



WESTERN PA



MUSHROOM CLUB

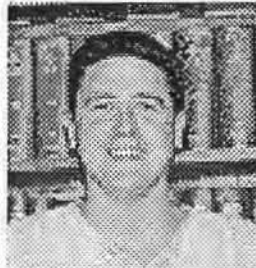
Volume 3, Issue 4
President: Dick Dougall

Editor: Becky Plischke
V, Pres: Dick Duffy

October November 2002
Sec: Valerie Baker
Treas: Jack Baker

YET ANOTHER MYCOLOGIST COMING TO MM4

Barrie Overton, Ph.D. candidate, attended Alma College in Alma, Michigan for his undergraduate work and worked with mycologist Dr. Richard Roper. World famous mycologist Walter J. Sundberg was his mentor for his Master's degree at Southern Illinois University. Barrie is currently completing his Ph.D. in mycology at Penn State University where he is working on the Systematics of the *Hypocrea citrina* complex.



Barrie will talk on Systematics and the study of evolutionary relationships in the Hypocreales.
General outline:

- How do we recognize species?
- What are the steps to naming a species?
- Why do names change?
- Hypocrea as an example.
- Research.
- How you can become involved in systematic research?

MUSHROOM TASTING

Mushroom Mania 4 will have mushroom tasting. As we all know the menu is subject to the kinds of mushrooms we find. Although the menu has not been finalized for this year, last year's menu included:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Black Trumpet Dip | Sulfur Shelf Snack |
| Chanterelle Dip | Stuffed Mushrooms |
| Boletus Separans Soup | Mushrooms Tuscan Style |
| Sweet & Sour Sulfur Shelf | |
| Sparassis Cheese Squares | |
| Marinated Hen of the Woods | |
| Oysters & Crab in Bearnaise Sauce | |
| Mushrooms, Spinach and Feta Cheese | |

Last Chance To Register For MUSHROOM MANIA 4

GARY LINCOFF, PRINCIPAL MYCOLOGIST

Advance Sales Way Ahead of Last Year

Gary Lincoff will be the principal mycologist at this day long mushroom event on September 14. Gary is the author of many mushroom books including the National Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Mushrooms.



The Audubon Field Guide is the biggest selling mushroom book of all time. Bring your copy along or buy one at the event. You might be able to talk Gary into autographing your book.

ALMOST SOLD OUT

If you would like to attend Mushroom Mania 4 you need to send in your reservation immediately, or there will be no room left.

You will be taught mushrooms by a top national and many regional mushroom experts. There will be scores and scores of mushrooms for you to see and learn. If you are a new mushroomer, you will have the opportunity to learn more mushrooms in one day than you could probably learn on your own in 5 years. To me, it is worth the price of admission just for the mushroom tasting.

Don't hesitate. Sign up today before the event is sold out.

SPECIAL OFFER

The cost of this day long mushroom event is a real bargain. The price is only \$50 at the door for 10 ½ hours of mushrooming, mushroom tasting and good friendship, but if you send your reservation today, the price for club members is just \$20. We must receive your filled in, signed, dated registration form along with a check by September 3, 2002. After September 3, the price is \$50 at the door, standing room only.

WHILE YOU ARE AT IT

While you are at it, you may as well save a stamp and sign up for your 2003 club membership. A family membership is only \$20 and individual membership just \$15.

200 YEARS OF IDENTIFICATION EXPERIENCE TO HELP YOU LEARN MUSHROOMS

Our club is blessed with many experienced mushroom identifiers who can identify hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of mushrooms. The following is a brief synopsis of some of our most experienced identifiers who will be working the identification tables at Mushroom Mania 4.

Gary Lincoff – Principal Mycologist – the most famous mushroom expert in the world.

Dr. Richard W. (Rick) Kerrigan – world-renowned Agaricus expert.

Dr. Richard R. Doyle has done research on the isolation, structure determination and synthesis of novel amino acids from mushroom extracts.

Dr. Fred Schrock taught courses in General Mycology and Medical Mycology while at IUP.

Irene Ackerman is one of the tri-state leading mushroom experts.

Robert Boice – is a Club Mycologist and Photography Chair and NAMA award winning photographer.

Jon Ellifritz – is the top identifier for the Mycological Association of Washington.

Dorothy Fornof – Club Mycologist and head of the identification tables at our meetings.

John Plischke III – Club Mycologist, and Walk and Foray Chairman. He will present a program at the NAMA foray in Oregon and the NEMF Foray in NY.

BOB LUCAS & ELIZABETH BARROW MUSHROOMS UNDER A MICROSCOPE

Bob and Elizabeth will have stereo and compound microscopes set up so that you can see what mushroom spores look like and observe small mushrooms under magnification.

JOHN PLISCHKE III TO PRESENT EDIBLE MUSHROOM PROGRAM

Club Mycologist and nationally known mushroom photographer, John Plischke III, will give a slide show and talk on edible mushrooms for those who want to know more about edible mushrooms.

MUSHROOM CHEF COMING

Gordon Callahan, the Culinary Chair of the Mycological Association of Washington, will be coming to Mushroom Mania 4 and will spend part of his time cooking in the kitchen.

MUSHROOM MANIA 4 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

7:30-8:15 Registration
8:00-8:30 Sales Table Open
8:30-8:35 Welcome
8:35-8:40 Introduction of Guests & Officers
8:40-8:45 How to Collect Mushrooms
8:45-8:55 Organize Walks
8:55-9:00 Proceed to Cars
9:00-12:00 Collect Mushrooms
12:00-1:00 Lunch (on your own)
We suggest you pack a lunch and drink.
1:00-2:00 Gary Lincoff Slide Show and Talk
2:00-2:05 Organize Walks
2:05-4:00 Collect Mushrooms
2:05-6:15 Mushroom Identification
Identification Team identifies the collection and puts them on display for you to learn
4:05-4:30 Barrie Overton Talk
4:10-4:55 Mushrooms Under the Microscope
Bob Lucas & Elizabeth Barrow
4:35-5:00 John Plischke Slide Show & Talk
5:00-5:45 Mushroom Tasting - Mycophagy
5:45-6:15 Review the Collection
6:15-6:45 Gary Lincoff Table Walk
6:45-7:00 Clean-Up (everybody helps)
7:00 Leave (even if you have a 4 hour drive, you can be home by 11:00)

CHANTERELLES DONATED

Wendy Terwilliger and Jim Strutz recently found eleven shopping bags of Chanterelles. They are donating a big batch to Mushroom Mania 4. Thanks!

15% DISCOUNT

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve has an excellent nature bookstore and gift shop. At Mushroom Mania 4, you will receive a discount coupon for 15% off at their shop. They will have mushroom books available for sale including the National Audubon Society's Field Guide to North American Mushrooms by Gary Lincoff.

HONEY MUSHROOMS

By
John
Pischke III

Honey mushrooms are very common in the fall and can be collected in abundance. Many people go out into the woods to collect them. Usually we find them in the woods but they can grow in suburban areas. A couple of local hunters went out collecting them at their spot near the railroad tracks. It is a nice spot since you can just drive down the road slowly and look out the window to see if they are up. At this location, they grow from stumps and underground roots similar to the photo below. They had collected them in this spot for a good number of years before without any problems. Last year they picked them and one of them became ill after eating them. So he immediately called his buddy and told him about his experience and advised him not to eat his share of the harvest. What happened??? They were indeed honey mushrooms and not one of the poisonous look-alikes. So a trip was made back to the spot. The entire area was black and all the grass was dead. What apparently happened was the railroad company came by and sprayed defoliant an hour or so before they picked the mushrooms and the plants did not start dying immediately. Care must be used in areas that are sprayed.



The caps are brownish colored.	They grow on wood.	They grow in groups and clusters	It does not have a ring on its stalk.
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*RINGLESS HONEY MUSHROOM

(*Armillaria tabescens*)

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Stump Mushroom

FAMILY: Tricholomataceae

DESCRIPTION: This Honey mushroom gets its common name because it lacks a ring on the stalk.

Flesh: white.

Cap: 1 to 4 inches wide. It is convex becoming almost flat with age. It is yellowish brown. It feels furry on the top.

Gills: They descend part way down the stalk. They are whitish and bruise.

Spore Print: White.

Stalk: 2 to 7 inches tall and 1/4 to 5/8 inch wide. It is thinner going towards the base. They can be fused together at the base. It does not have a ring.

WHERE TO LOOK: On the base of oak trees. I have also seen them at the base of an apple tree, once. Growing on wood around stumps in large clusters and buried wood and roots. Also look at the base of dead and standing trees typically without bark or that have some bark fallen off. Logged areas are often a good place to look. They return for several years on the same stumps so remember the spot, and date, and make sure to get there early next season because this is one of PA, NY, WV, and OH most hunted after group of mushrooms.

HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND: Common.

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: In groups and clusters.

SOCIAL PLANTS: When they come up from the roots they often appear in grass in lawns etc with the typical weeds such as clover but there often are not any social plants.

WHEN TO LOOK: August-November. The first flush starts in August to September when they can be found in huge numbers. Occasionally one could fill up the back of a pickup truck if hunting all day. Then when it finally ends, they can be found here and there in meal-sized quantities in the end of October to November.

LOOK ALIKES: The edible Honey Mushroom (*Armillariella mellea*), which has a ring on the stalk. The edible White Ring Honey Mushroom (*Armillaria ostovae*). The poisonous Deadly Galerina (*Galerina autumnalis*) is smaller and has a brown spore print. The larger hallucinogenic Big Laughing Gym (*Gymnopilus spectabilis*) is orangish. (*Pholiota* sp.). The poisonous Sulfur Tuft (*Naematoloma fasciculare*) has a yellow cap and greenish-yellow gills that can become brownish. The poisonous Jack O Lantern (*Omphalotus olearius*) is orange and has gills that descend part way down the stalk and can glow in the dark when fresh, once your eyes become adjusted.

EDIBILITY: Edible and Choice.

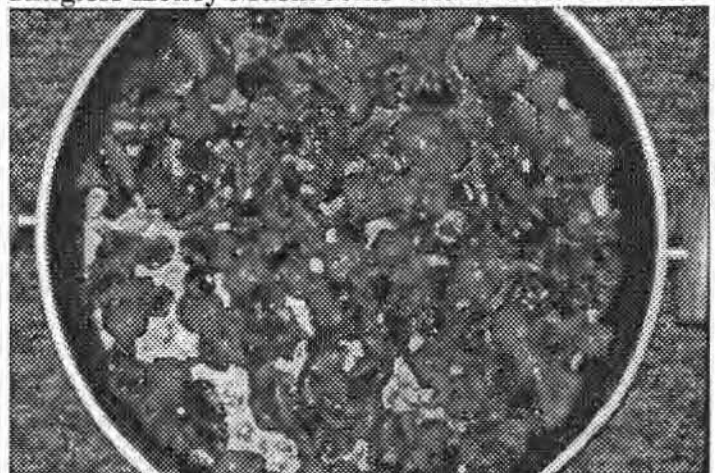
COOKING INSTRUCTIONS: This mushroom must be cooked or it can make you sick. It is good fried in butter, in stews, pickled, or in stir-fries. My mother makes a delicious beef barley soup with it and I often substitute it for Shitake mushrooms. The stalks can be French-fried.

Honey Mushroom Beef Barley Soup



Perhaps you have tried this delicious soup at Mushroom Mania. If you have not had a chance yet, make sure to try the recipe. It's in the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Cookbook.

Ringless Honey Mushrooms With Butter & Garlic



The caps are cut off the stalks and fried in butter and garlic until golden brown. They can be eaten this way or placed into Ziploc bags and frozen for future use.



It can be aborted by the abortive entoloma.	It grows on wood.	Its cap feels wooly.	It has a bulb like base.
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*WHITE RING HONEY MUSHROOM

(*Armillaria ostovae*)

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Honey Fungus, Honey Mushroom

FAMILY: Tricholomataceae

DESCRIPTION:

Cap: 1 to 3 inches wide. It is convex becoming almost flat with age. It is tan to brownish when mature and sometimes a little bit brownish red. When it is very immature, it is yellowish brown.

Gills: They are attached to the stalk. They are whitish to cream becoming darker with age. They are covered with a white partial veil when the mushroom is very young and the cap is not yet expanded, thus making the gills hidden until the cap expands and breaks the covering.

Spore Print: Whitish.

Stalk: 2 to 6 inches tall and about 1/2 inch wide. It is swollen and bulb like at the base. It is a lighter color than the cap. It has a ring.

Odor: Mild. **Taste:** Mild.

WHERE TO LOOK: Growing on wood around stumps in large clusters and on buried wood and roots. Also look at the base of dead and standing trees typically without bark or that have some bark fallen off, sometimes part way up the trunks. Logged areas are often a good place to look. They return for several years on the same stumps so remember the spot, and date, and make sure to get there early next season because this is one of PA, NY, WV, and OH most hunted after group of mushrooms.

HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND: It is found occasionally to common.

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: It usually is found in good numbered groups but occasionally only 1 or 2 are found.

SOCIAL PLANTS: When they come up from the roots they often appear in grass in lawns etc, but there are often are not any social plants.

WHEN TO LOOK: July-November.

LOOK ALIKES: Other Armillarias such as the edible Honey Mushroom (*Armillaria mellea*). The edible Ringless Honey Mushroom (*Armillaria tabescens*), which has no ring on its stem. (*Armillaria gemina*). The poisonous Deadly Galerina (*Galerina autumnalis*) has a brown spore print. The larger hallucinogenic Big Laughing Gym (*Gymnopilus spectabilis*) is orangish. (*Pholiota sp.*). The poisonous Sulfur Tuft (*Naematoloma fasciculare*) has a yellow cap and greenish-yellow gills that can become brownish. The poisonous Jack O Lantern (*Omphalotus olearius*) is orange and has gills that descend part way down the stalk and can glow in the dark when fresh, once your eyes become adjusted.

EDIBILITY: Edible and Choice.

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS: This mushroom must be cooked or it can make you sick. It is good fried in butter, in stews, pickled, or in stir-fries. My mother makes a delicious beef barley soup with it and I often substitute it for Shitake mushrooms.

HONEY MUSHROOM (*Armillariella mellea*)



The caps are honey colored.	They can be found in abundance.	It grows on wood and has black rhizomorphs.	It has a ring on the stalk.
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DEADLY GALERINA (*Galerina autumnalis*)



They have a brown spore print.	They grow on wood.	They are poisonous.	It has a ring on the stalk.
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For color photos from this article please see the Western PA Mushroom Clubs site at Yahoo Groups. The Photos are in the photo section.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub>

For more information and a good key along with color photos make sure to check out Tom Volk's site at
<http://www.wisc.edu/botany/fungi/armkey.html>

2003



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB

The purpose of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is to promote the enjoyment, study, and exchange of information about wild mushrooms. Everyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member. Members are entitled to:

- The WPMC newsletter
- Nine monthly WPMC meetings
- Free participation in WPMC Walks
- Fee discount for WPMC Forays
- Fee discount on WPMC sponsored merchandise

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Interests: Learning Mushrooms Microscopy Club Committees
 Eating Wild Mushroom Toxicology Cultivating Mushrooms
 Mushroom Walks Books Dyeing With Mushrooms
 Mushroom Photography Taxonomy Mushroom Art
 Other _____

Dues enclosed: \$ _____ (\$20 Family, \$15 Individual, \$10 Full time student)

RELEASE

I (We) realize that when engaged in wild mushroom activities, that serious physical injury and personal property damage may accidentally occur. I (We) further realize that there is always the possibility of having an allergic reaction to or being poisoned by the eating of wild mushrooms and that these adverse reactions to eating wild mushrooms range from mild indigestion to fatal illness.

Knowing the risks, I (we) agree to assume the risks, and agree to release, hold harmless, and to indemnify the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, and any officer or member thereof, from any and all legal responsibility for injuries or accidents incurred by myself or my family during or as a result of any mushroom identification, walk, foray, field trip, excursion, meeting or dining, sponsored by the club.

Signature _____ Date: _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Return completed signed and dated form with check payable to W PA Mushroom Club to:

Jack Baker, 1413 Parkmont Rd, Allison Park, PA 15101

6/02

(over)

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Name: _____ Phone: _____ e-mail _____

Address: _____

WE NEED YOUR HELP

WHAT AREA WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP WITH?

PLEASE CHECK THREE POSSIBLE ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Scout for walk locations
- Help organize forays
- Lead walks
- Work on newsletter committee
- Contribute articles, photos, etc. to newsletter
- Assemble and mail newsletters
- Help with web page
- Line up speakers for meetings
- Host guest speakers and mycologists
- Record meetings, discussions, events
- Maintain contact with other mushroom clubs
- Publicize meetings, forays, events
- Club Historian
- Recruit members, maintain list of members
- Outreach-- speak to other clubs, nature centers
- Call or e-mail members
- Give a program at Club monthly meeting
- Produce or acquire teaching materials, resources, handouts for meetings
- Welcome and orient new members
- Coordinate coffee/refreshment
- Participate in special projects
- Record mushrooms that are found
- Conduct research on questionable mushrooms
- Help with mycophagy (mushroom cooking)
- Help with sign in at walks and meetings
- _____
- _____

Find something you would like to do. Check the appropriate boxes. We can have a lot of Fungi, Fun, and Friends but it takes your participation to make it happen.

Return completed form to: Jack Baker, 1413 Parkmont Road, Allison Park, PA 15101

6/02

(over)

LETTER TO JON WEBB FROM DR. SAM RISTICH

I was fascinated by your article on how to become a mortician's ward, but also got goose bumps as big as marbles!!! I have been collecting fungi since 1935. In those 65 years, I have been involved with 600 poisonings (directly or indirectly). There were five near fatal poisonings and one death with *Galerina autumnalis*. Let me tell you how you fell into several traps. First, you said, "could this be *Flammulina (Collybia) velutipes*?" The wisdom the namer placed in the trivial name could have saved you hours of agony viz. *veluti* = velvet, *pes* = foot or stem. If you close your eyes and feel the stem, it would feel like you were stroking a pussycat. Moreover, your 10X hand lens would show you the velvety hair, which your specimens didn't have. That would have lead you to the first Mycological commandment - Am I 110% certain? If not, read the second commandment, place unknown in refrigerator and wait patiently until a guru provided the 110% certainty.

Now if you or your guru had a compound scope- you could have learned the following without a spore print unless the specimen was very young. (A) *F. velutipes* has white = hyaline spores, (B) *G. autumnalis* has brown slightly rough spores. You could also have learned another even more elementary fact with 20:20 vision- *F. velutipes* has no ring- your *autumnalis* did!!

In paragraph 5, you said the toxicologist learned the stuff you ate was "mucking up" your RNA, a sign of amanitin poisoning. This signal tells the following. Amanitin compounds bypass the stomach and attacks the liver enzymes and kidneys. Obvious symptoms are vomiting and dry heaves, 10 - 15 hours after you ate the mushrooms.

In paragraph 7, you say *G. autumnalis* contains the same type of poison as the well-known *Amanitas*, which is an erroneous statement. Many *Amanita* species such as *muscaria*, *rubescens*, and *brunnescens* do not contain the deadly amanitins, but *virosa*, *bisporigera* and *phalloides* do. On a dry weight basis, *G. autumnalis* is as deadly as the white and green "borgias" - viz. ED50 is 0.1-0.5 mg/kg - or putting it another way, the 20 small caps you ate had somewhere between 8 - 20 mgs of amanitin. Enough to kill you and several of your best friends!!!! We reprinted your article in our Maine bulletin. We will print my rebuttal of your article so all the members in four club will read it three times* and live as long as I have!

P.S. I tell my followers never eat a mushroom raw—the first time. Three weeks ago two brothers spent a day in the hospital with severe gastro- after eating a

raw *thcholomopsis (Collybia) platyphylla*—a non poisonous species.

Editor's Note: Dr. Sam Ristich is a special friend of the WPMC. He is a preeminent mycologist and entomologist. Although Sam eats many mushrooms, he is concerned about mushrooms enthusiasts becoming poisoned. So are we! That is why Jon Webb wrote the article and why we printed it. It is also one of the reasons this mushroom club was started. People can best learn mushrooms by going to meetings, walks and forays, and reading our newsletter. Thanks Sam and Jon, for your articles. Always err on the side of caution

ARTICLES WANTED

We will welcome your article, recipe, joke, puzzle, story or cartoon for the newsletter.

Email or mail them to Becky Plischke today. morelbp@aol.com or mail to 129 Grant St, Greensburg, PA 15601.

Don't forget to send in your original or adapted recipes for our Cookbook Volume 2.

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE . . .

Is home of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania and WPMC. Among the many features of this very special place are an educational building, auditorium, store, library, educational programs and Raptor Center. Visit them at: <http://www.aswp.org/beechnwood.html> and stop in to see them. Thanks Beechwood for the great relationship we enjoy and the 15% discount at your store for Mushroom Mania 4 participants.

WEBSITE AND GROUPS

Elizabeth Barrow is our new webmaster. Visit at: <http://www.wpmc4.homestead.com>

From our website you can click onto Yahoo Groups. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub> Chat, report your mushroom finds and check on club events.

FOR SALE

Besides our Wild Mushroom Cookbook, the club will have 10X hand loupes and boxes of small Waxtex bags for sale at Mushroom Mania.

MATCHMAKER

MatchMaker is a computer program available on the Internet and on CD-ROM. Find a working version of the program at: www.pfc.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/biodiversity/matchmaker/index_e.html To obtain the CD-ROM, send \$10 (US or Canadian) with your address (and e-mail address if you have one for updates) to: Ian Gibson, 201-645 Fort Street, Victoria BC V8W 1G2, Canada.

WALKS & FORAYS by John Plischke III

We request that no one hunts a walk or foray location for at least two weeks prior to a walk or foray. It is only through your cooperation that we can have successful walks and forays.

August 17 - 10:00 -12:00(?), Trillium Trail and Scott Park, Allegheny County. Meet **Dick Dougall** and **Dick Duffy** at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve and then proceed to Scott Park.

August 18, 12:00 - 5:00 pm: Meet the **Mycological Association of Washington** for a Mushroom Fair. Their guest mycologist will be **John Plischke III**. Contact hardscrabble@mountain.net for details.

August 23-24 – Prince Gallitzin State Park, Cambria County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III** Friday will be a slide show at the amphitheater at 8:30 pm. Saturday, we will walk, hunt and identify mushrooms from 3:30 pm- ?? We will be camping for the weekend. Take Rt. 22 and right before you get to Ebensburg take 219 north. At Carrolltown, turn onto state rt 4015, at Patton; take state rt 1021 to the park. <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/p-gall.htm>

August 29, Thursday – 7:00 – 10:00 pm Alameda Park, Butler County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III** Meet at the Carousel Center for a mushroom walk, identification and slide show. Follow Route 8 North to the Lyndora Exit. (Hansen Ave.) You must be in the left hand lane to exit into Lyndora. Follow Hansen Ave. until it "T"s with New Castle Road (Route 356). At the light, turn left. At the third light on New Castle Road, turn right onto Alameda Park Road. There will be a Burger King on your right. The Carousel Shelter will be on your left at the second stop sign.

August 31- Blue Knob State Park, Bedford County. Meet **John Plischke** and **John Plischke III** at the park amphitheater. Walk, hunt and identify mushrooms from 3:00 pm - ?? At 8:00 pm more mushroom identification and a slide show and talk. Take the Pennsylvania Turnpike to Bedford, Exit 11. Go north on I-99 to Route 869 west (at Osterburg). Follow Route 869 to Pavia, then follow signs through Pavia to park.

September 6-8 – Camp Sequanota, Somerset County, near Donegal, PA. Meet the **Mycological Association of Washington** for the weekend. Details will be at <http://maw.freesevers.com>

September 14 – Mushroom Mania 4 at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve Get your reservations in early, we expect to sell out and have to turn people away. This will be a fantastic day of Fungi, Fun and Friends. Don't miss it. This will probably be the foray with the biggest bang for the buck in the USA.

September 21 –10:00-12:00(?), Deer Lakes Park, Allegheny County, Russelton. Meet **Dorothy and Robert Fornof**. From the PA Turnpike get off at the Allegheny Valley Exit 5. Turn toward New Kensington. Turn left onto Route 28. Follow to Pearl Avenue and turn left. Continue on Pearl Ave, it becomes Russelton Road. In Russelton, turn right at the first intersection, look for a drug store, bank and liquor store and turn right. Go a short distance you will see a Deer Lakes Park sign, turn left into the park. Just past the first lake, there is a large parking lot, meet there.

September 19-22 – North East Mycological Federation Foray, Ellenville, NY at the Nevele Grande Resort & Country Club. **Dr. Roz Lowen** just asked our own **John Plischke III** to present two different programs at this foray. NEMF consists of 20 mushroom clubs with 180-250 mushrooms attending this foray. See: <http://uhoffmann.home.mindspring.com/nemf2002/> for details.

September 27-29. – OMS Fall foray. For details see <http://www.denison.edu/ohmushroom>

October 10-13 - North American Mycological Association Foray, Diamond Lake, Oregon, just north of Crater Lake National Park. Mycologists will include **Dr. Jim Trappe**, a specialist in truffles; **Dr. Nancy Smith Weber**, who wrote the book on morels; **Dr. Mike Beug** and others. Our own **John Plischke III** will present a Mushroom Photography Workshop. Details at <http://www.namyco.org/events/naf02.htm>

For all walks and forays, bring water and food. Dress for the weather. Bring basket, wax bags, whistle, compass, chair, hand lens, and books for identification. Come 15-30 min early and socialize. Find last minute additions or changes by going to our website at <http://www.wpmc4.homestead.com> and click on the link to the Yahoo Groups. Bring your membership card and a friend or two.

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS to Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve: (<http://www.aswp.org/beechwood.html>)

12 minutes from PA Turnpike Exit 5, Allegheny Valley (New Kensington/Pittsburgh) after tollbooth go south 1.2 miles on Freeport Road towards Pittsburgh. At the fourth stoplight (Eat'n'Park Restaurant on the right) turn right onto Guys Run Road. Go 4.1 miles to the second stop sign. Notice, part way on your journey Guys Run Road becomes Fox Chapel Road without any notification. Fox Chapel Road dead ends into Dorseyville Road. Turn left on Dorseyville and go .7 of a mile to Beechwood, on the right.

President's Corner

Dick Dougall

People have come up to me after meetings asking how they can learn more about mushrooms, particularly the choice edibles. The answer can be very simple: keep trying and ask lots of questions. I have a bird feeder in my backyard. I can identify quite a number of birds that show up at this feeder. I have found a similar situation with mushrooms. My "backyard" is expanded to include my immediate neighborhood and places where I go for normal daily activities.

There were a lot of mushrooms around this spring with the abundance of rain. Here is list of a few mushrooms that I found close to home. My lawn produced Fairy Ring Mushrooms, *Marasmius oreades*. A friend phoned me to look at the mushrooms in her lawn. They were some specie of *Coprinus*, probably the Alcohol Inky, *Coprinus atramentarius*. In the mulch at the entrance to apartment complex near my house, I found Wine-cap *Stropharia*, *Stropharia rugosoannulata*. I have seen them in this mulch for the last few years. They were late this year. Finally, in mulch in front of the Native Plant Center on the Beechwood grounds where we hold are meetings, I found a multitude of Hard *Agrocybe*, *Agrocybe dura*. All of these mushrooms except the *Agrocybes* are edible species! (I have not felt confident enough yet in my identification to eat these species.)

What should you do when you find mushrooms in your daily travels? Dig them up, bring them home, and try to identify them! Make a spore print of them.

It really helps with identification. Try to work out the keys in some of the mushroom books. If you have a computer connected to the Internet, you could try the MatchMaker computer program. (See another section of Newsletter for details about this program.) Finally, the easiest way to identify your mushrooms is bring them to a meeting or foray of the club. One of our club identifiers will probably be able to give you their names. There is some luck involved here because it is best if the mushrooms are found only a few days before the event and are still fresh.

The mushrooms mentioned above were ones that fruited early, but they can still be found throughout the summer. Here are some mushrooms to look for later in the summer or early fall. Yellow-orange Fly Agaric, *Amanita muscaria* var. *formosa*: The prettiest looking mushroom we commonly find. Look for it under spruce and pine trees in people's lawns, parks, church grounds, etc. Honey Mushroom, *Armillariella mellea*: Look for these around stumps. *Agaricus* Species, particularly the Meadow Mushroom, *A. campestris* and the Horse Mushroom, *A. arvensis*: Can you say *Portabella*? These are great edibles. Look in grassy fields. A friend clued me in to a bunch he saw at his children's soccer game.

If you are going to eat mushrooms you find, use great caution! Be absolutely sure of your identification. Don't eat mushrooms from lawns treated with weed killers or mulch that is colored to make it look pretty. You will find lots of other mushrooms. You will eventually learn the names of a lot of them. However, there will also be some that are very hard to identify. Experienced mushroom hunters have a name for a group of these; it is LBM's (Little Brown Mushrooms). Have fun!

WPMC Meetings/Programs

Meetings/Programs begin at 7:00 pm at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. At all club meetings our team of club mycologists and identifiers will try to identify the mushrooms you bring from home.

August 20: Paul Goland, Hardscrabble Enterprises, WV, will speak on **Medicinal Mushrooms**. Paul will discuss specific benefits attributed to a number of species of mushrooms, preparing mushrooms (especially the non-edibles) for use as medicinals, books on medicinal mushrooms, and a discussion of some of the products on the shelves of food co-ops and health food stores. Paul will bring, for sale, shiitake logs, mushroom books, calendars, posters, and mushroom growing supplies.

September 17: Dr. Richard Kerrigan, Director of Research, Sylvan Mushrooms, will speak to us on **The Genus Agaricus**. This will be a major presentation on one of the most popular genus of fungi. R. W. (Rick) Kerrigan studied the genus *Agaricus* all throughout his college and graduate career, producing a thesis, a dissertation, a book, and dozens of research papers on the little buggers. He has worked in the mushroom industry for 17 years, 12 of those with *Agaricus*. Eleven species and one variety of *Agaricus* were first named by him. He is fond of *Agaricus*.

October 15-: Election of Officers & Informal Presentations Officers for next year will be elected. Club members are encouraged to share mushroom stories, slides, pictures, books, recipes, mushroom art, spore prints (preserve by spraying lightly with hair spray) and experiences. Would you believe we might even have a talent show!

November 19: Herbs, speaker: Eleanor Davis from the Piccadilly Herb Club.

"Largest Mushroom Club in the Seven-State Area"

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
1413 Parkmont Road
Allison Park, PA 15101

ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT TO REGISTER FOR MUSHROOM MANIA 4 DR. SAM RISTICH HONEY MUSHROOMS WALKS & FORAYS

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