



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

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MARCH / APRIL 2020



President's Message

CECILY FRANKLIN

WELCOME TO THE YEAR 2020. It's time for an all-new episode of "WPMC: The Next Generation". Since last year, we have a new Toxicology chair, WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke**; a new Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**; and two new Sales co-chairs, **Stephen Bucklin** and **Erin Gaughan**. Please join me in thanking these members for their contributions to WPMC's success.

Once October rolls around, it will be time for us to elect officers, including a new President and NAMA Trustee. In the meantime, we still have a few other important openings to fill:

Membership – WPMC Membership Chair **Jim Wasik** has been keeping membership records, collecting dues, and issuing membership cards for many years, long before we grew to over 1,000 members. Jim has done a great job of maintaining our records on an Excel spreadsheet, but we are open to other suggestions about the best ways to manage our membership records in the future.

Scholarship – WPMC Past President **John Stuart** is also ready to retire as Chairman of our Scholarship Committee. According to the WPMC Bylaws, the Scholarship Committee shall recommend to the Board of Directors scholarship awards for academic endeavors and grants for projects which encourage the recipients in the expansion of mycological knowledge. The goal of the Scholarship Committee is to provide support to projects, individuals, institutions, or events that promote the Club's mission of education, research, training, teaching, and increasing the awareness of wild mushrooming.

Hospitality – The Hospitality Committee provides refreshments for WPMC's monthly meetings, but that doesn't mean you have to do all of the cooking and shopping! Encourage contributions from other members and provide some beverages. WPMC will reimburse you for expenses.

ID Button – The ID Button Chair reviews lists submitted by WPMC members and may approve ID Button awards up to 150 species.

If you would like more information about any of these committees, please feel free to contact me or the current Chair. Are you more interested in a job that's already being done by someone else, e.g. Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, or Walk Organizer? No problem! Just let us know, and we'll be delighted to accept your assistance.

There are other ways to contribute without making a major commitment. You could bring refreshments to a meeting. Or write an article for the newsletter. Or help to identify mushrooms after one of our walks. As my old boss used to say, "The possibilities are mindless!"

WPMC Membership Report

By Jim Wasik

2019 WAS A BANNER YEAR for WPMC, we set a record with 1008 members! 2020 has started out strong, with over 400 new and renewing members. Membership cards have been sent to all who have paid their 2020 dues. New and renewal memberships are always being accepted on the WPMC website, using a credit card: www.wpamushroomclub.org/join. Or mail a check with the WPMC membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Some of the benefits of WPMC membership include:

- Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter • Monthly Meeting Notices**
- Updates on Mushroom Walks and WPMC Events**
- Free 'Grow-Your-Own' mushroom kit at the May meeting**
- Mushroom Identification at meetings and mushroom walks**
- Mushroom Education Day • Annual Photo Contest**
- Discount at WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray**

2020 Meeting Schedule

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



March 17 La Monte Yarroll The "Safe Seven" Mushrooms

WPMC Mycologist La Monte Yarroll will present the "Safe Seven" mushrooms from *Start Mushrooming: The Reliable Way to Forage* (2nd edition) by Stan Tekiela. These seven are Morels, Shaggy Manes, Chickens, Oysters, Puffballs, Chanterelles, and Hens. Copies of *Start Mushrooming* will be available for purchase at the meeting.

April 21

Adam Haritan Edible & Not-So-Edible Spring Mushrooms of Western Pennsylvania

Spring is an exciting time to be a mushroom forager, and a successful spring hunt can almost be guaranteed when knowledge intersects with effort, timing, and luck. Join WPMC Identifier Adam Haritan for a lively presentation based on years of personal dedication, exploration, and investigation into Western Pennsylvania's most fascinating—and oftentimes elusive—spring fungi.

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By Stephen Bucklin

AS MUSHROOM ENTHUSIASTS, many of us recognize the value of diversity in nature. We know that mixed hardwood forests of elms and tulip poplars are great places to scout for morels in spring, that oak forests are home to chanterelles in summer, and that spruce forests can yield delicious boletes through the warmer months into fall. The diversity of life (called biodiversity) present in a place is one way of measuring the health of that ecosystem. Biodiversity is a buzzword that, for many, suggests tropical rainforests in distant places or national parks and nature preserves, but what do we know about biodiversity here in the ecosystems where we live and work?

Scientists have learned a lot about the species that call Western Pennsylvania home, but nature is full of surprises, and there is always more to discover and learn. So much, in fact, that many scientists have begun enlisting the help of citizens to help collect more data. One of the fastest growing platforms for citizen science, iNaturalist, hosts an annual competition to get more people who live in and near urban areas involved in documenting what lives around them. Called the City Nature Challenge, this event gets people around the world outdoors, making observations for a weekend-long digital global bioblitz. Last year over 34,000 people participated in contributing almost one million observations to the database.

This April, you can help bring Pittsburgh to the top in the City Nature Challenge while learning more about the species that live in your neck of the woods. The City Nature Challenge is being held April 24-27. Any observations made during those dates in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland counties that get uploaded to iNaturalist will be automatically added to the Pittsburgh City Nature Challenge project, helping to push us past Cleveland, Philadelphia, and other rival cities.

Participating involves three simple steps: take pictures of fungi, plants, animals, or any other living thing you find outside (or signs they leave behind, like tracks) during the Challenge dates; upload your observations to iNaturalist; and help identify observations that other people share. While you are out hunting for morels or enjoying the change in the weather, taking a few pictures of any fungi, plants, insects, or other organisms you find could easily boost Pittsburgh's standing in the global contest.

The easiest way to participate is with a smartphone. You can download the iNaturalist application onto your iOS or Android device, create an account, and directly upload photos from your phone into the app. The app will pick up any location data associated with the photos to help accurately place your observations. (And yes, you can obscure your locations so that nobody can track down your morel spot!) You can also upload photos taken with a digital camera. To do so, you'll need to get the photos onto a computer with internet access and then visit iNaturalist.org. You can then create or log into your account and upload them using the green "upload" button in the upper right corner of the page.

With spring just around the corner, I encourage you to get out for a walk in a nearby park and see what you can find. Many different species of wildflowers, insects, birds, amphibians and, of course, fungi all begin to make their timely appearance as the seasons change, filling our Western Pennsylvania landscape with incredible diversity. Taking the time to photograph and document your observations can help you and others learn, and it could help protect nature in and around our city.

These three tips will help you contribute high-quality data to this citizen science project:

Take identifiable photos: Fill the frame with the subject; try your best to get it in focus and in good lighting.

Take multiple photos: Anyone who has taken the time to identify a mushroom or a plant knows that one perspective often isn't enough to identify it to species. For mushrooms, pictures of the upper and lower surface, the details of the stipe, how the gills attach, and many other features can help with identification. For plants, pictures of leaves, flowers, fruits, buds, and the stem or bark can all be helpful in confirming an ID.

Take notes: Some things can't be observed in a picture. Adding notes about the smell or taste of certain fungi, or about the area your subject was found can be important information.



Photo by Kristine Murawski

WPMC Announces Annual Awards

AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING, WPMC Identifier **Adam Haritan** received the **President's Award** for 2019 for his many contributions to the success of WPMC, including serving on the WPMC Board of Directors; speaking at the annual Gary Lincoff Foray and organizing the morning walks; leading a mushroom walk at Hartwood Acres and identifying at other walks; and assistance with monthly meetings, ID Button program, newsletter, etc.

WPMC members **Valerie & Jack Baker** received the 2019 **Outstanding Service Award**, in recognition of their many contributions to the success of WPMC: Leading many mushroom walks, including North Park & Ackermann Preserve; representing WPMC at outside events, including Garden in the Park; serving as WPMC Identifier on walks and at monthly meetings; and providing assistance whenever and wherever we've needed it.



By Cecily Franklin

ON NOVEMBER 1, I WAS contacted by Dr. Matthew Stripp, Director of Toxicology at Allegheny General Hospital (AGH), regarding an ongoing toxicology research project in the hospital's Department of Emergency Medicine. The purpose of the study was to evaluate the accuracy of responses being provided to those who seek emergency identification of mushrooms through social media. WPMC had been recommended by the director of the Philadelphia poison center.

According to Dr. Stripp, healthcare providers are hesitant to accept information or identification from social media, in part because of the limits in ensuring adequate credentials on the part of those providing the information. AGH's research hoped to determine whether "verified experts" agree with the information provided to people online.

Dr. Stripp requested that WPMC have two experts independently review 30 case photos, with a third expert acting as a tie-breaker in the event of disagreement. WPMC Mycologists **John Plischke** and **Garrett Taylor** agreed to participate, and WPMC Past-President **Richard Jacob** served as the tiebreaker. We were not told of the identifications that had already been made on social media.

In addition to Dr. Stripp, we worked with Dr. Abigail Kerns, Emergency Medicine Resident at AGH, who sent us the photos. Our assignment proved to be quite a challenge, since some of the photos were of such poor quality that no identification could be made. In some cases, there were multiple species in the same photo! But our three experts ultimately made their "best guesses" and I summarized them.

Dr. Kerns then compared our identifications with those from social media. Of the thirty photos posted on Facebook, 27 (or 90%) resulted in a positive identification. A positive identification was defined as any administrator proposing a matching answer to the verified expert identification. Complete lack of identification was considered positive if matching between groups.

AGH submitted its abstract to the American College of Medical Toxicology on November 15. Since then, it has been accepted for presentation in March, when a poster will be presented at the ACMT Conference in New York City. AGH also plans to submit a formal paper based on the work. Dr. Stripp expects to find significant interest among the medical toxicology community on this topic.

"Thank you so much for assisting us with this project! We really appreciate the efforts put forth by the Western PA Mushroom Club! We hope this will help open up a new area of research that has been under-examined to date. I hope that we can continue ongoing collaboration." Matthew Stripp, MD



WPMC Out & About

LAST NOVEMBER, THE Carnegie Science Center showed *Fantastic Fungi*, a documentary film that has been attracting large audiences. WPMC Past Presidents **Jim Wasik** and **Richard Jacob** hosted an informational table on the first two nights.

The Tull Family Theater in Sewickley also showed *Fantastic Fungi* on February 20 and March 1. WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** gave a presentation prior to the February 20 showing and, earlier that same day, made a presentation for students of Quigley High School. WPMC Past President **Richard Jacob** will give a presentation on March 1. Sales Co-Chairs **Stephen Bucklin** and **Erin Gaughan** sold a variety of mushroom books.

On February 5th, WPMC identifier **Adam Haritan** gave a presentation on "Poisonous Mushrooms of Beechwood Farms" to a team of volunteers that lead nature programs at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve.

WPMC Names New Identifier

WPMC'S NEWEST IDENTIFIER, **Cara Coulter**, is all ready for her first walk, with her official new clipboard and Identifier button! Other WPMC members who have qualified for ID Buttons are **Cheree Charmello-Andrews** (50), **Carson Gross** (25), and **Silas Claypool** (25).

To learn more about the ID Button program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms, go to:

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



Photo by Kristine Murawski.



Dyer's Polypore, *Phaeolus schweinitzii*. Photo by Fluff Berger

Mushroom Education Day is “Dye Day” This Year

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, August 1, at Garner Shelter in North Park to learn how to dye with mushrooms. WPMC expert **Judy Mackenroth** will explain principles of dyeing in the morning, followed by a free mushroom walk to look for suitable mushrooms. The afternoon will include a hands-on demonstration on how to dye with mushrooms.

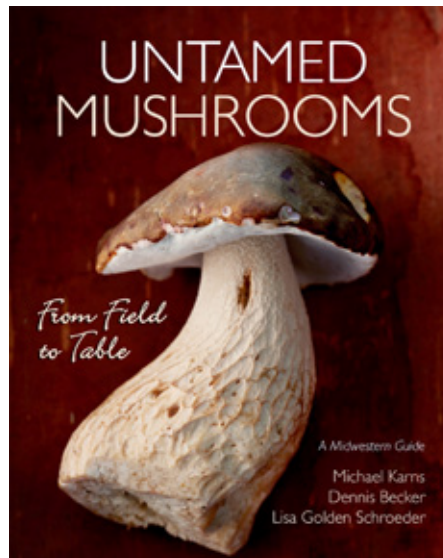
No experience is necessary, but space is limited, and registration is required to attend the full day. The morning introduction and mushroom walk are free; the afternoon session is \$10. More details, including a full schedule, what to bring, and how to register will be included in future newsletters.

In the meantime, if you find any of the mushrooms on this list, please save them for Judy. They can either be dried or frozen; just make sure that they are well labeled.

LIST OF FUNGI TO SAVE FOR DYEING

SPECIES NAME	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
<i>Cortinarius marylandensis</i> <i>Cortinarius harrisonii</i> <i>Cortinarius semisanguineus</i>	Red gills
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	Crust fungus: Carbon Balls
<i>Hapalopilus nidulans</i>	Tender nesting polypore
<i>Hydnellum spp.</i>	Toothed mushroom
<i>Hypomyces lactifluorum</i>	Lobster Mushroom
<i>Inonotus hispidus</i>	Shaggy Bracket
<i>Phaeolus schweinitzii</i>	Dyer's Polypore (see photo)
<i>Phellodon spp.</i>	Toothed mushroom
<i>Pisolithus arenarius</i>	Dyeball or Dyemaker's Puffball
<i>Sarcodon spp.</i>	Toothed mushroom
<i>Tapinella atrotomentosa</i>	Velvet-Footed Pax

Submitted by Cecily Franklin



BOOK REVIEW:

Untamed Mushrooms

Michael Karns, Dennis Becker and Lisa Golden Schroeder, authors

QUESTION: What happens when a food stylist and a photographer make friends with a professional certified mushroom forager? ANSWER: They write this great book. It's not exactly a cookbook, and it's definitely not a field guide. But it is filled with practical advice, mouth-watering recipes, and spectacular photography.

Michael Karns (the forager) has written 13 chapters on edible mushrooms, presented in order of the seasons. Spring mushrooms include Morels and Pheasant Backs (Dryad's Saddle). He admits that the latter are “not everyone's cup of tea” but says “they are quite good once one overcomes the expectation that they will taste like other mushrooms”. Summer mushrooms include Chanterelles, Chickens, Oysters, Hedgehogs, Black Trumpets, Lobsters, King Boletes, Shaggy Manes and Lion's Manes. The Fall mushrooms include Giant Puffballs and Hens.

For each species, Karns includes a journal entry from a particularly successful hunt. Of course, he always redacts the location. But he always follows with his remarkable results, such as “in five hours four of us picked 36 pounds of trumpets” or “the last few days we picked over 50 pounds of chickens, nearly 20 pounds of hens, five pounds of lobsters, two pounds of chanterelles, one pound of chestnut boletes, three pounds of Boletus pallidus, and a few kings.”

After all of this successful foraging, **Lisa Golden Schroeder** (the food stylist) takes over with her “Kitchen Handbook”. She explains how to clean, prepare, and preserve each of the 13 edible mushrooms. The rest of the book is filled with mushroom recipes, most of which are accompanied by **Dennis Becker's** outstanding photography. All of the recipes include helpful “kitchen notes” and encourage substitutions.

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Minnesota Historical Society Press (April 1, 2018)

ISBN-10: 1681340860 / ISBN-13: 978-1681340869



Bring Some Bucks & Buy Some Books

WPMC RECEIVED SO many donations of used mushroom books last year that we plan to have a “Used Book Sale” at our monthly meetings. The March meeting will feature some colorful hardcover books for only \$5 each, thanks to donations from the Fern Hollow Nature Reserve and the estate of Ellis Becker.

North American Mycological Association

THE NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of professional and amateur mycologists, with over 80 affiliated mycological societies in the United States, Canada and Mexico. NOTE: WPMC is an affiliated NAMA member organization.

NAMA is committed to the promotion of scientific and educational activities related to fungi. NAMA also supports the protection of natural areas and their biological integrity. In addition, NAMA advocates the sustainable use of mushrooms as a resource and endorses responsible mushroom collecting that does not harm the fungi or their habitats.

Join NAMA to learn more about fungi, have more fun, and make friends. NAMA welcomes all people with an interest in mushrooms and mycology without regard to race, gender, age, color, national origin, ethnic background, socioeconomic status, marital status, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Members of affiliated clubs receive a \$5 discount. For only \$25 (\$30 for non-affiliated members), you will receive six issues of *The Mycophile*, full access to NAMA's expanded website, and a standing invitation to all NAMA-sponsored forays. To join NAMA, go to <http://www.namycology.org/join.php>.



WPMC Scholarships & Grants

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

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

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 the Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.

WPMC Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: March/April, May/June, July/August, Sept./Oct., and Nov./Dec. 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.

Cecily Franklin, Editor

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.

Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

2020 Meeting Schedule, CONTINUED

May 19	Annual Cultivation Meeting Rebecca Miller & Friends
June 16	Fluff Berger Summer Mushrooms
July 21	La Monte Yarroll & Judy Mackenroth Slime Molds, Crusts & Polypores
August 18	Scott Pavelle Boletes
Sept. 15	Leon Shernoff, Editor <i>Mushroom, The Journal of Wild Mushrooming</i> Fall Mushrooms
Oct. 15	Photo Contest Winners Election of Officers
Nov.19	Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos

MUSHROOM CONTEST PHOTOS: 2019

For your enjoyment... from the 2019 photo contest.



photo by: Erin Gaughan



photo by: Erin Nihiser



photo by: Jennifer Bechak



photo by: Judy Mackenroth



photo by: Lynn Gill



photo by: Cara Barkley

WPMC Prepares Specimens for New Fungarium

IN JANUARY, SOME WPMC members and friends got together to process years of Club mushroom specimens. These will be delivered to the new Fungarium at Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Tubes with tissue samples will be sent for DNA analysis.



WPMC Identifier Fluff Berger processes samples.



Joe Isaac helped to match specimens with their paperwork



WPMC Mycologist La Monte Yarroll processes specimens.



Specimens ready for processing include the Field Data Slip, the dried mushroom, and the specimen packet. Bonnie Isaac, Manager of the herbarium (and now fungarium) at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, helped to sort the components into "kits".

Photos by Cecily Franklin



Photo courtesy of Dennis Becker

Focus on WPMC's 2020 Photo Contest

WPMC Identifier **Josh Doty** will judge members' photos. Remember to keep your camera handy when going out foraging or on walks.

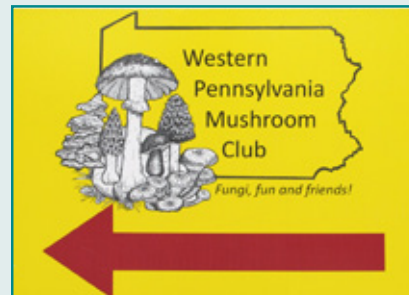
Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2020

Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member

Submit high resolution JPEG files up to 4 MB

Email entries to Josh Doty at wpmcphotocontest@gmail.com

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



WPMC Walks

April 18 9:00 a.m. to noon / Sycamore Island with Allegheny Land Trust

Meet WPMC and ALT at the Verona Public Docks for the Spring survey of Sycamore Island. The Allegheny Cleanways pontoon boat, the Rachel Carson, will provide shuttle service to and from the island from 9:00 a.m. to noon. The cost of the boat is covered by the registration fee. Space is limited, registration is required:



<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sycamore-island-fungus-hunt-tickets-89643029715>

April 25 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. / Earth Day at Frick Park with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Jim Tunney** at the Frick Environmental Center for one of three mushrooms walks. Free.

May 16 9:00 a.m. – ALT Presentation / 10:00 a.m. – Mushroom Walk, Linbrook Woodlands (Sewickley) with Allegheny Land Trust

Meet WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** and ALT naturalists at the trailhead on Hopkins Church Road. Registration is required. Fees: \$5.00 for non-WPMC members; free for WPMC members (use code 20WPMC20). To register: bit.ly/altoutside



June 7 Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. / Phipps Conservatory BioBlitz

WPMC will host a table and lead two mushroom walks in Schenley Park during the day. Meet on the lawn outside the activity tents.

August 1 9:00 a.m. North Park – Garner Shelter

Join us for a free walk on the morning of Mushroom Education Day. This year will be “Dye Day” with **Judy Mackenroth**. See page 4 for more information.

August 15 9:00 a.m. – ALT Presentation / 10:00 a.m. – Mushroom Walk, Devil’s Hollow with Allegheny Land Trust

Meet WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** and ALT naturalists at the trailhead on Sevin Road. Parking is limited, participants should park at Walker Park on Little Sewickley Creek Road and walk (about .25 miles). Registration is required. Fees: \$5 for non-WPMC members; free for WPMC members (use code 20WPMC20). To register:



<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/allegheny-land-trust-6944285091>

**Sept. 11 Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Cook Forest Park Office
100 Route 36, Cooksburg, PA**

Meet WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** and Identifier **Richard Jacob** in the Conference Room at the Park Office for a pre-Foray mushroom walk. Bring a lunch.

Other Walks, Forays, & Events

July 31-August 2

Eastern Penn Mushroomers Helen Miknis Foray
Penn State Mont Alto, PA
<http://www.epennmushroomers.org/>

September 12

20th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray
The Lodge at North Park
See page 10 for more information.

September 13

Science Sunday with WPMC
The Lodge at North Park
See page 10 for more information.

September 11-14

Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF)
Samuel Ristich Foray
Joliette, Quebec

September 17-20

7th Annual Northwoods Foray
Lakewoods Resort
Lake Namakagon, Wisconsin

October 8-11

North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray
Trout Lodge, Potosi, Missouri
www.namyc.com

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

Important Walk & Foray Information

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

Walks & Forays Check List:

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



CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

Kim Plischke	724-832-0271 ladiebugzkp@aol.com
John Plischke III	724-832-0271 fungi01@aol.com
Garrett Taylor	716-307-0758 taygamu@gmail.com
Jim Tunney	412-441-3958 aminitam@hotmail.com
La Monte Yarroll	412-854-5684 piggy@wpamushroomclub.org

IDENTIFIERS

Jack Baker	412-367-7696 jabaker2@hotmail.com
Sarah Banach	747-333-8644 sarahbanach@gmail.com
Fluff Berger	724-601-8382 wfberger@comcast.net
Cara Coulter	412-445-1078 cab399@yahoo.com
Josh Doty	412-913-8026 jcdoty@gmail.com
Joyce Gross	724-339-8547 jagart58@comcast.net
Adam Haritan	412-480-1423 adamharitan@gmail.com
Richard Jacob	215-888-5503 richard@lostculture.net
Blaine Sanner	724-217-3168 brsanner@hotmail.com
Jerry Sapp	724-713-1212 surffisher_89@yahoo.com
Bob Sleight	resleigh@gmail.com
Jared White	814-460-4265 white.jaredd@gmail.com

BOLETE SPECIALIST

Scott Pavelle	412-325-2535 scottp@pavellelaw.com
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20th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

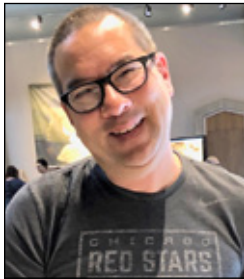
MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The 20th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray will be held on **Saturday, September 12, 2020** at The Lodge in Allegheny County's North Park. The day will include guided walks, mushroom identification tables, cooking demo, sales table, vendors, speakers' Meet & Greet, auction, and the legendary Mushroom Feast. All included in the price of admission! As in previous years, WPMC will also hold a free Pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest on **Friday, September 11**. Because it's our 20th anniversary, we will also have **Science Sunday on September 13**, with workshops to identify the species found over the weekend.

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. If you would like to be on the Foray Planning Committee, please email: cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

This Year's Guest Speakers

WPMC HAS ALREADY LINED up two great speakers for this year's Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 12.



Michael Kuo

Michael Kuo, the developer of MushroomExpert.Com, is an English teacher and amateur mycologist, based in Illinois.

Kuo started collecting mushrooms in 1994 and began his website in 2000. Since then, the site has progressed from a dozen or so pages to well over a thousand. While it used to take Kuo half an hour or so to make a mushroom webpage, he now spends five to ten hours, including collecting, documenting, and preserving the specimens, microscopic study, research and identification, and finally creating the corresponding webpage.

Kuo has written or co-authored many books and other publications about mushrooms, including *Morels*, *100 Edible Mushrooms*, *100 Cool Mushrooms*, and *Mushrooms of the Midwest*.



Leon Shernoff

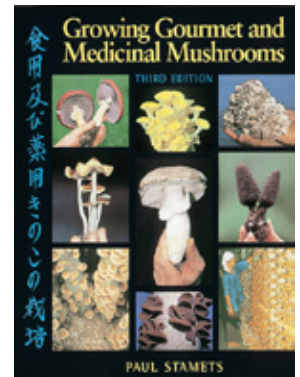
Leon Shernoff is currently in his 17th year as editor of the internationally distributed magazine *Mushroom, the Journal of Wild Mushrooming*. For the past few years, he has also been developing the Fungal Data System, a custom data store for mushroom morphological data.

In addition to *Mushroom the Journal*, his columns on wild mushrooms have appeared in *The Wild Foods Network*; *Backwoods Home Magazine*; and *Mycophile*, the newsletter of the North American Mycological Association. A former president of the Illinois Mycological Association, Leon has given mushroom talks and identified mushrooms for forays in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Oregon, and Washington. Fungi that he has collected are now part of the permanent collection of the Field Museum in Chicago and the New York Botanical Gardens.

Leon stresses the wonder of fungi and their interactions with nature, rather than just identification of species and knowledge of edibility. He is also one of the rare people who can present technical information with historical background and humor, instead of masses of detail. From the often-overlooked to the all-too-common, Leon usually has that little extra bit of information that makes us aware of the marvel and mystery of mushrooming.

Donations Already Coming in for Lincoff Foray Auction/Raffle

DUE TO MANY GENEROUS donations of used mushroom books last year, we are not accepting any books or magazines for this year's foray auction/raffle. However, we'd be glad to see any of your other excess or unwanted mushroom items. Just give them to **Cecily Franklin** or **Judy Mackenroth** at any monthly meeting or email cs4wpmc@gmail.com to make other arrangements. All proceeds benefit WPMC.



WPMC in the News

AN ARTICLE FROM WPMC's September/October 2019 newsletter was selected by the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) for reprint in the November/December issue of *The Mycophile*. "From Mushroom Observer to New Species" by WPMC President **Cecily Franklin** told the story of *Amanita cattaraugana*, a mushroom found by WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** and ultimately named by Amanita expert **Rod Tulloss**.

WPMC Newsletter Archives Now Online

THANKS TO OUR WEBMASTER, Past President **Richard Jacob**, WPMC newsletters dating all the way back to 2011 are now accessible on our website. Just go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/our-newsletter/>



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NAMA TRUSTEE 5770 Clark Avenue 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll Bethel Park, PA 15102 piggy@wpamushroomclub.org

COMMITTEES

CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT 412-367-7696	Valerie Baker vbbaker8@hotmail.com
CULTIVATION 412-441-3958	Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com
DNA BARCODING 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob dna-barcoding@wpamushroomclub.org
EDUCATION 724-601-8382	Fluff Berger wfberger@comcast.net
HISTORIAN 724-339-8547	Joyce Gross jagart58@comcast.net
HOSPITALITY	VACANT
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LINCOFF FORAY 724-601-8382	Fluff Berger wfberger@comcast.net
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR 412-967-9359	James Wasik membership@wpamushroomclub.org
MUSHROOM DISPLAY 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy@wpamushroomclub.org
NEMF FORAY 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
PHOTOGRAPHY 412-913-8026	Josh Doty jcdoty@gmail.com
PUBLICITY 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com
SALES 814-823-1049	Stephen Bucklin sbucklin@pittsburghparks.org
SALES 412-719-3955	Erin Gaughan eringaughan11@gmail.com
SCHOLARSHIP	VACANT
TOXICOLOGY 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
WALKS & FORAYS 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy@wpamushroomclub.org
WALKS & FORAYS 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
WEBMASTER 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org

**NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED
MUSHROOM!**



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Anyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member.
COMPLETE THIS FORM **PRINT CLEARLY**, SIGN AND MAIL

Members are entitled to:

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

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

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

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

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

WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 e-mail contact: membership@wpamushroomclub.org
or visit <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> to pay using a credit card.

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

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

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

WHEREAS, WPMC is a non-profit educational organization that has as its principal purpose the sharing of mushroom-related information among its members; and

WHEREAS, all officers, directors, identifiers and members serve WPMC in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration for their services; and

WHEREAS, in cases where WPMC charges a fee for its forays, walks, lectures and other events (collectively "WPMC Events"), it is doing so only to cover its direct costs and does not operate in a for-profit capacity; and WHEREAS, the Member understands that there is inherent and unavoidable risk in outdoor activities relating to hunting and consuming wild mushrooms. These risks include but are not limited to the dangers of hiking in difficult terrain, the possibility of misidentifying a wild mushroom, and the possible allergic or toxic reaction that some individuals may have to otherwise edible mushrooms.

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

1 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____