletes. There will be an excellent program on introduction to mushrooming. We already have a date for Morel Madness, May 1, 2010. The Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Foray will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 11, 2010 and we feel this milestone is worthy of a big after party involving desserts.

There is a 2010 membership application form included in this newsletter and we'd love to have you send it in or join on line at [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org) and be a part of fungi, fun and friends.

John Stuart -- President,  
WPMC

## Thanks for a Great Lincoff Foray

Our 9<sup>th</sup> annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray was a great success. It's always nice when the mushrooms cooperate, but more important is the work of all the volunteers who helped make the foray a success. There are too many to list individually; check your program for

their names.

A big thank you to those individuals who served as walk leaders/identifiers and cooks for our mushroom feast. The walks and mushroom tasting truly highlight every foray. However, there are many other individuals who pitch in with registration, sales, Chinese auction, set up, clean up and many other tasks. We thank all of you for your help.

We also want to recognize the work of those people who helped with planning the foray, recruiting the guest mycologists, recruiting cooks & planning the mushroom feast, handling mail and online registration, handling mailings to attendees and volunteers, developing the program, and all the other jobs needed to make the day of the foray run smoothly. There is a lot of behind the scenes work to the foray, and help from club members is always appreciated.

Finally, we want to thank all the members, old and new, who attended the foray. Your smiling faces and enthusiastic comments about this foray make all the work worthwhile.

*Dick Dougall & Jim Wilson, Foray Co-Chairs*

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### **Status of the Mushroom ID Button Program**

By

Dick Dougall

The **John Plischke III Award for Mushroom Knowledge**, commonly known as the Button Program, has been in operation for most of this year. This has been a year where club members and club identifiers are sorting out our mutual expectations for how the program operates. As explained in an article in the April/May 2009 issue of this newsletter, a good bit of effort has been involved in getting club members to establish baselines concerning how many mushrooms they believe they know.

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 34 ID Buttons

have been awarded to 29 different people. The first button was awarded to Ron Donlan on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for knowing 50 mushrooms. Since then, most buttons have been awarded at the 10 and 25 mushroom levels. Seven children under 12 years old were awarded buttons. John Stuart was awarded a 100 mushroom button at the Lincoff Foray with a list not too far from the 150 mushroom level. A couple of 50 mushroom level buttons were awarded. Two other club members have turned in lists at the 100 mushroom level which are now being evaluated. John will have some company above the 100 mushroom level soon!

Lists at the 10 & 25 mushroom level are not too hard for active club members to attain. Some club members are putting their own approaches to the mushroom lists they submit. One member is only selecting mushrooms he has found by himself during this year. Another club member put only **edible** mushrooms on his list for the 25 mushroom level button. After reaching this level, he quickly added another 25 non-edibles to his list to earn his 50 mushroom level button.

The ID Button Program will continue in 2010. I encourage all club members to consider earning buttons and also to help their children earn them too. Who knows; a little family competition might result in all family members earning higher level buttons than they would have thought they could.

## CLUB AWARDS FOR 2009

Each year, the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club gives two awards at the October Meeting. These are the **Outstanding Service Award** and the **President's Award**. The recipient of the Outstanding Service Award is chosen by a committee of club members, while the President selects the winner of the President's Award. The people selected for these awards received a framed certificate and a gift card for a local restaurant.



The **OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD** is given to a club member whose efforts during the past years have been of great value to the club and its members. The 2009 winner of this award is **Joyce**



**Gross**. The statement on her certificate was: "In appreciation for exceptional service over the years as Recording Secretary, Sales Chair, Historian, Walk Leader/Identifier, Craft/Workshop Chair, Speaker, Teacher with the Education Committee, Newsletter Contributor, and for generously sharing many talents with WPMC Members."

The **PRESIDENT'S AWARD** is given to the person whose support, effort, and helpfulness to the club's president has been outstanding in the past year. The 2009 winner of this award is **Bonnie Davis**. The statement on her certificate was: "For her enthusiasm, continuing professional services, abundant optimism and unfailing support."

Congratulations to these deserving individuals!

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 2010

At the October Meeting, officers for the club were elected to serve for 2010:

- President – John Stuart
- Vice-President – Joyce Gross
- Treasurer – Barbara DeRiso
- Recording Secretary – Dick Dougall
- Corresponding Secretary – Julia O'Connell



## Learn to Identify Mushrooms.

How do you become a better mushroom identifier? I haven't yet found a "Mushroom for Dummies" book but I admit I have been taken in by "How to Speak Spanish in 3 Weeks" and "Play the piano like a pro whether you've had lessons or not". I still don't speak Spanish or play anything harder than Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star. The easy way to identify mushrooms is to find one and take it to John Plischke III and ask him what it is. You'll get a correct and quick answer but you really won't learn about identifying it without putting in some effort. The mushrooms you learn best are the ones you learn yourself. By examining them from top to bottom, dissecting, noting and recording their many details, spore prints, anatomy, colors, tastes and smells. More and more I get the best clues from where and when the mushroom was found – habitat and season. Once you have this detailed data a good reference library is essential. The internet can be helpful and the more books you have the better. You can't have too many mushroom books. Each field guide may give one more bit of information that solidifies identification and they help encompass the breadth of the many variations that occur. It's easy to make a mistake if you have limited data and try and make the mushroom fit whatever you want it to be.

So it takes time, effort and practice to become a good field identifier. This is a worthwhile endeavor despite the trend in recent years toward DNA genetic sequencing. Our club has amassed years of careful species lists that could well serve as an excellent reference for determining trends in the future. If becoming an experienced

identifier isn't your cup of tea you can still take a great deal of pleasure in just learning 5 – 10 good edibles. That in itself is an accomplishment that you can use throughout the years. There will be times when you don't know what you have found but don't give up; we still have John Plischke III.

**Congratulations to Joyce Gross**, the newly elected Vice President of the Western PA Mushroom Club. The North American Mycological Association, at their annual meeting that was held last week in Lafayette, LA, awarded her the prestigious Knighton Award. Elsie and Harry Knighton founded the North American Mycological Association. An award has been given every year since 1989 to the person who has contributed most to their mushroom club on the North American continent for the year the award was given.

The North American Mycological Association has two major awards. One is for the person who has contributed most to the advancement of amateur mycology in the country. The Knighton Award is given to the person who has contributed most to their club, plus or minus the 80 clubs that belong to NAMA.

This is quite an honor. For all of you who know Joyce, you know all that she has contributed to the Western PA Mushroom Club. She most certainly deserves this award. Joyce, being awarded the Knighton Award of NAMA establishes, yet again, how good a job that all of you do. We could think of another half dozen people in the club that would be potential candidates for the award in the future. We are truly blessed with a lot of people who are willing to give their time and talent to the club.

# 2010 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) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- 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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout for walk locations 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 |

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

Return completed signed and dated form with check payable to W PA Mushroom Club to:  
Barbara DeRiso, WPMC Membership Chair, 244 Lytton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213

(Over)

**Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club  
2010 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

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

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

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

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

**NOW THEREFORE, THE MEMBER HEREBY AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING:**

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

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If any portion of the Agreement is declared for any reason to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of the Agreement. **This Agreement shall apply to all WPMC events for the calendar years 2010.**

MEMBERS:

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

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

(Over)

## Stinkhorn Egg Hatching

Jim Tunney found this stinkhorn egg at Todd's Sanctuary and we brought it home. It was collected on a Sunday. It began to expand and we began taking these photos on Tuesday afternoon. By Thursday afternoon it's life cycle was complete.



**Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club**  
 129 Grant Street  
 Greensburg, PA 15601

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Club Officers		Committees			
<p><b>President</b>            John Stuart            374 Old Babcock Trail            Gibsonia, PA 15044            jstuart@nauticom.net            724-443-6878</p> <p><b>Vice President</b>            Joyce Gross</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b>            Barbara De Riso            244 Lytton Ave.            Pittsburgh, PA 15213            b.deriso@att.net            412-369-0495</p> <p><b>Secretary</b>            Mary Harvey Tadler            28 Hiland Ave.            Pittsburgh, PA 15202            mgniteowl@aol.com            412-871-0185</p> <p><b>Corresponding Secretary</b>            Julia O'Connel</p> <p><b>Recording Secretary</b>            Dick Dougall</p>	<p><b>Club E-Mail Contact</b>            Valerie Baker            contact@wpamushroomclub.org            412-367-7696</p> <p><b>Cookbook Chair</b>            Becky Plischke            (See Newsletter)</p> <p><b>Distribution Co-Chairs</b></p> <p><b>Cultivation Chair</b>            Mark Spear            RR4, Box 237E            Kittanning, PA 16201            mspear@sylvaninc.com            724-297-3377</p> <p><b>Education Chair</b>            Jim Tunney            6041 Stanton Avenue, Apt#1            Pittsburgh, PA 15206            aminitam@hotmail.com            412-441-3958</p> <p><b>Historian</b>            Joyce Gross            58 Seventh St Ext            New Kensington, PA 15068            jagart@verizon.net            724-339-8547</p>	<p><b>Hospitality Chair</b>            Shirley Caseman            (See Secretary)</p> <p><b>JoAnna Jenkins</b></p> <p><b>Legal Council</b>            Mike Lloyd</p> <p><b>Membership Chair</b>            Bonnie Bailey            120 Mt. Blaine Drive            McMurray, PA 15317            bonnie18bailey@msn.com            412-334-4069</p> <p><b>Mid Atlantic Foray Chair</b>            Jim Wilson (see Vice President)</p> <p><b>Mushroom Display</b>            La Monte Yarroll            5770 Clark Avenue            Bethel Park, PA 15102            piggy@baqaqi.chi.il.us            412-854-5684</p> <p><b>Mycological Recorder</b>            Bob Lucas            5840 Northumberland St.            Pittsburgh, PA 15217            rnlucas@microspell.com            412-422-8976</p>	<p><b>Newsletter Distribution Co-Chairs</b>            John &amp; Becky Plischke            129 Grant Street            Greensburg, PA 15601            morelbp@aol.com            724-834-2358</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editors</b>            Ginny Sliegh</p> <p><b>Photography Chair</b>            Rebecca Miller            (see Newsletter Editors)</p> <p><b>Program Chair</b>            Jim Wilson (see Vice-President)</p> <p><b>Publicity Chair</b>            Joe Luzanski            27 Ted Rd.            West Newton, PA 15089            publicity@wpamushroomclub.org            724-872-7867</p>	<p><b>Sales Chair</b>            Mary Ellen Dougall            202 Wadsworth Drive            Glenshaw, PA 15116            marielled@verizon.net            412-486-7504</p> <p><b>Scientific Advisor</b>            Walt Sturgeon</p> <p><b>Speaker Bureau Chair</b>            John Plischke (see Newsletter Distribution co-Chairs)</p> <p><b>Toxicology Chair</b>            Frank Lotrich            412-661-0950            7219 Witherspoon St.            Pittsburgh, PA 15206            lotrichfe@upmc.edu</p> <p><b>Walk &amp; Foray Chair</b>            John Plischke III            411 Center Ave.            Greensburg, PA 15601            fungi01@aol.com            724-832-0271</p> <p><b>Web Masters</b>            Joe Luzanski            (see Publicity Chair)            Bonnie Bailey            (see Membership Chair)</p> <p><b>Workshop Chair</b>            Joyce Gross (See Historian)            Robin Durr            Dick Duffy            Kim Plischke</p> <p><b>Yahoo Groups Moderator</b>            Jim Strutz            101 Alden Road            Carnegie, PA 15106            strutzj@strutz.com</p>	
<p>Robert Boice            John Plischke III            Kim Plischke            Dr. Fred Schrock            La Monte Yarroll</p>	<p><b>Club Mycologists</b>            blgym@msn.com 724-446-0524            fungi01@aol.com 724-832-0271            Ladiebugzpk@aol.com 724-832-0271            610 South 7<sup>th</sup> St, Indiana Pa 15701            piggy@baqaqi.chi.il.us 412-854-5684</p>	<p><b>Identifiers</b>            Jack Baker vbbaker8@hotmail.com 412-367-7696            Dick Dougall mush2prof@veriaon.net 412-486-7504            Bob Lucas rnlucas@microspell.com 412-422-8976            Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com 412-441-3958</p>			
<b>Past Presidents</b>					
<p>Mary Woehrel 4720 Crest Knoll Dr. Mableton, GA 30126 marigold4343@yahoo.com 678-457-4026            486-7504            John Plischke (See Newsletter Distribution Co-Chairs)</p>		<p>Dick Dougall 202 Wadsworth Dr, Glenshaw, PA 15116 rsdme@imap.pitt.edu 412-486-7504            Joe Luzanski (See Publicity Chair) pastpresjm@wpamushroomclub.org</p>			