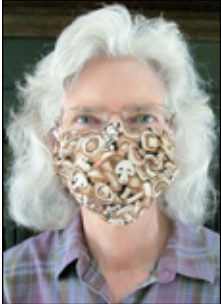




WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

MAY / JUNE 2020



President's Message CECILY FRANKLIN

THIS IS TURNING OUT to be the year that didn't happen! Our plans were coming along well until March, when Covid-19 shut everything down.

We had to cancel the March and April meetings and may even need to cancel Dye Day and the Lincoff Foray. Check the website for notices of any additional cancellations. While you're there, look at the presentations from the March and April meetings, so that you'll be up to date. This includes **La Monte Yarroll's** presentation on the "Safe Seven" mushrooms from "Start Mushrooming" and three great videos on Spring Mushrooms from WPMC Identifier **Adam Haritan's** YouTube channel.

Here's the good news: Mushrooms don't know about Covid-19, so they will be coming up as usual. There are still plenty of things we can continue to do as individuals and families, until we can get together again:

- **Join or Renew.** Don't think that there's no reason to be a member this year. As a card-carrying member of WPMC, you will receive the newsletter and be able to comment and post on the WPMC Public Facebook Group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/250320011779/>
- **Read.** Once the meetings and other events resume, we will have lots of new and used mushroom books for sale. In the meantime, look for good mushroom books and magazines. Subscribe to *FUNGI Magazine* or read some of their articles online at: www.fungimag.com.
- **Write.** Submit a book review or article for the next newsletter.
- **Cook and Eat.** Continue to enjoy those safe, edible mushrooms. Use the mushroom recipes on the WPMC website or create your own and share them with the members.
- **Snap and Share.** Take photos and post them to the "WPMC Western Pennsylvania Fungi" project on iNaturalist or to the Public Facebook Group.
- **Compete for Fabulous Prizes.** If you take a really great photo, submit it to WPMC's annual members-only photo contest at wpmcphotocontest@gmail.com
- **Volunteer.** We won't be needing a new Hospitality Chair until we resume the monthly meetings. However, we still need people now to take over the membership records, scholarship requests, and ID Button program.
- **Learn and Earn.** Speaking of ID Buttons, start or expand your list of known mushrooms and earn recognition for your knowledge. You might not get the actual button until the next meeting, but we'll still announce it in the newsletter.

Board Approves Honorary Membership Nomination

By Cecily Franklin

LAST DECEMBER, I received a nomination to award an Honorary Lifetime membership in WPMC to **Barbara DeRiso**, who served as Treasurer for eleven years. In January, WPMC's Board of Directors unanimously approved this nomination. However, according to the Bylaws, final approval requires "a majority vote of members at a regular or special meeting". Due to Covid-19, we haven't been able to hold a meeting yet this year.

Until we can complete the approval process, we want to recognize Barb for all of her efforts. As Treasurer, she established a PayPal account for on-line payment of dues and event registration, enabled in-person credit cards to accept funds at meetings and other events, and filed WPMC tax returns electronically using the IRS ePostcard system.

Barb also managed the annual Gary Lincoff Foray for years, represented WPMC at many outside events, and set up a storage locker to hold WPMC's supplies. She has generally provided assistance whenever and wherever we've needed it. In fact, just this year, she picked up a batch of new WPMC T-Shirts from the supplier in Vandergrift.

Please join me in congratulating Barb on this nomination. We look forward to making it official soon!



WPMC Newsletter Archives

THANKS TO THE WEBMASTER, Past President **Richard Jacob**, WPMC newsletters dating all the way back to 2000 are now accessible on the website. Just go to:

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

- **Watch a Movie.** You can now rent or buy the "Fantastic Fungi" movie and watch it at your convenience. Just go to: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thetullfamilytheater>

So what are you waiting for? Get back to mushrooming!

Have a story, photo, or news item you want to share?
Send it to Cecily Franklin, Editor:
cs4wpmc@gmail.com



WPMC Membership Report

By Jim Wasik

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has joined or renewed your 2020 WPMC membership. These membership dues are important to keep the Club vital, as they contribute over 40% of WPMC's income each year.

According to the WPMC Bylaws, the membership year runs from January through December. Dues become delinquent after January 1st. **Any member who is delinquent in payment of dues after May 15 shall automatically have membership status revoked.** We would hate to see that happen, so please renew now. Otherwise, this could be your last WPMC newsletter. Some of the benefits of WPMC membership include:

- Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter
- Monthly Meeting Notices
- Updates on Mushroom Walks and WPMC Events
- Free 'Grow-Your-Own' mushroom kit
- Mushroom Identification at meetings and mushroom walks
- Mushroom Education Day
- Annual Photo Contest
- WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray discount
- Access to WPMC Facebook Group Page

As of April 21, WPMC membership stands at 579 members from 325 households. This is a little behind the same time last year, when we had 650 members. Please join or renew with credit card at: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>. Or fill out the Membership Form on Page 12 and send it in as soon as possible. Cash or Check accepted.

2020 Meeting Schedule

NOTE: Due to Covid-19, WPMC did not order the necessary supplies for Oyster mushroom kits and shiitake logs for all members. If the May meeting is cancelled, you can watch one of 23 video tutorials from Field & Forest Products at:

<https://www.fieldforest.net/category/video-tutorials>

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

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



All meetings & events may be postponed or canceled due to Covid-19. Please check website for updates. www.wpamushroomclub.org

WPMC Delays Registration for 2020 Lincoff Foray

BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY created by Covid-19, WPMC has not opened registration for the 2020 Gary Lincoff Foray. However, it is still scheduled for Saturday, **September 12**, at The Lodge in Allegheny County's North Park. We will await further guidance regarding the advisability of large gatherings before opening registration.

The Lincoff Foray traditionally includes guided walks, mushroom identification tables, cooking demo, sales table, vendors, speakers' Meet & Greet, auction, and the legendary Mushroom Feast. As in previous years, WPMC has also scheduled a free Pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest on Friday, **September 11**. And because it's the WPMC 20th anniversary, we hope to also have Science Sunday on **September 13**, with workshops to identify the species found over the weekend.

Once we open registration, we will be looking for volunteers, including cooks for the Mushroom Feast. Please note: All foraged mushrooms used in cooking for the Feast must be certified by a club mycologist ahead of time.

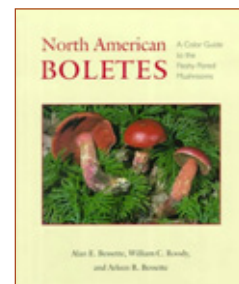
Save Those Donations for Lincoff Foray Auction/Raffle

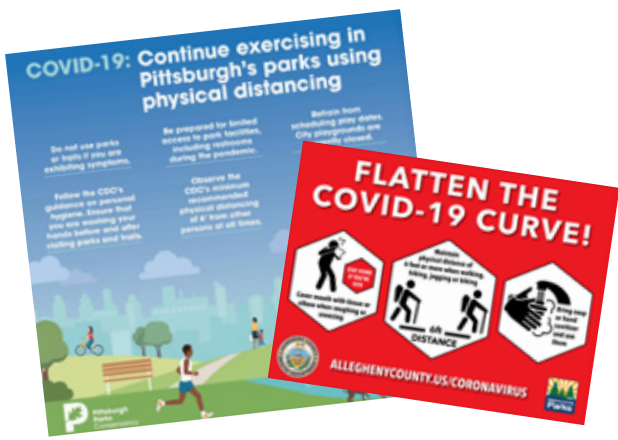
We know what you're doing at home during "social distancing". You're cleaning and organizing the house! And you're finding mushroom stuff that would make great donations for the Lincoff

Foray. We're NOT accepting any books or magazine for this year's auction/raffle. However, we'd be glad to see any of your other excess or unwanted mushroom items. Give them to **Cecily Franklin** or **Judy Mackenroth** at the next monthly meeting or email cs4wpmc@gmail.com to make other arrangements. All proceeds benefit WPMC.



WPMC RECEIVED SO many donations of used mushroom books last year that we plan to have a "Used Book Sale" at the monthly meetings. Future meetings will feature some paperback and hard-cover books for only a few dollars each, thanks to donations from the Fern Hollow Nature Reserve, **Rick Kerrigan**, and the estate of **Ellis Becker**.





Use of Local & Regional Parks: Covid-19 Guidance

YOU CAN STILL GO OUTSIDE, but remember to practice social distancing. If we “stick together by staying apart”, we can help ensure that our park system stays open and safe for all at a time when we need them more than ever.

Allegheny County’s nine parks encompass more than 12,000 acres and have more than 180 miles of multi-use trails. Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, biking or running, is permitted under the Stay at Home order, and outdoor areas and restrooms in all nine county parks are open. If park-goers choose to use restrooms or other outdoor items with touch surfaces, proper handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizer is strongly encouraged before and afterward. The Allegheny County Health Department strongly discourages all contact sports and sporting activities with close contact during this time.

Pennsylvania has 121 State Parks and 20 Forest Districts. Facilities that are closed until at least April 30 include park and forest offices and visitor centers, restrooms, playgrounds, campgrounds, cabins, and all forms of overnight accommodations. In addition, all public programs, events, and trainings in state parks and forests will be canceled through the month of April.

The public can still access trails, lakes, roads, and parking for passive and dispersed recreation, such as hiking. There are more than 12,000 miles of trails in Pennsylvania, most of which remain accessible during this period. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources asks that visitors practice the following “Leave No Trace” ethics:

For the latest info about parks in our area, visit:
<https://www.pittsburghparks.org/covid-19>
<https://alleghenycounty.us/parks>

- Avoid crowded parking lots and trails, find a different spot.
- Use the bathroom before you visit.
- Bring a bag and carry out your trash to take home with you, as there is limited staff emptying trash cans.
- Clean up after pets and carry out the bags.

The Allegheny National Forest has also been ordered closed. ANF is Pennsylvania’s only national forest, with more than 500,000 acres located 120 miles north of Pittsburgh. The emergency closure order prohibits all fires, overnight camping, and groups larger than 10 people, and shuts down all developed campgrounds, backcountry camping, cabins, restrooms and other visitor facilities.

Recreational activities not affected by the order include trail hiking and backpacking, and fishing, kayaking and canoeing on the Allegheny Reservoir and Allegheny and Clarion Rivers. These closures and use restrictions will remain in effect until withdrawn by the supervisor.

WPMC Facebook Group

DID YOU KNOW that WPMC has a Public Facebook Group? It’s been around for years and has become so large that new membership is restricted to WPMC members. Anyone with a Facebook account (even non-members) can SEE all of the posts at the link shown below. However, only WPMC members can POST or COMMENT on the page. When you first ask to join the group, you will need to provide your WPMC membership number. Once you’re approved, you’re ready to participate!



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/250320011779/>



WPMC Names New Identifier

STEPHEN BUCKLIN, a naturalist for Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and WPMC’s Sales Co-Chair, has been named WPMC’s latest Identifier. Stephen submitted his list of more than 200 known species, which was reviewed and accepted. Stephen then received unanimous Board approval for this important leadership position with the Club.

FUN FACT: Do you know who designed the mushroom pins for WPMC’s ID Button Program? It was Irene Liberman. Don’t recognize that name? She’s Mrs. Gary Lincoff!

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/>



AGH Presents Research at Annual Scientific Meeting

THE MARCH/APRIL WPMC newsletter included an article about WPMC's work with doctors from Allegheny General Hospital (AGH) regarding emergency identification of mushrooms through social media ("WPMC Assists AGH Doctors with Toxicology Research"). At the time of publication, AGH had submitted its abstract to the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) for presentation at the 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in New York City. Of the 223 eligible research abstracts submitted, the WPMC project was one of 177 that were accepted.

The poster was scheduled for presentation on March 15. Unfortunately, the ASM had to be cancelled, due to Covid-19. However, it continued as a "virtual conference", and we have received permission to distribute the contents of the poster. The following is the entire abstract of the WPMC project, as published on February 21 in the *Journal of Medical Toxicology*:

Emergency Mushroom Identification Through Social Media: Comparison with Verified Expert Opinion

Abigail F Kerns¹, Cecily Franklin², Matthew P Stripp¹

¹ Department of Emergency Medicine, Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. ² Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Background: Identification has not historically been achieved in 75–95% of mushroom exposures. Social media groups are already providing assistance for rapid mushroom identification and potential guidance for medical decision-making. This study evaluates posts in one prominent Facebook group and compares identifications to those provided by verified expert mycologists.

Methods: A quantitative evaluation was performed of a public emergency mushroom identification Facebook group. Administrators assist with identification following exposures to guide decision-making. Other than administrator status, identifiers may not have verified credentials. A post will typically include photos, location, and environment of the mushroom(s). The most recent 30 posts from October 2019 involving human mushroom ingestions were collected and compared to a second group of experts provided by a regional mycology society. Digital slideshows were created with the same information from the posts. A third expert served as a tiebreaker in the event the two experts disagreed. Comparison between groups was performed. A positive identification was defined as any administrator proposing a matching answer to the verified expert identification. If the social media group failed to propose a matching identification, this was considered a negative identification. Complete lack of identification was considered positive if matching between groups.

Results: A total of 30 Facebook posts were analyzed, with 27 resulting in a positive identification (90%). For positive identifications, the average time between initial post and positive identification was 4.6 minutes.

Conclusion: Social media may provide timely and accessible information regarding a mushroom identification. Caution should be taken when medical advice is provided by social media and the accuracy of this guidance was not addressed in this study. More extensive study is warranted on a larger scale. Higher quality details about the mushrooms could increase accuracy of identification.

Allegheny Health Network

Emergency Mushroom Identification through Social Media: Comparison with Verified Expert Opinion



AF Kerns¹, C Franklin², MP Stripp¹

¹Allegheny Health Network; ²Western PA Mushroom Club

Background

- Historically up to 95% of mushroom exposures remain unidentified
- Social media groups are already providing assistance for rapid mushroom identification (ID)
- Group administrators are assisting with ID but do not have verified credentials
- Posts from one prominent Facebook group were compared to those provided by verified expert mycologist opinion



Image 1. Example photo 1*

Methods

- All human exposure posts from a public emergency mushroom ID Facebook group from the prior month (Oct 2019) were identified
- Photos, general location, and environment of the mushroom(s) were compiled
- Data were presented as digital slideshows to two verified experts provided by a regional mycology society. A third expert was planned as a tiebreaker if the two experts disagreed
- A positive ID was defined as any administrator proposing a matching answer to the expert ID. If neither group could identify the mushroom, this was also considered a positive ID
- A negative ID was defined as the social media group being unable to propose a matching ID to the expert group
- Comparative analysis between groups was performed

Results

| | Number of Posts | Percentage of Total Posts |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Positive ID | 27 | 90 |
| Negative ID | 3 | 10 |
| Total Posts Analyzed | 30 | 100 |

Table 1. Number and percentages of positive and negative mushroom identifications

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Average time to ID | 4.56 minutes |
|--------------------|--------------|

Table 2. Average time to correct identification by administrators

| Mushrooms with Positive Identifications | |
|---|---------------------|
| Agaricus (5) | Tubaria |
| Mycena (2) | Boletus |
| Inocybe (2) | Armillaria |
| Psathyrella | Leratiomyces |
| Chlorophyllum molybdites | Mycena |
| Amanita | Suillus |
| Trametes | Lactifluus |
| Hexagonia hydroides | Lycoperdon |
| Agrocybe pediade | Hypsizygus |
| Hypholoma fasciculare | Galerina marginatum |

Table 3. Positive mushroom identifications

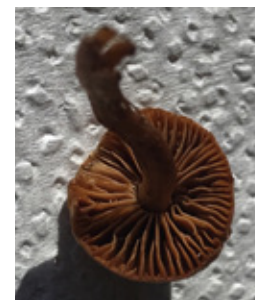


Image 2. Example photo 2*

Conclusions

- Social media may provide timely and accessible information for mushroom ID
- Continued caution is recommended as accuracy is not assured
- Larger and more extensive study is warranted
- Provision of higher quality mushroom details may increase accuracy

*Actual case photos not included for privacy

**The authors have no relevant financial disclosures.



Welcome to Our Youngest Member

WPMC WELCOMES **DYLAN Delaney**, who was born in April. Dylan is the daughter of WPMC Treasurer **Jared Delaney** and his wife **Alana**.



WPMC Names New Co-Chair for Walks & Forays

AFTER FIVE YEARS as Co-Chair with **John Plischke III** for Walks & Forays, WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** is “passing the torch” to WPMC Identifier **Cara Coulter** (above). Under La Monte’s leadership, WPMC held mushroom walks almost weekly, with more than 40 walks in some years. Please join me in thanking Cara for agreeing to take on this new responsibility. Cara has already led the first WPMC virtual mushroom walk on April 11.

Photo by Kristine Murawski

Registration is Open for “DYE DAY” at North Park

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

The afternoon will include a hands-on demonstration on how to dye with mushrooms. (Garner Shelter is located on East Ingomar Road, between Babcock Blvd. and Kummer Road.)

HERE’S THE FULL SCHEDULE:

- 9:00 a.m. Registration (full-day participants)
Sales Table Open**
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions
Cecily Franklin
Principles of Dyeing
Judy Mackenroth**
- 10:00 a.m. Mushroom Walk (free)**
- 11:30 a.m. Display & Identify Mushrooms**
- 12:00 p.m. LUNCH (Bring your own)
Registration (afternoon-only participants)
Sales Table Open**
- 1 -4 p.m. How to Dye with Mushrooms
Judy Mackenroth**

No experience is necessary, but space is limited, and registration is required to attend the full day. The morning introduction and mushroom walk are free; the afternoon session is \$10.



Photo of mushroom dyed fibers by Arleen Bessette, as shown on the cover of “The Rainbow Beneath My Feet - A Mushroom Dyer’s Field Guide”

WHAT TO BRING (Optional):

- Glass canning-style jars with tight sealing lids (mayonnaise jars are fine) for the dyes—do NOT use jars that would be reused for food.
- Camp stove with fuel.
- If you have an old canning kettle or pot that can be dedicated to dyeing, bring it. *DO NOT bring a pot that would be reused for food.*

To register, go to:

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



All meetings & events may be postponed or canceled due to Covid-19. Please check website for updates. www.wpamushroomclub.org



Richard Jacob's UK Visit Produces Exciting Finds

Glass Models of Fungi

ON A 2019 TRIP TO the United Kingdom, visiting family and exploring some of the home country, we stopped at the Whipple Museum of the History of Science. It's a small museum that is part of Cambridge University and contains a collection of scientific instruments, showing their development through the ages. These instruments include telescopes, microscopes, and calculating machines, as well as scientific models.

Because scientific concepts can be difficult to teach, or because the animal, plant or body may not be available to illustrate the point, many lectures used models as a teaching aid. The museum has geological models representing different formations and a wave motion model for illustrating light and sound waves. In one cabinet, I found a very interesting set of glass models of both micro and macro fungi.

A mycologist at the University of Cambridge, Dr. William A. R. Dillon Weston (known as DW to his friends and colleagues), made intricate models of fungi as a teaching aid in the 1930s. He used glass imported from Czechoslovakia, a Bunsen burner and pliers. DW suffered from insomnia and found that making these models in the early hours of the morning offered some relief. The initial models were of microscopic fungal pathogens of plants magnified 200 to 600 times. Rather than showing someone a picture of the fungus taken from a microscope, he would show a model instead.

DW made about 100 models of fungi pathogens and molds, most of which are very fragile. He also made a smaller collection of life-sized models of woodland fungi from colored glass.

These would have been a valuable teaching aid for his students. In an interview with the Cambridge University student magazine *Varsity*, DW remarked that "People thought fungi repulsive, and I wanted to show how beautiful they can be."

DW was also a pioneering user of modern transportation to further his scientific research and was one of the first to use airships for scientific experiments, using spore traps to collect spores at different altitudes.

There is only one other known collection of glass fungi, and that is part of the Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants at Harvard Museum of Natural History in Cambridge, MA. I have had the good fortune to visit the Ware Collection while living in the Cambridge/Boston area and, although I did not see any fungi models on display, the flower models are excellent and incredibly lifelike. They also had an exhibit that ran until March of this year titled "Fruits in Decay", which displayed glass botanical models of strawberries, peaches, apricots, plums, and pears in various states of fungal decay.

Mushroom Stall at Borough Market

BOROUGH MARKET IS ONE of the premiere food destinations in the UK and is situated just south of London Bridge in Southwark. Although the present buildings were built in the 1850s, there has been a market in the area since the 12th century. It serves as a wholesale market from 2:00 to 8:00 a.m., then a retail market from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. These days it is mainly a specialty food market, selling the best produce from across the UK and Europe.





A couple of stalls sell mushrooms, and one really stands out. It stocks a variety of species from across the continent, from cultivated button mushrooms and shiitake; to foraged species like chanterelles, chickens, and hen of the woods; to more exotic species like Cordyceps and *Amanita caesarea*. If you can't decide, you can buy mixed boxes, too.

Even if you don't have any cooking facilities at your London hotel, Borough Market is a feast for the eyes as well as a literal feast, with plenty of food vendors available.



For more information about the glass mushrooms, visit:
<https://hmn.harvard.edu/glass-flowers>

For more about experiments using spore traps:
<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/features/the-flying-scientist-who-chased-spores>

For more about glass models of fungi at the Whipple Museum, go to:
<https://www.whipplemuseum.cam.ac.uk/explore-whipple-collections/models/glass-models-fungi>



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



WPMC Walks

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

Meet WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** and ALT naturalists at the trailhead on Hopkins Church Road. Registration is required. Fees: \$5 for non-WPMC members; free for WPMC members (use code 20WPMC20). To register: bit.ly/altoutside



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

WPMC will host a table and lead a 2:00 p.m. mushroom walk in Schenley Park. Meet on the lawn outside the activity tents.

June 27 3:00-9:30 p.m. / Blue Knob State Park, Bedford County

Meet WPMC Mycologists **John & Kim Plischke** at the Buck Hill Amphitheater for a walk, log cultivation, and slide show.

July 12 Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. / Frick Park

Meet WPMC Identifier **Stephen Bucklin** at the Frick Environmental Center for a Sunday morning walk in search of summer mushrooms.

August 1 10:00 a.m. / North Park – Garner Shelter

Join WPMC for a free walk on the morning of Mushroom Education Day. This year will be “Dye Day” with **Judy Mackenroth**. See page 5 for more information.

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

Meet WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** and ALT naturalists at the trailhead on Sevin Road. Due to limited parking space, participants should park at Walker Park on Little Sewickley Creek Road and walk (about .25 miles). Registration is required. Fees: \$5 for non-WPMC members; free for WPMC members (use code 20WPMC20). To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/allegheny-land-trust-6944285091>



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

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

Sept 12 20th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray

The Lodge at North Park

Sept 13 Science Sunday with WPMC

The Lodge at North Park

Other Walks, Forays, & Events

May 29-31: 62nd Annual Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage

Camp Allegheny, Red House area of Allegheny State Park
<http://www.allegheny-nature-pilgrimage.com/>

June 20: Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Shawnee State Park

June 26-28: New Jersey Mycological Association

Victor Gambino Weekend Foray, Kirkridge Retreat Center near Bangor, PA: <http://www.njmyco.org/>

July 10-12: Rainforest Hideaway Mycology Convergence

Quark Adventure Club & Mushroomlife, Nantahala, North Carolina. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rainforest-hideaway-mycology-convergence-tickets-94400348985>

July 18: Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Reed's Gap State Park

July 18-19: Ohio Mushroom Society Summer Foray

Zaleski ODNR complex

July 31-August 2: Eastern Penn Mushroomers Helen Miknis Foray

Penn State Mont Alto, PA <http://www.epennmushroomers.org/>

July 31-August 2: Mycofest – PA Mushroom & Mycology Festival

Airville, Pennsylvania. <https://www.mycofest.net/>

August 7-9: Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

2020 Bill Russell Foray. Sieg Center near Lamar, PA

August 21-22: West Virginia Mushroom Club

2020 Mushroom Foray. Blackwater Falls State Park

August 29: Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Gallitzin State Forest – Babcock Division

September 10-13: 7th Annual Northwoods Foray

Lakewoods Resort near Cable, Wisconsin

September 11-14: Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF)

Samuel Ristich Foray, Joliette, Quebec

September 13: Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Black Moshannon State Park

October 2-3: Ohio Mycological Society Fall Foray

Burr Oak State Park Lodge

September 24-27: Midwest Mushroom Camp

Circle Pines Summer Camp & Retreat Center, Delton, Michigan
<https://www.circlepinescenter.org/event/midwest-mushroom-camp-2/>

October 8-11: NAMA Annual Foray

Trout Lodge, Potosi, Missouri, www.namyc.org

October 18: Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Cook Forest State Park

November 15: Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Fall Social, Baileyville Community Hall



Important Walk & Foray Information

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

Walks & Forays Check List:

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



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

CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

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

IDENTIFIERS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Jack Baker | 412-367-7696 jabaker2@hotmail.com |
| Sarah Banach | 747-333-8644 sarahbanach@gmail.com |
| Fluff Berger | 724-601-8382 wfberger@comcast.net |
| Stephen Bucklin | 814-823-1049 sbucklin@pittsburghparks.org |
| Cara Coulter | 412-445-1078 cab399@yahoo.com |
| Josh Doty | 412-913-8026 jcdoty@gmail.com |
| Joyce Gross | 724-339-8547 jagart58@comcast.net |
| Adam Haritan | 412-480-1423 adamharitan@gmail.com |
| Richard Jacob | 215-888-5503 richard@lostculture.net |
| Blaine Sanner | 724-217-3168 brsanner@hotmail.com |
| Jerry Sapp | 724-713-1212 surffisher_89@yahoo.com |
| Jared White | 814-460-4265 white.jaredd@gmail.com |

BOLETE SPECIALIST

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Scott Pavelle | 412-325-2535 scottp@pavellelaw.com |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|



WPMC's 2020 Photo Contest Will Go On!

EVEN IF THE OCTOBER meeting is cancelled, WPMC Identifier **Josh Doty** will continue to judge members' photos for this year's Photo Contest and will announce the winners online. Entries are already coming in, so join the fun.

Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2020

Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member

Submit high resolution JPEG files up to 4 MB

Email to Josh Doty: wpmcphotocontest@gmail.com

You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date.

USE AND COPYRIGHT:

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

ENTRY DIVISIONS

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:

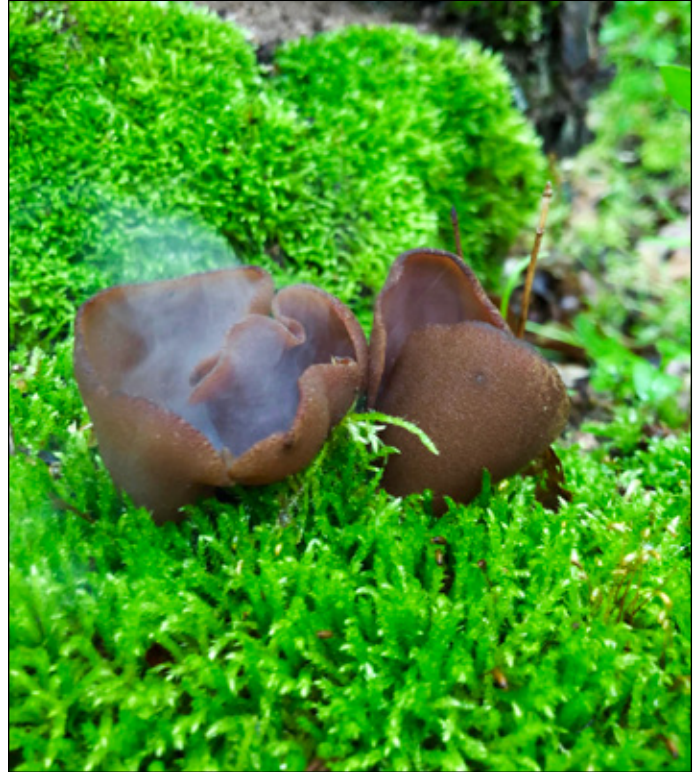
For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture. Emphasis is placed on portrayal of key morphological characteristics such that the usefulness of the image as an identification aid is maximized. Subjects may be shot in the field, laboratory 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 & 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.



*Last year's Judge's Option winner was WPMC Identifier Fluff Berger, who took this photo of *Peziza cup* fungi releasing spores.*



Photo courtesy of Dennis Becker

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 website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to:

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

Extra Donations Help Fund WPMC Projects

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

WPMC Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: March/April, May/June, July/August, 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 the newsletters may only be used in other non-profit publications with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:

Cecily Franklin, Editor

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.

Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|--|---|
| PRESIDENT 216 Farmington Road 412-781-6581 | Cecily Franklin Pittsburgh, PA 15215 cs4wpmc@gmail.com |
| VICE-PRESIDENT 137 Hickory Drive 724-601-8382 | Fluff Berger Sewickley PA 15143-8212 wfburger@comcast.net |
| SECRETARY 3952 Mt. Royal Blvd. 412-480-1423 | Adam Haritan Allison Park, PA 15101 adamharitan@gmail.com |
| TREASURER 1912 Chislett Street 412-860-3522 | Jared Delaney Pittsburgh PA 15206 small.attic@gmail.com |
| NAMA TRUSTEE 5770 Clark Avenue 412-854-5684 | La Monte Yarroll Bethel Park, PA 15102 piggy@wpamushroomclub.org |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|--|---|
| CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT 412-367-7696 | Valerie Baker vbbaker8@hotmail.com |
| CULTIVATION 412-441-3958 | Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com |
| DNA BARCODING 215-888-5503 | Richard Jacob dna-barcoding@wpamushroomclub.org |
| EDUCATION 724-601-8382 | Fluff Berger wfburger@comcast.net |
| HISTORIAN 724-339-8547 | Joyce Gross jagart58@comcast.net |
| HOSPITALITY | VACANT |

ID BUTTON PROGRAM VACANT

| | |
|---|---|
| LINCOFF FORAY 724-601-8382 | Fluff Berger wfburger@comcast.net |
| MEMBERSHIP CHAIR 412-967-9359 | James Wasik membership@wpamushroomclub.org |
| MUSHROOM DISPLAY 412-854-5684 | La Monte Yarroll piggy@wpamushroomclub.org |
| NEMF FORAY 724-832-0271 | John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com |
| PHOTOGRAPHY 412-913-8026 | Josh Doty jcdoty@gmail.com |
| PUBLICITY 412-781-6581 | Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com |
| SALES 814-823-1049 | Stephen Bucklin sbucklin@pittsburghparks.org |
| SALES 412-719-3955 | Erin Gaughan eringaughan11@gmail.com |
| SCHOLARSHIP | VACANT |

| | |
|---|---|
| TOXICOLOGY 724-832-0271 | John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com |
| WALKS & FORAYS 412-445-1078 | Cara Coulter cab399@yahoo.com |
| WALKS & FORAYS 724-832-0271 | John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com |
| WEBMASTER 215-888-5503 | Richard Jacob site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org |

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!





WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Members are entitled to:

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

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

1 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____