



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1

MARCH / APRIL 2023

2023 Meeting Schedule

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, WPMC meetings are held on the third Tuesday evening of each month from March through November at the Frick Environmental Center. Each meeting features updates on club activities, a speaker/presentation, mushroom identification table, and mushroom-related merchandise for sale. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Frick Environmental Center observes the following Covid protocols, according to the level of community spread in Allegheny County: Masks are **OPTIONAL** when the level is **LOW**, **RECOMMENDED** when the level is **MEDIUM**, and **REQUIRED** when the level is **HIGH**. You can check the current status of Allegheny County here:

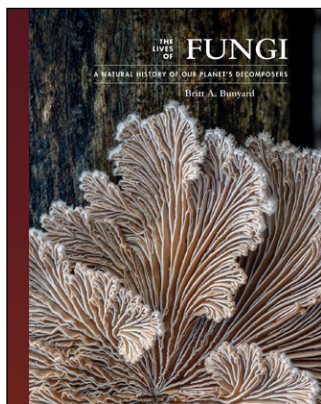
covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker

If you can't be there in person, check this website on the night of the meeting to watch live: www.facebook.com/WPAMC

Streams are also being archived on the WPMC YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/WesternPennsylvaniaMushroomClub

Amanita ID Made Easy!

MARCH 14 – NOTE: This is the SECOND Tuesday of March.



Britt Bunyard, Publisher of *FUNGI* Magazine

BRITT BUNYARD, Publisher of *FUNGI* Magazine, will present "Amanita ID Made Easy!" This presentation is for general audiences, with no need for advanced education in mycology or biology. Britt is the author or co-author of *Amanitas of North America*; *The Beginner's Guide to Mushrooms*; *Mushrooms & Macrofungi of Ohio & Midwestern States*; and *The Lives of Fungi*. Free and open to the public.

Princeton University Press is offering WPMC members a 30% discount off the price of Britt Bunyard's book *The Lives of Fungi*. Britt will be bringing other books to the March 14 meeting, but not this one. So if you'd like to bring a copy and have it autographed, use the link below. When you get to the shopping cart where it says "Discount/Apply Coupon", use BUN30.

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691229843/the-lives-of-fungi>

WPMC Names New Scholarship Chair

WPMC IS PLEASED TO announce the new Scholarship Chair, **Sierra Weir**. Sierra has a BA in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the College of Wooster, where she studied the genetics of melanin expression in Betta fish. She has also completed 18 months of a graduate program in Entomology at Louisiana State University. Sierra currently works as a Research Technician for the Vascular Medicine Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, studying calcium signaling in a variety of medically relevant systems. Her interests in fungi are largely pigment-oriented, as she is also an artist.



WPMC Awards Grant

THE FIRST WPMC SCHOLARSHIP recipient of the year is **Daniel Tarratut**. Daniel earned a B.S. in Biology from Temple University in 2021 and is currently pursuing his M.S. at Loch Haven University (now part of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania), with Dr. Barrie Overton as Faculty Advisor. For Daniel's graduate research, he has selected a thesis project that involves using novel mycopesticides as a potential tool to control Spotted Lanternflies, a highly invasive pest in Pennsylvania. WPMC's scholarship grant will provide funds for media, supplies and DNA sequencing, so that Daniel can isolate and characterize entomopathogenic fungi as biocontrol agents.



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 the WPMC website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to: [wpamushroomclub.org](https://www.wpamushroomclub.org)

WPMC MEETING SCHEDULE, continued

Under the Microscope

APRIL 18

DJANGO GROOTMYERS is pursuing a PhD in the Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Department of the University of Tennessee Knoxville. His research interests include fungi, systematics, and evolution. Django will be discussing tiny fungi.



NOTE: In-person meeting with virtual presentation by Mr. Grootmyers.

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WPMC President Announces Annual Awards

AT THE NOVEMBER 15 MEETING, WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** announced two awards for 2022.

The President's Award went to WPMC Officer **Julie Travaglini**, in recognition of exceptional contributions, including serving as Secretary and Button ID Chair, and for an outstanding job as Lincoff Foray Co-Chair in 2022.

Julie has been a club member since 2018. Julie was first elected to the Board as Secretary, beginning in 2020. Later that year, she became an Identifier and took on the added responsibility of Button ID Chair. In 2022, Julie spearheaded the Lincoff Foray Planning Committee and was essential to organizing new components of the event and adapting to the larger venue. She also gave a presentation on iNaturalist at the 2022 Mushroom Education Day. Julie consistently arrives at meetings early to help set up, contributes articles to the WPMC newsletter, and leads a substantial number of guided mushroom walks every year – sharing her passion for biodiversity.



Julie Travaglini



Kris Murawski

The Outstanding Service Award went to WPMC Membership Chair **Kris Murawski**, in appreciation of years of outstanding service as Membership Chair.

Kris has been a club member since 2017. Before COVID, Kris often took photos at WPMC monthly meetings and brought food for WPMC Potluck Dinners. In 2020, Kris took over the important responsibilities of Membership Chair, working tirelessly behind the scenes to process paperwork, send membership emails, and keep a database of the ever-growing WPMC membership. Kris consistently volunteers to help with registration at WPMC events, including Mushroom Education Day, cultivation meetings, and the Lincoff Foray.

WPMC MEETING SCHEDULE, continued from page 1

May 16	Annual Cultivation Meeting
June 20	To Be Announced
July 18	Mushroom Foraging for Beginners – Olga Tzogas
August 15	To Be Announced
September 19	Lichens – Natalie Howe, PhD & Tom McCoy
October 17	Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers
November 21	Annual WPMC Awards



The 2023 City Nature
Challenge takes place in two parts.

April 28 - May 1

Taking pictures of wild plants and animals.

May 2 - May 7

Identifying what was found.

City Nature Challenge 2023: 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 28 and May 1. 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 on Wednesday, April 19, from 5:00-5:45 p.m. WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** will explain how to document biodiversity during the four-day City Nature Challenge. You'll also learn the basics of using the iNaturalist app. There is no charge for this webinar, but participation is limited. To reserve your space, register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/50788-city-nature-challenge-and-inaturalist-webinar>



Save the Date for Mushroom Education Day at Powdermill

THIS YEAR'S MUSHROOM EDUCATION DAY will take place at the Powdermill Nature Reserve on Saturday, June 10. Powdermill is Carnegie Museum of Natural History's environmental research center, located 55 miles southeast of Pittsburgh in Rector, Westmoreland County. Look for more information and a link to registration in WPMC's May/June newsletter.



ID Buttons Get New Design

THANKS TO **Dawn Wehman**, WPMC's ID Buttons have a new design, based on the WPMC logo by **Joyce Gross**. Recent ID Button recipients include **Benson Daisley** (kids); **Chad Gallagher** (10); **Aly Silver** (25); **Rachel Gallagher** (not pictured) and **Shawna Daisley** (50); and **Josh Mowris** (200). Congratulations to all!

WPMC's Button 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/>



Benson Daisley



Chad Gallagher



Aly Silver



Shawna Daisley



Josh Mowris

Mushroom Hunter Survey

By Amy Wroblewski

HOW DO PEOPLE LEARN to hunt for mushrooms in the Mid-Atlantic, and has there actually been increased interest in mushroom hunting in the past few years? You may have read the article about my research in WPMC's May/June 2022 newsletter ("Penn State Researcher Conducting Survey on Mushroom Hunting in PA"). Or you might have seen me at a booth at the Lincoff Foray last fall. Thanks to everyone who stopped by, talked, and filled out the survey!

For people who may have missed these opportunities to participate, I am a graduate student at Penn State, working on a project looking at mushroom hunting in the Mid-Atlantic region, trying to better understand who hunts for mushrooms here, how people learn about mushrooms, and how all these things may have been impacted by the pandemic.

Starting this spring I am launching another round of data collection. If you are interested in participating and have not already done so, use the links below to take the survey or submit a request for a paper copy (which will be mailed to you). The survey takes about 20 minutes to fill out, and those who complete the survey will be sent a handmade mushroom art print or sticker. Now on to the interesting part!

The first year of data collection had some exciting insights, mainly that there really has been a surge of interest in mushrooms and mushroom hunting in recent years. The number of people who learned about mushroom hunting for the first time in 2020 and 2021 was especially high. This information was made possible with the help of clubs and communities around the region; over 800 people filled out the survey last year. That's huge! However, I want to be able to represent mushroom hunters in our region accurately, and the survey didn't have a lot of responses from people over the age of

Artwork by
Amy Wroblewski



50 or some other demographics that are common in Pennsylvania. So this year I wanted to reach out to people again, to make sure that everyone who wants to be represented has a chance to participate.

If you haven't already taken the survey, you may do so now or request a paper copy at the links below. If you know anyone who doesn't get this newsletter who might be interested, please share it with them. Also, if you know of any events about mushrooms and mushroom hunting around the Mid-Atlantic this upcoming year, please let me know about them. A lot of the Lincoff Foray attendees only heard about this survey because I was there with copies to fill out. Knowing about as many mushroom events around the state as possible will make it possible to reach more people.

Thank you for your participation; I will share the results once the survey is complete. You may take the survey here:

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJGRZytiQRsT8ai

If you would like to request a paper copy or get more information:
<https://acw208.wixsite.com/mushroom-hunting-in>

Please email me if you have any questions at: acw208@psu.edu



DNA Results from the 2022 Lincoff Foray

By Garrett Taylor

I'VE FINALLY TAKEN SOME time to really look over the results from last year's sequencing effort at the 2022 Gary Lincoff Foray in Cook Forest and North Park. The **Mycomap** dashboard for the project shows all the sequences obtained for just over 700 specimens that we dried and collected from the foray.

We had 570 sequences for our mushrooms. Of those, there were 348 unique sequences associated with at least one photographed specimen! This is the kind of thing that took me about three years to do on my own for my area. Amazing work, and some good karma is on order (if you believe in that sort of thing).

Not all of these sequences were successful, for various reasons:

- We had to transport all of the Cook Forest specimens to North Park before we were able to dry them.
- A few of the sequences we failed to link with pictures.
- Some of the sequences were mix-ups, where we had obvious cases of wrong sequences with wrong specimens. (We had help from a dozen or so people who had never sampled tissue before. I know where I screwed up, and I've taken lots of tissue samples.) This could be the reason why your specimen didn't get a sequence, even if the MycoMap dashboard shows that a specimen was collected. The other reason is that the mushroom failed the PCR-DNA amplification step.

By downloading a spreadsheet of the sequencing project on **iNaturalist**, we see 1,130 entries. These also had some problems:

- We had many duplicates as a result of trying to log mushrooms which had already been photographed and uploaded to the project in the field.
- Many of the same mushrooms we sequenced multiple times, trying to find hidden diversity and sometimes in error.
- We had a few wrong sequences, too.

What did we find that was new? We found lots of things! I looked at which sequences were the first recorded for the state of Pennsylvania, and also those that were the first recorded ever in any public database. **We found 232 mushrooms without another sequence recorded for Pennsylvania and 28 mushrooms that were sequenced for the first time ever!**

You can see for yourself in this **spreadsheet**:

- Pink highlighted rows are state-first sequences.
- Hot pink highlighted rows are first-ever sequenced mushrooms.
- Yellow rows mostly didn't have a sequence.
- Non-highlighted rows all have sequences associated, but not state-firsts.

I highly recommend looking through this document and finding your own sequences and looking at pics of some of the unique things we found. Many of the names that we got back are new to me. Several results embarrassed the "experts" who were trying to help with identifying things. (I'm not naming names here but try to find some examples. I promise they aren't hard to find.)

A note on nanopore sequencing: These sequences were obtained using the Oxford Nanopore Technologies MinION sequencing technology with Flongle cells and its associated chemistry. This was a previous release, but still "next generation" sequencing.

Exciting, I know! Unless otherwise noted by **Stephen Russell**, we can assume that the sequences we had returned to us are as good as, or better than, the previous generation Sanger sequencing. Sometimes an ID can be made, even though the sequence isn't good enough to be uploaded to GenBank. Such cases should be easy enough to spot.

Feel free to reach out to me via Facebook or WPMC website if you have any questions, I'll do my best to answer them or get them answered. If anyone is interested in progress being made with the latest release and this year's Continental Mycoblight, join the conversation happening on the Facebook Page **Fungal DNA Sequencing with MinION**. Thanks to WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter**, who helped with analysis and gave some much-needed Excel help.

Editor's Note: **Stephen Russell** contributed to this article.

Links referenced in this document:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fungalsequencingwithminion/>

<https://mycomap.com/projects/wPMC-lincoff-foray-2022>

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wpamc-2022-gary-lincoff-foray-dna-sequencing-project>

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Gs677NUU6oyyLQFgRWzYAcPfh5nADC7TdZA1pcRPMvM/edit?usp=sharing>

23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW for the 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray. Registration will open at a later date, but here are the events we're planning for that weekend:

Friday, September 29 – 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 30 – 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray at The Lodge in Allegheny County's North Park. Activities will include:

- Guided morning walks
- Mushroom display tables
- Auction, Sales Tables & Vendors
- Cooking Demonstration
- Mushroom Feast
- Table Walk

More details to come!

Amazon Discontinues AmazonSmile

AMAZON HAS ANNOUNCED the end of its AmazonSmile program. That means that WPMC member purchases on Amazon will no longer earn a small percentage for the club.

However, you can still 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 WPMC Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.



Out & About with WPMC

WPMC MEMBER **Kate Pavele** scheduled two mushroom art classes for early in the year: January 14 and February 25. Here's a photo of Kate (top) with the first class of students and their masterpieces.



Photo by Scott Pavele

WPMC PRESIDENT **Stephen Bucklin** recently went lichen hunting at Phipps Conservatory with Dr. Maria Wheeler-Dubas, Research and Science Education Outreach Manager. She wrote a blog post called "Lovin' the Lichen!" To read the entire post, go to:

<https://www.phipps.conservatory.org/blog/detail/biopgh-blog-lovin-the-lichen>



Photo by Maria Wheeler-Dubas

ON FEBRUARY 9, WPMC member **Espo Wilcox** led a mushroom cultivation class as part of Allegheny Land Trust's "Sustainability at Home" series. Each participant took home a cultivation book, Lions Mane grow kit and Oyster grow kit.



Photo by Kathy Gilloty Croft

Auction Donations

DONATIONS ARE ALREADY coming in for the Auction/Raffle at this year's 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 30. We've received mushroom clothing, jewelry, housewares, and more! If you would like to donate a mushroom-related item to this year's auction, call **Kathy Gilloty** at 412-445-3121 or email Past President **Cecily Franklin** at cs4wpmc@gmail.com.



IN MEMORIAM



Photo by Michael Yeh

Mary Ellen Dougall • 1944 – 2022

MARY ELLEN DOUGALL and her husband Dick (d. 2019) were founding members of WPMC from its start in 2000. Because of their many contributions to the club, the Dougalls were made Honorary WPMC members in 2013 and received the Outstanding Service Award in 2016.

Mary Ellen was also active in the Pine Creek Community Band, where she played euphonium and served as President.



Photo by Britt Bunyard

Thomas J. "Tom" Volk • 1959 – 2022

TOM VOLK was a longtime member and past president of the Mycological Society of America (MSA), as well as member and participant in other mycological societies throughout the country. Tom was very well known in the field of mycology. Of particular interest to him was engaging everyone in the love of mushrooms, professional or amateur.

In 2006, Tom received a heart transplant from an anonymous donor. Tom always gave credit to the donor when someone thanked him for all he had done for them; the donor not only saved Tom's life but helped mold young minds and curate future scientists.



Yelena Kunkel "Unicorn"



Brianna Albert "Wood Blewit"



Get Your Cameras & Cellphones Ready

ONCE AGAIN, WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will judge members' photos for WPMC's annual Photo Contest. In addition to the traditional categories (Documentary, Pictorial and Judge's Option), Sara has added a new category called "Mushroom Selfies".

Here are the Photo Contest rules for this year:

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2023
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPG files
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- Email entries to Sara Klingensmith at pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com.
- Indicate in your email the desired category for each photo.

You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date. Photos submitted by non-members will not be considered.

Entry Divisions

Mushroom Selfies (New!): Entries must be single, self-taken ("selfie") cell phone photos of you with at least one mushroom. You may also include other willing people, your pets, and other animals that happen to cross the background in the photo. You may use selfie sticks, but no other person may take the photo for you.

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,

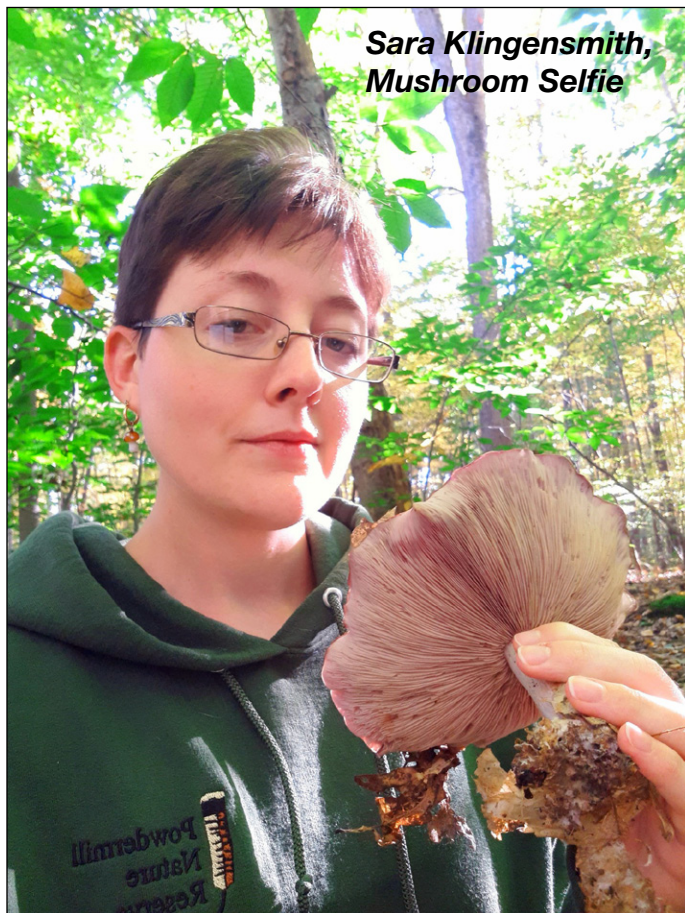
lighting, color, absence of distracting elements) and artistic (composition, color, background, lighting) aspects.

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.

Subject material: Organisms from the Myxomycota (slime molds), the classes Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes of the Eumycota ("true fungi"), and Lichens 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.

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.



**Sara Klingensmith,
Mushroom Selfie**



**Erin Sussman
"Red Mushroom"**



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!



WPMC Walks

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

Saturday, March 4, 10:00 a.m.

Lichen Walk at Hillman State Park (Washington County)

Meet WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** and Vice President **Cara Coulter** at the Haul Road Trailhead parking lot for a lichen-focused educational walk at Hillman State Park. We will walk the Switchback Trail in search of lichens and other fungi. Unlike most club walks where we disperse and collect specimens, because of their slow growth and sensitivity to environmental conditions, we won't be collecting lichens. Free and open to the public. Here's a link to the location:

<https://goo.gl/maps/rh43zQhj1aqZfCSU6>

Friday, April 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Audubon Greenway with Allegheny Land Trust

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m.

Dark Hollow Woods with the Oakmont Garden Club
Pennsylvania Avenue Entrance

Join members of WPMC and the Oakmont Garden Club for a mushroom walk in Dark Hollow Woods during the 2023 City Nature Challenge. Meet at the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance to Dark Hollow Woods. Choose between the level Memorial Trail loop and the more adventurous Spring Trail down into the hollow. Free and open to the public. NOTE: There are no restrooms at Dark Hollow Woods.

Directions: From Freeport Road (North or South), cross the Hulton Bridge into Oakmont. Continue on Hulton Road up the hill to the top and part way down. Turn right on 15th Street. At the end of 15th Street, turn left onto Pennsylvania Avenue and proceed into the park entrance. If the parking spaces are full, find a legal parking space on Pennsylvania Avenue and walk into the park.

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 a.m.

Pine Ridge Lodge

1055 Chestnut Ridge Road, Blairsville

Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** in the parking lot at Pine Ridge Lodge for a mushroom walk (no presentation). Free and open to the public.

Friday, May 19, 6-8:00 p.m.

Devil's Hollow Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust

SOLD OUT!

Friday, June 2, 1-3:00 p.m.

Barking Slopes Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust

SOLD OUT!

Friday, June 16, 6-7:30 p.m.

Fern Hollow Nature Center with Allegheny Land Trust

SOLD OUT!

Saturday, June 24, 10:00 a.m.

Deer Lakes Park

1 Mahaffey Road, Tarentum

Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** for the WPMC annual Dorothy Fornof walk at Deer Lakes Park. Turn on Mahaffey Road, which goes into the park. Take the first right into the parking lot between the first two small lakes. This is the meeting location. Free and open to the public.

Friday, September 29 at 10:00 a.m.

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest (Clarion County)

Meet WPMC experts and Park Ranger **Dale Luthringer** at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!



Other Walks, Forays & Events

June 2-4

65th Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage

Allegheny State Park, Cattaraugus County, NY

<https://www.alleghanynaturepilgrimage.com/>

Sunday, June 4, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Phipps BioBlitz & Family Fun Festival

Schenley Park

WPMC members will lead mushroom and lichen walks and have tables at this year's event with Phipps Conservatory.

July 30 – August 6

NAMA_MX 23 Regional Foray

Mexico City & Valle de Bravo

First-of-its-kind exploration into the mycology and ethno-mycological history of modern Mexico. Registration is limited to NAMA members in good standing; maximum 40 attendees. Airfare to Mexico City is not included, and the entire trip will be above 7000 feet elevation. Complete the required prescreening questionnaire here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQB-s0j3xI-ZLBmn3MQbFcQ63h7ep0Km4QOoYshu8ky2-c9Q/viewform>

August 24-27

North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray

Hendersonville, NC

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

September 14-17

Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) Foray

Kerhonkson, NY

<http://www.nemf.org/>

September 30

23rd Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray

The Lodge at North Park

See page 4 for more information.

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

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.
- 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.

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!



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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.



WPMC Membership Report

By Kris Murawski

WE'VE HAD A MILD winter in Southwest PA. I hope everyone has had a chance to get out to look for some winter mushrooms. WPMC ended 2022 with more than 1,000 members. As of mid-February, the club has 355 members from 202 households.

Thank you to everyone for renewing your membership or becoming a new member in 2023, as these dues are vital to keep the club running. They contribute over 40% of the WPMC's income every year.

If you need to renew your membership or would like to become a member, please go to <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> and fill out the form.

Some benefits of WPMC membership include:

- Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter
- Monthly Meeting Notices
- Updates on WPMC Events
- Free 'Grow-Your-Own' Mushroom Kit at the annual Cultivation Meeting
- Mushroom Identification at Monthly Meetings
- Mushroom Walks
- Mushroom Education Day
- Annual Photo Contest
- WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray Discount
- WPMC Facebook Group

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

Cecily Franklin, Editor

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**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

To pay using a credit card, visit: <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

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 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____