



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

MAY / JUNE 2025



President's Message

Barbora Batokova

As I write this in mid-April, morels are just beginning to make their appearance across Western Pennsylvania. Reports are trickling in from nearly every county, and you can feel the excitement bubbling up as morel season kicks off in earnest. Except for a lone *Neogyromitra caroliniana* we spotted in Frick Park during our April 9 walk with UpstreamPgh (a thrilling find, since I haven't seen one since 2022!), I haven't had any luck yet myself. But by the time you're reading this, we'll likely be nearing the end of morel season—and I hope you've had much better luck than I have so far in the woods!

Spring is always such an energizing time for the club. Mushrooms are starting to fruit, events are ramping up, and we're connecting with each other more and more out in the field. We've got some

exciting things to share in this edition of the newsletter. In particular, I want to draw your attention to two new columns we're launching, both spearheaded by club member **Richard Jacob**. I had the honor to write the first installment of the "Names They Are A-Changin'" column which covers the taxonomy changes affecting false morels (*Gyromitra sensu lato*)—a timely topic!

We're also in full swing preparing for two big upcoming events. First, Mushroom Education Day is just around the corner—and registration is now open! Be sure to sign up and join us for a day packed with talks, hands-on learning, and delicious mushroom samples. And, for the first time in club history, we're planning an overnight camping trip on July 12-13 at Oak Haven Mushroom Farm in Blairsville. Huge thanks to **Dawn Wehman** and **John Plischke** for organizing this. It's going to be a fantastic weekend of mushroom hunting, outdoor fun, and community building—you won't want to miss it.

I look forward to seeing many of you out in the woods or at one of our upcoming events. Happy hunting, and may your baskets be full (and your ticks few)!

2025 Meeting Schedule

MARK YOUR CALENDARS now for this year's monthly WPMC meetings. Note that two meetings will not take place on the usual third Tuesday of the month. The May cultivation meeting has been moved to May 13 to avoid a conflict with Election Day, and the September meeting has been moved to September 9 so that it will not be the same week as the Lincoff Foray. All meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings from March through November at the Frick Environmental Center and will feature updates on club activities, a speaker/presentation, mushroom identification table, and mushroom-related merchandise for sale. Meetings are free and open to the public.

May 13*: Annual Cultivation Meeting

Our 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.



Kathy Rubel from the PA Lyme Resource Network will join us with an informational table on tick prevention measures and tick-borne diseases. Kathy will have a variety of printed materials available at the table and will be able to answer your questions.

June 17: Cooking Demonstration

Bryony Hensel ("Chef B")

Bryony Hensel ("Chef B" from the Oaklander Hotel) will be doing a cooking demonstration making mushroom laab (a ground "meat" Thai salad) with sticky rice. It will be pescatarian (fish based in place of meat) but can easily be adapted to vegan.



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Introducing Two Newsletter Features

By Richard Jacob

TWO NEW SUGGESTIONS for WPMC newsletter articles have come about from my observations in the mushroom community, both on iNaturalist and when identifying mushrooms at walks and meetings.

On iNaturalist you may see that someone has proposed a new name for an observation, sometimes years later. I often wonder, "Where did this name come from and what is the supporting evidence for the change?" It is not always clear why this has happened, and the people that suggested a new name do not always reply when asked.

The second issue is that we have an abundance of "new to us" species, i.e., not previously identified by WPMC, or the community in general, in the western PA region. The DNA barcoding matched a species known from a different region or to an herbarium specimen. We now have a new name to add to our catalog of species in the area. However, this information is not directly passed on to WPMC members outside of DNA barcoding discussions and, even then, there is normally insufficient information to be able to identify the species in case you find it again. To be clear, this article is not for describing unnamed species, e.g., Genus sp. 'PA01', as we typically don't have enough morphological information beyond what is in the photo.

Names They are A-Changin'

The first new feature will be an attempt to inform WPMC members of species name changes. Rather than just presenting a list of name changes, the article will report on why the species name changed and if there is anything else interesting about the change. These days the name changes are often the result of DNA sequencing of a species both here and in Europe or other parts of the world. The first article in this series was written by WPMC President **Barbora Batokova** regarding False Morel taxonomy changes and appears in this newsletter. (See pages 4 and 5.)

New to Us

The second new feature is also the result of DNA sequencing. For the most part it will be presenting information on species that have been recently confirmed by DNA sequencing that we did not necessarily know were here, or we were using a different name, or there are multiple similar looking species. It should try to include morphological details, taken from publications, that will help to identify the species and separate it from other similar species.

We will try to include one of these articles in each WPMC newsletter. The field is open to anyone else that would like to write one too. There are a lot of species identified by the club in western PA that are fodder for the "New to Us" feature. If you are interested in writing something, pick a species, research it and write a short article. "Names they are A-Changin'" tends to happen elsewhere in the myco-community and then the new name percolates through. Ideally the author should reference the publication or reason why the name changed. There are plenty of species that have changed names in the last few years.

Probably worth emailing me first if you pick one, so that two people don't write about the same species.

The 2025 CNC takes place in 2 parts



1
April 25 – April 28, 2025

Taking pictures of wild plants and animals.

2
April 29 – May 4, 2025

Identifying what was found.

Results will be announced on Monday May 5, 2025.

City Nature Challenge 2025: Pittsburgh Region

THE 2025 CITY Nature Challenge takes place in two parts. From April 25 through April 28, WPMC members have been documenting biodiversity where we live by taking pictures of mushrooms (or plants, animals, or things they leave behind) and uploading them to iNaturalist. The second part takes place from April 29 through May 4, when you can help to identify observations that other people share. Results will be announced on May 5.

Anyone using iNaturalist in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties during these dates will be a part of the project. To join the 2025 project or to see the results, go to:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2025-pittsburgh-region>

2025 Meeting Schedule (continued)

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| July 15 | Medicinal/Culinary Mushrooms
Dr. Michael Beug (virtual) |
| August 19 | What happens to our specimens?
John Plischke & Garrett Taylor |
| Sept. 9* | When the Tables are Turned: Plants that Eat Fungi
Melissa McCormick (Virtual) |
| Oct. 21 | Photo Contest Results & Election of Officers |
| Nov. 18 | Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards |

*NOTE: These meetings will be held on the SECOND Tuesday of the month.

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>



Register Now for Mushroom Education Day

REGISTRATION IS NOW open for Mushroom Education Day on Saturday, June 14, at Powdermill Nature Reserve in Westmoreland County. Here's the full schedule:

9:00-9:30 a.m. – Registration

9:30-10:30 a.m. – Dawn Wehman: Using Chemical Reagents to Help ID Mushrooms in the Field

WPMC Identifier **Dawn Wehman** will describe how we came to use chemical reagents for field identification, best practices regarding safety when using your kit, some species to target for known reactions, and great sources on how to document reagent reactions or non-reactions within iNaturalist or on field ID slips. Each paid attendee will receive their own basic Fungi Chemical Field Test Reagent Kit.



10:40-11:40 a.m. – Flannel Roots Farm: Mushroom Preservation

Join Flannel Roots in discovering new ways to preserve and enjoy your foraged and cultivated mushroom finds! In this hands-on presentation and workshop, we will not only LEARN about the various ways to preserve mushrooms (whether it be pickling, jerky, candy or more), and not only TASTE some of these methods, but also MAKE your own mushroom DIY Spice Rub as a bonus take-home with marinated dried mushrooms. This workshop should provide a basic introduction to food preservation methods that can not only be applied to mushrooms, but most produce as well ensuring longer lasting nutrition.



11:40 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

12:30-1:30 p.m. – Ainsley Seago, PhD

Truffle tasting & slime mold slurping: the weird world of fungus-feeding beetles

It's the one group of organisms who loves fungi as much as we do: the beetles! Meet the pleasing fungus beetles, the handsome fungus beetles, and more incredible species who spend their lives feeding, fighting, and starting families in the fungi of North American forests. Dr. Seago will bring specimens from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for hands-on examination.



1:45-3:30 p.m. – Walks/ID table

Identifier-led walks explore the fungal diversity on Powdermill's trails!

3:30-4:00 p.m. – CLEANUP

Registration is required to attend the lectures and walks. The cost is \$40 for WPMC members; \$50 for non-members. To register: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/mushroom-education-day-2025/>

Out & About in April

WPMC MEMBERS represented the club at many Earth Day and other events in April.



WPMC President **Barbora Batokova** led a mushroom walk at Frick Park for Upstream Pittsburgh.

WPMC Identifier **Jared White** and WPMC Bolete Specialist **Scott Pavelle** with **Kate Pavelle** represented WPMC for Earth Day at Crooked Creek in Armstrong County.



WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** gave a mushroom talk and led a walk around LindenPointe at the City of Hermitage Earth Day Festival.

WPMC Mycologist **Richard Jacob** represented WPMC at the Township of Pine Earth Day.



WPMC Identifier **Dawn Wehman** hosted a table and led a mushroom walk at the Little Sewickley Creek Watershed BioBlitz in Walker Park.

WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** made a presentation at the Baltzer Meyer Historical Society in Greensburg.

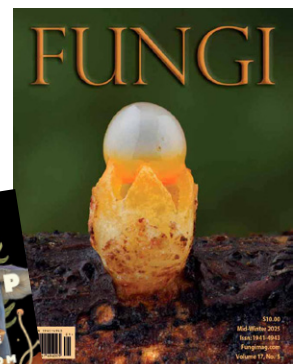


WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** led a Yellow House Trail tour for the Hagen History Center in Girard, PA (Erie County).

WPMC in the News

THE MID-WINTER 2025 issue of *FUNGI* Magazine includes a book review by WPMC Past President **Cecily Franklin**: "Have a Good Trip: Exploring the Magic Mushroom Experience" by Eugenia Bone. This review first appeared in the March/April WPMC newsletter.

Also in this issue of *FUNGI* is an article about hunting for *Boletus subvelutipes* with WPMC's Bolete Specialist **Scott Pavelle**. The article is called "Science in Action: Making Sense of Red-pored Boletes."



Read Cecily's review in the March/April WPMC Newsletter.



Names They are A-Changin’

New Study Overhauls False Morel Taxonomy and (Hopefully) Settles Edibility Controversy

By Barbora Batokova



Neogyromitra caroliniana, “Big Red.”
Photo by Barbora Batokova



Gyromitra esculenta, “False Morel.”
Photo by John Plischke



Maublancomyces korffii.
Photo by Barbora Batokova

MUSHROOM TAXONOMY IS constantly evolving, and 2025 has already brought a major shift in how we classify false morels (*Gyromitra*). Alden Dirks, a professional mycologist and researcher studying the genetics and evolution of gyromitrin, along with a team of scientists, has sequenced 75 genomes within the lorchel family (*Discinaceae*), a diverse group of fungi, whose taxonomy and evolutionary history have been debated for centuries. The findings, published in the journal “Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution”, have led to a complete reorganization of the *Discinaceae* family and thus the *Gyromitra* genus based on phylogenomic analyses, which revealed that many *Gyromitra* species belong to a distinct evolutionary lineage separate from *Gyromitra sensu stricto* (=“in the strict sense,” as opposed to “sensu lato,” which means in the broad sense). The study also presents evidence for which species contain gyromitrin, potentially ending decades of discussions regarding the edibility of certain false morel species.

What’s the new classification? The study divided *Discinaceae* family into two major tribes: *Discineae* and *Gyromitreae*, each containing five genera:

Discineae

- *Discina* (now includes former *G. ancilis* and *G. warnei*)
- *Maublancomyces* (now includes former *G. korffii* and *G. gigas*)
- *Neogyromitra* (now includes former *G. brunnea* and *G. caroliniana*)
- *Piscidiscina* (now includes former *G. leucoxantha*)
- *Pseudodiscina*

Gyromitreae

- *Gyromitra* (still includes *G. esculenta*)
- *Hydnотrya*
- *Paragyromitra* (now includes former *G. infula*)
- *Pseudorhizina*
- *Pseudoverpa*

This new classification represents a distinct combination of macro- and micromorphological traits, which should allow anyone to easily identify a mature specimen with a microscope.

Since this new taxonomic system revives many of the classifications from the 1950’s and 60’s publications, the only new genus that had to be newly erected is *Piscidiscina*. All other names for the genera and tribes have already been in existence.

Which common species have been affected? iNaturalist tracks 10 species in the family *Discinaceae* in Pennsylvania, ordered by the number of observations:

- *Maublancomyces korffii* (97)
- *Neogyromitra brunnea* (Gabled False Morel) (51)
- *Paragyromitra infula* (Saddle-shaped False Morel) (15)
- *Discina ancilis* (Pig’s Ears) (14)
- *Neogyromitra caroliniana* (Big Red) (13)
- *Gyromitra esculenta* (False Morel) (12)
- *Piscidiscina leucoxantha* (Fishtail Cup) (4)
- Genus *Hydnотrya* (1)
- *Discina warnei* (1)

Maublancomyces korffii (formerly *Gyromitra korffii*) is part of the the snow morel group, which also includes *M. gigas* (formerly *G. gigas*), *M. americanigigas* (formerly *G. americanigigas*), and *M. montanus* (formerly *G. montana*—notice the change of the specific epithet to masculine form to follow the grammatical rules of Latin-based binomial nomenclature). Other, less commonly known and discussed species in this complex are *M. khanspuriensis*, *M. pseudogigas*, *M. ticiniana*, and *M. ussuriensis*. These individual species are extremely difficult to tell apart morphologically and have been collectively referred to as the *Gyromitra gigas* complex. In Pennsylvania, we likely only have *M. korffii* based on known distribution of these species to date; however, there is overlap with some species (*M. americanigigas* and *M. montanus*) in New York, Michigan, and Canada.² To find out more, visit the *Neogyromitra caroliniana* mushroom profile on my website fungiwoman.com, where I do a deep dive.



Which species of false morels can I eat? The safe consumption of *Gyromitra esculenta* has been debated over centuries and it is a lengthy discussion. The important bottom line is two-fold: 1) it contains gyromitrin and 2) it cannot be safely consumed until the gyromitrin is removed (either by parboiling or drying). Gyromitrin is a toxin and carcinogen that upon heating or when digested in the body, is readily hydrolyzed to the toxic compound monomethylhydrazine (MMH), which acts on the liver, kidneys, and nervous system and resembles poisoning from amatoxins. Therefore, the edibility of false morels is largely determined by whether the species contains gyromitrin.

Even before this new study, however, the mycological community was fairly certain that certain false morels such as *N. caroliniana*, *N. brunnea*, *M. korffii*/ *americanigigas*/ *montanus* were safe to eat, even without parboiling. Michael W. Beug, Ph.D., who serves on the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Toxicology Committee, did an excellent deep dive into the edibility of *Gyromitra* (sensu lato) species in 2014.³ I highly recommend reading the entire piece, but in conclusion, he wrote that “*G. caroliniana* and *G. brunnea* are probably no more dangerous to consume than *Morchella* species,” which are also toxic when raw. Furthermore, he reported that “there is also no information in the NAMA database about poisonings from the two species.”

Eleven years later, in their 2025 phylogenomic study that reclassified the entire *Discinaceae* family, Alden Dirks et al. confirm that gyromitrin is only present in two genera in the *Discinaceae* family: *Gyromitra* and *Piscidiscina*, which are distantly related genera in different tribes.⁴ Therefore, *Maublancomyces*, *Neogyromitra*, and *Paragyromitra* genera that contain the species we generally lump into the false morel category, do not contain gyromitrin and are therefore safe to eat, just like morels, provided you cook them thoroughly, since both groups are toxic when raw.

Do not contain gyromitrin: These are the relevant species in Pennsylvania (and adjacent) that are considered false morels and that have been confirmed to not contain gyromitrin:

- *Maublancomyces americanigigas*
- *Maublancomyces korffii*
- *Maublancomyces montanus*
- *Neogyromitra brunnea*
- *Neogyromitra caroliniana*
- *Paragyromitra infula*

Contain gyromitrin: These are the species in the entire *Discinaceae* family that have been tested and confirmed to contain gyromitrin:

- *Piscidiscina leucoxantha*!!! Occurs in Pennsylvania
- *Piscidiscina persicula*
- *Gyromitra antarctica*
- *Gyromitra esculenta*!!! Occurs in Pennsylvania
- *Gyromitra splendida*
- *Gyromitra venenata*

Of course, when it comes to eating false morels, the most crucial factor is being absolutely certain about the identification of the species you're about to eat. While *G. esculenta* is fairly rare in Pennsylvania (only 9 observations on iNaturalist to date), eating a misidentified species could be a deadly mistake.

Why does this matter? For those who study and appreciate fungi, these updates refine our understanding of the relationships between species and their evolutionary history. More accurate classification can also help with conservation, identification, and

toxicology research. Whether you're a mycologist or a casual mushroom enthusiast, staying updated on taxonomy helps us all speak the same language.

While it may take some time to get used to this new world order of false morels, this may bring an end to the long and never-ending discussion of the edibility of certain false morel species. On the other hand, it has certainly reignited the debate among certain mycologists and mycophiles, who generally fall into two camps: “lumpers”, who focus on grouping entities broadly, emphasizing similarities and creating fewer, more inclusive categories (and would hence prefer false morels to be lumped into one *Gyromitra* genus), while “splitters” prioritize differences, creating more narrowly defined and specific classifications based on even minor distinctions (which is what the new classification represents). Interestingly, Alden Dirks has initially tried to take the lumper approach, but said that “in the end, it was not a viable approach.” There's a lengthy discussion on the approach in the study if you're interested.

References

1. Dirks, Alden C., et al. “Phylogenomic Insights into the Taxonomy, Ecology, and Mating Systems of the Lorchel Family Discinaceae (Pezizales, Ascomycota).” *Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution*, vol. 205, 2025, p. 108286, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ympev.2025.108286>.
2. Miller, Andrew N., Alden C. Dirks, Nina Filippova, et al. “Studies in *Gyromitra* II: Cryptic Speciation in the *Gyromitra gigas* Species Complex; Rediscovery of *G. ussuriensis* and *G. americanigigas* sp. nov.” *Mycological Progress*, vol. 21, no. 81, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11557-022-01832-x>.
3. Beug, Michael W. “False Morels—Age-Old Questions about Edibility: A Primer.” *FUNGI*, vol. 7, no. 1, 2014, <https://www.fungimag.com/spring-2014-articles-02/V7I1%20LR%20FalseMorels28-31pdf.pdf>
4. Dirks, Alden. “Lorchel Taxonomy Overhauled: Synopsis of Our Discinaceae Phylogenomics Publication.” *1001 Mushrooms*, 8 Jan. 2025, <https://www.aldden.dirks.com/1001-mushrooms/lorchel-taxonomy-overhauled-synopsis-of-our-discinaceae-phylogenomics-publication>.

Look Great While You Support WPMC!

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

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



Interview with WPMC Founding Members

By Dawn Wehman

HOW LONG HAS **John Plischke III** been interested in fungi? Almost his entire life! John's first mushroom memories were from the age of 6 or 7, when he would go Morel hunting with his father, grandfather, and uncle. At that stage, John only knew 5 or 6 mushrooms—Morels, Hens, Chanterelles, and a few more—"but it was fun!"

John learned more and more every year. He and his father attended local programs by mushroom photographer Emily Johnson. The family went to Ohio every year for events hosted by Walt Sturgeon. John recalls attending North American Mycological Association (NAMA) and Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) forays around the age of 10-12. "And then there were the all-day programs at Beechwood Farms!" He participated in those seven or eight times before graduating from high school.

John also attended the Mother Earth News Festival at 7 Springs a few times before heading off to Thiel College to major in Biology, a degree he didn't finish because he'd already taught himself so much. It was there that John started his first book on Edible Wild Plants (still in progress to this day) and where John met Kim, then only 15. "We didn't really like each other initially and I don't think my mother was happy," said Kim, but "I grew to really like him, and we started dating and here we are 34 years later."

Pittsburgh native Gary Lincoff, author of the *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*, told John that if he started a club in Pittsburgh he'd come. So father and son, as well as Becky, John's mom, and Kim helped tremendously as the WPMC was formed. By the start of our club in 2000, John knew about 300-400 mushrooms, and older members remember how the Plischkes would volunteer for all kinds of duties, particularly the identification tables. John was the first Membership Chair and Becky was the Secretary for years, as well as a cook at the Foray before Kim eventually took over.

John says the best WPMC foray ever was in September 2004. The remnants of Hurricane Ivan, following Hurricane Frances, caused record-breaking rainfall and widespread flooding in the Pittsburgh area. "We had the foray that year with a big conference room and the tables were just covered in mushrooms! We had outgrown the barn at Beechwood Farms. Back then we had three experts at the foray in the fall and Gary was always one of them." As Kim recalls, "We used to have over 200 pounds in local and foraged mushrooms at some of the early Lincoff forays." She's also a club Mycologist and loves to cook, her favorites being Chanterelles and Boletes.

John contributed greatly toward establishing the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources guidelines for collecting and foraging in Pennsylvania. He's the author of two books: *Morel Mushrooms and Their Poisonous Look-alikes* (2008) and *Good Mushroom Bad Mushroom: Who's toxic, Where to find them, and how to enjoy them safely* (2011) and has contributed to more than a dozen other mushroom books. He also helped write both of our club cookbooks and self-published *Mushrooms that Grow on other Mushrooms* (2015), a 266 page PDF that can be downloaded at:

https://goodmushroom.weebly.com/uploads/5/7/1/7/57176535/fungi_on_fungi_pdf_lq.pdf.



(LEFT) John Plischke received a NAMA Award from Gary Lincoff in 2017. Photo by Sarah Banach



(RIGHT) John and Kim Plischke were awarded the WPMC Outstanding Service award in 2018. Photo by Kristine Murawski

John is a nationally known photographer who has won more than 85 national and regional awards for his mushroom photography and is a well-known lecturer. Last, but certainly not least, John was one of the first, and major, contributors to the *Fungarium* established in 2019 at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.

John and Kim continue to serve numerous mushroom clubs with hours of volunteering, particularly with iNaturalist identifications, validating and organizing DNA sequencing, and chairing at both NAMA and NEMF events. John and Kim still forage and donate lots of mushrooms every year to several local forays.

WPMC Scholarship Committee

WPMC ADMINISTERS AN annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for attending 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/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 our Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**. You may donate using PayPal by using the email address treasurer@wpamushroomclub.org.



Registration Open for 25th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

REGISTRATION IS NOW open for the 25th annual Gary Lincoff Foray on **Saturday, September 20**, at The Lodge in North Park. Activities will include:

- Guided morning walks in North Park
- Afternoon speakers
- Mushroom display tables
- Auction, Sales, and Vendors
- Cooking Demonstration
- Mushroom Feast
- Table Walk

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

WPMC will also host a Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest on **Thursday, September 18**, from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, and a Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park on **Friday, September 19**, from 10 am to 3 pm. There is no charge for these walks, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lodging. See page 10 for more details.

Reminder to Enter the Lincoff Foray Logo Contest

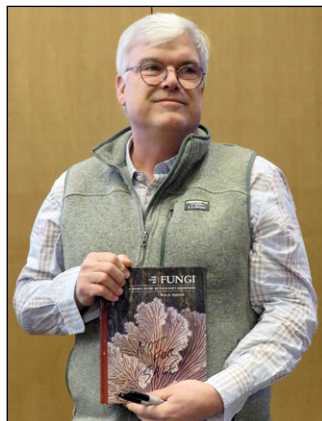
LAST YEAR WE initiated a Foray Logo Contest to create a transparent and equitable process for selecting artwork. Due to that success, we are offering the same opportunity again this year. Contest entries must be received no later than June 1, 2025. Email all entries to foraydesign@wpamushroomclub.org with the subject line "2025 Annual Foray Logo Entry." For complete details, see the March/April newsletter or WPMC website at: https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/wmpc_annual_foray_logo_contest/



Bring (or Buy) Britt Bunyard Books

GUEST MYCOLOGIST **BRITT BUNYARD**, founder, Publisher, and Editor-in-Chief of the mycology journal *FUNGI*, has written or co-written many books:

- *Mushrooms & Macrofungi of Ohio & Midwestern States* (2013)
- *The Beginner's Guide to Mushrooms* (2020)
- *Amanitas of North America* (2020)
- *The Lives of Fungi: A Natural History of Our Planet's Decomposers* (2022)
- *The Little Book of Fungi* (2024)
- *Fungi Decoded* (2025, available for preorder)



Britt Bunyard will discuss stories from his book *The Lives of Fungi*.

Photo by Cecily Franklin

If you already own any of these books, bring them to the Lincoff Foray for an autograph by the author. We hope to have some of these titles available for sale at the Foray.

Matt Kasson Loves Bugs

GUEST MYCOLOGIST **Matt Kasson**, Associate Professor of Mycology and Forest Pathology at West Virginia University, will present his lab's work on fungivorous millipedes in his talk, "Fungus-eating millipedes: More fungi than legs!"

Popular Science recently published an article by Matt titled "Cordyceps fungus: 'The Last of Us' co-star thriving outside the spotlight." You can read the entire article about parasitic fungi here:

<https://www.popsoci.com/environment/zombie-fungus-last-of-us/>

Citrus cicada infected with *Ophiocordyceps sobolifera*.

Photo by Matt Kasson



Auction Donations



DONATIONS CONTINUE TO come in for the Auction/Raffle at this year's 25th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 20. We have six mushroom cookbooks, two kinds of dried mushrooms, Chaga rum, and much more. 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.

Call for Foray Vendors

ARE YOU A CREATOR of handmade items inspired by mushrooms or mycology? WPMC is excited to announce the return of vendors for our 2025 Gary Lincoff Foray at North Park on September 20th. We're seeking a variety of unique vendors to join us for this special afternoon event. Vendor fee is \$25; spaces are very limited. Applications due May 16 with accepted vendors being contacted by Memorial Day. Use the QR code to apply.



Lincoff Foray Cooks & Volunteers Needed

By Mike Henry

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 mushroom dish to the Foray. You don't need to cook for 100 people – just 10 to 15.

If you plan to bring a dish containing wild-foraged mushrooms, you will need to first get them approved by a club Identifier or Mycologist. It's OK to use store-bought mushrooms if you're uncomfortable with cooking wild mushrooms. In fact, your dish doesn't need to contain mushrooms at all. Some club 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 around. 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.



Photo Contest Has New Categories

By Sara Klingensmith

I HAVE MADE A few changes to the Photo Contest categories this year. Due to the popularity of the Pictorial category, I have split it into "Novice" and "Advanced". Mushroom Selfies will be absorbed by the Judge's Option. The Documentary category will stay the same. Here are the Photo Contest rules for this year:

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2025
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- Email entries to Sara Klingensmith at pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com.
- Indicate in your email the desired category for each photo.

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

ENTRY DIVISIONS

Advanced 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.

Novice Pictorial: This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. The objective is a photo that shows the photographer learning to use focus, depth of field, and lighting.

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 categories but they will be of secondary importance to the overall mycological utility of the

John Plischke prepares to shoot a mushroom.

Photo by Cara Coulter

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, and mushroom selfies.

Subject Material: Organisms from the Myxomycota (slime molds), the classes Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes of the Eumycota ("true fungi"), and Lichens are eligible. For Judge's Option, nearly anything goes, so long as the theme relates to fungi, and fungi are a key element of the photograph.

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

For complete contest rules:

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



Membership Dues Increase in 2026

By Dawn Wehman

THOSE OF YOU with a critical eye looking at the Lincoff Foray Registration form may have noted that we are getting ready for a membership fee increase in 2026. We haven't increased our dues for more than 15 years, but we too are being hit by the economy. Starting in 2026 WPMC dues will be:

- **Individual - \$20** (currently \$15)
- **Family - \$25** (currently \$20)
- **Student - \$15** (currently \$10)

This was a tough decision for the Board, but we deliberated and made sure our upcoming ask is in line with what neighboring clubs are doing. As of this writing, we have 441 members from 262 households. Your membership dues are vital to keep the club running. These dues contribute over 40% of the WPMC's income every year. WPMC members are entitled to the following benefits:

- Nine monthly meetings with speakers & mushroom identification
- Free mushroom kit at our annual cultivation meeting
- Five electronic WPMC newsletters
- Advance notice of mushroom walks and other local, regional & national events
- Annual photo contest for WPMC members only
- Access to WPMC Facebook Group
- Discount at WPMC's annual Gary Lincoff Foray

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to **Dawn Wehman** at membership@wpamushroomclub.org. You can renew your membership now by going to:

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

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

ID Buttons

WPMC'S BUTTON ID Button Program offers members a fun way to increase their knowledge of mushroom species. Our latest recipient is **Hannah Rau**, who earned her "10" button. 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/>



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

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



WPMC Walks & Events

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 10 AM TO NOON

Pine Ridge Lodge, Blairsville (Indiana County)

Join WPMC Mycologist **Richard Jacob** in the parking lot at Pine Ridge Lodge. Meet at the lower grass parking lot before the Lodge. No talk or entry to the Lodge, just a walk. This walk is free and there is no sign up required.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Beginner's Mushroom ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust **SOLD OUT!**

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 5:00 P.M.

Brush Creek Park, Beaver Falls (Beaver County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Dawn Wehman** at the parking area in this link for a mushroom walk at Brush Creek Park in Beaver County. Free and open to the public. Wear protection from mud, ticks, and sun.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/vHHGgCKFNbX6mQoQ8>

MONDAY, MAY 19, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

Fungi 101 Talk & Walk with Allegheny Land Trust Fern Hollow Nature Center 1901 Glen Mitchell Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

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

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/82264-fungi-101-talk-and-walk-fern-hollow-nature-center>

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 9 AM-12:30 PM

The Big Mushroom Hike with ALT, Dead Man's Hollow **SOLD OUT!**

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 12:00 P.M.

Mushroom Walk in Schenley Park

Join WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** for a free mushroom walk at noon during the Phipps BioBlitz & Family Fun Festival. Also, stop by the WPMC table anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. For more information:

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Beginner's Mushroom ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust Churchill Valley Greenway 800 Beulah Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Park and meet in the large lot! Celebrate Friday the 13th by looking for freaky fungi! Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike and ID table at Churchill Valley Greenway.

This is not a traditional guided hike. After a brief introduction, attendees will be looking for mushrooms on their own before reconvening for an ID table and discussion at the end. As this hike is beginner friendly, we will be using the mushrooms' common names and looking at distinguishing features to begin identifying mushrooms.

We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. Hike runs rain or shine. **NO WALK INS** will be permitted. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up; tickets not required for children ages 2 and under. Register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/84009-beginner-s-mushroom-id-hike>

SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 10:00 A.M. TO NOON

Mushroom Walk with Hollow Oak Land Trust Montour Woods Conservation Area 1875 Hassam Road, Moon Township, PA 15108

Join WPMC Foray Food Chair and Hollow Oak Volunteer Land Steward **Mike Henry** to learn about the mushrooms that grow in Montour Woods Conservation area. This all-ages program will be approximately two hours, covering moderate terrain. Please bring water and wear closed toe shoes. Free for Hollow Oak members and \$10 for non-members. Participation is limited, and registration is required. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://hollowoak.org/event/mushroom-walk-all-ages/>

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 10 AM-1 PM

Dorothy Fornof Walk at Deer Lakes Park

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Richard Jacob** for a free walk at Deer Lakes Park.

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/dorothy-fornof-foray-at-deer-lakes-park-4/>

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Mountain Watershed Association Family Field Day Laurel Hill State Park (Somerset County)

WPMC President and Identifier **Barbora Batokova** will host an activity table from 10 am to 1 pm during MWA's third annual Family Field Day. Free. For more information:

<https://mtwatershed.com/event/family-field-day/>

continued on page 10



SATURDAY, JULY 5, 10:00 A.M.

Headwaters Park (Erie County) 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. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate clothing. The trail is flat and maintained with a maximum grade of 7%. An approx. 1-mile loop is our planned route. A portable restroom is available next to the parking lot. The parking lot is rough gravel.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, JULY 11-13

WPMC Camping Retreat. Oak Haven Mushroom Farm 342 Chestnut Ridge Road, Blairsville (Indiana County)

Join WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** for a weekend of mushroom walks in Blairsville, Indiana County. Oak Haven Mushroom Farm will be the meeting location for three separate walks that weekend: Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. We also hope to have a fire Saturday evening, weather permitting.

ROUGH camping (port-a-potty, no showers, bring your own water, tent, food, etc.) will be available for a small fee on-site starting Friday night at 5PM. Airbnb's, RV Camping, and hotel accommodations are nearby. Members are welcome to join us for any one (or ALL) of the time slots and skip the camping part—your choice! Look for more details in the July/August newsletter, WPMC Facebook Group, and WPMC website.

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 10 AM TO NOON

North Fork Bens Creek/North Fork Reservoir (Somerset County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Richard Jacob** for a free walk at North Fork Bens Creek.

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/north-fork-bens-creek-north-fork-reservoir/>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 10 AM TO 1 PM

Clear Creek State Forest Kennerdell, PA (Venango County)

Join WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** for a mushroom walk at Clear Creek State Forest. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2:00-3:30 P.M.

Trail Tour in Hays Woods with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy 1017 Agnew Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** at the Agnew Trailhead entrance for a walk through the hidden trails of Hays Woods. This trail tour is about two miles long and may entail slopes at times, both ascending and descending. Terrain can be rugged and slippery at times, especially after rain. We recommend hiking shoes or boots with good traction, and hiking poles, if extra support is needed. There is no charge for this walk, but space is limited. Register here:

<https://pittsburghparks.org/event/trail-tour-in-hays-woods-park-featuring-stephen-bucklin/>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 10 AM TO 1 PM

Allegheny National Forest. Hearts Content National Scenic Area, Tidioute, PA (Warren County)

Join WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** for a mushroom walk at Hearts Content National Scenic Area. Free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 7:30-9:30PM

Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest (Clarion County) Meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center

Join WPMC Mycologists & Identifiers for an evening stroll through the Forest Cathedral. We will use 365nm UV flashlights to light up the trail and search for fungi that glow in response to ultraviolet light. Some sections have steep grades of 10-17%. Expect to walk 1-2 miles, but participants can shorten the distance as needed.

Bring a headlamp, ideally with a red light, and wear sturdy footwear and weather-appropriate clothing. Participants are encouraged to bring their own UV flashlight. Leaders will provide protective eye-wear. There are restrooms available near the parking lot.

There is no charge, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lodging. We recommend staying in the area if you're attending the Fluorescent Foray and coordinating with friends to find a campsite. The Ridge Campground at Cook Forest is an affordable option.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 10 AM-3 PM

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest (Clarion County)

Meet WPMC Identifiers and Mycologists at Shelter 2 for a pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 10 AM – 1 PM

McConnells Mill State Park. Portersville, PA (Butler County)

Join WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** for a mushroom walk at Hell's Hollow Trail. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 10:00-11:30 A.M.

Trail Tour in Hays Woods with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy 1017 Agnew Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** at the Agnew Trailhead entrance for a walk through the hidden trails of Hays Woods. This trail tour is about two miles long and may entail slopes at times, both ascending and descending. Terrain can be rugged and slippery at times, especially after rain. We recommend hiking shoes or boots with good traction, and hiking poles, if extra support is needed. There is no charge for this walk, but space is limited. Register here:

<https://pittsburghparks.org/event/trail-tour-in-hays-woods-park-featuring-stephen-bucklin-2/>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 12:00-1:30 P.M.

Trail Tour in Hays Woods with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy 1017 Agnew Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** at the Agnew Trailhead entrance for a walk through the hidden trails of Hays Woods. This trail tour is about two miles long and may entail slopes at times, both ascending and descending. Terrain can be rugged and slippery at times, especially after rain. We recommend hiking shoes or boots with good traction, and hiking poles, if extra support is needed. There is no charge for this walk, but space is limited. Register here:

<https://pittsburghparks.org/event/trail-tour-in-hays-woods-park-featuring-stephen-bucklin-3/>

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28

Black Friday Walk at Hartwood Acres

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Richard Jacob** at the Mansion parking lot for our annual Black Friday Walk. Free and open to the public; no registration required.



Other Walks, Forays & Events

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 7-8:00 P.M.

Live Webinar with Phipps Conservatory

Visiting artist Margaret Saylor will present "The World of Fungi and Mushrooms in Botanical Art." \$20 for Phipps members; \$25 for non-members. Register here:

<https://my.conservatory.org/8728/the-world-of-fungi-and-mushrooms-in-botanical-art>

MAY 30 – JUNE 1

67th Allegany Nature Pilgrimage Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus County, NY

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

JULY 20-26

2025 Eagle Hill Institute Seminars (Eastern Maine) Discomycetes and Pyrenomycetes

<https://eaglehill.us/programs/sems-weeklong/flyers-weeklong-pdfs/2025-Miller.pdf>

AUGUST 3-9

2025 Eagle Hill Institute Seminars (Eastern Maine) Identification Skills for the New Mushroomer: Foraging for Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms

<https://eaglehill.us/programs/sems-weeklong/flyers-weeklong-pdfs/2025-MarleyMulvey.pdf>

AUGUST 8 – 17

Summer Continental MycoBlitz 2025

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/summer-continental-mycoblitz-2025>

SEPTEMBER 4 – 7

Northwoods Foray, Cable, WI

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

SEPTEMBER 5 – 7

Ohio Mushroom Festival, Hammondsville, OH

<https://ohiomushroomfestival.com/>

SEPTEMBER 18 – 21

Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) Foray Ithaca, NY

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

SEPTEMBER 21

25th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray

See page 7 for more information.

OCTOBER 17 – 26

Fall Continental MycoBlitz 2025

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fall-continental-mycoblitz-2025>

SEPTEMBER 11 – 14

North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray, Marlboro, Vermont

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

CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

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LICHEN SPECIALIST

Stephen Bucklin	814-823-1049 sbucklin@pittsburghparks.org
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Important Walk & Foray Information

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
- 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.
- 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.

**NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED
MUSHROOM!**

WPMC Newsletter

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

Cecily Franklin, Editor
Martha Wasik Graphic Arts, Production
Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

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WORKSHOP 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

25th ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 • THE LODGE AT NORTH PARK

Guests Mycologists: BRITT BUNYARD, founder, Publisher, and Editor-in-Chief of
Fungi Magazine • MATT KASSON, Assoc Prof. of Forest Pathology and Mycology WVU

Foray includes Mushroom Feast. Bring your own lunch. Light refreshments will be served.
The Lodge at North Park — N. Ridge Dr., Allison Park, PA 15101

— REGISTRATION REQUIRED —

Children are welcome, but this event is structured for adults. There are no activities for kids.

NOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 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 9/1/25 (with current paid 2025 membership) sub total: _____
_____ **\$75 Non-members** / \$85 on or after 9/1/25 (includes 2025-26 Membership) sub total: _____
_____ **\$30 Students (with ID) & kids 11 to 18** / (members or non-members) kids 10 & under free. / \$40 on or after 9/1/25 sub total: _____
FORAY T-SHIRT: \$20 each _____ **Small** _____ **Medium** _____ **Large** _____ **XL** _____ **XXL** sub total: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

☐ **CONTACT ME REGARDING VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

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 Jared Delaney, 1912 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

FOR MORE INFO: Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org

The foray feast can only happen if individuals volunteer to cook and serve.

Please reach out to MIKE HENRY if you can help at FORAYFOOD@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