



### President's Message

Barbora Batokova

**H**APPY SPRING! I for one can't wait for the landscape to turn from brown to green! As I am writing this, morels have started to pop up on my social media feeds and I hope our morel season this year is great. Maybe I will finally find the mother lode! With all the rain that we've been getting, I have high hopes!

Our first meeting had a great turnout with close to a hundred people, which was matched by our April meeting, when our newest WPMC Mycologist **Richard Jacob** (Congratulations!) presented on psychedelic mushrooms!

I am looking forward to our annual mushroom cultivation meeting in May led by **Espo Wilcox** from the PA Mushroom Company, who will be providing the oyster mushroom grow kits for every

WPMC member to take home. Also, don't forget to bring a log (high-density wood like oak, beech, cherry, birch, ash, or hickory are the best) so you can inoculate it with shiitake!

In June, we will have the highly anticipated talk by chanterelle expert **Rachel Swenie, PhD**, who will teach us about chanterelles in our region and how to identify them, just in time for when these delicious mushrooms start to pop up in Pennsylvania.

While in May and June traditional mushroom edibles may be less abundant (I believe **Gary Lincoff** called June the slime mold month), we have some great walks planned! Join us in May in Asbury Woods, Cook Forest, or Audubon Greenway and in June for the Phipps BioBlitz and a mushroom walk at the Mother Earth Farm PA.

Registration is now open for our annual **Gary Lincoff Foray**, so sign up soon! This is our most popular event, and it sells out every year. We're looking forward to hosting the foray at a new location, the Economy Fire Department Banquet Hall in Sewickley, on September 21. We will also be holding two pre-foray events this year: a fluorescent foray on Thursday night and a mushroom walk on Friday morning. Both will take place in Cook Forest.

## 2024 Meeting Schedule

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

NOTE: Beginning on June 1, parking under the solar panels will be limited due to construction. Attendees may park around the entrance or on Beechwood Blvd. Pets are not permitted inside the Frick Environmental Center. Service dogs are welcome.

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

The streams are also being archived on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WesternPennsylvaniaMushroomClub>

### MAY 21: Annual Cultivation Meeting

**O**UR 2024 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 mushrooms 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.



Meeting schedule continued on page 2



# Research Report: Unreliable A.I. Tools Generate Mushroom Misinformation

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE may be the wave of the future, and it may be fun to tinker with now. But A.I. is notorious for making stuff up. It's called "hallucination," and in the case of mushroom identification, it can mean the difference between life and death.

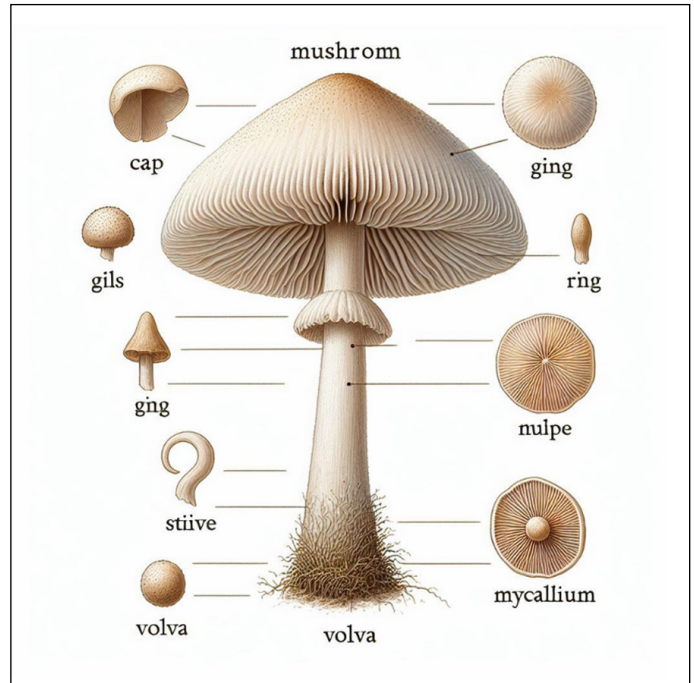
Former WPMC member **Rick Claypool** has written a research report for Public Citizen entitled "Mushrooming Risk: Unreliable A.I. Tools Generate Mushroom Misinformation." As an experienced forager, Rick appreciates the differences between human and A.I. mushroom identification.

Experienced foragers will thoroughly examine all physical features of the mushroom, as well as where it's growing and whether it bruises. They may also smell and taste the mushroom and will know what stage of growth and condition it's in. They know that a mushroom that's edible by some people may not agree with others. Most importantly, they will consult other references, communicate their degree of confidence, and suggest further steps to verify the identification to rule out toxic lookalikes.

A.I. species-identification tools are not capable of taking any factors into consideration aside from the mushroom's immediate appearance. These apps generally deliver their identifications with confidence, not nuance or uncertainty. This presents a real risk due to automation bias, which is a user's tendency to assume information delivered via machine is correct.

Rick gives a shout-out to WPMC early in the report, saying, "I owe much of what I've learned to the generosity of experienced foragers in local mushrooming groups, including the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club." You can read the full report here:

<https://www.citizen.org/article/mushroom-risk-ai-app-misinformation/>



*This error-riddled image was generated using Microsoft Bing's Image Creator (DALL-E3) after Rick Claypool asked it to "generate an image depicting the anatomy of a mushroom on a plain white background with each part clearly labeled in English, including the cap, gills, ring, stipe, volva, and mycelium."*

## Meeting Schedule continued

**JUNE 18:** **How to Identify Chanterelles (virtual presentation)**  
by Rachel Swenie, PhD

THIS TALK WILL focus on the common summertime edible mushrooms known as chanterelles. How many species of chanterelles grow in Pennsylvania? How can you tell them apart from each other, and from lookalikes? What type of habitat do these mushrooms prefer? We will discuss this and more!

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

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

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

**OCT. 15:** **Photo Contest Results & Election of Officers**

**NOV. 19:** **Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards**



# Register Now for Mushroom Education Day

REGISTRATION IS NOW open for Mushroom Education Day on Saturday, June 22, at the Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County.

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-2/>

Here's the full schedule:

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

**9:30-10:30 a.m. – Two Concurrent Sessions:**

**Mushrooms Under the Microscope**

**Cara Coulter, WPMC Mycologist**

This class will present basic information on how to properly use microscopy to identify fungi. After brief instructions on the basics of using a microscope, the class will mainly focus on understanding and identifying the important structures and measuring techniques needed to identify fungi. Also provided will be a useful information packet with instructions, diagrams, and important terminology.

— OR —

**Guided Walk: How to Photo-Document Mushrooms**

**Barbora Batokova, WPMC Identifier & President**

Participants in this session should download the iNaturalist app in advance.

**10:40-11:40 a.m. – Recognizing Pennsylvania's Macrolichens**

**Stephen Bucklin, WPMC Mycologist & Lichen Specialist**

This presentation will give an overview of lichen biology, ecology, and morphology, followed by details on the common lichens we see. It will all be presented at a beginner to intermediate level. Macrolichens are the foliose, fruiticose, umbilicate, and squamulose species that form defined structures separate from their substrate. Microlichens are crustose species that are more diverse & complex.

**11:40 a.m. - 12:10 p.m. – Drink the Forest: Making Wild Forest Soda**

**Mike Henry, Lincoff Foray Mushroom Feast Chair**

Mike Henry will show us how he makes Forest Soda. It takes a few days to complete the process, so he plans to bring some finished soda for everyone to try.

**12:10-1:00 p.m. – Lunch On Your Own**

**1:00-3:45 p.m. – Walks & ID Table**

**Dawn Wehman, WPMC Identifier; Cara Coulter, WPMC Mycologist; Stephen Bucklin, WPMC Mycologist & Lichen Specialist**

**3:45 p.m. – Clean Up**



Participants identify mushrooms found during last year's Mushroom Education Day at Powdermill.

Photo by Barbora Batokova

## City Nature Challenge 2024: Pittsburgh Region



DON'T FORGET TO participate in the 2024 City Nature Challenge. Upload nature photos taken from April 26 through April 29 to iNaturalist. From April 30 through May 5, help identify observations that other people have shared. Anyone using iNaturalist in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties during these dates will automatically be a part of the Pittsburgh Region project. You can follow the results at this link:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2024-pittsburgh-region>



# Richard Jacob Becomes Newest WPMC Mycologist

By Barбора Batokova

I AM PLEASED to announce that WPMC has a new mycologist, **Richard Jacob**, who received unanimous approval by all current WPMC mycologists and the Board of Directors. He is long overdue to be recognized for his dedication to learning fungi in our region, sharing his knowledge with us, and helping our club to be able to identify species using state-of-the-art DNA barcoding.



Richard joined WPMC in 2011 after finding some edible morel mushrooms in his backyard, hoping to learn how to find more. Since then he has come a long way, amassing more than 630 fungal research-grade observations on iNaturalist!

Richard is an integral part of the club. From 2015-2017 he served as President and has been our website administrator. He was awarded the Knighton Award from NAMA in 2016. In 2023, Richard was awarded a WPMC Honorary Membership for his service and contributions to the club.

Richard is an experienced photographer and scientist with extensive background in proteomics—ask him about psychedelic mushrooms, microscopy, or DNA barcoding! Congratulations, Richard!

# WPMC in the News



*PENN Lines* is the monthly news magazine sent to 400,000 members of Pennsylvania's Regional Electric Cooperatives. The cover story of the April issue is about morels, "The Thrill of the Chase". The article features interviews with WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** and this year's Lincoff Foray speaker **Hannah Huber**.

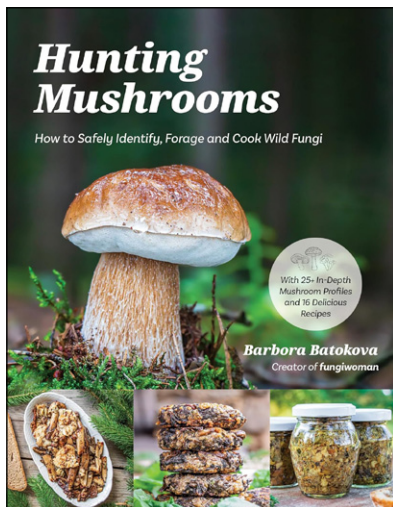
Here's a link to the article:  
<https://wpamushroomclub.org/our-newsletter/press/>



# National Geographic Features Mushrooms

**F**UNGA IS A recent term for the Kingdom fungi, similar to the longstanding fauna for animals and flora for plants. The April 2024 issue of *National Geographic* magazine declares that "funga is just as important as flora and fauna."

To read articles from the April 2024 issue, go to:  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/issue/april-2024>



**Hunting Mushrooms: How to Safely Identify, Forage and Cook Wild Fungi**

by Barбора Batokova

# Book Review

Reviewed by Cecily Franklin

**N**O MATTER HOW many mushroom books you already have on your shelf, you will want to add this one to your collection. Whether you're new to mushrooms or an experienced mushroom hunter, you will keep coming back to this book. The only problem will be finding it: Is it in the kitchen, in a backpack, or on your nightstand?

This beautifully organized book was written by WPMC President Barбора Batokova, who has more than 125,000 followers on her Instagram account @fungiwoman. The book begins with helpful information about mushroom anatomy and life cycle, where they grow, tips on how to identify mushrooms, and what to take on a mushroom hunt.

Mushrooms are then divided into eleven groups: Amanitas, Boletes, Chanterelles & Trumpets, Tooth Fungi, Agarics, Polypores, Morels & Allies, Cup Fungi, Jelly Fungi, Corals & Clubs, and Puffballs & Allies. Within each group are many spectacular photos, mostly taken by the author herself, as well as "Key Characteristics." More than two dozen species are shown in detail, with a "Quick ID Summary" and "Lookalikes" for each.

The book covers the full edibility spectrum, from delicious to deadly poisonous, and provides advice on cleaning, storing, and preserving edible mushrooms. It concludes with 16 mouth-watering recipes, many inspired by the author's native Czech cuisine. These recipes range from appetizers and soups to pizzas, side dishes, and hearty main dishes. You'll find many vegetarian recipes, as well as some that are vegan or gluten-free.

Barбора's pride in WPMC is evident throughout the book, from the Introduction to the closing credits. She includes a photo of a WPMC walk with her advice to join a local mushroom club. You can order her new book at Amazon or Barnes & Noble.



# Interview with Joyce Gross

By Dawn Wehman

IN THE FALL OF 2000, WPMC Historian **Joyce Gross**, with her husband George, showed up for Mushroom Mania at Beechwood Farms, nine months pregnant with their daughter. She had seen an article in the Activities section of the newspaper and, having already been learning about mushrooms on her own for ten years, was immediately intrigued that there were others in the Pittsburgh area with similar interest.

Joyce recalls reaching out to **Kim** or **Becky Plischke** prior to attending because she knew that she wouldn't be able to do much hiking. Mushroom Mania was on Saturday and her daughter was born on Tuesday, but she and her husband attended anyway. Joyce also recalls the food. "It wasn't an elaborate spread, but it was really good! And they had the mushrooms all laid out on the tables displayed."

Because of the mushrooms, the people, the food and the hikes, Joyce was hooked. She and her husband served as the club's next Secretary and Treasurer after **Val** and **Jack Baker**. "I'm not a 'founding' member but I believe I'm a charter member, having joined in the first year of the club." She recalls meeting in the living room of the late Past President, **Dick Dougall**. "Dick was a great teacher, so was [the late Honorary Member] **Gary Lincoff**."

Joyce has scrapbooks from several Mushroom Mania events. Mushroom Mania quickly became the Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Foray in September 2001. She had the opportunity to serve alongside other well-loved club members, including the late **Shirley Caseman**, who was Hospitality Chair; the Bakers; WPMC Mycologist **Jim Tunney** and **Char**; WPMC Honorary Member **Barb DeRiso**; and all the Plischkes. "Such great people! I have lots of fond memories from the Beechwood Farms years. The club has really grown."



Joyce Gross shows WPMC members how to make mushrooms from clay.

Photo by Cecily Franklin

We can thank Joyce, an accomplished artist, for creating the club's logo. "There was a contest in 2002 for submissions for a T-shirt design. At the end of the year, eight submissions were voted on and mine won. In Spring of 2003, we started to sell club t-shirts...I said that the Club could use the logo for whatever they wanted. I'm not sure who digitized it; that came way later."

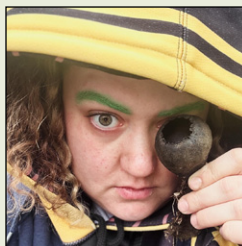
Joyce recalls looking unsuccessfully for her grandfather's mushroom book and eventually picked up *Peterson Field Guide to Mushrooms*, a portable-sized guide for mushroom identification, and later the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms* by Gary Lincoff, but "I learned a lot from all the people in the club and had a lot of great relationships."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In 2009, Joyce Gross won the WPMC Outstanding Service Award and the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Knighton Service Award.

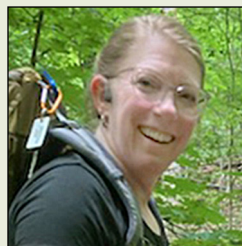
## WPMC Awards Buttons, Names Identifier & Lichen Specialist



Mark Bowers



Becca Jean Marsh



Dawn Wehman



Sara Klingensmith



Stephen Bucklin

THE FOLLOWING WPMC members were recently awarded ID Buttons for their ability to identify mushroom species: **Mark Bowers** and **Theresa Colecchia** (not pictured) 25; **Becca Jean Marsh** 75; and WPMC Secretary **Sara Klingensmith** 300.

In addition, WPMC Membership Co-Chair **Dawn Wehman** has been named a club Identifier, and Past President **Stephen Bucklin** is now our Lichen Specialist. Congratulations to all!

WPMC's Button ID Button Program offers members a fun way to increase their knowledge of mushroom species. To learn more about the ID Button program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms, go to: <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/button-id-program/>



# Registration is Open for 2024 Gary Lincoff Foray

REGISTRATION IS NOW open for the 24th annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 21, at the Economy VFD Banquet Hall in Sewickley. Activities will include:

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

Register at this link: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/>



**24th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray**  
Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

**September 21st**  
**Economy Fire Department Banquet Hall**

Mushroom Walks Auction Mushroom Feast

**Featuring Guest Mycologists:**  
**Sigrid Jakob**  
President of New York Mycological Society  
**Hannah Huber**  
Conservation Mycologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program  
**Walt Sturgeon**  
Mycologist and Author

**Registration Required: [wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/](https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/)**

**Free Mushroom Walk at Cook Forest**  
**September 20th**

**Free Evening Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest**  
**September 19th**

Photo Credit: Josh Doty

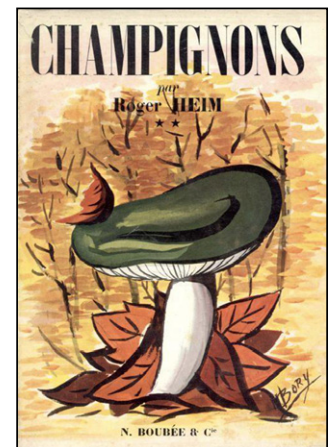
## Two Free Optional Pre-Foray Walks

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19:** Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center at the entrance to the Forest Cathedral. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lodging.

**Friday, September 20:** Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC experts and Park Ranger **Dale Luthringer** at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

## Auction Donations

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



## Look Great While You Support WPMC!

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

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



# Lincoff Foray Will Feature Three Guest Mycologists

WPMC is pleased to announce three Guest Mycologists for this year's Lincoff Foray.

## SIGRID JAKOB

**Sigrid Jakob**, President of the New York Mycological Society, will present "DNA Sequencing for Non-Scientists". DNA sequencing has become an integral part of modern mycology. It is not only helping with the classification of fungi but has revolutionized our understanding of the fungal tree of life. Sigrid's talk will take us through the many uses (and abuses) of DNA sequencing. It will explain how DNA sequencing works, explain the different methodologies (Sanger and Nanopore sequencing), what it takes to set up a lab, and how to integrate molecular methods with the documenting and collecting that mushroom clubs are already doing. It will also showcase the relevance of DNA sequencing to support the conservation of rare and threatened fungi. She'll finish by looking at some of the more interesting discoveries from her own and her club's collections that DNA sequencing has helped to uncover. This talk is targeted at everybody—no scientific background required!



Guest Mycologist Sigrid Jakob will bring her home DNA Lab to the Lincoff Foray.

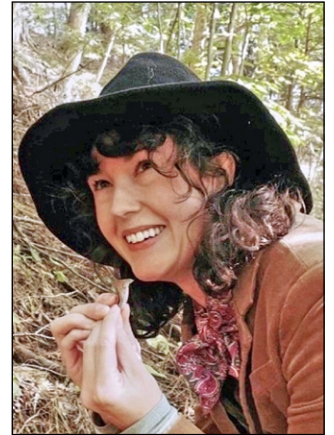


*Lorelia marchantiae*, the "Liverwort Navel," was a new species for Pennsylvania last November.

Photo by Noah Yawn

## HANNAH HUBER

**Hannah Huber**, Conservation Mycologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, will discuss "Conserving our Fungal Heritage." In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was passed, just four years after fungi were recognized as a distinct Kingdom separate from plants, and apparently not enough time for the authors of the Act to think to include fungi. While two lichens achieved federal listing later, fungi have been mostly without protection. This talk will describe the status of fungal conservation, key initiatives, and the role of subnational natural heritage programs (like Pennsylvania's) in assessing and monitoring fungal species. This talk will also highlight the work that is unfolding in Pennsylvania with the unmatched energy of the state's mycology community to carefully document species that may be rare, at risk of decline, or introduced and spreading.



## WALT STURGEON



Author **Walt Sturgeon** will help us to identify mushrooms and will discuss our finds on Saturday.

Photo by Cecily Franklin



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



## WPMC Walks

### SATURDAY, MAY 4: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

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

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 11: 9 AM – 12 PM

#### Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County), Beginner's Mushroom Hike with Clarion Conservation District

**SOLD OUT!**

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 22: 5:30 – 7:30 PM

#### Beginner's Mushroom ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust

**SOLD OUT!**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 8: 12 – 3:00 PM

#### Beaver Meadows Recreation Area, Marienville, PA

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** at the parking lot for her annual birthday mushroom walk. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 14: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### Beginner's Mushroom ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust

**SOLD OUT!**

### SATURDAY, JUNE 29: 10 AM – 1 PM

#### Mother Earth Farm (Indiana County)

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

### SUNDAY, JULY 7: 10:00 AM

#### Headwaters Park, 1927 Wager Road, Erie, PA 16509

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** at the parking area near the Erie County Conservation District office. Free and open to the public.

### SATURDAY, JULY 27: 12 – 3 PM

#### Schenley Park with Phipps Conservatory

Meet at the Center for Sustainable Landscapes Classroom at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Join WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** for a mushroom talk and ID walk at Schenley Park. After a short introductory lecture on fungi, participants will look for mushrooms on one of the Schenley Park trails and collect specimens for an ID table. We will then provide detailed information about the fungi that we collected, discussing things like identification features, and explaining safe foraging practices. We may even select some of the specimens for DNA (giving credit to the finder, of course.) This walk will continue rain or shine, so wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Tickets are \$20 for Phipps members and \$25 for non-members. Register here: <https://my.conservatory.org/7403>

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 17: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### North Country Trail, Parker, PA (Butler County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** at the trailhead of State Game Lands 95 for a mushroom walk during the Summer Continental Mycobiltz. Free and open to the public. No registration required.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 25: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

#### Oil Creek State Park (Venango County) 305 State Park Road, Oil City, PA 16301

Meet WPMC Identifiers **Dawn Wehman** and **Beth Ace** in the parking lot at Oil Creek State Park for a Sunday morning mushroom walk. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/jMix4Q3XRBDx31Xy5>

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

#### 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.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19: 7:30 PM

#### Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest (Clarion County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center at the entrance to the Forest Cathedral. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lodging.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20: 10 AM

#### Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest (Clarion County)

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

## Other Walks, Forays & Events

### MAY 31 - JUNE 2

#### 65th Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage Allegheny State Park, Cattaraugus County, NY

WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** will lead mushroom walks on May 31 and June 1 as part of this weekend conference.

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

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

#### Phipps BioBlitz & Family Fun Festival Schenley Park

WPMC will lead a mushroom walk at 1:00 p.m. and host a display table. WPMC Lichen Expert **Stephen Bucklin** will lead a Lichen Walk at 11:00 a.m.

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





## JULY 26 – 28

### Ohio Mushroom Society Summer Foray Lake Hope State Park

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

## JULY 28 – AUGUST 3

### Eagle Hill Institute (Eastern Maine)

Identification Skills for the New Mushroomer: Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms — **Greg Marley** and **Michaeline Mulvey**

<https://eaglehill.us/programs/sems-weeklong/flyers-weeklong-pdfs/2024-MarleyMulvey.pdf>

## AUGUST 2 – 4

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

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

## AUGUST 9 – 18

### Summer Continental MycoBlitz

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

## AUGUST 15 – 18

### West Virginia Mushroom Club Annual Foray Blackwater Falls State Park

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

## AUGUST 24

### Elk County Flora Funga Festival Twin Lakes Recreation Area, Wilcox, PA

<https://visitpago.com/events/elk-county-flora-funga-festival/>

## AUGUST 30 – SEPTEMBER 2

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

<https://mawdc.org/Forays>

## SEPTEMBER 5 – 8

### 11th Annual Northwoods Foray Lake Namakagon, WI

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

## SEPTEMBER 12 – 15

### Ohio Mushroom Festival Hammondsville, OH

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

## SEPTEMBER 21

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

See page 6 for more information.

## SEPTEMBER 27 – 30

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

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

## SEPTEMBER 28, 10 AM – 3:30 PM

### Ohio Mushroom Society Fall Foray Long Science Center

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

## SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 2

### Eagle Hill Institute (Eastern Maine) Fall Mushrooms in a Changing Climate with David Porter and Michaeline Mulvey

<https://eaglehill.us/programs/sems-weeklong/flyers-weeklong-pdfs/2024-MulveyPorter.pdf>

## OCTOBER 11 – 14

### Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) Foray Hyannis, MA

<https://www.nemf.org/2024-foray>

## OCTOBER 18 – 27

### Fall Continental MycoBlitz

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

## OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 3

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

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

## NOVEMBER 6 – 9

### NAAEE 2024 Conference: Building Bridges Pittsburgh, PA

<https://conference.naaee.org/conference>

## Important Walk & Foray Information

- Try to dig up three of the same species at different stages of development.
- Don't pick old mushrooms; leave them to drop spores.
- You are responsible for not getting lost. Find a buddy to search with.
- Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for identification and advice.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms: location, habitat, etc.
- Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your responsibility alone.
- **Help Keep Our Parks Clean!** It's easy to bring a bag to collect cans, bottles or other trash you find. Trash cans are generally found nearby. If not, take it home for disposal.

Day and time for walks vary. Note any registration requirements or fees. Check [www.wpamushroomclub.org/events](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/events) for updates, directions, and much more!

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



## WPMC Scholarship Committee

WPMC ADMINISTERS AN annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions. Application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to:

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

## Get Your Cameras & Cellphones Ready



*Barbora Batokova takes a shot of a half-free morel at Frick Park. Photo by Cecily Franklin*

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

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2024
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- Email entries to Sara Klingensmith at [pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com](mailto: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. For complete details, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/photo-galleries/annual-wpmc-photo-contest/>

## WPMC Membership Report

By Dawn Wehman, Membership Registration Chair

AS OF APRIL 22, we have 496 members from 288 households. Now is the time, now is the place, don't procrastinate any longer, renew your membership now!

I mentioned in the first reminder email that the May meeting, our Cultivation meeting, is super awesome. Don't get caught in line renewing your membership in person that night, it's much faster and easier to just do it now.

Afraid that you don't know if you renewed already? No worries! Just drop us an email at [membership@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:membership@wpamushroomclub.org) and we can check for you. Renewing your membership is super easy by just going to <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> and following the directions provided.

Once your renewal is complete, please do just one more step, check your "Welcome to The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club – 2024" email and make sure we have all of your info correct. Easy peasy!

**Membership benefits include:**

- Free mushroom kit at the annual Cultivation meeting in May.
- Discount for attending the WPMC's annual Gary Lincoff Foray.
- Annual Photo Contest for WPMC members.
- Access to the WPMC Facebook Group.
- Walks & Events year-round.
- Nine monthly meetings with speakers and mushroom identification.
- Five WPMC newsletters that can be either mailed to you if you select to get a hard copy (and pay the extra \$10 annually) or save a few trees and just get your newsletter via email!

## Donations Help Fund WPMC Projects

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

## WPMC Newsletter

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

**Cecily Franklin, Editor**

**Martha Wasik Graphic Arts, Production**

**Send submissions to: [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com)**



## MYCOLOGISTS

Stephen Bucklin .....	814-823-1049 sbucklin@pittsburghparks.org
Cara Coulter .....	412-445-1078 education@wpamushroomclub.org
Richard Jacob .....	215-888-5503 site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org
Kim Plischke .....	724-217-7589 ladiebugzpk@aol.com
John Plischke III .....	724-331-1974 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

Beth Ace .....	724-290-7270 eace8710@gmail.com
Jack Baker .....	412-367-7696 jabaker2@hotmail.com
Sarah Banach .....	747-333-8644 sarahbanach@gmail.com
Barbora Batokova .....	412-609-0723 president@wpamushroomclub.org
Fluff Berger .....	724-601-8382 wfberger@comcast.net
Dirk Cappo .....	248-924-4498 dirk.cappo@gmail.com
Cheree Charmello Andrews .....	412-576-0555 charmello@gmail.com
Josh Doty .....	412-913-8026 jcdoty@gmail.com
Carson Gross .....	605-695-0605 carson.a.gross@gmail.com
Sara Klingensmith .....	724-664-9287 secretary@wpamushroomclub.org
Judy Mackenroth .....	724-352-4025 angora_farm@yahoo.com
Josh Mowris .....	814-720-8804 joshmowris@yahoo.com
Blaine Sanner .....	724-217-3168 brsanner@hotmail.com
Jerry Sapp .....	724-713-1212 surffisher_89@yahoo.com
Julie Travaglini .....	724-255-1131 vice-president@wpamushroomclub.org
Dawn Wehman .....	724-544-0978 membership@wpamushroomclub.org
Jared White .....	814-460-4265 white.jaredd@gmail.com

## BOLETE SPECIALIST

Scott Pavelle .....	412-325-2535 scottp@pavellelaw.com
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## LICHEN SPECIALIST

Stephen Bucklin .....	814-823-1049 sbucklin@pittsburghparks.org
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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> 412-609-0723	Barbora Batokova president@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> 724-255-1131	Julie Travaglini vice-president@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>SECRETARY</b> 724-664-9287	Sara Klingensmith secretary@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>TREASURER</b> 412-204-6281	Jared Delaney treasurer@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>NAMA TRUSTEE</b> 716-307-0758	Garrett Taylor taygamu@gmail.com

## COMMITTEES

<b>CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT</b> 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com
<b>CULTIVATION</b> 412-204-6281	Jared Delaney treasurer@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>DNA BARCODING</b> 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob dna-barcoding@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>Education</b> 412-445-1078	Cara Coulter education@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>HISTORIAN</b> 724-339-8547	Joyce Gross jagart58@comcast.net
<b>HOSPITALITY</b> 724-413-2054	Carissa Mendez cnmendez@icloud.com
<b>ID BUTTON PROGRAM</b> 724-255-1131	Julie Travaglini buttonid@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>LINCOFF FORAY: Jared Delaney Dawn Wehman</b>	Sara Klingensmith Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>MEMBERSHIP EMAILS</b>	Kris Kenealy membership@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION</b> 724-544-0978	Dawn Wehman membership@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>MUSHROOM DISPLAY</b> 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>MYCOLOGICAL RECORDING</b> 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>NEMF FORAY</b> 724-331-1974	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
<b>NEWSLETTER</b> 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com
<b>PA DCNR REPRESENTATIVE</b> 716-307-0758	Garrett Taylor taygamu@gmail.com
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b> 724-664-9287	Sara Klingensmith pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com
<b>PUBLICITY</b> 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com
<b>SALES</b> 602-690-3198	Matt Stahlman stahlmanmatthew@gmail.com
<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b> 412-862-7891	Sierra Weir scholarship@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>TOXICOLOGY</b> 724-331-1974	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
<b>WALKS &amp; FORAYS</b> 814-720-8804	Josh Mowris joshmowris@yahoo.com
<b>WEBMASTER</b> 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org
<b>WORKSHOP</b> 724-352-4025	Judy Mackenroth angora_farm@yahoo.com





# WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

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

NEW MEMBERSHIP:  RENEWAL:

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

WPMC, c/o Jared Delaney, 1912 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • treasurer@wpamushroomclub.org

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

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

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

## Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_





Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

# 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 • ECONOMY VFD BANQUET HALL

## PLUS: Free Mushroom Walk Friday, September 20 • Cook Forest

Guests Mycologists: **SIGRID JAKOB**, President of New York Mycological Society

**HANNAH HUBER**, Conservation Mycologist for Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

**SATURDAY, September 21 (all day): Foray includes Mushroom Feast.**

**Bring your own lunch. Light refreshments will be served.**

**Economy VFD Banquet Hall • 3308 Conway Wallrose Road, Sewickley, PA 15143**

**— REGISTRATION REQUIRED —**

**FRIDAY, September 20 (10:00 A.M.): Meet at Shelter 2, Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County. FREE**

**— TRANSPORTATION AND LUNCH NOT INCLUDED —**

**NOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 ALL REGISTRATION FEES WILL INCREASE BY \$10.**

Indicate the number/quantity for each item selected. All fees per person. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$50 WPMC member** / \$60 on or after 9/1/24 (with current paid 2024 membership) sub total: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$70 Non-members** / \$80 on or after 9/1/24 (includes 2024-25 Membership) sub total: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **\$30 Students (with ID) & kids 11 to 18** / (members or non-members) kids 10 & under free. / \$40 on or after 9/1/24 sub total: \_\_\_\_\_

**FORAY T-SHIRT: \$20 each** \_\_\_\_\_ **Small** \_\_\_\_\_ **Medium** \_\_\_\_\_ **Large** \_\_\_\_\_ **XL** \_\_\_\_\_ **XXL** sub total: \_\_\_\_\_

**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/](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/)**

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

WPMC, c/o Jared Delaney, 1912 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

**FOR MORE INFO: [Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto: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