



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

Newsletter Volume 7, Issue 4
October/November 2006



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2005 Photo Contest entry: *Galiella rufa*, photo by Donna Roth

WPMC Photo Contest

Eligibility: All Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Members, except contest judges, can enter the contest at no cost. Non Club members may participate if club dues of \$15.00 Individual or \$20.00 family are submitted with the entry(s).

Deadline/Mailing/Questions: Entries must be received before October 1, 2006 to eligible. They can be sent or given to Robert Boice, 507 Offbeat Lane, Irwin, PA 15642 or at blgym@aol.com.

Please also direct questions to Bob Boyce.

Accepted Images: This year we will accept 3 formats: 35 mm color slides, color prints, or color digital images. Slides must be in cardboard or plastic mounts, glass mounts will not be accepted. Prints must be at least 3 X 5 inches but no more than 12 inches on a side. Digital images must be less than 65 MB per image and must be sent on a CD(s), DVD, or 3.5 disc(s), unless the combined entries for the contestant take less than 3 minutes to download on a dial-up connection, then they can be emailed. Digital entries must be JPG or TIF.

Please Note: any future WPMC contests may or may not accept prints, but if prints are disallowed, instructions will be given on how or where to have your print converted to a slide or to a digital image.

Continued on page 4, see "Photo Contest"

Club Officers

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Jim Strutz

From the Editor

By Jim Strutz
strutzj@strutz.com

It's time to send in your entries for the WPMC 2006 Photo Contest! We had some great entries last year as can be seen throughout this and other issues of the newsletter. The contest instructions are listed here within. Basically, you may send in slides, prints, or digital pictures in any or all of three categories: pictorial, documentary, or judge's option. Winners will be awarded grand accolades in the newsletter and on our website, and perhaps earn a photo shoot contract with National Geographic (okay, the latter may be a little optimistic). Anyway, it's great fun and educational so I encourage you to participate.

John Plischke III writes about Blewits and a few of their look-alikes. I love finding Blewits on cool autumn days and bringing them home to cook. They have a fun purple color and they are good edibles. They can, however, be confused with some poisonous mushrooms particularly in the Cortinarius genus.

This is your last chance to register for the Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray. Don't miss out on walks, the lectures, the food, and the fun. Fill out the registration form in the back of this issue and send it in today.



"Mike Lloyd promised the decoy would work", photo by Dick Dougall. 2005 photo contest 2nd place Judge's Option winner.

WPMC News Items

Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month between March and November. They begin at 7:00pm at Beechwood Nature Reserve in Dorseyville. Please see their website (www.awsp.org) for directions and other information.

October 17th: Election of Officers & Open Forum. Officers for next year will be elected. Club members will be encouraged to share mushroom stories, experiences and slides. Results of the club's photography contest will also be presented.

November 21st: Mushroom Year in Review Summary: A panel of expert mushroom hunters in the WPMC will give a critique of the 2006 mushroom hunting season. Was it a good year for morels? How good were the summer and fall mushroom seasons? What techniques or approaches worked for finding the most desirable mushrooms. How could beginners find their favorite mushrooms more easily? These are just a few of the questions that will be discussed.

WPMC Yahoo Groups

Yahoo Groups is a great resource for our club members and other mushroom enthusiasts from across the country. There are always interesting discussions in the 'Message' section on all kinds of subjects involving wild mushrooms. Find out what mushrooms are up, where people are finding them, recipes, weather, and latest announcements. Also find award winning photos in the 'Photo' section and articles, lists, and other files in the 'Files' section.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub/>

WPMC Website

Another great resource to club members is our professionally designed website. There you will find information and links pertaining to our club, including our walk/foray species lists and Java data miner. Don't forget to read the President's Blog while you're there. Please see www.wpamushroomclub.org for more information.

WPMC Mushroom Items

Our club sells several mushroom items to raise money to fund club activities. We have club T-shirts available for \$15, club cookbooks for \$5. Loupes and boxes of wax bags are also available. We should have our new WPMC hats available in time for the Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Foray

2006 Membership Registration

If you aren't already registered for 2006 then now is the time to renew. Club membership includes walks/forays almost every weekend during the mushroom season, 8 informative meetings, and 5 newsletters. It's also a great way to meet people who are knowledgeable about mushroom identification, cultivation, crafts, and cooking. It's a great value for only \$15 for the year.

Walks and Forays

Walks and forays are held almost every weekend from April through October. They are led by a walk leader and an identifier. Each walk will be at a designated location where participants will forage for wild mushrooms of all species. After the walk the identifier will discuss the mushrooms that were found and answer any questions. Walks usually last 2 or 3 hours and participants are welcome to stay longer if they want. It's a great way to learn about wild mushrooms. Please see our website www.wpamushroomclub.org and our Yahoo Groups message board for updated information.

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. All walks and forays will be held rain or shine. All walks start on time.

September 1-4: NEMF 2005 at Saint Anthony's Hermitage, Lac Bouchette, Canada, about 250 miles north of Montreal. There will be lectures, workshops, and forays all day Saturday and Sunday. No membership is required. See www.nemf.org for information and registration.

September 2: 10:00-12:00 at **Fall Run Park**, Allegheny County, with *Dick Dougall and Dick Duffy*. From Rt. 28 go north on Rt. 8 for .7 miles to Saxonburg Blvd. Continue north to the 2nd red light and turn right on Fall Run Road. Cross Pine Creek and make an immediate left into the parking lot.

September 9: 10:00 -12:00 at **South Park** with LaMonte Yarroll. Take Route 51 South. Turn slight right onto Fairhaven Road/Provost road. Provost Road becomes Brownsville Road. Continue to the Park. See their website at: <http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/parks/facility.asp>

September 9: Mushroom Club of Georgia Fall Foray, John Plischke III will be the guest mycologist. See their website for more information.

September 16: Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray at North Park in Allegheny County. Don't miss one of the largest mushroom forays in the country! We will meet at the **Parish Hill Lodge** for registration. **From I-79 North:** exit at Wexford and turn left onto Rt. 910. Turn right onto Brandt School Road at the first light. Turn left onto Ingomar Road. Continue on Ingomar Road past McKnight Road and into North Park. Turn left onto Kummer Road and then a quick right onto Lake Shore Drive. Make another quick left onto Walter Road and look for Parish Hill Lodge on the left. Park in the lot across from the lodge. **From I-79 South:** exit at Mt. Nebo and turn right onto Mt. Nebo Road. Turn left onto Arndt Road just past the I-279 overpass. Continue on Arndt Road until it ends and then turn left onto Reis Run Road. Continue on Reis Run Road as it changes into Ingomar Heights Road and then Ingomar Road (follow the Yellow Belt). Turn left onto Kummer Road and then a quick right onto Lake Shore Drive. Make another quick left onto Walter Road and look for Parish Hill Lodge on the left. Park in the lot across from the lodge. **From I-279 (Parkway North):** exit at Camp Horne Road and

turn right onto Lowries Run Road. Turn left onto Rochester Road. Turn right onto Ingomar Heights Road and continue as it changes into Ingomar Road. Turn left onto Kummer Road and then a quick right onto Lake Shore Drive. Make another quick left onto Walter Road and look for Parrish Hill Lodge on the left. Park in the lot across from the lodge. **From Rt. 8:** Turn east onto Wildwood Road and follow into North Park. Continue straight through the main intersection onto Ingomar Road. Turn right onto Kummer Road and then a quick right onto Lake Shore Drive. Make another quick left onto Walter Road and look for Parish Hill Lodge on the left. Park in the lot across from the lodge.

September 23: 10:00 -12:00 at **Kiski Prep**, Westmoreland County, with *Carol Kelly*. Travel east on Rt. 22 (there may be construction delays as they are widening Rt. 22). Continue to the traffic light at Rt. 981 in New Alexandria; turn left (North) onto 981 until you come to the stop sign at the bridge into Saltsburg (the town is on the right and the Kiski campus is atop the cliff on the left). Proceed ahead after stopping (be advised that traffic coming down the hill toward the bridge, as well as traffic crossing the bridge from your right have the right-of-way. Be careful!) where the road forks just ahead of you. Bear LEFT up and around the curve following the sign for 286 West. (Rt. 981 continues straight ahead toward the Kiski Valley Inn and then to Avonmore; do not take that.) Continue past the curve and crest the hill. The entrance to the school is on the left between the tall brick pillars before you reach the BP/Subway. Meet in the parking area to the right just past the security shed.

September 30-October 1 – Meet the **Ohio Mushroom Society** for their Fall Foray at Penitentiary Glen, Kirtland, OH. There will be camping available or there are motels nearby. Contact Jerry Pepera at 440-354-4774 for more information.

September 30: 10:00-2:00 at **Deer Lakes Park**, Allegheny County, Russelton with *Jim Tunney*. From the PA Turnpike, exit at the Allegheny Valley (Exit 5). Turn toward New Kensington and turn left onto Route 28. Follow to Pearl Avenue and turn left. Continue on Pearl Ave as 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. Meet in the parking lot just past the first lake.

October 1, 12:00 - 5:00 pm: Meet the **Mycological Association of Washington** for a **Mushroom Fair** at Brookside Gardens, Wheaton Regional Park, Wheaton, MD. For more info, email Program Chair, William Needham, at programs@mawdc.org.

October 6-8 - Meet the **Mycological Association of Washington** at **Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown, PA**, which is where they've had excellent foray weekends in September of every year but two since 1988. The record number of species there was about 260, and sometimes found vast quantities of choice edibles (well, pretty good amounts) like black chanterelles, horse mushrooms,

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Boletus separans and *Boletus bicolor*. Details will be at www.mawdc.org Walt Sturgeon will be the guest mycologist this year. The cost will be about \$100 for two nights' lodging and five meals. Contact Jon Ellifritz to make a reservation ellijon@earthlink.net or call 301-422-7517.

October 14 - 10:00-12:00 Knob Hill Community Park, Warrendale, Allegheny County. From the east take I-76 (PA TURNPIKE) West to exit 3 at Cranberry. Take US-19 South. Turn right into Thorn Hill Industrial Park. At the light turn left onto Brush Creek Road and then right onto Knob Road. Go about 1 mile and the park will be on the left. Meet in the main parking lot.

For all walks and forays: bring water, lunch, basket, bags (no plastic) to keep mushrooms separated, knife to dig and trim mushrooms, whistle, compass, hand lens, insect repellent, cell phone, books for identification, and a friend or two. Dress for the weather. You are responsible for not getting lost. The Walk Leader will tell you when to return to the meeting place. Mushrooms will be identified and discussed there after the walk. Only club mycologists and identifiers should be used for advice in identifying mushrooms. **Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your decision.**

"Photo Contest", continued from page 1

Return of Images : Slides and prints will be returned if requested on the entry sheet that you submit with the images. Digital images will not be returned – be sure to keep a copy. Please note: image duplication can take several months

Number of Entries: Up to 9 images per person can be submitted. This year the images can be all in one form such as slides, digital, and prints, or they can be up to 9 mixed images.

Categories: This year images can be entered in any of the 3 categories, as long as the total number is not more than 9 entries. For example, if 9 entries were entered in the Pictorial category, no images could be entered in Documentary or Judge's Option. See the WPMC website for example photos.

Pictorial: This type of image should be of a beautiful fungus in nature. None of the mushrooms should be knocked down to show the underside. Images in this category must be identified at least to Genus such as *Amanita* but the species should also be given if known.

Documentary/Scientific/Technical: This type of image should emphasize the features needed to identify the mushroom. This type of picture generally would have both standing mushroom(s) and one or more mushrooms knocked over to show the gills, pores, bulb at the base of the stem or the like, so that it shows the mushroom's key features. Images in this category must be correctly identified by Genus and species.

Judge's Option/Activity/Events/Humor: All other entries fall into this category. It includes, but is not limited to, items such as mushroom events (for example, walks, meetings, or forays), humorous pictures, or pictures of a mushroom dinner or food. Images in this category must be titled but Genus or species need not be given unless desired by the contestant.

Awards: First, second, and third place certificates will be awarded for each of the categories. Honorable mention(s) may also be given at the judges' discretion. Award winners will be listed in the newsletter and may have their images placed in the photo section in the WPMC Yahoo Groups. Other prizes may be awarded if they have been donated.

Labeling: All images must be labeled. Labeling must include the contestants name or initials, the category (you may use the abbreviations **P** for Pictorial, **D** for Documentary, or **JO** for Judge's Option), and numbering from 1 up to 9. Each image should have a name or title. Slides can be labeled on the slide mount, prints on the back of the print, and digital images in the file name. If you cannot use large file names, your name can just be written on the storage medium. You should also include a paper listing of the images with name, number, and your address, phone number and e-mail.

Use of Images/Reproduction: By entering the contest you give the WPMC permission to duplicate and use the entered images for club purposes, to manipulate the images, and to transfer and/or use the images in other formats. The contestant will retain ownership and copyright of the images but will grant the club their use. Possible club uses may include, but are not limited to, use by the education committee, walk and forays, program, newsletter, and webmaster.



"Pebbles and Cups", 2005 photo contest 2nd place digital entry winner.

Blewits vs. Cortinarius

Article and Photos by John Plishcke III

Blewits (*Clitocybe nuda* = *Lepista nuda*, *Tricholoma nudum*, *Rhodopaxillus nuda*)



Blewits have a pink spore print, likes to grow in leaves in cold weather, and can have a purple cap.

Other Common Names: Blewit, Naked Trich, Wood Blewit

Family: Tricholomataceae

Flesh: Its flesh is thick and light violet.

Cap: 1-1/2 to 5-3/4 inches wide. Convex, becoming almost flat to depressed in the center with age; edges can become curved and uplifted with age; color is purple-violet but can fade to a tan-brown color; moist and can be slippery when wet but it will not have slime on it; margin is inrolled when young; does not have a veil.

Gills: Light purple to violet color, often a lighter shade than the cap; fades with age, becoming tan; crowded and notched by the stem.

Spore Print: Pink to pink-buff.

Stalk: 7/8 to 3 inches tall and 3/8 to 1-1/16 inch wide; gets wider towards the bottom; lighter color than the cap, contains some violet-purple and can develop some tan-brown tones with age; tough.

Odor: Fruity to fragrant.

Taste: mild

Range: North America and Europe.

Where To Look: Leaf piles. I like to look in parks where they dump leaves in the fall. That's often where I find them in great numbers. They occasionally can be found on grass and compost piles, sometimes in fairy rings. I also like to look in the woods along narrow creeks that have steep slopes on either side, often around giant oak trees. This type of area can be found near housing plans where the land is too steep to build on. They can sometimes be found under conifers such as pine or even in rotted mulch.

How Often They're Found: Common.

How They're Grouped: Singly to scattered, sometimes in groups. Often found in great numbers.

Social Plants: Dandelion and broadleaf plantain can be growing alongside them in rotting leaf piles.

When To Look: August to November except in parts of California where it is found from November to February.

Look-alikes: Purple colored Corts (*Cortinarius* sp.), many of which are poisonous; the edible but not recommended Silvery Violet Cort or Silvery Cortinarius (*Cortinarius alboviolaceus*); the edible but not recommended Viscid Violet Cort (*Cortinarius iodes*); other *Clitocybe*'s such as (*Clitocybe saeva*) and (*Clitocybe sordida*); the edible Amethyst Laccaria (*Laccaria amethystina*) or other (*Laccaria* sp.).

Edibility: Edible and Choice.

Cooking Suggestions: Blewits are good with rice or in soups and omelets. Remove the stalks before cooking; cook in butter or pickle; dries well.

Microscopic Features: The spores do not react with iodine.

Viscid Violet Cort (*Cortinarius iodes*)



The Viscid Violet Cort has a rusty colored spore print. Its gills can be covered by a cobweb veil only when young. They should not be considered for the pot.

Other Common Names: Spotted Cap Cort

Family: Cortinariaceae

Cap: 7/8 to 2 inches wide; convex; color is in the purple range; darker in color than the stalk; can have white-yellow spots; can be a little sticky when wet and moist but can become dried out by the sun.

Gills: Attached to the stalk; color between that of the cap and the stalk becoming rust colored with age; closely spaced; can be covered by a cobweb veil only when young.

Spore Print: Rust to rusty brown.

Stalk: 1 3/8 to 2 7/8 inches tall and 1/4 to 3/8 inches wide; wider near the base; color is in the purple range but lighter than the cap; can be sticky at places when wet and moist but can become dried out by the sun.

Odor: mild.

Taste: not bitter on cap.

Range: Eastern North America.

Where To Look: Under deciduous trees such as Oak.

How Often They're Found: Common.

How They're Grouped: Single to scattered, or in small groups.

Social Plants: None typically but ferns, etc. can be found nearby.

When To Look: July - September.

Look-alikes: (*Cortinarius iodiodes*) has a bitter taste if you touch your tongue to the cap; (*Cortinarius violaceus*) stalk is colored like the cap.

Edibility: Not recommended.

Purple Gilled Laccaria (*Laccaria ochropurpurea*)



Laccaria ochropurpurea are among my preferred edibles. Like the Blewit, care must be taken not to confuse it with a possibly poisonous *Cortinarius*. Its white spore print differs from a Cort but can occasionally have a hint of light purple. Its purplish cap will fade but its gills will remain purple. I often find it under oak trees but it also grows under other kinds of trees.

Clitocybe irina



This mushroom is very similar in shape and smell to the Blewit but it differs by having a whitish color.

Pungent Cort (*Cortinarius traganus*)



I know these are not Blewits if they have rusty brown spore prints or if young specimens have "cobwebs" covering the gills (see middle mushroom). The cobwebs typically disappear with age as the cap expands so the lack of a web does not mean it is a Blewit but rather the presence of a web means it is not. This Cort fruits from September until December. Its edibility is unknown.

Caution: Always spore print Blewits to help rule out some poisonous look-alikes.

Blewit Location – Piles of Leaves



My favorite place to look for blewits is around the wooded edges of parks and cemeteries where they dump leaves from the previous year. Current year piles are not productive, nor are piles in full sun.



The Fifth Annual

Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray



Saturday, September 16, 2006

Registration: 7:30 am – 8:15 am, Program: 8:30 am – 7:30 pm

SPECIAL REGISTRATION FORM FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

Featured speaker will be Gary Lincoff, author of the "*Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushroom*", and past president of the **North American Mycological Association (NAMA)**.

Special guest mycologist, Rod Tulloss, expert on Amanita species.

Special guest mycologist, Jon Ellifritz, president of the Mycological Association of Washington, D.C.

A host of other mycologists will be on hand to help you learn mushrooms, including: Dr. David Miller, Dr. Fred Schrock, John Plischke III, Robert Boice, Kim Plischke, and La Monte Yarroll.

Fungi Fun Friends

Cost is **\$25 each for members** pre-registered and paid by September 1, 2006; **\$40 each for non-members** pre-registered and paid by September 1, 2006; or **\$50 for anybody registering after September 1, 2006** (*non-refundable*). Children 11 & under free. Registration is limited.

Contact: **Dick Dougall** 412-486-7504 rsdme@imap.pitt.edu or **Glenn Carr** 412-369-0495 browncarrs@verizon.net

Signing and dating the release is an absolute requirement for attendance

Make check payable to: **Western PA Mushroom Club**, 4879 Christopher Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

Name 1 _____

Name 2 _____

Name 3 _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

RELEASE

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, field trip, excursion, meeting or dining, sponsored by the club.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Club Officers

President: Joe Luzanski, president@wpamushroomclub.org
27 Ted Road, West Newton, PA 15089, 724-872-7867
Vice President: Jim Strutz, strutzj@strutz.com
82 Pilgrim Road, Carnegie, PA 15106, 412-276-7471
Treasurer: George Yakulis, yakg@connecttime.net
4879 Christopher Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101, 724-444-6628
Secretary: Mary Jane Yakulis (see above)
Corresponding Secretary: Valerie Baker, ybbaker8@hotmail.com
1413 Parkmont Road, Allison Park, PA 15101, 412-367-7696

Committees

Cultivation Chairman: Mark Spear, mspear@penn.com
RR4, Box 237E, Kittanning, PA 16201, 724-297-3377
Education Chairman: Jim Tunney, aminitam@hotmail.com
6041 Stanton Avenue, Apt#1, Pittsburgh, PA 15206, 412-441-3958
LaMonte Yarroll
Festival Chairman: George Yakulis, (see Treasurer)
Historian: Joyce Gross, jagart@verizon.net
58 Seventh St Ext., New Kensington, PA 15068, 724-339-8547
Hospitality Co-Chairs: JoAnna Jenkins, Shirley Caseman
Elaine Hruby, Eugene Kadar, Charlotte Tunney
Membership Chair: Dr. John Stuart
Mushroom Display: LaMonte Yarroll, see Club Mycologists
Mid Atlantic Foray Chairmen: Dick Dougall, rsdme@imap.pitt.edu
202 Wadsworth Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116, 412-486-7504
Glenn Carr, browncarrs@verizon.net
1848 Fairhill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101, 412-369-0495
Mycological Recorder: Bob Lucas, mlucas@microspell.com
5840 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217, 412-422-8976
Newsletter Editor: Jim Strutz (see Vice-President)
Photography Chair: Robert Boice, blqvm@aol.com
507 Offbeat Lane, Irwin, PA 15642, 724-446-0524
Publicity Chair: Susan Baker, smidwife@zoominternet.net
329 First Street, Butler, PA 16001, 724-283-9123
Sales Chairman:
Speakers Bureau: Dick Dougall (see Mid-Atlantic Foray Chairman)
Joe Luzanski, Mike Lloyd, John Plischke III
Toxicology Chairman: Frank Lotrich, lotrichfe@msx.upmc.edu
7219 Witherspoon St. Pittsburgh, PA 15206, 412-661-0950
Walk & Foray Chair: John Plischke III, lungi01@aol.com
201 Culbertson Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601, 724-832-0271

Web Master: Elizabeth Barrow, ebarrow@verizon.net
5840 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 3412-521-9337
Welcoming Chairman: Mary Ellen Dougall, marilled@verizon.net
202 Wadsworth Drive, Glenshaw, PA 15116, 412-486-7504
Harriet Yarroll (see LaMonte Yarroll, club mycologist)
Workshop Chair: Joyce Gross (see Historian)
Robin Durr, Dick Duffy
Yahoo Groups Moderator: Jim Strutz (see Vice-President)
NAMA/NEMF Trustee: John Plischke III (see Walk & Foray Chair)

Club Mycologists

Robert Boice (See Photography Chairman)
John Plischke III (See Walk & Foray Chairman)
Kim Plischke 724-834-2358 Ladiebugzkp@aol.com
201 Culbertson Ave, Greensburg, PA 15601, 724-832-0271
Dr. Fred Schrock 610 South 7th St, Indiana Pa
La Monte Yarroll, piggy@baqagi.chi.il.us
5770 Clark Ave, Bethel Park, PA 15102, 412-854-5684

Identifiers

Jack Baker ybbaker8@hotmail.com, 412-367-7696
John Bumbarger shrumail@yahoo.com
Doug Dickman larshalfass@yahoo.com, 724-626-1542
Bob Lucas (See Mycological Recorder)
Ed McConnell gurnuthouse2@peoplepc.com
Jim Strutz (see Vice-President)
Jim Tunney (see Education Chairman)

Walk Leaders

Valerie Baker (See Corresponding Secretary)
Glenn Carr browncarrs@verizon.net
Dick Dougall (see Mid-Atlantic Foray Chairman)
Dick Duffy 412-486-3913
Robert Fornof 412-767-9925
John Plischke (see Past President)
Mary Lou Riegel mriegel@federatedinv.com
Don Stone dastonearch@yahoo.com
Charlotte Tunney aminitam@hotmail.com

Legal Council: Mike Lloyd
Past President: Mary Woehrel marigold4343@yahoo.com
Past President: John Plischke morelbp@aol.com
Past President: Dick Dougall rsdme@imap.pitt.edu
Scientific Advisor: Walt Sturgeon