



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

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MAY / JUNE 2018



President's Message CECILY FRANKLIN

BEFORE WPMC EVEN held its first monthly meeting of the year, we were shocked and saddened by the loss of our great friend and inspiration, Gary Lincoff. We are his legacy, and it is now our responsibility to carry on his life's work. Although Gary can never be replaced, we are making plans for a great Gary Lincoff Memorial Foray on September 15.

We had C-O-L-D weather for all of this year's activities until Mushroom Education Day on April 14, where Bob Sleigh taught us when to start looking for Morels: Take the high and low temperatures for the day; if they add up to 100 or more degrees, it's getting warm enough. After two to three days of these temperatures, start looking!

Thanks to WPMC's mycologists and identifiers, we have walks planned for almost every weekend through June. For details on who, when and where to meet, see this newsletter or the "Events" page on our website.

Our May monthly meeting will be the ever-popular Cultivation Night. To get a free oyster mushroom kit, bring your WPMC membership card and a clean plastic shopping bag on May 15. For even more excitement, bring a log to inoculate with shiitake spawn.

Walt Sturgeon, author of "Mushrooms of the Northeast" will join us in June. His topic for the monthly meeting on June 19 will be "Edible Wood Rotters of Western Pennsylvania."

Remember, WPMC is an all-volunteer organization, so we count on our members to do everything, from leading walks and teaching classes to bringing refreshments or updating the website. We need it all! If you think there's a match between your interests and our needs, please notify any WPMC Board member or email me at cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

WPMC Membership

PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES!

If you have not renewed by **MAY 15**, you **WILL** be dropped from the roster and future mailings. Check your e-mail or mailing label for **PAST DUE** notification. WPMC thanks the over 400 members who have already paid. (For more information see page 11.)

SAVE THE DATE!

18th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray September 14 – 15, 2018

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club will be hosting the 18th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray this coming September 14 and 15, 2018.

The Foray will kick off on Friday, September 14, with a mushroom walk in the old-growth forest of Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County. This walk will be led by WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor and Dale Luthringer, Environmental Education Specialist with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Those who wish to obtain overnight accommodations at the park have the option of camping or renting cabins in Cook Forest. But please book early, as cabin rentals fill up quickly.

Saturday's program will be held at the Rose Barn in Allegheny County's North Park. The morning program will include guided walks and specimen collection along local trails. After lunch, the afternoon program will include presentations by guest mycologists Taylor Lockwood (author of *Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi* and *Chasing the Rain*), Walt Sturgeon (author of *Mushrooms of the Northeast* and *Appalachian Mushrooms: A Field Guide*) and our own John Plischke III (author of *Good Mushroom, Bad Mushroom*).

We'll have a cooking demonstration, as well as a Book-Signing / Meet & Greet with our guest mycologists, auction, sales tables, vendors, mushroom display tables and more. Finally, the Foray will be capped off by our legendary Mushroom Feast.

As always, we need volunteers:

- Registration
- Hospitality
- Set-up and Clean-up crew
- Cooks
- Auction items
- Auction leader

Please contact Barbara DeRiso, Foray Chair, to volunteer your services. It's not too early to gather up donations for the auction, or to volunteer to bring a covered dish. (And please remember, all foraged mushrooms to be used in preparing a dish must be approved by a Club Identifier or Club Mycologist prior to cooking.)

Hope to see you there!

Information about camping at Cook Forest is available at:

<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/CookForestStatePark/Pages/Stay.aspx>

Gary Lincoff / World-renowned Expert on Mushrooms

— OCTOBER 3, 1942 - MARCH 16, 2018 —

by Gretchen McKay, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

GARY LINCOFF DREAMED of becoming a writer when he moved from Pittsburgh to New York City in 1968.

His novel would be about a draft dodger hiding out the Vietnam War in New York's Central Park. For six months, he did hands-on research, learning everything he could about how to survive in the wild. He proved a quick study.

Before long, he and his wife, Irene Liberman, were hosting dinners made from the weeds, seeds and other edible plants they had foraged in the city's green patches. He was particularly fascinated by mushrooms.

In 1971, the couple went on a walk in Harriman State Park — 30 miles north of the city — with the New York Mycological Society.

"And he just fell in love," said Ms. Liberman, a graphic artist.

Mr. Lincoff eventually came to lead mushroom expeditions in places as far away as Japan, Siberia and Myanmar, and he also taught courses on how to identify the fungi for more than 40 years at the New York Botanical Garden in the borough of the Bronx.

He also was the authoritative voice of the go-to reference book that many mushroom hunters consider their Bible. Now in its 31st printing, his "National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms" has sold more than a half-million copies since it was first published in 1981. A two-year labor of love, it cemented Mr. Lincoff's reputation as a rock star in the world of mycology.

Mr. Lincoff died on March 16 in New York City after suffering a stroke. He was 75.

The elder of two sons born to Bette and Leonard Lincoff, an optometrist who in 1939 pioneered the use of contact lenses in Pittsburgh, Mr. Lincoff grew up in Squirrel Hill.

Upon graduating from Alderdice High School in 1959, he earned a bachelor in philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh. He briefly studied law at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., before returning home in 1964 to do graduate work in English literature at Pitt.

He met the woman he would marry on a double date in 1967. A friend of Ms. Liberman's had fixed the art student up with the friend's brother, but he didn't have a car. Mr. Lincoff was enlisted to drive the couples to the movies at the old Pittsburgh airport. He ended up catching the eye of the pretty Carnegie Mellon University student in the backseat. They would move together to New York a year later, where he planned on teaching.

"But he really wanted to write," Ms. Liberman said.

Little could Mr. Lincoff have guessed that mushrooms would be his subject.



It takes a special kind of mind to be able to absorb all there is to know about mushrooms and their role within, and between, ecosystems. A fast learner with an affinity for Latin, Mr. Lincoff became legendary for his expertise and ability to convince people that being careless about identification can kill them.

In 1978, after watching doctors struggle with identification when two fellow New York Mycological Society members fell ill after eating poisonous fungi, he wrote a handbook for doctors and mushroom hunters on toxic and hallucinogenic mushroom poisoning. It was so well-received, the National Audubon Society asked him to author its field guide to North American mushrooms.

He would write three more mushroom books and contribute to dozens of others over the decades, and also write dozens of scholarly articles. Just two blocks from his apartment on the borough of Manhattan's Upper West Side, he found more than 400 species of mushrooms in Central Park.

He would serve nine years as president of the North American Mycological Association.

He also helped co-found one of the quirkiest mushroom festivals in the U.S. with fellow mushroom-lover Emanuel Salzman — the counter-culture Telluride Mushroom Festival in Colorado.

When he wasn't foraging, Mr. Lincoff was a devoted father to his son, Noah.

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<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/obituaries/2018/03/28/Obituary-Gary-Lincoff-mushrooms-mycology-New-York-Pittsburgh/stories/201803260030>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/23/obituaries/gary-lincoff-75-dies-spread-the-joy-of-mushrooms-far-and-wide.html?ribbon-ad-idx=15&rref=obituaries&module=Ribbon&version=context®ion=Header&action=click&contentCollection=Obituaries&pgtype=article>

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

MEETINGS ARE HELD at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from March through November at Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA), 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. *All monthly meetings are free and include a Mushroom Display Table staffed by expert Identifiers.*

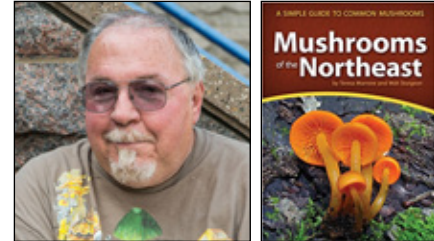
May 15 Annual Cultivation Meeting Rebecca Miller & John Kosmal



We'll have kits for growing oyster mushrooms at home. Bring your WPMC membership card and a plastic grocery bag. Rebecca Miller will give a brief presentation with instructions for handling your kit and growing mushrooms at home. *Kits are available for club members only.* New members are welcome to join at the start of the evening meeting.

WPMC will also supply shiitake spawn for those who want to inoculate logs to take home. Bring your own logs. Suitable logs are 4 to 6-inch diameter and up to 4 feet long; a length of 40 inches is ideal. Any species of oak and most of the maples are suitable for growing shiitake. Wood that's been freshly cut this winter or early spring while still dormant has the best chance of success. Drills and a work station will be set up. John Kosmal will supervise the process and help those who haven't inoculated logs before.

June 19 Walt Sturgeon Edible Wood Rotters of Western Pennsylvania



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

July 17 Sarah Banach, WPMC Identifier The Artist Experience in the Forest: Fungi

WPMC Identifier Sarah Banach will show us some of her work and tell us about her observations and inspirations.

August 21: TBA / Sept. 18: TBA / Oct. 16: Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers / Nov. 20: Pot Luck & Member Photos

Focus on Fungi: The 2018 Photo Contest

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

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

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.

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 for Pictorial and Documentary: 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.

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.

Record Attendance for Mushroom Education Day

More than 50 mushroom enthusiasts registered for WPMC's Mushroom Education Day at the Cooper-Siegel Library on April 14. Participants heard expert advice on four important topics:

- “Mushroom Refresher Course” by WPMC Officer and Identifier **Fluff Berger**
- “The Elusive Morel Mushroom” by WPMC Identifier **Bob Sleight**
- “Introduction to Mushroom Cultivation” by WPMC member **Mark Spear**, with assistance from WPMC Mycologist **Jim Tunney**
- “How to Use iNaturalist” by **Fluff Berger** and WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor**

Following the classes, attendees drove to nearby Salamander Park, where they found a variety of new and over-wintered mushrooms. One of the few fresh specimens was the brightly colored Scarlet Cup. Thanks to on-site microscopic analysis by Garrett Taylor, they were identified as *Sarcoscypha austriaca*.



From left: Jared Delaney, Richard Jacob and Fluff Berger represented WPMC on Mushroom Education Day



Above: These Scarlet Cups (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*) were found at Salamander Park. Photo by Sarah Amelia

Right: WPMC members Mark Spear and Rebecca Miller showed us some crafts made from mycelium.



WPMC would also like to thank the following WPMC members for volunteering their assistance with planning and execution of Mushroom Education Day:

- WPMC President **Cecily Franklin** for scheduling the library and speakers, setting up the refreshments, and publicizing the event.
- WPMC Treasurer **Barbara DeRiso** for handling on-site registration and for bringing refreshments and supplies.
- WPMC Past-President **Richard Jacob** for setting up on-line registration and for handling all of the Audio-Visual requirements.
- WPMC Member and Sales Committee Chairman **Jared Delaney** for managing the Sales Table.
- WPMC Past President **Dick Dougall** for encouraging participation in WPMC's Button ID Program.

Photos by Cecily Franklin



WPMC Names New Identifier and Awards More ID Buttons

Past-President Dick Dougall presented JERRY SAPP the “Identifier” button at the March meeting, and REBECCA BECK the “75” ID Button at the April meeting.

Photos by Kristine Murawski

WPMC named its newest Identifier at the March meeting. Jerry Sapp will be leading a walk on June 23 at McConnells Mill State Park in Lawrence County. Other recent recipients of ID Buttons include Lucy Klimko (10), Bryan Cass (25), and Rebecca Beck (75).

The Beginner's Corner

by Dick Dougall

IF YOU ARE A beginning mushroomer and have only come to a few of our mushroom walks, it is easy to be overwhelmed when seeing the number of mushrooms found on a walk. It is typical to find 25 to 75 different mushroom species. How can you get a grasp of this great variety? First, don't expect to learn most of them after just a few walks; this will take some time. Second, you will need a way to break them down into a few basic groups.

Unlike trees and birds, which have only a few hundred species in North America, mushrooms have thousands of species. Also, birds and trees have field guides that mainly use common names. Detailed mushroom field guides generally focus on scientific names, which have been changing a lot in recent years, and many of the names are nearly impossible to pronounce.

To simplify things, mycologists have broken mushrooms into "Groups." What is a Group? It is a collection of some mushrooms that are rather flexible in strict biological terms but have some overall similarities in their appearance. Gary Lincoff has broken mushrooms into 12 Groups (if we ignore Truffles). He has found that these Groups are the same all over the world! Other mycologists have some slightly different breakdowns. Gary has called his selection the New Field Key. (See table right.)

It is important to recognize that the various Groups are vastly different in the number of species they contain. Jelly Fungi, Chanterelles & Black Trumpets, Coral Fungi, and Parchment Fungi are all rather small Groups. Gilled Mushrooms (50%), Polypores (20%), and Boletes (10%) are the three largest Groups. The numbers in parentheses are percentages of all species from that group.

Since Gilled Mushrooms make up half the total number of species we find, Gary Lincoff has broken them down into eight subgroups. However, this breakdown is rather complex and not very useful for beginners. Future Beginner's Corner articles will discuss a variety of ways for beginners to look at the Gilled Mushrooms.

Polypores, the second largest Group, is a place where beginners might focus on a few specific mushrooms. For people interested in edibles, Sulfur Shelf (aka Chicken Mushrooms) and Hen of the Woods (aka Sheep's Head or Maitake) are the most important. For people interested in photography or crafts, the Artist's Conk, turkey tails, violet-toothed polypore, and cinnabar-red polypore are the most interesting or colorful.

Boletes are the third largest Group. They can be somewhat hard to identify to species. However, Boletes include a lot of edibles. There are some general rules that can help beginners select the better edibles and avoid the more problematic or toxic species. This is a good group for beginning foragers because the toxic species are not deadly like some of the Gilled Mushrooms. One problem in our area is that a number of Boletes are very bitter. Having one of these in your mushroom dish will ruin it.

Foraging for edible Gilled Mushroom requires great caution. There are some great edibles, and there are others which are deadly poisonous, with no general rules. You must learn to recognize each potential edible and be cautious about edibility advice you receive from others. You can still focus on photography with safety and get beautiful photos. Handling mushrooms (even the very toxic ones) is safe, as long as you don't put them in your mouth.

Simplified Mushroom Groups

Adapted from Gary Lincoff's New Field Key

NON-GILLED MUSHROOMS

Cup Fungi

Flask Fungi

Jelly Fungi

Chanterelles & Black Trumpets

Coral Fungi

Tooth Fungi

Parchment Fungi

Polypores (20%)

Boletes (10%)

Puffballs & their look-alikes

Crust Fungi

GILLED MUSHROOMS (50%)

We Were All Beginners Once

by Cecily Franklin

At the end of my very first mushroom walk, we all took our mushrooms to a central location to be identified. I held up a mushroom for WPMC Mycologist La Monte Yarroll to examine. He took one look at it and said, "Where's the stem?" So I looked in my basket, and there were a whole bunch of stems! I held up my basket for him to inspect, and he just looked at me again. And I thought to myself, "Some expert you are!"

Editor's Note:

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

Gary Lincoff's New Field Key. Click on BLUE Group names, to see a variety of photos and sketches of mushrooms in that Group:

<https://nemf1.homestead.com/files/lincoff/fieldkey/fieldkey.html>

New Mushroom Books Coming Out Soon

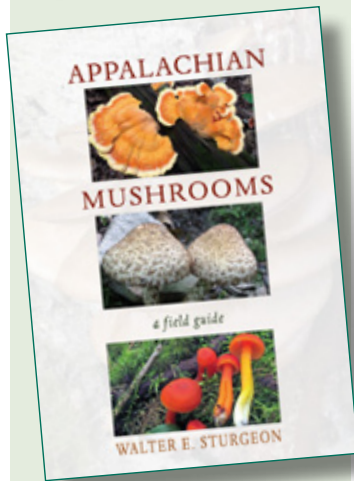


Mushroom Cultivation: An Illustrated Guide to Growing Your Own Mushrooms at Home

by Tavis Lynch

Understanding how mushrooms grow is crucial to successfully cultivating them, and *Mushroom Cultivation* offers comprehensive instruction both on how mushrooms grow and how you can cultivate them yourself to enrich your soil, speed up your composting, and even to suppress weeds. Some people cultivate mushrooms for medicinal use or make them into teas and tinctures. After reading *Mushroom Cultivation*, you'll discover that growing a mushroom is really no more difficult than growing a tomato; you just need a slightly different set of skills.

\$24.99 Flexibound, 144 pages, Quarry Books; Illustrated edition (May 8, 2018) ISBN-13: 978-1631594045



Appalachian Mushrooms: A Field Guide

by Walter E. Sturgeon

From one of the region's foremost mushroom hunters, Walter E. Sturgeon, comes a long-overdue field guide to finding and identifying the mushrooms and fleshy fungi found in the Appalachian Mountains from Canada to Georgia. Edibility and toxicity, habitat, ecology, and detailed diagnostic features of the disparate forms they take throughout their life cycles are all included, enabling the reader to identify species without the use of a microscope or chemicals.

Appalachian Mushrooms is unparalleled in its accuracy and currency, from its detailed photographs to descriptions based on the most advanced classification information available, including recent DNA studies that have upended some mushrooms' previously accepted taxonomies. Sturgeon celebrates more than 400 species in all their diversity, beauty, and scientific interest, going beyond the expected specimens to include uncommon ones and those that are indigenous to the Appalachian region.

"A significant contribution... because the photos are the very best I have ever seen in an American field guide, this book will find readers and users well beyond the limits of its geographic range. Many of these mushrooms are not restricted to the Appalachians, and it will be welcome resource for those outside this area to identify the mushrooms in their own region."

— Gary Lincoff, author of the *National Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Mushrooms* and president emeritus, North American Mycological Association

"This may well be the most accurate guide I have seen. *Appalachian Mushrooms* is unquestionably the work of someone who has spent a lifetime studying and mastering identification of the mushrooms that occur here. It is the most current and up-to-date book on the fungi of Appalachia."

— John Plischke, author of *Good Mushroom Bad Mushroom*

**\$35 trade paperback, 400 pages, 500 color illustrations
Ohio University Press (Sept. 10, 2018), ISBN 978-0-8214-2325-7**

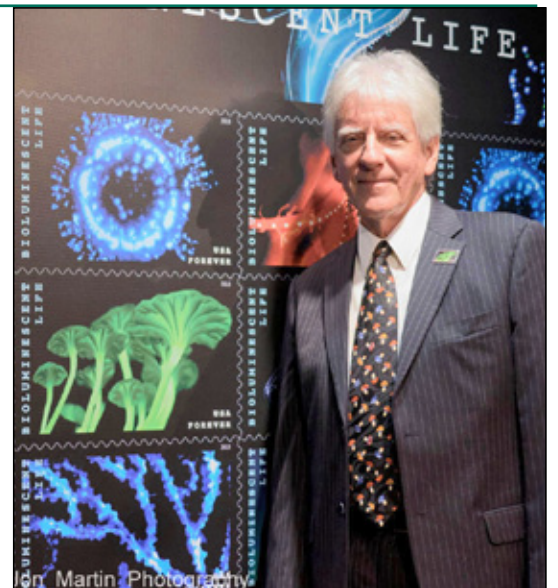


New Forever Stamp Features Photo by Taylor Lockwood

The U.S. Postal Service recently issued a set of Forever Stamps depicting Bioluminescent Life. Bioluminescence—the ability of some living things to generate their own light—occurs on many branches of the tree of life. These stamps showcase ten examples of bioluminescent life: eight from the ocean, a firefly, and a cluster of mushrooms.

The mushroom photo was taken by Taylor Lockwood, who will be our Guest Speaker for this year's Lincoff Foray on September 15. Taylor will show us his mushroom photos from around the world, including lots more bioluminescence, animation, and time-lapse photography.

The sheet of 20 stamps includes ten different photos of bioluminescent life forms. Taylor Lockwood took the photo of bioluminescent mushrooms.



Mycological Literature

by John Plischke III

1. Species Name Changes

Journal articles are often the first place we read about new species of mushrooms and names that have been changed because of new research that often involves DNA testing. One of the things I do when I hear a new name being used is to try to figure out if the name is a new species that we never knew about or the result of a name change for a mushroom that we have found before but had its name changed because of new research.

I personally believe that we should not accept new names unless we know how and why the name changed and agree with it. All too often it seems that, once a new name is proposed for a mushroom, it becomes used and accepted without the necessary research required to see if we agree.

One example of this would be with the name change of *Suillus granulatus* to *Suillus weaverae*. This is something I feel we should not accept until we find out why one is reported growing under 5-needle pine and the other under 2-needle pine and why marginal veil remnants are reported on *S. weaverae* and we do not see this with what we have been calling *S. granulatus*.

2. Blue Cheese Polypores

A paper that caught my attention a few weeks ago is *Postia caesia* complex (Polyporales, Basidiomycota) in temperate Northern Hemisphere. It talks about 24 different species of them. And of course, what we have been calling our common Blue Cheese Polypore (*Postia caesia*) had a name change and is several different species across the globe. According to the article, here in North America we now have seven species of them! Luckily, not only does the paper talk about microscopic differences, but it also includes a table which shows ecological features that make it easier to differentiate many of them in the field.

After reading the paper, the first thing I thought about was the Blue Cheese Polypore that I photographed in Cook Forest. According to the paper, of the seven North American species, two have hairy caps and the other five are smoother without hairs. Since my photo had hairs, that gave me two choices and I decided it was probably *Postia livens* but will scope a fresh one when I find it again to make certain on the ID.



Blue cheese polypore (*Postia caesia*). Photo by John Plischke III



Hairy fairy cup (*Humaria hemisphaerica*) from 2017 book

3. Free Mushroom Book

Gljive reda Pezizalesu u Bosni i Hercegovini

by Nedim Jukić and Nihad Omerović

This is an excellent book on Ascomycetes. Even though it is not in English, we can still read the Latin names and enjoy many outstanding photos of mushrooms that are not in our common guidebooks. It is available from the authors as a 211-page PDF download.

1. To read the article from the October 2016 issue of *Mycologia*, see:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309350472_Phylogenetic_assessment_of_global_Suillus_I%20TS_sequences_supports_morphologically_defined_species_and_reveal%20s_synonymous_and_undescribed_taxa

2. The paper can be downloaded from the author at:

https://tuhat.helsinki.fi/portal/files/100590349/Miettinen2018Postia_caesia.pdf

3. To download free book:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317664676_Gljive_reda_Pezizales_u_Bosni_i_Hercegovini_-_Ugrozenost_ekologija_i_biogeografija

WPMC Walks & Presentations

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

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

WPMC Walks

May 5 Washington Park (Washington County)

283 Dunn Avenue, Washington, PA. Meet WPMC Mycologist John Plischke III at the parking lot past the pool to search for morels.

May 12 Devil's Hollow, Sewickley with Allegheny Land Trust

Meet WPMC Identifier & Officer Fluff Berger at the small gravel lot on Sevin Road. FREE for WPMC members (use Promo Code FUNGUYS); \$5 for non-members. (See link below to register.)

May 19 Mingo Creek County Park (Washington County)

Meet WPMC Identifier Jared White at the Ebenezer covered bridge near the East Entrance on Mingo Creek Road.

June 2 Bird Park BioBlitz, Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy

WPMC will lead a mushroom walk as part of the Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy's Bird Park BioBlitz. Park in the lot off Beadling Road (between Washington Road and Cedar Blvd.) Meet at the Bird Park Pavilion. The full BioBlitz starts at 6pm on Friday and ends at 6pm Saturday. (See trail map link below.)

June 10 Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. BioBlitz & Biodiversity Festival, Phipps Conservatory

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

June 16 Camp Gyasuta, Sharpsburg

Meet WPMC Officer Barbara DeRiso at the second parking lot.

June 23 McConnells Mill State Park (Lawrence County)

Meet WPMC Identifier Jerry Sapp at the Kildoo parking lot. The walk will start at the covered bridge.

June 23 Blue Knob State Park (Bedford County)

3:00-4:30 p.m. – Mushroom Walk
4:30-6:30 pm. – Inoculate logs with shiitake spawn
8:30-9:30 p.m. – Mushroom Slide Show
Meet John and Kim Plischke at the Buck Hill Amphitheater. Bring a fresh cut oak or other suitable log with you to the program: 4-6 inches diameter and 3 feet long. (See park links below.)

July 14 North Park

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

August 18 Sycamore Island

Meet WPMC and Allegheny Land Trust at the Verona Public Docks.

Sept. 14 Friday, 9:00 a.m. Cook Forest

Meet WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor and Dale Luthringer, Environmental Education Specialist with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, at Shelter #1 for a pre-Foray mushroom walk.

Oct. 13 Pleasant Valley Park with Friends of Murrysville Parks (FOMP)

Join WPMC and Pia van de Venne, President of FOMP and Volunteer Coordinator of Murrysville Parks. NOTE: No plants or animals are allowed to be taken out of the park.

Other Walks & Forays

June 28 - July 1 NAMA Regional Foray

Canton, Mississippi: <https://www.namyco.org/events.php>

July 14-15 Ohio Mushroom Society

Summer Foray at Zaleski ODNR Complex in Vinton, Ohio: <https://ohiomushroomsociety.wordpress.com/>

July 20-21 West Virginia Mushroom Club

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

July 26-29 Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF)

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

August 10-12 Central Pa. Mushroom Club, Bill Russell Foray

<http://www.centralpamushroomclub.com/foray.html>

August 16-19 Telluride Mushroom Festival

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

Aug. 31- Sept. 3 Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association

Clark Rogerson Foray, www.comafungi.org

Sept. 15 Gary Lincoff Memorial Foray

North Park. See page 1 for more information.

Sept. 27-30 NAMA Regional Wildacres Foray, North Carolina

<http://www.wildacres.org/workshops/septemberevents.html#name>

Sept. 28-30 Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club

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

Oct. 6-7 Ohio Mushroom Society, Hiram, Ohio

<https://ohiomushroomsociety.wordpress.com/>

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

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

Devil's Hollow walk registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fungus-among-us-tickets-44901026178>

Devil's Hollow: <https://alleghenylandtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Devils-Hollow-Map.pdf>

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

Map of Blue Knob State Park Amphitheater: http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_004901.pdf

Map of Campground, showing Amphitheater: http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_004899.pdf



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.

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Walks & Forays Check List:

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



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

WPMC YAHOO GROUPS:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub/>
NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA):
www.namyc.org

Remembering Gary... we will miss you.



Gary Lincoff and Michael Kuo signed books at the 2015 Lincoff Foray. Photo by Michael Yeh

"I was floored by Gary's ability to answer mushroom questions he has heard countless times as though he had never heard them before and by his ability to teach the basics of mushroom identification. One timid man held up a large *Russula* and then, in his nervousness, dropped it to the floor, where it shattered into a million pieces. He was crushed. Gary, however, knelt down to examine the mess. "Ahhh," he said. "See how this thing shattered when you dropped it. That tells us it's a *Russula* since their flesh crumbles easily."

Excerpt from: 100 Edible Mushrooms by Michael Kuo



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2:

The elder Mr. Lincoff also loved to read and was an ardent hiker who traversed nearly 800 miles of the Appalachian Trail with his wife.

Despite his celebrity in mycology circles, Mr. Lincoff never forgot his roots. Twenty years ago, he made good on a promise he made in the late 1980s to John Plischke when the Greensburg resident asked for his autograph at a Maine foray: If Mr. Plischke ever started a club in Pittsburgh, he would come back and lead walks.

When Mr. Plischke and his son, John III, established the Western Pennsylvania Club in 2000, Mr. Lincoff showed up for its inaugural foray wearing his signature bush hat and safari vest. The Gary Lincoff Mushroom Foray has been a fall tradition ever since. Last year, his star power helped draw more than 700 people.

What made him so beloved, the younger Mr. Plischke said, was that he lived the club's motto of "Fungi, Fun and Friends."

"He was a rock star. He could talk all day about mushrooms, with energy and enthusiasm," Mr. Plischke said.

Mr. Lincoff even wrote poems and plays about mushrooms.

"He was tireless," Mr. Plischke said.

Mr. Lincoff was also a bit of a raconteur, said Club member Barbara DeRiso of Fox Chapel. He was especially funny and honest when relating his firsthand experiences with psychedelic mushrooms.

"He just had a wonderful way," Ms. DeRiso said. "He never condescended."

Club president Cecily Franklin of O'Hara recalled how Mr. Lincoff found a bolete mushroom on their first walk together in 2011. Knowing that its yellow tissue turns blue when cut, he asked her her first name.

"Then he etched CECILY into the pores," Ms. Franklin recalled, "and handed me my very own personalized mushroom."

Following a memorial service last week, Mr. Lincoff was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in New York City.

The 18th Annual Gary Lincoff Memorial Foray will be held Sept. 15 at North Park in McCandless. There also will be a memorial service for Mr. Lincoff at the New York Botanical Garden in early April.



WPMC Membership

Jim Wasik, WPMC Membership Chair

Membership Benefits Include:

- Nine Meetings with Mushroom Display & Identification, Sales Table, and Refreshments
- Mushroom Cultivation Kit (must attend May meeting)
- Five WPMC Newsletters
- Advance Announcements of Mushroom Walks and Events
- Member Photography Contest
- Annual Gary Lincoff Foray Reduced Cost

Individual: \$15 Family: \$20 (single household)

Student/Educator: \$10 Hard copy Newsletter: \$5 extra

If you have not renewed yet, please do so soon. Memberships run out on May 15, 2018. Renew on-line or download form:

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

OR complete & return the Membership Form (see page 12).

WPMC Scholarships & Grants

WPMC administers an annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions. WPMC's Scholarship/Grant application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information, contact John Stuart at jons2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

Extra Donations Help Fund WPMC Projects

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

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.

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NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

2018

Anyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member.

COMPLETE THIS FORM **PRINT CLEARLY**, SIGN AND MAIL

Members are entitled to:

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

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

1 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____