



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

■ *Fungi, Fun & Friends!* ■

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 3

JULY / AUGUST 2023

2023 Meeting Schedule

July 18 Mushroom Foraging for Beginners

Olga Tzogas

TAKE A LOOK at the roles mushrooms play within our lives, the forest, and in food systems. Learn basic concepts of mycology, explore their biology and ecology, and start seeing them in a whole new way. Learn the basics to recognize them in the field. Use all your senses to learn about the vast and diverse world of mushrooms and fungi. Together we demystify their complexity and start becoming comfy in being able to recognize them based on their anatomy, smell and more.

NOTE: If you would like to order mushroom kits from Smugtown Mushrooms, place your order using the link below before the July meeting. Olga will bring orders on July 18, with no charge for shipping. <https://www.smugtownmushrooms.com/shop>

Aug. 15 Lincoff Foray: 2022 Results & 2023 Preparations

Cara Coulter and Garrett Taylor

WPMC MYCOLOGISTS **Cara Coulter** and **Garrett Taylor** will review what we learned from the 2022 Lincoff Foray, new friends, acquaintances, and some things hiding in plain sight. Cara and Garrett will also explain what we did right, what we can improve upon, and our plans for this year regarding DNA.

Sept. 19 Lichens

Natalie Howe, PhD & Tom McCoy

Oct. 17 Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers

Nov. 21 Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards

WPMC MEETINGS ARE held on the third Tuesday evening of each month from March through November at the Frick Environmental Center. Each meeting features updates on club activities, a speaker/presentation, mushroom identification table, and mushroom-related merchandise for sale. Meetings are free and open to the public.



Olga Tzogas



Cara Coulter

Garrett Taylor

City Nature Challenge 2023: Pittsburgh Region



THE 2023 WORLDWIDE City Nature Challenge took place from April 28 through May 1. The Pittsburgh Region included Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties. As shown in the above graphic, the Pittsburgh Region uploaded a total of 6,151 observations, including 1,231 different species (not just mushrooms).

Among WPMC officers, President **Stephen Bucklin** submitted 145 observations, Vice President **Cara Coulter** shared 95, and WPMC Secretary **Julie Travaglini** uploaded 67. To see more results, go to:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2023-pittsburgh-region>



GARY • LINCOFF • FORAY

23rd ANNUAL WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB

GARY • LINCOFF • FORAY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 • THE LODGE, NORTH PARK

WALKS • AUCTION • LIVE MUSIC • MUSHROOM FEAST

GUESTS MYCOLOGISTS:

DR. BARRIE OVERTON • PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, LOCH HAVEN UNIVERSITY

NOAH SIEGEL • PREMIER MUSHROOM PHOTOGRAPHER

FREE MUSHROOM WALK FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29 • COOK FOREST



REGISTRATION REQUIRED: [WPAMUSHROOMCLUB.ORG/LINCOFF-FORAY/](https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/)

John Gardiner Sharp/stockphoto

Register Now for 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

ONLINE REGISTRATION IS now open for the 23rd annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 30, at The Lodge in North Park. Register at this link:

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

Pricing is the same as last year, until September 1. Beginning on that date, prices will increase by \$10. See details below.

Current WPMC member (2023 dues previously paid):

- \$50 until Sept. 1 / \$60 on or after Sept. 1

Non-Members:

- \$70 until Sept. 1 (includes 2023-24 membership) / \$80 on or after Sept. 1

Students (with ID) and kids 11 to 18 (Kids 10 & under are free):

- \$30 until Sept. 1 / \$40 on or after Sept. 1

While you're registering, be sure to order an official **Lincoff Foray T-Shirt**. They're \$20 each and come in sizes small through XXL.



Saturday Schedule at The Lodge

THE OFFICIAL FORAY takes place on Saturday, September 30, at The Lodge in Allegheny County's North Park. Activities will include:

- Guided morning walks
- Mushroom display tables
- Mushroom Feast
- Live Music
- Afternoon speakers
- Auction, Sales Tables & Vendors
- Table Walk
- NEW: Food Trucks!

The Annual Gary Lincoff Foray is WPMC's signature event, and it wouldn't be possible without the help of volunteers. Our volunteers are club members just like you who donate their time to make the event happen.

It's an all-day event, but you don't have to volunteer for the entire day. We have small volunteer opportunities that will not take more than a couple of hours of your time. We need help with setting up tables and chairs on Friday and taking them down on Saturday. We also need runners on the day of the event to help with the mushroom display tables and other activities.

We will again be offering rebates on Foray registration to those who volunteer their time at the event in some way. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail lincoff-foray@wpamushroomclub.org for more details. We appreciate your support!

Wildwood Road Detour

IF YOU HAVE USED Wildwood Road (Yellow Belt) to get to North Park, you will need to find an alternate route or allow extra time to get to the Lincoff Foray this year. That's because the bridge that carries Wildwood over Willow Run and the Allegheny Valley Railroad is closed through early November. Detours will be posted, but you may want to consult Google Maps for an alternate route. The address for The Lodge at North Park is North Ridge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101.

Free Walks at Cook Forest Precede Foray

ON THURSDAY EVENING, September 28, WPMC will host a UV Walk at Cook Forest. Meet WPMC experts and Environmental Education Specialist **Dale Luthringer** at 7:30 p.m. to search for mushrooms in the dark. The exact meeting place will be announced in the September-October newsletter. There is

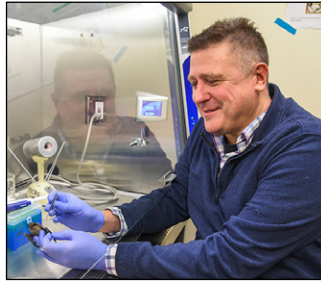
no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation.

On Friday, September 29, WPMC will host its annual Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC experts and Environmental Education Specialist **Dale Luthringer** at 10:00 a.m. at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.



Guests Mycologists Barrie Overton and Noah Siegel

DR. BARRIE OVERTON is a professor of biology at Loch Haven University (now part of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania), where he teaches Biology and Mycology courses. His areas of expertise include plant pathology, identification of wild edible mushrooms, and White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats.



WNS is a fatal disease, caused by *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, a fungus that has devastated North American bat populations. At this year's Gary Lincoff Foray, Dr. Overton will talk about WNS and the new species of *Pseudogymnoascus* that he has found in Pennsylvania caves.

NOAH SIEGEL, one of the premier mushroom photographers in the nation, will present "Under Pressure: Evolution Oddities in the Fungal World". This lecture will highlight some of the fascinating traits which fungi have evolved due to environmental pressures, and the strive to get ahead in the fungal world.



Noah's field mycology skills are extensive—he has spent over three decades seeking, photographing, identifying, and furthering his knowledge about all aspects of macrofungi. He has hunted for mushrooms throughout the United States and Canada, as well as on multiple expeditions to New Zealand, Australia and Cameroon.

Auction Donations Keep Coming

DONATIONS CONTINUE TO come in for the Auction/Raffle at this year's 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 30. We've got toys & games, clothing & accessories, books & magazines, home décor, *and much more!* Raffle tickets will be \$1 and may be purchased at the Foray, so bring along some extra bucks. All donations must be received or confirmed prior to the Foray.

If you would like to donate a mushroom-related item for the auction, call **Kathy Gilotty** at 412-445-3121 or email **Cecily Franklin** at cs4wpmc@gmail.com.



Lincoff Foray Cooks Needed

BY MIKE HENRY

FELLOW MUSHROOM LOVERS, if you are planning to attend this year's Lincoff Foray, and you love to cook your favorite food (mushrooms!), now is a good time to think about bringing your signature dish to the Foray. You don't need to cook for 100 people – just 10 to 15.

If you plan to use wild-foraged mushrooms, you will need to first get them identified and approved by a WPMC Identifier or Mycologist. It's OK to use mushrooms that you bought at a store if you are uncomfortable with cooking wild mushrooms. In fact, your dish doesn't need to contain mushrooms at all; some members are allergic or sensitive to mushrooms and will need an alternative meal choice.

Anytime is the perfect time to think about what to bring, with so many delicious mushrooms all around us. We will also need volunteers to assist with setup, teardown, and other tasks. Please contact **Mike Henry** if you are interested in bringing a dish or volunteering for other kitchen duties at forayfood@wpamushroomclub.org.



*Chicken (of the Woods)
Nuggets with Chimichurri
by Mike Henry*

WPMC Names New Membership Co-Chair

WPMC IS PLEASED to announce that **Dawn Wehman** has joined with Kris Murawski to Co-Chair WPMC's membership committee. Kris will continue to send emails to WPMC members, while Dawn will take over the record-keeping for our ever-expanding membership.

Dawn has been a "nature-girl" since the 6th grade and has lived in New Jersey, Alaska, Wyoming, and Portugal, as well as spending the last 25 years in Western Pennsylvania. She's the mother of two, wife of one, and friend of many. She found out about WPMC from a magazine article around the year 2000 and finally joined in 2021.



The Great Chaga Hunt

BY BECKY PLISCHKE

EDITOR'S NOTE: WPMC Mycologist John Plischke volunteered to lead the club's first-ever Chaga Walk on July 1. For more information about Chaga, here's an article by John's mother that first appeared in a 2008 WPMC newsletter.

CHAGA – INONOTUS OBLIQUUS, Birch Conk, Chaga, or Clinker Polypore has been used in Russia as a folk medicine since the 16th century. It is used for the treatment of cancer, diabetes, and blood disorders, as well as for common stomach ailments such as gastritis, ulcers, and general pain. And it is antibacterial and antiviral. Nobel Prize winning author Alexander Solzhenitsyn credits Chaga with curing his cancer.

The Plischke Family (John & Kim, John & Becky) Chaga Foray started early one Friday morning. We were inspired by reading an article in the Minnesota Mycological Society newsletter. They went in winter and combined chaga hunting with cross country skiing. They say it is easier to see when there are no leaves on the trees. We were also inspired by the discussion on our Yahoo Groups last winter about chaga.

This June, John was giving 3 mushroom programs in northeast PA. That was the start of our adventure. We headed east on the PA turnpike, then northeast on I-81. All along I-81 we saw small white birch trees. We knew chaga is found on birch, but we were looking for larger trees. John III found our first chaga on a large yellow birch tree close to Nescopeck State Park. We were so excited because this tree had two large chaga mushrooms on it. They were bigger than softballs. Problem: They were about ten feet up in the tree. (Photo 1)

John found a large rectangular rock and rolled it over to the tree to stand on. We were determined to get that chaga. Problem: How do we get it off the tree? We had read in the Minnesota newsletter that they used hatchets. We used a hammer. John whacked it while standing on the rock. He didn't hit it that hard when it flew off. He hit the second chaga and off it came. (Photo 2)

The first one was sort of round and solid. The second was about the same size but horseshoe shaped and hollow. We were so excited to find these two beautiful chagas. We had read that you only find chaga on one out of 15,000 birch trees. Luckily there are a lot of birch trees in that area of PA.

Later that day, while driving up a winding country road, John shouted, "Stop the car!" This is a common occurrence during mushroom season in our car. We couldn't pull off the road, so we went on until we could turn around. Coming back down the steep hill, John & Kim got out and went after the next chaga.

This was another challenging one. It was too high up in the tree to reach. Kim found a long dead branch and they proceeded to use it to knock the chaga off the birch tree. They were successful. Another beautiful chaga to add to our collection!

Kim & John had to wait for us to turn around and come back up the hill to pick them up. What else was there to do while waiting for us? Why, look for more! There, on the base of a nearby birch, were 8-10 small chaga about the size of golf balls. Those were easily knocked off with a rock. They were the last chaga we found on the trip, although we did keep looking.

The next morning at breakfast, I broke off some of the black outer part and some of the golden center of one and made a cup of tea. I am a tea drinker, and it was very good. I read later that chaga tastes like a bitter coffee. I found no bitterness or coffee taste whatsoever. After breakfast we put all the chaga we found on the table to see how much we had. We were very pleased that on our first hunt we found three large and a lot of smaller ones. (Photo 3)

After coming home with our collection came the task of somehow grinding it to a size to make tea. We tried using a wood rasp. It produced a finely ground powder but was very time consuming. (Photo 4) We then, through trial and error, found that we could beat the chaga with a hammer into small pieces. (Photo 5) The next step was to get it



into even smaller pieces. I tried a food processor, but that didn't work too well. It kept getting stuck in the blades. So we tried an electric coffee grinder, and it did a great job of grinding the chaga into a fine powder. (Photo 6)

OK, now we have our chaga ground up, which we had to do to make tea. How do we make the tea? I decided to ask the experts. On Groups last winter there was a chaga tea discussion. I asked David Work of the Mid-Hudson Mycological Society how he made chaga tea. "I recommend breaking up the chaga into relatively small pieces, using about an ounce or two per quart of water. I simmer it for a couple of hours, cover it and let it steep for 4 to 6 hours then strain it and either hold it in the fridge for 3-4 days or freeze it and pull it out as needed." David also sent me a great recipe for a chaga chai tea.

I also asked David Spahr from Maine. He told me how he makes chaga tea. "I chop it into cubes and dry it, then grind it up into powder. Any of the black outer coating that seems loose and would easily fall rubbing it moderately in your hands I do not use. The rest I run through a grinder or hand crank gristmill. The tea is good if you brew it in a tea ball in the normal way. It can be mixed with other tea like chai, green tea or whatever you like. For medicinal effect, boiling for 2 hours or more is supposed to be best."

I asked Greg Marley, whose company Mushrooms for Health sells chaga tea and chaga chai tea. Greg said to grind up the chaga into small pieces. Boil 2 tablespoons of chaga in 2 quarts of water, then simmer for 20 minutes. The boiling brings out the medicinal qualities of the chaga. The chaga falls to the bottom of the pan, so you don't need to strain it. If you want, you can sweeten it with honey or any other sweetener you prefer. I did try it this way and it was very good. If you want to try chaga tea and can't find any in our area, you can contact Greg.

By the way, we have yet to find chaga in western PA. But they may be here. Keep a look out for an ugly looking black thing growing on a birch tree—you just may have found chaga.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Becky has made the following changes since 2008.

Now I break up the chaga using a sledgehammer with a flat bottom, instead of a hammer. I put the chaga in a flat bottom kitchen trash can that is dedicated only to chaga. When pounded, the chaga rarely flies out of the can. That gets the chaga small enough to grind. (Photo 7) The other thing that has changed is that I use a Cabela's meat grinder to grind the chaga into powder. It is fabulous! Again, the grinder is only used for chaga. (Photo 8) I also put the powder on trays to make sure it is dry before putting it in jars. (Photo 9)

Want to hunt for your own Chaga supply? Here's your opportunity!

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 10:00 A.M.

Chaga Walk at Gallitzin State Forest

Babcock Picnic Area, Route 56, four miles east of Windber
(Somerset County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** at the Babcock
Picnic Area of Gallitzin State Forest for WPMC's first-ever
Chaga Walk. Free and open to the public.





Cara Coulter and Dan Stockman took this selfie at Dark Hollow Woods.

Get Your Cameras & Cellphones Ready

ONCE AGAIN, WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will judge members' photos for our annual Photo Contest. In addition to the traditional categories (Documentary, Pictorial and Judge's Option), Sara has added a new category called "Mushroom Selfies".

Here are the Photo Contest rules for this year:

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2023
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- Email entries to Sara Klingensmith at pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com.
- Indicate in your email the desired category for each photo.

You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date. Photos submitted by non-members will not be considered.

Entry Divisions

Mushroom Selfies (New!): Entries must be single, self-taken ("selfie") cell phone photos of you with at least one mushroom. You may also include other willing people, your pets, and other animals that happen to cross the background in the photo. You may use selfie sticks, but no other person may take the photo for you.

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.

Subject material: Organisms from the Myxomycota (slime molds), the classes Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes of the Eumycota ("true fungi"), and Lichens 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.

Use and copyright: WPMC may use your photographs on the website, newsletter and Mushroom Catalog and when we do, they will always be accompanied by your name as photographer (mentioned on the same page or caption of the image). WPMC will not allow the use of your photographs on other websites, although realistically we cannot prevent this. We will not sell or provide the images to others without your permission and the images remain the property and under the copyright of you the photographer and are used under license by the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.

Out & About with WPMC



ON MAY 20 WPMC Identifier **Julie Travalini** hosted a mushroom themed table at the "Back to Roots Plant Swap" hosted by Wild Ones.



ALSO ON MAY 20, WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** led a mushroom walk at "Park 'til Dark" in South Park, sponsored by the Allegheny County Parks Foundation.



ON MAY 27, WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** led a mushroom walk at Peters Lake for "Celebrate the Lake", organized by Peters Township Parks and Recreation.



ON JUNE 2, WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** led a mushroom walk at Camp Allegany in New York, as part of the 65th annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.



ON JUNE 4, WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** led a mushroom walk and Past President Jim Wasik hosted a table at the Phipps BioBlitz in Schenley Park. To watch a report by KDKA News, go to: <https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/bioblitz-family-fun-festival-schenley-park/>



ON JUNE 17, WPMC Mycologists **John and Kim Plischke** led three events at Blue Knob State Park: a mushroom hike, a cultivation workshop, and a mushroom ID and cooking presentation.



Day and time for walks vary.

Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. Check the website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/ events for updates, directions, and much more!

WPMC Walks

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 10:00 A.M.

CHAGA WALK AT GALLITZIN STATE FOREST

Babcock Picnic Area, Route 56, four miles east of Windber (Somerset County). Meet WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** at the Babcock Picnic Area of Gallitzin State Forest for WPMC's first-ever Chaga Walk. Free and open to the public.

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 10:00 A.M.

HEADWATERS PARK (ERIE COUNTY)

1927 Wager Road, Erie, PA 16509

Meet WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** at the parking area near the Erie County Conservation District office. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

GARDEN IN THE PARK

North Park Demonstration Garden, Wildwood & Ingomar Roads

WPMC Honorary member **Barbara DeRiso** and **Dan Stockman** will host a WPMC table at "Garden in the Park", which is sponsored by the Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County. Stop by to say "hi" and bring any mushrooms for display. If you would like to lead a Chanterelle walk at North Park during this event, please contact WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter**.

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 9:00 A.M. TO NOON

SYCAMORE ISLAND with Allegheny Land Trust

SOLD OUT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 10:00 A.M. TO NOON

CROOKED CREEK LAKE RECREATION AREA

Ford City, PA (Armstrong County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Beth Ace** at the Outflow Fishing Area for a mushroom walk at Crooked Creek Lake.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 10:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

OIL CREEK STATE PARK (Venango County)

Join WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** for a walk on the Gerard Trail. Meet at the Cow Run Shelter parking lot on White City Road, Pleasantville, PA. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 6:00-8:00 P.M.

BEGINNERS MUSHROOM ID HIKE / Allegheny Land Trust

Bethel Green: Valley Drive Across the street from OPEX Bethel Park, PA 15234

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike and ID table at Bethel Green. Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up. Purchase tickets here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/57102-beginner-s-mushroom-id-hike-with-wpmc>



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

BEGINNERS MUSHROOM ID HIKE with Allegheny Land Trust

Audubon Greenway, 160 Magee Road, Sewickley

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike and ID table at Audubon Greenway. Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up. For tickets:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/55779-beginners-mushroom-id-hike>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 11:00 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

MUSHROOM TREASURE HUNT / UPPER SAINT CLAIR LIBRARY

Boyce Mayview Park – Boyce Gardens

Meet WPMC Identifiers **Josh Doty** and **Jared White** at the Boyce Gardens parking lot on Boyce Road to explore the trails of Boyce Mayview Park. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 10:30 A.M.

WOLF CREEK NARROWS NATURAL AREA

195 Miller Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 (Butler County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** in the parking lot at Wolf Creek Narrows. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 7:30 P.M.

UV WALK AT COOK FOREST

Meet WPMC experts and Environmental Education Specialist **Dale Luthringer** for a UV walk in Cook Forest. The exact meeting place will be announced in the September-October newsletter. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 10:00 A.M.

PRE-FORAY WALK AT COOK FOREST (Clarion County)

Meet WPMC experts and Environmental Education Specialist **Dale Luthringer** at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

STATE GAME LANDS #51

Dunbar Township (Fayette County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** at 39° 55' 55.8" N 79° 35' 18.3" W to look for species for the Fall Continental MycoBlitz. We will be taking home any interesting specimens that we find. Walk time may be extended if we are short of mushroom hunters or if it is dry and we have to look hard. All interesting specimens will be sequenced for science (and maybe some that aren't so interesting).



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 4:00-6:00 P.M.

SLIGHTLY SPOOKY MUSHROOM WALK / Allegheny Land Trust
Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area
Near Boston Ballfield, 1906 Donner Street, McKeesport

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike at Dead Man's Hollow. This slightly spooky hike will include the haunted history of Dead Man's Hollow as we walk 0.9 mile along the Great Allegheny Passage to enter the ruins of the Hollow to look for fungi. COSTUMES WELCOME! Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK-INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up. Purchase tickets here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/55971-slightly-spooky-mushroom-walk>

Other Walks, Forays & Events

JULY 30 – AUGUST 6

NAMA_MX 23 REGIONAL FORAY

Mexico City & Valle de Bravo

First-of-its-kind exploration into the mycology and ethno-mycological history of modern Mexico. Registration is limited to NAMA members in good standing; maximum 40 attendees. Airfare to Mexico City is not included, and the entire trip will be above 7000 feet elevation. Complete the required prescreening questionnaire here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQB-s0j3xI-ZLBmn3MQbFcQ63h7ep0Km4QOoYshu8ky2-c9Q/viewform>

AUGUST 9-13

2023 NEW MOON MYCOLOGY SUMMIT

Greensboro Bend, VT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1340355639874725?ref=newfeed>

AUGUST 11-13

WV MUSHROOM CLUB ANNUAL FORAY

Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge

<https://www.wvmushroomclub.net/2019-foray-registration>

AUGUST 11-20

SUMMER CONTINENTAL MYCOBLITZ (online)

<https://mycota.com/2023-continental-mycoblitz/>

AUGUST 24-27

NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA)
Annual Foray

Hendersonville, NC

<https://namyco.org/forays.php>

AUGUST 25-26

HUMONGOUS FUNGUS FEST

Crystal Falls, MI

<https://www.facebook.com/humongousfungusfest/>

SEPTEMBER 14-17

NORTHEAST MYCOLOGICAL FEDERATION (NEMF) FORAY
Kerhonkson, NY

<http://www.nemf.org/>

SEPTEMBER 22-24

OHIO MUSHROOM FESTIVAL

Garrettsville, OH

<https://www.ohiomushroomfestival.com/>

SEPTEMBER 30

23RD ANNUAL WPMC GARY LINCOFF FORAY

The Lodge at North Park

See pages 2 & 3 for more information.

OCTOBER 13-22

FALL CONTINENTAL MYCOBLITZ (online)

<https://mycota.com/2023-continental-mycoblitz/>

OCTOBER 16 - 25

MUSHROOMS & CULTURE OF GREECE

<https://www.smugtownmushrooms.com/parnassus>

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. Find a buddy to search with.
- Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for identification and advice.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms: location, habitat, etc.
- 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.

If you would like to lead a walk, or know a great walk location, please email WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** at vice-president@wpamushroomclub.org.

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!

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.



CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

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WPMC'S BUTTON ID Button Program offers members a fun way to increase their knowledge of mushroom species. 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/>



WPMC Membership Report

By Kris Murawski and Dawn Wehman

AS OF JUNE 20, WPMC has 735 members from 414 households. Thank you to everyone for renewing your membership or becoming a new member in 2023, as these dues are vital to keep the club running. They contribute over 40% of the WPMC's income every year.

If you need to renew your membership or would like to become a member, please go to <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> and fill out the form.

Some benefits of WPMC membership include: Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter • Monthly Meeting Notices • Updates on WPMC Events • Free 'Grow-Your-Own' Mushroom Kit at the annual Cultivation Meeting • Mushroom Identification at Monthly Meetings • Mushroom Walks • Mushroom Education Day • Annual Photo Contest • WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray Discount • WPMC Facebook Group

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 the WPMC 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/>

Donations Help Fund WPMC Projects

LOOKING FOR A WAY to support WPMC beyond paying your annual dues? Make a donation anytime; it's tax-deductible (if you itemize deductions) because WPMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. 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 WPMC Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.

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 WPMC 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., Production
Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

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NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!





Western
Pennsylvania
Mushroom
Club

23rd ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 – THE LODGE, NORTH PARK

PLUS: Free Mushroom Walk Friday September 29 • Cook Forest

**Guests Mycologists: DR. BARRIE OVERTON, Professor of Biology, Loch Haven University.
NOAH SIEGEL, Premier Mushroom Photographer.**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 (ALL DAY): Foray includes Mushroom Feast.
Bring a sack lunch. NEW! A food truck will be on site during the lunch hour.
The Lodge at North Park • North Ridge Drive • Allison Park, PA 15101
– REGISTRATION REQUIRED –**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 29 (10:00 A.M.): Meet at Shelter 2, Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County. FREE
– TRANSPORTATION AND LUNCH NOT INCLUDED –**

NOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 ALL REGISTRATION FEES WILL INCREASE BY \$10.

Indicate the number/quantity for each item selected. All fees per person. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

_____ \$50 WPMC member / \$60 on or after 9/1/23 (with current paid 2023 membership)	sub total: _____
_____ \$70 Non-members / \$80 on or after 9/1/23 (includes 2023-24 Membership)	sub total: _____
_____ \$30 Students (with ID) & kids 11 to 18 / (members or non-members) kids 10 & under free. / \$40 on or after 9/1/23	sub total: _____
FORAY T-SHIRT: \$20 each _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ XXL	sub total: _____

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/

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

WPMC, c/o Jared Delaney, 1912 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

FOR MORE INFO: 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



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

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP: ☐ RENEWAL: ☐

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 Jared Delaney, 1912 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • treasurer@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 (\$10 additional)

☐ \$15 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$10 Full-time Student ☐ \$10 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 _____