



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017



President's Message

RICHARD JACOB

THIS WILL BE THE LAST President's Message that I write for the newsletter as I finish my third and final year as President. I am particularly indebted to the Board members over the last three years who helped guide the Club, and to the committee chairs and members who have put so many volunteer hours into making WPMC what it is.

Over the last three years, we have seen the number of walks offered and the variety of locations increase. We've also tried out pop-up walks and winter walks. I would like to thank the Mushroom Walks Committee, La Monte Yarroll and John Plischke III, along with all the walk leaders and Identifiers, for making these events happen.

The main event of the year has been the Lincoff Foray, and I would like to thank the Foray organizers Dick & Mary Ellen Dougall and Barbara DeRiso (along with all the other volunteers) for making these events such great successes. Barbara DeRiso has been a constant member of the Board for many years and keeps the ship on an even keel as WPMC Treasurer.

Over the last years, WPMC has grown considerably. A big part of this growth is due to the Newsletter and Publicity, organized by Cecily Franklin. One of the most popular meetings has been Cultivation Night, and I thank Jim Tunney for running this meeting. I would also like to thank Past Presidents Jim Wasik, John Stuart and Dick Dougall, who have all given lots of great behind-the-scenes advice.

There are, of course, so many more people involved who volunteer for Hospitality, Sales, Education and Scholarship committees, among others, all of which perform vital functions of WPMC. As you can see, we rely on volunteers to make it happen. If you enjoy being a member, please consider volunteering for one of the committees or events so that we can continue to be successful.

During the past three years, we have tried to introduce a couple of new themes and continue to improve core aspects of WPMC. New topics have included Microscopy and DNA Barcoding, both of which help us identify species. These techniques, along with the online species lists and photographs, have led to an online Mushroom catalog, Bolete Filter (by Scott Pavelle) and iNaturalist project that document our local Mycoflora.

In addition to these scientific developments, we have managed to keep educating new members about edible mushrooms with classes, walks and presentations. All this and more will continue next year, along with any new ideas that are developed by the Board over the quieter winter months. I will, of course, continue to volunteer my services as Webmaster and Identifier, so you will continue to see me on walks and at meetings, etc.

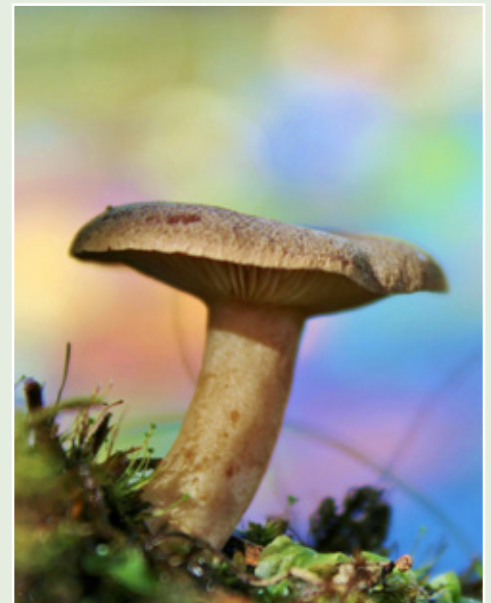
President's Message continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE: Photo Contest Winners!

Throughout this newsletter you will find the winners of the 2017 WPMC Photo Contest in four categories selected by Photo Contest Chair Rebecca Miller. Our thanks to everyone who entered, and to Rebecca for serving as Judge. Other photo entries will be featured in future newsletters.



*Third Place in the Pictorial Category
Kris Murawski, Amanita*



*Third Place Judge's Option:
Beth Dinger, Brown mushroom
at Preston Park*

Annual Lincoff Foray Draws Record Crowd!

by Barbara DeRiso

ON A BEAUTIFUL MID-SEPTEMBER Saturday, about 160 current and brand-new club members joined us at Rose Barn in North Park for our traditional Lincoff Foray. After a warm welcome by WPMC president Richard Jacob and guidance by Past-President John Stuart, participants set out in all directions through North Park and Hartwood Acres to hunt for mushrooms, accompanied by guest mycologists Gary Lincoff and Robert Chang.

At mid-day, the hunters returned with their foraged treasures. Again this year, we established an outdoor identification tent, where specimens were delivered and sorted. Selected specimens were catalogued and then forwarded to the display tables indoors.

After lunch, we returned to the lecture hall, where Guest Mycologist Robert Chang of the American Truffle Company spoke about “The American Truffle Revolution,” describing his company’s program to cultivate black truffles domestically.

Next was a Meet and Greet session, where audience members had an opportunity to chat with our guest mycologists and/or have books signed while, in the kitchen downstairs, Club Mycophagist-in-Chief Kim Plischke did a cooking demonstration.

Returning to the lecture hall upstairs, Richard Jacob gave us an update on WPMC’s DNA barcoding initiative. His talk was followed by Guest Mycologist Gary Lincoff, who discussed collecting mushrooms in the off-season, i.e. year-round, describing his club’s weekly winter treks through Central Park, snow boots and all.

While the presentations were going on upstairs, our identification team, led by La Monte Yarroll and John Plischke III, were working in the tent outside to identify mushrooms and process them for DNA barcoding.

During the afternoon, Diane Stuart, Sandy McLane and Joe Lee staffed the sales table, while Cecily Franklin, who had organized the yearly auction, sold more than 500 raffle tickets for the many donated items.

Veteran Mycophagy Chair and Chef de cuisine Kim Plischke set out a fantastic array of mushroom-based dishes, and we feasted. Special thanks go to new volunteer Peter Penn, who went above-and-beyond as Sous Chef. The kitchen in Rose Barn never looked so good!

After dinner, Gary Lincoff led a delightful and enlightening round of Table Walks. Then we cleared the tables, put the leftovers into take-home containers and called it a day.

Special thanks to:

- **Gary Lincoff, Robert Chang**, and **Richard Jacob**, our guest Mycologists
- The Foray Organizing Committee: **Richard Jacob, John Stuart, Cecily Franklin, Dick & Mary Ellen Dougall, Jim Wasik, La Monte Yarroll, Fluff Berger, Adam Haritan**, et al.
- **Joe Lee, Diane Stuart** and **Sandy McLane** for running the Sales table
- The set-up and clean-up teams
- **Cecily Franklin** for organizing and running the Auction
- **John Stuart** for organizing the walks, and all our walk leaders and Identifiers
- Mycophagy Chair **Kim Plischke**, and all our cooks
- **Jim Wasik** and **Sandy Sterner** for running the Registration desk
- **Martha Wasik** for all her help in designing and printing our posters, postcards and handouts
- **La Monte Yarroll, John Plischke III, Jim Tunney, Richard Jacob** and **Fluff Berger** for organizing the ID tent
- And to the many, many others whose contributions of time and effort made our 17th Annual Lincoff Foray so successful!

EDITOR’S NOTE: On behalf of all the WPMC members, our thanks to **Barbara DeRiso** for her tireless efforts to organize another memorable Lincoff Foray!



WPMC Identifier Sarah Banach (seated at right) enjoyed the Mushroom Feast with our guest speakers and other WPMC members. Photo by Kim Plischke



Guest Speaker Robert Chang gave a presentation on the American Truffle Revolution. Photo by Rachel Chung

Well Over 100 Species Identified and Sampled at Lincoff Foray



Guest Speaker and Principal Mycologist Gary Lincoff examined mushrooms at the outdoor display table.

Photo by Beth Dinger

WPMC MEMBERS FOUND 119 different species at the Lincoff Foray, of which eleven were new to the Club. We succeeded in sampling 115 of them for their DNA. To see the full list of species found, visit:

<http://wpamushroomclub.org/species-list-from-lincoff-foray-part-2-on-09162017/>

President's Message... *continued:*

Looking ahead to winter, the long-range weather forecasts suggest that this year's winter will be back to normal temperatures and snowfall. I'm pleased to report that La Monte Yarroll is planning at least one walk each month during the winter season, as we've been encouraged to do by Gary Lincoff. You'll find the dates and locations in this newsletter, and if other walks are added, they will be posted to our website.

For the last meeting of the year, I invite you to join us for a Potluck Dinner at Beechwood Farms, along with awards and a slide show of members' pictures. Have a great winter, and I look forward to seeing all of you in the Spring for Morel season. I hope that it will be as good as this year's!



First Place Pictorial:

Sarah Banach, Pholiota



Second Place Pictorial:

Jennifer Bechak, Chicken of the woods



Third Place The Fun in Fungi:

John Stuart, Psychedelic mushrooms in Chihuly glass



Foray attendees chose from five different morning mushroom walks.
Above photos by Beth Dinger



WPMC Mycologist La Monte Yarroll headed up the mushroom identification process.



Fabulous Food for Foray Feast

WPMC Mycologist/Mycoaphagist Kim Plischke demonstrated how to make *Mushrooms a la Russe* at this year's Lincoff Foray.

Photo by Kristine Murawski

Mushrooms a la Russe

(Mushrooms with sour cream sauce)

Courtesy of the Illinois Mycological Association

- INGREDIENTS:
- 6 tablespoons butter
 - ½ cup minced onion
 - 2 pounds mushrooms
 - 1 cup sour cream
 - Milk
 - 1 teaspoon salt or to taste
 - ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
 - ¼ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

- OPTIONAL:
- Dried or fresh dill
 - ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

1. Place mushrooms in a bowl and wash quickly but thoroughly under running water, swishing them around with your hands. Drain mushrooms in a colander, then slice roughly 1/3 inch thick.
2. In a large (10-12 inch) frying pan over medium heat, melt butter. Add minced onion and sprinkle with a little salt. Once the onions are translucent, add the mushrooms, increasing the temperature to medium-high.
3. Mushrooms will release a lot of liquid. Continue to cook until the mushrooms are moist [but] nearly dry of excess liquid. This will concentrate the mushroom flavor.
4. Stir in the sour cream, then thin with milk to desired consistency. Add in Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper to taste. Serve.

Here's a list of all the cooks who provided dishes for this year's Mushroom Feast:

Valerie Baker	Shannon Baldrige	Sarah Banach
Liz Burkhardt	Xiaoyan Cai	Rachel Chung
Barbara DeRiso	Mary Ellen Dougall	Adam Haritan
Patty Houck	Judy Mackenroth	Scott & Kate Pavelle
Natalya Pinchuk	Kim Plischke	Sandy Sterner
Charlotte Tunney	Jim Wasik	

Raffle & Silent Auction Bring Lots of Fun (and Funds) to WPMC

WPMC WOULD LIKE TO THANK those members who donated items for the Foray Raffle, and especially to the artists who donated their unique works of art. Thirty-four lucky members won items in the raffle, and four bidders received original artworks. Congratulations to all the winners, and thanks to everyone who entered. All proceeds directly benefit the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.



Fluff Knows Her Stuff!

WPMC Identifier Fluff Berger (right) discusses mushrooms found during a walk at Harrison Hills park.



*Second Place Documentary:
Cecily Franklin, **Lycoperdon perlatum** on an evergreen cone*

WPMC IDENTIFIER FLUFF BERGER recently taught two classes on Fall Fungi and led mushrooms walks at both parks. On September 23, Fluff taught a class at Harrison Hills Park, with 36 people in attendance. After spending an hour learning about edible fungi and another hour discussing poisonous fungi, the group went on a mushroom walk in record high heat! On October 14, Fluff led a session for about 15 people at Fern Hollow Nature Center, followed by a mushroom walk in Sewickley Heights Borough Park.

Fluff's reaction after both events was, "It went great! Lots of positive comments. Lots of people...stayed to talk about what we found."



*Third Place Documentary:
Dick Dougall, **Amanita banningiana***



*Gary Lincoff presented the award to John Plischke III.
Photo by Sarah Banach*



*Fourth Place:
Ron Hilton, **Red Eft** on **Megacollybia rodmani***

WPMC Mycologist Wins National Award

WPMC MYCOLOGIST JOHN PLISCHKE III received the North American Mycological Association's Gary Lincoff Award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology at this year's NAMA Foray. This award is given annually to recognize a person who has contributed extraordinarily to the advancement of amateur mycology. Recipients have extensively conducted workshops, led forays, written or lectured widely about mushrooms and identifying mushrooms, all on a national or international level. The selection among nominees is made by the past award winners, and the award is a plaque and lifetime membership in NAMA. Congratulations, John!



WPMC Members Elect New Officers for 2018

AT THE OCTOBER MEETING, WPMC members elected officers for next year. Four of our five officers will remain the same as this year. However, Richard Jacob, who has been an outstanding President for the past three years, is no longer eligible to run for the same office again. Here is the full Board of Directors for 2018:



CECILY FRANKLIN PRESIDENT

Cecily is fortunate to live on nearly three acres of oak-hickory forest. Her interest in mushrooms began in 2005, after she left the corporate rat race and began her Forest Ecology Restoration Project (FERP). She and her husband, Richard Franklin, enjoy finding, cooking and eating wild

mushrooms and posting photos to the WPMC Facebook Group. In 2017, their property was certified as a Pennsylvania Pollinator Friendly Garden. Cecily is returning to the Board, having previously served as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Vice President. She currently edits the WPMC newsletter and handles club publicity. Cecily is also a member of the Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association, with piano students in the Fox Chapel area.



ADAM HARITAN VICE PRESIDENT

Although Adam Haritan has only been a member of WPMC for five years, he has made significant contributions to the club's success. He currently serves as WPMC's Vice President and previously held the office of Corresponding Secretary. Just this year, Adam became an official WPMC

Identifier. Adam is a frequent walk leader and photographer. He was the speaker for our July 2016 monthly meeting and a teacher at this year's mushroom classes.

Outside of WPMC, Adam teaches classes and workshops on topics including foraging, plant ID, tree ID, and mushroom ID. He also runs LearnYourLand.com—a community and online database of Pennsylvania's naturalists and nature-related events. If you haven't seen his informative videos, then check out his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/learnyourland>



ANN 'FLUFF' BERGER SECRETARY

Fluff Berger has been with WPMC since 2010, and has served on the Board in various capacities for 5 years. She's an official WPMC Identifier and chairs our Education Committee. In addition to leading several walks this year, Fluff also taught mushroom classes and led walks at both

Harrison Hills Park and Fern Hollow Nature Center. She assists in identifying mushrooms at the monthly meetings, after walks, and at the annual Lincoff Foray. Fluff enjoys foraging, finding new fungi and photographing them, posting her findings on Mushroom Observer and iNaturalist. When not hiking the forest, she enjoys spending time with her kids and babysitting her grandchildren.



BARBARA DERISO TREASURER

Barbara DeRiso, current WPMC Treasurer, has been a WPMC member since 2007 and Treasurer since 2009. She also served as Membership Chair in 2010 and, since 2009, has served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. Her initiatives on behalf of the Club have resulted

in our establishing a Paypal account for on-line payment of dues and event registration; using in-person credit cards to accept funds at meetings or events; and tax returns being filed electronically using the IRS ePostcard system. She executed the Board's decision to consolidate the Club's belongings in a storage space and generally serves as its manager. She has attended every Lincoff Foray since 2008 and currently chairs the Foray Committee. She typically leads one or two WPMC walks each year.

Barbara is a retired anesthesiologist. Additional interests include organic gardening, learning to speak Italian, and visiting Italy annually, often to hunt and collect mushrooms, and always to enjoy its foods and wines.



LA MONTE YARROLL NAMA TRUSTEE

La Monte H.P. Yarroll has been an active member of WPMC for more than a decade and has been a Club Mycologist for most of that time. Recently, he has been organizing the Lincoff Foray and monthly meeting Mushroom Displays and WPMC walks. La Monte has attended several

NEMF, NAMA and other regional forays, where he has done identification work, including microscopy and chemical testing. He is active in NAMA's Mycoflora 2.0 project and has been a speaker for WPMC and other mushroom events. He leads walks several times a year and self-identifies as the Club's Inedible Fungi expert, concentrating on slime molds, sordariomycetes and crusts. When not collecting mushrooms, he sings, programs computers and raises five fine children with his wife Eve.

Save the Dates!

Next year's 18th Annual Lincoff Foray will be held again at Rose Barn on Saturday, September 15th, 2018. And once again, Gary Lincoff is planning a two-day walk at Cook Forest for Thursday & Friday, September 13th and 14th. Mark your calendars!



*Richard Duffy has been a WPMC member since it was first started in 2000.
Photo by Cecily Franklin*



*First Place The Fun in Fungi:
Gordon Bailey & Justyna Ausareny, Mushroom Mania*

WPMC Membership Report

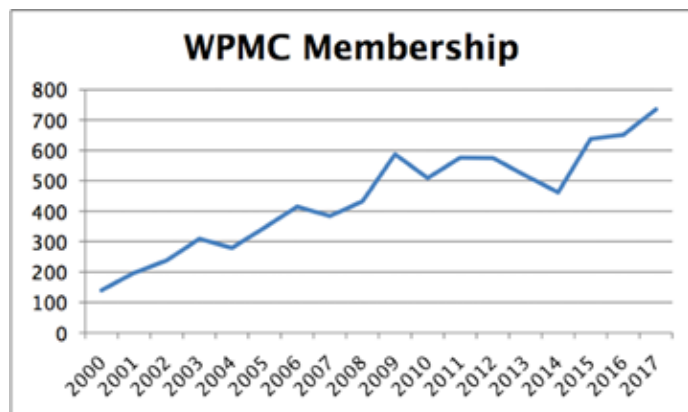
by Jim Wasik

AS OF OCTOBER 2017, WPMC has grown to be larger than ever before. Currently, we have 741 members, a 14% increase over 2016, when we had 651 members at year's end. So far this year, we have retained 72% of the membership from 2016 and added 271 new members. Currently, new membership accounts for 37% of our total membership. We are sorry to say that 18% of the 2016 members did not renew; however, we welcome the NEW members and hope that they continue to be with us for a LONG time.

Congratulations to everyone for getting the word out about WPMC. Through your efforts, we have made the Club our biggest ever. I'm proud to acknowledge those members of WPMC who have stuck with the Club since its beginning in 2000:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jack & Valerie Baker | Dick & Mary Ellen Dougall |
| Richard Duffy | Joyce, George & Jill Gross |
| Bob Lucas & Liz Barrow | Jim Marcinko |
| Robert Mullen | John & Kim Plischke |
| John & Becky Plischke | Fred & Peggy Schrock |
| Mark Spear & Rebecca Miller | Sandy Sterner |
| Jim & Charlotte Tunney | Moni Wesner |
| Phillip & Deborah Wiley | |

The following graph shows the growth of WPMC membership through the years.



*First Place Documentary:
Richard Jacob, Xeromphalina campanella*



*First Place Judge's Option:
Patty Houck, Calostoma cinnabarinum*

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY a member of the North American Mycological Association, you might consider joining at www.namyc.org. NAMA not only hosts an annual foray, but provides a meeting point for amateur clubs throughout North America to exchange ideas and further the recreation and science of mushrooms.

WPMC elects a Trustee to NAMA to share our activities with other NAMA clubs and to bring back the latest from clubs around the continent. I attended the Northwoods Foray near Cable, Wisconsin, on September 7-10, 2017. This was a well-researched site that produced a plethora of mushrooms.

WPMC was well represented at NAMA by myself, Richard Jacob, John & Kim Plischke, and Adam Haritan. I went a day early to attend the Trustees Meeting. I go to these events mainly to practice my identification skills, especially with the microscope. However, I did make it out into the woods for one walk and attended a few talks.

The Walk—I went on a nearby walk Friday morning. It was not one of the walks in the official schedule, but we had a walk leader. It was billed as a “city park”, but was open forest featuring lots of birch. Walkers varied in skill from rank beginners to seasoned veterans, which made for some enjoyable conversations. Collecting wasn't great, but we did come back with a few dozen collections.

The Talks—Foray coordinator Emily Stone gave the opening keynote, an account of the natural history of the area, “Northwoods Nature: A mushroom haven 1.1 billion years in the making.” She covered all the different habitats, the history of glaciation, and the soils and conditions that made such fantastic habitat.

Michael Beug gave a fascinating keynote the second night, “Hallucinogenic Mushrooms as Entheogens: The Use of *Psilocybin* Mushrooms in Recreation, Mental Health and Spirituality.” An ‘entheogen’ is a substance that brings experiences of being closer to a god. Dr. Beug is one of the leading experts on the genus *Psilocybe*. He talked about the culture that grew up around *psilocybin* in the 60's and 70's from a first-person perspective. He told about his one use of the mushrooms in the early 1980s that permanently changed his life for the better. Since 2010, research at Johns Hopkins and UCLA has identified important roles for *psilocybin* in psychotherapy. They've reported positive results in dealing with PTSD and depression at high rates—and permanently—in a single session. *Psilocybin* appears to make permanent changes to brain wiring, generally increasing empathy. It was a moving account from one of the early researchers in the field.

Nik Money gave one of his engaging mixes of history, science and philosophy, “The Meaning of Life in Ten Mushrooms.”

My friend from Chicago, Greg Mueller, talked about “Fungal Conservation: Science, Engagement, Action.” My takeaway was that the work we are doing with Mycoflora 2.0 is a critical part to establishing meaningful fungal conservation. We need to know what mushrooms occur where, when, and whether they are decreasing.

Collections—We identified more collections than ever before, with well over 500 species identified. Most nights I was in the lab past midnight working specimens either for myself or on behalf of others. No major foray is complete without checking some microscopic feature for Alan Bessette.

For the first time, NAMA took vouchers of interesting specimens we were only able to identify to genus, including a puffball that I worked on in the genus *Vascellum*. The goal is to broaden our coverage of species that may not yet be described. Also for the first time, I collected photos, DNA, and vouchers of *Myxomycetes*, the slime

molds. As you may know, these organisms are not fungi at all, but tend to be studied by mycologists for historical reasons. Dr. Dennis Miller has agreed to fingerprint our DNA and Dr. Steven Stephenson has agreed to provide a permanent herbarium for the collections. (The Field Museum in Chicago, the NAMA repository for the last 20 years, only takes fungal vouchers.)

The NAMA Board Meeting: Lots of Opportunities for WPMC

The Mycological Society of America (the professionals) has put up a \$20,000 matching fund for DNA sequencing at the amateur level. I presented a proposal to the NAMA board on behalf of the Mycoflora Committee to provide a similar fund. Amateur involvement is essential to the success of the Mycoflora Project, and we have established some momentum with the recent reinvigoration of the North American Mycoflora Project. Dr. Michael Beug gave a particularly impassioned endorsement of the Mycoflora Project and NAMA's current efforts, which I think swayed many members. The board agreed to provide \$10,000 over the next three years to fund sequencing of NAMA collections and subsidize sequencing by member clubs. This is a substantial fraction of NAMA's operating budget.

WPMC was cited as one of eight clubs which has participated in the pilot of the Mycoflora Project sequencing efforts, with a special shout-out to Club President Richard Jacob.

NAMA is looking for a Dyeing and Fiber Committee chair. It occurs to me that we have a member who would be qualified for this position.

Another topic covered at the board meeting was the creation of a contact trifold for NAMA to hand out. Previous work on this petered out a couple of years ago. When they asked for volunteers to help make this finally happen, I volunteered our very own Bertie Yarroll to act as Graphic Artist for this effort. (I was able to confirm his participation by text message.)

The board meeting finished with a discussion of NAMA Futuring. One possible direction is the establishment of additional Key Councils along the line of the Pacific Northwest Key Council. The PNWKC has produced keys of species found in the Pacific Northwest for many years. Can we imagine a Mid-Atlantic Key Council? PNWKC is willing to share their software and data to get things rolling.

NAMA Trustees were encouraged to write up regular updates on NAMA activities for their local newsletters. I asked for an estimate of the number of members in NAMA-affiliated clubs and was promptly given 10,200 as the total. WPMC represents about 7% of that total membership! Our work with Allegheny Land Trust and other organizations in doing species surveys is evidently novel, and I was also encouraged to write up our activities for the Mycophile, NAMA's newsletter. Our Button Program is also an innovation which stirred interest, so we should pull together an article for the Mycophile.

Future NAMA Forays—Next Year's NAMA Foray will be at the Macleay Conference & Retreat Center in Salem, Oregon, October 11-14, 2018. The 2019 Foray will be August 8-11 in Northern New York.

NAMA's Mycoflora Committee Calls for More Citizen Scientists

Stephen Russell, Chair of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Mycoflora Committee, has issued a request for new members or volunteers to assist with the committee's Citizen Science goals. If you are interested in pursuing one of these specific areas, please contact Steve at steve@hoosiermushrooms.org.

AREAS OF NEED ARE:

Mycoflora Project Public Launch Working Group—We are in need of individuals who will help create and execute a formalized Public Relations (PR) plan for traditional and social media channels in the next couple of months. We need help designing a message calendar, creating PR materials, sending releases, and everything else that goes with implementing a major PR push. If you have a background in this area, or know people that do, your help could bring a significant contribution towards this project.

Club Outreach Working Group—Throughout this year, we will be working to organize mushroom clubs from across the country to participate in this project. Individuals working towards this goal will get clubs the information they need to participate, arrange speaking slots/workshops for clubs, revise educational materials, and recruit more clubs for the project.

Funding Application Review Working Group—For 2018, the NAMA board has allocated funding to sequence 200 collections from NAMA-affiliated clubs. To participate, interested clubs will submit a short application to this committee, requesting dollars from the fund. This working group will develop the standards to judge applications by, develop the application, and rank the merits of individual applications as clubs apply.

Mycoflora Committee Webmaster—The NAMA website needs to be updated with Mycoflora Project information, procedures, and protocols. We can also always use help with the new Mycoflora Project website that is being created.

Fungarium Liaison—A large number of fungaria from around the country need to be brought into this program. We are looking for a dedicated individual who would be willing to be the liaison between the Mycoflora Project and these fungaria.

Representative to the Oregon Foray (October 2018)—Next year NAMA has allocated funds to sequence 200 specimens at the annual foray. We are looking for an individual to stay abreast of Oregon foray planning, and work with them (and other interested local organizations) to see if we can develop funding to sequence everything that comes into the foray.

Regional Key Councils—Thinking towards the longer term, regional keys will be a vital aspect of the outcomes of the Mycoflora Project. We would like some individuals to start taking a look at what was done in the Pacific Northwest and how this might translate to other areas of the country.



*Second Place The Fun in Fungi:
David Zehner, Big Morel*



*Second Place Judge's Option:
Lynn Gill, Pholiotas (2 photos)*



*WPMC Mycologist and NAMA Trustee La Monte Yarroll was up all night analyzing mushrooms at the NAMA Foray.
Photo by Richard Jacob*



WPMC Monthly Meetings

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month from March thru November at Beechwood Farms: Audubon Society of Western PA, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

All monthly meetings are free and include a Mushroom Display Table staffed by expert Identifiers.

NOVEMBER 21: POT LUCK DINNER & MEMBER PHOTOS

The final WPMC meeting of the year on November 21 will include our traditional Pot Luck dinner and member photos.

For the Pot Luck, bring something for 6-8 people. It does not need to be mushroom related but, if so, please use only cultivated mushrooms. The categories are: Appetizers, Salads, Hot Dishes, Cold Plates, Casseroles, Desserts, anything you want—be creative. WPMC will provide soft drinks, plates, dinnerware, napkins, and take-home boxes.

If you would like to bring a set of photos for the Open Forum, please bring no more than 15 pictures for a short presentation on a flash (thumb) drive. JPG format is preferred. The photos don't need to be in PowerPoint; just the pictures will also work. Topics may include mushrooms, vacations, hobbies, etc. Let's see what you're doing in your life (no politics, please). You may narrate your photos or just let them run through without descriptions, using the built-in software.

DATES SET FOR 2018 MEETINGS

Mark your 2018 calendars for next year's monthly WPMC meetings:

March 20	April 17	May 15
June 19	July 17	August 21
September 18	October 16	November 20

WPMC Walks & Presentations

In an effort to maintain mushroom walks throughout the winter, WPMC is pleased to announce the following walk dates and locations:

Nov. 11 Robin Hill Park

949 Thorn Run Road, Moon Township. Meet WPMC Identifier Sarah Banach in the parking lot at Robin Hill Park.
park map: <http://www.moonparks.org/parks/robinhill.asp>

Nov. 18 Mingo Creek County Park, Washington County

Meet WPMC Identifier Jared White at the Ebenezer covered bridge near the East Entrance on Mingo Creek Road.
meeting place: <https://goo.gl/maps/euRgcFwP8Sq>
map: <http://www.co.washington.pa.us/documentcenter/view/199>

Dec. 16 North Park

Jan. 20, 2018 South Park

Feb. 10, 2018 Deer Lakes Park

All walks are on Saturdays, beginning at 10:00 a.m., unless noted otherwise. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. We're always adding new walks to our website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/events so check back often for updates, directions, and much more!

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

An Item of Interest:



November 10 - December 3, 2017

Spinning Plate Gallery

5821 Baum Blvd • Pittsburgh PA 15206

**A fanciful woodland created from polymer clay by
over 300 artists from around the world.**

www.intotheforestinstallation.com



WPMC Scholarships & Grants

WPMC administers an annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions. WPMC's Scholarship/Grant application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information, contact John Stuart at jons2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

WPMC's Non-Profit Status Makes Donations Tax-Deductible

Looking for a way to support WPMC beyond paying your annual dues? Make a donation anytime; it's tax-deductible 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, Barbara DeRiso.

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.

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*Interested in leading a mushroom walk?
Know of a good mushrooming location?
Contact La Monte Yarroll or John Plischke III.*

WPMC YAHOO GROUPS:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub/>
NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA):
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NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

2018

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

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

Members are entitled to:

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

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

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

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

MEMBERS:

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

1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____