



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2019

President's Message

CECILY FRANKLIN

AS WE APPROACH the end of another successful year, we need to once again consider the importance of succession planning.

After eleven years of generously and capably serving as WPMC's Treasurer, **Barbara DeRiso** is stepping down from the Board of Directors and will be replaced in 2020 by the current Sales Chair, **Jared Delaney**. Next October, WPMC members will need to elect both a new President and NAMA Trustee, as WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** and I will complete our terms on the Board.

In the meantime, we are also seeing turnover in some of the committees. **Kate Pavelle** has been an outstanding Hospitality Chair for the past several years but will no longer have this responsibility in 2020. If you would like to assume (or share) this important job, please let me know. WPMC will reimburse the costs of providing refreshments and supplies for monthly meetings.

At the end of 2020, Membership Chair **Jim Wasik** will be ready to "retire" from this critical function, which involves maintaining membership records and distributing membership cards. Jim also sends out email communications, newsletter, upcoming events, and other important Club matters.

Job descriptions are available for these and other committees. In order to maintain WPMC's record-breaking success, we will continue to require the efforts of many members with a variety of interests and capabilities. Please consider the best ways in which you can help to achieve WPMC'S goals in the years ahead.

November 2019 Meeting

Potluck Dinner & Member Photos

THE FINAL WPMC meeting of the year on November 19 will include a traditional Potluck dinner and member photos.

For the Potluck, bring something for 6-8 people, along with serving utensils. The categories are: Appetizers, Salads, Hot Dishes, Cold Plates, Soup, Casseroles, Desserts, anything you want—be creative. It does not need to be mushroom related but, if so, wild mushrooms must be approved by a club Mycologist first, and any non-members will have to sign a waiver before trying them. Since electrical connections are limited, bring hot food hot, and bring cold food cold. WPMC will provide soft drinks, plates, eating utensils, napkins, and take-home boxes.

If you have photos for the Open Forum, please bring no more than 15 images for a short presentation on a flash (thumb) drive. (JPG format is preferred, photos don't need to be in PowerPoint.) 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.

Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month from March through November. Meetings are free and include a Mushroom Display Table staffed by expert Identifiers.

Location:

*Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA)
614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238*



Cook Forest pre-foray walk participants.

see story on page 7

Photo by Garrett Taylor

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now for next year's Lincoff Foray: Saturday, September 12, 2020 at The Lodge in North Park. The Guest Mycologist will be Michael Kuo of mushroomexpert.com.



Cecily Franklin

WPMC 2020 Officers & Board

President - Cecily Franklin

Cecily will serve her third and final year as President. She 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. In 2015, Cecily won WPMC's President's Award, and in 2017, she received the Club's Outstanding Service award. This year, she made presentations for Mushroom Education Day, Piccadilly Herb Club, and Phipps Conservatory. Cecily's mushroom photos have been published in FUNGI Magazine and on the websites of WPMC, Michael Kuo and Gary Emberger.



Ann 'Fluff' Berger

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 the Education and Lincoff Foray Committees. In 2017 she won WPMC's President's Award. This year Fluff led walks at Devil's Hollow, Sewickley Heights Borough Park, and Audubon Greenway. She was a speaker on Mushroom Education Day and gave presentations for the local chapter of the National Ladies Homestead Gathering and Juniper Village senior community in Forest Hills. She assists in identifying mushrooms at the monthly meetings, after walks, and at the annual Lincoff Foray. Known for her mushroom photography, Fluff's photos have been featured on WPMC promotional materials and on the websites of WPMC and Michael Kuo, as well as Mushroom Observer and iNaturalist.



Adam Haritan

Secretary - Adam Haritan

Adam joined the Board in 2016 and has previously served as both Corresponding Secretary and Vice President. He is also an official WPMC Identifier. This year Adam led a walk at Hartwood Acres and organized all of the morning walks for the Lincoff Foray, where he was a featured speaker. 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 Adam's informative videos, then check out his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/learnyourland>



Jared Delaney

Treasurer - Jared Delaney

This will be Jared Delaney's first year on WPMC's Board, replacing Barbara DeRiso after eleven years as Treasurer. Jared has been a WPMC member since 2016 and Sales Chair since 2018. He is relatively new to mushroom foraging and joined the club to learn more beyond the few edible species he learned online. Jared also cultivates mushrooms at his home, growing oyster and lion's mane mushrooms on sawdust blocks and shiitake mushrooms on logs. When not mushrooming, Jared works at PNC Bank as a Relationship Manager in Corporate and Institutional Banking.



La Monte H. P. Yarroll

NAMA Trustee - La Monte H. P. Yarroll

This will be La Monte Yarroll's final year as WPMC's NAMA Trustee, completing the second year of this second term. As NAMA Trustee, La Monte prepared a report on WPMC's activities prior to NAMA's annual foray and wrote an article for WPMC's newsletter following the Foray. La Monte is also active on NAMA's Mycoflora 2.0 project and, at this year's WPMC meeting in June, he gave a presentation on the work of the Mycoflora Committee.

In 2017, La Monte received WPMC's Outstanding Service award. This year, he spoke at WPMC's Mushroom Education Day and assisted Allegheny Land Trust with its PA Master Naturalist training. La Monte organizes WPMC walks and has led many this year, including Sycamore Island, Keystone State Park, Schenley Park and Chatham University. He also oversees the mushroom displays for WPMC's monthly meetings and the annual Lincoff Foray.

WPMC Keeps Setting New Records for Membership

CONGRATULATIONS! WPMC has hit another new record for membership. As of the October meeting, we have 955 members, representing 539 households. We ended last year with a record of 794 members. A big "thank you" goes to the 308 NEW members who joined the Club in 2019. We have made great strides from our humble beginning in 2010 with 140 members. 2020 dues are now being accepted.

2019 WPMC Photo Contest Winners!

THIS YEAR, 22 WPMC members submitted photos for WPMC's annual Photo Contest. WPMC Identifier and Photography Chair **Josh Doty** judged the competition, with assistance from WPMC Mycologists **John and Kim Plischke** and WPMC Identifier **Jared White**. Together, they chose the finalists and Josh selected the winners in the following categories: Documentary (below), Pictorial (see pages 4 & 5), Family Participation and Judge's Option (see page 6).

Documentary



WINNER: Ron Hilton, *Gymnopus (Marasmiellus) foetidus*



Dirk Cappo, *Tylopilus plumbeoviolaceus*



Cecily Franklin, *Grifola frondosa*

Pictorial



WINNER: Barbora Batokova, *Mycena leaiana*



Barbora Batokova,
Trametes versicolor



Barbora Batokova,
Hericium coralloides



Kris Murawski,
Morchella americana

Pictorial



Cecily Franklin, *Neofavolus alveolaris*



John Stuart, *Oudemansiella mucida*



John Stuart, *Lycoperdon pyriforme*



Dirk Cappel, *Parasola plicatilis*



Erin Nihiser,
Resupinatus applicatus
(left)



Kris Murawski,
Amanita amerirubescens
(right)

Family Participation



Fluff Berger, Kids
checking out large
Dryad's Saddle
(*Cerioporus squamosus*)

Carey Lowen, Family
dog checking out large
Dryad's Saddle
(*Cerioporus squamosus*)

WINNER: Cara Coulter,
Tristan with *Boletus subvelutipes*

Judge's Option

WINNER: Fluff Berger,
Peziza species
(releasing spores)



Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest

By Adam Haritan

WPMC HOSTED ITS annual pre-foray walk at Cook Forest State Park on September 20, a tradition initiated by Gary Lincoff in 2015. Considered to be among the most distinguished natural areas in western Pennsylvania, and protected in perpetuity from extensive development, Cook Forest features towering stands of old-growth white pine and eastern hemlock trees located above and along tributaries that feed into the Clarion River.

Since Gary’s passing in 2018, the pre-foray walk has continued with the support of WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** and park environmental education specialist **Dale Luthringer**, along with the help of numerous WPMC members and identifiers.

This year’s outing attracted several dozen mushroom enthusiasts (including a few Colorado residents!) to the forest in search of early autumn fungi. While conditions had been relatively dry compared to previous years, club members collected within a few hours a total of 154 species. This number included 126 species that were already on the club’s life list, 24 species new to the list, and four specimens identified to genus level. To the delight of many collectors, among the mushrooms found were seemingly endless amounts of Yellowfoot Chanterelles (*Craterellus tubaeformis*)—an edible *mycorrhizal* species that, despite having “Chanterelle” in its common name, is taxonomically placed within the Black Trumpet genus (*Craterellus*).

Members who walked with **Dale Luthringer** were treated to fascinating and detailed accounts of old-growth trees located along Tom’s Run within Cook Forest. Dale’s extensive work involving trees within the forest, along with his passion and dedication to conservation, contribute immensely to the health of Cook Forest and likewise to the execution and success of WPMC outings.

Moving forward, Cook Forest State Park—with its unique plant communities, geological features, and conservation strategies—will continue to be a repository of interesting fungal species. As part of its mission to promote the enjoyment and study of wild mushrooms, WPMC will help to collect, document, and bring awareness to these often-overlooked fungi considered by Gary Lincoff to be the true “workhorses” of Cook Forest.

Foray Exceeds Expectations

By Fluff Berger

THE 2019 GARY LINCOFF Memorial Foray is now happy history. What began as a single day of hunting and education has become a multi-day event in two sites—Cook Forest in Clarion County and North Park in Allegheny County. We were excited this year for the Foray to be sold out for the first time, with several more walk-in attendees to boot!

On Saturday we had six walks led by Club mycologists or identifiers, as well as several self-guided hunters, and all returned with loads of mushrooms for identification. We had two eager young helpers who kept up with WPMC mycologists and identifiers, taking identified species from WPMC outdoor tables and placing them correctly inside for display, thanks to **Arlo Yarroll**, **Jacob Crowley** and others for their diligence in this task.

Some other highlights included:

EXPERT SPEAKERS—**Bill Russell** showed us several unexpected and delicious edible fungi, **Rick Kerrigan** talked about the world of Agaricus fungi, and WPMC Identifier **Adam Haritan** educated us about the medical applications of some of fungi’s most dangerous poisons.

FABULOUS FOOD—WPMC Mycologist **Kim Plischke** and Treasurer **Barb DeRiso** orchestrated the foodie symphony, supported by many other members who brought in harmonious dishes. What we called a “light lunch” was a delicious variety of homemade soups, dips, and finger foods, many featuring wild mushrooms. As always, WPMC’s Mushroom Feast was an adventure into the tastes and textures of wild fungi prepared in a multitude of ways. And for dessert, fabulous Chanterelle Ice Cream!

AUCTION—We actually stopped accepting auction items a few weeks before the Foray, since we had such a plethora of interesting, fun, and useful things. Congratulations to all the winners!

Finally, we are eagerly looking forward to next year’s Foray, WPMC’s 20th anniversary celebration, scheduled for September 12, 2020. We’ve already booked **Michael Kuo**, creator of MushroomExpert.com and author of several engaging books on fungi. Additionally, we will be in a larger space, The Lodge at North Park. *Hope to see you there!*



photo by John Stuart

Mushroom Mavens Make Marvelous Meal

WPMC Mycologist **Kim Plischke** (left) and Treasurer **Barbara DeRiso** made it look easy to prepare a mushroom feast for 150 people.

Thanks to the efforts of these WPMC members, more than 30 dishes were brought to this year’s Lincoff Foray:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Valerie Baker | Richard Jacob | Kris Murawski | Garrett Taylor |
| Fluff Berger | John Kosmal | Kate Pavelle | Florian Termin |
| Xiaoyan Cai | Joe Lee | Scott Pavelle | Charlotte Tunney |
| Cara Coulter | Greg Levish | Becky Plischke | Jim Wasik |
| Barbara DeRiso | Judy Mackenroth | John Plischke | Carol Watkins |
| Patty Houck | Linda Moll | Kim Plischke | |

Favorite Photos from the Foray



WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor worked hard to identify mushrooms found at Cook Forest.
Photo by Cecily Franklin



Guest Mycologists Rick Kerrigan (left) and Bill Russell met each other for the first time at this year's Lincoff Foray.
Photo by Cecily Franklin



Cara Coulter made this Chanterelle Cake for the Foray Feast.
Photo by Kristine Murawski



From left: Arlo Yarroll, Brett Smith, and Jacob Crowley enjoyed the Foray.
Photo by John Stuart



Chanterelle ice cream!
Photo by Fluff Berger



Foray Auction/Raffle Results

WPMC WISHES TO thank all of the donors for this year's Foray Auction/Raffle. We offered more than 40 different prizes and had to stop accepting donations! Also, thanks to **Judy Mackenroth** for organizing the merchandise, selling tickets, and picking winners at the Foray. Congratulations to all of the WPMC members who took home a prize! Because of everyone's participation, this year's Auction/Raffle raised nearly \$400 for WPMC. Donations for next year's Auction/Raffle are already starting to come in.

Photo by Kristine Murawski

Quinoa and Urad Dal (Lentils) with Mushrooms

By Garrett Taylor



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup whole urad dal (lentils), soaked 6-8 hours, drained and rinsed
 - 1 cup quinoa
 - 3 cups water
 - 2 cups veggie stock
 - 2 tsp. salt, or to taste
 - 2 tbsp. olive oil
 - 1 large onion, sliced
 - 4 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 red bell pepper, sliced
 - 1 lb. mixed mushrooms, diced or sliced in bite-sized pieces
 - 1 1/2 cups diced fire-roasted tomatoes (or 15 oz. can)
 - 1/2 cup mixed fresh herbs, sliced and packed
- (I used Vietnamese fish mint which has a nice rich flavor, along with Thai basil, parsley, lovage, thyme, rosemary, and cilantro, or use whatever you prefer.)

THIS DISH WAS INSPIRED by the scarcity of any good quantities of wild mushroom species in the entire northeast in the Fall of 2019, the whole year really. I chose to make a dish that would use whatever mix of mushrooms I had on hand. My cooking crew(s) and I successfully executed it the first time with a mix of *Cortinarius caperatus*, *Suillus weaverii (granulatus)*, and *Boletus edulis*, and also with mixed *Grifola frondosa* and *Laetiporus sulphureus*. The first time we made it we left the Urad Dal (lentils) slightly undercooked, not so much that it stuck in teeth or tasted raw, just so it had some integrity. This added a nice texture to the final dish that I tried to replicate in this recipe.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large stock pot, add soaked and rinsed lentils, water, stock, and 2 tsp. of salt and bring to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer and then cook partially covered for 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, stir in the cup of quinoa and return to a boil while continuously stirring, turn down to a simmer, and cook for 15 minutes or until everything is just under done.
2. While dal is cooking, add 2 tps. of oil in a large skillet over medium heat, and add the bell pepper. Sauté for 7-9 minutes, stirring often until wilted, remove from pan to a dish. Add the remaining 4 tsp. of oil and add the mushrooms and cook until they give up all of their liquid. (Add quicker cooking mushrooms towards the end so it doesn't get soupy.) Add the onions and peppers and stir to deglaze. Cook until all the liquid is evaporated. Add the garlic and sauté an additional 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat. (If you have a lot of liquid at any point, consider tipping it off into the cooking dal and quinoa.)
3. When the lentils are soft, add the tomatoes and the mushroom/onion/pepper mixture. Cook five more minutes. If at any point it gets too dry, you can always add more water.
4. Add salt if desired. Stir in the half cup of fresh herbs.

Out & About with WPMC

On **August 24**, WPMC Identifier **Bob Sleigh** gave a presentation, followed by a mushroom walk, at Gearhart's Milton Loop Campground in Armstrong County. News of Bob's presentation made the front page of the Kittanning Leader Times newspaper.

On **September 11**, WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** gave a presentation called "Unexpected Beauty—Shapes and Colors of Wild Fungi" for residents of Juniper Senior Living in Forest Hills.

On **September 25**, WPMC Past President **Richard Jacob** and WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** attended a Mycology Workshop and led walks, as members of the Pennsylvania Biological Survey's Mycological and Protists (MAP) Technical Committee.

On **September 29**, WPMC Member **John "TJ" Jackson**, gave a presentation at the Sleeping Octopus Assembly on Psychedelics (SOAP) II Conference called "Staying Safe in the Woods: Identifying Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms in Pennsylvania and the Northeast".

On **October 1**, WPMC Past President **Richard Jacob** gave his presentation on "Psychedelic Mushrooms: A New Age of Treatment?" at the Mycological Association of Washington, D.C. Richard gave the same presentation on **October 24** for Point Park University's Students for Sensible Drug Policy Club.

On **October 12**, WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** gave a presentation on Fall Fungi and led a walk at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History in Jamestown, NY.

On **October 18**, WPMC President **Cecily Franklin** and WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** attended Phipps Conservatory's Environmental Film Series. Following a screening of the documentary "The Kingdom: How Fungi Made Our World", Cecily and Fluff answered questions about WPMC and about mushrooms in general.

WPMC Members Receive ID Buttons



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

→ [CLICK HERE](#)

Photos by Kristine Murawski

AT THE SEPTEMBER meeting, **Cara Coulter** received her “100” ID Button. In October, Cara was awarded a “150” pin, while son **Tristan** earned his “50” ID Button (above left). **Cheree Charmello-Andrews** received her “25” ID Button from WPMC’s ID Button Chair **Sarah Banach** (above right).

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 the WPMC website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information, contact Past-President **John Stuart** at jons2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

Extra Donations Help Fund WPMC Projects

LOOKING FOR A WAY to support WPMC beyond paying your annual dues? Make a donation anytime; it’s tax-deductible (if you itemize deductions) because WPMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a loved one. Your employer may even match your contribution. Make checks payable to Western Pa. Mushroom Club and submit them to the WPMC 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 WPMC newsletters may only be used in other non-profit publications with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

A Note from Allegheny Land Trust

WPMC received this note from Jessica Kester, VP of Education for ALT:

Cecily, La Monte, Fluff & Club,

I wanted to thank all of you for your help with the PA Master Naturalist course, as well as our other hikes this year, and I look forward to another year of partnership and new discoveries!

Jessie



WPMC Walks

Nov. 16 (10 a.m. Saturday) Sewickley Heights Borough Park

Meet WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** at the Sewickley Heights Maintenance Building on Fern Hollow Road.

Nov. 29 (10 a.m. Friday) Hartwood Acres

Meet WPMC Past President **Richard Jacob** at the mansion parking lot at Hartwood Acres for a Black Friday mushroom walk.

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Cecily Franklin, Editor

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.

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**NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED
MUSHROOM!**



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Anyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member.
COMPLETE THIS FORM **PRINT CLEARLY**, SIGN AND MAIL

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 <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 _____