



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018

President's Message **CECILY FRANKLIN**

MUSHROOM-WISE, THIS YEAR has brought us an embarrassment of riches. WPMC members are doing things I've never seen before. Like offering to give away some of their excess mushrooms. And passing up the opportunity to stop the car for giant puffballs along the roadside. And even (gasp!) sharing the locations of their best hunting spots. You won't find better examples of "Fungi, Fun and Friends."

I would like to thank all of those WPMC members who have already volunteered their services for next year. In the past, it has sometimes been a challenge to find Board members. But this year, every Officer agreed to stay on for another year! Also, **Rebecca Miller** has volunteered to organize another May Cultivation Meeting. Past-President **Richard Jacob** has offered to speak at our March meeting. And **Judy Mackenroth** will once again organize the Foray Raffle, which already has four donations. Let's hear it for continuity!

At the same time, some responsibilities will be taken over by other members. For example, WPMC Identifier **Josh Doty** will replace Rebecca Miller as Photography Chair and will judge the annual Photo Contest. WPMC Officer **Fluff Berger** will assume responsibilities for the Lincoff Foray from **Barbara DeRiso**. Hooray for succession planning!

Please consider all of the ways that you, too, can contribute to WPMC's success next year.

Final Meeting of the Year: November 20

Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos

The final WPMC meeting of the year on November 20 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, **use only cultivated, store-bought 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 photos 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.

18th Annual Gary Lincoff (Memorial) Foray

THIS WAS OUR FIRST Lincoff Foray without Gary Lincoff, but it was hardly a somber occasion! About 150 attendees, including 30 new members, joined the festivities at Rose Barn in North Park.

The morning began with five separate mushroom walks, organized by Past-President **John Stuart** and led by many of WPMC's Identifiers and Mycologists. As members returned from their hunts, the mushrooms were taken to an outdoor mushroom display, where they were identified and sorted. Some specimens were then taken indoors for display, while others were selected for DNA analysis.

After lunch, the program began with a video tribute to Gary Lincoff, produced by WPMC Officer **Adam Haritan**. Then world-famous mushroom photographer **Taylor Lockwood** wowed us with his photos of bioluminescent mushrooms, including the one selected by the U.S. Postal Service for its Bioluminescent Life Forever Stamps.

During the next hour, attendees had the opportunity to watch WPMC Mycologist and professional chef **Garrett Taylor** prepare Mushroom Tacos. At the same time, all of our speakers were available



Four-year-old Sebastian Stein was excited to find his favorite Chanterelles at the Lincoff Foray.

Photo by Bob Stein

for a Meet & Greet session, complete with autographs of their books and other materials. The break also gave attendees a chance to buy raffle tickets and visit the Sales Table, managed by **Jared Delaney**. And while all of this was going on, Past-President **Richard Jacob**, WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** and others were busy documenting, photographing, drying and preserving selected specimens.

Next up was award-winning mycologist **Walt Sturgeon**, who presented "Mushrooms of the Appalachians," in anticipation of his soon-to-be-released book of the same name. And finally, our own **John Plischke III** gave an entertaining and informative presentation on "Edible Mushrooms and How to Prepare Them."

Judy Mackenroth announced the many winners of our Auction/Raffle, after which everyone headed downstairs for the traditional Mushroom Feast, organized by **Kim Plischke** and assisted by an army of cooks. Everybody had one more chance to look at the mushroom display, as **Walt Sturgeon** and **John Plischke III** led the annual Table Walk.

continued on page 2

SAVE THE DATE: Next year's Lincoff Foray will take place on Saturday, September 21, 2019, at the Rose Barn in North Park.

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest Carries on Gary Lincoff's Tradition

By Adam Haritan



WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor (bottom left) took this group shot at Cook Forest.

OVER 30 MUSHROOM ENTHUSIASTS gathered together at Cook Forest State Park on Friday, September 14th to explore the old growth woods in search of late summer fungi. Led by club mycologist **Garrett Taylor** and state park environmental educator Dale Luthringer, the pre-foray walk kicked off the 18th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray and celebrated the world-renowned mycologist who created the Cook Forest tradition three years ago. Among the many people in attendance were distinguished photographer **Taylor Lockwood** and author **Walt Sturgeon**.

During the morning hours, participants explored the Tom's Run valley within the Forest Cathedral area, collecting fungi of all different sizes, colors, shapes, and species. This particular part of the park features old growth eastern hemlock trees, eastern white pine trees, and birch trees. A wide variety of fungi were collected within a two-hour window, including species within the *Cortinarius*, *Inocybe*, *Ganoderma*, *Russula*, *Lactarius*, and *Amanita* genera. Choice edibles included chanterelles, hedgehog mushrooms, and a variety of boletes.

Informal afternoon walks were conducted throughout various parts of Cook Forest, including the Fire Tower area and northern sections of the park. These latter habitats, replete with mature hardwood trees, allowed participants to collect unique fungi that associate with mature oak and American beech trees.

Throughout the day, dozens of fungal species were harvested and collected by enthusiastic mushroom hunters who certainly experienced the satisfaction of a successful mushroom hunt. The true spirit of Gary Lincoff was surely felt by each and every participant who stopped, noticed, and collected a mushroom on Friday, September 14th in Cook Forest State Park. May the tradition that Gary created continue for years to come!

LOST & FOUND: Someone left a wicker basket at the Foray. If you can describe it, along with the items left inside, we will try to return it to you. Email cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

Gary Lincoff Foray (continued)

Special thanks go to:

- **Diane Stuart & Sandy McLane** for staffing the registration table.
- **La Monte Yarroll** and the other Mycologists and Identifiers who worked the mushroom display tables.
- **John Stuart** for organizing the five morning walks.
- Walk leaders **Fluff Berger, Jim Wilson, Dick & Mary Ellen Dougall, Adam Haritan, Richard Jacob, Jack Baker** and **John Plischke III**.
- **Richard Jacob** for handling the Audio-Visual requirements.
- **Kim Plischke** for organizing the Mushroom Feast.
- **Mike Ott** for set-up and crowd control.
- **Joe Lee** for delivering supplies.
- Guest speakers **Taylor Lockwood, Walt Sturgeon** and **John Plischke III**.
- **Garrett Taylor** for leading the walk at Cook Forest and for doing the cooking demo.
- **Judy Mackenroth** for organizing the auction.
- **Jared Delaney** for managing the Sales Table.
- **Cecily Franklin** for serving on the Foray Committee and handling Publicity.
- **Martha Wasik** for designing and printing the Foray graphics.
- **Barbara DeRiso** and **Don Newman** for hosting a guest mycologist.
- All of our cooks.
- And everyone else who pitched in for a successful Foray!

After five years of chairing the Foray Committee, **Barbara DeRiso** is passing the torch to **Fluff Berger**. Thank you, Barb, for all your years of dedication to this important annual event.

WPMC Samples 80 Species for DNA

By Richard Jacob

AT COOK FOREST STATE PARK on Friday, September 14, a huge range of species were found and identified, with many making their way to the display tables at the Lincoff Foray in North Park the next day or selected for DNA barcoding. Amazingly, 26 species new to the club were identified by WPMC Mycologists and Identifiers. The area is so diverse with fungi that there were still unidentified species on the tables at the end of the day!

On Saturday, September 15, the traditional Lincoff Foray was held at Rose Barn in North Park. Perfect weather again made for five very pleasant walks in the woods in the surrounding area. There had been plenty of rain in the preceding weeks, resulting in a wide array of mushroom species. As usual, there were still unidentified species on the table at the end of the day.

Approximately 80 species from Cook Forest and North Park were sampled for DNA. To see the entire list of species found on the walk at Cook Forest State Park:

➔ [CLICK HERE](#)

For the entire list of species found at the Lincoff Foray in North Park:

➔ [CLICK HERE](#)



WPMC Mycologists La Monte Yarroll (left) and Garrett Taylor set up the outdoor mushroom display table. Photo by Cecily Franklin

Many Cooks Contributed to Successful Mushroom Feast



Kim Plischke organized the Mushroom Feast, delivered a truckload of supplies, and prepared many of the dishes herself.

Photos by Cecily Franklin



Judy Mackenroth sliced fresh tomatoes for the foray feast.



Danielle A. Schoonover-Wils chopped many, many hen-of-the-woods at the Lincoff Foray.

WPMC would like to thank the following cooks for their generous contributions to this year's Mushroom Feast:

Valerie Baker

Sarah Banach

Fluff Berger

Xiaoyan Cai

Kathy Chen

Kathy Croft

Barbara DeRiso

Mary Ellen Dougall

Adam Haritan

Victoria Khersonsky

Joe Lee

Elaine Lowe

Judy Mackenroth

Kris Murawski

Scott & Kate Pavelle

Kim Plischke

Heidi Rochte

Danielle Schoonover-Wils

Sandy Sterner

Charlotte Tunney

Jim & Sharon Wilson

Meredith Woods & Mark River

Please accept our sincere apologies if we have overlooked anyone.

Recipe from Lincoff Foray

Here's the recipe for Mushroom Tacos, as prepared by WPMC Mycologist and Chef Garrett Taylor.

- 5 cups Wild mushrooms, chopped
- 1 can 14.5 oz. Coconut Milk
- 1/2 White onion, peeled and sliced 1/2" thick
- 3 Tomatoes
- 5 Garlic Cloves, still in the husk
- 1 or 2 Jalapeno Pepper(s)
- 3 Tbsp. Bragg's Amino Acids (or soy sauce)
- 2 Limes, juiced
- 1 Tbsp. Cumin

1. Turn broiler on high or line large pan with foil on the stove top.
2. Cook tomatoes until blackened on each side. Repeat with peppers, garlic cloves and slices of onion. *(They cook at different rates. The goal is to get some charring; further cooking will happen in the next step. A jar of salsa would substitute.)*
3. Remove garlic husks and pepper stems (and seeds if you want less heat). Grind mixture up finely, include any juices.
4. Bring coconut milk to boil and add the mushrooms.
5. Return to a boil, reduce heat and cover.
6. Cook 10 minutes.
7. Add tomatoes and cumin.
8. Cook, stirring occasionally, until it reaches a desired consistency.
9. Add Bragg's and lime juice.
10. Serve in taco shells.

A Message from Irene Liberman

Dear members of the Western PA Mushroom Club,

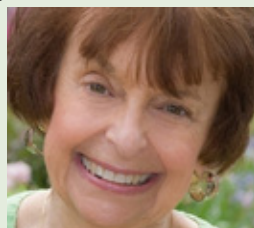
Gary had no idea when he told John Sr. that if he made a club Gary would come. Is it 18 years now? We had such fun at the Gary Lincoff Foray. He always got a kick out of the name, but really was so fond of all of you! Thank you so much for the thoughtful and lovely card.

At some point I hope to join you again, but this year and this weekend are just too busy. Gary never felt that way about you folks and always made time and looked forward to seeing and collecting with you.

I hope North Park was as wonderful as our NY City parks. It's been a mushroom year in maybe 30—quite spectacular. I didn't water my garden in July and barely in August. The Boletes have been quite incredible and quite puzzling as well.

Very best wishes to all of you and thank you again for the kind memories.

Irene Liberman (Lincoff)



Raffle and Silent Auction Help WPMC's Fundraising Efforts

WPMC WOULD LIKE to thank the following current and former members who generously donated merchandise to this year's very successful raffle and silent auction:

Mike Benaglio

Shirley Caseman

Dick & Mary Ellen Dougall

Patty Houck

Dr. Donald J. Plazek

Jim Wilson

Fluff Berger

Barbara DeRiso

Cecily Franklin

Elaine Lowe

Rose Silva

Thanks also to **Judy Mack-enroth** for selling hundreds of raffle tickets and to everyone who participated. All proceeds benefit the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.



First Day of Issue Stamp on Display

WPMC MEMBERS CAN get a good look at Taylor Lockwood's stamp, featuring his bioluminescent mushroom photo. Taylor generously donated a "First Day of Issue" envelope with the stamp, which is now in the glass display case at Beechwood Farms.



WPMC in the News

ON JUNE 2, WPMC HELD a mushroom walk at Bird Park, as part of Mt. Lebanon Conservancy's Bioblitz of Bird and Robb Hollow Parks. WPMC Mycologists and Identifiers included **Jim Tunney, John Plischke III, La Monte Yarroll, Dick Dougall, and Blaine Sanner.**

We were accompanied by a reporter and photographer from *Mt. Lebanon Magazine*, who also interviewed Rebecca Wanovich, a WPMC member from Mt. Lebanon. To read the full article, go to:

→ [CLICK HERE](#)

Election of 2019 Officers



President - Cecily Franklin

CECILY WILL SERVE a second year as President and has previously served on WPMC's Board as Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Vice President. She continues to edit the WPMC newsletter and handle Club publicity. As a result of Cecily's efforts this year, WPMC was featured in six major articles in *Pittsburgh Quarterly*, *Go Erie*, *Post-Gazette*, *Mt. Lebanon Magazine*, and *Trib Live*.

In 2015, Cecily won WPMC's President's Award, and in 2017, she received the Club's Outstanding Service award. This year, she organized Mushroom Education Day, the August meeting on Chemical and Microscopic Analysis, and taught at WPMC's naturalist training for Allegheny Land Trust personnel. Cecily's mushroom photos have been published in *FUNGI Magazine* and on the websites of WPMC, Michael Kuo and Gary Emberger.



Vice President - Ann 'Fluff' Berger

FLUFF JOINED THE WPMC Board in 2014 and has served in various Secretary positions prior to being elected Vice President. Fluff is also an official WPMC Identifier and chairs our Education Committee. Last year Fluff won WPMC's President's Award.

This year Fluff led walks at Devil's Hollow and Sewickley Heights Borough Park and taught

two classes on Mushroom Education Day. She assists in identifying mushrooms at the monthly meetings, after walks, and at the annual Lincoff Foray. Fluff's photos have been featured on WPMC's promotional materials and on the websites of Michael Kuo, Mushroom Observer and iNaturalist.



Secretary - Adam Haritan

ADAM JOINED THE WPMC Board in 2016 and has served as both Corresponding Secretary and Vice President. He is an official WPMC Identifier and serves on the Foray Planning Committee. Adam is a frequent walk leader, speaker, and instructor for WPMC events. This year he led a walk at Todd Nature Reserve.

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. Adam has published a "Fun Guide to Fungi", and his informative videos can be seen on his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/learnyourland>



Treasurer - Barbara DeRiso

BARBARA DERISO HAS been a WPMC member since 2007 and Treasurer since 2009. She has attended every Lincoff Foray since 2008 and has chaired the Foray Committee for the past five years. Barbara won WPMC's President's Award in 2010 and the Outstanding Service Award in both 2011 and 2015. This year she led a walk at Camp Guyasuta and handled on-site registration for Mushroom Education Day.

At the October meeting, WPMC members elected next year's Board of Directors.

Barbara's initiatives on behalf of WPMC have resulted in 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 having tax returns filed electronically using the IRS ePostcard system. She executed the Board's decision to consolidate WPMC's belongings in a storage space and generally serves as its manager.



NAMA Trustee - La Monte H. P. Yarroll

LA MONTE HAS BEEN an active member of WPMC for more than a decade and has been a Club Mycologist for most of that time. La Monte currently serves as Trustee to the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), where he is active on the Mycoflora 2.0 project. At this year's WPMC meeting in April, he gave a presentation on the work of the Mycoflora Committee.

In 2017, La Monte received WPMC's Outstanding Service award. This year, he represented WPMC at the NAMA Foray, the Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) Foray and the Peck Foray. He organized naturalist training for Allegheny Land Trust personnel and led many walks, including two at ALT's Sycamore Island. La Monte oversees the mushroom displays for WPMC's monthly meetings and the annual Lincoff Foray. He also organizes walks, does microscopic and chemical analysis of mushrooms, and considers himself to be our expert on inedible fungi.

New Study Available

Mushrooms could solve the war on plastic.

THE FIRST EVER REPORT on the state of the world's fungi has revealed that, if the natural properties of fungus can be harnessed and developed, plastic could be broken down naturally in weeks, rather than years. Kew Gardens and a team of over 100 scientists from 18 countries compiled the paper, which shows how different organisms can decompose plastics, clean up radioactive material and even speed up the production of biodiesel.

Found last year by a team of Chinese scientists on a rubbish dump in Pakistan, *Aspergillus tubingensis* breaks down bonds between plastic molecules and then splits them using its mycelia. The process takes a matter of weeks, rather than the decades it usually requires for plastic to naturally disintegrate.

"This ability has the potential to be developed into one of the tools desperately needed to address the growing environmental problem of plastic waste," says the report. It is hoped that fungi could revolutionize the recycling process and provide a sustainable decomposition method for plastics.

To read the full article:

→ [CLICK HERE](#)

2018 WPMC Photo Contest Winners!

THERE WERE 29 PARTICIPANTS who entered photos in four categories that were selected by Photography Chair **Rebecca Miller**. Other photo entries will be featured in future newsletters. Our thanks to everyone who entered.

After nearly ten years of judging the Photo Contest, Rebecca is pleased to turn this responsibility over to WPMC Identifier **Josh Doty**. According to Rebecca, "My only qualification was willingness." In an all-volunteer organization like WPMC, willingness is the most important qualification!



Documentary

1. RICHARD JACOB

Porpolomopsis calyptriformis (wax cap)



Documentary

2. LOUKAS SAVVIDIS

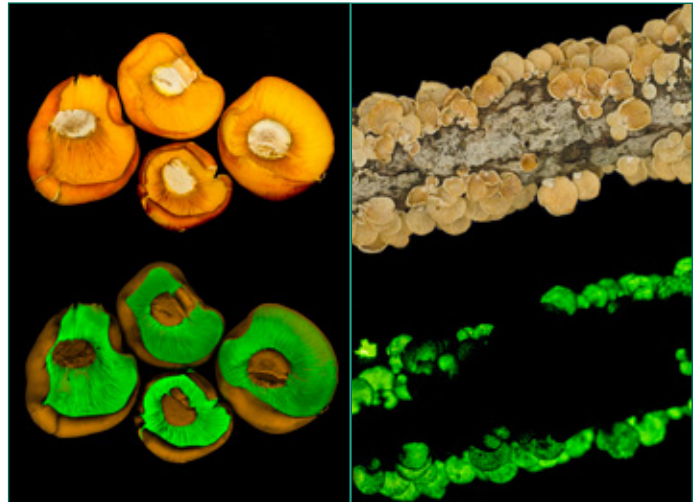
Suillus spp.



Documentary

3. JUDITH MACKENROTH

Pholiota on Hemlock log



Judge's Option

1. JARED WHITE

Omphalotus illudens

Panellus stipticus



Judge's Option

2. CAREY LOWEN

Beagle & Dryad



Pictorial

1. FLUFF BERGER
Marasmius sullivantii



Pictorial

2. TERI CHUPRINKO
Boletus frostii



Judge's Option

3. VICTOR POLK
It's Your Day!



Pictorial

3. PATRICIA HOUCK
Mushrooms at Pymatuning Lake



Family Participation

1. THE BENAGLIO FAMILY
Maddie, Mikey and Julianna



Family Participation

2. FLUFF BERGER
That's a BIG mushroom!



The Beginner's Corner



by Dick Dougall

MOST OF US TAKE BRIEF walks in the woods. By “woods”, I mean neighborhood parks, country roads, housing developments with lots of trees, etc. Since these places are near where we live, and the walks are of short duration, we don’t carry much equipment besides a portable phone or camera.

Because we are mushroomers, we keep our eyes scanning for mushrooms, particularly edibles. We can learn a lot from these short outings. I find that during the late spring/early summer or the fall, particularly October, we can find many, many mushrooms on our outings. Other times of year or during dry spells, mushrooms are quite scarce.

During times of plentiful mushroom fruiting, beginners can feel frustrated because they can only identify 25% of the mushrooms they see. I can relate. It is normal and happens to me too. This occurs because there are so many different gilled mushrooms that fruit in our area. As a counter example, think about our club walks. We have a dozen or more people searching for two hours. There is a wide range of identifying skills among these people, with some really good at it. We typically find 50 to 75 mushrooms, with gilled mushrooms being a large part of the total find. Even under these conditions, there are still a significant number of mushrooms we cannot name except for genus. Thus, we can expect that on our own walks there will many mushrooms that we can't identify.

One thing we can do is focus on habitat. I often walk in an apartment complex near my house which has a lot of mature white pines. The mushrooms don't fruit evenly over the whole complex; there are specific hot spots. One area has many Boletes and some Russulas. Another area is good for finding meadow mushrooms. Still another area has *Amanita muscaria* fruiting. It is not obvious why these “hot spots” exist.

There is one habitat that is always worthy of checking: wood-chip mulch. An area in my apartment complex had very good fruiting of Wine Caps, *Stropharia rugosoannulata*, in the late spring. This is a fairly good edible, and I collected them for eating when they fruited. However, the owners of the apartment complex decided to get “fancy” and replaced the natural mulch with red-dyed mulch. I am cautious about lawn and landscape chemicals. This ruined my spot for edibles.

Another mushroom that I have found in mulch in large quantities is *Lepiota amaricana*, also known as *Leucoagaricus americanus* or the Reddening Lepiota. Gary Lincoff in his Audubon Guide lists this as a good edible. You might want to investigate this further and keep watch for it. Whether you eventually eat it is up to you, but just investigating this mushroom and learning how to identify it will increase your mushrooming skills.

These are just a few ideas about the mushrooms that you find on your brief walks. Good luck and let us know what discoveries you make.



Wine caps, Stropharia rugosoannulata, can be found in mulch and are easy to identify by their dark gills and wrinkled rings.

Photo by Cecily Franklin

The caps of these Lepiotas begin “reddening” as soon as they are handled.

Photo by Richard Franklin

Father and Daughter Earn “10” ID Buttons

AT THE OCTOBER WPMC meeting, Mike Benaglio (left) and his daughter Julianna earned their first mushroom ID Buttons, both at the “10” level. Photo by Cecily Franklin

To learn more about the ID Button program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms to Dick Dougall, go to:

→ [CLICK HERE](#)



WPMC Mycologists Attend Peck Foray

By La Monte Yarroll

WPMC MYCOLOGISTS JOHN PLISCHKE III and I attended the Peck Foray in Lock Haven, PA on September 21-23. The Peck Foray is held annually, usually somewhere in New York. It is open to all interested in fungi.

The official Cornell website has this to say about the character of the foray: "The Peck was developed years ago as a way for graduate and undergraduate students to practice their fungal identification skills. This thing is run by professors, so it has a pedagogical slant: we hope you'll WORK on your finds and learn by discussing them. This focus on students also means we try to keep the foray inexpensive to encourage student participation and, depending on the facility, we may prioritize student registrations."

This year's host and keynote speaker was Dr. Barrie Overton, a professor of mycology known to many in our club. I took my microscope and made extensive use of it. Several of my identifications were turned into vouchers for the Cornell fungarium, including a *Hypomyces* that attacks earth tongues in genus *Trichoglossum*. John provided a field identification, and I was able to confirm the ID microscopically.

Several slime molds were collected, including old friends like Scrambled Egg Slime (*Fuligo septica*) and Carnival Candy Slime (*Arcyria denudata*). I was able to put names on a couple that had not been seen before, including the lovely yellow lollipop, *Physarum oblatum*.

One particularly interesting find that several of us worked on was a Bear Lentinus with an unusual smell and taste. Bear Lentinus is a familiar find for our club—a soft bracket with serrated gills and a brown furry top. We normally call it *Lentinellus ursinus* and leave it at that. Normally *L. ursinus* has an unpleasant smell and a very bitter to acrid taste. Our specimen smelled and tasted of anise. We called it *Lentinellus ursinus "anethi"* (Latin for anise). John thoroughly documented this collection and a more conventional *L. ursinus* with photographs, written descriptions, and DNA samples. Both are being taken as vouchers for a herbarium. We eagerly await the DNA results to see if we may have a new subspecies.

If you'd like to practice your identification skills, the Peck Foray is an excellent choice.



Mycologist
Charles Horton Peck

Lentinellus specimen
from Peck Foray.

Photo by John Plischke III



For more about Peck:

➔ [CLICK HERE](#)

Organic Mushroom Farming and Mycoremediation

Simple to Advanced and Experimental Techniques for Indoor and Outdoor Cultivation

By Tradd Cotter

In *Organic Mushroom Farming and Mycoremediation*, mycology expert Tradd Cotter offers readers an in-depth exploration of best organic mushroom cultivation practices.

The book first guides readers through an in-depth exploration of indoor and outdoor cultivation. Covered skills include integrating wood-chip beds spawned with king stropharia into your garden, building a "trenched raft" of hardwood logs plugged with shiitake spawn, and producing oysters indoors on spent coffee grounds in a 4x4 space or on pasteurized sawdust in vertical plastic columns.

Cotter also reports his groundbreaking research cultivating morels both indoors and out, "training" mycelium to respond to specific contaminants, and perpetuating spawn on cardboard without the use

of electricity. Readers will discover information on making tinctures, powders, and mushroom-infused honey; making an antibacterial mushroom cutting board; and growing mushrooms on your old denim jeans.

Geared toward readers who want to grow mushrooms without the use of pesticides, Cotter takes "organic" one step further by introducing an entirely new way of thinking—one that looks at the potential to grow mushrooms on just about anything, just about anywhere, and by anyone.

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher:

**Chelsea Green Publishing
(August 18, 2014)**

ISBN-10: 1603584552



Photos by Cecily Franklin



Foray Photo Faves

1. Diane Stuart worked the registration table.
2. WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor brought this stinkhorn back from Cook Forest.
3. Ron Hilton wore his favorite shirt to the Foray.
4. The Khersonsky sisters (Nadya, Anya and Katya) met Louis, the Rhodesian Ridgeback.
5. WPMC Identifier Jerry Sapp
6. WPMC Identifier Josh Doty
7. Jared Delaney sold lots of mushroom books and other merchandise.

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 Inc.
 Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

WPMC Sets New Membership Record

By Jim Wasik, Membership Chair

LAST YEAR WE NEVER thought that we would reach 761 members by the end of 2017, but already in 2018, we have topped that figure! At the end of October 2018, membership stands at over 780 and we still have a few months to go. This record number includes the 30 new members who joined at the recent Gary Lincoff Foray. Congratulations to all who have spread the word that WPMC is the greatest!

Just a reminder, you can renew your 2019 WPMC at any time now. Fill out the Membership Application included in the newsletter, download the application from the website, or fill out the electronic application right on the website. Any method will ensure that your membership is active all the way through 2019.

Congratulations to everyone for making 2018 a record year!

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 WPMC Past-President **John Stuart** at jons2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

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 Pennsylvania Mushroom Club and submit them to our Treasurer, **Barbara DeRiso**.

2019 Meeting Schedule

Dates of all WPMC 2019 monthly meetings are listed below:

March 19	April 16	May 21 – <i>Cultivation!</i>
June 18	July 16	August 20
September 17	October 15	November 19

CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

Kim Plischke	724-832-0271 ladiebugzkp@aol.com
John Plischke III	724-832-0271 fungi01@aol.com
Garrett Taylor	716-307-0758 taygamu@gmail.com
Jim Tunney	412-441-3958 aminitam@hotmail.com
La Monte Yarroll	412-854-5684 piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com

IDENTIFIERS

Jack Baker	412-367-7696 jabaker2@hotmail.com
Sarah Banach	747-333-8644 sarahbanach@gmail.com
Fluff Berger	724-601-8382 wfberger@comcast.net
Josh Doty	412-913-8026 jcdoty@gmail.com
Dick Dougall	412-486-7504 mush2prof@verizon.net
Joyce Gross	724-339-8547 jagart58@comcast.net
Adam Haritan	412-480-1423 adamharitan@gmail.com
Richard Jacob	215-888-5503 richard@lostculture.net
Blaine Sanner	724-217-3168 brsanner@hotmail.com
Jerry Sapp	724-713-1212 surffisher_89@yahoo.com
Bob Sleigh	resleigh@gmail.com
John Stuart	724-443-6878 jons2art@comcast.net
Jared White	814-460-4265 white.jaredd@gmail.com

BOLETE SPECIALIST

Scott Pavelle	412-325-2535 scottp@pavellelaw.com
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WPMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT 216 Farmington Road 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin Pittsburgh, PA 15215 cs4wpmc@gmail.com
VICE-PRESIDENT 3952 Mt. Royal Blvd. 412-480-1423	Adam Haritan Allison Park, PA 15101 adamharitan@gmail.com
SECRETARY 137 Hickory Drive 724-601-8382	Fluff Berger Sewickley PA 15143-8212 wfberger@comcast.net
TREASURER 204 Woodcock Dr. 412-252-2594	Barbara DeRiso Pittsburgh PA 15215-1546 barbaraderiso@gmail.com
NAMA TRUSTEE 5770 Clark Avenue 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll Bethel Park, PA 15102 piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com

WPMC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT 412-367-7696	Valerie Baker vbbaker8@hotmail.com
CULTIVATION 412-441-3958	Jim Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com
DNA BARCODING 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob dna-barcoding@wpamushroomclub.org
EDUCATION 724-601-8382	Fluff Berger wfberger@comcast.net
HISTORIAN 724-339-8547	Joyce Gross jagart58@comcast.net
HOSPITALITY 412-401-3264	Kate Pavelle kate.pavelle@mugenpress.com
ID BUTTON PROGRAM 412-486-7504	Dick Dougall mush2prof@verizon.net
LINCOFF FORAY 412-252-2594	Barbara DeRiso barbaraderiso@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP 412-967-9359	James Wasik membership@wpamushroomclub.org
MUSHROOM DISPLAY 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com
NEMF FORAY 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
PHOTOGRAPHY 724-297-3377	Rebecca Miller rmiller.fungi@gmail.com
PUBLICITY 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin cs4wpmc@gmail.com
SALES 412-860-3522	Jared Delaney small.attic@gmail.com
SCHOLARSHIP 724-443-6878	John Stuart jons2art@comcast.net
TOXICOLOGY 724-443-6878	John Stuart jons2art@comcast.net
WALKS & FORAYS 412-854-5684	La Monte Yarroll piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com
WALKS & FORAYS 724-832-0271	John Plischke III fungi01@aol.com
WEBMASTER 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob president@wpamushroomclub.org
YAHOO GROUPS MODERATOR 724-494-1468	Mary Jo Smiley cmtpt@zbzoom.net

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

2019

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 Pennsylvania Mushroom Club) to:

WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 e-mail contact: membership@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 (\$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 _____