



2023 Meeting Schedule

May 16 Annual Cultivation Meeting

THE WPMC 2023 CULTIVATION meeting will begin with log drilling at 6:00 p.m. Current members who attend will receive an oyster mushroom grow kit. For those new to cultivation, oyster mushrooms provide a great starting point, as they are more resilient than some other mushroom varieties, and they're delicious to eat, as well! The kit will consist of oyster spawn and cottonseed hulls, with instructions provided.

Shiitake are another delicious mushroom for cultivators and are traditionally grown on hardwood logs and kept outside. We encourage you to bring a log for shiitake inoculation. WPMC will provide the tools, wax, and shiitake spawn to inoculate it. Volunteers will be at the event to help you through each of the stations as you inoculate your log. No prior experience is needed.

Ideal logs will be 36 to 40 inches long and 4 to 8 inches in diameter. The best logs are oak or maple, but other hardwood varieties will work as well. The logs should be newly harvested from a live tree within the last few months, as older logs will not be viable for the spawn to colonize. Once inoculated, logs should be protected from drying out by storing them out of the sun and where they can receive natural rainfall. We ask that you bring no more than two logs per person, to allow time and materials for all members.

The inoculating stations will be outside, so please dress appropriately. If the weather is severe enough to pose a risk, we will postpone the event; otherwise, we will accommodate light rain.

June 20 What Do We Call That Now?

Walt Sturgeon

WHY DO MUSHROOM names keep changing? How do they change, and who gets to decide? Why are some species now referred to as a "complex"? Author **Walt Sturgeon** will be here to sort it all out for us.

July 18 Mushroom Foraging for Beginners

Olga Tzogas

August 15 Lincoff Foray: 2022 Results & 2023 Preparations

Cara Coulter and Garrett Taylor

Sept. 19 Lichens

Natalie Howe, PhD & Tom McCoy

Oct. 17 Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers

Nov. 21 Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards

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

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



Oyster Mushroom Grow Kit



Shiitake Log



Walt Sturgeon



Interview with Candace Bever, Developer of the AMATOXtest

By Cecily Franklin

I FIRST HEARD OF Candace Bever when Britt Bunyard was here for the WPMC March meeting. Candace is the developer of the AMATOXtest, which detects toxic chemicals in mushrooms. A little research revealed that Candace and I both graduated from Carnegie Mellon University (although 30 years apart!) I contacted Candace and learned that she would be making a quick trip to Pittsburgh in April to receive an award from CMU for being one of the university's 2023 "Tartans on the Rise." The following is my interview with Candace.

What made you decide to attend Carnegie Mellon University?

I choose to attend CMU because of the high caliber of their academic and athletic programs. It was here during an undergraduate lab course that I first learned about antibodies (the biotechnology that drives the AMATOXtest) and how instrumental antibodies are in science and medicine (both for our internal well-being and for diagnostic testing). CMU instilled in me a drive to learn more, think creatively and critically, and to "put my heart into the work".

What are your interests in mushrooms, besides toxicology?

It was specifically because of toxicology that I became interested in mushrooms. My first foray into the world of mushrooms was not in the woods, but instead at a lab bench learning about mushroom toxins. As I learned more about the deadliest mushroom toxin, amanitin, I became fascinated with mushrooms. I'm fascinated by how mushrooms are unique, ephemeral, beautiful, and chemically active. I especially enjoy finding the sweet aroma of candy caps, I adore all varieties of *Amanitas*, and I enjoy trying to identify everything else we find.

My recent interest in mushrooms is to meet this unmet need in mushroom poisoning—the need for a rapid diagnostic test. Amanitin can cause death in a matter of days, so faster diagnosis can lead to faster treatments and a chance to decrease the mortality that amanitin-containing mushrooms cause. As of now, diagnosing mushroom poisoning is largely based on suspicion—the AMATOXtest can change that—it can provide definitive analysis.

Who should use the AMATOXtest, and how can they get it?

It can be purchased on www.AMATOXTtest.com. This test should be used for research purposes only. Its main value is in rapid detection of amanitin. Once a person or pet gets sick from accidentally consuming an amanitin-containing mushroom, speed of diagnosis and treatment is critical. We hope that every ER veterinarian who suspects mushroom poisoning would consider using this test, along with other panels to determine if the case is caused by life-threatening amanita.



Besides rapid detection, another advantage is the portability of it as a field test. The AMATOXtest is highly specific for amanitins, chemicals found in some mushrooms. It could be a great tool to aid in mushroom identification. The test reveals if a mushroom contains amanitins. So we encourage mushroom foragers to experiment with the test to help learn more about the mushrooms they have collected - and not to determine if the mushroom they collected is edible.

What else would you like the Western PA Mushroom Club to know?

The biggest support you can give us is to share this info with others. We are excited to bring this advancement in rapid toxin detection to the mushroom community. Chemical detection is often not something that can be done in the field, or in the kitchen, but with such a great tool like the AMATOXtest, chemical detection is now rapid, portable, accurate and sensitive. (It works just like an at-home pregnancy or COVID test.) Another interesting point to make is that mushrooms make a lot of amanitin (milligram amounts), and this test detects nanograms (a million-fold less!), so when testing mushrooms, be careful to avoid cross-contamination.

The 2023 City Nature Challenge takes place in two parts.

APRIL 28 - MAY 1

Taking pictures of wild plants and animals.

MAY 2 - MAY 7

Identifying what was found.



City Nature Challenge 2023: Pittsburgh Region

THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE will continue with picture-taking through Monday, May 1. After that, photos posted to iNaturalist will be identified from May 2 through May 7. Results will be reported in the July/August WPMC newsletter.



Register for Mushroom Education Day

REGISTRATION IS NOW open for **Mushroom Education Day** on **Saturday, June 10**, at the Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County. Enjoy three great topics and speakers, followed by a guided mushroom walk in the afternoon.

The cost for the classes will be \$25 for WPMC members; \$30 for non-members. Space is limited, and registration is required. To register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/mushroom-education-day-at-powdermill-nature-reserve-westmoreland-county/>

HERE'S THE FULL SCHEDULE:

9:00 a.m. Registration & Sales Table Open

9:30 a.m. Beginner Mushroom ID

Cara Coulter, WPMC Mycologist

Cara will teach methods of fungi identification that will help both beginners and advanced mushroom hunters: where to focus, what elements are important for ID, etc.



10:40 a.m. Fungi & Insects

Andrea Kautz, Powdermill Entomologist & Lab Manager

Numerous relationships between fungi and arthropods have evolved over millions and millions of years. Learn about different groups of insects that function as fungus feeders, fungus farmers, and hosts for parasitic fungi.

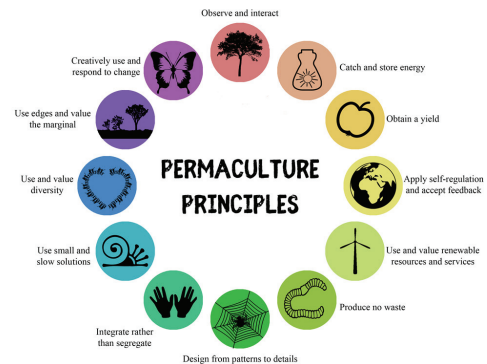


11:40 Lunch (on your own)

12:30 p.m. Permaculture Principles & Myco-Applications

Brittany Burch, Certified Permaculture Designer

We will discuss basic Permaculture definitions and go through the 12 Permaculture Principles and the relation more specifically to the fungi kingdom. Each principle will include personal and larger scale uses and applications for home use, as well as current projects in our local communities and farms in the Mon Valley Rust Belt area.



1:45 p.m. Mushroom Walk and ID Table

3:45 p.m. Clean Up

Out & About with WPMC



ON APRIL 16, WPMC Treasurer **Jared Delaney** hosted a tour of Mitchell's Mushroom Farm in Murrysburg. After the tour, participants were able to purchase fresh mushrooms, dried mushrooms, and grow kits.

ON APRIL 23, WPMC Mycologist **Jim Tunney** hosted a table and offered a mushroom walk at the Baden Earth Day event.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
Baden Pennsylvania



ID Buttons

WPMC member **Jason Simons** recently earned his "25" pin for his ability to identify 25 different mushroom species.

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/>



GARY • LINCOFF • FORAY

Preparations Underway for 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

GET READY FOR the 23rd annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 30, at The Lodge in North Park. Guests Mycologists include author and photographer **Noah Siegel** and Biology Professor **Barrie Overton, PhD**.

HERE'S THE SCHEDULE:

Friday, September 29: Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park, with Environmental Education Specialist **Dale Luthringer**. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

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

- Guided morning walks
- Afternoon speakers
- Mushroom display tables
- Auction, Sales Tables & Vendors
- Cooking Demonstration
- Mushroom Feast
- Table Walk
- Live Music
- NEW: Food Truck!

ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON.

Pricing will be the same as last year, until September 1. Beginning on that date, prices will increase by \$10. (Details below).

Current WPMC member (2023 dues previously paid):

- \$50 until September 1
- \$60 on or AFTER September 1

Non-Members:

- \$70 until September 1 (includes 2023-24 membership)
- \$80 on or AFTER September 1

Students (with ID) and kids 11 to 18:

- \$30 until September 1
- \$40 on or AFTER September 1

Kids 10 & under are free.

Speaker Spotlight: Barrie Overton, PhD

DR. BARRIE OVERTON is a professor of biology at Loch Haven University (now part of Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania), where he teaches Biology and Mycology courses. His areas of expertise include plant pathology, identification of wild edible mushrooms, and White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats.

WNS is a fatal disease, caused by *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, a fungus that has devastated North American bat populations. At this year's Gary Lincoff Foray, Dr. Overton will talk about WNS and the new species of *Pseudogymnoascus* that he has found in Pennsylvania caves.

Dr. Overton and his students have been published extensively on WNS and have made many presentations. His laboratory's work has appeared in *FUNGI* magazine on numerous occasions. In fact, Dr. Overton's lab took the photo on the cover of the Spring 2020 issue of *FUNGI* (see below).

Dr. Overton's lab is currently working on fungi that could be used to control the spread of the Spotted Lanternfly. To read his article from the Winter 2023 issue of *FUNGI* magazine, go to:

https://fungimag.com/winter-2023-articles/V15n5_Forgotten_Fungi.pdf



WPMC Names New Sales Chair

WPMC IS PLEASED to announce that **Matt Stahlman** has agreed to be the new Sales Chair for the club. This is Matt's second year as a WPMC member. He's interested in log cultivation and permaculture on his family farm. Matt is enjoying the mushroom education he's getting and is happy to be involved in club activities.



Speaker Spotlight: Noah Siegel

NOAH SIEGEL, one of the premier mushroom photographers in the nation, will present “Under Pressure: Evolution Oddities in the Fungal World”. This lecture will highlight some of the fascinating traits which fungi have evolved due to environmental pressures, and the strive to get ahead in the fungal world.

Siegel's field mycology skills are extensive—he has spent over three decades seeking, photographing, identifying, and furthering his knowledge about all aspects of macrofungi. He has hunted for mushrooms throughout the United States and Canada, as well as on multiple expeditions to New Zealand, Australia, and Cameroon.

Siegel has won numerous awards from the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) photography contest. His technique and attention to detail are unrivaled, arising from a philosophy of maximizing utility for identification purposes while maintaining a high degree of aesthetic appeal. His photographs have appeared on the covers and have been featured in articles of multiple issues of *FUNGI* Magazine, the primary mushroom enthusiast magazine in the United States, numerous mushroom books, as well as many club publications.

Siegel authored, along with Christian Schwarz, *Mushrooms of the Redwood Coast: A Comprehensive Guide to the Fungi of Coastal Northern California* and *A Field Guide to the Rare Fungi of California's National Forests*. He is currently working on *Mushrooms of Cascadia: A Comprehensive Guide to Fungi of the Pacific Northwest*. Siegel travels and lectures extensively across America, following the mushrooms from coast to coast, and everywhere in between.



Foray Volunteers & Cooks Needed

By Jared Delaney and Mike Henry

FROM JARED:

The annual Gary Lincoff Foray is the club's signature event, and it wouldn't be possible without the help of volunteers. WPMC volunteers are club members just like you who donate their time to make the event happen.

This year's Foray will be held on Saturday, September 30th. It's an all-day event, but you don't have to volunteer for the entire day. We have small volunteer opportunities that will not take more than a couple of hours of your time. We need help with setting up tables and chairs on Friday and taking them down on Saturday. We also need runners on the day of the event to help with the mushroom display tables and other activities.

We will again be offering discounts on Foray registration to those who volunteer their time at the event in some way. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org for more details. We appreciate your support!

FROM MIKE:

Fellow mushroom lovers, if you are planning to attend this year's Lincoff Foray, and you love to cook your favorite food (mushrooms!), now is a good time to think about bringing your signature dish to the Foray. You don't need to cook for 100 people – just 10 to 15.

If you plan to use wild-foraged mushrooms, you will need to first get them identified and approved by a WPMC Identifier or Mycologist. It's OK to use mushrooms that you bought at a store if you are uncomfortable with cooking wild mushrooms. In fact, your dish doesn't need to contain mushrooms at all; some members are allergic or sensitive to mushrooms and will need an alternative meal choice.

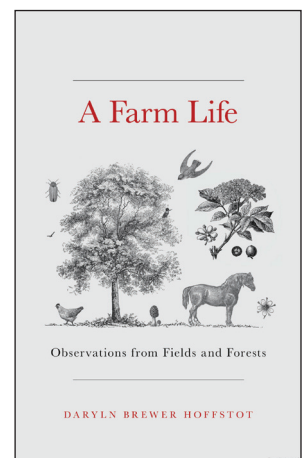
Anytime is the perfect time to think about what to bring, with so many delicious mushrooms all around us. We will also need volunteers to assist with setup, teardown, and other tasks. Please contact Mike Henry if you are interested in bringing a dish or volunteering for other kitchen duties at forayfood@wpamushroomclub.org.

Local Author Donates New Book to Foray Auction

DONATIONS CONTINUE to come in for the Auction/Raffle at this year's 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 30.

Daryln Brewer Hoffstot is donating a copy of her new book, *A Farm Life: Observations from Fields and Forests*, covering 35 years of observations on her Western Pennsylvania farm. The book includes Daryln's article, “The Secret to Finding Morels” which was published by *Pittsburgh Quarterly* in 2018.

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.



Get Your Cameras & Cellphones Ready

ONCE AGAIN, WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will judge members' photos for WPMC's annual Photo Contest.

Here are the Photo Contest rules for this year:

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

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

Entry Divisions

Mushroom Selfies (New!): Entries must be single, self-taken ("selfie") cell phone photos of you with at least one mushroom.

Pictorial: This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color.

Documentary: For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture. the Accurate identification of the subject will be a consideration.

Judge's Option: For photos which do not fit into the Pictorial or Documentary divisions.



WPMC member Ben Jackman sets up a shot.
Photo by Beth Ace-Dinger

Walks & Forays Check List:

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

Important Walk & Foray Information

- Try to dig up three of the same species at different stages of development.
- Don't pick old mushrooms; leave them to drop spores.
- You are responsible for not getting lost. 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!** 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.

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



Day and time for walks vary.

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



WPMC Walks

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 10:00 A.M.

PINE RIDGE LODGE

1055 Chestnut Ridge Road, Blairsville (Indiana County)

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

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 10:00 A.M.

RACCOON CREEK STATE PARK (Beaver County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** at the Lake Trail trailhead near the beginning of Raccoon Park Road. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 10:00 A.M.

WASHINGTON PARK (Washington County)

283 Dunn Avenue, Washington, PA 15301

Meet WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** near the Bronco Ballfields. Free and open to the public.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 6-8:00 P.M. SOLD OUT!

Devil's Hollow Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust

SATURDAY, MAY 20, NOON TO 2:00 P.M.

"PARK 'TIL DARK" SOUTH PARK

This mushroom walk is part of "Park 'til Dark", a free all-day family event. Meet WPMC Identifiers at the Airplane Model Field. Parking is provided at the location. Foraging in the parks requires special permission, so don't try this one on your own! Join us for this unique opportunity. Learn about the varieties of mushrooms found in the park. Bring water and wear weather appropriate attire. No cost, but register here:

<https://acparksfoundation.salsalabs.org/2023parktildarksp/index.html>

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 10 A.M. TO NOON

CELEBRATE THE LAKE

Mushroom Walk (all ages) Peters Lake Park (Washington County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** at the Peters Lake Park Shelter. Hike around the lake in search of spring mushrooms! Identification and information will be shared. Dress for the weather and uneven terrain. *Free, but registration is required by May 25.*

<https://www.peterstownship.com/209/Programs-Events>

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 1-3:00 P.M. SOLD OUT!

BARKING SLOPES Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

PHIPPS BIOBLITZ & FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL, Schenley Park

WPMC Past President **Jim Wasik** will host a table at this year's event with Phipps Conservatory. WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** will lead the "All Things Fungi" walk, starting at noon.

<https://www.phipps conservatory.org/calendar/detail/bioblitz>

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 6-7:30 P.M. SOLD OUT!

FERN HOLLOW NATURE CENTER with Allegheny Land Trust

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 10:00 A.M.

DEER LAKES PARK • 1 Mahaffey Road, Tarentum

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

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 9:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

GARDEN IN THE PARK • North Park Demonstration Garden, Wild-wood & Ingomar Roads

WPMC Honorary member **Barbara DeRiso** will host a table at "Garden in the Park", which is sponsored by the Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County. If you are interested in assisting Barb or leading a walk, please email cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 9:00 A.M. TO NOON

SYCAMORE ISLAND with Allegheny Land Trust

Steel City Rowing Club, 101 Arch Street, Verona

Join ALT and WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** for a mushroom hunting trip to Sycamore Island. The boat (provided by Allegheny Cleanways) will begin transferring participants from Steel City Rowing Club to the island at 9:00 a.m. and will bring everyone back by 11:30 a.m. for the identification table. NO WALK INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Tickets are \$25 for ages 3 and up. Purchase tickets here: <https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/55963-sycamore-island-mushroom-hunt>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 10:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

OIL CREEK STATE PARK (Venango County)

Join WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** for a walk on the Gerard Trail. Meet at the Cow Run Shelter parking lot on White City Road, Pleasantville, PA. Free and open to the public; no registration required.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1:00-3:00 P.M.

BEGINNERS MUSHROOM ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust
Audubon Greenway, 160 Magee Road, Sewickley

Join 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. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up. For tickets:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/55779-beginners-mushroom-id-hike>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 10:30 A.M.

WOLF CREEK NARROWS NATURAL AREA

195 Miller Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 (Butler County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** in the parking lot at Wolf Creek Narrows. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT 10:00 A.M.

PRE-FORAY WALK AT COOK FOREST (Clarion County)

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 4:00-6:00 P.M.

SLIGHTLY SPOOKY Mushroom Walk with Allegheny Land Trust

Dead Man's Hollow Conservation Area

Near Boston Ballfield, 1906 Donner Street, McKeesport

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike at Dead Man's Hollow. This slightly spooky hike will include the haunted history of Dead Man's Hollow as we walk 0.9 mile along the Great Allegheny Passage to enter the ruins of the Hollow to look for fungi. COSTUMES WELCOME! Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK-INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up. Purchase tickets here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/55971-slightly-spooky-mushroom-walk>

Other Walks, Forays & Events

JUNE 2-4

65TH ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE

Allegheny State Park, Cattaraugus County, NY

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

MUSHROOM EDUCATION DAY

Powdermill Nature Reserve (Westmoreland County)

See page 3 for more information.

JULY 30 – AUGUST 6

NAMA_MX 23 REGIONAL FORAY

Mexico City & Valle de Bravo

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

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfQB-s0j3xl-ZLBmn3MQbFcQ63h7ep0Km4QOoYshu8ky2-c9Q/viewform>

AUGUST 9-13

2023 NEW MOON MYCOLOGY SUMMIT

Greensboro Bend, VT

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1340355639874725?ref=newsfeed>

AUGUST 11-13

WV MUSHROOM CLUB ANNUAL FORAY

Blackwater Falls State Park Lodge

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

AUGUST 11-20

SUMMER CONTINENTAL MYCOBLITZ (online)

<https://mycota.com/2023-continental-mycoblitz/>

AUGUST 24-27

NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA)
Annual Foray

Hendersonville, NC

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

AUGUST 25-26

HUMONGOUS FUNGUS FEST

Crystal Falls, MI

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

SEPTEMBER 14-17

NORTHEAST MYCOLOGICAL FEDERATION (NEMF) FORAY

Kerhonkson, NY

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

SEPTEMBER 30

23RD ANNUAL WPMC GARY LINCOFF FORAY

The Lodge at North Park

See pages 4 & 5 for more information.

OCTOBER 13-22

FALL CONTINENTAL MYCOBLITZ (online)

<https://mycota.com/2023-continental-mycoblitz/>

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!



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



WPMC Membership Report

By Kris Murawski

AS OF MID-APRIL, WPMC has 547 members from 309 households. Thank you to everyone for renewing your membership or becoming a new member in 2023, as these dues are vital to keep the club running. They contribute over 40% of the WPMC's income every year.

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

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

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/wpamc-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 WPMC Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.

WPMC Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, and November/December. Articles, photos, news items and other submissions should be sent to the Editor at least 6-8 weeks prior to targeted distribution. The Editor cannot guarantee that submissions will be included in the next newsletter. The Editor reserves the right to make spelling or grammatical corrections and may suggest content changes to the author. Material published in WPMC newsletters may only be used in other non-profit publications with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

Cecily Franklin, Editor

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

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NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!





23rd ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY

SEPTEMBER 30, 2023 – THE LODGE, NORTH PARK

PLUS: Free Mushroom Walk Friday September 29 • Cook Forest

Get ready for the 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray with walks, speakers, mushroom displays, auction, sales tables & vendors, cooking demos, including live music and the annual Mushroom Feast!

Guests Mycologists include: **DR. BARRIE OVERTON**, professor of biology at Loch Haven University where he teaches Biology and Mycology courses. **NOAH SIEGEL**, one of the premier mushroom photographers in the nation. His lecture will highlight some of the fascinating traits which fungi have evolved due to environmental pressures, and the strive to get ahead in the fungal world.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 30 (ALL DAY): Foray includes Mushroom Feast.

Bring a sack lunch, light refreshments will be provided. A food truck will be on site during the lunch hour.

The Lodge at North Park • North Ridge Drive • Allison Park, PA 15101

— REGISTRATION REQUIRED —

FRIDAY, SEPT. 29 (10:00 A.M.): Meet at Shelter 2, Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County. FREE

— TRANSPORTATION AND LUNCH NOT INCLUDED —

NOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 ALL REGISTRATION FEES WILL INCREASE BY \$10.

Indicate the number of persons for each item selected. All fees per person. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

_____ **\$50 WPMC member / \$60 on or after 9/1/23** (with current paid 2023 membership)

_____ **\$70 Non-members / \$80 on or after 9/1/23** (includes 2023-24 Membership)

_____ **\$30 Students (with ID) & kids 11 to 18 / \$40 on or after 9/1/23** (members or non-members) kids 10 & under free.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**) _____

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE: www.wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/

REGISTER & PAY BY CHECK (payable to Western PA Mushroom Club):

WPMC c/o Kris Murawski • 5625 Villa Haven Drive • Pittsburgh, PA 15236

FOR MORE INFO: Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org

REGISTRATION & RELEASE: SIGNED & DATED RELEASE FORM IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR ATTENDANCE.

Knowing the risks, I (we) agree to assume the risks, and agree to release, hold harmless, and to indemnify the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, and any of its officers or members, from any and all legal responsibility for injuries or accidents incurred by myself or my family during, or as a result of, any mushroom identification, field trip, excursion, meeting or dining sponsored by the club.

Signature (if participant is under age 18, signature of parent or guardian)

PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY: (INCLUDE NAMES OF CHILDREN UNDER TEN)

1 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____

FOR ADDITIONAL NAMES / SIGNATURES, PLEASE INCLUDE AN EXTRA PAGE



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP: ☐ RENEWAL: ☐

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

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

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

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

WPMC, c/o Kris Murawski, 5625 Villa Haven Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236 • membership@wpamushroomclub.org

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

Please indicate your newsletter/event announcement preference: ☐ Electronic via e-mail ☐ Hardcopy via US mail (\$10 additional)

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

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

1 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____