



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2021



President's Message

STEPHEN BUCKLIN

WHAT A SUMMER it has been! With ample rain early on, and again later this summer, it has been quite the year for fungi enthusiasts in Western Pennsylvania. Chanterelles and black trumpets were very abundant in early summer, and many members have reported finding species that are new to them or that are uncommon in the area. Now that the katydids, crickets, and cicadas can be heard singing day and night, we know fall is just around the corner. I cannot wait to see what bounty the upcoming season has in store for us all!

We had many walks in June and July, but by August the Delta variant began to put the brakes on some gatherings. We will be doing our best to monitor the spread of COVID in our region and adjust our planned events accordingly.

One such adjustment we made in August was moving our Cultivation meeting entirely outdoors and requesting that only folks who

are vaccinated attend. Fortunately, the weather cooperated, and we were able to do presentations in an outdoor amphitheater behind the nature center at Beechwood Farms. Over 60 people showed up to the meeting, not counting the crew of 10+ volunteers who set up cultivation equipment and ran stations!

Thanks to the vital help of our volunteers, everyone who wanted one left with an oyster mushroom kit and inoculated shiitake log! It was wonderful getting to see people in person again, and to see so many folks making the health and safety of our community a priority. Due to technical difficulties, we were not able to livestream the event, but we worked out most of the issues and should be livestreaming our September and October meetings for those unable to attend in person.

September is always a big month for the club, and we are all really looking forward to this year's Lincoff Memorial Foray! You can find details on the three-day event here in the newsletter or on our website. The October meeting revolves around our annual photo contest. If you enjoy taking photos of fungi, submit up to five of your best shots by September 30th for a chance to be featured and possibly win a prize!

2021 Meeting Programs

WPMC MEETINGS ARE held on the third Tuesday evening of each month from March through November. In-person meetings resumed in August at Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA), 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238. All monthly meetings are free and include a Mushroom Display Table, staffed by expert Identifiers.



SEPTEMBER 21

John Michelotti

Photo by David Rainbird

How to Quit Your Job and Devote your Life to Mushrooms

John Michelotti, Founder of Catskill Fungi, will share this presentation, which he gave at the Telluride Mushroom Festival. It is a journey of stories that is a tribute to Gary Lincoff and highlights how John and other mushroom folks have made their way through life by devoting their lives to fungi.



Amanita jacksonii grouping. Photo by Kim Plischke

OCTOBER 19

Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers

Join us as WPMC Photography Chair **Sara Klingensmith** announces the winners of this year's WPMC Photo Contest and awards fabulous prizes. See page 5 for complete contest rules. WPMC members will also vote on a slate of Officers for 2022. See page 7 for details.

PROGRAMS CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Online Registration for Lincoff Foray is Filling Up

Online registration for the 21st annual Gary Lincoff Foray is filling up quickly. Space is limited, so don't be left out. Register here:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/>

This year's event includes three days of mushrooms:

Friday, September 17, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

PRE-FORAY WALK AT Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC Identifiers and **Park Ranger Dale Luthringer** at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

Saturday, September 18

ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF FORAY at Rose Barn in Allegheny County's North Park. Guest speakers will be **Michael Kuo** and **Leon Shernoff**. Here's the full schedule:

7:30 – 8:15 AM	Registration
7:45 – 8:15 AM	Morning Walk Sign-Up
8:15 – 9:00 AM	Overview of Program and Introductions
9:00 AM – Noon	Morning Walks
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch
12:00 – 4:00 PM	Sales Table Open
1:00 – 2:00 PM	Leon Shernoff Presentation “Life as a Mushroom: A mushroom's-eye view of life”
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Book Signing/Meet & Greet (upstairs)
2:00 – 3:00 PM	Cooking Demonstration (downstairs)
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Michael Kuo Presentation “This Lecture Stinks: Fun with Phalloid Fungi”
4:00 PM	Auction Results
4:30 – 7:00 PM	Review the Collection
4:30 – 6:00 PM	Mushroom Feast
6:00 – 7:00 PM	Table Walk: Michael Kuo, Leon Shernoff
7:00 – 7:30 PM	Clean Up (everybody helps)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

ONCE YOU HAVE REGISTERED to attend the Foray, you should receive a confirmation email with a link to SignUp Genius (below). Use it to volunteer to help with the Foray. We've got openings for Set-up and Clean-up, Hospitality, Cooks, Walk Leaders, and Identifiers. Click here to contribute to this year's success!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094aa4af2ba3f49-lincoff2>

SCIENCE SUNDAY SCHEDULE

By Richard Jacob

SCIENCE SUNDAY will take place at Rose Barn on the day after the main foray. The full schedule is listed below:

9:00 AM	Introduction to Mushroom Identification
10:30 AM	Mushroom Photography for ID & Clarity
12:00 PM	Lunch (bring your own)
1:00 PM	Ten Common Boletes in Our Area
2:30 PM	Introduction to Microscopy: Spores, Squash Mounts & Stains
4:00 PM	Finish & clean up

Introduction to Mushroom Identification

TO BECOME SKILLED in mushroom identification, one needs the following: time, patience, attention to detail, and the ability and willingness to navigate the jargon-filled websites and field guides in which known species can be found. Join WPMC President and Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Naturalist Educator **Stephen Bucklin** for an introduction to the incredible diversity of fungi found in Western Pennsylvania. We'll review morphological groupings, mycological terminology, and resources to help you better know the mushrooms found in Western Pennsylvania and beyond.

Mushroom Photography for ID & Clarity

WITH THE VARIETY of fungi in the world, their different shapes, sizes, and qualities, photographing them can be quite a challenge. This is especially difficult if you are trying to photograph them for identification purposes. If you want to present good photos for identification, you may wonder “What parts do I need to photograph?” This course will teach you what you need to focus on for presenting and documenting mushrooms. WPMC Vice President and Identifier **Cara Coulter** will help guide you on what to focus on for different species. Cara will show you inexpensive methods to provide optimal ID photos with your phone or DSLR. Don't have a fancy expensive camera? No problem, we can still work with what you have.

10 Common Boletes in Our Area

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT boletes are particularly delicious—and often frustrating because they are so hard to identify to species. This talk by WPMC Bolete Specialist **Scott Pavelle** will tell you all you need to know, in order to identify ten good edibles that are common in SW Pennsylvania. Plus, a bonus pair of bitter boletes will bring things up to a nice, round dozen. Bring your notepads and any samples you would like to share or discuss.

Introduction to Microscopy: Spores, Squash Mounts & Stains

BEFORE DNA BARCODING came of age, one of the major tools in a mycologist's toolbox was the microscope. Academic publications on new species often contain extensive microscopic descriptions of the spores and other features in the fruiting body. As you become more interested in mushrooms, you will start to find that you need to look at some of these characteristics, in order to identify and/or differentiate one species from other similar looking species.



This lecture by WPMC Past President and Identifier **Richard Jacob** will cover the basics of purchasing and using a microscope for the analysis of fungi. Two sample preparation methods will be taught—spore collection and squash mounts—as well as use of a few important stains.

All attendees will receive a set of three field test chemicals—Ammonia, Potassium Hydroxide and Iron Sulphate, which are helpful in identifying Boletes and other species of mushrooms. All the specimens we collect during the Cook Forest walk and the main Lincoff Foray will be available to work on and identify.

There is a \$20 charge for the event, which covers room rental, chemical test kits, etc. Bring your own lunch. If you want to go beyond foraging for easy-to-identify species, then Science Sunday is for you!

CALLING ALL COOKS!

by Mike Henry

CALLING ALL MUSHROOM COOKS! You know who you are. On September 18th, the WPMC Lincoff Foray will be (mostly) back to normal, with mushroom walks, speakers and the ever-popular mushroom feast.

Who makes those fabulous dishes, you may ask? All of the amazing epicurean delights are prepared by members like you. We need 20 people who love to cook and share their favorite mushroom (and a few non-mushroom) dishes with other club members at the foray.

Do I need to cook enough for 100 people!?!

NO. You only need to cook enough for 15-20 people.

Will I need to find all the mushrooms that I cook in the woods?

NO. You can use store-bought mushrooms or, if you have a surplus of foraged wild mushrooms, you will need to get them approved in advance by a club Identifier or Mycologist. You can also make a non-mushroom dish if you choose, because some members may be allergic to wild mushrooms, or have special dietary concerns.

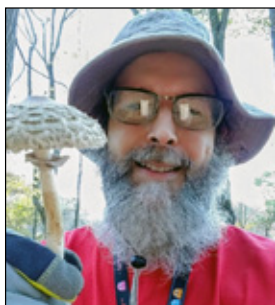
What else do I need to know?

Bring a small sign with you that says what you made, along with a list of ingredients, so that anyone with food allergies can avoid the ingredients that trigger their allergies. You should also save your receipts for ingredients if you would like to be reimbursed.

If you have any questions or comments, send an email to cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

Once you have registered to attend the Foray, you should receive a confirmation email with a link to SignUp Genius (below). Use it to let us know what mushroom delicacy you would like to share. Please respond by September 1st, so that we can finalize plans ahead of time. I hope to hear from you soon!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094aa4af2ba3f49-lincoff2>



Mike Henry, Mushroom Feast Organizer

THIS YEAR'S GUEST SPEAKERS

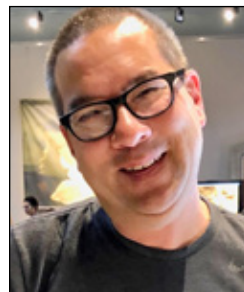
WPMC HAS ONCE AGAIN lined up two “fun guys” to speak at this year's Lincoff Foray. Both **Michael Kuo** (mushroomexpert.com) and **Leon Shernoff** (*Mushroom the Journal*) will give presentations on Saturday, September 18, and will be available for a “Meet & Greet” session in the afternoon.

Leon Shernoff is editor of the internationally distributed magazine *Mushroom, the Journal of Wild Mushrooming*. Leon's topic at the Foray will be “Life as a Mushroom: A mushroom's-eye view of life.” Leon's mushroom will discuss “feeding, reproduction, and those weird creatures that come around and chomp on us every once in a while.” Leon will also be with us for the Pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest on Friday, September 17, and Science Sunday at Rose Barn on September 19.



Michael Kuo is the author of *Morels*, *100 Edible Mushrooms*, *100 Cool Mushrooms*, and *Mushrooms of the Midwest*. Michael Kuo's topic will be “This Lecture Stinks: Fun with Phalloid Fungi”. He says everybody loves stinkhorns, right?

Bring your copies of Michael Kuo's books and *Mushroom the Journal* to be autographed by our speakers or get copies at the Foray on September 18.



More Donations for WPMC's Auction/Raffle

WPMC CONTINUES TO receive donations for the Lincoff Foray Auction/Raffle, including this 45” x 37” mushroom fabric, donated by a member of the Puget Sound Mycological Society. This could be the perfect backdrop for all of your future Zoom meetings!

If you have mushroom-related items that you would like to donate to this year's Auction/Raffle, send an email to Past President **Cecily Franklin** at cs4wpmc@gmail.com with a photo and description.

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE DELIVERED PRIOR TO THE LINCLOFF FORAY.
NO BOOKS OR MAGAZINES, PLEASE.**



Pearce Mill Road Project Will Affect Foray Traffic to Rose Barn

DURING THE LINCOFF FORAY and Science Sunday, traffic near the Rose Barn will be affected by a multimillion-dollar project to make major changes to Pearce Mill Road, including widening the road, installing additional bicycle and pedestrian lanes, improving slopes and drainage, and milling and paving.

As shown in the map, part of Pearce Mill Road will be one-way southbound. Depending on where you come from, you may be impacted by this change. From the main entrance of the park (lower right on the map), follow East Ingomar Road to Kummer Road, McKinney Road, Brown Road and Pearce Mill Road.

Parking will be on the LEFT, just before the Rose Barn. From that parking lot, you will be able to turn either right or left when you exit. If you need to park closer to the Rose Barn in order to unload, then you will only be able to turn left when you exit.

During the project, which is expected to last until December, all southbound traffic will remain as normal, and Pearce Mill Road will be accessible to pedestrians.



2021 Meeting Programs (continued)

NOVEMBER 16

Potluck Dinner & Member Photos

THE FINAL WPMC MEETING of the year will include our traditional Potluck dinner, annual awards, and member photos.

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

If you would like to bring a set of photos for the Open Forum, please bring no more than 15 pictures for a short presentation on a flash (thumb) drive. JPG format is preferred. The photos don't need to be in PowerPoint; just the pictures will also work. Topics may include mushrooms, vacations, hobbies, etc. Let's see what you're doing in your life (no politics, please). You may narrate your photos or just let them run through without descriptions, using the built-in software.

Choose WPMC as your Charity on AmazonSmile

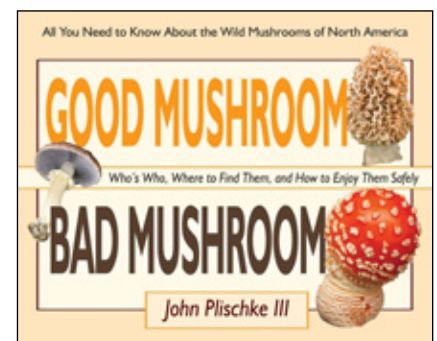
WPMC HAS REGISTERED with AmazonSmile, so that Amazon purchases can benefit WPMC. Whenever you shop at Amazon, just designate the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to WPMC. "Same products, same prices, same service." It's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

https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ein=25-1858797&ie=UTF8&ref_=smi_ext_ch_25-1858797_cl

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

October 9 is Mushroom Day at Beechwood Farms

THE AUDUBON SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA and the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club will host "Mushroom Day" at the Beechwood Farms Nature Store on Saturday, October 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A wide assortment of mushroom books and related merchandise will be available to browse and purchase. Two authors will be available to autograph their books and answer questions from 1:00-3:00 p.m. WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** wrote *Good Mushroom Bad Mushroom*, and **Walt Sturgeon** is the author of both *Appalachian Mushrooms* and *Mushrooms of the Northeast*. The Nature Store is located at 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.



Last Chance to Enter WPMC's Annual Photo Contest

TIME IS RUNNING OUT to enter this year's WPMC Photo Contest. Here are the rules:

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2021
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files **minimum** 1 MB
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- **Email entries to Sara Klingensmith: pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com**

You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date.

Entry Divisions

Pictorial: This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. The objective is a photo suitable for display or illustration in a fine book. Judging criteria include consideration of both technical (focus, depth of field, exposure, lighting, color, absence of distracting elements) and artistic (composition, color, background, lighting) aspects.

Documentary: For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture. Emphasis is placed on portrayal of key morphological characteristics such that the usefulness of the image as an identification aid is maximized. Subjects may be shot in the field, laboratory or studio and the photographer has complete freedom to process, manipulate, or orient the specimen in any desired manner to achieve the goal. Close-ups of single features and photomicrographs are acceptable. Judging criteria will be the same as in the Pictorial category but they will be of secondary importance to the overall mycological utility of the photo. Accurate identification of the subject will be a consideration.

Judge's Option: For photos which do not fit into the Pictorial or Documentary divisions. Examples include fungi in an interesting situation, fungi with animals, people enjoying fungi.

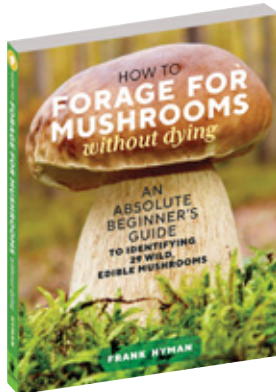
Subjects for Pictorial and Documentary: Organisms from the *Myxomycota* (slime molds) and the classes *Basidiomycetes* and *Ascomycetes* of the *Eumycota* ("true fungi") are eligible. For Judge's Option, nearly anything goes, so long as the theme relates to fungi, and fungi are a key element of the photograph.



Cheree Charmello Andrews *Ascocoryne sarcoides*

New Mushroom Book

***How to Forage for Mushrooms without Dying: An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Identifying 29 Wild, Edible Mushrooms* by Frank Hyman**



JUST IN TIME FOR holiday gift giving, here's a new book for beginning mushroom enthusiasts. With the surging interest in foraging for mushrooms, those new to the art need a reliable guide to distinguishing the safe fungi from the toxic. But for beginner foragers who just want to answer the question "Can it eat it?" most of the books on the subject are dry, dense, and written by mycologists for other mycologists.

Frank Hyman to the rescue! *How to Forage for Mushrooms without Dying* is the book for anyone who walks in the woods and would like to learn how to identify just the 29 edible mushrooms they're likely to come across. In it, Hyman offers his expert mushroom foraging advice, distilling down the most important information for the reader in colorful, folksy language that's easy to remember when in the field.

Want an easy way to determine if a mushroom is a delicious morel or a toxic false morel? Slice it in half – "if it's hollow, you can swallow," Hyman says. With Frank Hyman's expert advice and easy-to-follow guidelines, readers will be confident in identifying which mushrooms they can safely eat and which ones they should definitely avoid.

This new book is pocket-sized, so it will be easy to use in the field (and to fit into Christmas stockings!) 256 pages / \$16.95 (US).

Message from the Treasurer

By Jared Delaney

AS TREASURER OF WPMC, I want to first thank all of those receiving this newsletter. The revenue we generate from our membership is the primary source of income for our club. This allows us to offer almost all of our walks free of charge for members and non-members alike. We wish to continue that practice, providing free resources where possible to the public. It is only through your membership dues that we can do this and still have the club be financially sustainable.

2020 was a challenging year for a group that traditionally had met only in person. We did our best and switched to virtual meetings, did some closed walks, and held a virtual Gary Lincoff Foray. During that year, we updated our website, invested in sound equipment for our in-person events, and started to seek outside speakers who could present to our membership virtually during the meetings. However, COVID-19 limited the number of walks we could do in 2020 and the extent to which we could have our regular events.

Ultimately, we felt it important to give back to the membership that stayed with us through that year to support our club. That is why the Board was in favor of waiving the membership fees for 2021 to those that had paid in 2020. It was a big loss of income for our 2021 budget, but through the stewardship of those before me, we had sufficient cash to cover our expenses, and we felt it was a great investment in our membership base. We will continue to use the funds we receive from membership to serve our mission of promoting the enjoyment, study, and exchange of information about wild mushrooms.

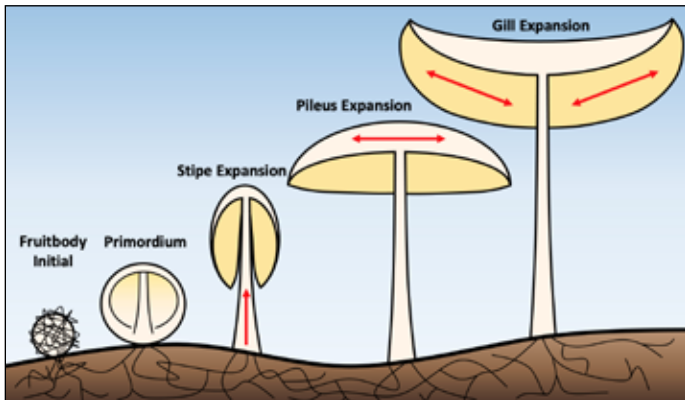


Developing Mushroom Knowledge: What Makes *Flammulina velutipes* Grow?

by Thomas Roehl, WPMC Scholarship Grant Recipient

MUSHROOMS ARE PRETTY AMAZING structures. Yes, you can eat them, use them medicinally, and make art with them, but what I really like is watching them grow. This is hard to appreciate in the forest, where you see them as unmoving statues. But if you watch them over time, you'll see they are dynamic structures that grow and change. If you've seen the movie *Fantastic Fungi*, you'll know what I mean; about half of the footage in that film shows mushrooms as they appear from nowhere, unfurl into complex three-dimensional structures, and then wither away.

But how does this magic of mushroom growth happen? Despite the stunning visuals in *Fantastic Fungi* and the growing prevalence of mushrooms as a food source, the processes that create fruitbodies are rarely discussed. A small amount of mycological research has investigated this question under the heading of "mushroom development." What we know so far about how mushrooms develop can be summed up by the following model:



General model of mushroom development: a ball of cells comes together (the fruitbody initial), then tissues form in the primordium, and finally the stipe, pileus, and gills expand.

- 1. Fruitbody Initiation:** The mycelium already present in the soil/log/etc. senses that conditions are right for reproduction and begins the mushroom formation process by forming a small ball of cells called the "fruitbody initial."
- 2. Pattern Formation:** The fruitbody initial becomes larger and denser and tissues begin to form. At this point, it becomes known as a "primordium." By the end of the primordium stage, all the major tissues (pileus, gills, and stipe) are ready to go inside the primordium.
- 3. Growth by Cell Expansion:** With tissues already formed, the only thing left to do is make the entire structure bigger. This is accomplished by expanding the cells inside the mushroom. Cell expansion inflates the whole mushroom like a balloon, making the fruitbody bigger and changing its shape.

This model explains why mushrooms can appear very quickly and seemingly out of nowhere. Although mushrooms seem to appear randomly, they actually grow from an extensive mycelium already living underground (or in a log, straw bale, or whatever). This mycelium forms primordia, which can wait around until conditions are perfect. Primordia are usually quite small, so you don't see them very often. When the weather is good, the cells in the mushroom start expanding and the fruitbody can go from microscopic to fully grown in a matter of hours. And voila! Instant mushroom (just add water)!

In my research, I'm interested in how these events are controlled. Previous research has tried to find mushroom hormones or growth-related genes, without much success. Although we know a few genes involved with mushroom development, we don't know how they are triggered or what exactly they do. This situation is like trying to guess what picture a jigsaw puzzle will make by looking at only three pieces. My research attempts to find all the other pieces so that we can begin assembling the full puzzle.

To do this, I am using a process called RNA-seq to figure out what genes are active at various stages of *Flammulina velutipes* growth. You may know *F. velutipes* as "enoki," the Japanese name for the mushroom. Enoki is sold in grocery stores as long pale spaghetti-like mushrooms. However, when you find it in the wild it grows in an umbrella shape with an orange pileus and dark velvety stipe. Even though these structures appear very different, the same fungus can form both structures depending on the growing conditions: the spaghetti form is created by growing the fungus in a dark environment with high carbon dioxide levels, while the umbrella form occurs in lighted environments with normal CO₂ levels.



Flammulina velutipes as it grows in the wild (above) and when cultivated (below).



Because the same fungus produces both forms, the forms are not the result of differing genes (all the cells in both forms have the same set of genes). However, the differences in the forms probably do result from differing gene activity. Even though both forms have the same genes, not all those genes are used all the time. You can see this by just looking at the mushrooms: although both forms actually produce pigments (orange in the pileus and black in the stipe). In other words, pigment genes are active in only the umbrella-like form.

The process of RNA-seq allows you to identify all the genes that are active in any given sample and calculate how active those genes are. For my thesis research, I'm using RNA-seq to compare gene activity in four tissues and four developmental stages. I have already collected samples from the mycelium, stipe, gills, and pileus of the primordium, young mushrooms, spaghetti-like mushrooms, and umbrella-like mushrooms. I am currently waiting on results from genetic sequencing of my samples. Once that data is returned, I will then use computer programs to calculate gene activity levels based on the sequence data. The end result will be an enormous data set containing information on nearly every gene in the *F. velutipes* genome.

By searching this dataset for small differences in gene activity between tissues and/or growth stages, I hope to identify genes that are responsible for controlling mushroom formation. For example, if a gene is active only in mature gill tissue, it probably has a role in forming spores (the last developmental event in the mushroom). A gene that is most active in the primordium, however, would probably have a role in coordinating early developmental events.

My research won't tell us exactly what is happening during mushroom development, but it does lay important groundwork for future studies. Going back to the jigsaw analogy, what my study does is similar to sorting all the jigsaw pieces by color. By looking at just the green pieces, it's easier to find patterns like trees or grass and you can then start fitting the pieces together. Likewise, my study will pull out important genes for each tissue and each growth stage. Later work can manipulate these genes to discover exactly how they fit together. If you want to learn more about my research, visit my blog here: <https://www.fungusfactfriday.com/tag/development/>

We still have a long way to go before we really understand how mushrooms are made, but the research tools available today provide exciting new ways to approach that question. I'm optimistic that, in the near future, studies like mine in other species, combined with research that goes further to look at specific genes, will finally make progress on revealing the processes behind mushroom development.

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/wpmc-scholarship-grant-application/>

WPMC Announces Slate of Officers for 2022

WPMC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that all of the current Board members have agreed to serve another term. The slate of Officers for 2022 includes:



President – Stephen Bucklin



Vice President – Cara Coulter



Secretary – Julie Travaglini



Treasurer – Jared Delaney

Current NAMA Trustee **Garrett Taylor** will complete his first two-year term in 2022. WPMC members will have the opportunity to vote on this slate at the October meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.



Day and time for walks vary. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. Check the website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/ events for updates, directions, and much more!



WPMC Walks

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - 5-7:00 P.M.

Wingfield Pines Conservation Area

Mayview Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241 (Upper St. Clair) with ALT

Join an ALT staff member and WPMC Identifier for a mushroom walk and ID session. Please note we will not be foraging for food on this hike. Masks will be required for portions of this event. The gate to Wingfield Pines will be open. Please drive down the driveway to park in the lower parking lot. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. To register:

<https://allegHENYlandtrust.org/event/sept-mushroom-hunt/>

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 10:00 A.M.

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest, Clarion County

Meet WPMC Identifiers and Park Ranger Dale Luthringer at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5 AT 10:00 A.M.

Audubon Greenway (Sewickley) with ALT

160 Magee Road, Sewickley, PA 15143

Join ALT Senior Director of Education and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a beginner's mushroom walk and ID session. We'll look at common names and traits of families of mushrooms, perfect for new WPMC members or those interested in getting starting mushrooming! Please note we will not be foraging for food on this hike. Event runs rain or shine; no walk ins will be permitted. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. To purchase tickets:

<https://allegHENYlandtrust.org/event/beginners-mushroom-hike-with-wpmc/>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 AT 10:00 A.M.

Townsend Park with Friends of Murrysville Parks (FOMP)

Meet Past President **Richard Jacob** and FOMP in the parking lot of Townsend Park in Murrysville. No sign up is required.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT 10:00 A.M.

Black Friday Walk at Hartwood Acres

Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** at the Mansion parking lot for our annual Black Friday mushroom walk. If the road to the mansion is closed due to construction, go to the address on the sign.

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!

Other Walks, Forays & Events

SEPTEMBER 3-6

42nd Clark Rogerson Foray – Registration Closed

Camp Hemlocks in Hebron, CT

<http://www.comafungi.org/special-events/clark-rogerson-foray/>

SEPTEMBER 18

21st Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray

Rose Barn at North Park. See page 2 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 19

Science Sunday with WPMC

Rose Barn at North Park. See page 2 for more information.

OCTOBER 9

Mushroom Day at Beechwood Farms

See page 4 for more information.

Out & About with WPMC



ON JUNE 26, WPMC Mycologists **John & Kim Plischke** led a hike at Blue Knob State Park, gave a "Make Your Own Mushroom Kit" session, and presented a "Mushroom ID and Cooking Show."



On July 6, Past President **Richard Jacob** presented "Heavy Metal Contamination in Edible Mushrooms" for the Mycological Association of Washington, D.C. See Richard's presentation at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jpVPIRrbU1M>



On July 10, WPMC Identifier **Cara Coulter** led a walk at Girty's Woods for the Millvale Community Development Corporation's "Saturdays in the Woods" program.



During August, WPMC Mycologists **John Plischke** and **Garrett Taylor** attended the Hoosier Mushroom Society's Online Summer Foray and helped to identify species found in the state of Indiana.

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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.





WPMC Names New Identifier and Awards ID Buttons



Cheree Charmello Andrews



Dan Stockman



Carissa Mendez



**Carson Gross
and his son, Dean**

WPMC IS PLEASED TO announce that our newest Identifier is **Cheree Charmello Andrews**. Cheree submitted her list of at least 150 known mushrooms to ID Button Program Chair **Julie Travaglini** for approval. Then the Board of Directors voted to make Cheree a club Identifier.

WPMC also Awarded a "25" ID Button to **Dan Stockman**, a "100" ID Button to WPMC Hospitality Chair **Carissa Mendez**, and a "150" button to **Carson Gross**. Congratulations to all!

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/>

Together Again (Outdoors)

ON AUGUST 17, WPMC had a very successful Cultivation Meeting, thanks to the help of many volunteers. It was our first in-person meeting since November of 2019, so there were lots of new members present. On August 21, WPMC held "Dye Day", our first Mushroom Education Day since May of 2019. More than 30 people were in attendance.



Rebecca Miller grew this *Reishi* and brought it to WPMC's annual cultivation meeting.



WPMC Identifier and Workshop Chair **Judy Mackenroth** prepares premordanted Bluefaced Leicester yarn for the dyepot.

Photos by Cecily Franklin

Donations to WPMC May be Deductible under CARES Act

LOOKING FOR A WAY to support WPMC's projects? Make a donation anytime. It may be tax-deductible, even if you take the standard deduction, because the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allows individuals to deduct contributions made to qualified charitable organizations.

The CARES Act allows a deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to \$300 by individuals. New in 2021 is an additional deduction for those married filing jointly. Joint filers who aren't itemizing will be allowed to take a deduction of up to \$600 in cash contributions to charity this year.

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

THANK YOU TO all of our members in 2021. It is your support that keeps our club alive and thriving. This year is our largest membership year ever, and our membership continues to grow. As of August 16th, we have 1,175 members, representing 665 households.

Becoming a member of WPMC has some wonderful benefits, including access to dozens of expert identifiers to help you learn more about fungi, bi-monthly newsletter to help you keep up on events and news, monthly meetings, emails, Mushroom Education Day, WPMC Lincoff Foray discount, mushroom walks, access to the WPMC Facebook group—a fantastic place to learn and share, annual Photo Contest, and a free "Grow-Your-Own" mushroom kit provided at our annual Cultivation Meeting.

To join or renew, download the membership application or pay online here: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

NOTE: All 2020 members were automatically given free renewal for 2021. If you wish to continue receiving the hardcopy of the newsletter for 2021, you need to select that option and pay the \$5 fee. If any current members choose to voluntarily submit dues for 2021, we will gladly use those contributions to support WPMC's programs and events.

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

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**NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED
MUSHROOM!**





WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

Anyone who has an interest in wild mushrooms is welcome to become a WPMC member.

COMPLETE THIS FORM **PRINT CLEARLY**, SIGN AND MAIL

Members are entitled to:

The WPMC newsletter • Nine monthly WPMC meetings • Free participation in WPMC walks • Discount for WPMC forays

Name (s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

E-mail (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) _____

Interests (e.g.: foraging, identification, cooking, etc.) _____

**PLEASE PRINT IN PLAIN BLOCK LETTERING. TAKE SPECIAL CARE WITH EMAIL ADDRESSES:
numeral "1," uppercase "I" and lowercase "L" look the same.**

Please return completed, signed and dated form (with check payable to Western PA Mushroom Club) to:

WPMC, c/o Kris Murawski, 5625 Villa Haven Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236 • membership@wpamushroomclub.org

or visit <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> to pay using a credit card.

Please indicate your newsletter/event announcement preference: ☐ Electronic via e-mail ☐ Hardcopy via US mail (\$5 additional)

☐ \$15 Individual ☐ \$20 Family ☐ \$10 Full-time Student ☐ \$5 Newsletter Hardcopy Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Release and Indemnification Agreement

This Release and Indemnification Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club, as it is presently organized and may be later structured ("WPMC") and the undersigned Member (the "Member") on this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

WHEREAS, WPMC is a non-profit educational organization that has as its principal purpose the sharing of mushroom-related information among its members; and

WHEREAS, all officers, directors, identifiers and members serve WPMC in a voluntary capacity and receive no remuneration for their services; and

WHEREAS, in cases where WPMC charges a fee for its forays, walks, lectures and other events (collectively "WPMC Events"), it is doing so only to cover its direct costs and does not operate in a for-profit capacity; and WHEREAS, the Member understands that there is inherent and unavoidable risk in outdoor activities relating to hunting and consuming wild mushrooms. These risks include but are not limited to the dangers of hiking in difficult terrain, the possibility of misidentifying a wild mushroom, and the possible allergic or toxic reaction that some individuals may have to otherwise edible mushrooms.

NOW THEREFORE, the Member hereby agrees to the following:

1. The Member assumes all risks associated with WPMC Events. The Member expressly acknowledges that it is the Member's sole responsibility to hike safely and to determine whether a wild mushroom may be consumed.
2. The Member releases, holds harmless, and indemnifies the WPMC, its officers, directors, identifiers, and representatives from any and all liability relating to any injury or illness incurred by the Member or the Member's family members as a result of participation in a WPMC Event.

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If any portion of the Agreement is declared for any reason to be invalid or unenforceable, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of the Agreement. This Agreement shall apply to all current and future WPMC events.

MEMBERS:

SIGNATURE (IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER AGE 21, SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN). PLEASE PRINT NAME:

1 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____