



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

MARCH / APRIL 2018



President's Message

CECILY FRANKLIN

WELCOME TO THE FIRST newsletter of 2018. This marks my tenth year as a member of WPMC, but only my first year as President.

Last year WPMC shattered numerous records. We ended the year with 758 members and organized more than 50 activities at 32 different parks in ten Pennsylvania counties. This included 42 mushroom walks (some in record heat and cold!), as well as nine monthly meetings, several classes, our annual Lincoff Foray, and a few outside events.

This year, we already have a number of exciting speakers and events lined up:

- Mushroom Education Day will take place on Saturday, April 14, at the Cooper-Siegel Library in Fox Chapel. See page 2 for more information.
- Walt Sturgeon, author of "Mushrooms of the Northeast," will be our guest speaker at the monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 19.
- Renowned mushroom photographer Taylor Lockwood will be Guest Mycologist at this year's 18th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 15, at North Park.

We also have a variety of walks planned, so keep your eye on our website for frequent updates.

I still plan to edit the WPMC newsletter and handle publicity, but I will no longer be organizing the annual auction for the Lincoff Foray. If you think that sounds like fun, just let me know. In fact, we have a lot of volunteer opportunities, so check out the list on page 10 to see what you'd like to try.

Get ready for a fun and busy year!

2018 Meeting Schedule

MEETINGS ARE HELD at 7:00 pm 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. All monthly meetings are free and include a Mushroom Display Table staffed by expert Identifiers.

March 20 **A Year of Edible Mushrooms**
Richard Jacob, Ph.D.

Join us for our first meeting of the year. WPMC Past-President Richard Jacob will teach us about the seasons for some of the more common edible mushrooms and useful tactics for finding them.

April 17 **Mycoflora**
La Monte Yarroll

The North American Mycoflora Project is a collaboration between professional mycologists and citizen scientists to identify and map the distribution of macrofungi throughout North America. It allows the scientific community to tap into the vast amount of knowledge and data amassed by individuals and mycology clubs, and can provide a new focus for amateur efforts. Key components include careful documentation and preparation of specimens (vouchering), depositing these specimens in a herbarium, and DNA sequencing to complement the morphological observations that amateur mycologists already use.

WPMC Mycologist & Officer La Monte Yarroll will explain the work of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Mycoflora 2.0 committee and how Citizen Science can contribute to the effort.

In addition, Emma Honcharski, a 2017 WPMC grant recipient, will talk about her work with mushrooms at various non-profit organizations.

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WPMC Membership

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW DUE. A notice was sent out in early January to remind you that it was time to pay WPMC dues. I thank about 300 of you who have already paid, and I have sent your Membership Cards to you.

Membership Benefits include:

- Nine Meetings with Mushroom Display & Identification
- Mushroom Cultivation Kit to Members Attending the May Meeting
- Five WPMC Newsletters
- Advance Announcements of Mushroom Walks and Events
- Member Photography Contest

Jim Wasik, WPMC Membership Chair

Dues remain unchanged for 2018:

- Individual - \$15
- Family - \$20 (same household)
- Student / Educator - \$10
- \$5 surcharge to receive a hard copy Newsletter

If you have not renewed yet, please do so soon. Memberships run out on May 15, 2018.

Renew on-line or download form: <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> OR complete & return the Membership Form in this newsletter (see page 12):

Register Now for Mushroom Classes in April!

WPMC IS PLEASED to announce this year's mushroom classes on April 14 at the Cooper-Siegel Library in Fox Chapel. The morning classes, suitable for beginners, will provide an introduction to mushrooms, as well as a focus on Morels. The afternoon will include an introduction to mushroom cultivation and a workshop on how to use iNaturalist. Each session is \$10; the full day is \$20. A free mushroom walk at nearby Salamander Park will follow. Here's the full program:

10:00 am – Registration & Sales Tables Open

10:30-11:30 am – Fluff Berger presents: Mushroom Refresher Course

Whether you're a beginner to mushrooms or you've become a bit "rusty" over the winter, WPMC Identifier Fluff Berger will bring you up to date on everything you need to know to get (re)started. She'll cover basic terminology, various mushroom groups and when to find them, edibility, spore prints, and much more.

11:30 am-12:30 pm – Bob Sleight presents: The Elusive Morel Mushroom

WPMC's own legendary morel hunter and Identifier Bob Sleight will cover morel basics and share some of his secrets from decades of finding this elusive mushroom.



LUNCH (on your own) • Sales Table Open

1:30-2:30 pm – Mark Spear presents: Introduction to Mushroom Cultivation

Mark Spear will use slides to present the basic principles involved in growing mushrooms on a small scale. Topics will focus on recognizing and supplying the mushroom's biological and ecological requirements. Examples will be drawn from commercial mushroom cultivation around the world. Participants will be better prepared for WPMC's practical cultivation meeting in May or to try this exciting hobby on their own.

2:30-3:30 pm – Garrett Taylor & Fluff Berger present: How to Use iNaturalist

WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor and Identifier Fluff Berger will teach us how to use the iNaturalist website and free app. They'll show us how to post our observations to the WPMC Project for identification. Bring your Smartphone and iNaturalist password, if you already have one. We'll immediately apply our new knowledge on a walk at nearby Salamander Park.



3:30 pm – Mushroom Walk at Salamander Park (free)

Space is limited, so don't delay!

Register online, using PayPal or credit card, at: <http://wpamushroomclub.org/events/mushroom-education-classes/>

Or make checks payable to WPMC and send to: WPMC, c/o Barbara DeRiso, 204 Woodcock Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15215.

Edible or Dead-able?

by Cecily Franklin

ONE OF THE MOST fascinating things about mushrooms—and the reason it's so important to study them—is that one species can be a culinary delight, while another can be deadly poisonous. That's why the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) and WPMC provide expertise and resources in the unfortunate event of mushroom poisoning. When it comes to eating wild mushrooms, always follow these important tips:

- Before you eat a wild mushroom, be *absolutely sure* your identification is correct and that the mushroom is a safe edible.
- Don't pick mushrooms from areas known to be treated with fertilizers, weed killers, or other sprays.
- When in doubt, throw it out.
- Don't worry about touching mushrooms; none will hurt you to handle them.
- Do not eat any *Amanita* species.
- Avoid Little Brown Mushrooms (LBMs).
- Cook all wild mushrooms.
- Don't serve wild mushrooms to children, the elderly, or the sick.
- Always start with a small amount.

- Don't drink any alcohol with a new species.
- Keep a whole, uncooked specimen in the refrigerator in case of poisoning.

WARNING!
POISONOUS MUSHROOMS!
DON'T MAKE A DEADLY MISTAKE!

Death Cap
Amanita phalloides

Destroying Angel
Amanita bisporigera

KNOW YOUR MUSHROOMS

hongos venenosos nấm độc 毒牛/口 毒蘑菇
ядовитые грибы 음독 버섯 毒蘑菇

North American Mycological Association
www.namyco.org

Poison Control: 800-222-1222 (US)
<http://www.aapcc.org/> (US) www.capcc.ca/ (Canada)

And one last safety tip:

If your dog gets sick from eating a mushroom and the toxicology expert asks you for a photo, *don't send a picture of the dog!*

Some important phone numbers and links:

NAMA's Volunteer Identification Consultant for Western Pennsylvania is John Plischke III (WPMC member). John can be reached at 724-832-0271 or fungi01@aol.com.

NAMA has an on-line form to submit reports of mushroom poisoning:
<https://mms.namyco.org/members/form.php?orgcode=NAMA&fid=1569949>

U.S. Poison Control:
 1-800-222-1222 or
<https://www.poison.org/contact-us>

The Beginner's Corner

by Dick Dougall

THIS IS THE FIRST of a series of articles that will appear in each WPMC Newsletter which gives some basic information for people new to mushrooming. I am planning to write most of them, but other Club Identifiers and Mycologists will also write this column from time to time.

A common situation on club walks is being approached by a new mushroomer who has found a mushroom. The first question they ask me is, "Is this mushroom edible?" How to respond to this question is not as simple as it first appears. If the mushroom is one of the rock-hard shelf mushrooms, the obvious answer is NO. If it is one of the good edibles we are looking for, the answer is YES, and it can start a worthwhile discussion.

However, there are probably over 1,000 different types of mushrooms that have been found on club forays and walks. They range from very poisonous, to slightly toxic, to terrible tasting, to marginally edible, to edible but difficult to identify, or to mushrooms that have unknown edibility even to experienced mycologists. It could also be a mushroom I don't recognize or one that I would need to study in great detail to name. What is a reasonable way to respond to the beginner's question in these cases? I have come up with one approach.

My suggestion is that, unless it is one of the mushrooms that experienced people in the club consider a good edible, the possible edibility does not apply to beginners. It would be considered too dangerous for them to eat. What are these good edibles? They include morels in the spring, chanterelles in summer, and hens-of-the-woods in the fall, plus a few other mushrooms. There are about 30 mushrooms in this group. Beginners can learn these mushrooms from attending monthly meetings and club walks. All the hundreds of mushrooms we find that are not in this group can be ignored except for the truly toxic ones. It is important for anyone who is planning to eat wild mushrooms to have some knowledge about these. We will talk about toxic mushrooms in future articles.

There is a great tool to help learn these good edibles: David Spahr's book *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada*. Beginners might ask, "Do I really have to buy another mushroom book?" The nice thing about this book is that David Spahr has put essentially 100% of his book on his website <http://mushroom-collecting.com/>. You can look it over and start with a few of the mushrooms we find here.

I hope you will come to as many club events as you can. It won't take too long to move beyond the beginner level. You will still have to be very cautious about actually eating mushrooms you find without identification help and other tips. Hopefully learning the good edibles will be an enjoyable experience. Good Luck!

We Were All Beginners Once

By Cecily Franklin

YEARS BEFORE I joined WPMC, I found a big orange fungus on my property. It was a Chicken Mushroom, *Laeloporus sulphureus*, but I didn't know that, so I Googled "big orange fungus." Up popped photos and descriptions of the Jack-o'-Lantern Mushroom, *Omphalotus illudens*, so of course I assumed that's what I had. It was said to be bioluminescent, so for the next two nights I sat outside, waiting for my Chicken Mushroom to glow in the dark, which it never did!

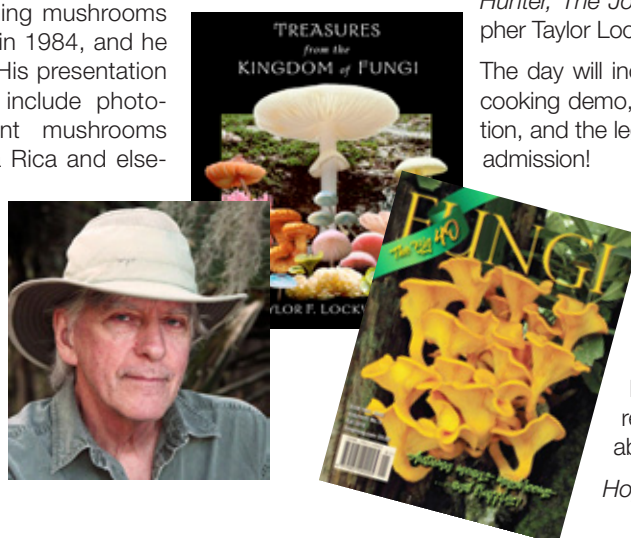
Editor's Note: If you have a funny true story about early mistakes, email it to cs4wpmc@gmail.com. We may include it in a future newsletter, and you may choose to remain anonymous.

This Year's Guest Mycologist

HAVE YOU EVER wondered who takes all those great photos for the cover of *FUNGI Magazine*? It's almost always Taylor Lockwood, our Guest Speaker for this year's 18th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray. Taylor's work has also appeared in *National Geographic*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and many other publications.

Taylor started photographing mushrooms after moving to California in 1984, and he just keeps getting better. His presentation at this year's Foray will include photographs of bioluminescent mushrooms from New Zealand, Costa Rica and elsewhere; photos from his recent trip to Borneo; video animations; time-lapse photography; and much more.

You won't want to miss it!



Save the Date!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The 18th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray will be held on Saturday, September 15th at the Rose Barn in Allegheny County's 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 renowned mushroom photographer Taylor Lockwood.

The day will include guided walks, mushroom identification tables, cooking demo, sales table, vendors, speakers' Meet & Greet, auction, and the legendary Mushroom Feast. All included in the price of admission!

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.

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

Hope to see you there!

Summary of the Button Program for 2017

by Dick Dougall, WPMC Past-President

IN 2017, WPMC'S MUSHROOM identification Button Program saw 13 club members earn a total of 15 buttons, spread over the complete range of button levels. We had four buttons awarded at the 10 and 25 levels. We need to encourage more participation at these entry levels. Maybe we can encourage more participation from families. Children are a good group who might find it fun to demonstrate their mushroom knowledge. A place where we had good success last year was with the higher button levels.

We have two club members who I consider to be great naturalists: Adam Haritan and Garrett Taylor. Adam is our club Vice-President and creator of the "Learn Your Land" online videos. WPMC President Cecily Franklin and I were finally able to get Adam to give us his list of known mushrooms, and we made him an Identifier.

Garrett Taylor has been active as a WPMC member at NAMA events. He also frequently posts photos of mushrooms on iNaturalist. Cecily and I looked at Garrett's iNaturalist photos and agreed that there were at least 150 mushrooms, so we made him an Identifier. Cecily went further with Garrett's iNaturalist photos and found that there were over 500! At the recommendation of La Monte Yarroll and the other Club mycologists, we agreed to make him a WPMC Mycologist. We do have a button for Club Mycologist which we had never used until now.

Keep working on your own lists. In the last three years, we have named seven new Club Identifiers. Also, five experienced mushroomers are working slowly toward the Club Identifier level. As you can see, there are a lot of WPMC members increasing their identification skills. Try it! You may surprise yourself.

WPMC Adds New Identifier & Mycologist

(From left to right): New Mycologist Garrett Taylor and Identifier Jared White received their WPMC Buttons from Past-President Dick Dougall in November.

Photo by Kristine Murawski



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. WPMC's Scholarship/Grant application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information, contact John Stuart at jons2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

Extra 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 our Treasurer, Barbara DeRiso.



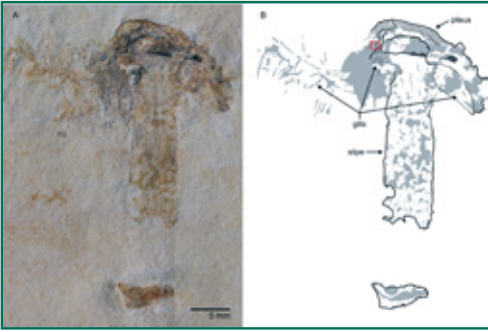
IN MEMORIAM: SHIRLEY CASEMAN

WPMC MEMBERS WERE broken-hearted to learn that Shirley Caseman lost her battle with cancer in December.

Shirley was an active member, best known for chairing WPMC's Hospitality Committee. She won recognition for several years in our annual Photo Contest, and in 2013 she received the WPMC President's Award. Even after she was diagnosed with cancer and began treatment, Shirley continued to participate in WPMC activities and to stay in touch with our members.

In honor of Shirley, WPMC has made a memorial donation to the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania at Beechwood Farms.

NEW STUDIES AVAILABLE



Scientists find world's oldest fossil mushroom

(A) Photomicrograph of *Gondwanagaricites magnificus*. (B) Interpretive drawing with features indicated. Researchers in Illinois found a 115 million-year-old mushroom fossil in Brazil. The mushroom, which was preserved in limestone, was two inches tall. Electron microscopy revealed that it had gills. The researchers have named it *Gondwanagaricites magnificus*. To read more about this extraordinary discovery, visit:

<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0178327>

Chemists Discover Why Candy Caps Taste Like Maple Syrup

AFTER 27 YEARS OF RESEARCH, chemists have finally figured out why candy cap mushrooms taste like maple syrup. First, the mushrooms don't give off the odor when fresh, but only when dry. That's because the amino acids in the drying mushroom combine to form quabalactone III, one of many esters which form strongly fragrant compounds. Second, it isn't the quabalactone III itself that smells; rather, it combines with water to form sotolon, one of the chemicals which food companies use to make fake maple syrup! Finally, it's not just the presence of sotolon, but rather the concentration of it, that determines its smell. Only at low concentrations does sotolon smell like maple syrup. For more information, go to:

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/chemists-discover-why-this-mushroom-tastes-like-maple-s-1648492868>

Mushrooms are Full of Antioxidants that May Have Antiaging Potential

A STUDY BY A TEAM of researchers from Penn State University was published in the October 2017 journal *Food Chemistry*. According to the abstract, "this study demonstrated that certain mushroom species are high in glutathione and ergothioneine and should be considered an excellent dietary source of these important antioxidants."

"What we found is that, without a doubt, mushrooms are the highest dietary source of these two antioxidants taken together, and that some types are really packed with both of them," said Robert Beelman, professor emeritus of food science at Penn State and director of the Center for Plant and Mushroom Foods for Health.

To learn more, see:

<http://news.psu.edu/story/491477/2017/11/09/research/mushrooms-are-full-antioxidants-may-have-antiaging-potential>

NEW BOOKS OF INTEREST

How to Change Your Mind: What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression, and Transcendence

By Michael Pollan

When Michael Pollan set out to research how LSD and psilocybin (the active ingredient in magic mushrooms) are being used to provide relief to people suffering from difficult-to-treat conditions such as depression, addiction and anxiety, he did not intend to write what is undoubtedly his most personal book. But upon discovering how these remarkable substances are improving the lives not only of the mentally ill but also of healthy people coming to grips with the challenges of everyday life, he decided to explore the landscape of the mind in the first person as well as the third.

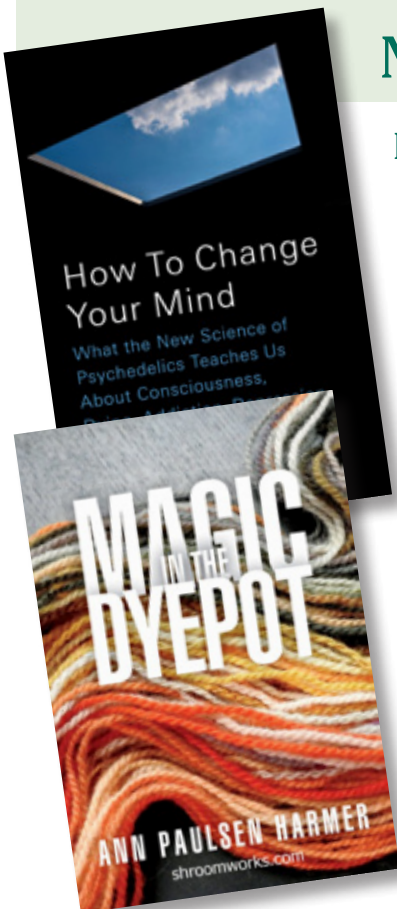
This book is scheduled for release on May 15 and is available for pre-order on Amazon and other websites.

Magic in the Dyepot

By Ann Paulsen Harmer

Part memoir, part how-to (and part how-not-to!), *Magic in the Dyepot* is all about the fascinating process of obtaining color from fungi. In this book, Ann describes the dye mushrooms she finds in the temperate rainforests of British Columbia's West Coast and outlines how to coax them into giving the best of their warm, earthy hues. Woven into the book are Ann's reflections and anecdotes about her voyage into the realm of mushroom dyeing, a passion that grows stronger with each mushroom season.

Until this book becomes a worldwide best-seller, the author is accepting payments via PayPal. For ordering information and to see a few sample pages, visit: <https://shroomworks.com/magic-in-the-dyepot/>



It's Time to Focus on the 2018 Photo Contest



WPMC Mycologist John Plischke III photographs a mushroom at Camp Guyasuta. PHOTO BY CECILY FRANKLIN

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

- Deadline: September 30, 2018
- You must be a member of the WPMC in good standing
- Maximum of 5 entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files up to 4 megabytes
- Email entries to RMiller.fungi@gmail.com

Entry Divisions:

Pictorial: illustrate the beauty and variety in form and color.

Documentary: suited as illustrations or in a field guide.

Judge's Option: do not fit the pictorial or documentary divisions.

A sampling of photos from the 2017 photo contest, non-winners:



Lynn Gill
Boletes



John Stuart
Mycena inclinata



Kris Murawski
Coral Pink merulius

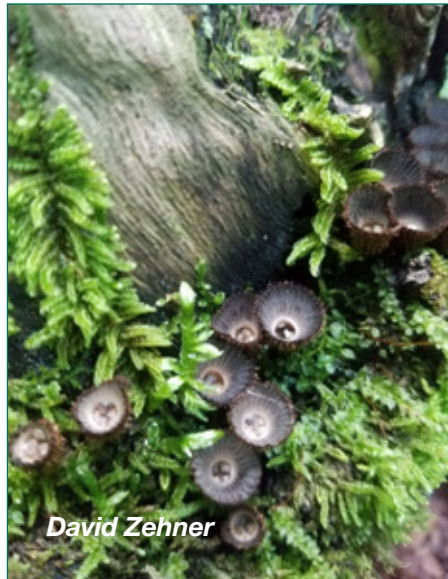


Elizabeth Ace-Dinger
Stemonitis splendens

NOTE: WPMC may use your photographs on our website, newsletter and Mushroom Catalog. 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.



Rebecca Beck



David Zehner



Chris Patti
Chanterelles



Sarah Banach



Sarah Banach



Patty Houck
Amanita amerirubescens



Elizabeth Ace-Dinger
Arcyriadenudata Slime mold

WPMC Walks & Presentations

ALL WALKS ARE ON SATURDAYS, beginning at 10:00am, unless noted otherwise. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. We're always adding new walks to the WPMC website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/events so check back often for updates, directions, and much more!

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.



WPMC Walks

March 17 Sycamore Island Survey with Allegheny Land Trust

Meet at the Public Docks at 101 Arch Street in Verona. Check WPMC and ALT websites for time, registration and pricing.

March 24 Todd Nature Reserve, Sarver (Butler County)

Join WPMC Identifier and Vice President Adam Haritan for a walk at Todd Nature Reserve in Sarver, PA. The exact location is 347 Kepple Rd, Sarver, PA 16055. NOTE: WPMC has special permission to collect mushrooms for identification purposes only at Todd Nature Reserve on Saturday, March 24th. All ASWP properties are private property but are made available for public use. Users are expected to adhere to the policy that collection of mushrooms (or anything found living or growing on the reserves) is prohibited at all other times.

April 14 3:30 pm Salamander Park

Join us for a free mushroom walk following Mushroom Education Day at Cooper-Siegel Library in Fox Chapel. (See page 2.)

April 21 12-3 pm Pine Ridge Lodge, Blairsville

Morel Mushroom Walk (with Indiana County Friends of the Parks)
Meet Bob Sleigh at the Pine Ridge Lodge at noon.

Bob Sleigh will be giving a presentation on Morels and leading 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 12 Devil's Hollow, Sewickley with Allegheny Land Trust

Park at the Walker Park pavilion on Little Sewickley Creek Road. It's a straight flat walk from there up to the Devil's Hollow entrance.
<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Devils-Hollow-Map.pdf>

June 2 Bird Park BioBlitz, Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy

Experts from several taxa will be leading walks to assess the biodiversity of the park.

Trail Map: <https://www.mtlebanon.org/DocumentCenter/View/10969>

June 10 (Sunday) 9:00 am – 4:30 pm / BioBlitz & Biodiversity Festival, Phipps Conservatory

WPMC will be participating for the third year and will host a table. We will organize one or two public walks during the day, the first of which will begin at 10:00 am. We plan to sample the DNA from a number of specimens that are collected.

June 16 Camp Guyasuta, Sharpsburg

Meet WPMC Officer Barbara DeRiso at the second parking lot.

July 14 North Park

Meet Past-President John Stuart at the Swimming Pool parking lot.

August 18 Sycamore Island Survey with Allegheny Land Trust.

Meet at the Public Docks at 101 Arch Street in Verona. Check WPMC and ALT websites for time, registration and pricing.

Sept. 13-14 All Day

Cook Forest with Gary Lincoff

Other Walks & Forays

July 20-21 West Virginia Mushroom Club

Canaan Valley Resort

<https://www.wvmushroomclub.net/annual-foray>

July 26-29 Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF)

Samuel Ristich Foray, SUNY Geneseo Campus, NY
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xd5PIFXsWRM>

August 10-12 Central Pa. Mushroom Club

Bill Russell Foray, <http://www.centralpamushroomclub.com/foray.html>

August 16-19 Telluride Mushroom Festival

Telluride, Colorado, <https://www.telluridemushroomfest.org/>

Aug 31- Sept 3 Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association (COMA)

Clark Rogerson Foray, www.comafungi.org

Sept. 15 18th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray

North Park, See page 3 for more information.

Sept. 28-30 Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club

<https://www.michiganmushroomhunters.org/>

Oct. 11-14 North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray

Salem, Oregon, <https://www.namyc.org/events.php>

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BOLETE SPECIALIST

Scott Pavelle 412-325-2535
scottt@pavellelaw.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 spores.
- You are responsible for not getting lost. If you have a tendency to wander off, stick like glue to the others. We won't wait for you, and we won't come to look for you.
- Don't take the identification of the person standing next to you; they might not know as much as you do. Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for advice.
- The Walk Leader will tell you when to be back at the walk starting place, where the mushrooms will be put on paper plates and the Walk Identifier or Club Mycologist will put names on only the mushrooms they know well.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms. You should go home and check books yourself.
- Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your responsibility alone.
- **Help Keep Our Parks Clean!** When mushrooming, it's easy to bring a plastic grocery bag to collect cans, bottles or other trash you find. Trash cans are generally found nearby. If not, take it home for disposal.

Walks & Forays Check List:

- Bring a buddy or two. **Do not forage alone!**
- Dress for the weather, carry a rain poncho
- Bring drinking water and lunch
- 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



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

WPMC YAHOO GROUPS:

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

NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA):
www.namyo.org

HELP WANTED! Please inquire within...

WPMC is an all-volunteer organization, so we count on our members to do everything, from leading walks and teaching classes to selling books or updating the website. We need it all! Check out this list of volunteer opportunities to see if there's a match between your interests and our needs. If so, please notify any WPMC Board member or email cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

WPMC Board Approves Changes to Bylaws

THE WPMC BOARD of Directors has revised the WPMC Bylaws to reflect current practices. The Bylaws recognize the three types of Club Membership: Active, Honorary and Student. Criteria for Honorary Membership are included within these revisions. Minor changes in the composition of the Audit Committee and audit frequency were also adopted. A complete copy of the revised Bylaws can be found on the WPMC website or by contacting the Club Secretary for a printed copy:

http://wpamushroomclub.org/wp/club_files/WPMC_Constitution_and_Bylaws-amended_1-2018.pdf

If You're Interested in:	Then You Might Enjoy:	Contact:
Computers	Helping to keep our website up-to-date.	Richard Jacob
	Posting walk info (species list & photos) to the website.	Richard Jacob
	Emailing newsletters & announcements to members.	Jim Wasik
Cooking	Bringing refreshments to a monthly meeting.	Kate Pavelle
	Preparing a dish for the annual Lincoff Foray.	Barbara DeRiso
	Submitting a recipe for the WPMC website.	Richard Jacob
Cultivation	Helping with the annual cultivation meeting in May.	Rebecca Miller
Electronics	Assisting with Audio-Visual requirements at meetings.	Cecily Franklin
Identification	Becoming a WPMC Identifier.	Dick Dougall
Photography	Expanding & Organizing our on-line mushroom catalog.	Richard Jacob
	Judging WPMC's annual Photo Contest.	Rebecca Miller
Promotion	Representing WPMC at outside events.	Valerie Baker
Sales	Organizing the annual Auction for the Lincoff Foray.	Barbara DeRiso
Science	Assisting with DNA analysis.	Richard Jacob
	Performing microscopic or chemical analysis.	La Monte Yarroll
Manage Data	Assisting with membership records.	Jim Wasik
Teaching	Teaching or helping to organize a mushroom class.	Fluff Berger
	Helping beginners at meetings and walks.	Dick Dougall
Walks	Leading a walk at your favorite park.	La Monte Yarroll
Writing	Submitting an article or book review for the newsletter.	Cecily Franklin

Club Members receive service awards at November 2017 meeting



WPMC Past-President Richard Jacob was recognized for his many years of service to the club.



WPMC Mycologist & Officer La Monte Yarroll (left) received the 2017 Outstanding Service Award from then-President Richard Jacob, in appreciation for organizing our many walks, for identifying mushrooms on walks and at monthly meetings, for managing the identification tables at the annual Lincoff Foray, and for teaching WPMC members how to identify mushrooms.



Newly elected WPMC President Cecily Franklin also received an Outstanding Service Award for 2017, for editing the WPMC newsletter, for handling publicity, and for organizing the raffle at the annual Lincoff Foray.



WPMC Identifier & Officer Fluff Berger was not in attendance to receive this President's Award for 2017, in recognition of her many accomplishments in mushroom education.

PHOTOS BY KRISTINE MURAWSKI

2018 Meeting Schedule

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

All monthly meetings are free and include a Mushroom Display Table staffed by expert Identifiers.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

May 15 Annual Cultivation Meeting Rebecca Miller & John Kosmal

We'll have kits for growing oyster mushrooms at home and shiitake spawn for those who want to inoculate logs to take home. Bring your own logs. Suitable logs are 4 to 6-inch diameter and up to 4 feet long; a length of 40 inches is ideal. Any species of oak and most of the maples are suitable for growing shiitake. Wood that's been freshly cut this winter or early spring while still dormant has the best chance of success. WPMC will supply shiitake spawn. Drills and a work station will be set up. John Kosmal will supervise the process and help those who haven't inoculated logs before. Rebecca Miller will give a brief presentation with instructions for handling your kit and growing mushrooms at home. Kits are available for club members only. New members are welcome to join at the start of the evening meeting.

June 19 Edible Wood Rotters of Western Pennsylvania Walt Sturgeon

Walt Sturgeon is a nationally recognized field mycologist who has 40 years of experience with wild mushrooms, primarily in eastern North America. He has served as President of the Ohio Mushroom Society, as well as Vice President and Foray Chairman of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA). Walt is the author of "Mushrooms of the Northeast", which was recognized as the best field guide of 2016. He has received NAMA's Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology and the Northeast Mycological Federation's Friend of the Amateur award.

- July 17 Sarah Banach, WPMC Identifier**
- August 21 To Be Announced**
- Sept 18 To Be Announced**
- Oct 16 Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers**
- Nov 20 Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos**

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

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NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

2018

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/about/join/ to pay using a credit card.

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

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

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

This Release and Indemnification Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, as it is presently organized and may be later structured ("WPMC") and the undersigned Member (the "Member") on this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

WHEREAS, WPMC is a non-profit educational organization that has as its principal purpose the sharing of mushroom-related information among its members; and
WHEREAS, all officers, directors, identifiers and members serve WPMC in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration for their services; and
WHEREAS, in cases where WPMC charges a fee for its forays, walks, lectures and other events (collectively "WPMC Events"), it is doing so only to cover its direct costs and does not operate in a for-profit capacity; and WHEREAS, the Member understands that there is inherent and unavoidable risk in outdoor activities relating to hunting and consuming wild mushrooms. These risks include but are not limited to the dangers of hiking in difficult terrain, the possibility of misidentifying a wild mushroom, and the possible allergic or toxic reaction that some individuals may have to otherwise edible mushrooms.

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

1. The Member assumes all risks associated with WPMC Events. The Member expressly acknowledges that it is the Member's sole responsibility to hike safely and to determine whether a wild mushroom may be consumed.
2. The Member releases, holds harmless, and indemnifies the WPMC, its officers, directors, identifiers, and representatives from any and all liability relating to any injury or illness incurred by the Member or the Member's family members as a result of participation in a WPMC Event.

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If any portion of the Agreement is declared for any reason to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of the Agreement. This Agreement shall apply to all current and future WPMC events.

MEMBERS:

SIGNATURE (IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER AGE 21, SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN). PLEASE PRINT NAME:

1 _____ 1 _____
2 _____ 2 _____
3 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 4 _____