



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

■ Fungi, Fun & Friends! ■

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2022

2022 Meeting Schedule

WPMC MEETINGS ARE held on the third Tuesday evening of each month from March through November at the Frick Environmental Center. Each meeting features updates on club activities, a speaker/presentation, mushroom identification table, and mushroom-related merchandise for sale. Meetings are free and open to the public.

NOVEMBER 15

Annual WPMC Awards & Cooking Demo

SAMUEL BUCKLIN, sous-chef at Round Corner Cantina, is known for his crispy mushroom tacos. Chef Sam will demonstrate a favorite recipe for us at Frick Environmental Center. WPMC will also announce winners of this year's President's Award and Outstanding Service award.



If you can't be there in person, check this website on the night of the meeting to watch live:

<https://www.facebook.com/WPAMC>



YouTube

The streams are also being archived on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WesternPennsylvaniaMushroomClub>

Frick Environmental Center observes the following Covid protocols, according to the level of community spread in Allegheny County: masks are optional when the level is low, recommended when the level is medium, and required when the level is high. You can check the current status of Allegheny County [HERE](#).

2023 Meeting Schedule

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for next year's WPMC meetings:

March 21

April 18

May 16

June 20

July 18

August 15

September 19

October 17

November 21

MAY: cultivation; OCT: photo contest; NOV: awards

WPMC Elects Officers for 2023

AT THE OCTOBER meeting, WPMC members elected the following officers for 2023:

President: Stephen Bucklin Vice President: Cara Coulter

Secretary: Julie Travaglini Treasurer: Jared Delaney

NAMA Trustee: Garrett Taylor

Annual WPMC

Photo Contest Results

Photography Chair **Sara Klingensmith** judged this year's photo contest. Below is the winner of the new category: Mushrooms in Art, a stunning 3D animation by **Stephen Bucklin**. (View the MP4 movie on the WPMC website.) See the winning photos on pages 5 – 8 of this newsletter.



MUSHROOMS IN ART FIRST PLACE WINNER:

STEPHEN BUCKLIN

3D rendering of

Boletinus merulioides

SAVE THE DATE!

Next year's 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray will take place on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**, at The Lodge in North Park.



PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. WWW.WPAMUSHROOMCLUB.ORG — 1

GARY • LINCOFF • FORAY • RECAP



Photo by Garrett Taylor

The Main Event

By Julie Travaglini

FIRST OF ALL, thank you to everyone who came out and made the Lincoff Foray a success. Whether you volunteered to sort mushroom species or went on one of six morning walks, cooked for the feast, or attended the talks by **Arleen Bessette** and **Stephen Russell**, the co-chairs (Jared, Sara and I) couldn't have pulled it off without our village of fellow mushroom lovers.

And a special thank you to the WPMC Identifiers and Mycologists working both the indoor and outdoor display tables. I know I learned a ton of new species from everyone involved in the ID process! Having piles of mushrooms to sort and identify can be very overwhelming, but everyone did a fantastic job, and I'm looking forward to hearing back from **Stephen Russell** about the DNA samples that were run from our mushrooms. Here's hoping we found a few "unknowns"!

I hope you all enjoyed the new additions to the foray, including vendors and live music. The band "New Age Adenas" from West Virginia provided us with relaxing background music while we ate and enjoyed each other's company.

The vendors seemed to be a hit, with Wobble Mud Studios nearly selling out of mushroom ceramic art. I saw many of you taking home plants from Cedar Bridge Botanicals; hopefully they are still alive! My aloe is doing great, but my Sundew has had a few scary moments, ha! Other vendors included PA Mushroom Company providing grow kits, Ritual Soaps with handmade mushroom soaps, and Mushroom Nerds with all sorts of supplies and wares. Wild Ones of Western PA also handed out over 200 packets of native plant seeds!

Lastly, I got to hear parts of **Alan Bessette's** table talk to round out the day and it was FANTASTIC! He provided information on many of the species of mushrooms on our display tables. He had a large crowd that seemed very engaged and entertained.

For the species list from the pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest:
<https://wpamushroomclub.org/species-list-from-cook-forest-foray-on-09-23-2022/>

For the species list from the Lincoff Foray:
<https://wpamushroomclub.org/species-list-from-lincoff-foray-on-09-24-2022/>



Photo by Cara Coulter

Foray Auction Breaks Record

By Cecily Franklin

THIS YEAR'S LINCOFF FORAY auction raised more funds for WPMC than any previous auction. Foray attendees eagerly bought raffle tickets, with the hope of winning one of 30 fabulous prizes. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets or donated prizes, and congratulations to all of the winners. Donations are already coming in for next year's 23rd Annual Gary Lincoff Foray.



DNA at the Foray

By Garrett Taylor



Guest Mycologist Stephen Russell and WPMC Mycologist John Plischke process mushrooms found at Cook Forest.

Photo by Cecily Franklin

FRIDAY WAS BY FAR the biggest turnout for a pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest, and the mushrooms and weather were perfect. We absolutely nailed this, despite my nervousness about how we were going about it, with around 500 mushrooms photographed,

dried, sampled into tubes and sent home with **Stephen Russell** to Indiana.

I think we had around 220 that we vouchered from North Park on Saturday as well, despite the dry conditions, for a total of 7.5 plates, or 720 total specimens collected and processed in two days total. In layman's terms, that is 720 mostly unique species that we as collectors, identifiers and mycologists either don't know or want to learn more about. We certainly can't do that every weekend, but we can keep the ball rolling by trying to fill a shoebox the rest of Fall with our own dried specimens that we come across.

Everyone who contributed deserves a thank you, especially:

- WPMC Mycologists **John Plischke** and **Cara Coulter**, and WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob**.
- Everyone who collected species, especially those who uploaded photos to the iNaturalist project.
- All of the other foray organizers.
- **Alan and Arleen Bessette**, who made it extra special by being there.
- Those who helped out processing the last two nights at North Park.

Once again, great work, everybody! In future newsletters, we will keep you informed about the DNA results that come in.



WPMC Mycologist Designs Foray T-Shirt

WPMC MYCOLOGIST **Cara Coulter** designed the T-shirt for the Gary Lincoff Foray. This year's shirt features Cara's drawing of a *Xylaria*.

WPMC in the News

IN THE DAYS leading up to this year's Gary Lincoff Foray, Trib Live reporter Harry Funk interviewed WPMC Past President **Cecily Franklin** about the Foray, the Club, and mushrooms in general. To read the full article, go to:

<https://triblive.com/local/fox-chapel/fun-with-fungi-western-pennsylvania-mushroom-club-plans-north-park-foray/>

FOX CHAPEL HERALD

Fun with fungi: Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club plans North Park foray

TRIB LIVE

HARRY FUNK | Monday, Aug. 29, 2022 5:31 p.m.

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM



WPMC Awards ID Buttons

ID BUTTON CHAIR Julie Travaglini recently awarded the following ID Buttons: 25 to **Rebecca Marsh**, **Rachel Gallagher** (not pictured) and **Emily Wojtyna**, and 300 to WPMC Identifier **Barbora Batokova**. 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/>



Rebecca Marsh



Emily Wojtyna



Barbora Batokova

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 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/>





Liz Berckmann and Mike Henry took control of the kitchen. Photo by Cecily Franklin



Scott and Kate Pavelle brought this cookie display. Photo by Cecily Franklin



Kim Plischke's Cooking Demo showed us how to roast vegetables. Photo by Arleen Bessette

The Foray Cooks

A big shout-out to MUSHROOM FEAST ORGANIZER MIKE HENRY, to all of his assistants, and to everyone who brought food to this year's Lincoff Foray.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Victoria Abel | Mushroom Pissaladiere |
| Barbora Batakova | Mushrooms with Pork |
| Liz Berckmann | Mushroom Risotto |
| Fluff Berger | Corn and Bacon Casserole |
| Stephen Bucklin | Beverages |
| Cara Barkley Coulter | Iced Tea with Lemon |
| Jared Delaney | Giant Eagle prepared foods |
| Barbara DeRiso | Chanterelles for Soup |
| Nicolle Flood-Sawczynszyn | Hummus & Pita Chips |
| Cindy Harris | Rye loaves & Spinach dip |
| Mike Henry | Chicken of the Woods Pizza |
| | Black-staining Polypore Nuggets with Chimichuri |
| | Chinese Hot & Sour Soup |
| | Chicken of the Woods Tacos |
| | Hen of the Woods & Spinach Risotto |
| Lex Jackson | Yellow-foot Chanterelle Sourdough Pizza |
| Richard Jacob | Brisket |
| Sara Klingensmith | Pumpkin-lentil Soup with Mushrooms |
| | Banana Bread |
| Marylou Lenhart | Mushroom Mac & Cheese |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Judy Mackenroth | Veggie & Cheese Tray |
| Phil & Mary Lee Majewski | Mexican Corn Salad |
| Rebecca Marsh | Stuffed Mushrooms |
| | Spinach Balls |
| Scott & Kate Pavelle | Mushroom Cookie Display |
| Becky Plischke | Oyster Mushrooms with Crab & Bearnaise Sauce |
| | Black Trumpet & Shrimp Alfredo |
| John Plischke | Chaga Tea |
| Kim Plischke | Corn Chowder with Chanterelles |
| | Chicken Mushroom Alfredo |
| | Roasted Vegetables |
| | Candy Cap Cake |
| Matt Stahlman | Bean Salad |
| John Stuart | Cookies |
| Julie & Becky Travaglini | Pasta Salad |
| | 7-layer Salad |
| | Buffalo Chicken Dip |
| | Cookies |
| Jim Wasik | Mushroom Soup |
| Martha Wasik | Carrot Ginger Soup |
| Dawn Wehman | Crabapple Jelly |





DOCUMENTARY WINNER:
DAWN WEHMAN
Climacodon septentrionalis



JUDGE'S OPTION FIRST PLACE WINNER:
BRIANNA ALBERT PUCHI
Russula virescens



PICTORIAL WINNER:
FLUFF BERGER
Amanita in a stump





DOCUMENTARY
FIRST PLACE WINNER:
CECILY FRANKLIN
Lycogala conicum

PICTORIAL FIRST PLACE WINNER:
JOHN GARDINER
Honey mushroom



DOCUMENTARY WINNER:
STEPHEN BUCKLIN
Asterophora lycoperdoides



MUSHROOMS IN ART WINNER:

GEORGE LATKEY

Amanita nesting dolls



PICTORIAL WINNER:

CALVIN DZIEWULSKI

Calostoma

JUDGE'S OPTION WINNER:

CECILY FRANKLIN

Hypomyces chrysospermus
guttation





MUSHROOMS IN ART

WINNER:

PATTY HOUCK

Rosy Gill



JUDGE'S OPTION WINNER:

DAWN WEHMAN

Grifola frondosa



Out & About with WPMC



FunDiS Director Gabriela D'Elia and Biodiversity Database leading identifier John Plischke checked out the ID tables at the Clark Rogerson Annual Foray with the Connecticut Westchester Mycological Association (COMA).

Photo courtesy of FunDiS



WPMC Identifiers Richard Jacob, Stephen Bucklin, Fluff Berger, Sara Klingensmith, Josh Mowris, Dirk Cappel, and Jared White led a mushroom walk in Frick Park for second year architecture students from Carnegie Mellon University.

Photo by Stephen Bucklin



WPMC President Stephen Bucklin led a mushroom walk at Riverview Park, as part of its annual RP Day.

Photo by Kathy Gilloty Croft

Family Fun for the Off-Season

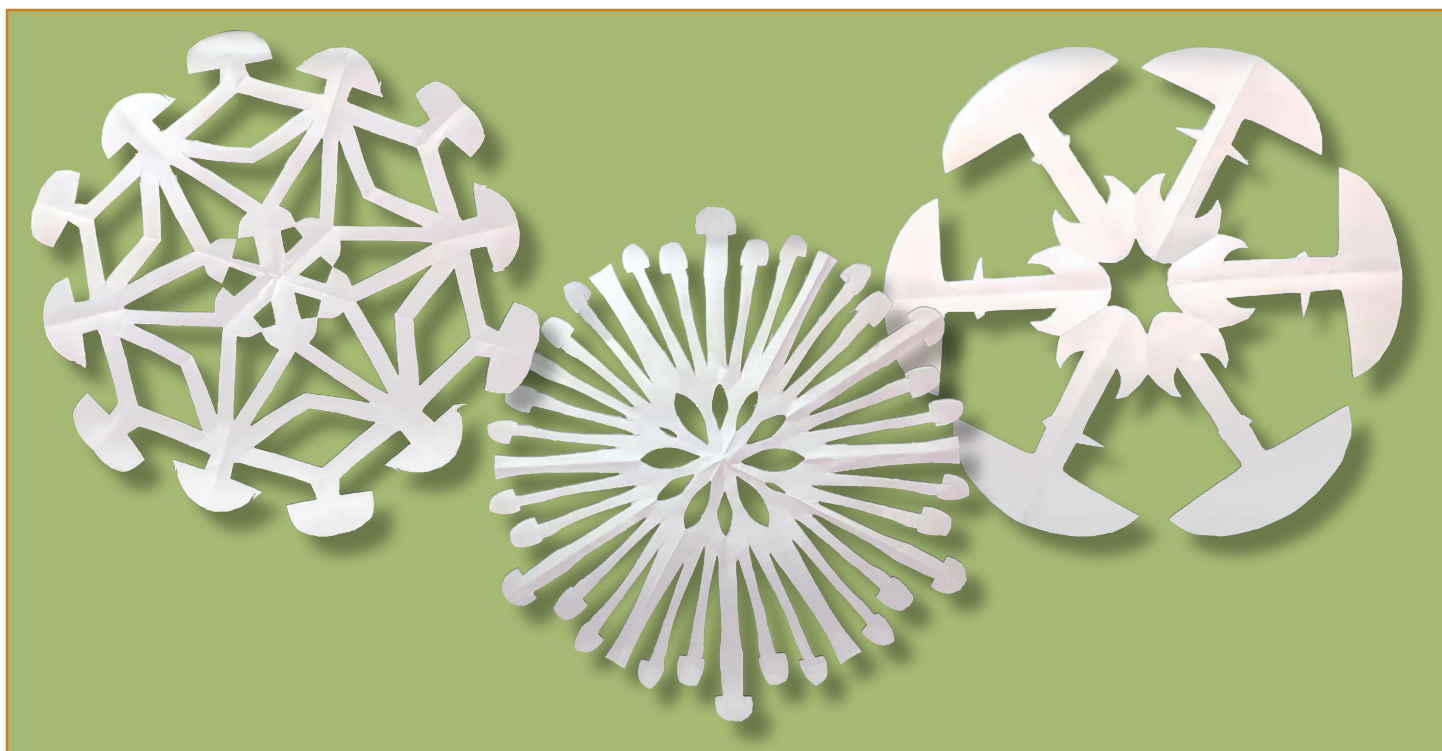
DON'T WORRY ABOUT the disappearance of mushrooms during the winter. Now you can make your own mushroom snowflakes! **Elizabeth Hargrave**, President of the Mycological Association of Washington (DC) and designer of the board game Wingspan, has created eight different mushroom snowflake designs.

Download the template: **CLICK HERE**

<https://www.mawdc.org/resources/crafts/shroom%20snowflakes.pdf>

To watch an 8-minute video with Elizabeth showing us exactly what (and what not) to do: **CLICK HERE**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9STIEV5qig>





NAMA 2022 Foray

By Richard Jacob

THIS YEAR'S NORTH AMERICAN Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray was held at the end of September in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. The hope was that, by holding it later in the year, the cooler weather and typical rain would make for an abundant mushroom season. Unfortunately, there was a period of unseasonably warm weather in the runup to the event and everything was quite dry.

The Foray was held at Trout Lodge, a YMCA resort next to a picturesque lake. I met NAMA members from as far afield as Southern California and Washington state. There were quite a few from Colorado, the location of last year's foray. WPMC Mycologists **John and Kim Plischke** represented WPMC, along with me. Many of the "big" names in amateur mycology were there too.

On Friday and Saturday, there were choices of half-day forays, full day forays, or lectures and workshops at Trout Lodge. In the evenings, there was a review of the daily finds, then a keynote lecture, followed by an evening social. I was interested in seeing some of the forests and parks more than staying inside and attending lectures, so I went on a full day walk on Friday and two half-day walks on Saturday. I did miss a couple of good lectures, cooking demos, and a microscope workshop, among other things.

For the full day foray, I went to Hawn State Park. The park has sandstone bedrock with cliffs, canyons, sand bottomed creeks, and acidic soil with mixed woods of white oak, shagbark hickory, red maple, and the native Shortleaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*). Despite the distance from Western PA, most mushroom species are the same as can be found at home. Mushrooms were hard to come by, as it was dry anywhere further than a foot away from the creek. All the mushrooms I collected had their pictures taken with the foray's ID slips and uploaded to iNaturalist, so that they could be used for the vouchers and sampled for DNA.

Despite the lack of specimens, I did find a new species for me, and it turns out new to John Plischke too: *Cantharellus intensissimus*. It is a small yellow chanterelle that looks very similar to *Cantharellus minor* but larger. There were also quite a few lobster mushrooms right at the parking lot and kids' playground. The bus driver got

the pick of these, as everyone else missed them when they went exploring in the forest!

On Saturday I had a lot more success at Huzzah Conservation area, a rugged forested area with a river and two creeks. There was a mud bottomed creek with a lot of damp rotting wood, so I was able to find all sorts of interesting *ascomycetes*, slime molds, and small mushrooms. These sorts of areas are where you can make a reasonable contribution to the overall foray with species not found elsewhere. I was still finding new species when we had to leave for the bus back to the lodge. A number of new species and some unidentified ones have been submitted for DNA analysis.

My final foray was in Mark Twain National Forest at the Berryman Campground. There were lots of dried-up black trumpets very close to the trailhead that had people excited; otherwise, it was fairly dry. I examined a gully very closely and found a variety of slime molds and a few larger mushrooms. We also enjoyed ripe persimmons that people had foraged from a nearby tree.

Thursday's keynote lectures covered how to collect specimens and record to iNaturalist, as well as an introduction to the host club, Missouri Mycological Society (MOMS). Friday's keynote was on the history of MycoPortal that has records of all the historical fungal vouchers in the US and around the world. The final keynote lecture on Saturday was on Women in North American Mycology. Many of the women featured in the talk are mentioned in the paper (see link below). Most were born in the 19th century and shared similar stories in that they were the first to attend a particular university or college or the first to be awarded a degree or PhD or the first to be a professor.

A talk I missed but wished I had seen was on *Hebeloma* by Henry Beker. Becker has been working with herbaria, analyzing the DNA of archived mushroom vouchers, and resolving many taxa or names. Over 10,000 specimens have been examined and annotated, many with ITS DNA sequence, and were sorted to species using machine learning algorithms.

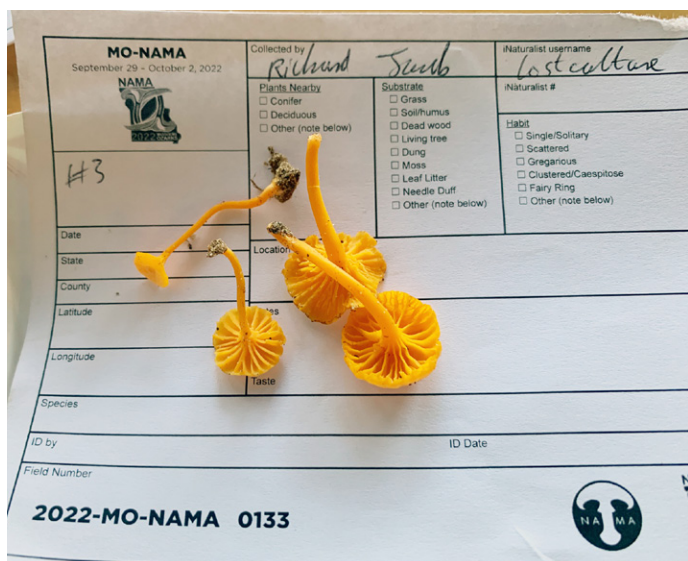
I didn't get to see it, but the ~720 DNA samples we collected at the Lincoff Foray had been extracted and amplified by PCR in the intervening week by our guest mycologist **Stephen Russell**. They were sequenced using an Oxford Nanopore MinION on Saturday. Results have started to appear in our iNaturalist project.

The Foray also had an auction, cooking demonstrations, multiple vendors, and a band at the social event. Something for everyone, from hunting and cooking edible mushrooms to the latest advances in mycology. All in all, a fun weekend meeting a lot of other amateur mycologists from around the country. Next year's event will be a bit closer to us in Hendersonville, North Carolina, close to Asheville.

Women in North American Mycology:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S016061617300519>

WPMC Identifier Richard Jacob found this *Cantharellus intensissimus* at the NAMA Foray.



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WPMC Walk



NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

Saturday, November 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Rescheduled Black Friday Walk at Hartwood Acres. Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** at the Mansion parking lot for our rescheduled annual Black Friday mushroom walk.

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. Find a buddy to search with.
- Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for identification and advice.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms: location, habitat, etc.
- 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.

If you would like to lead a WPMC walk, or if you know a great walk location, please email WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** at vice-president@wpamushroomclub.org.

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.



Choose WPMC on AmazonSmile

WPMC HAS REGISTERED with AmazonSmile, so that Amazon purchases can benefit WPMC. Whenever you shop at Amazon, just designate the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to WPMC. "Same products, same prices, same service." It's easy to get started with this link: [▶ CLICK HERE](#)



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 our Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.

WPMC Membership Report

by Kris Murawski

AS OF OCTOBER 17, WPMC has 1,014 members from 570 households. Thank you to everyone for renewing your membership or becoming a new member in 2022, as these dues are vital to keep the club running. They contribute to over 40% of WPMC's income every year.

If you need to renew your membership or would like to become a member, please go to <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> and fill out the form.

Benefits of WPMC membership include Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter • Monthly Meeting Notices • Updates on Mushroom Walks & WPMC Events • Free 'Grow-Your-Own' Mushroom Kit • Mushroom Identification at Meetings • Mushroom Walks • Mushroom Education Day • Annual Photo Contest • WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray Discount • Access to WPMC Facebook Group

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., Production
Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

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**NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED
MUSHROOM!**