



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

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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

After serving as President, Vice-President, and Recording Secretary for a number of years, I have decided to retire from being an officer in the club. However, I don't intend to disappear from club activities. In fact, I will serve as Chair of the Lincoff Foray one last time.

I would like to thank all the great people who helped and supported me over the years. There are too many to mention by name. The club is in good hands to move forward. I know you will support the new officers and committee chairs.

The club is much more than people searching for spots to find lots of great edibles. It has helped people grow their own edibles. It has helped people learn new recipes for the edible mushrooms they find. It has helped people to learn which mushrooms to avoid. It has also helped

members make new friends.

One thing of which I am proudest is that many club members have continued to grow in their knowledge of more individual mushrooms and continued to grow in their ability to identify more mushrooms by themselves.

My proof of this growth comes from several sources. I keep the lists for our Button Program and Lincoff Species. More people are earning higher level buttons. There are also more people giving mushroom talks, particularly outside the club. The numbers may be small, but the trend is positive.

I particularly like to see how enthusiastic new mushroomers are on our walks. I also enjoy seeing the support they receive from our long-time members. Our motto truly applies: Fungi, Fun, and Friends.

2012 Officers Elected



Election of officers was held at the October 18 meeting. Those elected were, from left, John Stuart, Corresponding Secretary; John Tadler, President; Cecily Franklin, Recording Secretary; and Todd Kaufmann, Vice President. Barbara DeRiso, not pictured, was re-elected Treasurer.

WPMC Meetings

The first monthly WPMC meeting for 2012 will be held at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve on Tuesday, March 20. Look on our website, www.pamushroomclub.org, for speaker & topic early next year.

Washington/Greene Co. Chapter

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

Indiana County Chapter Walks

Bob Sleigh will be presenting the Friends of the Parks Program at Pine Ridge Lodge on May 5, 2012, at 10 a.m. More details to come.

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.

More Mushroom Education needed

The California State Health Department is warning Californians about the fungus among us.

The Department of Public Health says the wet weather has left much of the state with an abundance of wild mushrooms that can cause serious illness and sometimes death.

There were more than 1,700 cases of mushroom poisoning statewide in 2009 and 2010.

Out of those cases, two people died and ten people suffered major health problems such as liver and kidney failure.

The most serious illnesses have been linked to the so-called "death cap" mushrooms.

Health officials say it's best to scan your yard for any mushrooms a few times a week. If you find any, dispose of them carefully.

WPMC Walks & Forays

Mark Your Calendar

The date for next year's Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray is September 22, 2012. Mark your calendar now so you can avoid conflicts with your other activities.

Next year, the base location of the foray is shifting from the Parish Hill Building to Rose Barn. Many of our regular attendees know this is a plus because there will be fewer steps to climb.

Dick Dougall, the Foray Chair, has been lining up the Guest Mycologists. Gary Lincoff will again be the Principal Mycologist.

The other Guest Mycologists have not been finalized, but Dick assures us that it will be a strong group.

Tell your friends about this foray, and invite them to come with you.

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 to look for you.

Don't accept 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.

For more information, go to www.wpamushroomclub.org.

Catch Us on YouTube

Watch a live performance of the WPMC Theme Song by going to YouTube (www.youtube.com) and typing in "Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club."

To see the lyrics, just click on "Show More." It's sure to go viral!

Cooking with Wild Mushrooms

At our November monthly meeting, Jeff Berkowitz presented a talk on "Cooking with Wild Mushrooms." Jeff is a Certified Holistic Health Coach who has worked for over 20 years in food preparation, manufacturing, and cooking.

For several years before becoming a health coach, Jeff was an Executive Chef. As part of his talk, Jeff discussed the health benefits of mushrooms, reinforcing his talk with personal experiences.

For more information about Jeff's approach to nutrition and health, check out his website at www.intuitiveholistichealth.com.

For part of his presentation at our meeting, Jeff and his wife, Cindy, prepared a dish containing Hen of the Woods and Cremini mushrooms. The overwhelming consensus of those attending the meeting was that this was a great recipe. Jeff was kind enough to give us a copy of his recipe.

Mushroom Ragout

Serves 4

- 4 Tbsp clarified butter or good oil**
- 2 shallots, peeled and minced**
- 1 lb mixed mushrooms (wild if you have them - cultivated if you must)**
- ¼ cup dry wine or dry fortified wine (such as sherry, Madeira, Port or Marsala)**
- ¼ cup good stock or mushroom broth**
- 2 Tbsp tomato puree**
- Sea salt, freshly ground black pepper**
- 1 Tbsp fresh parsley, minced**
- Fresh whole butter (optional)**



Jeff and Cindy Berkowitz prepared their Mushroom Ragout at the November meeting.

Heat the sauté pan until you can feel the heat coming through the pan with your hand placed above the surface of the pan, add the oil.

Add the minced shallots and sauté for a few seconds until they begin to turn translucent. Add the mushrooms, allowing them to remain in place for a few minutes until they begin to caramelize. Gently shake the pan to get the mushrooms "jumping".

Add the wine. Allow the liquid to reduce a bit before adding the stock and the tomato. Stir this mixture until it is well combined with the mushrooms, then allow it to reduce by about half.

Season the mushrooms with salt and pepper to taste, add the parsley and stir in the butter. Serve immediately

2011 WPMC Photo Contest Winners

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

The winners for 2011 were:

DOCUMENTARY: First place, Cecily Franklin, *Marasmius rotula*; Second place, Anne Berger, *Polyporus squamosus*; Third place, Steve Leitkam, *S. Scutellata* with *stemonitis* sp.

PICTORAL: First place, Carolyn Haas, a beautiful sulphur shelf; Second place, John Stuart, tiny *Mycena*; Third place, John Kralik, photo taken at Seven Springs.

JUDGE'S OPTION: First

place, Ryan Tomazin, especially beautiful *Amanita jacksonii*; Second place, Dawn Tomei, Happy Sheepshead Hunter; Third place, Jim Wasik, Wood City.

2011 UNANNOUNCED Category — Photos that include Newts: First place, Dave Hunt, Chanterelles with Newt.

Photos of the winning entries will be published in upcoming newsletters.

Club Awards Presented at November Meeting

At the WPMC meeting held on November 15, award presentations were made to two club members for their outstanding contributions to the club in 2011.

The **Outstanding Service Award** was presented to Barbara DeRiso. Barbara was the unanimous selection of an appointed awards committee consisting of Valerie Baker, Mary Ellen Dougall, and Cecily Franklin.

The certificate reads in part "In appreciation for exceptional service as Club Treasurer, the multitude of jobs taken on at the Lincoff Foray, and for the creative thinking and positive attitude that affects all club members."

Jim Wasik was chosen by Dick Dougall to receive the **President's Award**. In presenting the award to Jim, Dick commented on the valuable support Jim gave him in his role as Membership Chair and for his valuable ideas, suggestions, and information he supplied to Dick and to the club's Executive Committee.



Presenting the Outstanding Service Award certificate to Barbara DeRiso, center, were Cecily Franklin, left, and Mary Ellen Dougall.



Outgoing President Dick Dougall, right, presented Jim Wasik with the annual President's Award.

Newsletter submissions welcome

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

for the newsletter should be emailed to me at iccwpmc@comcast.net.

By doing so you give the WPMC permission to publish your submission.

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
 or visit 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 _____

Species Found at 2011 Lincoff Foray

BY DICK DOUGALL

Table 1 gives a breakdown of the species found at this year's Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray. The total number of species identified was 134, which is just above the median value for all eleven Lincoff Forays. Again, gilled mushrooms made up the largest group of species found at 62. This was slightly above the median value for these mushrooms. Polypores made up the next largest group found at 21 species, slightly below their median. Boletes were next at 17 species, slightly above their normal. All these numbers indicate that 2011 was a very typical year for our foray. The total number of different species found at all of the forays is now at 531.

In the last issue (October/November 2011) of the Newsletter, I gave a list of the 40 Most Common Mushrooms found over the first 10 years of the foray. This list included mushrooms found at least 7 of the 10 years. All the mushrooms found every previous year were again found. Some of the mushrooms found for 8 or 9 years were not found this year, dropping them down a notch in the frequency list.

Two mushrooms dropped into the category of not showing up in 4 of the forays. These were *Russula compacta* (Firm Russula) and *Scutellinia scutellata* (Eyelash Cup). We were finding a lot of mushrooms this year. The Eyelash Cup is so small that I suspect that people were not looking for tiny mushrooms with the bounty of larger mushrooms available. Therefore, it could have easily been missed.

If one expands the list to mushrooms found for seven of the eleven years, then the list expands by 6 more polypores, 2 more boletes, and 9 more gilled mushrooms. Rather than add all these

	Min	Mean	Max	2010	2011	New
ASCOMYCETES (Cup & Flask Fungi)						
Total Taxa: 44	4	7	17	7	11	2
JELLY FUNGI						
Total Taxa: 15	0	2	7	0	2	0
CHANTERELLES						
Total Taxa: 5	0	2	4	0	2	0
CORAL FUNGI						
Total Taxa: 14	0	2	4	0	2	1
TOOTH FUNGI						
Total Taxa: 12	0	2	6	2	2	0
VASE & CRUST FUNGI						
Total Taxa: 17	3	5	9	5	7	1
POLYPORES						
Total Taxa: 61	16	24	33	28	21	1
BOLETES						
Total Taxa: 51	2	13	23	6	17	0
GILLED MUSHROOMS						
Total Taxa: 274	27	60	97	20	62	8
GASTEROMYCETES (Puffballs and allies)						
Total Taxa: 23	3	7	11	3	7	0
SMUT FUNGI						
ZYGOMYCETES						
Syzygites megalocarpus	0	0	1	0	0	
MYXOMYCETES (Slime Molds)						
Total Taxa: 9	1	2	4	2	1	
UNCERTAIN CLASSIFICATION						
	0	0	2	1	0	
Total Taxa: 531	70	131	202	74	134	13

Ascomycetes, Cup Fungi	<i>Dasyscyphus virgineus</i> (Stalked Hairy Fairy Cup)
	<i>Otidea leporine</i> (Yellow Rabbit Ears)
Coral Fungus Family	<i>Clavulina cinerea</i> (Grey Crested Coral)
Crust Fungus	<i>Serpula lacrimans</i> (Dry Rot)
Polypores	<i>Polyporus arcularis</i> (Spring Polypore)
Gilled Mushrooms	<i>Amanita cokeri</i> (Coker's Amanita)
	<i>Entoloma sinuatum</i> (Lead Poisoner)
	<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i> (Poison Pie)
	<i>Hohenbuehelia petaloides</i> (Leaflike Oyster)
	<i>Lactarius camphorates</i> (Aromatic Milky)
	<i>Lactarius chelidonium</i> var. <i>Chelidonioides</i>
	<i>Marasmius pyrrocephalus</i>
	<i>Melanoleuca melaleuca</i> (Changeable Melanoleuca)

mushrooms to the most frequent list, it might be better to wait for another year of data and see the new changes.

There were 13 new mushrooms found this year. The breakdown among various groups are: 2 ascos, 1 coral, 1 crust, 1 polypore,

and 8 gilled mushrooms. Table 2 gives the names of these mushrooms.

If anyone is interested in looking at the mushrooms found at Lincoff Foray in more detail, please e-mail me and I will send them a copy of the complete list.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
MUSHROOM CLUB**

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						Bob Lucas (See Mycological Recorder)		Joyce Gross (See Historian)	