



# 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](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org)

## President's Corner

BY DICK DOUGALL

By the time you get to read this article, the typical morel season will be starting to wind down. We certainly were not lacking in rain this season although it took a while to warm up. What kind of morel season did you have? Let us know how it is going via the club's Yahoo Group. With the start of a new mushroom season, it's time to starting thinking about all the wild mushrooms you recognize on sight.

The **John Plischke III Award for Mushroom Knowledge**, otherwise known as the Button Program, will be something you may want to consider. You don't have to be a super mushroom identifier to take part. Over the last two years, most of the people receiving buttons have gotten buttons for knowing 10 or 25 mushrooms. You

need to make up a list of all the mushrooms you know and review it with a club mycologist or identifier. You might be surprised at how easy it is to come up with a list containing over 25 mushrooms. At the 10 and 25 level, you don't even have to use scientific names; common names are satisfactory.

Several families in our club have children and parents alike earning buttons. So far, no kids with buttons have a higher number button than their parents, but that could change this year. Check out our website for details.

It's also time to start thinking about our 11<sup>th</sup> Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray. See story below. You can register online or use the registration form on page 8.

## Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Foray

It's time to register for the Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Parish Hill Building in North Park, just north of Pittsburgh, PA. This one-day foray kicks off at 8 a.m. for a full day of activities. The morning is reserved for mushroom walks in North Park and other nearby locations. We typically find well over 100 different species of mushrooms. Some good edibles, like sulphur shelf and hen-of-the-woods are common. There are always more than a dozen new species found, to the delight of the guest mycologists.

Although there are optional walks in the afternoon, the main activities are located at the Parish Hill Building. A highlight will be Gary Lincoff's talk **All the Polypores and Crust Fungi You'd Ever Want to Know—and What You Can Do with Them**.

Two other guest mycologists will also give talks. David Fischer's talk is **How to Identify and Eat 200 Different Kinds of**

**Wild Mushrooms Without Getting Sick or Dying**. David is a nationally known mycologist from upstate New York who wrote **Edible Wild Mushrooms of North America** and co-authored **Mushrooms of Northeastern North America** with Alan and Arleen Bessette.

The other guest mycologist, Gary Emberger, will present **Keys, Key Construction, and Identifying Fungi Growing on Wood**. Gary is a biology professor at Messiah College in south central PA. He has a great website dealing with mushrooms growing on wood. Use the Links section of our website to check out the webpages of these mycologists.

We will have a cooking demonstration and talk by Tom Chulick, chef/owner of the Back Door Café in Johnstown, PA.

In the late afternoon, there is our fabulous mushroom feast. Our club cooks usually prepare more than 30 dishes for the foray.

You will not go home hungry.

## WPMC Meetings

**June 21—Title: How to Enjoy Mushrooms Even Without Eating Them**

**Speaker:** La Monte Yarroll, Club Mycologist & Education Committee Member

**Summary:** Have you ever wondered about people who look for mushrooms without planning to eat them? Did you know that 60% of mushrooms remain unnamed? Do you know the critical roles mushrooms play in ecology? Come catch the excitement of scientific hunting! LaMonte promises plenty of mushroom pictures and stories about amateur collectors who've made significant scientific contributions.

**July 19—Title: Craft Workshop**

**Speaker:** The WPMC Workshop Team

**Summary:** Our members have presented many interesting craft projects over the years. We have all been amazed at the many artistic uses they have developed. They are busily planning for this year's project. This meeting will also include learning the club's new theme song (see page 11 for lyrics).

*The Western PA Mushroom Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from March until November at 7 p.m. at Beechwood Nature Reserve on Dorseyville Road, Fox Chapel.*

## Indiana County Chapter Meetings

**June 8:** Mushroom ID and spore printing with Bob Sleigh. This program will cover basic to intermediate identification tips and the creation and use of spore prints for identifying.

**July 13:** Dick Dougall, President of WPMC, presents "**Foragers and Identifiers**" Many mushroomers have a strong focus on finding large quantities of edible mushrooms. These people could be described as "foragers." Another group of mushroomers looks at mushrooming as a treasure hunt for new and unusual mushrooms. These people could be called "identifiers." Dick will describe the goals and

techniques of each group. He will give examples of the varieties of mushrooms each seek. Most mushroomers are a combination of the two types. Recognizing both aspects will allow club members greater personal satisfaction on their "treasure hunts" in the woods.

*ICC meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, April through October, at 6 p.m. at Blue Spruce Lodge, Blue Spruce Park, near Ernest. For more information call Bob or Ginny Sleigh at 724-349-9173 or e-mail them at ICCWPMC@comcast.net.*

## Washington/Greene County Chapter Meetings

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, phone 724-941-9430.

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

## HELP WANTED!!

**Hospitality Co-Chair:** Are you willing to help prepare snacks for our club meetings? A Co-Chair would be wonderful. However, if you are able to help even with one month, contact Shirley Caseman at 412-871-0185 or email her at pbft1@verizon.net.

**Sales Chair:** To sell club merchandise at monthly meetings and Lincoff Foray in September. You would also keep inventory up to date and order new merchandise. For more information, call Mary Ellen Dougall at 412-486-7504 or e-mail at marielled@verzion.net.

# 2010 Photography Contest Winners — Pictorial



**Amanita muscaria** by Ann Berger, first place.



**Coprinus disseminatus** by Judy Stark, first place.



**Pleurotus ostreatus** fruiting by Jim Wasik, second place



**A perfect Morel** by John Tadler, second place

**Newsletter editor's choice for runner up in the Pictorial category — Black velvet bolete by Shirley Caseman**





# WPMC Walks & Forays

By John Plischke III

*We request that no one hunts a walk or foray location for at least two weeks prior to a walk or foray.*

*It is only through your cooperation that we can have successful walks and forays. All walks & forays will be held rain or shine.*

*Come 15-30 min early and socialize. All walks start on time, so be early. If you are late, we will already be in the woods. You can find last minute additions or changes by going to our Yahoo Groups at [groups.yahoo.com/group/pamushroomclub](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pamushroomclub)*

**June 4-** 9:00-12:00 **The Outdoor Classroom, Boyce-Mayview Park**, Upper Saint Clair. Fee: \$15 or \$10 for mushroom club members with a current membership card. **John Plischke III** will present a slide show and lead a walk. Bring mushrooms from home for identification. To register, contact Jessica at (412) 838-0064. From Pittsburgh, take 279 S to 79S (toward Washington, PA) to the Bridgeville exit. Turn right off the exit onto Rt. 50. At the T-intersection light turn left (there will be a gas station in front of you). Make the first right onto Chartiers Street at the Rite Aid. Follow Chartiers up the hill to a stop sign. Make a right onto Bank/Mayview Road. Follow Mayview until you see the park entrance at 1571 Mayview on your left. The park entrance is marked with two stone entry walls and a large stone park sign. Make a left from the turn lane into the park and take the left-hand fork up around the hill to the stop sign and make a left following the road straight and down to the lower picnic pavilion parking area to park.

**June 11** – 10:00 -12:00 **North Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **John Tadler and Dick Dougall** at the Swimming Pool parking

lot. North Park has a variety of habitats, we always find mushrooms here. From Pittsburgh go north on Rt. 8. Turn left onto Wildwood Road onto the Yellow Belt (Ford Dealer and Boston Market on the right). Go 1.3 mi. to a red light; go straight (W Hardies). Continue another 1.6 mi. to a red light at North Park Entrance, road name changes to Ingomar Road at this intersection, Turn left on Babcock Blvd. Follow the signs to the walk location.

**June 18** – 10:00-12:00 **Harrison Hills Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **Joyce and George Gross**. Pick up PA Route 28 towards Natrona Heights, PA Route 910, Route 356, PA Turnpike [Exit 5 - Allegheny Valley], or Interstate 270-Route 422). Get off Rt. 28 at Exit 16 (Millerstown/Freeport) and turn right if you've been traveling northbound, or left if traveling southbound, onto Route 908 for approximately 0.8 mile. At the flashing red light at an intersection of a four-lane highway. Turn right (Freeport Rd.) and get into the left-hand lane. The entrance to Harrison Hills Park is 0.8 miles on the left, just beyond the Harrison Hills Fire Dept. and Harrison Hills Chiropractic on the right.

**June 25** -- 10:00-12:00, **The Dorothy Forno Memorial Walk at Deer Lakes Park**, Allegheny County, Russelton. Meet **Jim Wilson and Dick Dougall**. From the PA Turnpike get off at the Allegheny Valley Exit 5. Turn toward New Kensington. Turn left onto Route 28. Follow to Pearl Avenue and turn left. Continue on Pearl Ave, it becomes Russelton Road. In Russelton, turn right at the first intersection, look for a drug store, bank and liquor store and turn right. Go a short distance

you will see a Deer Lakes Park sign, turn left into the park. Just past the first lake, there is a large parking lot, meet there

**June 25 Blackwater State Park**, West Virginia. Meet **John Plischke**. The event kicks off with a 4 p.m. mushroom walk. The event ends with a 7:30 p.m. "Wild Edible Mushrooms and How to Prepare Them" slide presentation. \$5 registration fee collected at the beginning of program. No pre-registration required. Contact: 304-259-5216 or 304-259-5216.

**July 2-** 10:00-12:00 **Emmerling Park**, Indiana Township, Allegheny County. Meet **Jim Tunney**. Enjoy this mushroom walk along a part of the Rachel Carson Trail. From Route 8, go east on Route 910, or from Route 28, go west on Route 910. The park is on Cove Road almost directly across from the Indiana Township Municipal Building. Meet at the large parking lot in the park.

**July 9** – 10:00 -12:00, **South Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **La-Monte Yarroll and Todd Kaufmann** Brownsville Rd & Corrigan Dr, See their website at: <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/facility.asp> Take Route 51 South. Turn slight right onto Fairhaven Road/Provost road. Provost Road becomes Brownsville Road. Continue to the Park. Meet at the Nature Center. We will drive to the walk location in the park.

**July 16** – 10:00-12:00 **Chanterelle Mania at North Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **Shirley Caseman and Nick Poraczky** at Deer Browse #2 pavilion beside the Swimming Pool parking lot. Last year this spot produced beautiful chanterelles. There were also a good number

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Morel Madness a Great Success



**MOREL MADNESS FORAY FUN FOR ALL** — Mushroom hunters of all ages attended the annual Morel Madness foray at Mingo Creek County Park in Washington County April 30-May 1. Some attendees reported finding hundreds of morels over the weekend. This is the largest morel foray in the Eastern United States. Along with guided walks, the weekend also included two programs presented by John Plischke and John Plischke III. They were “Morel Mushrooms and their Poisonous Look-A-Likes” and “Edible Wild Mushrooms and How to Prepare Them.”

## WPMC Walks & Forays

*(Continued from page 4)*

of boletes and other species.

You never know what the season will bring. For directions to park, see June 11 walk listing.

**July 22-24** –Join the **Eastern Penn Mushroomers** for their annual Miknis foray, which will be held this year at Penn State’s campus at Mont Alto with forays in the nearby Michaux State Forest. The mycologist this year will be John Plischke III. See their website for a registration form.

**July 23-24 (Sat. Sun.)** Join the **Ohio Mushroom Society** for their Summer Foray, at **Dawes Arboretum**. Meet at the education center and greenhouse. Speakers: Noah Siegel on name changes & DNA research and Erin Page

Blanchard, tba. See their website for more information and contact information.

**July 30** – 10:00-12:00 **North Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **John Stuart and Barb De-Riso** at the Swimming Pool parking lot. North Park has a variety of habitats, we always find mushrooms here, For directions to park, see June 11 walk listing.

*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 look for you.*

*Don’t take the identification of the person standing next to you. They might not know as much as you do. T*

*he 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.*



# Mushroom Tracks

Diary of an obsessive compulsive morel hunter

By Brian Davis



As I write this, it has been raining steadily and will continue until after dark. Being that I have been in the woods the past nine days in a row harvesting morels, and the article deadline is due in two, thought I would take a day off to rest my legs and knife to write Mushroom Tracks. Since I have spent months preparing for the morel season. I thought I'd share what I've been doing all winter and early spring so I'm doing more finding morels and less hunting for them.

It's currently the week after a very successful Morel Madness weekend, and the dehydrator has been working overtime.

January thru March — Being that I have a home office and a one year old yellow lab that has more stored energy than an atom bomb, unless it's raining heavily, we take daily walks.

While we live near all sorts of parks and the Montour Trail, the only thing that gets any exercise when I have him on a leash is my arms and shoulders. He needs to run or his stored energy is expelled in the house.

So although we do hit the trails and he can be leash free on snowy January week days, most of our time is spent in the woods checking out trees and he can run. Just like in real estate where the 3 most important words are location, location, location, for the mushroom hunter it's trees, trees, and trees.

By now we should all know that the mycelium is the hair-like substance that attaches to the root systems of certain trees and lives off the root nourishment. The mushroom is the fruiting of the mycelium so it can reproduce.

So while things like ground temperature, PH, and moisture are certainly factors, if it's morels you seek, knowing where the Elm, Tulip Poplar, Ash trees and abandoned apple orchards are before the season begins will increase your success significantly.

**April, Week 1** — Plenty of moisture all winter and spring. Know of more dying Elm patches in Washington County than I'll likely be able to visit. Getting fidgety and tired of staring at dead leaves on the ground. Making my rounds paying attention to what hillside at what park is greening up sooner than others which will produce the first morels of the season once the ground hits 50 degrees.

**April, Week 2** — Still cool but plenty of moisture. Now staring at dead leaves and some greenery. Checking last years' notes and the baby grays were up.....looks like a late season which is good because next week I'm out of town. Friday go to Mingo to one of my early trees. After tying Trevor to a nearby tree, find the first gray under a favorite but deteriorating Elm....smaller than the 1" side of my Giant Eagle advantage card. I place the key chain on the ground, take a picture with the GE card for size comparison, and carefully back away from the tree. In all the excitement, almost forget to untie the dog.

**April, Week 3** — Will be traveling Tuesday thru Thursday. Read a blog about the early blacks being up and have the first spring walk of the season Sunday. Trees are sprouting and forest floor greening up.

While this will be the first walk in the woods for many people, I've already spent several weeks staring at the base of Elms with nothing but a 1" gray still growing in Mingo to show for it. Bonnie, Trevor and I arrive at Ryerson and are excited about blacks. We ask Alan, the park manager, where the tulip poplars are and we head in that direction. Check many Elms on the way and no sign of morels.

Once we're in the tulip poplars and after checking several carefully, there's still no sign of morels. So to cheer everyone up, I go to cut a beautiful scarlet cup to compare with the devil's urn I found, and upon kneeling down, realize I'm in the middle of a patch of black morels! We

picked enough for everyone to have a meal.

**April, Week 4** beginning Saturday April 23 — It's been a week since I've been in the woods. Worse yet, have to wait till noon as we're going to a state park that allows hunting, and there is a special youth turkey hunt day break till noon. I avoid yelling "found some over here" when there are people stalking turkeys with loaded guns, especially kids with loaded guns.

So Bonnie and I check out Washington park on the way down and find some small blacks and even smaller grays which we leave to grow after filing the tree GPS coordinates. Find more blacks, half frees, and some of the grays are thumb size...the 2011 Morel Season is officially underway!

Monday find more grays, and while gardening that evening, Bonnie finds 2 full grown yellows in our lawn under our Ash tree where she has been throwing out the cut morel stumps for several years. Did we just cultivate morels?

The rest of the week I'm out every day with Trevor, different location each day, and having success. Now harvesting the mature yellows as well....Morel Madness in a few days. Based upon these other locations producing, Mingo should be prime.

Which brings us back to the Tuesday after Morel Madness and it's still raining. Hope to be out hunting morels the rest of the week and have more walks scheduled.

The moisture and cool spring has allowed the morels to explode last week and it should be great for another week before the inevitable decline.

However, this rain has disrupted our routine which has allowed me to spend some much needed time in the office. Trevor is busy taking dirty socks and towels out of the laundry room and scattering them all over the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.....looks like tomorrow, rain or shine, we both need to go out and make some more MUSHROOM TRACKS!



# What to do if You Don't Have a Clue — Part One

BY DICK DOUGALL AND JOHN STUART

Suppose you find some gilled mushrooms on your own or while hiking with mushroom friends. The mushrooms are rather typical looking, with a few distinctive features, but nobody in your group knows what they are. You are starting to learn more about mushrooms and would really like to identify them. What do you do?

Gather some samples by picking healthy-looking specimens in both mature and immature forms. Be careful now to be sure you are trying to identify a single species. Sometimes, several species growing together can confuse the picture.

While researching strategies that could be used to identify mushrooms, we came across an article in **Mushroom, The Journal**, Fall 2006 by Bill Bakaitis that described using “right brain” versus “left brain” methods. The “right brain” method takes a big picture approach, which is like what we do in recognizing faces. Based on past experience we know the person by their face or the mushroom by their overall features. It would be hard to explain in words how we do this. The other way involves the “left brain”, which gathers specific information such as: the mushroom is 5cm wide with a stem that is 3cm tall, with pale yellow gills, a brown spore print, etc. This information is compared with mushroom descriptions in field guides to try to come up with the most likely match to our mushroom.

Most experienced identifiers have developed the “right brain” skill. They look at the total pattern, and within seconds, identify the mushroom. This is learned after much practice and repetition where matching features is first used, but after a while they are not needed. A point is reached where recognizing this mushroom becomes second nature. Like learning how to ride a bike or ski, once the basic visible features are learned and integrated, you can have the skill for life. It does require some practice: “use it, or lose it”.

The easiest way to identify an unknown mushroom is to use the “right brain” approach. This involves looking at the overall “picture” presented by the mushroom to our brain. Fortunately Lincoff's **Audubon Field Guide to Mushrooms** is organized in the very front of the book by silhouettes of typical shapes that help narrow your search. By browsing the recommended pages, you may find a likely I.D. candidate for your unknown mushroom. Even if there is only something similar, the descriptive text called “look-alikes” may lead you to other possibilities to identify your specimen. Now you can use facts, i.e. the “left brain” approach to verify the possible identification.

The problem is that there are many more mushroom species than there are pictures in Lincoff's book. So, the more books you have with different pictures the

better.

This picture recognition method is worth a few tries, but it requires some luck to be successful. About 80% of the mushrooms found in our region are made up of about 200 species. The common species that the WPMC has found are listed on the Life List seen on our website, [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org).

If the picture-matching method doesn't work, the next step requires more “left brain,” i.e. looking at specific features of the mushroom. Take photos of the mushroom from several angles, which include where it was found, the cap, gills and stem. The first information to write down is the date and location where it was found (season and habitat).

Was the mushroom growing in a cluster, in a group, or solitary? Now, you need to expand on the habitat. Was it growing on wood, in mulch, in grass, or on leaf-litter on the forest floor? What kind of trees were in the immediate area? Were they conifers, oaks, or mixed woods, etc.? This information will be useful in the final stages of identification. Next, describe the main details of your mushroom. Measure cap diameter, stem diameter, and stem length (you can estimate these). This determines general size. Other helpful features include color, texture (brittle, rubbery, fragile, fibrous), cap surface (dry, slimy, scaly), taste, odor, presence of an annulus, volva, or veil, how the gills attach to the stem, gill spacing (crowded or far apart), gill shape (notched, sinuous, forked). Does the mushroom change color with bruising? Does a latex ooze out when the mushroom is cut?

One of the most important characteristics is the spore print. It is used by many field guides to direct you to a specific genera group. White or very pale and black or very dark spore colors are pretty clear. Describing brown, tan, or some of the other intermediate colors is not always easy. Even good field guides can use different words for spore colors. One traditional method of identifying mushrooms has been the use of Dichotomous Keys. These require answering sets of questions until a decision is reached identifying the mushroom. Some field guides have keys which try to determine only the genus of the mushroom.

Then, a more detailed key is used to determine the specie. David Aurora's book, **Mushrooms Demystified**, has sets of very detailed keys. The main problem using keys is that one wrong answer gets the user completely off track, and it becomes impossible to reach an identification. It is not always easy to determine which question was incorrect. With practice, keys can be a useful tool. However, this can be hard for beginning mushroomers. (Continued in next newsletter)



## The 11th Annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray Saturday, September 17, 2011

**Featured speaker will be Gary Lincoff**, author of the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*. Gary, Past-president of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), is the nation's best-known mushroom expert. He's a charismatic and entertaining speaker and makes learning about mushrooms fun and interesting. His end-of-the-day table-walk discussions are not to be missed. Join us for an exciting day of fungi, fun, friends and mushroom exploration — a day filled with foraging, learning, and feasting . . .

but most of all, *fun!*

**Program:** Guided morning & afternoon mushroom walks; guest speakers: Gary Lincoff, David Fischer, & Gary Emberger; cooking demonstration; auction; mushroom feast: our club cooks prepare a real treat, with *dozens* of unique mushroom dishes to delight your taste buds. This all-day foray will be based at the *Parish Hill Building, North Park* 10 miles north of Pittsburgh, PA. Morning and afternoon walks will be conducted in North Park and in other woodlands nearby. The habitats for these foray walks have resulted in well over 100 species collected each year.

**Admission:**

- Until September 1<sup>st</sup> the fee is \$30 per person for WPMC members
- Members pay \$35 per person at the door
- Non-members pay \$35 per person plus the 2011 membership fee (\$15 for an individual, or \$20 for a family). After September 1<sup>st</sup>, membership fee is for 2012.
- Students (with ID) and children 11 to 18 are \$10 each. Children 10 & under free  
(Please note: signing and dating the release form is an absolute requirement for attendance.)

**To register and pay by check:**

- Make check payable to: *Western PA Mushroom Club*
- Mail check and registration form to: WPMC, 70 Woodland Farm Road, Pittsburgh 15238.
- New members: please include membership application and 2011 dues.

**To register and pay online:**

- Go to the club website: <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org>
- Click on the 2011 Foray information.
- Choose the Paypal option (you may pay either using a credit card or a Paypal account).
- You will receive a release form to sign at check-in.

### Registration & Release

Name 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

***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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information, contact Foray Co-chairs: Dick Dougall (412-486-7504) & Jim Wilson (724-265-2398),  
 Email: [Lincoff\\_Foray@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:Lincoff_Foray@wpamushroomclub.org)



## Membership Application Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

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

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

Name (*please print*): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Interests:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Mushrooms    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Walks | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Committees       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eating Wild Mushroom  | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxicology     | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultivating Mushrooms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dyeing With Mushrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Art   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mushroom Photography  |

How many wild mushrooms do you think you could identify? \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS IS YOUR CLUB - WE NEED YOUR HELP! What areas would you like to help with? We can have a lot of Fungi, Fun, and Friends, but it takes your participation to make it happen. Please find three things you would like to do, and check the appropriate boxes.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scout for walk locations or lead walks    | <input type="checkbox"/> Compile meeting & walk sign in sheets   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help organize forays                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Speak to clubs & organizations          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Print club materials, flyers, etc.        | <input type="checkbox"/> Call or e-mail members                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Work on newsletter committee              | <input type="checkbox"/> Give a program at Club monthly meeting  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute articles, photos to newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Produce or acquire teaching materials   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Help with webpage & e-group moderator     | <input type="checkbox"/> Welcome and orient new members          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Line up speakers for meetings             | <input type="checkbox"/> Work on hospitality committee           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host guest speakers and mycologists       | <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in special projects         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Record meetings, discussions, events      | <input type="checkbox"/> Record mushrooms that are found         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sell club items, tee shirts, cookbooks    | <input type="checkbox"/> Door prize committee                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicize meetings, forays, events        | <input type="checkbox"/> Present or assist with a club workshop  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Historian                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with sign in at walks and meetings |

# Annual dues: \$15 Individual, \$20 Family, \$10 Full-time student

Dues enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed signed and dated form with check payable to W PA Mushroom Club to:  
**WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238**  
**E-mail contact: WPMC.membership@gmail.com**

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2011.

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.

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(Please sign name) (Please print name)

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(Please sign name) (Please print name)

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(Please sign name) (Please print name)

## In Other Mushroom News ...

### The WPMC Theme Song By Richard & Cecily Franklin

*Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.  
Mycologically it's quite the hub.  
Countless species lined up side-by-side  
Bring yours in to be identified.*

*Experts tell you if they're edible.  
Are they deadly or incredible?  
Earn a pin if you can name enough.  
Buy a cookbook and some mushroom stuff.*

*Take a walk through Pennsylvania's woods.  
Fill your mushroom basket full of goods.  
Add some to your favorite recipe.  
Lots of fun and, best of all, they're free.*

### New website honors Naturalist Sam Ristich

A new website dedicated to the life and work of naturalist Sam Ristich has been created by his musician, filmmaker, and designer daughter Ruthie. A frameable, teachable, and colorful poster with a selection of Sam's photographs is available for sale (18"x24") for your home, office, or classroom.

The website also includes info on the archive being organized by David Rose, an interview David conducted in 1998, links to all the mycology clubs, conservation groups, and a link to the Sam Ristich Nature Trail. The interactive 'share' page allows you to place an iconic marker anywhere on earth and write an accompanying "Sam memory" to post for all to see.

Please visit <http://SAMRISTICH.com> soon and share your stories! For more info please email Ruthie at [ristich54@gmail.com](mailto:ristich54@gmail.com)

### Mushroom Walks and Forays in West Virginia

**June 25**, John Plischke III will have a walk and present a slide show at Blackwater Falls State Park. The walk will be at 4:00 and the slide show at 7:30 at the Nature Center. Please visit <http://www.blackwaterfalls.com/> for details.

**July 23rd and 24th** Grab your basket and join the West Virginia Mushroom Club for their summer foray in the Canaan/Blackwater Falls area, an area known for its unusual and edible mushrooms. The club is proud to announce that world-renowned mushroom guru Gary Lincoff will be the mycologist for this foray. Gary is the most sought-after mushroom expert in the country. He has written many mushroom identification books, including the Audubon Society Field Guide to Mushrooms.

As if that's not enough - the West Virginia Mushroom Club is planning a side trip to scenic Dolly Sods to forage for wild berries. Bogs, birds and boreal forest - a "Piece of Canada" right in West Virginia.

Mushroom walks, wild mushroom cooking demonstrations, and an entertaining, educational and fun-filled weekend with Gary is planned. This is one foray you won't want to miss, so be sure to mark your calendar now!! For more information about the foray, contact Shelly Conrad at [geezere@comcast.net](mailto:geezere@comcast.net), or to volunteer contact Martha Hopper at [marthachopper@gmail.com](mailto:marthachopper@gmail.com).

## Indiana County Chapter Walks

**June 11 ICCWPMC Walk at Buttermilk Falls Park.**  
Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh at the parking lot. Buttermilk Falls is a small park located atop the Chestnut Ridge between Blairsville and Armagh.

**June 25 ICCWPMC Walk at State Gamelands 262**  
Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh at the intersection of Church Rd. and East Creek Rd., near Rochester Mills. SGL 262 contains nearly 5,000 acres of mixed terrain and habitat.

**July 9 ICCWPMC Walk at Yellow Creek State Park**  
Meet Bob and Ginny Sleigh at the first pavilion on the right after entering the park's day use area.

**July 23 ICCWPMC Foray at Blue Spruce Park**  
Join the ICCWPMC as we host our first day-long foray,

Spend the day with Bill Russell, Bob and Ginny Sleigh and other guests to be announced for a day of fungi, fun and friends. The event is being scheduled to coincide with fruitings of Chanterelles, Black Trumpets and various Boletes in the Indiana County area. The event, which will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., will include walks, programs, raffles and a pot-luck dinner. There is only room for 75 participants, so register early early.

*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](mailto:iccwpmc@comcast.net).*



**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
MUSHROOM CLUB**

202 Wadsworth Dr.  
Glenshaw, PA 15116

<p><b>President</b> Dick Dougall 202 Wadsworth Dr. Glenshaw, PA 15116 mush2prof@verizon.net 412-486-7504</p>	<p><b>Vice President</b> John Tadler 28 Hiland Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15202 frothsloth@comcast.net 412-761-6298</p>	<p><b>Treasurer</b> Barbara DeRiso 204 Woodcock Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15215 barbaraderiso@gmail.com 412-252-2594</p>	<p><b>Recording Secretary</b> Todd Kaufmann 443 Biddle Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15221 412-304-1471 toddkaufmann@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Corresp. Secretary</b> Cecily Franklin 216 Farmington Road Pittsburgh, PA 15215 Cs4wpmc@gmail.com 412-781-6581</p>
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**Committees**

**Club Mycologists**

<p><b>Club E-Mail Contact</b> Valerie Baker contact@wpamushroom.club.org <b>Cultivation Chairs</b> Mark Spear mcsbujold@gmail.com 724-297-3377 Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com 412-441-3958 <b>Education Chair</b> John Stuart Jons2art@comcast.net 724-443-6878 <b>Historian</b> Joyce Gross jagart@verizon.net 724-339-8547 <b>Hospitality Chair</b> Shirley Caseman pbft1@verizon.net 412-871-0185</p>	<p><b>Indiana County Chapter</b> Bob Sleigh lccwpmc@comcast.net 724-349-9173 <b>Membership Chair</b> Jim Wasik wpmc.membership@gmail.com 412-967-9359 <b>Mid-Atlantic Foray Chairs</b> Dick Dougall (See President) Jim Wilson <b>Mushroom Display</b> La Monte Yarroll piggy-wpmc@baqaqi.chi.il.us 412-854-5684 <b>Mycological Recorder</b> Bob Lucas rnlucas@microspell.com <b>NAMA Foray</b> John Plischke morelbp@aol.com 724-834-2358</p>	<p><b>Newsletter Editor</b> Ginny Sleigh iccwpmc@comcast.com 724-349-9173 <b>Photography Chair</b> Rebecca Miller rmtreesplease@gmail.com 724-297-3377 <b>Program Chair</b> Dick Dougall (see President) <b>Publicity Chair</b> Bonnie Davis bonnie18davis@yahoo.com 412-334-4069 <b>Sales Chair</b> To be named <b>Toxicology Chair</b> Frank Lotrich lotrichfe@upmc.edu 412-216-8508</p>	<p><b>Walk &amp; Foray Chair</b> John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com 724-832-0271 <b>Washington/Greene County Chapter</b> Brian Davis magnumdavisb@verizon.net 412-427-3343 <b>Web Master</b> Joe Luzanski pastpresjml@wpamushroom.club.org 724-872-7867 <b>Workshop Chair</b> To be named <b>Yahoo Groups Moderator</b> Mary Jo Smiley cmtpt@zbzoom.net 724-494-1468</p>	<p><b>Robert Boice</b> blgym@msn.com 724-446-0524  <b>Kim Plischke</b> ladiebugzkp@aol.com 724-832-0271  <b>John Plischke III</b> (see walk &amp; foray chair)  <b>La Monte Yarroll</b> (See Mushroom Display)  <b>Dr. Fred Schrock</b> Indiana, PA  <b>Jim Tunney</b> (See Cultivation Co-chair)</p>
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Recent Past Presidents			Identifiers		
<p><b>John Stuart</b> (See Education Chair)</p>	<p><b>Dick Dougall</b> (See President)</p>	<p><b>Joe Luzanski</b> (See Webmaster)</p>	<p><b>Jack Baker</b> vbbaker8@hotmail.com 412-367-7696</p>	<p><b>Dick Dougall</b> (See President)</p>	<p><b>Bob Lucas</b> (See Mycological Recorder)</p>