



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

■ *Fungi, Fun & Friends!* ■

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020



President's Message

CECILY FRANKLIN

IN THE WORDS OF **JOHN MICHELOTTI**, Past President of the Mid Hudson Mycological Association, "Any work a volunteer contributes is a gift. The work we do for our mushroom clubs is for something greater than ourselves." If he's right, then WPMC members have given and received many, many gifts over the years. I won't name specific individuals here, because they have changed and will continue to do so. But if you have experienced any of the following, you have given or received a gift:

- If you remember who taught you a particular mushroom, then that person gave you a lasting gift.
- If you ever led a mushroom walk, or stayed afterward to identify species, or entered the species list into a computer, you gave us a gift.
- If you've ever served on the Board of Directors, you've given all of the other members a gift.
- If you worked at the Mushroom Identification Table at a monthly meeting, you gave us a gift.
- If you ever bought a book or t-shirt at our Sales table, then you received a gift, in addition to your purchase.
- If you drove a truckload of supplies to the annual Cultivation Meeting or the annual Lincoff Foray, you gave us all a gift.
- If you've ever written or read an article in the WPMC newsletter, then you've given or received a gift.
- If you've ever taught a class on Mushroom Education Day or given a presentation at one of our monthly meetings, you've given us a gift.
- If you ever received a WPMC Scholarship, then you received not only a monetary gift, but also the time and efforts of the Scholarship Committee.
- If you've ever booked an outside speaker for one of our monthly meetings or the annual Lincoff Foray, you've given us a gift.
- If you've taken photos at meetings or on walks and posted them to our Facebook Group or submitted them to the WPMC newsletter, then you've given us a gift.

- If you ever brought refreshments to a monthly meeting or prepared a dish for the annual Lincoff Foray, you gave us a gift.
- If you ever received an ID Button, then you also received a gift from the members who evaluated your list.
- If you've ever served as Webmaster or any other Committee Chair, you've given us a gift.
- If you've represented WPMC outside the club, by speaking with a journalist, making a presentation to another group, or recruiting new members, then you've given us a gift.
- If you've ever set up a WPMC Project on iNaturalist or helped to identify someone else's mushrooms, you've given a gift.
- If you've ever entered WPMC's annual Photo Contest, then you received a gift from the organizers and judges, even if you didn't win a prize.
- If you've ever hosted a visiting mycologist for dinner or overnight, you've given all of us a gift.
- If you ever arrived early for a meeting to unlock and set up, or stayed late to clean up and turn out the lights, you gave the other members a gift.
- If your employer matched your contribution to WPMC, then both of you gave us a gift.
- If you ever tried to win an item at the annual Lincoff Foray auction, then you received a gift from the organizers and donors, even if you didn't win the prize.

Finally, all current WPMC members will receive the gift of free membership through 2021. It's our consolation prize for all of the disruptions from Covid-19 this year. If any current members choose to voluntarily submit dues for 2021, we will gladly use those contributions to support WPMC's programs and events.

Black Friday Walk at Hartwood Acres

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, AT 10:00 A.M.

MEET PAST PRESIDENT **RICHARD JACOB** AT THE mansion parking lot of Hartwood Acres for a Black Friday mushroom walk. Free but limited to members only, due to Covid restrictions. Registration required at this link:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/black-friday-walk/>

IMPORTANT: All meetings and other events in this newsletter are subject to postponement or cancellation, due to Covid-19. Please check our website often for updates.



WPMC Membership Report

By Kris Murawski

HELLO AND WELCOME, members of the WPMC. My name is **Kris Murawski**, and I'm the new Membership Chair for the club. I will be sending out the emailed newsletters and club announcements. Make sure to look for my emails with links to log on to our virtual presentations and meetings at the regularly scheduled third Tuesday of each month, March through November.

I am pleased to inform you that everyone's 2020 membership will be extended into 2021, so hang on to your 2020 membership cards for the 2021 year. New members will be sent a 2021 card in the mail. Current members who still want to receive hardcopy newsletters will be required to pay \$5 next year.

As of mid-October, we have 862 members from 478 households. That's down 10% from last year at this time, but that's to be expected with everything going on right now.

Some of the benefits of WPMC membership include:

- Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter
- Monthly Meeting Notices
- Updates on Mushroom Walks & WPMC Events
- Annual Photo Contest
- Discount at WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray
- Participation in WPMC's Facebook Group

I hope everyone is staying safe! Take care.

2020 Meeting Schedule

WPMC MEETINGS ARE HELD on the third Tuesday evening of each month from March through November. In order to keep our members safe, monthly meetings will be "virtual" until further notice. Gatherings will be limited to mushroom walks with Allegheny Land Trust and "secret" walks, which are outdoors and restricted. Check our website for exact dates, times and locations.

November 17: Potluck Dinner (at home) & Member Photos

Unfortunately, we won't be having our annual Potluck Dinner this year, so enjoy your own meal at home. Then join us at 7:00 p.m. for the final meeting of the year, which will include annual awards and an Open Forum for WPMC members. Members will receive an email invitation to this Zoom meeting.

If you would like to make a short presentation of photos during the Open Forum, please send no more than 15 pictures BEFORE THE MEETING to **Richard Jacob** at site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org use wetransfer.com (a free file transfer program) if your files are big, or too many to email. JPG format is preferred, but PowerPoint is also acceptable. Alternatively, you can share your desktop during the Zoom meeting. However, you will need to know how his works BEFORE THE MEETING, as we won't be able to troubleshoot any issues that day.

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.

2021 Meeting Dates Are Set

Mark your calendars for next year's monthly meetings:

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

FYI: '21 4A 2B 9/18

COULD YOU DECIPHER THIS HEADLINE? It says that the 21st Annual Gary Lincoff Foray is scheduled for September 18, 2021. As usual, the Foray will be preceded by a walk at Cook Forest on Friday, September 17, with **Forest Ranger Dale Luthringer**. Both the main foray on Saturday, Sept. 18, and Science Sunday on Sept. 19, will be held at the Rose Barn in North Park. **Michael Kuo** (mushroomexpert.com) and **Leon Shernoff** (*Mushroom the Journal*) are scheduled to be our speakers.

WPMC Members Elect 2021 Officers



WPMC Identifier Stephen Bucklin will be next year's WPMC President.

AT THE OCTOBER 20 ZOOM meeting, WPMC members elected the following slate of Officers for 2021. Photos and bios were published in the Sept./Oct. newsletter.

PRESIDENT: **Stephen Bucklin**

VICE PRESIDENT: **Cara Coulter**

SECRETARY: **Julie Travaglini**

TREASURER: **Jared Delaney**

NAMA TRUSTEE (2-year term):
Garrett Taylor

Congratulations and thanks to all of the 2021 Officers!

WPMC Names New Scholarship Chair



WPMC IS PLEASED to announce that **Bryan Cass** is the new Scholarship Committee Chair. Bryan earned a BA in Zoology from Ohio Wesleyan University, as well as Family Nurse Practitioner and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees from Robert Morris University. Bryan will use his experience with medical and scientific research to evaluate and assist future WPMC scholarship applicants. Bryan and

his wife Claire, along with their two children, have been active WPMC members since 2017.

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. Application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/education/wpam-scholarship-grant-application/>

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest

By Richard Jacob

THIS YEAR'S WALKS AT COOK FOREST were split between Shelters 1 and 2, with walk leaders WPMC Past President **Richard Jacob** and WPMC Identifier **Adam Haritan** respectively, and a roughly equal number of participants. Unfortunately, due to the short notice that participants received, not everyone could make it. We will look at changing signup to first-come first-served, so that people receive plenty of notification in the future. Despite the lower number of participants than expected, both groups found plenty of mushrooms. As with other locations where we have walked this year, we may not have found a lot of any one species, but we did find plenty of variety.

At Shelter 1, we found very few *Amanita* and *Cortinarius* species. We did find a number of *Bolete* species, including *Boletus edulis*, which made up for it. Many of us found a colony of *Cordyceps militaris* during the walk, resulting in a hunt for the bodies. The other common *Cordyceps* at the location, *Tolypocladium ophioglossoides* (Goldenthread *cordyceps*), was also found further into the walk on a slope. There were quite a few *Lycoperdon perlatum* (Gem-studded Puffballs) around, too.

From Shelter 2, Adam reported that, despite the relatively dry conditions, a decent number of species were found within the two-hour walk. The most prolific species were False Chanterelles (*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca*) and Dotted-Stalk *Suillus* (*Suillus*

granulatus/weaverae). Surprisingly, no honey mushrooms were found on our walk, and the usual diversity of *Cortinarius* was lacking as well. Still, most of the major groups of fungi were represented at the identification table, and WPMC has a few new species to add to its life list.

Other interesting species of note were *Melanophyllum haematospermum* and *Stereum gausapatum* (Bleeding Oak Crust), both of which had been found at Hartwood Acres but not many other locations. A fun find is *Pseudohydnum gelatinosum* (Cat's tongue), a transparent toothy jelly mushroom. Finally, *Ischnoderma benzoinum* was identified. According to Gary Lincoff, Cook Forest was the only known Eastern location for this typically Western species.

A few of us explored the Fire Tower region with its oak forest. We found a few more species of mushrooms but conditions were very dry, and we did not see many of the species we typically find in the area.

Species lists were entered by **Adam Haritan** and **Richard Jacob**. Species were identified by WPMC Identifier **Cara Coulter**, **Adam Haritan**, **Richard Jacob**, **Judy Mackenroth**, **Tom McCoy** (from Washington, DC), WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll**, and others. The combined list of species found on both walks at Cook Forest State Park, along with numerous photos, can be found here:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/species-list-from-cook-forest-state-park-shelter-1-on-09-11-2020/>



All meetings & events may be postponed or canceled due to Covid-19. Please check website for updates.
www.wpamushroomclub.org



More Than 100 Species Found at Lincoff Foray in North Park

By Richard Jacob

THIS YEAR'S OFFICIAL GARY LINCOFF Foray on Saturday, September 12 at North Park, was split between three walks in the morning and an online interview in the afternoon, due to the ongoing pandemic. The normal events were sorely missed, especially the mushroom feast and the gathering of mycological expertise that we normally have. We held walks at Devils Elbow, the swimming pool area, and Wyoming Shelter, led by WPMC Identifiers **Fluff Berger**, **Richard Jacob** and **Cara Coulter**, respectively. Each walk had five or so participants.

The weather was nice, and there had been some rain over the first couple of weeks of September, setting things up nicely as far as the mushrooms went. For about the first time this year in the Pittsburgh region, we found an abundance of *Amanita* and *Bolete* species. Although there were only three walks and fewer than 20 people involved, we still found and identified over 100 different species. This year was not the lowest number of species found; both 2002 and 2010 were lower, with around 70 species each time, due to very dry weather proceeding the foray.

We expect that there would have been many more species discovered, had it been a normal foray with additional walks and more people looking. Cara Coulter at the Wyoming Shelter walk added, "Found a nice log filled with fresh *Laetiporus sulphureus* for our walk members to enjoy. A lovely walk filled with plenty of mushrooms. Highlight of the walk was finding *Xanthoporia radiata*, a beautiful shelf fungus with orange hues."

As always, thanks to the walk leaders and Club members who joined us for the morning and allowed us to continue our 20-year streak of collecting at the Lincoff Foray in North Park. Species list entered by **Fluff Berger**, **Cara Coulter**, and **Richard Jacob**. Species identified by **Fluff**, **Cara**, and **Richard**, along with WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** and others.

The combined list of species found on the walks at North Park can be found here:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/species-list-from-lincoff-foray-at-north-park-on-09-12-2020/>



Adam Haritan (left) and Judy Mackenroth (right) at display table.

Photo by Cara Coulter

Fall Mushroom BINGO



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND, WPMC IDENTIFIER **Cara Coulter** has created the "WPMC Fall Mushroom BINGO 2020" Project on iNaturalist. It runs through November 30, but you have to join the Project to play.

Each time you spot a mushroom that is listed on the Bingo card, submit it as an Observation and add it to the Project. The first person to get five in a row—either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally—is the winner! The first three to get Bingo will win a prize created by Cara herself. Good luck! To join the project:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wpam-fall-mushroom-bingo-2020>

WPMC Awards ID Buttons

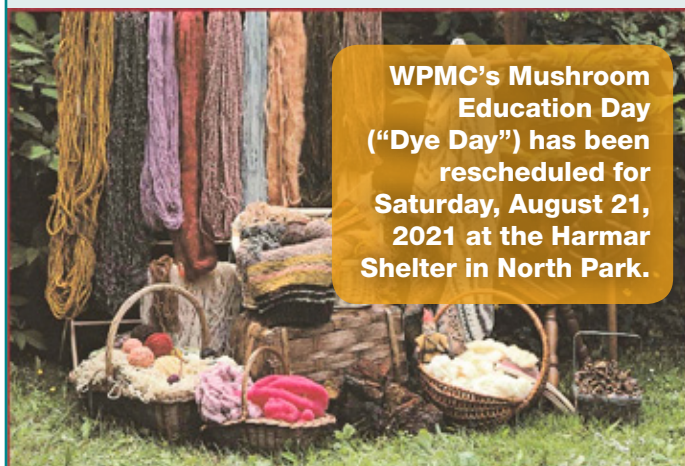
WPMC member **Cheree Charmello Andrews** recently earned her 100 ID Button.

Other WPMC members who earned pins were **Carson Gross** (75 & 100) and **Richard Franklin** (25). To learn more about the ID Button program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms, go to:

<http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/button-id-program/>



Dye Day Rescheduled for August



WPMC's Mushroom Education Day ("Dye Day") has been rescheduled for **Saturday, August 21, 2021** at the **Harmar Shelter** in North Park.



Photos and Design by: Cara Coulter

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

B

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N

G



Chicken of the Woods



Laetiporus sp.

Aborted Entoloma



Entoloma abortivum

Lumpy Bracket



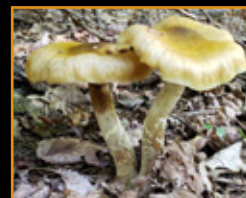
Trametes gibbosa

Velvet Foot



Flammulina velutipes

Honey Mushroom



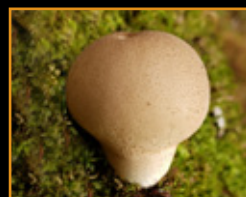
Armillaria sp.

Dead Man's Fingers



Xylaria sp.

Pear-shaped Puffball



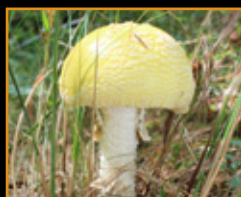
Apioperdon pyriforme

Late Oyster



Sarcomyxa serotina

American Yellow Fly Agaric



Amanita muscaria

Stinking Orange Oyster



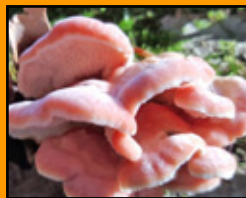
Phyllotopsis nidulans

Ravenel's stinkhorn



Phallus ravenelii

Coral-pink Merulius



Phlebia incarnata

Jack-o'-Lantern



Omphalotus illudens

Birch Polypore



Fomitopsis betulina

Trembling Crust



Merulius tremellosus

Luminescent Panellus



Panellus stipticus

Violet-toothed Polypore



Trichaptum biforme

Deadly Galerina



Galerina marginata

Giant Puffball



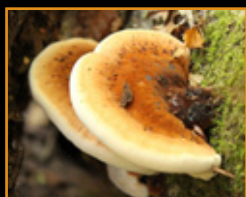
Calvatia gigantea

Warlock's' Butter



Exidia nigricans

Resinous Polypore



Ischnoderma resinosum

Golden Pholiota



Pholiota aurivella

Lion's Mane



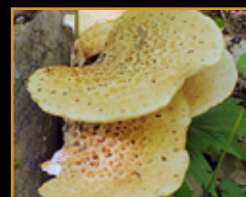
Hericium americanum

Turkey Tail



Trametes versicolor

Dryad's Saddle



Cerioporus squamosus

PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

A big THANK YOU to WPMC Identifier **Josh Doty** for once again judging this year's WPMC Photo Contest, with assistance from WPMC Mycologist **Kim Plischke** and WPMC Identifier **Jared White**. Eighteen members submitted a total of 76 photos. Congratulations to all the winners! The results were presented on YouTube on October 20 and can be viewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUadsnAVTMINFMOgIHO4WjA>

Pictorial First Place: FLUFF BERGER
***Flammulina velutipes* (Velvet Foot)**





(ABOVE)
Pictorial Second Place:
KRIS MURAWSKI
Shiitake



(LEFT)
Pictorial Third Place:
CARA COULTER
Laccaria amethystina
(Amethyst Deceiver)





Documentary: DIRK CAPPO, *Cystoderma ganosum*

Judge's Option 1: CHEREE CHARMELO ANDREWS, Mushroom Dinner





Judge's Option 2: JENNIFER BECHAK, Red Ganoderma
Judge's Option 3: STEPHEN BUCKLIN, *Urnula criterium* (Devil's Urn)





Two FunDiS Opportunities for WPMC Members

THE NORTH AMERICAN MYCOFLORA PROJECT IS NOW Fungal Diversity Survey, or FunDiS for short. The mission of FunDiS is to equip citizen and professional scientists with the tools to document the diversity and distribution of fungi across North America. FunDiS is offering WPMC members two new opportunities to participate.



FunDiS Part 1: iNaturalist Project

FUNDIS HAS CREATED A LARGE iNaturalist database of high-quality observations of fungi to support projects in mycology and conservation. Two WPMC Mycologists, John Plishcke and Garrett Taylor, are Managers for this project. If you're not on iNaturalist yet, join now—it's free. Then join the FunDiS project here:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fundis-fungal-diversity-survey>

Start adding your observations. If you already have a lot of good ones, follow the instructions for bulk transfer. And observe these FunDiS minimum quality standards:

- Observations should be of mushrooms large enough to be seen without a microscope, that have been observed in North America. No lichens or slime molds!
- Images need to be clear, well-lit, in focus, and the mushroom needs to be relatively large in the picture so its details can be seen clearly.
- No old or heavily damaged specimens.
- We want to see the cap, the pore/gill surface, the stem including the base, bulb or volva (if applicable). Any staining, discoloration or milk/latex should also be shown.
- Unless its size is clear, add a ruler or a common item (e.g. knife, pen or your hand) for scale.
- There should be a clue to the host or substrate, e.g. if it grows under a specific tree, show the leaf or needles of that tree next to the mushroom, or take a separate picture.
- Anything else that's noteworthy (e.g. smell, taste) should be added in the Notes section.
- Take several pictures of one specimen or put a couple of fungi in the same shot where we see different parts of the specimens.

FunDiS Part 2: Introductory Sequencing Grants

ARE YOU INTERESTED in getting your finds sequenced but not sure how to get started? Then apply for a starter grant for five specimens, while funds are available. Just follow these three steps:

1. Register a project
2. Complete a survey
3. Apply for a grant

Start slowly and learn FunDiS protocols along the way. Once you're ready, apply for a DNA sequencing grant here:

<https://fundis.org/component/sppagebuilder/87-apply-for-funding>

To learn more about FunDiS in general, visit: <https://fundis.org/>

Out & About (Virtually) with WPMC



Funding for this presentation was made possible by a grant from Norwegian Literature Abroad (NORLA)

THE 20TH ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF FORAY featured one "virtual" presentation in the afternoon. WPMC President Cecily Franklin interviewed Long Litt Woon, author of *The Way through the Woods: On Mushrooms and Mourning*. The interview was first shown on Saturday, September 12, but you can watch it any time. Just go to our channel on YouTube, "WPMC Talks":

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUadsnAVTMInFMogIHO4WjA>

ON OCTOBER 7, WPMC IDENTIFIER STEPHEN BUCKLIN gave a presentation on "Fascinating Fall Fungi" for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, where he is a Naturalist/Educator. Stephen discussed ten species likely to be found in Pittsburgh's parks this fall. To watch this one-hour program:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yFWdyeomf0



Important Walk & Foray Information

- Try to dig up three of the same species at different stages of development.
- Don't pick old mushrooms; leave them to drop spores.
- You are responsible for not getting lost. If you have a tendency to wander off, stick like glue to the others. We won't wait for you, and we won't come to look for you.
- Don't take the identification of the person standing next to you; they might not know as much as you do. Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for advice.
- The Walk Leader will tell you when to be back at the walk starting place, where the mushrooms will be put on paper plates and the Walk Identifier or Club Mycologist will put names on only the mushrooms they know well.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms. You should go home and check books yourself.
- Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your responsibility alone.
- **Help Keep Our Parks Clean!** When mushrooming, it's easy to bring a plastic grocery bag to collect cans, bottles or other trash you find. Trash cans are generally found nearby. If not, take it home for disposal.

Walks & Forays Check List:

- ☐ Bring a buddy or two. **Do not forage alone!**
- ☐ Dress for the weather, carry a rain poncho
- ☐ Bring drinking water and lunch
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Basket for collecting
- ☐ Knife for cutting mushrooms
- ☐ Wax or paper bags (no plastic) to keep mushrooms separated
- ☐ Whistle
- ☐ Compass
- ☐ Hand lens
- ☐ Cell phone & camera
- ☐ Notebook & pencil
- ☐ Field guide for identification
- ☐ Band-aids
- ☐ Garden hand-clippers

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.

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NOTE:

WPMC will automatically renew all 2020 WPMC memberships, at no cost, through 2021. HANG ONTO YOUR 2020 MEMBERSHIP CARDS. Hardcopy newsletters will still cost \$5.

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. Application forms are available on the website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/education/wpamc-scholarship-grant-application/>

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 Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.

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 the 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

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!

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HOSPITALITY	VACANT

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