



# Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

## Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 3

JULY / AUGUST 2021



### President's Message

**STEPHEN BUCKLIN**

WELCOME, SUMMER! 'Tis the season of long days, insects galore, and so much more! We continue to break membership records, and we've welcomed almost 200 new members so far this year. The support WPMC receives through membership is essential to its continued success at spreading fun, friendship, and learning through fungi. Thanks to each of you for your support!

While many of our members have a deep love for all fungi, one can't deny the allure of the many choice edible mushrooms that grace our forests and fields. Now that the forest canopy is fully leafed out, and the average daily temperatures are considerably warmer, a whole new suite of fungi have begun to make their presence known by producing an awe-inspiring array of fruiting bodies.

Summer is the beginning of a period when diversity of species and overall number of mushrooms present in our surroundings have the potential to dramatically increase. With plenty of rain and humidity, many of the easy-to-identify choice edible mushrooms appear, often in great proportions. Chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus sulphureous*), smooth chanterelles (*Cantharellus lateritious*), black trumpets (*Craterellus fallax*), and summer oysters (*Pleurotus pulmonarius*) are among the most common mushrooms collected on walks in deciduous or mixed woods during July and August, and odds are you'll find at least one of these species during that time. Fortunately for the beginning forager, these are species that are easy to recognize with a little practice and some helpful identification resources.

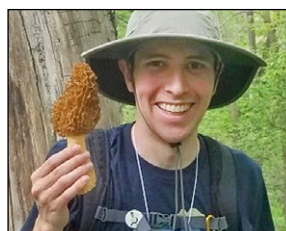
While we don't have any talks the rest of this year that focus exclusively on wild edible fungi, there are countless resources available online. WPMC's YouTube channel features relevant videos for those who may be looking to learn how to identify these abundant summer fungi. Last June, WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** gave a talk at our membership meeting titled "Looking for Summer FUNgi", and in August, I presented a webinar titled "Foraging for Fungi in Your Backyard." Both cover several species of fungi found during the summer months.

Another great video on several edible summer fungi is *Mid-Summer Wild Edible Mushroom Hunting* by WPMC Identifier **Adam Haritan**. Adam's YouTube channel, **Learn Your Land**, is a gold mine of fungal knowledge. Videos from his channel that may be of interest for this time of year include *Black Trumpet Mushroom ID*, *Hunting Tips*, & *Look-Alikes*, *Chanterelle & Jack-O'lantern-Mushroom ID*, and *What's So Special About Summer Oyster Mushrooms?*.

Of course, the best resource for those looking to bring home their first chicken of the woods or chanterelles isn't a video, website, or book, but an expert mushroom identifier. Fortunately, you can find dates, times, and locations of our upcoming walks, led by some of the region's top mushroom identifiers, right here in this newsletter and on our website. At each walk, identifiers from the club will share their knowledge with everyone who attends. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at a future walk or meeting, and hearing about all the wonderful finds and memories made as part of our club!

### 2021 Meeting Programs

WPMC MEETINGS ARE held on the third Tuesday at 7:00 PM each month from March through November. In-person meetings will resume on August 17 at Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA), 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. All monthly meetings are free and include a Mushroom Display Table, staffed by expert Identifiers.

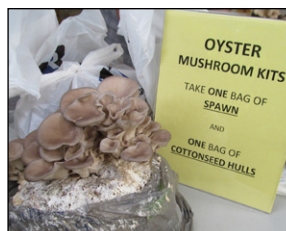


**July 20**

**Thomas Roehl**

*Flammulina velutipes*  
research

WPMC SCHOLARSHIP GRANT recipient **Thomas Roehl** will present his research on "Examining the genetics of mushroom development in the cultivated edible mushroom *Flammulina velutipes*." Thomas is pursuing a master's degree in Biology at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, where he is advised by Todd Osmundson and Tom Volk.



**AUGUST 17**

**Rebecca Miller & Friends**

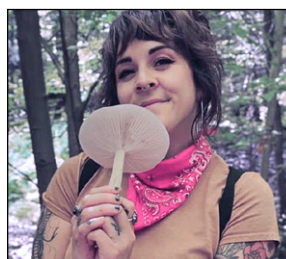
*Annual Cultivation*  
Meeting

This year we will again have kits for growing *Pleurotus* (oyster) mushrooms, and we'll be inoculating Shiitake logs. You must be a WPMC member to receive a free kit, so bring your membership card and a clean plastic shopping bag.

Bring a log to inoculate with *Shiitake* spawn. Suitable logs MUST have been cut within the past 3 months. Older logs will already be colonized with wild fungi and will NOT produce *Shiitake* mushrooms. Oak makes the best logs, but maple will also do. Cut small logs about 3 feet long with a diameter of 5-8 inches. Log drilling will begin by 6:00 PM this year. We'll take a break at 7:00 PM to go inside for general announcements and cultivation instructions. In the event of heavy rain, thunder or lightning, the log drilling will be rescheduled.

*Meetings continued on page 5*

### WPMC Names New Hospitality Chair



WPMC IS PLEASED to announce that **Carissa Mendez** is our new Hospitality Chair. Carissa will provide the refreshments at WPMC's monthly meetings at Beechwood Farms, beginning with the Cultivation Meeting on August 17.



# Online Registration for Lincoff Foray is Open

Online registration for the 21st annual Gary Lincoff Foray is now open at this link:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/>

**Friday, September 17, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm:** Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC Identifiers and Park Ranger Dale Luthringer at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

**Saturday, September 18:** 21st Annual Gary Lincoff Foray at Rose Barn in Allegheny County's North Park. Guest speakers will be Michael Kuo and Leon Shernoff.

## Here's the full schedule:

7:30 - 8:15 am	Registration
7:45 - 8:15 am	Morning Walk Sign-Up
8:15 - 9:00 am	Overview of Program and Introductions
9:00 am - Noon	Morning Walks
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
12:00 - 4:00 pm	Sales Table Open
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Leon Shernoff Presentation <i>Life as a Mushroom: A mushroom's-eye view of life</i>
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Book Signing/Meet & Greet (upstairs)
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Cooking Demonstration (downstairs)
3:00 - 4:00 pm	Michael Kuo Presentation <i>This Lecture Stinks: Fun with Phalloid Fungi</i>
4:00 pm	Auction Results
4:30 - 7:00 pm	Review the Collection
4:30 - 6:00 pm	Mushroom Feast
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Table Walk: Michael Kuo, Leon Shernoff
7:00 - 7:30 pm	Clean Up (everybody helps)

NOTE: WPMC will follow Pennsylvania and Allegheny County COVID guidelines in effect on September 17-19.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Once you have registered to attend the Foray, you should receive a confirmation email with a link to SignUp Genius (below). Use it to volunteer to help with the Foray. We've got openings for Set-up and Clean-up, Hospitality, Cooks, Walk Leaders, and Identifiers. Click the link below to contribute to this year's success!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094aa4af2ba3f49-lincoff2>



Western PA Mushroom Club

### Lincoff Foray 2021

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!

**Date:** 09/18/2021 (Sat.)

**Time:** 7:00am - 7:30pm EDT

## SCIENCE SUNDAY

By Richard Jacob

This year we are planning a more extensive Science Sunday program, similar to the event we held back in 2015. It will take place at Rose Barn on the day after the main foray. There will be four lectures, followed by a hands-on guided practical session. The four topics we plan to cover are a basic introduction to mushroom identification, fungi photography, Bolete identification with the Bolete Filter, and an introduction to microscopy.

All attendees will receive a set of three field test chemicals—Ammonia, Potassium Hydroxide and Iron Sulphate, which are helpful in identifying Boletes and other species of mushrooms. All the specimens we collect during the Cook Forest walk and the main Lincoff Foray will be available to work on and identify.

There is a \$20 charge for the event, which covers room rental, chemical test kits, etc. Bring your own lunch. If you want to go beyond foraging for easy-to-identify species, then Science Sunday is for you!

## CALLING ALL COOKS!

By Mike Henry, Mushroom Feast Organizer

Calling all mushroom cooks! You know who you are. On September 18th, the WPMC Lincoff Foray will be (mostly) back to normal, with mushroom walks, speakers and the ever-popular mushroom feast.

Who makes those fabulous dishes, you may ask? All of the amazing epicurean delights are prepared by members like you. We need 20 people who love to cook and share their favorite mushroom (and a few non-mushroom) dishes with other club members at the foray.



**Do I need to cook enough for 100 people!?! No.** You only need to cook enough for 15-20 people.

**Will I need to find all the mushrooms that I cook in the woods?** No. You can use store-bought mushrooms or, if you have a surplus of foraged wild mushrooms, you will need to get them approved in advance by a club Identifier of Mycologist. You can also make a non-mushroom dish if you choose, because some members may be allergic to wild mushrooms, or have special dietary concerns.

**What else do I need to know?** Bring a small sign with you that says what you made, along with a list of ingredients, so that anyone with food allergies can avoid the ingredients that trigger their allergies. You should also save your receipts for ingredients if you would like to be reimbursed.

If you have any questions, send an email to [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com). Once you have registered to attend the Foray, you should receive a confirmation email with a link to SignUp Genius. Use it to let us know what mushroom delicacy you would like to share with the club. Please respond by Sept. 1, so that we can finalize plans ahead of time. **I hope to hear from you soon!**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094aa4af2ba3f49-lincoff2>



## THIS YEAR'S GUEST SPEAKERS

WPMC has once again lined up two "fun guys" to speak at this year's Lincoff Foray. Both Michael Kuo (mushroomexpert.com) and Leon Shernoff (Mushroom the Journal) will give presentations on Saturday, September 18, and will be available for a "Meet & Greet" session in the afternoon.

**Leon Shernoff** is editor of the internationally distributed magazine *Mushroom, the Journal of Wild Mushrooming*. Leon's topic at the Foray will be *Life as a Mushroom: A mushroom's-eye view of life*. Leon's mushroom will discuss "feeding, reproduction, and those weird creatures that come around and chomp on us every once in a while." Leon will also be with us for the Pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest on Friday, September 17, and Science Sunday at Rose Barn on September 19.



**Michael Kuo** is the author of *Morels*, *100 Edible Mushrooms*, *100 Cool Mushrooms*, and *Mushrooms of the Midwest*. Michael Kuo's topic will be *This Lecture Stinks: Fun with Phalloid Fungi*. He says everybody loves stink-horns, right?



Bring your copies of Michael Kuo's books and *Mushroom the Journal* to be autographed by our speakers or buy copies at the Foray on September 18.

## PEARCE MILL ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The Allegheny County Department of Public Works has announced a three-stage project on Pearce Mill Road, site of the Rose Barn, which is this year's Lincoff Foray and Science Sunday venue. The work will result in single-lane closures and detours of northbound traffic. More details will be provided in the next WPMC newsletter.

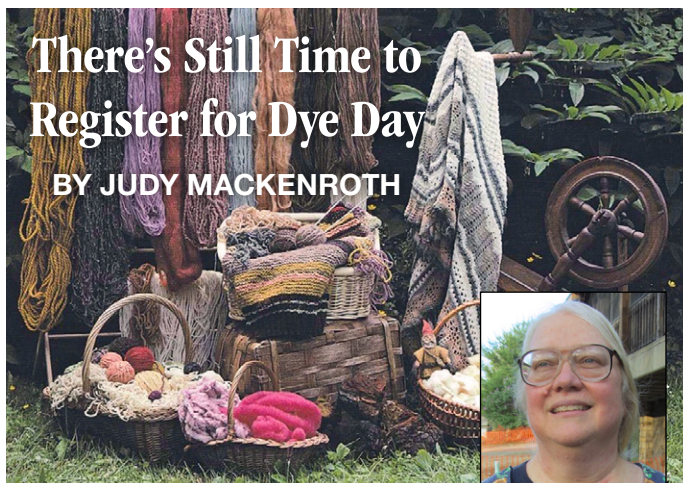
## MORE DONATIONS FOR AUCTION & RAFFLE



WPMC continues to receive donations for this year's Lincoff Foray Auction/Raffle. WPMC Identifier **Barbora Batokova** will donate a set of 12 mushroom greeting cards, which she designed with some of her amazing photography. If you can't wait until the Foray, you may purchase them now on Barbora's website. Just go to: <https://fungiwoman.com/collections/mushroom-greeting-cards>

If you have mushroom-related items that you would like to donate to this year's Auction/Raffle, send an email to Cecily Franklin at [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com) with a photo and description.

**NO BOOKS OR MAGAZINES, PLEASE.**



(Above) Mushroom dyed fibers by Arleen Bessette, as shown on the cover of her book, *The Rainbow Beneath My Feet - A Mushroom Dyer's Field Guide*.



Judy Mackenroth

**WPMC's Mushroom Education Day is DYE DAY this year on Saturday, August 21. Here's the schedule:**

10:00 AM Mushroom Walk (free)  
12:00 PM Harmar Shelter  
South Ridge Drive, Allison Park, PA  
Display & Identify Mushrooms  
LUNCH (Bring your own)  
Registration (afternoon-only participants)  
Sales Table Open

1:00 to 4:00 PM How to Dye with Mushrooms (Judy Mackenroth)

NO PRIOR MUSHROOM or dyeing experience is required. We'll be demonstrating a variety of dye techniques. You'll learn about fiber preparation for dyeing, the actual dye process, how pH affects colors, what mordants are and how to use them to fix/change the dye color and, of course, what dye mushrooms are available locally.

Bring a lunch and some \$ to buy books. Registration is required for the afternoon session, which will run from 1:00-4:00 PM, where we'll actually be dyeing a variety of fibers with mushrooms. Space is limited. The cost for the afternoon session is only \$10. To register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/mushroom-education-day-dye-day2021/>

### Directions to Harmar Shelter

Harmar Shelter is the largest pavilion in North Park. To get there from the main entrance to the park, take Babcock Blvd. toward the swimming pool. Turn left onto Hemlock Drive. Turn left onto South Ridge Drive. Make a slight right to stay on South Ridge Drive. Harmar Shelter will be on the left.



## WPMC Updates Websites

By Richard Jacob

AROUND APRIL OF this year, WPMC transitioned its websites from one local hosting company, Pair Networks, to another, TeraSwitch. The new hosting offers a dedicated computer for our websites, along with increased flexibility in the types of websites and features we can use for the same price.

With the old hosting company, the website had limited resources, particularly in disk space and CPU power. Last year we ran into performance issues with the Bolete Filter that receives tens of thousands of visitors per year with hundreds of thousands of page views. The website was slow to display on initial loading, when using the filter to identify boletes, and there were layout issues caused by the overloaded server.

The transfer to the new host did not go completely as planned. During the transfer, there was a configuration error and the site had to be rebuilt. This in itself was not an issue, but it caused another problem with the security certificates that are recommended for all websites. During this period, the website was slow and unreliable. Eventually the problem was resolved, and the performance is now better than it was with the old hosting company. We hope that the new hosting computer will allow the main website and Bolete Filter to continue working, even under seasonal load, now that the Boletes are fruiting. We have some additional plans to improve the performance of the Bolete Filter for the future.

The second issue that had to be resolved was the layout design or “theme” we were using for the main website. We had been using the same theme since 2013, and some of the technologies it was using had become obsolete and were becoming a security hazard. We have now moved to a new theme, although the current layout is similar. The new theme gives us a lot more options in laying out pages, walk reports and other aspects of the website. Over the next few months, expect to see some of these features become more prominent, and there will also be a change in color scheme.

*If you have some website design experience, especially with page design in the modern WordPress block style or would like to learn, please contact WPMC Webmaster Richard Jacob at [site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org).*

## WPMC's Facebook Group Goes “Private”

By Richard Franklin



On June 11, WPMC's Facebook Group was changed from a “Public” group to a “Private” group. This was necessary because Facebook introduced sweeping changes to public groups. While Facebook intended for these changes to make public groups more “open”, they would allow people to join without approval or to comment and post without joining. Although there are new “tools” to help manage these new “features”, the club's Board of Directors voted to take the group private so that it remains as it was intended—a communication vehicle for its members.

WPMC members should see no changes in how the group works. Non-members will be able to see announcements and other public information about WPMC and its activities on the club website <http://wpamushroomclub.org> and Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/WPMC>.

## New Book: *Finding the Mother Tree*

FOREST ECOLOGIST **SUZANNE SIMARD** didn't invent the expression “Wood Wide Web,” but it was her research that inspired it.

Ms. Simard started her career as a researcher at the British Columbia Ministry of Forests. On their pine plantations, the ministry eliminated plants that competed with young trees for sun and water, but the pine seedlings failed to thrive. Ms. Simard's intuition was that the “weed” plants were somehow necessary for the well-being of the seedlings.

Her study discovered that fungi, in fact, attach to the roots of multiple trees of different species, creating pipelines by which a forest community might share nutrients and other molecules. Her paper made the cover of the journal *Nature* in 1997.

In her new book, *Finding the Mother Tree: Discovering the Wisdom of the Forest*, Ms. Simard writes of her own life, born and raised in the rainforests of British Columbia, of her days as a child spent cataloging the trees from the forest, and how she came to love and respect them.

### Product details:

Publisher: Knopf

Hardcover: 368 pages

ISBN-13: 978-0525656098



**FINDING THE  
MOTHER TREE**  
Discovering the  
Wisdom of the Forest  
**SUZANNE SIMARD**

## Choose WPMC as your Charity on AmazonSmile

WPMC HAS REGISTERED with AmazonSmile, so that Amazon purchases can benefit WPMC. Whenever you shop at Amazon, just designate the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to WPMC. “Same products, same prices, same service.” It's easy to get started with this link:

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi\\_chpf\\_redirect?ein=25-1858797&ie=UTF8&ref=smi\\_ext\\_ch\\_25-1858797\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ein=25-1858797&ie=UTF8&ref=smi_ext_ch_25-1858797_cl)

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## WPMC Scholarships & Grants

WPMC administers an annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions. Application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/education/wpam-scholarship-grant-application/>



## Photo Contest

JUST IN TIME TO help us get ready for this year's WPMC Photo Contest, Fungal Diversity Survey ([fundis.org](http://fundis.org)) has provided us with a useful graphic and video to help us take better photos. Sam Buc-ciarelli, Diversity Database Coordinator on iNaturalist, created the graphic below. And FunDiS Board member Sigrid Jakob made this one-minute video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_SaG4slx8R0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SaG4slx8R0)

Here are the rules for this year's WPMC Photo Contest:

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2021
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files **minimum** 1 MB
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- **Email entries to Sara Klingensmith:**  
[pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com](mailto:pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com)

You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date.

### Entry Divisions

**Pictorial:** This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. The objective is a photo suitable for display or illustration in a fine book. Judging criteria include consideration of both technical (focus, depth of field, exposure, lighting, color, absence of distracting elements) and artistic (composition, color, background, lighting) aspects.

**Documentary:** For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture. Emphasis is placed on portrayal of key morphological characteristics such that the usefulness of the image as an identification aid is maximized. Subjects may be shot in the field, laboratory or studio and the photographer has complete freedom to process, manipulate, or orient the specimen in any desired manner to achieve the goal. Close-ups of single features and photomicrographs are acceptable. Judging criteria will be the same as in the Pictorial category but they will be of secondary importance to the overall mycological utility of the photo. Accurate identification of the subject will be a consideration.

**Judge's Option:** For photos which do not fit into the Pictorial or Documentary divisions. Examples include fungi in an interesting situation, fungi with animals, people enjoying fungi.

**Subjects for Pictorial and Documentary:** Organisms from the *Myxomycota* (slime molds) and the classes *Basidiomycetes* and *Ascomycetes* of the *Eumycota* ("true fungi") are eligible. For Judge's Option, nearly anything goes, so long as the theme relates to fungi, and fungi are a key element of the photograph.

## WPMC Goes to the Movies

ON MAY 4, WPMC IDENTIFIER **Julie Travaglini** (representing Allegheny Land Trust) introduced the documentary *The Truffle Hunters* at The Tull Family Theater in Sewickley. On May 7, Honorary Lifetime member **Barbara DeRiso** introduced the movie with a presentation about her own experiences with truffle hunting in Italy. Also on May 7, WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** and Sales Chair **Erin Gaughan** sold mushroom books at WPMC's Sales Table, while Past President **Jim Wasik** promoted upcoming WPMC activities with current and prospective members.

*Dear Barb and Cecily,*

*Friday night was simply fantastic by all measures!*

*We thank you both for making this Science on Screen event such a success—Cecily, for again connecting us with the perfect presenter and Dr. Barb, for sharing your time and the unique experiences that are only dreams for so many people. Even knowing that the truffle hunting group in Italy is small, it was a pleasant surprise to learn that one of your forays and meals was with Edigio and his family—really brought home the point that truffle hunting is a way of life, not merely something re-enacted for this film.*

*Working with WPMC is a wonderful experience. Cecily, as you pointed out, the club is filled with "doers" and so many friendly people willing to share their time and talents. It was a pleasure meeting you both, and we definitely look forward to working with you again!*

*With appreciation on behalf of the entire Theater team,*

*Karen*

*Dr. Karen Ferrick-Roman*

*Director of Communications and Education*



## Upcoming Meetings, continued



**SEPTEMBER 21**

**John Michelotti**

*How to Quit Your Job and Devote your Life to Mushrooms*

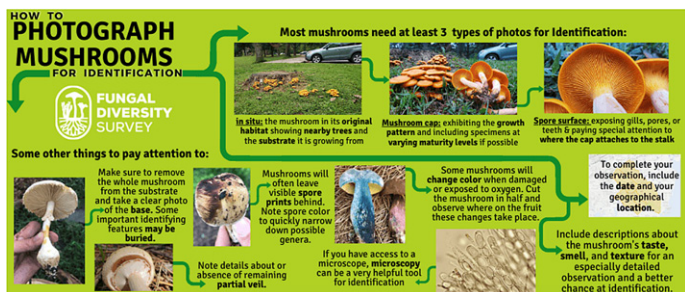
JOHN MICHELOTTI, Founder of Catskill Fungi, will share this presentation, which he gave at the Telluride Mushroom Festival. It is a journey of stories that is a tribute to Gary Lincoff and highlights how John and other mushroom folks have made their way through life by devoting their lives to fungi.

**OCTOBER 19**

*Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers*

**NOVEMBER 16**

*Potluck Dinner & Member Photos*



# Mushroom Resources for Beginners

By Richard Jacob

MANY MEMBERS JOIN WPMC because they have an interest in foraging for edible mushrooms. Over the last year and a half, it has been difficult for the club to teach or pass on knowledge to new members, due to the lack of walks and meetings—the bread and butter of our interactions. Although we have adapted by moving to zoom meetings, it is not quite the same.

There is more to learning about mushrooms than how to identify a few species. You need to know where and when they can be found and if there are lookalike or poisonous species to be aware of. You need to know the kind of environment where they can be found, the season and the weather conditions that help them fruit. I certainly learn more quickly when holding fresh mushrooms in my hand in the forest, while someone more knowledgeable than myself points out the identifying features and other interesting facts about the species.

When you don't have access to your local mushroom club's meetings, the traditional resource for learning about mushrooms is a guidebook. There are a lot of books that cover both the US and narrower regions like the Northeast. Some books are easier for the beginner to access than others. The exact books you need—there will be more than one if you start being interested in more than just the edible species—is a little harder to determine.

For those interested in foraging for edible species, I recommend *The Complete Mushroom Hunter* by Gary Lincoff or *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada* by David Spahr. For a pocket field guide, I recommend *Mushrooms of the Northeast* by Walt Sturgeon, as it may actually fit in your pocket. It covers groups of related species, rather than all the individual ones. This makes for a good starting point towards identifications and makes you ready to appreciate a more thorough guide to local species when you want to know more. I will do a more complete book comparison later in the year, but for now these are good starting points.

The more modern approach to learning about a subject is to look at online resources. I am mainly going to cover resources provided by WPMC, rather than the internet as a whole. At [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org), the main section to look at is under the "Education & Scholarships" menu. There's an archive of talks going back a

few years. I particularly recommend the "Can I Eat That? Edible Mushroom Year Talk" to people interested in foraging. There are also plenty of other talks, covering a variety of subjects.

WPMC's more recent monthly meetings are archived on our YouTube Channel and again cover a wide range of subjects. There are a couple of pages on the rules and regulations concerning where you can pick mushrooms and what you need to do if you are going to sell them. One of the more important educational pages is "Mushroom Toxicity," which covers the common toxic mushrooms in detail, so that you know what to avoid. Finally, what do you do with all these edible mushrooms that you are now finding? WPMC has a selection of recipes collected by members to get you started.

For help identifying specimens, I recommend using iNaturalist over Facebook groups. iNaturalist is made for reporting and verifying species identifications. Your observations will be recorded and help in citizen science projects. While some Facebook groups are good, and even run by local club members and identifiers, others are a mixed bag. I tend to find iNaturalist a more friendly place. You can also use your iNaturalist observations as a list for the Button ID badges. Once you have signed up with iNaturalist, join the WPMC project. There is a phone app that makes it easy to upload pictures of the mushrooms you find, and many of the club's identifiers and mycologists are active on the site.

WPMC maintains a catalog of photographs and a life list of species that are found in the area, but both are out of date and currently undergoing updates. Even so, they can be a useful resource of local species and are referenced by our species lists that are published after each walk. WPMC runs one specialist identification aid for Boletus mushrooms, many of which are edible. The Boletus Filter is a triage (A Synoptic Key) for North American Boletus developed by WPMC Boletus Specialist **Scott Pavelle**.

There are a lot of mushroom-related resources on the internet, and I want to give a special mention to WPMC Identifier **Adam Haritan**, who runs Learn Your Land. Adam releases top-notch videos on identifying mushrooms and plants. He also has an excellent online course on foraging for mushrooms. Another mushroom website of note is MushroomExpert by this year's foray guest speaker, **Michael Kuo**.

That's a very brief description of some of the resources provided by WPMC to get you started on your mushroom adventures. I hope to look at a couple of them in more detail in future newsletters, especially an evaluation of guidebooks and the updating of the Club's species lists.

## Out & About with WPMC



ON MAY 5, WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** gave a presentation on "Mushrooms of Pennsylvania" to the Butler Outdoor Club.

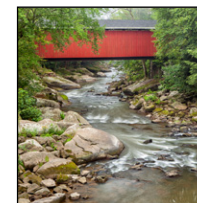
ON JUNE 5, WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** and the Western New York Mycology Club led a Pop-Up walk at the Marilla Reservoir in Bradford, PA.



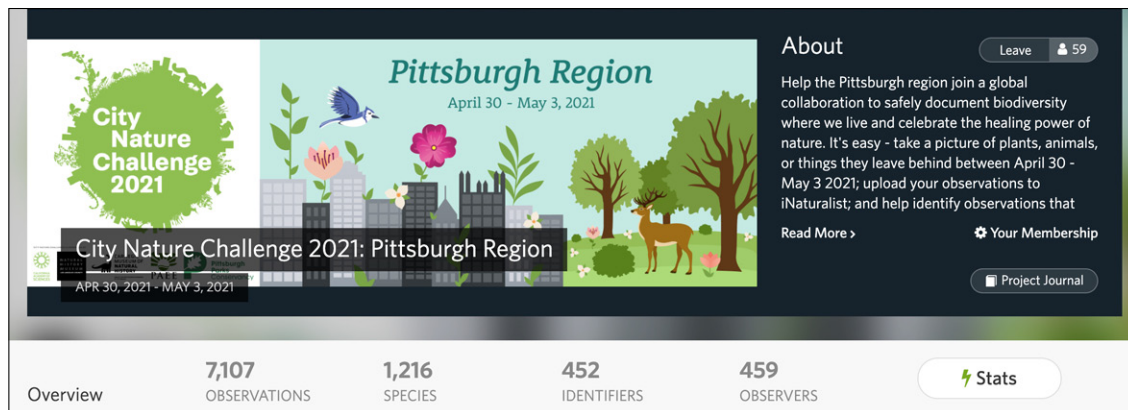
ON JUNE 6, WPMC Past President **Richard Jacob** and WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** hosted a table and led a mushroom walk at the Phipps BioBlitz Family Fun Festival in Schenley Park.

ON JUNE 12, WPMC Identifier **Cara Coulter** led a Pop-Up mushroom walk at the Beaver Meadows Recreation Area, part of the Allegheny National Forest.

ON JUNE 20, WPMC Identifier **Jerry Sapp** led a Father's Day Pop-Up mushroom walk at McConnells Mill State Park.







## 2021 City Nature Challenge Wrap-Up & Highlights

By Stephen Bucklin

THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE is an annual event that encourages people who live in or near participating cities around the world to get outside and document what's living around them, using the iNaturalist app or website. This year it took place over the weekend of April 30-May 3, and the global event saw participation in 419 cities from 44 different countries, yielding over 1,270,000 observations.

In Pittsburgh, we saw a slight decrease in overall participation compared to last spring's numbers (especially on the identification end--over 40% of observations still need to be identified!) Despite the lower overall participation, we saw a slight increase in the total number of fungi observed and the diversity of species. Our fungi-specific stats for this year's challenge were 679 observations from 146 different observers representing at least 105 species of fungi.

The most commonly observed species of fungi included Dryad's saddle (*Cerioporus squamosus*), common greenshield lichen (*Flavoparmelia caperata*), and the common white morel (*Morchella*

*americana*). There was a pretty good representation of ascomycete fungi, including *Verpa conica*, *Morchella diminutiva*, *Gyromitra brunnea*, *Disciotis venosa*, and *Urula craterium*. There were also some interesting rust, leafspot, and canker fungi documented, including *Septoria viriditingens*, *Aurantioporthe corni*, *Neonectria detissima*, *Puccinia mariae-wilsoniae*, *Puccinia lagenophorae*, *Puccinia liliacearum*, *Puccinia violae* and, of course, *Allodus podophylli*.

Overall, there was considerable effort to photograph, collect, and identify the fungi of the greater Pittsburgh region during this year's City Nature Challenge. I'm always impressed by how many folks participate and by how diverse and surprising our spring fungi can be. I'm already looking forward to next year's challenge and seeing if I can push myself to find species that are new to me. While we didn't reach the arbitrary goal of 200 species that I set this spring, we still documented more species than any previous year. It will be exciting to see what treasures await us next spring!



Barbora Batokova



Beth Dinger



Heather Cole



Eli Nitzberg

### WPMC Names 2 Identifiers

WPMC has two new Identifiers! Both **Barbora Batokova** and **Beth Dinger** submitted their lists of known mushrooms to ID Button Program Chair Julie Travaglini for approval. Then the Board of Directors voted to make both of them club Identifiers.



### WPMC Awards Two "10" ID Buttons

WPMC has also awarded "10" ID Buttons to **Heather Cole** and **Eli Nitzberg**. To learn more about the ID Button program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms, go to:

<http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/button-id-program/>



Day and time for walks vary. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. Check the website at [www.wpamushroomclub.org/](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/) events for updates, directions, and much more!



## WPMC Walks

**FRIDAY, JULY 16 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM SOLD OUT**

### **Beginner's Mushroom Walk at Bethel Green with Allegheny Land Trust**

Route 88 & Valley Drive, Bethel Park (parking lot across the street from OPEX Bethel Park)

New to the mushrooming hobby? Always wanted to attend a WPMC walk but felt a little intimidated? Join ALT Senior Director of Education and Curriculum and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for an introductory walk and ID session. Learn how and where to look for mushrooms, general family and order identification tips and the common names of the mushrooms we encounter. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. *Masks are required and due to COVID-19 group size restrictions NO WALK-INS will be permitted.*

**For more information:**

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/beginners-mushroom-walk-with-wpmc/>

**SATURDAY, JULY 17 • 10:00 AM**

### **Hartwood Acres**

Meet WPMC Identifier **Barbora Batokova** at the Mansion parking lot. (In case of construction, meeting place may have to be changed. Watch for updates at:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/hartwood-acres-7/>).

**JULY 31 • 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM SOLD OUT**

### **Sycamore Island with Allegheny Land Trust**

101 Arch Street, Verona

Join ALT staff and WPMC identifiers for a mushroom hunting trip to Sycamore Island. The boat (provided by Allegheny Cleanways) will begin transferring participants from Steel City Rowing Club to the island at 9:00 am and will bring everyone back by 11:30 am for the identification table. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. The fee for the boat is \$25 per person, and there are no member discounts. *Masks are required and due to COVID-19 group size restrictions NO WALK-INS will be permitted. For more information:*

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/sycamore-island-mushroom-hunt-with-wpmc/>

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

### **Churchill Valley Greenway with Allegheny Land Trust**

899 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Join an ALT staff member and a WPMC Identifier for a mushroom walk and ID session at ALT's newest green space: Churchill Valley Greenway (NOTE: At the time of posting this event, ALT does not yet own the green space). Please note we will not be foraging for food on this hike. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. *Masks will be required for portions of this event. NO WALK-INS will be permitted. Pre-registration required. To register:*

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/aug-mushroom-hunt/>

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 • 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

### **Dye Day Walk at North Park**

Meet WPMC Identifier **Judy Mackenroth** at Harmar Shelter. See page 3 for more information.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 • 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

### **Wingfield Pines Conservation Area**

Mayview Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241 (Upper St. Clair) with ALT

Join an ALT staff member and WPMC Identifier for a mushroom walk and ID session. Please note we will not be foraging for food on this hike. The gate to Wingfield Pines will be open. Please drive down the driveway to park in the lower parking lot. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. *Masks will be required for portions of this event. NO WALK-INS will be permitted. Pre-registration required. To register:*

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/sept-mushroom-hunt/>

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • 10:00 AM**

### **Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest, Clarion County**

Meet WPMC Identifiers and **Park Ranger Dale Luthringer** at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2 • 10:00 AM**

### **Audubon Greenway (Sewickley) with ALT.**

(More information to be provided.) *NO WALK-INS will be permitted. Pre-registration required.*

*To register:* <https://alleghenylandtrust.org/events/>

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 • 10:00 AM**

### **Black Friday Walk at Hartwood Acres**

Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** at the Mansion parking lot for our annual Black Friday mushroom walk.

## Other Walks, Forays & Events

**JUNE 18 – JULY 4**

International Mountain Trekking Eco/Mushroom Tour of the Himalayas: <https://vimeo.com/463936289>

**AUGUST 12-15**

North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray, Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby CO  
[www.namyc.org](http://www.namyc.org)

**SEPTEMBER 18**

21st Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray, Rose Barn at North Park  
See pages 2 & 3 for more information.

**SEPTEMBER 19**

Science Sunday with WPMC, Rose Barn at North Park  
See pages 2 & 3 for more information.



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## BOLETE SPECIALIST

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MUSHROOM!**

## Important Walk & Foray Information

- Try to dig up three of the same species at different stages of development.
- Don't pick old mushrooms; leave them to drop spores.
- You are responsible for not getting lost. If you have a tendency to wander off, stick like glue to the others. We won't wait for you, and we won't come to look for you.
- Don't take the identification of the person standing next to you; they might not know as much as you do. Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for advice.
- 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 they know well.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms. You should go home and check books yourself.
- Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your responsibility alone.
- **Help Keep Our Parks Clean!** When mushrooming, it's easy to bring a plastic grocery bag to collect cans, bottles or other trash you find. Trash cans are generally found nearby. If not, take it home for disposal.

## Walks & Forays Check List:

- ☐ Bring a buddy or two. **Do not forage alone!**
- ☐ Dress for the weather, carry a rain poncho
- ☐ Bring drinking water and lunch
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Basket for collecting
- ☐ Knife for cutting mushrooms
- ☐ Wax or paper bags (no plastic) to keep mushrooms separated
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Hand lens
- ☐ Cell phone & camera
- ☐ Notebook & pencil
- ☐ Field guide for identification
- ☐ Band-aids
- ☐ Garden hand-clippers

**NOTE: The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club does not endorse or support the commercial harvesting of wild mushrooms from any state, county or city park. WPMC does promote the gathering of mushrooms—where permitted—for recreational, educational and scientific purposes.**



## Donations to WPMC May be Deductible under CARES Act

Looking for a way to support WPMC's projects? Make a donation anytime. It may be tax-deductible, even if you take the standard deduction, because the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allows individuals to deduct contributions made to qualified charitable organizations.

The CARES Act allows a deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to \$300 by individuals. New in 2021 is an additional deduction for those married filing jointly. Joint filers who aren't itemizing will be allowed to take a deduction of up to \$600 in cash contributions to charity this year.

Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a loved one. Your employer may even match your contribution. Make checks payable to Western Pa. Mushroom Club and submit them to our Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.

## WPMC Membership Report

By Kris Murawski

Thank you to everyone who has joined WPMC in 2021. I hope all of our new and renewing members will join us at our Virtual Meetings on Zoom until we can meet again safely in person.

This year is our largest membership year ever, and our membership keeps growing. As of June 15, we have 1,099 members, representing 618 households. Benefits of WPMC membership include:

- Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter • WPMC Facebook Group
- Monthly Meeting Notices • Updates on WPMC Events
- Mushroom Identification at Meetings • Mushroom Walks
- Mushroom Education Day • Annual Photo Contest
- Free 'Grow-Your-Own' Mushroom Kit
- WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray Discount

To join or renew, download the membership application or pay online here: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

NOTE: All 2020 members were automatically given free renewal for 2021. If you wish to continue receiving the hardcopy of the newsletter for 2021, you need to select that option and pay the \$5 fee. If any current members choose to voluntarily submit dues for 2021, we will gladly use those contributions to support WPMC's programs and events.

## WPMC Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. Articles, photos, news items and other submissions should be sent to the Editor at least 6-8 weeks prior to targeted distribution. 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 the newsletters may only be used in other non-profit publications with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

**Cecily Franklin, Editor**  
**Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.**  
**Send submissions to: [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com)**

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# WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Anyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member.

COMPLETE THIS FORM **PRINT CLEARLY**, SIGN AND MAIL

## Members are entitled to:

The WPMC newsletter • Nine monthly WPMC meetings • Free participation in WPMC walks • Discount for WPMC forays

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

Interests (e.g.: foraging, identification, cooking, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERING. TAKE SPECIAL CARE WITH EMAIL ADDRESSES:  
numeral "1," uppercase "I" and lowercase "L" look the same.**

**Please return completed, signed and dated form (with check payable to Western PA Mushroom Club) to:**

WPMC, c/o Kris Murawski, 5625 Villa Haven Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236 • [membership@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:membership@wpamushroomclub.org)

or visit <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> to pay using a credit card.

Please indicate your newsletter/event announcement preference: ☐ Electronic via e-mail ☐ Hardcopy via US mail (\$5 additional)

☐ \$15 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$10 Full-time Student ☐ \$5 Newsletter Hardcopy Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 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:**

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_



# 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY

## Special 3-day event: September 17, 18 & 19, 2021

### Locations: Cook Forest State Park & North Park

**GUEST MYCOLOGISTS:** **Michael Kuo**, developer of mushroomexpert.com and author of *Morels*; *100 Edible Mushrooms*; *100 Cool Mushrooms*; and *Mushrooms of the Midwest*. **Leon Shernoff**, editor of *Mushroom the Journal of Wild Mushrooming*.

#### CHOOSE ONE, TWO, OR ALL THREE DAYS:

**Friday, Sept. 17, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM:** Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County). FREE. Meet at Shelter 2. No registration is required, but participants are responsible for transportation and lunch.

**Saturday, Sept. 18, 7:30 AM - 7:30 PM:** Walks, presentations, auction, book signing, sales, table-walk, and mushroom feast. Rose Barn, North Park (Allegheny County). Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. (Registration required)

**Sunday, Sept. 19, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM:** Learn how to identify mushrooms found at Cook Forest and North Park, using keys, chemicals, microscopes, and DNA analysis. Bring a lunch. Rose Barn, North Park. (Registration required)

**Select day(s) you wish to attend. Indicate the number of persons for each item selected. All fees per person.**

- |                                                                                                        |                                         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Friday, Sept. 17, 10 AM to 1 PM: Cook Forest State Park (Free)</b>         | # of participants: _____                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Saturday, Sept. 18, 7:30 AM to 7:30 PM: Foray (Registration required)</b>  | # of adults: _____ # of students: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sunday, Sept. 19, 9 AM to 4 PM: Science Sunday (Registration required)</b> | # of participants: _____                |

**WPMC will follow Pennsylvania and Allegheny County COVID guidelines in effect on September 17-19.**

INDICATE NUMBER PARTICIPANTS FOR EACH EVENT:

**\$40 WPMC member:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Foray & Feast

**\$60 Non-members:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday Foray & Feast  
(includes 2021-22 Membership)

**\$25 Students (with ID):** \_\_\_\_\_  
& kids 11 to 18 / 10 & under free  
(members or non-members)

**\$20 Members & Non-members :** \_\_\_\_\_  
Science Sunday  
(fee not included with foray registration)

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTER & PAY ONLINE:** [www.wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/)

**REGISTER & PAY BY CHECK (payable to Western PA Mushroom Club):**

WPMC c/o Kris Murawski • 5625 Villa Haven Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15236

**FOR MORE INFO:** FLUFF BERGER, Foray Chair: 724-601-8382 / [Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org)

**REGISTRATION & RELEASE: SIGNED & DATED RELEASE FORM IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR ATTENDANCE.**

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 (if participant is under age 18, signature of parent or guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY: (INCLUDE NAMES OF CHILDREN UNDER TEN)

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

FOR ADDITIONAL NAMES / SIGNATURES, PLEASE INCLUDE AN EXTRA PAGE