



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

Volume 12, Issue 1

March/April 2012

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The newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: March/April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept./Oct., and Nov/Dec. Articles, photos, news items and other submissions should be sent to the editor at least 6-8 weeks prior to targeted distribution for the best chance of inclusion.

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 be used in other non-profit publications only with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

Club officers

President — John Tadler
Vice President — Todd Kaufmann

On the web:

www.wpamushroomclub.org

President's Corner

BY JOHN TADLER

Welcome to 2012! It's a new year, and with it, there's been a change in leadership for our club. My name is John Tadler, and I was elected (dragooned?) as president of the club for this year. As I type this, it's a sunny, warm (for February) day, and I must resist the urge to play hooky from work and hit the woods!

For those of you who do not know me, I've been a member of the WPMC for about 5 years, along with my wife, Mary. Our 2-year-old daughter, Molly, can be seen with us as we comb the woods for mushrooms on the Saturday morning club walks, which I am sure we are all eagerly awaiting to resume this spring!

When I'm not out hunting mushrooms, I can be found pursuing my other hobby, historic reenacting of the American Civil War and World War One. If you don't see me at a week-

end walk, there's an excellent chance I'm huddled in a trench with the Black Watch or facing a swarm of screeching rebs with the 116th Pennsylvania. You can also find me in the garden doing battle with groundhogs as I defend my cabbages, or perhaps catching a ballgame at PNC Park.

In working with the other elected officers in this "off season," I feel we've put together a series of topics for our monthly meetings that I hope you will find a little bit different, but also informative and useful as you hunt out your favorite fungi.

As part of that effort, I am always open to ideas and suggestions on how to make the WPMC a better experience for our members. Please feel free to e-mail me at frothsloth@comcast.net with your input, or just bend my ear at a meeting or walk!

I'll see you in the woods!

What is That Button?

BY DICK DOUGALL

If you are relatively new to the WPMC, you may have wondered about the buttons some members are wearing. (See the photo.) These buttons are part of the **John Plischke III Award for Mushroom Knowledge**.

This program was established in 2009 by the Plischke Family to encourage WPMC members to identify for themselves more of the wild mushrooms that we find. In many ways, this program is similar to life lists kept by many serious "birders." The but-



tons are given free to members who can document which mushrooms they believe they know.

(Continued on page 3)

Meetings

March 20 — Mushroom Basics: Introduction and Refresher — Whether you're new to mushrooming or just rusty from being cooped up all winter, you'll enjoy this Introduction and Refresher by WPMC Identifier and NAMA Knighton Award winner Joyce Gross. Joyce will review mushroom terminology, classifications, and other essential information for our upcoming walks.

April 17 — Name That Tree (Matt Erb, Director of Urban Forestry at Tree Pittsburgh) We all know about the importance of tree identification when it comes to mushroom hunting, but how can we identify trees when the leaves aren't even out yet? Just in time for morel season, we will hear from Matt Erb, ISA Certified Arborist and forester. He'll answer all of our questions about Western Pennsylvania's trees.

May 15 — Cultivation Project (Jim Tunney, WPMC Mycologist) WPMC Mycologist Jim Tunney will show WPMC members how to grow their own Oyster Mushrooms. Bring your WPMC membership card and a clean plastic shopping bag. You must be a current WPMC member to receive a mushroom kit.

June 19

· **Jim Bonner**, Executive Director, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania

July 17

· **Sheree Daugherty**, Wildlife Artist & Naturalist

August 21

· **Photography** (Speaker To Be Announced)

September 18

· **DNA Analysis — Dr. Claire Burns**, Assistant Professor of Biology, Washington & Jefferson

College. Fungal barcoding is the use of specific DNA sequences to identify fungal species. Dr. Burns will explain how DNA barcoding works and its application to the study of fungi.

ICC meetings

May 9 — Cultivation

June 13 — Identification

August 8th — Medicinal and Nutritional —
All programs by Bob Sleight

ICC meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, April through October, at 6 p.m. at Blue Spruce Lodge, Blue Spruce Park, near Ernest. For more information call Bob Sleight at 724-349-9173 or e-mail him at ICCWPMC@comcast.net.

WGC Chapter meetings

April 24 — Focus on Morels.

June 26 — Focus on Chanterelles

September 25 — Focus on Hens.

The Washington/Greene chapter meetings are held from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at the Peters Township Library, 616 E. McMurray Road in McMurray, phone 724-941-9430.

For more information, call Brian and Bonnie Davis at 412-334-4069.

Fun 'n Frugal

No Cost/Low Cost Ways to Enhance Your Mushroom Hunting

This is the first of (hopefully) many installments of a new feature for our newsletter. "Fun 'n Frugal: No Cost/Low Cost Ways to Enhance Your Mushroom Hunting,"

Here are the first few tips/tricks/ideas put together by Cecily Franklin.

- ▶ The first tip comes from Gary Lincoff, who carries an empty egg carton along on walks. This enables him to safely store up to 12 tiny specimens. (After that, he begins "triage".)
- ▶ If you eat a lot of cereal, save the wax bags

for future mushrooms walks.

- ▶ To buy baskets really cheap, shop right after Easter. Last year Wal-Mart was selling leftover Easter baskets for as little as ten cents each.
- ▶ If you've always wanted a walking stick but are afraid of losing it, just make your own after you get to the woods. Find a long, sturdy stick and break it to your size. If you lose it, so what? And if you still have it at the end of the walk, leave it for another hiker.

What is that Button?, *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

The two lowest level buttons for 10 and 25 different mushrooms are rather easy to obtain. All you have to do is write down the common names of 10 to 25 mushrooms that you recognize. We have a sheet to help you available at meetings, walks, and our website. Bring your list to one of the club's mycologists or identifiers and have them sign it. (Mycologists and identifiers are listed in our Newsletter.) They will give you your button, or bring your list to me if they don't have buttons.

At the higher levels, 50 to 150 mushrooms, scientific names are required; common names are optional. For the most part, we use the honor system in accepting your word about being able to recognize the mushrooms. However, mycologists and identifiers will

probably question mushrooms on your list if they are rarely found by club members. Also, they will alert you if you have two different Latin names **for the same mushroom**.

So far, 61 people have been awarded 85 buttons. About 60% of the buttons were at the 10 and 25 level. Many of these have been awarded to children.

In the last year, a number of more experienced club members have been earning buttons at the higher levels.

They are finding it challenging to really be able to identify some of the less common mushrooms. The field guides are not always in agreement, official names vary, and you may even have to learn to use a microscope to identify them. This can make developing your list fun.

"Intimate Science" Exhibition Features Mycotecture

By Cecily Franklin
Photos by Todd Kaufmann

The "Intimate Science" Exhibition at Miller Gallery on the campus of Carnegie Mellon University runs from January 21 through March 4, 2012.

The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club was pleased to be a supporter of the Opening Reception on January 20. The two-hour reception, featuring mushroom refreshments and Reishi tea, was attended by nearly 400 people.

One of the Exhibition's artists was Philip Ross, Assistant Professor at the University of San Francisco Department of Art and Architecture.

Ross, who uses fungi as a medium for sculptural and structural works ("mycotecture"), gave a lecture and slide show prior to the reception.

Ross has been working with mushrooms for 16 years. Initially, he was a mushroom hunter. Then he began cultivating *Ganoderma Lucidum* for medicinal purposes.

He takes somatic tissue from the fungus and cultures it. By "feeding" it properly, he achieves exponential growth. His slides showed increasingly large con-



Phil Ross explained some of his work during the Exhibition Tour.



Assorted mushroom sculptures are featured in "Intimate Science."



Some of Ross's larger structures are on display at the Miller Gallery.

tainers to hold the material, from the initial vials, to jars, and then bags. Once the bags are full, the mushrooms begin to reproduce.

To make building blocks, he transfers some of the material to wooden molds, where it becomes solid. He showed slides of both the growing room and the drying room, where the material stays until it is completely desiccated. Once it has dried, it becomes inert and "will never come back to life".

Ross used to ship the individual blocks to galleries, where masonry skills were required to form them into an arch. (The material was so strong that saws would break when trying to trim it.) During the shows, some of the material would

be boiled down and served as tea.

Later Ross discovered that the blocks would "auto-grout" if he put them together while they were still alive. Within 24 hours they would bind, making it possible to assemble them into columns or any other kind of structure, like Lego blocks.

The material is lightweight, yet so strong that Ross can envision uses for it in car doors, helmets and tanks. He recently applied for a patent on his mycological processes.

WPMC Walks & Forays

By John Plischke III

We request that no one hunts a walk or foray location for at least two weeks prior to a walk or foray. It is only through your cooperation that we can have successful walks and forays. All walks & forays will be held rain or shine. Come 15-30 min early and socialize. All walks start on time, so be early, if you are late we will already be in the woods. You can find last minute additions or changes by going to our Yahoo Groups at groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub

April 14- 10:00-12:00 **Hampton Township Park**, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall and Dick Duffy** at the swimming pool parking lot. From Route 8, turn onto Wildwood Road Extension (not toward North Park). Then turn right onto School Road to Hampton Middle School. Go past the school to the end of the parking lot where the road makes a hard left. Turn left into park at sign to Tennis Courts, just across from Hampton High School. Turn left at another sign to the Tennis Courts. Turn right at the stop sign to the swimming pool.

April 21 – 10:00-12:00 The Strip

District, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County. Meet **John Plischke III and Kim Plischke** in front of Wholey Fish Market, 1711 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. We will explore what mushrooms and mushrooms products the Strip has to offer before Mother Nature has mushrooms ready for us to find in the forests and fields.

April 28-29 – 11:00 am Morel Mushroom Madness Weekend, Mingo Creek, Washington County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III**. See page 11 for details.

May 5 – 10:00-12:00 Twin Lakes Park, Westmoreland County. Meet **John Plischke III and Kim Plischke**. Directions From Points East and West: Take Rt. 30 towards Greensburg. Turn onto Donohoe Rd. at the traffic light at Wendy's in front of Westmoreland Mall. From the east, this is a right turn. From the west, it is a left turn. Follow the road to the right towards the Toys R Us store. Continue straight through a traffic light and two stop signs. Turn left after the second stop sign onto Twin Lakes Road and follow the signs to Twin Lakes Park. Park in the first parking lot,

Tamarack Parking Lot.

May 12 – 10:00-12:00 Hillman State Park also known as Hillman State Game Lands, Washington County, Bavington. Meet **Jim Tunney**. Take US 22/ 30 West. Take the Bavington exit toward Maple Grove Road/T507. Turn right at Maple Grove Road. Turn left at Steubenville Pike. Turn right at Haul Road. There is a parking lot at the Y where Hamon Creek Road and Haul Rd Meet it will hold maybe 15 cars any over flow would have to park on the side of one of the roads. Hillman is an undeveloped park.

May 19 - 10:00-12:00 Deer Lakes Park, Allegheny County, Russelton. Meet **Jim Wilson and Dick Dougall**. From the PA Turnpike get off at the Allegheny Valley Exit 5. Turn toward New Kensington. Turn left onto Route 28. Follow to Pearl Avenue and turn left. Continue on Pearl Ave; it becomes Russelton Road. In Russelton, turn right at the first intersection (look for a drug store, bank and liquor store) and turn right. Go a short distance. You will see a Deer Lakes Park sign; turn left into

(Continued on page 7)

Indiana County Chapter Walks

April 28-29: Morel Madness - Mingo Creek (See page 11 for details)

May 5: Pine Ridge Friends of the Parks program 10:00 a.m.

May 19: Pine Ridge Park/Blairsville —9 a.m. Meet Bob Sleight in the large parking lot at the end of the

park road by pavilion #2. We will drive and/or walk to locations in the park from there.

June 16: Buttermilk Falls — 9 a.m. Meet Bob Sleight at the parking lot. Buttermilk Falls is a small park located atop the Chestnut Ridge between Blairsville and Armagh.

Washington/Greene County Chapter Walks

The WGC chapter will hold two spring walks, both at Ryerson Station State Park, with the park manager

Alan Johnson on Saturday April 21 and Sunday May 6 both beginning at 10 am.

Photo contest guidelines

Eligibility: The contest is open to ALL club members.

Entry Divisions

Pictorial: This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. The objective is a photo suitable for display or illustration in a fine book. Judging criteria include consideration of both technical (focus, depth of field, exposure, lighting, color, absence of distracting elements) and artistic (composition, color, background, lighting) aspects.

Documentary: For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture. Emphasis is placed on portrayal of key morphological characteristics such that the usefulness of the image as an identification aid is maximized. Subjects may be shot in the field, laboratory or studio and the photographer has complete freedom to process, manipulate, or orient the specimen in any desired manner to achieve the goal. Close-ups of single features and photomicrographs are acceptable. Judging criteria will be the same as in the Pictorial category but they will be of secondary importance to the overall mycological utility of the photo. Accurate identification of the subject will be a consideration.

Judge's Option: For photos which do not fit into the Pictorial or Documentary divisions. Examples include fungi in an interesting situation, fungi with animals, people enjoying fungi.

Subject material

For **Pictorial and Documentary**, organisms from the Myxomycota (slime molds) and the classes Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes of the Eumycota ("true fungi") are eligible.

For **Judge's Option**, nearly anything goes, so long as the theme relates to fungi, and fungi are a key element of the photograph.

Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2012
Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
Please email entries to Rebecca Miller at
rmtreesplease@gmail.com

2011 Photo Contest Winners

Documentary: First Place
 Cecily Franklin – *Marasmius rotula*



Documentary: Second Place
 Anne Berger – *Polyporus squamosus*



Documentary : Third Place
 Steve Leitkam – *S. Scutellata* with *Stemonitis* sp.



Book Review

David Spahr's "Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada"

By Dick Dougall

This book is for "Pot Hunters", i.e. people whose primary interest is finding edible wild mushrooms. David Spahr lives in Maine, but all the mushrooms he describes (with the exception of Matsutake, *Tricholoma magnivelare*) are common in our area.

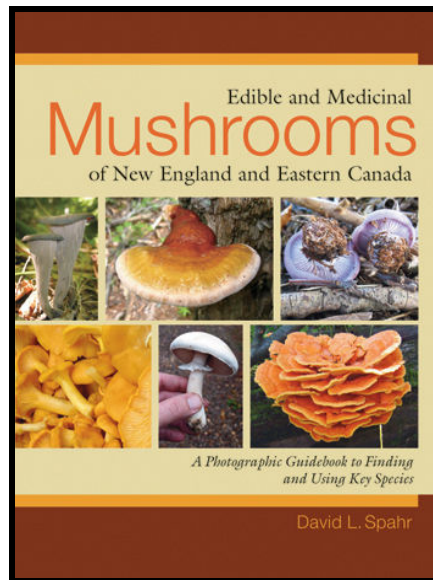
The book is useful for beginners, but there are many tidbits of information throughout the book that would be useful to more advanced mushroomers.

He focuses on a relatively small number of mushrooms; twenty-three groups of edibles and four medicinal mushrooms. His grouping of mushrooms are very natural.

All Morels are considered to be a group; Horse and Meadow Mushrooms are considered to be another group.

Spahr points out in many places that there are risks when eating wild mushrooms. He gives general rules for safety and discusses the common poisonous mushrooms related to various groups, i.e. morel vs. false morels and chanterelles vs. Jack O'Lanterns.

Because he does not cover a large variety of mushrooms, he fo-



cuses on good photos and detailed descriptions of his various groups with appropriate cautions. He tries to direct the mushroomer to specific habitats for various mushrooms. Then he gives tips on hunting. I particularly like his suggestion for finding Black Trumpets: look straight down!

He presents interesting information on mushroom cooking and preparation. Many people know

that certain types of wines go naturally with certain foods, i.e. red wines with red meat and white wines with white meat. He suggests, by means of a table in his book, that mushrooms can also be paired with four types of wine; dry white wine, German-style wine, sweeter wines, and dry red wines. From his table, you can get an idea of which mushrooms go best with certain foods.

He does not give many detailed recipes. However, he does break down cooking mushrooms into four distinct methods: sautéing, tempura-frying, microwaving, and drying.

Mushrooms recommended for drying are divided further into those which will be reconstituted before cooking and those that will be used to make mushroom powders.

David Spahr has a nice website that covers much of the material presented in the book. The website is: www.mushroom-collecting.com. Although some people can get the information they need just from the website, I find it useful to have the book available. Then, I can look for specific information

Mark Your Calendar for the Lincoff Foray

The 12th annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray will be held Saturday, September 22, 2012. The headquarters for this popular one-day foray will be at Rose Barn in Allegheny County's North Park, just north of Pittsburgh, PA.

We are again fortunate to have Gary Lincoff as our principal mycologist. The other mycologists presenting programs are Rod Tulloss and Bill Russell. Rod Tulloss is a world expert on the genus *Amanita*. Bill Russell has a wealth of knowledge about mushrooms of Pennsylvania. Our own John Plischke III has agreed to lead the

invited mycologists and club mycologists/identifiers in classifying all the mushrooms we find on the guided walks.

There will be guided morning walks and afternoon speakers & cooking demonstration. The club's mushroom feast in the late afternoon is always a highlight of the foray.

More details will be coming in our next Newsletter and on our website. A registration form is included on page 8 of this Newsletter. You can also register via Paypal on our website.

WPMC Walks & Forays, *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

the park. Just past the first lake, there is a large parking lot, meet there

May 26 – 10:00 – 12:00 Settlers Cabin, Allegheny County. 1225 Greer Road, Oakdale, PA Meet **John Tadler and Todd Kaufmann.** From Pittsburgh go west on I-376. Take exit 60B toward Crafton/PA-60 S. Turn right onto Campbells Run Rd. Take the 1st right onto Ridge Rd. Meet in the wave pool upper parking lot.

June 2- 10:00-12:00 North Park, Allegheny County. Meet **John Stuart and Barb DeRiso** at the Swimming Pool parking lot. North Park has a variety of habitats; we always find mushrooms here. From Pittsburgh, go north on Rt. 8. Turn left onto Wildwood Road onto the Yellow Belt. Go 1.3 mi. to a red light; go straight (W Hardies). Continue another 1.6 mi. to a red light at North Park Entrance, road name changes to Ingomar

Road at this intersection, Turn left on Babcock Blvd. Follow the signs to the walk location. www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/parkphon.asp

August 2-5 The Western PA Mushroom Club will co-sponsor the **NEMF Annual Foray** at East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, PA. For foray details, visit our website at www.wpamushroomclub.org

Sept 22 – Gary Lincoff Mid Atlantic Mushroom Foray Don't miss it, register today! See page 6 & 8 of this newsletter for details and registration.

For all walks and forays, bring water and lunch. Dress for the weather. Bring basket, wax or paper bags (no plastic) to keep mushrooms separated, whistle, compass, chair, hand lens, insect repellent, cell phone, and books for identification.

Also bring a knife to dig up mushrooms for identification or to cut edibles off to keep them clean.

Try to dig up 3 of the same species at different stages of development. Don't pick old mushrooms; leave them to drop their spores. Bring your membership card and a friend or two.

You are responsible for not getting lost, if you have that tendency stick like glue to others. We won't wait for you, and we won't come look for you. Don't take the identification of the person standing next to you, they might not know as much as you do. Only club mycologists and identifiers should be used for advice.

The Walk Leader will tell you when to be back at the walk starting place where the mushrooms will be put on paper plates and the Walk Identifier or Club Mycologist will put names on only the mushrooms that they know well.

Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms. You should go home and check books yourself. Whether you decide to eat a mushroom, is ultimately only your decision.

Educate Yourself About Ticks Bites and Lyme Disease

According to the Center for Disease Control, Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks.

Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system.

Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks; laboratory testing is helpful if used correctly and performed with validated methods.

Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics.

Take the following precautions:

Preventing Tick Bites : While it is a good idea to take preventive measures against ticks year-round, be extra vigilant in warmer months (April-Sept.) when ticks are most active.

Repel Ticks with DEET or Permethrin: Use repellents that contain 20% or more DEET on the exposed skin for protection that lasts up to several hours. Use products that contain permethrin on clothing. Treat clothing and gear, such as boots, pants, socks and tents. It remains protective through several washings.

Find and Remove Ticks from Your Body: Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (preferably within two hours) to wash off and more easily find ticks that are

crawling on you.

Conduct a full-body tick check using a hand-held or full-length mirror to view all parts of your body upon return from tick-infested areas. Parents should check their children for ticks under the arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, behind the knees, between the legs, around the waist, and especially in their hair.

Examine gear and pets. Ticks can ride into the home on clothing and pets, then attach to a person later, so carefully examine pets, coats, and day packs. Tumble clothes in a dryer on high heat for an hour to kill remaining ticks.

For more information on ticks and Lyme disease, visit http://www.cdc.gov/lyme/prev/on_people.html.

The 12th Annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray

Saturday, September 22, 2012

Featured speaker will be Gary Lincoff, author of the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*. Gary, Past-president of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), is the nation's best-known mushroom expert. He's a charismatic and entertaining speaker and makes learning about mushrooms fun and interesting. His end-of-the-day table-walk discussions are not to be missed. Join us for an exciting day of fungi, fun, friends and mushroom exploration — a day filled with foraging, learning, and feasting . . . but most of all, *fun!*

Program: Guided morning & afternoon mushroom walks; guest speakers: Gary Lincoff, Rod Tulloss, & Bill Russell; cooking demonstration; auction; mushroom feast: our club cooks prepare a real treat, with *dozens* of unique mushroom dishes to delight your taste buds. This all-day foray will be based at *Rose Barn*, in North Park, 10 miles north of Pittsburgh, PA. Morning and afternoon walks will be conducted in North Park and in other woodlands nearby. The habitats for these foray walks have resulted in well over 100 species found each year. Identification of species found will be led by John Plischke III.

Admission:

- ▶ Until September 1st the fee is \$30 per person for WPMC members
- ▶ Members pay \$35 per person at the door
- ▶ Non-members pay \$35 per person plus the 2012 membership fee (\$15 for an individual for \$20 for a family). After September 1st, membership fee is for 2013.
- ▶ Students (with ID) and children 11 to 18 are \$10 each. Children 10 & under free
(Please note: signing and dating the release form is an absolute requirement for attendance.)

To register and pay by check:

- ▶ Make check payable to: *Western PA Mushroom Club*
- ▶ Mail check and registration form to: WPMC, 70 Woodland Farm Road, Pittsburgh 15238.
- ▶ New members: please include membership application and 2012 dues.

To register and pay online:

- ▶ Go to the club website: <http://www.wpamushroomclub.org>
- ▶ Click on the 2012 Foray information.
- ▶ Choose the Paypal option (you may pay either using a credit card or a Paypal account).
- ▶ You will receive a release form to sign at check-in.

Registration & Release

Name 1 _____ Name 2 _____

Name 3 _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

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 _____ Date: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

For more information, contact Foray Chair: Dick Dougall (412) 486-7504,

Email: Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org

2012 Membership Application Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

The purpose of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is to promote the enjoyment, study, and exchange of information about wild mushrooms. Anyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member.

Members are entitled to:

- The WPMC newsletter
- Nine monthly WPMC meetings
- Free participation in WPMC walks
- Fee discount for WPMC forays

Name: _____ **Date** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(please print in plain block lettering or attach address label)

Annual dues: - \$15 Individual, - \$20 Family, - \$10 Student – Full Time

Dues enclosed: \$ _____

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

WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

e-mail contact: WPMC.membership@gmail.com

or

visit www.wpamushroomclub.org to pay using credit card.

Release form signed in 2012 will be in effect until termination of membership. (Please return with payment)

Normal Meeting Location:

Beechwood Farms: _____

Indiana, PA: _____

Washington County: _____

Beginning in 2011, the WPMC Newsletter will be available in full color electronically by e-mail or in black and white by US Postage.

Newsletter Options:

Electronic (e-mail): _____

Hardcopy (US Postage) _____

Future WPMC Information:

Electronic (e-mail): _____

Hardcopy (US Postage) _____

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 _____

Morel Madness Weekend 2011

Morel Madness is the largest morel foray in the eastern US. The program is free to WPMC members who show their current membership card. The program, Morel Mushrooms and their Poisonous Look-Alikes will be given by John Plischke, who has more than 60 years experience hunting morels and John Plischke III. John Plischke is a past president and a founding member of the WPMC. Saturday evening they will be presenting a program on Edible Wild Mushrooms and How to Prepare Them. John Plischke III has won more than 80 national and regional awards for his photography and is chairman of the NAMA Photo Committee. He is a founder of the Western PA Mushroom Club and the author of Morel Mushrooms and Their Poisonous Look-A-Likes and Good Mushroom, Bad Mushroom.

Discover the exciting world of fungi at the Morel Madness Weekend to be held at Mingo Creek Park. The weekend will include an introduction to morel mushrooms, organized morel mushroom hunting excursions on Saturday after-



noon, Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Come for the day or spend the weekend. Bring a collecting basket or bag, pen knife and clothing appropriate for moderate hiking and the weather. Camping is permitted on Saturday evening only. Campers and RV's are welcome, but there are no electrical hook ups.

Pre-registration is required. Call 724-228-6867.

The program fee for non-members is \$5.00 per person. The camping fee for members and non-members alike is \$5.00 per campsite.

For more information about Morel Madness go to the Washington County Parks web site at: http://www.co.washington.pa.us/downloads/parks_2011_2.pdf.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 28

11:00 a.m. Check-In / Registration (Roadside near the Henry House)

12:00 p.m. Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

12:15 p.m. Slide Show "Morels and Their Poisonous Look-Alikes"

1:00 p.m. Morel Hunting Excursions (on your own or with a group leader)

4:00 p.m. Morel Madness Round-Up. Return to Shelter 8 for Show & Tell and Mushroom Identification

4:30 p.m. Dinner, Camp Set-Up (on your own)

6:00 p.m. Evening Mushroom Hunt with Park Staff; Meet at Shelter 8

8:30 p.m. Edible Wild Mushroom Slide Show at Shelter 8

9:30 p.m. Star Party at the Observatory

Sunday, April 29

8:00 a.m. Rise and Shine Continental Breakfast at Shelter 8 (coffee, juice, donuts, muffins, etc.)

9:00 a.m. Morning Morel Hunt; Meet at Shelter 8

12:00 p.m. Program Ends - The rest of the day is on your own.

In the kitchen

Congratulations to Jim Strutz, former WPMC Newsletter Editor, who recently won a plaque and a \$250 gift card at the Giant Eagle Market District Chile Cookoff in Robinson for his special Hen O' the Woods Chile, and is sharing his recipe with club members who found a lot of Sheepshead mushrooms in 2011.

Hen O' the Woods Chile

3 cups Hen of the Woods (Maitake) mushrooms, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
3-4 stalks of celery, chopped
3-4 carrots, sliced
1 bell pepper, chopped
1 small bunch garlic cloves, peeled

and chopped
1 28-oz can crushed tomatoes
1 6-oz can tomato paste (don't throw away the can yet)
1 16-oz can red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1 16-oz can black beans, drained and rinsed
3 tblsp. ancho chile powder
1 tsp. chipotle chile powder (more or less depending on your preference)
1 tblsp. cumin powder
18 oz roasted vegetable stock (or 3 tomato-paste cans of water)
Salt and pepper to taste.
Saute the mushrooms in a large soup pot until water releases and

evaporates and the mushrooms begin to brown.

Add the vegetables and continue to saute until the onions begin to soften. Add the garlic and saute for 1 minute longer.

Add the crushed tomatoes. Stir in the tomato paste and the vegetable stock.

Bring to a boil and then reduce heat to simmer. Add the beans and spices and allow chile to simmer, partially covered, for at least an hour.

Ladle into bowls and (optionally) garnish with raw chopped onions and grated melty cheese. Serve with a side of crusty bread.

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
MUSHROOM CLUB**

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Recent Past Presidents		Identifiers								
John Stuart (See Corresp. Secretary)	Dick Dougall (See Mid- Atlantic Foray Chair)	Joe Luzanski (See Webmas- ter)	Jack Baker vbbaker8@hotmail.com 412-367-7696	Dick Dougall (See Mid-Atlantic Foray Chair)	Joyce Gross (See Historian)	Bob Lucas (See Mycological Re- corder)				