



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 1

MARCH / APRIL 2022



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

In-Person Meetings Move to Frick Environmental Center

CHANGE IS NEVER EASY. Over the winter, the club's Executive Committee discussed the possibility of moving our meeting location. With growing interest in the club and our expanding membership, we wanted to make sure we were hosting our meetings in a location that could accommodate larger crowds. We also wanted to ensure our meeting location was serving our members' needs when it comes to accessibility. While we appreciate all the support Beechwood Farms and the Audubon Society of Western PA have given us over the years, and some members may be disappointed that we aren't meeting there this year, we hope folks will be excited to come to our in-person meetings at the Frick Environmental Center.

The Frick Environmental Center is located at 2005 Beechwood Blvd. in Squirrel Hill on the edge of Frick Park – the largest city park in Pittsburgh. The facility was opened to the public in the fall of 2016 and features cutting-edge sustainable construction.



photo by Ed Massery

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MARCH 15, 2022 Meeting

Due to continuing COVID concerns, the March and April meetings will be held via Zoom.

March 15 Spring Mushrooms: More than Morels with Stephen Bucklin

FOR MUSHROOM HUNTERS throughout our region and beyond, spring means one thing is on everyone's mind: *morels*! While morels might be the most iconic of spring mushrooms, there are hundreds of other species that can be found this time of year, including species of edible fungi. To bring these additional fascinating fungi into spring's spotlight, WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin**, Naturalist Educator for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, will present an in-depth look at some of the spring fungi you can find in Western Pennsylvania.

Also at the March meeting, WPMC members will vote on a nomination for Honorary WPMC membership. See page 2 for more details.



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President's Message

STEPHEN BUCKLIN

WELCOME TO 2022 and another year of fungi, fun, & friends! I am so proud of what our volunteer-run organization was able to accomplish last year, and so excited to share what we have planned for this year!

As we continue to see improvements in pandemic metrics, we are hoping for things to be more or less "back to normal" for the Club. We will host our **Mushroom Education Day** in April at the Ohio Township Nature Center in Sewickley. This year's event will feature three classes led by club members and a free mushroom walk afterward.

The **Annual Lincoff Memorial Foray** will be at the Lodge in North Park on September 24. This year we are excited to bring some of the top mycologists east of the Mississippi to speak in our neck of the woods: **Arleen** and **Alan Bessette**, authors of nearly two dozen mushroom books; and **Stephen Russell**, founder and president of the Hoosier Mushroom Society.

We will also continue to have our monthly meetings, and that's where things will be different this year. March and April meetings will still be on Zoom and streamed on our Facebook page. We hope to resume in-person meetings in May and will be moving our meeting location from Beechwood Farms to the **Frick Environmental Center** in Squirrel Hill. I'm sure this change has an impact on all our members; you can find out more about the decision to move and the new home of our club in a separate article in this issue.

I hope you enjoy what we have included in our first newsletter of the year. Thanks so much for supporting the club through your membership, and I hope to see you at some of our upcoming events!



PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. WWW.WPAMUSHROOMCLUB.ORG — 1

Register Now for Mushroom Education Day at Ohio Township Nature Center

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, April 23, for Mushroom Education Day at the Ohio Township Nature Center in Sewickley. We have three great topics and speakers lined up for the morning, followed by a free guided mushroom walk in the afternoon. Here's the full schedule:

8:30 am: Registration & Sales Table Open

9:00 am: iNaturalist (Julie Travaglini)

WPMC Identifier Julie Travaglini will help us get ready for this year's City Nature Challenge by showing us how to use iNaturalist.

10:00 am: Morels (Cara Coulter)

Just in time for spring mushroom-hunting, WPMC Mycologist Cara Coulter will tell us all about Morels.

11:00am: Cultivation (Esperanzo Wilcox)

WPMC member Espo Wilcox will conduct a 90-minute class on how to set up low-cost mushroom cultivation at home. All participants will receive a Lion's Mane kit.

12:30 pm: Lunch (bring your own)

1:00 pm: Mushroom Walk at Ohio Township Community Park

The cost for the morning sessions will be \$35 for WPMC members; \$40 for non-members. The afternoon walk is free. Space is limited, and registration is required to attend the morning sessions. To register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/mushroom-education-day-2022/>



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/wpam-scholarship-grant-application/>

WPMC Members to Vote on Honorary Membership Nomination

AT THE FIRST WPMC monthly meeting on March 15, WPMC members will have the opportunity to vote on a nomination for Honorary/Lifetime membership. The WPMC Board of Directors received a nomination for Honorary WPMC membership for **Dale Luthringer, Environmental Education Specialist** at Cook Forest State Park in Clarion County.

Nearly every year since 2015, Dale has joined WPMC for our pre-Foray walks at Cook Forest. He reserves facilities for WPMC and waives the fees. During our pre-Foray walks, Dale teaches WPMC members about the old-growth forest at Cook Forest. He also maintains a list of all mushrooms found at Cook Forest, based on WPMC's species lists. In 2021, Dale not only allowed WPMC to have a UV walk the night before our pre-Foray walk, but he also joined us and showed us where to look for mushrooms that glow in the dark.

Some Forest Rangers don't even allow mushrooms to be picked in their parks. That's why Dale is so exceptional and why he was nominated for Honorary Membership. After review, the WPMC Board unanimously agreed to submit the nomination to the membership for approval. If a majority of members at the March meeting approve, Dale will be entitled to lifetime membership in the Club.



Dale Luthringer, Environmental Education Specialist at Cook Forest State Park



WPMC 2022 Meeting Schedule (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

WPMC MEETINGS ARE HELD on the third Tuesday evening of each month from March through November. We hope to resume in-person meetings in May at the **Frick Environmental Center**. Masks will be required indoors, regardless of vaccination status. WPMC meetings will be livestreamed and recorded.

APRIL 19, 2022 MEETING

April 19 Matt Kasson, PhD

Dr. Kasson is Associate Professor of Forest Pathology and Mycology at West Virginia University. He studies fungal diseases in forests, how millipedes interact with fungi, and how we can use fungi to control invasive organisms. His outreach work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Today*, *NPR*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*.



May 17 Annual Cultivation Meeting

June 21 Conservation of Fungi & the Role of Community Science

Sigrid Jakob, New York Mycological Society

July 19 WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor

August 16 WPMC Mycologist Cara Coulter

Sept. 20 To Be Announced

Oct. 18 Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers

Nov. 15 Annual WPMC Awards & Cooking Demo

WPMC moves to Frick Environmental Center (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Designed to meet the Living Building Challenge, the center is net-zero energy and net-zero water, meaning it produces all the energy needed on-site via solar panels and ground-source heat pumps, while also processing the building's wastewater and capturing rainwater on site for irrigation and graywater uses like flushing toilets. The upper level of the building features a large space where we will host our meetings, with abundant natural lighting and views of the park below. The facility is completely ADA compliant and equipped to help folks with hearing or visual impairments.

This move will certainly be a big change for our club, and the impact has been carefully weighed. While members who live close to Beechwood or generally to the north of Pittsburgh will have longer commutes, on average the move reduces commutes by five minutes and three miles round-trip (based on an analysis of commutes from 34 of our most populated zip codes, totaling 711 members). In fact, over 300 members of the club should experience a significant reduction in commuting distance and time, compared to around 200 members who will experience the opposite.

In addition to shorter commutes, moving our meetings to the Frick Environmental Center opens opportunities to use alternative transportation methods, such as bus or bicycle, to over 300 members. Beechwood Blvd. has bike lanes that stretch for miles in either direction, connecting to the rest of the city's bike infrastructure, while the nearest bus stop is the 61A & 61B along Forbes Ave. It is our hope that this will greatly reduce the club's carbon footprint.

To find out more, including directions to the park, visit:

<https://pittsburghparks.org/explore-your-parks/regional-parks/frick-park/>



City Nature Challenge 2022: Pittsburgh Region

IT'S TIME FOR WPMC members to once again help the Pittsburgh region document biodiversity where we live. It's easy! Just take pictures of mushrooms (or plants, animals, or things they leave behind) between **April 29 and May 2**. Upload your observations to iNaturalist and help identify observations that other people share. Anyone using iNaturalist in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties during these dates will be a part of the project.

To help us get ready for this important event, Allegheny Land Trust will offer a Zoom webinar titled "Preparing for the 2022 City Nature Challenge" on Wednesday, April 20, from 5:00-5:45 p.m. WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** will explain how to use iNaturalist and contribute to Citizen Science data during the world's largest documentation of biodiversity. There is no charge for this webinar, but participation is limited. To reserve your space, register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/webinar-preparing-for-the-2022-city-nature-challenge/>



WPMC Fall Mushroom BINGO Has Multiple Winners

THE WINNERS OF THE Fall Mushroom BINGO were WPMC member **Ron Hilton**, WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke**, and WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor**. In addition, the prize for most observations went to WPMC Identifier **Barbora Batokova**. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** for creating the BINGO card.

Choose WPMC on AmazonSmile

WPMC HAS REGISTERED with AmazonSmile. Whenever you shop at Amazon, just designate the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to WPMC. "Same products, same prices, same service." It's easy to get started with this link:

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ein=25-1858797&ie=UTF8&ref_=smi_ext_ch_25-1858797_cl



WPMC Member Receives Jumpstart Grant for Mushroom Farm

IN OCTOBER OF 2021, WPMC member **Esperanzo "Espo" Wilcox** was one of 15 recipients of a \$10,000 Jumpstart Grant from AgChoice Farm Credit. This first-ever program will allow 15 outstanding young startup farmers in Pennsylvania to pursue their business dreams.

Espo, who lives in Clarion, started the PA Mushroom Company, an organic mushroom farm. The PA Mushroom Company will specialize in cultivation of edible and medicinal mushrooms and mushroom grow kits. Espo plans to use the Jumpstart Grant to transition his operation to a commercial scale, covering initial overhead and startup costs.

To learn more about AgChoice Farm Credit and to watch a short video with Espo receiving his grant, go to:

<https://www.agchoice.com/grow/ybs>

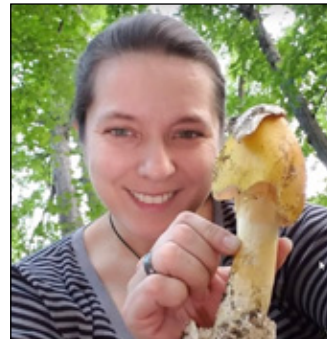


WPMC member Esperanzo "Espo" Wilcox

WPMC Presents Annual Awards

AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING, WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** received the 2021 President's Award in recognition of her exceptional contributions to WPMC, including serving as Vice President and Walk Chair, creating the artwork for the first Foray T-shirt, organizing Mushroom BINGO, leading our virtual Mushroom ID Table, and generously sharing her knowledge and skills through Zoom classes and guided walks.

WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** received the 2021 Outstanding Service Award, in appreciation for her years of dedicated service as Education Chair, Foray Chair, and serving on the Board of Directors from 2016-2020; for eagerly sharing with others through presentations and walks; and for inspiring others to love and appreciate fungi through her amazing photographs.



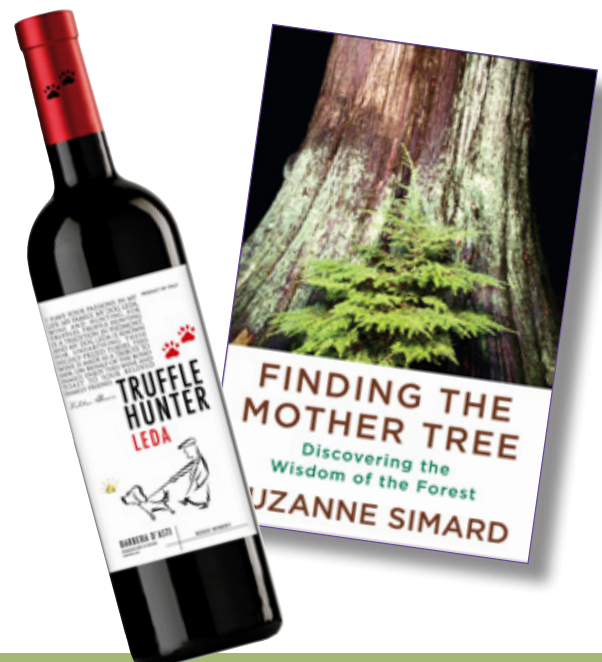
Cara Coulter



Fluff Berger

22nd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray Auction Donations

DONATIONS ARE STARTING to come in for the Auction/Raffle at this year's 22nd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 24. So far, we have a bottle of Truffle Hunter red wine and an assortment of books and magazines. If you would like to donate a mushroom-related item to this year's auction, email Past President **Cecily Franklin** at cs4wpmc@gmail.com.



GARY • LINCOFF • FORAY

Save the Dates for the 22nd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

MARK YOUR CALENDARS now for the **22nd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray**. Registration will open at a later date, but here are the events we're planning for that weekend:

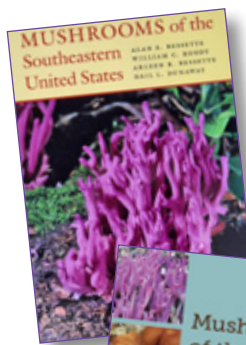
Friday, September 23: Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park, with **Park Ranger Dale Luthringer**. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

Saturday, September 24: 22nd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray at the Allegheny County North Park Lodge. Guest mycologists will be **Arleen and Alan Bessette** and **Stephen Russell**. Activities will include:

- Guided Morning Walks
- Book-Signing / Meet & Greet
- Cooking Demonstration
- Table Walk
- Mushroom Display Tables
- Auction, Sale Items & Vendors
- Mushroom Feast
- More details to come!*

Books by the Bessettes

ALAN AND ARLEEN BESSETTE have authored or coauthored dozens of mushroom books. In the November/December 2021 WPMC newsletter, we featured their latest book, *Polypores and Similar Fungi of Eastern and Central North America*. Here are three of their other books which focus on various parts of the U.S.



Mushrooms of the Southeastern United States includes more than 450 species, substantially more than any previous book devoted to the region.

Mushrooms of the Gulf Coast States covers more than 1,000 common and lesser-known species from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

A Field Guide to Mushrooms of the Carolinas introduces 650 mushrooms found in North and South Carolina. All three books will appeal to both experienced and beginning mushroom hunters.

Future WPMC newsletters will highlight more books by the Bessettes. In the meantime, we encourage members to purchase these books and bring them to the Lincoff Foray on

September 24 to be autographed by the authors. If you buy books on Amazon, be sure to use AmazonSmile, which will benefit WPMC. See page 3 for details.



This Year's Guest Mycologists



Alan Bessette



Arleen Bessette

GUEST MYCOLOGISTS FOR this year's 22nd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on September 24 will include **Alan** and **Arleen Bessette**.

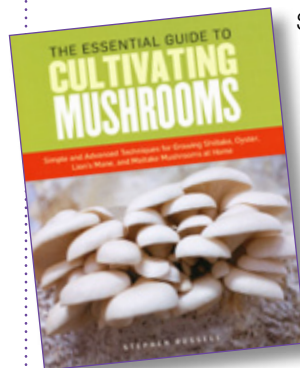
Alan is a distinguished emeritus professor of biology at Utica College of Syracuse University. A professional mycologist, he has authored or coauthored more than twenty-five books. At the Lincoff Foray, Alan will help us with mushroom identification and will do a table talk at the end of the day. Arleen has authored or coauthored eighteen books. She will be giving a presentation on Polypores. Both Alan and Arleen will be available to sign their books at a "Meet & Greet" session in the afternoon.

OUR OTHER GUEST MYCOLOGIST will be **Stephen Russell**, author of *The Essential Guide to Cultivating Mushrooms* and founder of the Hoosier Mushroom Society. Stephen's topic will be "The Next Generation of DNA Research." Russell is a mycologist from Indiana working on a biodiversity survey of all the macrofungi (mushrooms) that occur in the state. He founded The Hoosier Mushroom Society in 2009 and is currently President of the organization.



Stephen's current project is a citizen science and DNA-based exploration of local fungal biodiversity, which has now generated thousands of new DNA-sequenced collections of fungal fruitbodies from across Indiana—amassing records for over 2,000 unique species.

Stephen is currently a Ph.D. candidate in mycology at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He also holds a Master of Public Affairs (MPA) and a Master of Environmental Science (MS) from Indiana University, as well as an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Communications from Purdue University.



More 2021 Photo Contest Photos



Richard Jacob: *Cortinarius iodes*



Barbora Batokova: *Gyromitra-caroliniana*



Elizabeth Berckmann: *Inkcap*



Linda Moll: *Amanita*



Brianna Albert: *Strobilomyces strobilaceus*



Jonathan Kessler: *Polyporus Badius*



Richard Jacob: *Chorioactis geaster*



Tyler Gavin: oyster bucket



2022 Photo Contest Adds New Category

ONCE AGAIN, WPMC IDENTIFIER **Sara Klingensmith** will judge members' photos for our annual Photo Contest. In addition to the traditional categories (Documentary, Pictorial and Judge's Option), Sara has added a new category called "Mushrooms in Art" to showcase the artistic talents of WPMC members. The new division is for single photos featuring original artwork that depicts fungi. Art entries must be family-friendly.

Here are the Photo Contest rules:

- Deadline for submissions: September 30, 2022
- Maximum of 5 entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files
- Rename images before submitting, using LAST name and subject, e.g.: "Smith-joe morel.jpg"
- Email entries to Sara Klingensmith at pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com
- Indicate in your email the desired category for each photo
- Member in good standing of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club. Club dues *must* be up to date.

SUBJECT MATERIAL: Organisms from the *Myxomycota* (slime molds) and the classes *Basidiomycetes* and *Ascomycetes* of the *Eumycota* ("true fungi") are eligible. For Judge's Option, nearly anything goes, so long as the theme relates to fungi, and fungi are a key element of the photograph.



Leratiomyces squamosus
photo and painting by
Sara Klingensmith



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

Entry Divisions

NEW! MUSHROOMS IN ART: The new division is for single photos featuring original artwork that depicts fungi. Art entries must be family-friendly and fit one of three criteria:

- **2-D DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS:** charcoal/pencil, watercolor, acrylic, oil, pastel, ink, etc.
- **2-D MOSAICS OR MUSHROOM-THEMED ARRANGEMENTS.** The view should be captured in one photo.
- **NON-ANIMATED DIGITAL ART:** photo manipulation, digital illustrations, and collages.

Judging will be based on the clarity of the image, as well as the creativity reflected in the artwork.

PICTORIAL: This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. The objective is a photo suitable for display or illustration in a fine book. Judging criteria include consideration of both technical (focus, depth of field, exposure, lighting, color, absence of distracting elements) and artistic (composition, color, background, lighting) aspects.

DOCUMENTARY: For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture. Emphasis is placed on portrayal of key morphological characteristics such that the usefulness of the image as an identification aid is maximized. Subjects may be shot in the field, laboratory or studio and the photographer has complete freedom to process, manipulate, or orient the specimen in any desired manner to achieve the goal. Close-ups of single features and photomicrographs are acceptable. Judging criteria will be the same as in the Pictorial category but they will be of secondary importance to the overall mycological utility of the photo. Accurate identification of the subject will be a consideration.

JUDGE'S OPTION: For photos which do not fit into the Pictorial or Documentary divisions. Examples include fungi in an interesting situation, fungi with animals, people enjoying fungi.

Increase Your Knowledge and Earn a Button!

WPMC'S ID BUTTON PROGRAM offers members a fun way to increase their knowledge of mushroom species. To learn more about the ID Button program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms, go to:

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



10 Types of MUSHROOM people



"The Stinkhorn Guy"
• The guy that picks the stinkhorn at the foray



"The Tincture Witch"
• Not sure if they want to heal or kill us
• Sometimes they make beer



"The Hoarder"
• Has lots of baskets
• Picks every mushroom on foray



"The Can-I-Eat-It? Person"
• Has sudden disinterest if can't eat the mushroom



"The Psychedelic"
• Usually a newbie or psychiatrist
• Becomes "The Cultivator" or "The Fungi-Will-Save-The-World Preacher"



"The Identifier"
• Spends more time reading the books than outside
• Knows the Latin names



"The Fun-guy Jokester"
• Can't resist commenting on mushroom pictures that look like butts



"The Cultivator"
• Usually at farmer's market
• Impressive ability to grow stuff from dead wood



"The Lone Wolf"
• Occasional sightings of this legendary mushroom hunter



"The Fungi-Will-Save-The-World Preacher"
• Eager to show you movies about fungus

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

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



WPMC Walks

March 12, 10 AM: Hillman State Park, Washington County

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** and WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** at the Figure 8 trailhead on Knowlton Road. This hike will focus on lichens and lichen identification methods.

Easter Sunday, April 17, 10 AM: Frick Park

Meet WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** at the Frick Environmental Center for an Easter morning mushroom walk in Frick Park. There is no fee for this walk, but registration is required at:

<https://pittsburghparks.org/events/>

Saturday, April 23, 1 PM: Ohio Township Community Park

325 Nicholson Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

Join WPMC Identifiers and other participants from Mushroom Education Day at the Ohio Township Nature Center for a mushroom walk at Ohio Township Community Park.

Monday, April 25, 6-8:00 PM: Peters Lake Park, Washington County

700 Meredith Drive, Venetia, PA 15367

CELEBRATE THE LAKE: MOREL MUSHROOM HUNT

Meet WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** for a Morel Mushroom Hunt around the lake at Peters Lake Park in Peters Township. There is no charge, but **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY APRIL 21**:

https://register.capturepoint.com/reg/cat_program_list_detail.cfm?s=&t=&season_id=27816&program_id=1627849

Friday, April 29, 4:30-6:30 PM: Devil's Hollow Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust

193 Sevin Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

Friday, May 6, 1-3 PM: Barking Slopes Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust

37 Barking Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

Join ALT Senior Director of Education and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom identification hike at Barking Slopes. *Please note:* We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Registration is required; no walk-ins will be permitted. Fee: \$5 for ages 3 through adult; free for children under 2. To reserve your place, register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/38233-mushroom-id-hike-with-wpmc>

Sunday, June 5, 9 AM-3 PM: Phipps BioBlitz at Schenley Park

Thursday, June 16, 7:30 p.m. Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area

Catfish Pond Entrance, Sceneridge Road, McKeesport, PA 15133

Join ALT Senior Director of Education and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom identification hike at Dead Man's Hollow. *Please note:* We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Registration is required; no walk-ins will be permitted. Fee: \$5 for ages 3 through adult; free for children under 2. To reserve your place, register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/mushroom-identification-hike-with-wpmc/>

Sunday, July 3, 10 AM: Wintergreen Gorge, Erie County

3399 Cooper Road, Erie, PA 16510

Meet WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** at the Cooper Road parking lot for a mushroom walk through Wintergreen Gorge.

Friday, Sept. 23: Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest, Clarion County

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park, with **Park Ranger Dale Luthringer**. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

Friday, Nov. 25, 10 AM: Black Friday Walk at Hartwood Acres

Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** at the Mansion parking lot for our annual Black Friday mushroom walk.

Other Walks, Forays & Events

June 3-5: 64th Allegany Nature Pilgrimage

Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus County, NY

<http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com/>

Sept 24: 22nd Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray

The Lodge at North Park (See pages 4 & 5 for more information.)

Sept. 29-Oct. 2: North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray

Trout Lodge, Potosi, Missouri

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

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!



PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. WWW.WPAMUSHROOMCLUB.ORG — 9

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BOLETE SPECIALIST

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
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|---------------------------------------|--------------|

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

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.



Donations to WPMC May be Deductible for 2021 Taxes

THE TAXPAYER CERTAINTY and Disaster Tax Relief (TCDTR) Act of 2020 extended through the end of 2021 some temporary tax changes originally enacted by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Ordinarily, individuals who elect to take the standard deduction cannot claim a deduction for their charitable contributions. The law now permits these individuals to claim a limited deduction on their 2021 federal income tax returns for cash contributions made to certain qualifying charitable organizations, including WPMC. These individuals, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is increased to \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns.

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, **Jared Delaney**.

WPMC Membership Report

2021 WAS A PHENOMENAL year for WPMC, with an all-time high of 1,445 members. 2022 is off to a strong start, with 373 memberships so far. We have transitioned to electronic membership cards from physical cards this year. If you have renewed or joined, you should have received an email with your 2022 membership ID number. If you have misplaced that email, you can contact Membership Chair **Kris Murawski** at membership@wpamushroomclub.org. The best and fastest way to renew your membership or join the club is to log on to the WPMC website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/join, fill out the form, and pay with PayPal.

Benefits of WPMC membership include:

Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter • Monthly Meeting Notices • Updates on Mushroom Walks & Events • Free Grow-Your-Own Mushroom Kit • Mushroom Identification • Mushroom Walks • Mushroom Education Day • Annual Photo Contest • WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray Discount • Access to WPMC Facebook Group

To join or renew, download the membership application or pay:
<https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

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.

Cecily Franklin, Editor

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc., Production
Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

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|--------------------------------|--|
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| VICE-PRESIDENT 412-445-1078 | Cara Coulter vice-president@wpamushroomclub.org |
| SECRETARY 724-255-1131 | Julie Travaglini jtravaglini@allegHENYlandtrust.org |
| TREASURER 412-204-6281 | Jared Delaney treasurer@wpamushroomclub.org |
| NAMA TRUSTEE 716-307-0758 | Garrett Taylor tagamu@gmail.com |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|--|--|
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| WALKS & FORAYS 724-331-1974 | John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com |
| WEBMASTER 215-888-5503 | Richard Jacob site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org |
| WORKSHOP 724-352-4025 | Judy Mackenroth angora_farm@yahoo.com |

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

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP: ☐ RENEWAL: ☐

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

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

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

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

WPMC, c/o Kris Murawski, 5625 Villa Haven Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236 • 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 (\$10 additional)

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

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

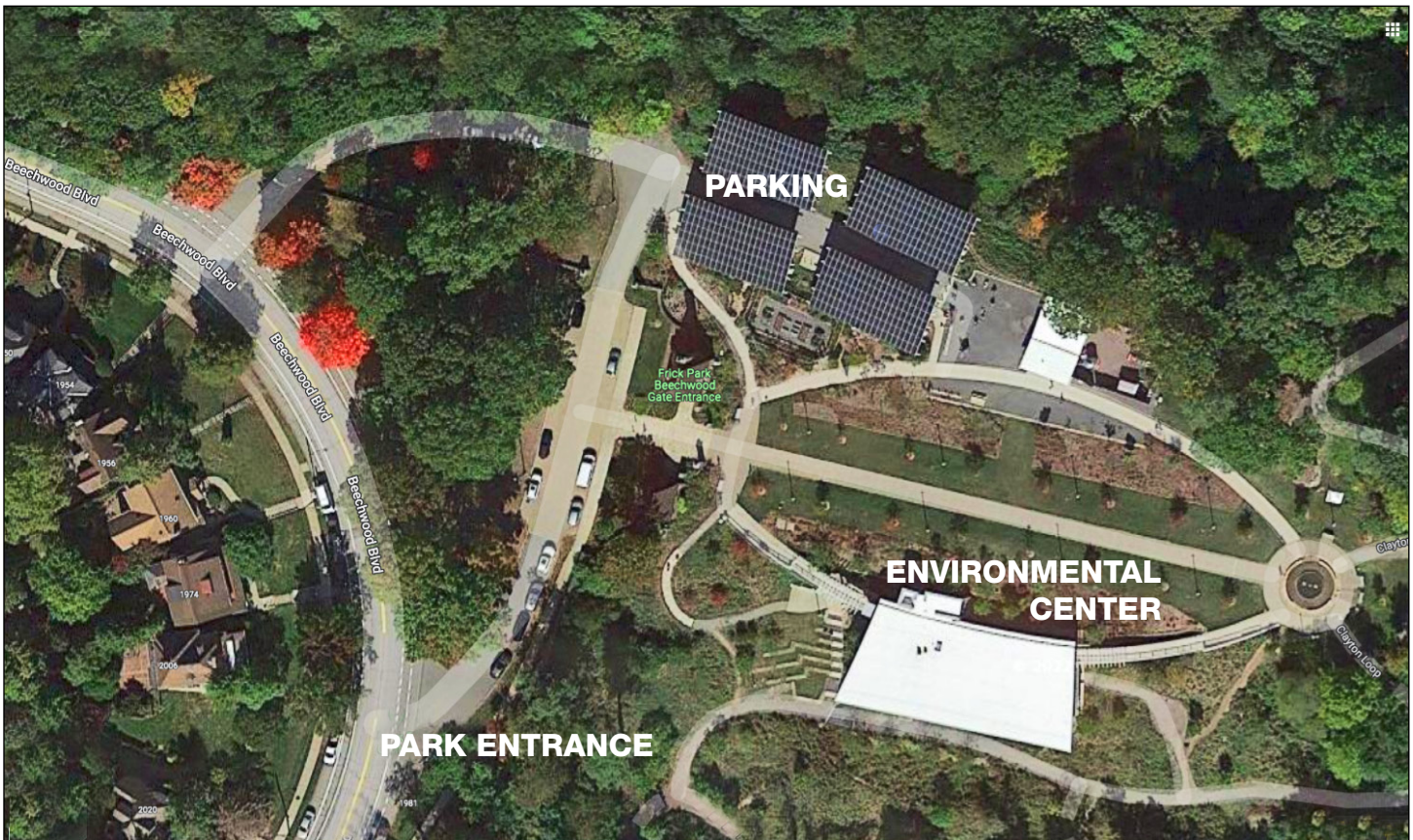
1 _____ 1 _____

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3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____

Frick Environmental Center



GETTING THERE: [CLICK HERE](#)

MORE ABOUT THE PARK: [CLICK HERE](#)

FROM THE NORTH: Take PA-8 South over the 62nd Street Bridge. Turn left onto Butler Street towards the Pittsburgh Zoo to continue on PA-8 S. Once you pass the Zoo and the Highland Park Bridge, take a slight right to follow PA-8/Washington Blvd. Continue straight for ~2 miles (Washington Blvd. becomes Fifth Ave). Turn left onto Penn Ave., then turn right at the second light onto S. Dallas Ave. Take S. Dallas Ave. past the Homewood Cemetery to Beechwood Blvd. and turn left. The Frick Environmental Center will be at the top of the hill on your left. Alternatively, PA-28 connects to the Highland Park Bridge and 62nd St Bridge. You can use this route instead of PA-8 S. NOTE: The entrance driveway will be AFTER the exit driveway; both are one way.

FROM THE SOUTH: Follow PA-837 S towards Homestead. Turn left to cross the Homestead Grays Bridge. Continue straight onto Browns Hill Rd. Take a sharp right onto Beechwood Blvd. Follow the winding Beechwood Blvd. for ~2 miles (this involves making turns to stay on Beechwood – follow street signs). The Frick Environmental Center will be on your right. NOTE: The entrance driveway will be BEFORE the exit driveway; both are one way.

FROM THE EAST: Take I-376/US-22 West to Exit 78B towards Wilkinsburg. Merge onto PA-8 N/Ardmore Blvd and continue west (road becomes Penn Ave). Turn left onto S. Dallas Ave. Take S. Dallas Ave. past the Homewood Cemetery to Beechwood Blvd. and turn left. The Frick Environmental Center will be at the top of the hill on your left. Alternatively, take US-30 West (Ardmore Blvd.) and follow the same directions. NOTE: The entrance driveway will be AFTER the exit driveway; both are one way.

FROM THE WEST: Take I-376 East to Exit 74 for Squirrel Hill. From the exit, use the middle lane to merge onto Beechwood Blvd. Then turn left onto Monitor St. In ~0.5 miles, turn left on Beechwood Blvd. Follow Beechwood Blvd. for ~1 mile. The Frick Environmental Center will be on your right. NOTE: The entrance driveway will be BEFORE the exit driveway; both are one way.

PARKING DETAILS: There are 20 standard spaces plus two van-sized accessible spaces sheltered under solar panels. There are an additional 28 parking spaces along the driveway. There is ample overflow parking along Beechwood Blvd. on both sides of the street in both directions for large meetings.

