



# Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

## Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2024



### President's Message

Barbora Batokova

AS I WRITE THIS, summer is in full swing and we're getting ready for our annual Lincoff Foray on September 21. Make sure you register, since we sell out every year. You don't want to miss this year's program with our keynote

speakers **Sigrid Jakob**, president of the New York Mycological Society, and **Hannah Huber**, PA Conservation Mycologist. And don't forget to order this year's limited-edition t-shirt with a mushroom cityscape logo designed by WPMC member **Marissa Kolarosky**. The event would not be possible without a group of dedicated volunteers!

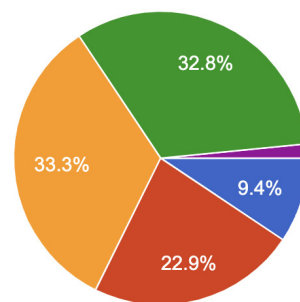
As you may have heard, the Pennsylvania Biological Survey's (PABS) Mycological and Protists Technical Committee (MAP TC) has initiated the process of naming a state mushroom. WPMC is participating in the nomination and selection process. In July, we sent out a survey to all members to vote for their top choice. Based on your answers, we submitted two nominations: *Cantharellus flavolateritius* and *Grifola frondosa* (*Ganoderma tsugae* had already been nominated).

*Cantharellus flavolateritius*, commonly known as the smooth chanterelle, is a worthy candidate for Pennsylvania's state mushroom. It is delicious, easy to spot thanks to its colorful appearance, and easy to identify with no close lookalikes. It is very plentiful and prolific in Pennsylvania, making it a favorite among foragers. As a bonus, its bright yellow color nicely complements the Pennsylvania state flag.

*Grifola frondosa*, commonly known as hen of the woods (as well as sheep's head and ram's head, or maitake), is an excellent choice for Pennsylvania's state mushroom thanks to its edibility, distinctiveness, and strong association with the state's oak forests. Pennsylvania is known as one of the best places to enjoy stunning fall colors, and hen of the woods flourishes during that time, completing the colorful landscape and, at the same time, perfectly blending in with the hues of fall. This mushroom is abundant in Pennsylvania, making it an exciting discovery for foragers. It is praised for its delicious taste, potential medicinal properties, and ease of identification, making it a safe choice for beginners.

### Which mushroom should become the Pennsylvania State Mushroom?

- *Artomyces pyxidatus*: Crown-tipped Coral (9.4%)
- *Cantharellus flavolateritius*: Smooth Chanterelle (22.9%)
- *Ganoderma tsugae*: Hemlock Varnish Shelf / Hemlock Reishi (33.3%)
- *Grifola frondosa*: Hen of the Woods / Sheep's Head / Maitake (32.8%)
- *Meripilus sumstinei*: Black Staining Polypore (1.6%)



(192 responses)

### WPMC Scholarship Committee

WPMC ADMINISTERS AN annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions. Application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to:

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

### Donations Help Fund WPMC Projects

LOOKING FOR A WAY to support WPMC beyond paying your annual dues? Make a donation anytime; it's tax-deductible (if you itemize deductions) because WPMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations may be made in honor or in memory of a loved one. Your employer may even match your contribution. Make checks payable to Western Pa. Mushroom Club and submit them to our Treasurer, **Jared Delaney**.

### WPMC Slate of Officers for 2025

WPMC IS PLEASED to announce that four of the current Board members have agreed to serve another term. WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** has completed his second and final term as NAMA Trustee. WPMC members will have the opportunity to vote on the following slate at the October 15 meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor:

- |                       |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>President</b>      | <b>Barbora Batokova</b>  |
| <b>Vice President</b> | <b>Julie Travaglini</b>  |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | <b>Sara Klingensmith</b> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | <b>Jared Delaney</b>     |
| <b>NAMA Trustee</b>   | <b>Cara Coulter</b>      |



# BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Cecily Franklin

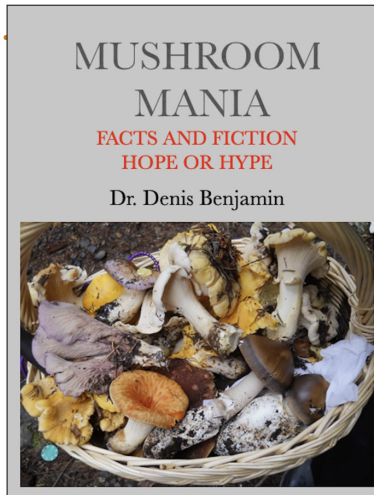
## Mushroom Mania: Facts and Fiction - Hope or Hype

By Dr. Denis Benjamin

DENIS BENJAMIN has had many careers. He's been a medical doctor and professor, an author, a mycologist and naturalist, and most recently a watercolor artist. Dr. Benjamin first became interested in mushrooms back in 1970, so he's been around for a long time and really knows his mushrooms. He wrote the handbook on mushroom toxicology (*Mushrooms: Poisons and Panaceas*, 1995).

His new book is titled *Mushroom Mania: Facts and Fiction - Hope or Hype*. It covers four important aspects of mushrooms: Foraging, Mushrooms as Food, Mushroom Toxins & Poisoning, and Mushrooms as Medicine. I would like to suggest an alternative subtitle: *What Could Go Wrong?* Dr. Benjamin is a self-proclaimed curmudgeon and killjoy. His substack is even called "The Skeptical Physician." As a result, his book is full of things that could go wrong: You could get lost, or eat a poisonous mushroom, or a raw morel, or an undercooked shiitake, or too many mushrooms. I particularly liked his cemetery story (abbreviated here):

One summer evening, I stopped by the cemetery and picked a pound of near-perfect meadow mushrooms. Once home, I prepared a good meal. Two hours later,



I thought that I was going to die. Actually, I wanted to. The next day, I called the cemetery. "Excuse me, ma'am, but could you tell me if the cemetery has been recently sprayed?" "Oh, yes! Yesterday was a regular monthly treatment with our landscape company. They spray with a mixture of herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides." So, the night before, I had absorbed the combined toxins or our most demented chemical minds.

When it comes to medicinal mushrooms, anyone who has been around mushroom people long enough has detected the tension between "New Age woo-woo" and science. It's not that the scientists "hate mushrooms" or think they have no

medicinal value (as they have been misquoted). According to Dr. Benjamin, the double-blind, placebo-controlled study has generally not been followed with medicinal mushrooms. "If these same principles were applied to some of the intriguing chemicals hidden in mushrooms, their medical value and role in health management may prove to be very valuable."

With the exception of the cover, this book contains no photos and has no color—just a few black and white drawings. It's one of those books you have to actually read. I would recommend it to anyone who has joined a mushroom club and wants to know what they're getting themselves into, especially if they're considering a leadership role.

## 2024 Meeting Schedule

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

If you can't be there in person, check this website on the night of the meeting to watch live: <https://www.facebook.com/WPAMC>

The streams are also being archived on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WesternPennsylvaniaMushroomClub>

**SEPT. 17:** From Forest to Database: Documenting Fungal Diversity on iNat & DNA Recap from Lincoff Foray by Cara Coulter

WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** will provide a brief overview on how to use iNaturalist and its importance in DNA collection, as well as how to properly prepare specimens for DNA processing. Cara will then present some of WPMC's exciting fungal DNA research findings.



**OCT. 15:** Photo Contest Results by Sara Klingensmith, Photography Chair Election of Officers

WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will present the winners of this year's Photo Contest (see page 3). In addition, WPMC members will vote on a slate of Officers for 2025.

**NOV. 19:** Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards

For the Potluck, bring something for 6-8 people, along with serving utensils. The categories are: Appetizers, Salads, Hot Dishes, Cold Plates, Soup, Casseroles, Desserts, anything you want—be creative. It does not need to be mushroom related but, if so, wild mushrooms must be identified and approved by a club Identifier or Mycologist before cooking, and any non-members will have to sign a waiver before trying them. Since electrical connections are limited, bring hot food hot, and bring cold food cold. WPMC will provide soft drinks, plates, eating utensils, napkins, and take-home boxes.



# Interview with WPMC Members

## Jim & Charlotte Tunney

By Dawn Wehman

LIKE MANY OTHER EARLY members of WPMC, Mycologist **Jim Tunney** and **Charlotte Tunney** attended “Mushroom Mania” at Beechwood Farms in the Fall of 2000. Both of them had been hunting for 3 or 4 years by that point and joined the Ohio Mushroom Society in 1999, but they liked the idea of meeting closer to home. “We found our first morel with Walt Sturgeon!”

Charlotte was the first person in their house to identify edible mushrooms, including *Laccaria ochropurpurea* (purple laccaria) and *Agaricus campestris* (field mushroom), but Jim was the one who went on to become (and still is) a Mycologist for the club. He mentioned several books that he used as guides to identification that are still very useful today: *Mushrooms Demystified* by David Arora; *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms* (originally published in 1981) by Gary Lincoff; and *Mushrooms of North America* by Orson K. Miller Jr.

Jim served as WPMC’s Cultivation Chair with significant help from **Mark Spear** and **Rebecca Miller**. “I really learned a lot from them.” Jim had been cultivating mushrooms on his own as early as 1996 with guidance from the former Mushroom People Farm of Tennessee. “I had grown shiitake and some oysters from ground up newspaper and coffee grounds back then. Charlotte had access to the internet through her job, which was really helpful.”

Charlotte was happy to serve in the kitchen during the Lincoff Forays, cooking alongside **Valerie Baker**. Among some of her favorites served to the membership were: Candy Cap Cake made from *Lactarius camphoratus* or *Lactarius rubidus*; Button Mushroom Lasagna made from Mark and Rebecca’s surplus *Agaricus bisporus* one year; Hummingbird Cake made with chanterelle mushrooms; traditional Mexican breakfast Chilaquiles made one year with *Chlorophyllum rhacodes* (Shaggy Parasol); *Grifola frondosa* (Hen-of-the-Woods) Pie, and Valerie Baker’s Mushroom Bread.

Here’s the recipe (right) for Charlotte’s Hummingbird Cake with Chanterelles.



Jim Tunney on his way to Sycamore Island.



Valerie Baker and Charlotte Tunney at the 2019 Lincoff Foray.  
Photo by Kim Plischke

## Hummingbird Cake with Chanterelles

By Charlotte Tunney

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Mix dry ingredients together:

1 1/2 cups flour

1 1/4 cups sugar

1 1/2 tsp. baking powder

1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 tsp. salt

Mix wet ingredients together:

2 eggs

2/3 cup vegetable oil

1/2 cup carrots, cooked and mashed

1/2 cup bananas, mashed

1 tsp. vanilla

1/2 tsp. brandy extract

Combine dry and wet ingredients and mix well. Stir in:

1/2 cup crushed pineapple, lifted from can with a fork

2/3 cup flaked coconut

3/4 cup chanterelles, cooked, drained, and chopped

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Pour into pan. Bake 11x16 cookie pan with sides for 20-25 minutes or 9x13 cake pan for 35-40 minutes. Test with toothpick; should be almost dry when done.

## Last Chance to Enter Annual Photo Contest

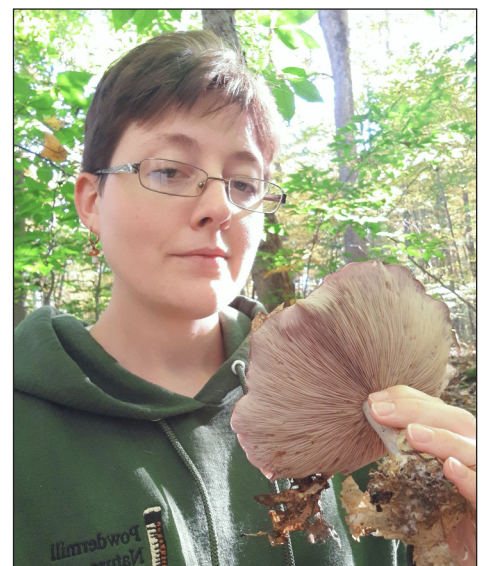
ONCE AGAIN, WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will judge members’ photos for our annual Photo Contest. Here are the Photo Contest rules for this year:

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2024
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., “Joe Smith morel.jpg”
- Email entries to Sara Klingensmith at [pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com](mailto:pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com).
- Indicate in your email the desired category for each photo.

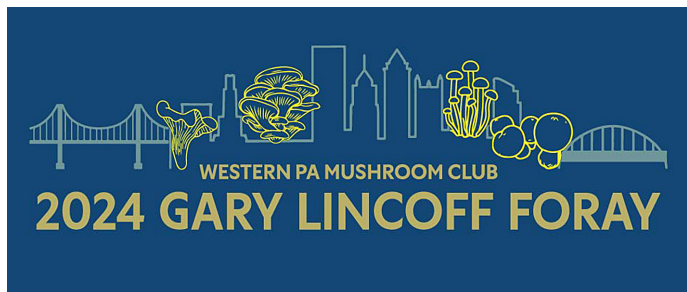
You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date. Photos submitted by non-members will not be considered. For more information visit:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/photo-galleries/annual-wpmc-photo-contest/>

Mushroom selfie by Sara Klingensmith



# LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR LINCOFF FORAY



REGISTRATION IS QUICKLY filling up for the 24th annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, September 21, at the Economy VFD Banquet Hall in Sewickley. Beginning on September 1, prices will increase by \$10 and T-shirt pre-orders will no longer be available. This is a NEW venue for WPMC, so put this address into your NAV system: 3308 Conway Wallrose Road, Sewickley, PA 15143. Register at this link: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/>

## Lincoff Foray Schedule of Events

Here's the schedule of events for Saturday, September 21:

7:30 – 8:15 am: Registration & Morning Walk Signup

8:15 – 9:00 am: Overview of Program and Introductions

9:00 am – 12:00 pm: Morning Walks

- Linbrook Park
- Audubon Greenway Conservation Area
- Linbrook Woodlands Conservation Area
- Turkey Foot Road in Bell Acres

11:30 am – Lunch (Light refreshments & coffee truck will be available.)

1:00 – 2:00 pm: DNA Sequencing for Non-Scientists (Sigrid Jakob)

2:15 – 3:15 pm: Conserving our Fungal Heritage (Hannah Huber)

3:30 – 4:00 pm: Cooking Demonstration

4:00 pm: Auction Results

4:30 – 5:30 pm: Mushroom Feast

5:30 – 6:00 pm: Table Walk (Walt Sturgeon)

6:00 – 7:00 pm: Cleanup (everybody helps)



## Foray Cooks & Volunteers Needed

By Mike Henry

FELLOW MUSHROOM LOVERS, if you are planning to attend this year's Lincoff Foray, and you love to cook your favorite food (mushrooms!), now is a good time to think about bringing your signature mushroom dish to the Foray. You don't need to cook for 100 people – just 10 to 15.

If you plan to bring a dish containing wild-foraged mushrooms, you will need to first get them identified by a club Identifier or Mycologist. It's OK to use store-bought mushrooms, if you're uncomfortable with cooking wild mushrooms. In fact, your dish doesn't need to contain mushrooms at all. Some club members are allergic or sensitive to mushrooms and will need an alternative meal choice.

Summertime is the perfect time to think about what to bring, while so many delicious mushrooms are still widely available. We will also need volunteers to assist with setup, teardown, and other tasks. Please contact **Mike Henry** if you are interested in bringing a dish or volunteering for other kitchen duties at [forayfood@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:forayfood@wpamushroomclub.org). Let me know as soon as possible. We need to finalize our menu, and we need your help!



Chicken of the Woods nuggets

## New logo and T-shirt

THE WINNER OF this year's Foray logo contest is **Marissa Kolarosky** with her mushroom-enhanced Pittsburgh skyline. Only WPMC members who register for the Lincoff Foray before September 1 will have the opportunity to pre-order a shirt.



## Two Free Optional Pre-Foray Walks

IN ADDITION TO the “main event” on Saturday, September 21, WPMC will host two free pre-foray walks at Cook Forest. No registration is required for these events, but you will be responsible for your own transportation, meals, and housing.

**Thursday, September 19, 7:30 pm:** Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** and Park Ranger **Dale Luthringer** at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center at the entrance to the Forest Cathedral. We recommend staying in the area if you’re attending the Fluorescent Foray and coordinating with friends to find a campsite. The Ridge Campground at Cook Forest is an affordable option.

**Friday, September 20, 10:00 am:** Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC experts and Park Ranger **Dale Luthringer** at Shelter 2.

## Foray Auction Will Include Art by WPMC Members

By Cecily Franklin

THANKS TO THE generosity of WPMC members, we have received dozens of donations for this year’s Lincoff Foray auction/raffle, from mushroom books, magazines and posters to ceramics, glass and wood mushrooms. Two WPMC members have kindly donated their own art to this year’s Foray auction. **Dana Driscoll** has given WPMC a print of her *Amanita muscaria* drawing, and **Becka Jean Marsh** will contribute her “Stars and Spores” wall hanging.

Please do not bring any donations to the Foray, when it will be too late to prepare them for display. As in prior years, each person attending the Lincoff Foray will receive one free raffle ticket at the sign-in table. Be sure to print your name on the back of the ticket before placing it in the bag of your desired item and keep the coupon portion. Additional tickets may be purchased for the LOW price of one dollar, so bring along some extra cash and bid on your favorite goodies.

The lucky winners will be announced in the afternoon. All proceeds will benefit Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.



*Amanita muscaria* by Dana Driscoll

## Lincoff Foray Guest Mycologists

### SIGRID JAKOB

**Sigrid Jakob**, President of the New York Mycological Society, will present “DNA Sequencing for Non-Scientists”. DNA sequencing has become an integral part of modern mycology. It is not only helping with the classification of fungi but has revolutionized our understanding of the fungal tree of life. Sigrid’s talk will take us through the many uses (and abuses) of DNA sequencing. It will explain how DNA sequencing works, explain the different methodologies (Sanger and Nanopore sequencing), what it takes to set up a lab, and how to integrate molecular methods with the documenting and collecting that mushroom clubs are already doing. It will also showcase the relevance of DNA sequencing to support the conservation of rare and threatened fungi. She’ll finish by looking at some of the more interesting discoveries from her own and her club’s collections that DNA sequencing has helped to uncover. This talk is targeted at everybody—no scientific background required!



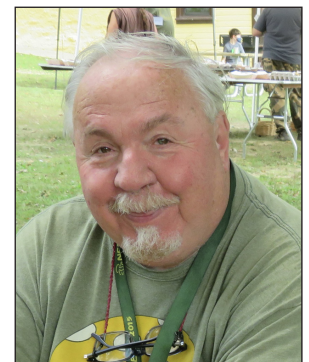
### HANNAH HUBER

**Hannah Huber**, Conservation Mycologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, will discuss “Conserving our Fungal Heritage.” In 1973, the Endangered Species Act was passed, just four years after fungi were recognized as a distinct Kingdom separate from plants, and apparently not enough time for the authors of the Act to think to include fungi. While two lichens achieved federal listing later, fungi have been mostly without protection. This talk will describe the status of fungal conservation, key initiatives, and the role of subnational natural heritage programs (like Pennsylvania’s) in assessing and monitoring fungal species. This talk will also highlight the work that is unfolding in Pennsylvania with the unmatched energy of the state’s mycology community to carefully document species that may be rare, at risk of decline, or introduced and spreading.



### WALT STURGEON

**Walt Sturgeon**, author of *Appalachian Mushrooms* and *Mushrooms of the Northeast*, will join us on Friday at Cook Forest and Saturday in Sewickley. Walt will help us to identify mushrooms and will discuss our finds on Saturday.





## Mushroom Education Day

By Kathy Gilotty Croft and Susan Bertoty

WE HAD A GREAT turnout this year at Mushroom Education Day on June 22 at Powdermill Nature Reserve. WPMC Membership Chair **Dawn Wehman** greeted members at the registration desk, while WPMC Mycologists **Cara Coulter** and **Richard Jacob** completed final adjustments on the microscopes. There were tables filled with delicious snacks and coffee, tea and cold juice for everyone to enjoy upon arrival.

Our meeting started with words from WPMC President **Barbora Batokova** and information on the schedule for the day. The morning session started with two options for members: “Mushrooms Under the Microscope” presented by **Cara Coulter** or “How to Photo-Document Mushrooms”, a guided walk with **Barbora Batokova**.

**From Susan:** Barbora’s walk was very enlightening. She used her own skills in photography to show us how much of a difference it can make for identification purposes to take a series of photos at different angles capturing the habitat, cap, gills, stipe and using a portable lighting device to highlight the mushroom. (See page 10 of this newsletter.)

**From Kathy:** Cara’s talk on using a microscope included a PowerPoint presentation and handouts of Important Micro Terms. She explained that to know what a person is looking at under the scope, they need a basic understanding of terminology. We learned that the Pileus is another term for the cap of a mushroom and Lamellae is a fancy name for gills. She explained the importance of just the smallest, thinnest slice of the edge of the cap being all that is needed for the preparation of a slide. She covered the different stains (distilled water with glycerine, ammonia,

potassium hydroxide, Melzer’s Reagent, Congo Red, or Lactophenol Cotton Blue) and how they help to accentuate the parts of the tiny sample on the slide that magnifies the components of a mushroom under the microscope. It wasn’t until we went to a table with several microscopes set up that we really understood everything she had been explaining. As I prepared a slide using the Congo Red dye with her supervision, allowed it to dry for a minute and put it under the microscope, I saw for the first time the unique and special qualities of the fungus that would be integral to identifying it. The Ascus became visible, as well as the spores it held. My technique of preparing a slide is rough compared to Cara’s, but my understanding of the terminology and process is light years ahead of where it was prior to her seminar. Since then, I have more confidence in using my microscope and the capabilities that it presents.

Following the morning sessions, we had the pleasure of watching a detailed presentation of “Recognizing Pennsylvania’s Macrolichens” by WPMC Mycologist and Lichen Specialist, **Stephen Bucklin**. Stephen shared his wealth of knowledge about how we can learn to identify and look for lichen in everyday places all around us.

Our last presenter, and always a joy to have at all our events, was WPMC member and Lincoff Foray Mushroom Feast Chair, **Mike Henry**. Mike’s presentation showed us how to make Wild Forest Soda. He also provided us with a take-home recipe and gave everyone a chance to sample his Forest Soda and Elderberry Soda. It was delicious!

We ended the day with guided walks with WPMC identifiers. It was truly a spectacular day full of sun, friendship and education. If you were unable to attend the event this year, don’t miss out on the 2025 Mushroom Education Day! And we highly recommend the microscopy portion of any future educational opportunities through WPMC.



# WPMC Awards ID Buttons and Updates Requirements



Nathan Cobbett



Saige Runyan



Vic Pregel and Paula Breuer



Joy LeViere



Owen Reeder



Jim Sindegal



Kate Gaglio



Sarah Kramer Fioni



Shawna Daisley

WPMC'S BUTTON ID BUTTON Program offers members a fun way to increase their knowledge of mushroom species. The following WPMC members were recently awarded ID Buttons for their ability to identify mushroom species: **Nathan Cobbett** and **Paula Breuer & Vic Pregel** (10); **Joy LeViere**, **Saige Runyan**, and **Owen Reeder** (25); **Jim Sindegal**, **Kat Gaglio**, and **Sarah Kramer Fioni** (50); and **Shawna Daisley** (100). Congratulations to all!

ID Button Chair **Julie Travaglini** recently updated the requirements for earning an ID Button. Lists must now be created on iNaturalist. Paper lists and Excel spreadsheets will no longer be accepted. Observations on iNat must include photos, must be to the species level, and must be "Research Grade," indicating that another naturalist agrees with the ID. For complete requirements, including how to submit your list of known mushrooms, go to:

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



## Look Great While You Support WPMC!

SHOW YOUR WPMC pride by purchasing customized club gear from [spreadshop.com](https://www.spreadshop.com). The WPMC Merch Store offers many products with the WPMC logo, including shirts of various styles, hats, mugs, aprons, tote bags, and more. Whether it's for men, women, or toddlers, you get to choose the size and color! Buy for yourself or as one-of-a-kind gifts.

All purchases benefit WPMC, so get started at this link:

<https://western-pa-mushroom-club.myspreadshop.com/>



Day and time for walks vary. Note any registration requirements or fees. Check the website at [www.wpamushroomclub.org/events](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/events) for updates, directions, and more. If you would like to lead a WPMC walk, or if you know a great walk location, please email WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** at [joshmowris@yahoo.com](mailto:joshmowris@yahoo.com).



## WPMC Walks & Events

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

#### Wolf Creek Narrows Natural Area

195 Miller Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 (Butler County)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** in the parking lot at Wolf Creek Narrows. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 5:00-8:00 P.M.

#### Forage Fest with Velum Fermentation

2120 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** and **Mike Henry** will host a table at Forage Fest. Free.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, NOON TO 4:00 P.M.

#### Outdoor Recreation & Conservation Expo

1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA 15024

Join State Representative **Mandy Steele** for this second annual family-friendly Expo to celebrate outdoor traditions and explore the work of local organizations in outdoor recreation and conservation. WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** and Past President **Cecily Franklin** will host a mushroom table. Register to attend here: <https://www.pahouse.com/steele/RSVP/?id=1627>

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, NOON TO 4:00 P.M.

#### 13th Annual Fall Migration Festival at Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy

120 Forsythe Road, Valencia, PA 16059 (Butler County)

WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** will be the keynote speaker for this fundraising event. Stephen's topic will be Kingdom Fungi. He'll give an overview on this enigmatic group of organisms, share stories about common local species of mushrooms, and highlight connections between fungi and birds. For more information and to purchase tickets (age 5 and older), go to: <https://www.wildbirdrecovery.org/fall-migration-festival/>

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

#### Fungi 101 Talk & Walk with Allegheny Land Trust

Fern Hollow Nature Center, 1901 Glen Mitchell Rd, Sewickley

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom talk and ID walk at Fern Hollow Nature Center. After a short introductory lecture on fungi, participants will look for mushrooms around Fern Hollow and collect specimens for an ID table. Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK INS will be permitted. As this hike is beginner friendly, we will be using the mushrooms' common names and looking at distinguishing features to begin identifying mushrooms. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. Tickets are \$10 for ages 3 and up; tickets not required for children ages 2 and under. Register here: <https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/72717-fungi-101-talk-and-walk-fern-hollow-nature-center>

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 7:30 P.M.

#### Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest (Clarion County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** and Park Ranger **Dale Luthringer** at the Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Center at the entrance to the Forest Cathedral. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lodging. See page 5 for more information.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 10:00 A.M.

#### Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest (Clarion County)

Meet WPMC experts 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.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

#### Fungi 101 Talk & Walk with Allegheny Land Trust at Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

799 Pinkerton Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15071

#### Peirce Education Rooms (Welcome Center)

Join Allegheny Land Trust Senior Director of Education and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom talk and identification walk at the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. After a short introductory lecture indoors on fungi, participants will look for mushrooms around the Garden and collect specimens for an ID table. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. Program suitable for adults and children ages 14 years and older, if accompanied by an adult. Please dress for the weather (program will be held rain or shine), wear comfortable shoes and bring a water bottle for yourself. Participants may also want to bring a basket for specimen collecting. Tickets are \$25 for Pittsburgh Botanic Garden members; \$35 for nonmembers. Register here: <https://54238.blackbaudhosting.com/54238/Fungi-101-Talk-Walk>

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 5-7:00 P.M.

#### Beginner's Mushroom ID Hike with Allegheny Land Trust Wingfield Pines Conservation Area, Mayview Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike and ID table at Wingfield Pines. Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK INS will be permitted. This is not a traditional guided hike. After a brief introduction, guests will be looking for mushrooms on their own before reconvening for an ID table and discussion at the end. As this hike is beginner friendly, we will be using the mushrooms' common names and looking at distinguishing features to begin identifying mushrooms. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up; tickets not required for children ages 2 and under. Register here: <https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/72718-beginner-s-mushroom-id-hike>

*continued on page 9*





## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

### North Park (location will be emailed to registrants) Mushroom Forage, Foray and Fun! with Phipps Conservatory, Flannel Roots Farm & WPMC

Cost: \$45 for Phipps members; \$50 nonmembers. Class fee includes small bites featuring mushrooms. OPTIONAL art kit \$15. (The option to add the art kit will appear once tickets have been added to your cart). If you do not opt to purchase the materials, feel free to bring your own watercolors or art medium of choice.

Come enjoy a collaborative exploratory art forage walk with Phipps, WPMC, and Flannel Roots Farm! We will explore the world of fungi, collecting specimens and bringing them back for an ID table. We will talk about different species of fungi, where to find them, and tips and tricks for easy identification.

Please wear comfortable outdoor walking shoes, bring a water bottle, and sun protection. We also advise you to bring a lunch, as mushroom snacks will be light. Location details will be emailed to you upon nearing of event. The location is ADA accessible; however, the walk will go on trails that may not be. This event is RAIN OR SHINE, so dress appropriately. In the circumstance of unsafe conditions, you will be emailed the day prior by 5 p.m. Register here: <https://my.conservatory.org/7403>

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1-2:00 P.M.

### Beginner's Mushroom Walk at Riverview Park 388 Mairdale Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** at the Riverview Park Activities Building for a Beginner's Mushroom Walk as part of Riverview Park Day. This walk will be friendly for children and beginners. There is no charge, but registration is required. <https://pittsburghparks.org/event/20286/>

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 4-6:30 P.M.

### Slightly Spooky Mushroom Walk with Allegheny Land Trust Dead Man's Hollow (Near Boston Ballfield) 1906 Donner Street, McKeesport, PA

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike at Dead Man's Hollow. This slightly spooky hike will include the haunted history of Dead Man's Hollow as we walk 0.9 mile along the Great Allegheny Passage to enter the ruins of the Hollow to look for fungi. COSTUMES WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED (just make sure you can hike comfortably in your costume)! Hike runs rain or shine. NO WALK-INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 and up. Purchase tickets here: <https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/72721-slightly-spooky-mushroom-walk>

WPMC 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.

**NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED  
MUSHROOM!**

## Other Walks, Forays & Events

### AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 2

**Mycological Association of Washington, DC**  
Sequanota Foray, Boswell, PA  
<https://mawdc.org/Forays>

### SEPTEMBER 5-8

**11th Annual Northwoods Foray**  
Lake Namakagon, WI  
<https://www.wisconsinmycologicalsociety.org/>

### SEPTEMBER 12-15

**Ohio Mushroom Festival, Hammondsville, OH**  
<https://www.ohiomushroomfestival.com/events/ohio-mushroom-festival-2024>

### SEPTEMBER 21

**24th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray**  
Economy VFD Banquet Hall  
3308 Conway Wallrose Road, Sewickley  
See page 4 for more information.

### SEPTEMBER 27-30

**Connecticut Westchester Mycological Association (COMA)**  
Annual Clark Rogerson Foray, Copake, NY  
<https://www.comafungi.org/>

### SEPTEMBER 28, 10 A.M.-3:30 P.M.

**Ohio Mushroom Society Fall Foray**  
Long Science Center  
<https://ohiomushroomsociety.wordpress.com/events/>

### SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 2

**Eagle Hill Institute (Eastern Maine) Fall Mushrooms in a Changing Climate with David Porter and Michaeline Mulvey**  
<https://eaglehill.us/programs/sems-weeklong/flyers-weeklong-pdfs/2024-MulveyPorter.pdf>

### OCTOBER 11 - 14

**NE Mycological Federation (NEMF) Foray, Hyannis, MA**  
<https://www.nemf.org/2024-foray>  
NOTE: NEMF has a limited number of scholarships available for attendees of the annual foray. To apply, read these guidelines: <https://www.nemf.org/homola-scholarships>

### OCTOBER 18 – 27

**Fall Continental MycoBlitz**  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fall-continental-mycoblitz-2024>

### OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 3

**North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray**  
Randle, Washington  
<https://namyco.org/annual-foray/>

### NOVEMBER 6-9

**NAEEE 2024 Conference: Building Bridges, Pittsburgh, PA**  
<https://conference.naeee.org/conference>



## Out & About with WPMC



ON JULY 18, WPMC Identifier **Dirk Cappo** gave a presentation on the “Wild & Wonderful World of Mushrooms” for local Girl Scouts at Emmerling Park.



ON AUGUST 17, WPMC Identifier **Jared White** and Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll**, along with WPMC members **Victoria Kheronsky** and **Evan Hamrick**, hosted a table at Garden in the Park South. Penn State Master Gardeners invited WPMC to participate.



ON AUGUST 24, WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** identified mushrooms found at the Elk County Flora Funga Festival.



WPMC Vice President and Identifier **Julie Travaglini** has been named President of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE).

## WPMC in the News

ON JULY 7, WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** led a mushroom walk at Headwaters Park in Erie. The event was covered in local online news and television. You can watch it here:

<https://www.yourerie.com/video/citizens-gather-at-headwaters-park-for-a-mushroom-walk/9846839/>



## Photographing Mushrooms

ON MUSHROOM EDUCATION Day, **Barbora Batokova** demonstrated how to achieve this “silver lining” effect on a Velvet-footed Pax, *Tapinella atrotomentosa*, using portable lighting.



## WPMC Membership Report

By Dawn Wehman & Kris Kenealy

AS OF AUGUST 23, we have 664 members from 382 households. Joining or renewing your membership is super easy by just going to <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> and following the directions provided. Don't know if you renewed already? No worries! Just drop us an email at [membership@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:membership@wpamushroomclub.org) and we can check for you.

Once your renewal is complete, please do just one more step, check your “Welcome to The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club – 2024” email and make sure we have all of your info correct.

**Membership benefits include:**

- Free mushroom kit at the annual Cultivation meeting in May.
- Discount for attending the WPMC's annual Gary Lincoff Foray.
- Annual Photo Contest for WPMC members.
- Access to the WPMC Facebook Group.
- Walks & Events year-round.
- Nine monthly meetings with speakers and mushroom identification.
- Five WPMC newsletters that can be either mailed to you if you select to get a hard copy (and pay the extra \$10 annually) or save a few trees and just get your newsletter via email!

## 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 WPMC newsletters may only be used in other non-profit publications with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

Cecily Franklin, Editor

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts, Production

Send submissions to: [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com)



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Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club

# 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 • ECONOMY VFD BANQUET HALL  
PLUS: Free Mushroom Walk Friday, September 20 • Cook Forest

Guests Mycologists: SIGRID JAKOB, President of New York Mycological Society  
HANNAH HUBER, Conservation Mycologist for Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

**SATURDAY, September 21 (all day): Foray includes Mushroom Feast.**

**Bring your own lunch. Light refreshments will be served.**

**Economy VFD Banquet Hall • 3308 Conway Wallrose Road, Sewickley, PA 15143**

**– REGISTRATION REQUIRED –**

**FRIDAY, September 20 (10:00 A.M.): Meet at Shelter 2, Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County. FREE**

**– TRANSPORTATION AND LUNCH NOT INCLUDED –**

**NOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 ALL REGISTRATION FEES WILL INCREASE BY \$10.**

Indicate the number/quantity for each item selected. All fees per person. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

_____ <b>\$50 WPMC member</b> / \$60 on or after 9/1/24 (with current paid 2024 membership)	sub total: _____
_____ <b>\$70 Non-members</b> / \$80 on or after 9/1/24 (includes 2024-25 Membership)	sub total: _____
_____ <b>\$30 Students (with ID) &amp; kids 11 to 18</b> / (members or non-members) kids 10 & under free. / \$40 on or after 9/1/24	sub total: _____
<b>FORAY T-SHIRT: \$20 each</b> _____ <b>Small</b> _____ <b>Medium</b> _____ <b>Large</b> _____ <b>XL</b> _____ <b>XXL</b>	sub total: _____

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTER & PAY ONLINE: [www.wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/)**

**REGISTER & PAY BY CHECK (payable to Western PA Mushroom Club):**

WPMC, c/o Jared Delaney, 1912 Chislett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

**FOR MORE INFO: [Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org](mailto:Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org)**

## REGISTRATION & RELEASE: SIGNED & DATED RELEASE FORM IS AN ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT FOR ATTENDANCE.

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 of its officers or members, 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 (if participant is under age 18, signature of parent or guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY: (INCLUDE NAMES OF CHILDREN UNDER TEN)

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

FOR ADDITIONAL NAMES / SIGNATURES, PLEASE INCLUDE AN EXTRA PAGE