



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 1

MARCH / APRIL 2016

President's Message

Richard Jacob, WPMC President



THIS WINTER HAS BEEN a warm one, despite the arctic cold snap in mid-February as I write this. The warm autumn meant that there were quite a few late season mushrooms around, including some good edibles, all the way through to December. Now that the snow is here, there are going to be few larger species fruiting, but you can still find some jellies and other smaller

mushrooms in the warming thaw periods, and polypores are of course present all year round.

It will be interesting to see how Morel season works out. Last year we had a really warm period followed by a cold week that seemed to stop the morels in their tracks. I would like to see a consistently warming spring with enough rain for a great harvest. We can but hope!

Last year was a fabulous year for the club as we celebrated our 15th year in style. The three-day Lincoff foray was a great success, both in the number of attendees and the number of species found and identified. Although this year's foray will be a one-day affair, we do plan to go up to Cook Forest State Park again for a pre-foray Friday walk.

There were 30 walks last year and 331 different species identified. For this we have to thank the walk committee, La Monte Yarroll and John Plischke III, for organizing the events, along with all the walk leaders and identifiers. Other highlights from last year were the introduction of microscopy to the club's members and its use in mycology, and the beginning of the Mushroom Catalog. Both projects will continue this year, along with the DNA barcoding project.

Another success for last year was the highest membership in the club's history, topping out at over 600 members. Many of you have signed up for this year already. For those of you sitting on the fence, I urge you to enroll again.

The committees have been busy putting together events for this year and, as you will see from this issue of the newsletter, we already have quite a lot planned. The Lincoff foray planning is already underway and Gary Lincoff will be joined by guest speaker Dr. Nicholas Money, Professor of Botany at Miami University in Ohio and the author of many books.

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WPMC Scholarships & Grants

WPMC HAS A 2016 Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions.

In 2015, WPMC awarded a total of \$1,500 in scholarships to three local college students to assist in their studies. As reported in the May/June newsletter, WPMC awarded \$1,000 to **Sarah Daugherty**, who is majoring in sustainability at Chatham University.

In October, WPMC awarded \$250 each to **Sarah Martin** and **Rebecca Robich** at California University of Pennsylvania. Sarah and Becca are students of Dr. Sarah Meiss, Associate Professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences. These grants will be used to complete their project and attend conferences to present the results.

Application forms are available on our website and may be submitted by any club member. Contact John Stuart at jon-s2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

16th Annual Lincoff Foray: September 24, 2016

By Barbara DeRiso, Foray Chair

SAVE THE DATE: The 16th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray will be held on Saturday, September 24th at the Rose Barn in Allegheny County North Park. This year's program will be a single-day event with guest mycologists Gary Lincoff, author of the *Audubon Guide to Mushrooms of North America*, *The Complete Mushroom Hunter*, *The Joy of Foraging*, and many others; and Dr. Nicholas (Nik) Money, author of *Mushroom*, *The Triumph of the Fungi*, and *Mr. Bloomfield's Orchard*.

The day will include guided walks, mushroom identification tables, a cooking demo by Chef George Harris, an update on our DNA Barcoding project by WPMC President Richard Jacob, sales table, authors' book signing, auction and, of course, the legendary Mushroom Feast—all included in the price of admission!

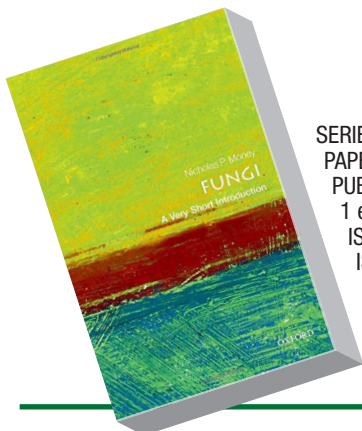
continued on page 2

Nicholas Money Guest Mycologist for Lincoff Foray

IF YOU'VE EVER SEEN the movie "Ghostbusters", you'll remember Professor Egon Spengler, played by Harold Ramis. When asked about his hobbies, Egon replies, "I collect spores, molds, and fungus." He sounds exactly like Nicholas P. Money, Ph.D., our Guest Mycologist for the 16th annual Gary Lincoff Foray!

Dr. Money is Professor of Botany at Miami University in Ohio and the author of many books, including *Mushroom* (2011); *The Triumph of the Fungi: A Rotten History* (2006); and *Mr. Bloomfield's Orchard: The Mysterious World of Mushrooms, Molds, and Mycologists* (2004). He is also Senior Editor of the international research journal *Fungal Biology* and is on the Editorial Board of *Fungi Magazine*.

Nik also has a new book coming out this year, as part of the bestselling "Very Short Introductions" series. It is entitled *Fungi: A Very Short Introduction*, and the author will be available to sign copies for us at the Lincoff Foray on September 24. The book is available for pre-order on Amazon.com.



SERIES: Very Short Introductions
PAPERBACK: 144 pages
PUBLISHER: Oxford University Press;
1 edition (April 1, 2016)
ISBN-10: 0199688788
ISBN-13: 978-0199688784

BOOK REVIEW

"Mushroom" by Nicholas Money

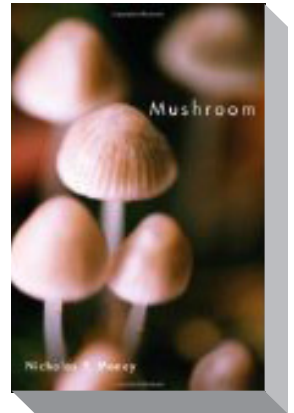
Submitted by Cecily Franklin

THE FIRST THING I NOTICED about Nik Money's book *Mushroom* is that it contains very few pictures. It is decidedly not the "mushroom porn" we've come to expect from our mushroom calendars, books, and websites. No, this one has words—lots of them—and you have to actually read them in order to get your thrills.

Dr. Money takes us deep inside the mushroom and continually answers the question, How does it do that? He explains how mushrooms push out of the ground, how they reproduce, and how "magic mushrooms" cause hallucinations.

Among all of these scientific facts, Dr. Money adds his personal opinions, sprinkled with his British sense of "humour." For example, he hates to see huge quantities of mushrooms thrown away at the end of a Foray. He has never tried "magic mushrooms" himself, nor does he intend to do so. And he is very skeptical of claims made by sellers of medicinal mushrooms.

This book is not for beginners. The reader should already be familiar with terms such as *Basidiomycetes* and *Ascomycetes*, and should be able to recognize a variety of mushroom types. But if you're ready to move beyond the pretty pictures in the field guides and begin to understand the biology of mushrooms and the history of mycology, then this book is for you.



Lincoff Foray... continued from page 1

It's not too early to gather up mushroom-related items you'd like to donate for the auction, and/or to volunteer to make a dish for the Mushroom Feast. (Please note: all foraged mushrooms used in cooking for the Feast must be certified by a club mycologist ahead of time.)

For those who would like to begin their Foray weekend early, Gary Lincoff will be leading a day-long walk in Cook State Forest (outside Clarion PA, about 80 miles northeast of Pittsburgh) on Friday, September 23. Central meeting place will be Shelter 1 (which we used last year). Those who would like to arrange overnight accommodations, either cabin or campground, should call 1-888-727-2757 (888 PA PARKS). Ranger Dale Luthringer advises those interested to book cabins soon, as they are already being reserved by other groups.

Hope to see you there!

This year's Foray Raffle will include a **FREE, one-year subscription to FUNGI** a \$40 value, generously donated by **Britt A. Bunyard, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief.**



Future issues of this newsletter will include a Foray registration form, and online registration will be available later this Spring.

WPMC Member Shares Secret for Preserving Shaggy Manes

WPMC MEMBER EUGENE KADAR knows a thing or two about shaggy manes, *Coprinus comatus*. He knows that they are good edible mushrooms. But he also knows that they begin to deteriorate as soon as they're harvested.

The gills "deliquesce", turning themselves into black ink as they mature. So Eugene was "just tickled" when he figured out a way to keep them fresh, all the way to the frying pan.

The trick is to keep them on ice—literally! These photos illustrate each step: Find a patch of shaggy manes (Figure

1). Put them directly into a cooler with crushed ice (Figure 2). Once you get the mushrooms home, wash them in a sink with ice water (Figure 3). Drain the shaggy manes in a colander (Figure 4). Sauté them in olive oil (Figure 5). We don't need a photo to show us what happens next!

Eugene wanted to pass this along to the other WPMC members because, in his words, "I appreciate when I learn from them."



figure 1



figure 2



figure 3



figure 4



figure 5

It's Time to Focus on WPMC's 2016 Photo Contest

IT'S NOT TOO SOON to start taking and collecting photos for the annual photo contest. Please submit clear, well-lit, high-res images for the best representation and reproduction.

Deadline for Submissions:

- September 30, 2016
- Maximum of 5 entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files up to 4 megabytes
- Email entries to Rebecca Miller at rmrtreesplease@gmail.com

WPMC PHOTO CONTEST RULES:

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.

DOCUMENTARY:

For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture.

JUDGE'S OPTION:

For photos which do not fit into the pictorial or documentary divisions.

President's Message... continued from page 1

We have a couple of early season Morel walks organized and more to come. There are also walks co-hosted with the Allegheny Land Trust, the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and a BioBlitz with the Phipps Conservatory. Many more walks will be organized in the coming weeks and I hope that some of them will be a bit further afield, so that some of our far-flung members have a chance to identify species in their local areas. Plans are afoot for a mushroom training course in August.

The meeting program for the coming year has been organized. For the first meeting on March 15 we will host John Stephen from the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy. In April we have invited Olga Tzogas from Smugtown Mushrooms to tell us about what is involved in running a mushroom business. Staying on the cultivation theme in May, Jim Tunney will be organizing our annual cultivation night.

The board and committee members are also continuing to develop the club and looking to strengthen the activities that our members enjoy and try to bring in a few new topics. We hope to go back to the basics this year, with some emphasis on identifying mushrooms for beginners and enhancing the Button ID program.

I am looking forward to Spring and the first edibles of the season. See you in the woods!

WPMC Walks 2016

All walks are on Saturdays, beginning at 10am, unless noted otherwise. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. For directions, updates and other details, visit our website.

March 12 South Park

Meet WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** at the Nature Center to collect some material for our first meeting.

April 16 Murrysville Community Park

With Friends of Murrysville Parks. Meet **Pia van de Venne**, President of Friends of Murrysville Parks, and WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll**.

April 30 noon - 3:00pm Pine Ridge Lodge, Blairsville

Morel Mushroom Walk, Indiana County Friends of the Parks.

Bob Sleight will give a presentation on Morels and lead a walk at Pine Ridge County Park. Morels are one of the most sought-after and elusive mushrooms. Slides will illustrate Morels as well as poisonous look-alikes. Proper cleaning, storing and cooking techniques will be covered. Pre-registration is required at 724-463-8636. The event is free.

May 1 Sunday: 10:30am – 1:30pm

Ryerson Station State Park, Greene County. Meet Park **Ranger Alan Johnson** and **Brian Davis** for what may or may not be a morel hunt at Ryerson Station.

May 14 Sycamore Island Spring Walk, Verona

Join WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** and the Allegheny Land Trust for the Spring survey of Sycamore Island.

June 4 9:00am – noon

Phipps Conservatory BioBlitz, Schenley Park & Panther Hollow

June 25 Forbes State Forest

Meet **Rachael Mahony**, Environmental Education Specialist from the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, and WPMC President **Richard Jacob**.

Forbes State Forest comprises 15 tracts totaling almost 59,000 acres in Fayette, Somerset, & Westmoreland counties. *Exact meeting location will be publicized closer to the date.*

Sept. 17 Sycamore Island Autumn Survey, Verona

Join the Allegheny Land Trust and **La Monte Yarroll**, WPMC Mycologist, for the Fall survey of Sycamore Island. We'll be collecting specimens for the monthly meeting and DNA.

October 1 Townsend Park

With Friends of Murrysville Parks.

Meet **Pia van de Venne**, President of Friends of Murrysville Parks, and WPMC President **Richard Jacob**.



Other Walks & Forays

For more information see pages 8 & 9

July 22-23 West Virginia Mushroom Club Foray

<http://wvmushroomclub.org/index.html>

July 28-31 Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF)

Samuel Ristich Foray: Fitchburg, MA. Faculty members include WPMC Mycologist John Plischke III. <http://www.nemf.org/index.html>

July 31-Aug 6 Mushroom ID for New Mycophiles

Greg Marley & Michaeline Mulvey, Eagle Hill Institute, Maine. <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/nhs-calendar.shtml>

August 7-14 Slime Molds by Steven Stephenson

Eagle Hill Institute, Maine <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/nhs-calendar.shtml>

August 12-14 Central PA Mushroom Club

Bill Russell Foray

August 18-21 NAMA Wildacres Regional Foray

Wildacres Retreat, NC

August 21-27 Polypores & Other Wood-Inhabiting Fungi

With Tom Volk, Eagle Hill Institute, Maine <http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/nhs-calendar.shtml>

Sept 8-11 NAMA Shenandoah Foray

Front Royal, VA

Sept 22-25 COMA Foray

Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association. Clark Rogerson Foray, Berkshire Hills Eisenberg Camp, Copake, NY <http://www.comafungi.org/special-events/clark-rogerson-foray/>

Sept 24 16th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray

North Park (see pages 1 & 2 of this newsletter)

Club Mycologists

Robert Boice	724-446-0524 blgym@aol.com
Kim Plischke	724-832-0271 ladiebugzkp@aol.com
John Plischke III	724-832-0271 fungi01@aol.com
Dr. Fred Schrock	724-463-7453 ambrosia1@verizon.net
Jim Tunney	412-441-3958 aminitam@hotmail.com
La Monte Yarroll	412-854-5684 piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com

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 their 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.

***Interested in leading a mushroom walk?
Know of a good mushrooming location?
Contact La Monte Yarroll or John Plischke III.***

Identifiers

Jack Baker	412-367-7696 jabaker2@hotmail.com
Fluff Berger	724-251-9662 wfberger@comcast.net
Dick Dougall	412-486-7504 mush2prof@verizon.net
Joyce Gross	724-339-8547 jagart58@comcast.net
Bob Lucas	rnlucas@microspell.com
Blaine Sanner	724-217-3168 brsanner@hotmail.com
John Stuart	724-443-6878 jons2art@comcast.net

WALKS AND 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
- Keep mushrooms separated
- Insect repellent
- Basket for collecting
- Knife for cutting mushrooms
- Wax or paper bags (no plastic)
- Whistle
- Compass
- Hand lens
- Cell phone & camera
- Notebook & pencil
- Field guide for identification
- Band-aids
- Garden hand-clippers





Above and Beyond... Barbara DeRiso, WPMC Treasurer



THIS MONTH'S AWARD goes to WPMC Treasurer, Barbara DeRiso, who went above and beyond the call of duty in order to reserve the Rose Barn for this year's 16th annual Gary Lincoff Foray.

In order to be first in line to reserve the Rose Barn for September 24, Barb camped out at the North Park Administration Building at 4:00am. She could have been picked up for vagrancy, but we would have bailed her out!

Fortunately, Barb won't be sleeping on any more park benches. In December, the Allegheny County Parks Department rolled out its online reservation system. Residents can now book shelters and other facilities at the nine county parks from the comfort of their own homes.

Editor's note: The next time you see a WPMC member go "above and beyond," please let us know. Email: cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

More photos by Brian Johanson from the 2015 photo contest...

WPMC MEMBER BRIAN JOHANSON takes photos at the 15th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray. Brian won recognition for his photo of *Laccaria amethystina* in WPMC's 2015 photo contest.

Photo of Brian by Dick Dougall





Photo by Fluff Berger

Photo by Dave Fore from the 2015 photo contest...



Save the Date for Mushroom Classes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Saturday, August 6, 2016. That's the day that experts from WPMC will present two classes at the Cooper-Siegel Library in Fox Chapel. An "Introduction to Mushrooms" class will be held in the morning, followed by a more advanced session on "Coral and Club Fungi" in the afternoon. Stay tuned for registration information!



Earn a Pin for Identifying Mushrooms!

THE JOHN PLISCHKE III Award for Mushroom Knowledge, also known as "The Button Program" began in 2009. Since then, 75 WPMC members have earned more than 100 pins. **Now it's your turn!** We will have flyers about the Button Program on display at Club meetings and in the glass display case at Beechwood.

- **Up to 25: Common names are accepted**
- **50 & Up: Latin names are required**
- **150: Qualifies for WPMC Identifier**



Smugtown Comes to Western Pennsylvania

OLGA TZOGAS FROM Smugtown Mushrooms will be our Guest Speaker for the monthly meeting on **Tuesday, April 19**. In anticipation of this event, Olga is offering a 20% discount to all WPMC members. Just use coupon code WPMCSRING2016. If you place your order by calling 585-690-1926 before April 17, Olga will personally deliver it to the WPMC meeting on April 19. It's like free shipping, only better!

For a list of Smugtown's mushroom grow kits, plug spawn, and much more, go to: www.smugtownmushrooms.com



West Virginia Mushroom Club
alias *The Destroying Angels*

The West Virginia Mushroom Club

We provide a venue for the sharing of ideas, experiences, knowledge and common interests regarding fungi; furnish mycological information and educational materials to those who wish to increase their knowledge about fungi; and promote interest in mycology and mycophagy.

The club's nickname is the Destroying Angels. The name 'Destroying Angel' is the common name for the *Amanita virosa* (picture to the right), which is among the most toxic known mushrooms.



Home About Us Calendar Photo Gallery Links Join!

Join WVMC for their July 2016 foray and Learn About Wild Mushrooms

Friday & Saturday, July 22 & 23, 2016

Join Gary Lincoff, Walt Sturgeon and the West Virginia Mushroom Club for a fun filled fungi extravaganza.

The foray kicks off with a presentation by Walt Sturgeon Friday evening, July 22th and there will be an action packed day on Saturday, July 23th 2015, RAIN or SHINE!

The foray will be held at the Assembly of God Fellowship Hall (not the church) in Dry Fork, WV, which is on the east side of Route 32, about 4 miles south of Canaan Valley State Park. This is the same location we have used for the past 4 years. GPS Coordinates: 38.975843, -79.493621.

Fees are \$60 per person, which does not include lodging or meals.

WPMC LOGO T-SHIRTS



"Fun guy" or "Fun gal" t-shirts feature artwork by our own Joyce Gross, the "Fun gal" t-shirt comes in three colors (pink, yellow or blue) and in five sizes (small through 2XL). The matching "Fun guy" t-shirt comes in three colors (blue, beige or gray) and in six sizes (small through 3XL).

TO ORDER: www.cafepress.com/wpmc

40th Annual Northeast Mycological Federation Foray (NEMF)

The Samuel Ristich Foray • July 28-31, 2016

Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg, MA*

The Boston Mycological Club invites you to attend our foray entitled "The Role of Fungi in the Ecosystem." NEMF 2016 aims to enhance general understanding of the role of fungi in nature and to explore the myriad ways in which macro fungi specialize in their substrate and habitat choices. There will be lectures and workshops on the usual groups of fungi, but they will emphasize life histories, habitat occurrences, and the associations between fungi and place.

We will have contests to encourage and recognize small teams of collectors who find specific associations of fungi with aspects of the environment. There will be awards, habitat oriented displays, new information presented by professionals and a greater understanding of the importance of conserving mushroom habitats. (See nemf.org for more details about the program and workshops.)

Fitchburg is located one hour and forty-five minutes west of Boston. The area enjoys above average rainfall and an abundance of hemlock duff, which are ideal for fungal activity. We have observed the fruiting of all kinds of Boletes including *edulis* and *bicolor*, *Laetiporus sulfureus*, puffballs, *russulas*, *amanitas*, *Cantharellus* and *Craterellus*, to name a few.

This year's walks will offer many diverse and beautiful settings. The Wachusett Audubon Sanctuary includes the Wachusett Meadow, which is known for its "Hemlock Seep." This area has high water tables and a layer of undisturbed topsoil that produces diverse fungi including a wide array of *Cortinarius*.

We plan to foray in the Harvard Forest in Petersham, as well as at the old growth forests of Wachusett Mountain and the vast Leominster State Forest. Here the fern lined trails are home to old hemlock, oak and birch. The many small brooks and waterways allow the local beaver population to create a multitude of mountain ponds, which add to the natural beauty of the area.

David Hibbett is our chief mycologist. Tentative faculty members include Rick Van de Poll, **Gary Lincoff**, Bill Neill, Roz Lowen, Jason Karakehian, Renée Lebeuf, Dorothy Smullen, Walter Sturgeon, Bill Yule, Noah Siegel, **John Plischke III**, Dave Malloch, and artists Carol Govan and Pat Buchanan.

*This event is not sponsored by Fitchburg State University

for more information or to register visit:

<http://www.nemf.org/2016-nemf-foray.html>



Botanical illustrations by Worthington George Smith (1835-1917)



NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Promoting, pursuing and advancing the science of mycology

NAMA Wildacres Regional Foray

August 18-21, 2016 | Wildacres Retreat, NC

The 2016 Wildacres Foray is scheduled for August 18-21, 2016. Wildacres Retreat located just off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Little Switzerland, not too far from Spruce Pine, North Carolina. Wildacres is renowned for the identification of new species to the foray and to the identification of new species to the mushroom kingdom.

You will have the opportunity to search for fungi along the creek sides of Armstrong Creek and Crab Tree Falls, in the highlands of Mount Mitchell, and in many other areas along the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway.

Please contact Glenda O'Neal, by email or by phone 423-863-2742 for more information.

Registration fee for this foray is \$240 per person double occupancy and includes three nights lodging and eight meals.

NAMA Shenandoah Foray 2016

September 8-11, 2016 • Front Royal, VA

Please join us for the NAMA 2016 Shenandoah Foray located in the unique environment of the bio-regions of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. We will be stationed at the Northern Virginia 4-H Center just minutes from Shenandoah National Park and the Appalachian Trail.

We'll explore rolling hills, mountain streams, and hardwood forests that make up some of the over 200,000 acres of protected land in the beautiful Shenandoah mountains and Shenandoah Valley. Come find out why they say Virginia is for lovers!

Chief mycologist will be Walt Sturgeon, well-known field mycologist and author. Foray hosted by The Mycological Association of Washington DC and the New River Valley Mushroom Club.



Blended Burgers Introduced at Pennsylvania Farm Show



Lamb Burger Photo Courtesy of Chef Blake Hartwick (Bonterra Restaurant) and the Mushroom Council

THIS JANUARY MARKED the 100th year of the Pennsylvania Farm Show, the nation's largest indoor agricultural event. One of the most popular attractions at the Farm Show is the Food Court, which offers a variety of Pennsylvania products.

Visitors to the Pennsylvania Mushroom Growers Cooperative's booth had a chance to try something new this year: The Blended Burger, made with 70 percent beef and 30 percent Pennsylvania mushrooms, seasoned with herbs and chargrilled before being served on a potato roll with lettuce, tomato and onion.

The idea behind the Blended Burger is to chop mushrooms to match the texture of any ground meat and use them in place of some of the meat in burgers and other recipes. This technique, referred to as blending, can also be used to make tacos, meatloaf, lasagna, pasta sauce, or meatballs more healthful and delicious.

In addition to the Blended Burger, the booth served up grilled portabellas, along with soup, sandwiches, and salads—all made with mushrooms. The Pennsylvania Mushroom Growers Cooperative gives its proceeds to the American Mushroom Institute, which conducts research and supports mushroom growers throughout the U.S. To watch a video on Blendability, visit:

<http://www.mushroominfo.com/mushroom-blendability/>

Check our website for a complete list of the year's events.

WPMC Yahoo Groups:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub/>

NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA):

www.namyco.org

WPMC Meetings

Meetings are held at 7 pm on the 3rd Tuesday each month from March through November at Beechwood Farms • Audubon Society of Western PA 614 Dorseyville Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

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 our newsletters may only be used in other non-profit publications with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:

Cecily Franklin, Editor • Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.

Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

Membership

Jim Wasik, Membership Chair

Membership is currently 267 members from 152 households. This includes 16 New Members for 2016. Thank you to everyone who has joined or renewed. A 'Second Notice' will appear on your e-mail or mailing label if you have not renewed. Please take the time to renew on-line, by mail or you may pay by cash, check or credit card at the meeting. Join or Renew your membership at: <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

Membership Cards will be sent by mail as you join or renew.

NOTE: Remember, if you move or change your E-Mail address, PLEASE let me know. Send an email, call, or send a note. It is the only way we can continue to send Newsletters and other Club information to you. Thanks, Jim Wasik

P.S. If you are interested in increasing your participation in WPMC, Membership Chairman is a good way to get in on the ground floor. Just let Richard Jacob or me know. It doesn't take a lot of time or effort. Some skills required are use of Microsoft Excel and Word.

membership@wpamushroomclub.org or mail to:

**WPMC Membership c/o Jim Wasik
70 Woodland Farms Rd • Pittsburgh PA 15238-2020**

Do you have mushrooming photos to share? Send photos along with a caption to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

WPMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT 215 Highland Rd 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob Blawnox, PA 15238-2136 president@wpamushroomclub.org
VICE-PRESIDENT 216 Farmington Road 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin Pittsburgh PA 15215 cs4wpmc@gmail.com
RECORDING SECRETARY 137 Hickory Drive 724-251-9662	Fluff Berger Sewickley PA 15143-8212 wfberger@comcast.net
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY 3104 Mary St - Apt B 412-480-1423	Adam Haritan Pittsburgh, PA 15203 adamharitan@gmail.com
TREASURER 204 Woodcock Dr. 412-252-2594	Barbara DeRiso Pittsburgh PA 15215-1546 barbaraderiso@gmail.com

WPMC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT 412-367-7696	Valerie Baker vbaker8@hotmail.com
CULTIVATION 412-441-3958	Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com
DNA BARCODING 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob richard@lostculture.net
EDUCATION 724-251-9662	Fluff Berger wfberger@comcast.net
HISTORIAN 724-339-8547	Joyce Gross jagart58@comcast.net
HOSPITALITY 412-441-3958	Charlotte & Jim Tunney jctunney@verizon.net
ID BUTTON PROGRAM 412-486-7504	Dick Dougall mush2prof@verizon.net
LINCOFF FORAY 412-252-2594	Barbara DeRiso barbaraderiso@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR 412-967-9359	James Wasik membership@wpamushroomclub.org
MUSHROOM DISPLAY 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com
MYCOLOGICAL RECORDING	Bob Lucas rlucas@microspell.com
NEMF FORAY 724-834-2358	John Plischke morelbp@aol.com
PHOTOGRAPHY 724-297-3377	Rebecca Miller rmtreesplease@gmail.com
PUBLICITY 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com
SALES 724-265-2398	Jim Wilson mushroomjim4@email.com
SCHOLARSHIP 724-443-6878	John Stuart jons2art@comcast.net
TOXICOLOGY 412-216-8508	Frank Lotrich lotrichfe@upmc.edu
WALKS & FORAYS 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com
WALKS & FORAYS 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
WEBMASTER 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob president@wpamushroomclub.org
YAHOO GROUPS MODERATOR 724-494-1468	Mary Jo Smiley cmtpt@zbzoom.net



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

2016

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 Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 e-mail contact: membership@wpamushroomclub.org
or visit www.wpamushroomclub.org to pay using credit card.

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

Annual dues: \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$10 Full-time Student Amount enclosed: \$ _____

NOTE: Please add \$5.00 surcharge for hard-copy newsletters to dues amount.

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 _____



Western
Pennsylvania
Mushroom
Club

202 Wadsworth Drive
Glenshaw, PA 15116

Fungi, fun and friends!

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM

WPMC Goals

- Provide organized walks and forays
- Teach scientific methods of wild mushroom identification
- Explore various art forms including photography, dyeing, and paper-making with mushrooms
- Share mushroom recipes
- Educate members and the public about the many aspects of wild mushrooms



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2016 Meeting Schedule

March 15 Expanding the Rachel Carson Trail John Stephen

The 35.7-mile Rachel Carson Trail connects North Park and Harrison Hills Park. John Stephen, Project Director for the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy and founder of Friends of the Riverfront, will present the Conservancy's plans to expand the current Rachel Carson Trail to link with several other trails, including those at Deer Lakes Park and Beechwood Farms.

April 19 The Story of Smugtown Mushrooms Olga Tzogas

May 17 Annual Cultivation Meeting Jim Tunney, Rebecca Miller, Mark Spear

June 21 Mushroom Photography John Plischke III

July 19 Foraging for Wild Plants & Mushrooms Adam Haritan

August 16 Mushrooms & The Law Ryan Hamilton

Sept. 20 Cooking Demonstration

Oct. 18 Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers

Nov. 15 Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month from March through November at Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA), 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.