



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1

MARCH / APRIL 2024



President's Message

Barbora Batokova

WELCOME TO 2024! I'm thrilled to be stepping into the role of President for our incredible mushroom club! As I embark on this exciting journey, I am honored to follow in the footsteps of our dedicated outgoing President, **Stephen Bucklin**, who tirelessly

served the club for the past three years and will continue to do so as a member of the Executive Committee. Thank you, Stephen, for your leadership and unwavering commitment and passion for fostering a vibrant mushroom community!

I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful moments and accomplishments of the past year. We held 47 mushroom walks in 10 counties, partnering with 10 external organizations. Together, we added 6,550 observations representing 1,034 species to our iNaturalist project, making an important contribution to fungal conservation records. Our monthly meetings featured renowned mycologists like **Britt Bunyard** and **Walt Sturgeon**, and we continued our beloved traditions like the mushroom cultivation meeting, photo contest, and annual potluck. Our annual Gary Lincoff Foray, featuring **Barrie Overton** and **Noah Siegel**, attracted 133 people and together we recorded 1,216 observations on iNaturalist, which represented 298 species!

Looking ahead, our monthly meetings will continue to be a hub of information, featuring guest speakers, workshops, and discussions that delve into the fascinating world of mushrooms. I encourage each of you to actively participate, ask questions, and share your own experiences to make our gatherings even more enriching. Our club is committed to exploring the diverse fungi in our region, so you can look forward to many mushroom walks. These walks are not just educational but also offer a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow enthusiasts and share our knowledge.

Our eagerly anticipated annual Gary Lincoff Foray is scheduled for September 21 and will feature **Sigrid Jakob**, President of the New York Mycological Society, and **Hannah Huber**, Conservation Mycologist for the PA Natural Heritage Program, as our keynote speakers. This year, we have an exciting twist—a new location, the Economy Fire Department Banquet Hall in Sewickley, which promises to open up new avenues for exploration. Mark your calendars and get ready for an unforgettable experience as we come together to celebrate our shared love for mushrooms.

As we embark on this journey together, I am open to your suggestions and ideas. Your input is crucial in shaping the direction of our club, and I look forward to collaborating with each one of you. Thank you for entrusting me with the role of President. Here's to a fantastic year of mycological adventures!

2024 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.

If you can't be there in person, check this website on the night of the meeting to watch live:

<https://www.facebook.com/WPAMC>

The streams are also being archived on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WesternPennsylvaniaMushroomClub>

MARCH 12 – (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!)

An Introduction to Fungi by Barbora Batokova



In this introductory presentation, you will learn about the fascinating kingdom of fungi and the unique characteristics that distinguish fungi from other life forms. Learn about the vital roles that fungi play in ecosystems, from decomposing organic matter to forming symbiotic relationships with plants. We'll look at major mushroom groups such as boletes, amanitas, chanterelles, polypores or jelly fungi and their major characteristics, so that you can distinguish among them. Finally, you'll find out about the eight key aspects to mushroom identification.

APRIL 16

Psychedelic Mushrooms: 5 Years of Progress by Richard Jacob, PhD

WPMC Past President Richard Jacob will present **Psychedelic Mushrooms: 5 Years of Progress**, following up on changes since his *previous presentation*. The talk will include a brief introduction to psychedelic mushrooms and those found in our area, but more extensive details are in the last presentation, so we recommend looking at that. Richard will then cover recent legislation, community efforts, and research on treatments.



continued on page 2



Membership Report

by Dawn Wehman and Kris Kenealy

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Everyone! We know it's not really feeling very much like mushroom season outside, but let's all think positive thoughts of warmer, sunnier days. While we're dreaming of *Pluteus cervinus*, *Cerioporus squamosus* and the ever-elusive *Morchella*, remember that it's **time to renew your WPMC membership**.

Thank you to everyone who renewed your membership before the end of the year. 2023 ended with 954 members from 535 households. The 2024 roster is currently at 266 members from 150 households as of February 20, 2024! Your membership dues are vital to keep the club running. These dues contribute over 40% of WPMC's income every year. If you need to renew your membership or would like to pass on a link to a friend interested in becoming a first-time member, please go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

Benefits of WPMC Membership include:

- **Nine monthly meetings** with speakers and mushroom identification.
- **Free mushroom kit** at the annual Cultivation meeting in May. A huge club favorite! Mark your calendar now!
- **Five WPMC newsletters** that can be either emailed to you OR consider treating yourself to both the electronic and hard-copy of the newsletter. If you pay the additional \$10, the hard copy will get mailed to your home address!
- **Discount** at WPMC's annual Gary Lincoff Foray.
- **Annual Photo Contest** for WPMC members only—*such fun prizes!!* The amazing talent we have in our club—*OMG we could go on and on!*
- **Access** to the WPMC Facebook Group, a great place to connect with other members and ask what inquiring minds want to know about iNaturalist, spore counting, does every *Panellus stipticus* glow, where to find *Gyromitra*, and where the heck the trail starts in Montour Woods Conservation Area, not to mention the amazing recipes!

We've gone down the mycelium path of silliness but do so look forward to seeing all of your happy faces soon on the spring trails and learning more from some of you. It's really important that you check your email confirming your membership once **Dawn Wehman** sends it out. Dawn has a counterpart, **Kris Kenealy**, who co-chairs the Membership Committee. Kris is responsible for making sure the mass emails get out to you correctly; therefore, please take a moment when you renew your membership to look hard at your "Welcome to The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club – 2024" email and make sure we have all of your info correct.

Mush love to you all!

2024 Meeting Schedule continued

MAY 21: Annual Cultivation Meeting

JUNE 18: TBD

JULY 16: Medicinal Mushrooms of Western PA & Making a Double Extraction Tincture by Dana Driscoll

The 2024 CNC takes place in 2 parts



1

April 26 – April 29, 2024

Taking pictures of wild plants and animals.

2

April 30 – May 5, 2024

Identifying what was found.

City Nature Challenge 2024: 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) from April 26 through April 29. 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.

The City Nature Challenge occurs yearly and challenges cities around the world to document as much biodiversity in their area as possible. This year we are out to beat Philadelphia for the most biologically diverse city in PA! To help us get ready for this important event, Allegheny Land Trust will offer a Zoom webinar on Wednesday, April 10, from 5:00-5:45 p.m. Join ALT for an introduction to the app iNaturalist and a background on the City Nature Challenge. There is no charge for this webinar, but participation is limited. To reserve your space, register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/webinar-learn-how-to-participate-in-the-2024-city-nature-challenge/>

WPMC in the News

PITTSBURGH
QUARTERLY

PENNSYLVANIA AUTHOR **Daryln Brewer Hoffstot** has written another article about mushrooms for Pittsburgh Quarterly. This one is about Chanterelles, which she often finds on her farm. To help Daryln to understand what she was finding, she consulted WPMC Mycologist **John Plishcke** and Chanterelle expert **Rachel Swenie, PhD**. To read the full article, go to:

<https://pittsburghquarterly.com/articles/chanterelles/>

AUGUST 20: Bugs, Slugs, and Mushroom Thugs: Fungal/Animal Interactions by Bill Yule

SEPTEMBER 17: From Forest to Database: Documenting Fungal Diversity on iNat & DNA Recap from Lincoff Foray

OCTOBER 15: Photo Contest Results & Election of Officers

NOVEMBER 19: Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards



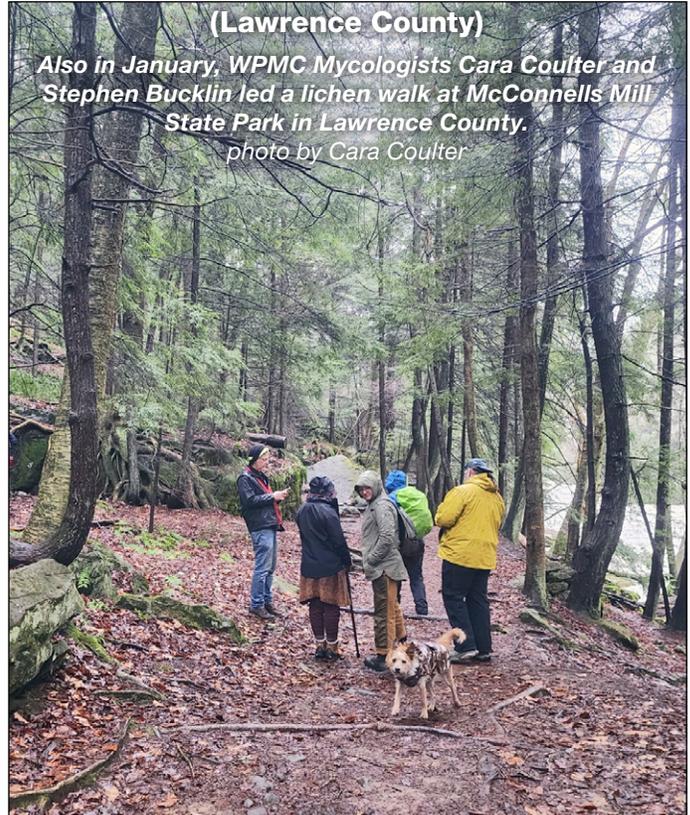
WINTER WALKS WITH WPMC

WPMC members led walks every month during the winter.

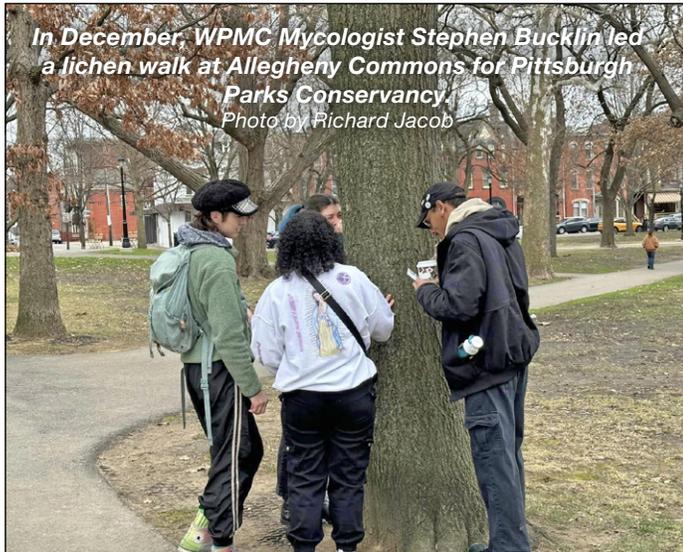
November 25 – Hartwood Acres



January 28 – McConnells Mill State Park



December 9 – Allegheny Commons



February 17 – Frick Park



January 13 – Strip District



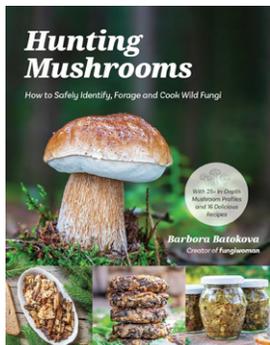
New Book by Barbora Batokova

WPMC PRESIDENT **Barbora Batokova** has written a new book entitled, *Hunting Mushrooms: How to Safely Identify, Forage and Cook Wild Fungi*, which will be available in April.

This trusty guide will help you break into the world of mushroom foraging with confidence. With in-depth profiles of 25+ mushrooms, you'll learn to identify prized specimens like chanterelles, king boletes, lion's mane, morels or chicken of the woods. Each profile details the species' unique features, as well as where and when it grows, so you have all the information you need to begin correctly hunting these fungi. And with a host of beautifully detailed photos, including images of poisonous species to steer clear of, you'll have a key visual reference to ensure you are foraging accurately and safely.

Accompanied by recipes to cook up your finds and a fascinating history of fungi, as well as expert, up-to-date research, this incredible resource will guarantee a successful start to your mushroom foraging journey. You can pre-order Barbora's new book at Amazon here:

https://www.amazon.com/Hunting-Mushrooms-Safely-Identify-Forage/dp/B0CCK7LL6F/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1JCUGVF6X8MQC&keywords=barbara+batokova&s=books&prefix=barbara+batokova%2Cstrip+books%2C63&sr=1-1



Auction Donations

DONATIONS ARE ALREADY coming in for the Auction/Raffle at this year's 24th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 21. We've already received a Presto dehydrator, vintage mushroom books, *FUNGI* Magazines, and posters. If you would like to donate a mushroom-related item to this year's auction, call **Kathy Gilotty** at 412-445-3121 or email Past President **Cecily Franklin** at cs4wpmc@gmail.com.



New Location for 24th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

MARK YOUR CALENDARS Now for the 24th annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 21, at the Economy Fire Department Banquet Hall in Sewickley. Registration will open at a later date, but here are the events we're planning for that weekend:



Friday, September 20 – 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 21 – 24th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray at the Economy Fire Department Banquet Hall in Sewickley. Activities will include:

- Guided walks
- Mushroom display tables
- Cooking Demonstration
- Table Walk
- Afternoon speakers
- Auction & Sales
- Mushroom Feast

Look Great While You Support WPMC!

SHOW YOUR WPMC pride by purchasing customized club gear from spreadshop.com. The WPMC Merch Store offers many products with the WPMC logo, including shirts of various styles, hats, mugs, aprons, tote bags, and more. Whether it's for men, women, or toddlers, you get to choose the size and color! Buy for yourself or as one-of-a-kind gifts. All purchases benefit WPMC, so get started at this link:

<https://western-pa-mushroom-club.myspreadshop.com/>



Dana Driscoll



Victoria Khersonsky

WPMC Awards New ID Buttons

TWO WPMC MEMBERS were recently awarded ID buttons for their ability to identify different mushroom species: **Dana Driscoll** (50) and **Victoria Khersonsky** (75).

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/>



WPMC President Announces Annual Awards

AT THE NOVEMBER 21 meeting, WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin** announced two awards for 2023.

The President's Award went to WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith**, in recognition of her many contributions to the success of WPMC, including serving as Photography Chair, Lincoff Foray Co-Chair, and Identifier; leading and organizing mushroom walks; and assisting with Mushroom Education Day. Sara has been elected to a first term as WPMC Secretary for 2024.

The Outstanding Service Award went to WPMC Treasurer **Jared Delaney**, in appreciation of his many contributions to the success of WPMC, including serving as Treasurer since 2020, Sales Chair, Lincoff Foray Co-Chair, and Cultivation Chair. In October, Jared was elected to another term as Treasurer for 2024.

Please extend our congratulations and appreciation to Sara and Jared for all of their service to the club.

Photo by Barbora Batokova



Lyme Disease Vaccine Trials

by Julie Travaglini

WHILE I UNDERSTAND and appreciate their value within the ecosystem, I still hate ticks. Any outdoor person probably feels the same way. There's not much worse after enjoying a day outside exploring and mushroom hunting than sitting down and discovering you have brought home a hitchhiker. I've brought home enough embedded ticks at this point that my doctor gave me a bottle of antibiotics to keep on hand so that I don't have to call her every time. I have become "that" patient.

With Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses on the rise, there's an increased urgency in creating a vaccine to keep outdoor enthusiasts safer from the disease's long-term effects. That's why I'm excited to be participating in a Pfizer Lyme disease vaccine trial. So far, I'm two shots in, although I have no idea if I received a placebo or the actual medication. I've had no side effects other than a very, very sore arm and some chills. Having been treated for Lyme disease before, I will gladly take the soreness and chills over the Lyme disease symptoms!

Here's to hoping that, in the near future, we can enjoy our time outdoors without the threat of Lyme disease ruining the fun and affecting our long-term health.



Editor's Note:

The VALOR trial, which was initiated in August 2022, is an ongoing randomized, observer-blind, placebo-controlled Phase 3 trial which has enrolled 9,437 participants in areas where Lyme disease is highly endemic across the U.S., Europe and Canada. Participants receive VLA15 or a saline placebo at months 0, 2 and 5-9, and one booster dose. The VALOR trial is expected to be concluded by the end of 2025.

WPMC Scholarship Committee Awards Two Grants

WPMC'S SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE has awarded \$1,000 to Allegheny Land Trust in support of "Nature on Wheels – The ALT Mobile Learning Lab". Nature on Wheels takes all the advantages of outdoor learning and pairs them with the advantages of classroom learning. Employing hands-on manipulatives like digital microscopes, water testing kits, and mushroom identification kits, ALT can take its comprehensive environmental learning experiences anywhere. The Nature on Wheels program will be implemented with 100 classrooms in 10 school districts, at 8 libraries, 5 community events, 3 fairs or festivals, and at 30 partner events throughout Allegheny and Westmoreland Counties.

WPMC has also awarded a \$1,000 grant to **Sarah Donaldson**, a senior at Pennsylvania Western University. Sarah requested funding to support research on the melatonin-like effects of *Herichium erinaceus*. Sarah will explore *H. erinaceus* as a sleep aid in comparison to melatonin, using gas chromatography to examine its chemical structure. She plans to compare metabolites of interest to melatonin, with the goal of finding out whether or not *H. erinaceus* produces similar effects to melatonin.

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/>



Announcing the First Lincoff Foray Logo Contest

By Stephen Bucklin, Foray Logo Contest Chair

HOPEFULLY YOU HAVE your calendar marked for the 24th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray, scheduled for September 21 at the Economy Borough Volunteer Fire Hall. For the past three years, we have had WPMC members volunteer their artwork for use in a limited-edition Lincoff Foray T-shirt. This year we wanted to organize an open call for designs to create a more transparent and equitable process for selecting artwork. Below are the rules for participating; please share this far and wide with any artists you know who might be interested!

RULES:

This contest is open to anyone in the world! You do not have to be a member of the Western PA Mushroom Club, though special consideration may be given to WPMC members.

- The final design will contain the official name of the event: 24th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray.
- Each participant may submit up to 5 entries.
- Artwork must meet certain requirements for printing; please see guidelines below.
- If you choose to represent a mushroom, we prefer distinctly recognizable, real mushroom species known to occur in Western Pennsylvania. We have listed a few species below.

DEADLINE:

Contest entries must be received no later than June 1, 2024. Winner will be announced no later than July 1, 2024.

Please email all entries to foraydesign@wpamushroomclub.org, with the subject line "2024 Annual Foray Logo Entry."

PRIZES:

The artist behind the winning design will receive the following:

- A one-year membership to WPMC or a one-year extension if they are already a member.
- A feature in WPMC's bimonthly newsletter.
- One example of each item printed with the logo. This will include a t-shirt, sticker, and any other swag that is created for the event.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRAPHIC ARTWORK:

- Hand-drawn art without text in the layout can be submitted alone. Submit raster files (.jpg, .psd, .tif) scaled to size (10") of 300 dpi or greater.
- All text included in the design must be vector format and outlined unless it is high resolution (300 dpi).
- To keep within product production budget, the design must be limited to 1 or 2 colors (or 3 colors by incorporating the color of the shirt into the design).
- Vector files such as AI or EPS are preferred.
- Any fonts used must be free for commercial use.

OTHER IMPORTANT STUFF:

Semifinalists will be selected by representatives from WPMC's Foray and Publicity Committees, followed by a vote of WPMC's Executive Committee. Please note that WPMC may at our discretion alter graphic elements, font, or verbiage on the chosen design. The winning entry becomes the intellectual property of WPMC for exclusive commercial use in all marketing, merchandising, and in any other way the organization sees fit.

Examples of Fall Mushrooms in Western Pennsylvania:

Amanita flavoconia, Yellow Patches

Armillaria mellea, Honey Mushroom

Chlorociboria aeruginascens, Green Wood Cup

Craterellus fallax, Eastern Black Trumpet

Craterellus ignicolor, Flame Trumpet

Grifola frondosa, Hen of the Woods or Maitake

Helvella crispa, White Saddle

Hericium americanum, Bear's Head Tooth

Hydnum umbilicatum, Depressed Hedgehog

Laccaria ochropurpurea, Purple-and-White Deceiver

Laetiporus sulphureus, Chicken of the Woods

Lycoperdon perlatum, Common Puffball

Mycena haematopus, Bleeding Fairy Helmet

Suillus spraguei, Painted Suillus



Left to right:

2021 design by Cara Coulter

2022 design by Cara Coulter

2023 design by Dana Driscoll



Interview with Founding Members Val and Jack Baker

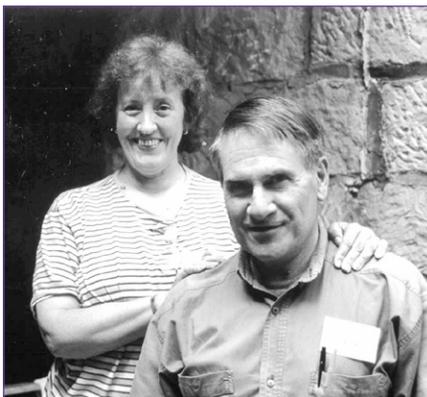
by Dawn Wehman

WHILE SOME OF US were busy singing “1999” and waiting for all of the world’s computers to fail at the turn of the Millennium, the founders of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club were conjuring up what this club would look like. **Mary Woehrel**, the first club President, recalls in an email from 2006:

The founding walk at Todd Sanctuary was on Sunday, September 26, 1999. It lasted three hours and there were between 15 and 20 people. We had so much fun, and all realized how special it was to share that day! **John (Plischke)** mentioned to me that we should start a club. It was like bells rang because I had been collecting names of people who would be interested in a mushroom club and had already discussed it with Beechwood. When I told John that Beechwood had already told me that we could meet there, it was DONE! As far as who was present, I have a list ... I’m not sure if they were all at the walk. They are:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Esther Allen | Emily Johnson | John Plischke |
| John Plischke III | Kim Plischke | Elizabeth Barrow |
| Bob Lucas | Valerie Baker | Jack Baker |
| Don Stone | Tim Manka | Cookie Monaghan |
| Mary Cimino | Katheryn Grelling | Mark Williams |
| Chuck Guttilla | Dick Duffy | |

Notice the two names on that list: **Valerie & Jack Baker**. They are still members today. Jack claims it was Val’s suggestion that they start their foraging experiences looking for morels. Val said she started looking for them back in the mid-1960’s and still claims the morels are better tasting in Iowa, where she first started. After years of marriage and travels around the country, they found themselves



Val and Jack in the October-November 2000 WPMC newsletter. Photo courtesy of Becky Plischke



Val and Jack Baker in 2021. Photo by Maeve Rafferty

settling near North Park in Allegheny County. Val decided it was time to start looking for morels again.

Val was the club’s first Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary and has served as publicity chairperson, walk leader, and chair of the Lincoff Foray mushroom feast. Jack was the first Treasurer to serve WPMC and is still one of our club Identifiers. Today, they still reside in the same home and regularly enjoy their wild mushroom findings. Val’s favorites are Black Trumpets, and Jack’s is Chicken of the Woods. Their daughter is a member of the Central Pennsylvania Club and now enjoys the mushroom she used to scoff at as a teen.

Are you one of the founding members, maybe not mentioned on the list? As the club is getting ready to celebrate its 25th Anniversary, I’d love to talk to you for a potential future story. Please feel free to reach out to me at membership@wpamushroomclub.org

EDITOR’S NOTE: Valerie and Jack Baker received WPMC’s Outstanding Service award in 2019.

Lincoff Foray Will Feature Two Guest Mycologists

WPMC IS PLEASED to announce two Guest Mycologists for this year’s Lincoff Foray. **Sigrid Jakob** is a New Yorker with a particular interest in *Inocybaceae* and coprophilous fungi, but she’s enchanted by fungi of any kind. Sigrid is passionate about DNA sequencing and has her own home lab. She is currently serving as president of the New York Mycological Society and co-leads the Green-Wood Cemetery Fungi Phenology Project, a long-term survey of her local cemetery. Sigrid is also a member of NAMA’s sequencing committee and a board member and sequence validator for Fungal Diversity Survey (FUNDIS), a non-profit dedicated to protecting fungi.

Our other Guest Mycologist will be **Hannah Huber**, Conservation Mycologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. Her work involves collaborating with fungi folks statewide to continually curate the checklist of PA fungi, assess species that may be rare or declining, engage the public, and promote best management practices for fungal community sustainability. Hannah has a bachelor’s in Biology & Environmental Science from Paul Smith’s College and a master of professional studies in Applied Ecology from SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry. Hannah’s current favorite mushrooms are the newly recorded in PA: *Psathyrella aquatica*, *Loreleia marchantiae*, and *Thaxterogaster frondosomultiformis*.



Sigrid Jakob
Photo by Cecily Franklin



Hannah Huber
Photo by Kaela Campanella



Check the website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/events for updates, directions, and more. If you would like to lead a WPMC walk, or if you know a great walk location, please email WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** at joshmowris@yahoo.com.



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!

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

WPMC Walks

SATURDAY, MARCH 23: 10 AM – 1 PM

Hillman State Park (Washington County)

Join WPMC Mycologists **Stephen Bucklin** and **Cara Coulter** for an early spring lichen and mushroom walk at Hillman State Park. We'll meet at the trailhead on Van Gorder Road (T446) and hike toward the old airport parking lot. Free and open to the public; no registration required. Google Maps Pin:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/fdQkVSt5XUqWmpe6>

SATURDAY, APRIL 13: 11 AM – 1:30 PM

Lower Frick Park Play Area with UpstreamPgh

Meet WPMC Identifiers **Barbora Batokova** and **Josh Mowris** and representatives from UpstreamPgh at the lower Frick Park Play area. Learn more about the fascinating world of mushrooms and fungi and meet other nature enthusiasts! WPMC will lead us on a semi-guided hike through Frick Park along Nine Mile Run, after which we'll reconvene to identify and discuss what we found. Participants can choose to stick with the group for the hike (roughly 1-2 miles) or wander on their own path and bring their finds back to the group for identification and discussion. UpstreamPgh will also discuss ways to get involved with local volunteer efforts. The event is free, but registration is required at this link:

<https://upstreampgh.org/events/spring-mushroom-walk-04132024/>

SATURDAY, APRIL 20: 12 – 2:30 PM

Mushrooms of Beltzhoover with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy McKinley Park, 900 Delmont Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15210

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** for a mushroom walk in McKinley Park. We'll be celebrating Earth Month by looking for and learning about mushrooms and picking up trash while we are out on the trails. There is no charge, but space is limited. Register here:

<https://pittsburghparks.org/event/nature-in-your-neighborhood-mushrooms-of-beltzhoover-mckinley-park/>

FRIDAY, APRIL 26: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Beginner's Mushroom ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area, McKeesport, PA

SOLD OUT

SATURDAY APRIL 27: 10 AM – 1 PM

North Park Rachel Carson Trail

Meet WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** at the Pigeon Shelter on Kummer Road for a mushroom walk on the Rachel Carson Trail during the City Nature Challenge. Free and open to the public.

MONDAY, APRIL 29: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Fungi 101: Talk & Walk with Allegheny Land Trust Fern Hollow Nature Center, Sewickley

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom talk and ID walk at Fern Hollow Nature Center during the City Nature Challenge. After a short introductory lecture on fungi, participants will look for mushrooms around Fern Hollow and collect specimens for an ID table. Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK INS will be permitted. As this hike is beginner friendly, we will be using the mushrooms' common names and looking at distinguishing features to begin identifying mushrooms. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. Tickets are \$10 for ages 3 and up; tickets not required for children ages 2 and under. Register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/66999-fungi-101-talk-and-walk>

SATURDAY, MAY 4: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Asbury Woods (Erie County) 4105 Asbury Road, Erie, PA

Meet WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** in the parking lot next to the playground for a mushroom walk on the Asbury Woods loop trail. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, MAY 11: 9 AM – 12 PM

Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County), Beginners Mushroom Hike with Clarion Conservation District

Join the Clarion Conservation District, PA Mushroom Company, and WPMC for a 1-2 mile mushroom foraging hike for ages 10 & up starting at Shelter #1. The hike will feature mushroom identification and photography tips. Bring a collection container (basket, empty egg carton, etc.). Prior registration and a small fee will be required. Stay tuned for more info! Questions? Contact the Clarion Conservation District at hbequeathccd@gmail.com or call 814-393-6147.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Beginner's Mushroom ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust Audubon Greenway, Sewickley

Meet ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike and ID table at Audubon Greenway. Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK INS will be permitted. This is not a traditional guided hike. After a brief introduction, guests will be looking for mushrooms on their own before reconvening for an ID table and discussion at the end. As this hike is beginner friendly, we will be using the mushrooms' common names and looking at distinguishing features to begin identifying mushrooms. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up; tickets not required for children ages 2 and under. Register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/beginners-mushroom-id-hike-2/>



SATURDAY, JUNE 29: 10 AM – 1 PM

Mother Earth Farm (Indiana County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** and farmer **Chloe Drew** for a mushroom walk in the 30 acres of wooded land at Mother Earth Farm PA. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: 10 AM

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.

Other Walks, Forays & Events

APRIL 20-21

Mid-Atlantic States Mycology Conference (MASMC 2024) Duke University, Durham, NC

<https://sites.duke.edu/masmc/>

MAY 31 - JUNE 2

65th Allegany Nature Pilgrimage Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus County, NY

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 2: 9 AM – 3 PM

Phipps BioBlitz & Family Fun Festival, Schenley Park

AUGUST 2 – 4

10th Annual Mycofest Mushroom & Arts Festival Centre Hall, PA

<https://www.mycofest.net/>

AUGUST 9 – 18

Summer Continental MycoBlitz

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/summer-continental-mycoblitz-2024>

AUGUST 15 – 18

West Virginia Mushroom Club Annual Foray Blackwater Falls State Park

<https://www.wvmushroomclub.net/2019-foray-registration>

AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2

Mycological Association of Washington, DC Sequanota Foray, Boswell, PA

SEPTEMBER 5 – 8

11th Annual Northwoods Foray Lake Namakagon, WI

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

SEPTEMBER 12 – 15

Ohio Mushroom Festival, Hammondsville, OH

<https://www.ohiomushroomfestival.com/events/ohio-mushroom-festival-2024>

SEPTEMBER 21

24th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray Economy Fire Department Banquet Hall 3308 Conway Wallrose Road, Sewickley

See page 4 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 27 – 30

Connecticut Westchester Mycological Association (COMA) Annual Clark Rogerson Foray, Copake, NY

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

OCTOBER 11 – 14

Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) Foray Hyannis, MA

<https://www.nemf.org/2023/09/29/announcing-nemf-2024/>

OCTOBER 18 – 27

Fall Continental MycoBlitz

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fall-continental-mycoblitz-2024>

OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 3

North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray, Randle, Washington

<https://namyco.org/annual-foray/>

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. Find a buddy to search with.
- Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for identification and advice.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms: location, habitat, etc.
- Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your responsibility alone.
- **Help Keep Our Parks Clean!** It's easy to bring a 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



Get Your Cameras & Cellphones Ready

ONCE AGAIN, WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will judge members' photos for our annual Photo Contest. Here are the Photo Contest rules for this year:

Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2024

- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG 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

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.

Mushroom Selfies: 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.

Judge's Option: For photos which do not fit into the Pictorial, Documentary, or Selfie divisions. Examples include fungi in an interesting situation, fungi with animals, people enjoying fungi, and family-friendly mushroom art.

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.



Photo by Dawn Wehman

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:

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

Donations Help Fund WPMC Projects

LOOKING FOR A WAY to support WPMC beyond paying your annual dues? Make a donation anytime; it's tax-deductible (if you itemize deductions) because WPMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a loved one. Your employer may even match your contribution. Make checks payable to Western Pa. Mushroom Club and submit them to our Treasurer, **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

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts, Production

Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com



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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 Jared Delaney, 1912 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • treasurer@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 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____

