



WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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MARCH / APRIL 2014

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to 2014!

After a long snowy winter (maybe the groundhog was right?) it looks like it's going to start warming up, so we should start seeing plenty of fungal activity soon.

For 2014, the WPMC is proud to announce a Scholarship/Grant Program to further interest and education in mushrooms. There are more details in this newsletter and on the website. Also for science, we started a DNA barcoding program last year, and submitted some samples collected at last year's Lincoff Foray for analysis.

We are starting to see other clubs get interested too and asking how to do it.

We'll have more details on the results later, but interested parties are invited to get involved.

This is your club, and exists to serve you--so let us know what your interests are, whether they are in identifying, eating, growing, or other uses or aspects of fungi--there is an area on the membership form to list your interests. Also, this club only works with help and ideas from volunteers, and there are plenty of ways to get involved, whether it's by leading a walk, finding an interesting speaker, or just spreading the word--drop me a line at president@wpamushroomclub.org

Morel Madness is returning this year, this time in Indiana County. Last year was not great for morels around here; on the other hand, chanterelles were so plentiful it was easy to pick more than you could use. Dick has a recap of the edible year in review and past foray finds. In future articles we'll list the best methods for preserving your bounties so you can enjoy them year round.

Todd Kaufmann
President 2014

FIRST MEETING OF THE SEASON: MARCH 18, 2014

Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA)
614 Dorseyville Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15238

What's That Mushroom Growing In My Yard or Woods?

presented by
Dick Dougall, Club Identifier

IF WE ARE OBSERVANT, we will see a variety of mushrooms growing in our yards, our parks, or our local woods. They appear and disappear from spring to late fall. They come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Some are even good edibles, but others are deadly poisons. Dick will show photos and discuss some of the mushrooms he has found in his neighborhood and local woods. Perhaps his talk will encourage you to learn more about these less well-known organisms which live in our local world.

Washington/Greene County Chapter to Close

AFTER SEVERAL YEARS of struggle trying to accommodate the Chapter, business, gardening and other obligations, Bonnie and Brian Davis asked that the Washington-Greene Chapter of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club be folded into the parent Club. The WPMC thanks Bonnie and Brian for all of their hard efforts and for the many walks that they sponsored in the Washington-Greene County area. The Club wishes them the best in all of their future efforts and hopes to see them at other Mushroom Walks and Forays.

All Washington/Greene County Chapter members will continue to be members of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club. Everyone who is current with their membership will continue to receive the Newsletter and is invited to attend Mushroom Walks and Forays.

Again, Bonnie and Brian, thank you for all of your mushrooming efforts in educating the public about mushrooming and gardening.

The 2013 Mushroom Year

by Dick Dougall

AT OUR FINAL MONTHLY meeting last November, I took an informal poll of those present about how hunting for edible mushrooms went for 2013. Here are the results.

- **Morels:** Mostly poor to very poor. The best reports were it was average.
- **Chicken Mushrooms:** An average year, with some people doing somewhat better than average.
- **Chanterelles:** A fabulous year! It was so good that many people reported that they got tired of cleaning them.
- **Boletes:** Some people did better than average; others did below average.
- **Honey Mushrooms:** Similar to Boletes, mixed results but not particularly good or bad.
- **Hens of the Woods (Sheepshead):** Results were average to very good. There were good early fruitings and some good late fruitings.

Morel Maddness

MOREL MADDNESS will again be different this year. It is planned in conjunction with Indiana County Friends of the Parks. Morel mushrooms are one of the most sought after and elusive mushrooms in the world. This program will teach participants what a Morel is; where they grow; when is the best time to find them; and a walk in the woods to scout out and collect mushrooms followed by mushroom identification. Poisonous look-alikes will also be covered, along with proper cleaning, storing and cooking techniques. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, please call: 724-463-8636.**

- Date:** SUNDAY – May 4, 2014
Time: 12:00 pm (Noon) – 4:00 pm
Location: Pine Ridge Park / The Lodge
998 Pine Ridge Rd., Blairsville, PA 15717
About 1 hour from downtown Pittsburgh on Route 22
GPS: 40° 26' 44.600" N // 79° 12' 12.104" W
Cost: Free



DNA barcoding update: March 2014

by Richard Jacob

DURING THE WINTER MONTHS work has continued on multiple fronts. We have continued to build the infrastructure required to document and store the information for each of the samples. We learned some lessons from the Lincoff Foray and have streamlined the field collection protocol. One of the big changes is the use of an application for smartphones, DNA barcoding assistant, which makes it easy to record the GPS coordinates and a picture of the specimen in the field. Work has nearly finished on web pages that give an introduction to DNA barcoding in general and the Club's project in detail. There have been a number of queries from other clubs asking how to set up their own projects, and as part of our collaboration with Professor Rytas Vilgalys and Duke University, we are making the WPMC protocol, forms, and documentation available. We hope that this introduction will be published on the WPMC website under a new education section shortly after you receive this newsletter.

The FTA Plantsaver cards, with specimen material, used to collect our samples last year have been sent to Duke University and are scheduled to be analyzed towards the end of this month. The standard approach is to sequence the ITS DNA barcode region. Professor Vilgalys has informed us that the analysis will be extended to include a second nearby region, the large subunit (LSU) nuclear ribosomal DNA barcode. The use of two DNA barcodes will increase the resolving power of the technique and help separate closely related species.

Last year 46 specimens were sampled, less than the 100 we had hoped for. The plan is to collect 100 to 150 samples over the course of this year with somewhere between a third and half being Amanita.

A workshop is in the planning stage for later in the year. This will cover the basics of DNA barcoding. Participants will then collect specimens and document them before taking DNA samples. Finally, they will analyze DNA sequences obtained from last year's samples. It will be open to a limited number of club members and work is under way to finalize the curriculum and date.

Lincoff Foray: Volunteers Needed!

THE 14TH ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray will be held in North Park on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Our guest speakers will include Gary Lincoff, Bill Yule and Gary Emberger. Details will be forthcoming as they develop. Meanwhile, we need your help to make this Foray successful. Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up, cooking, walk-leading, managing the auction, publicity and hospitality. Mushroom-related auction items are needed. This is your club. This is your Foray. And we are counting on you to help make it an educational, interesting and fun day. Please contact Lincoff Foray co-chair Barbara DeRiso (barbaraderiso@gmail.com) to volunteer.

Recipe Corner

Pasta with mushrooms

by Richard Jacob

Serves 4 to 6 people as a main course.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bunch of mixed herbs: basil, 1 small sprig rosemary, parsley
- 2 lb fresh mushrooms: store brought, wild or mixed. Chanterelles or other fleshy mushrooms are good.
- 1 lb pasta (farfalle/bow ties for preference)
- 1 oz dried porcini mushrooms
- 2 oz unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp. olive oil plus more for drizzling
- 4 cloves of garlic
- Salt and pepper
- Parmesan cheese



DIRECTIONS

1. Soak the dried porcini mushrooms in warm water for 20 minutes. Wash to remove any sand, cut off any hard parts and drain on a kitchen towel.
2. Put some salted water on to boil.
3. Clean, dry, chop mushrooms about ¼" thick pieces.
4. Strip the rosemary leaves from the stem and chop with the fresh herbs.
5. When the water is boiling, add the pasta and stir to prevent clumping.
6. Melt the butter with 2 tbsp. olive oil in a sauté pan.
7. Sauté all the mushrooms, herbs and garlic on high heat in butter and oil until lightly browned with a hint of crust and tender.
8. Season mushrooms with salt and pepper and taste to check.
9. Test to see when the pasta is cooked and drain when al dente.
10. Place pasta in a shallow serving bowl and add mushrooms and drizzle with a good quality olive oil.
11. Serve and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

NOTES:

This is a little different from the classic pasta and mushroom dishes in that it does not use cream or dairy as a base for the sauce. The recipe works well with Farfalle shaped pasta, bow ties or butterflies, but any medium sized pasta shape would work. For the pictures I used Orecchiette as that is what I had available.

Use a mixture of fresh and frozen mushrooms including cultivated hen-of-the-woods/Maitake (*Grifola frondosa*), frozen chicken of the woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*), Chanterelles (*Cantharellus cibarius*) that had been "Dry-Fryed" and frozen. If using store bought button mushrooms try adding 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin to the mushrooms when frying and juice from 1/2 lemon at the end for a different flavor.

Do you have an interesting Mushroom Recipe you'd like to share? Send it to our newsletter editor and it might be included in our Recipe Corner.

Common Mushroom Species Found at The Gary Lincoff Foray

by Dick Dougall

WE HAVE HAD THIRTEEN Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Forays. The club has kept records of the different mushrooms found at each of these forays. Over these years, 564 different species of mushrooms have been found.

From this list, it is interesting to see which mushrooms have been found most frequently. Only nine mushrooms have been found every year. Only nineteen others have been found for 11 or 12 years.

The 28 mushrooms in these frequently found categories are shown in the table below. Check the list to see how many you recognize. In which categories of mushrooms do they belong? Which are your favorite edibles? Which are poisonous? Which ones don't you recognize? Compare your answers with your friends.

Mushrooms found all Thirteen Years

- Daedaleopsis confragosa* (Thin-maze Flat Polypore)
- Ganoderma applanatum* (Artist's Conk)
- Grifola frondosa* (Hen of the Woods)
- Scleroderma citrinum* (Pigskin Poison Puffball)
- Stereum ostrea* (False Turkey-tail)
- Trametes versicolor* (Turkey-tail)
- Trichaptum biforme* (Violet Toothed-Polypore)
- Xerula furfuracea* (*Collybia* or *Oudemansiella radicata*) Complex (Rooted Xerula)
- Xylaria polymorpha* (Dead Man's Fingers)

Mushrooms found in 12 out of Thirteen Years

- Amanita muscaria* var. *Formosa* (Fly Killer Amanita)
- Daedalea quercina* (Thick-maze Oak Polypore)
- Entoloma abortivum* (Aborted Entoloma)
- Hypomyces chrysospermus* (Bolete Mold, Golden Hypomyces{L})
- Laetiporus sulphureus* (Chicken Mushroom; Sulfur Shelf)
- Lentinellus ursinus* (Bear Lentinus)
- Panellus stipticus* (Luminescent Panellus)
- Stereum complicatum* (Crowded Parchment)

Mushrooms found in 11 out of Thirteen Years

- Armillaria mellea* (Honey Mushroom)
- Ganoderma lucidum* (Ling Chih)
- Lycoperdon perlatum* (Gem-studded Puffball)
- Mycena haematopus* (Bleeding Mycena)
- Mycena luteopallens* (Walnut Mycena)
- Omphalotus illudens* or *O. olearius* (Jack O'Lantern)
- Phellinus gilvus* (Mustard-yellow Polypore)
- Pleurotus ostreatus* (Oyster Mushroom)
- Polyporus mori* or *Favolus alveolaris* (Hexagonal-pored Polypore)
- Pycnoporus cinnabarinus* (Cinnabar-red Polypore)
- Tyromyces chioneus* (White Cheese Polypore)

Time to Get an ID Button?

by Dick Dougall

SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL are great times to find many different mushrooms. Do you know some of the ones you are finding? Would you like to learn to recognize more of them? Then, it's time to consider participating in the John Plischke III Award for Mushroom Knowledge, informally known as the Button Program. Started in 2009 by the Plischke family, the Club awards buttons to members who can identify 10, 25, 50, 75, or 100 different mushrooms. For details of the program, go to the club's website under dropdown menu About the Club. <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/button-id-program/>

Getting started at the 10 or 25 button level is easy. You just need a list of mushrooms you know, either scientific names or common names. For the higher level buttons, full scientific names are required; common names are optional. A Club mycologist or identifier will certify your list, allowing you to earn an ID button.

Most people have a strong interest in edible mushrooms. With the motivation of earning a button, you will find it is fun to just learn names of a variety of other mushrooms. You will find that some of the inedible mushrooms have interesting stories connected to them. So make it a goal to get started with the Club Button Program.

The table below gives the names of club members whose highest identification level is 50 or more mushrooms. The 150+ level gives three members who were recently promoted to Club Identifier. Being able to name over 50 different mushrooms is a significant achievement, and we congratulate these members. Hopefully, many more club members will join the list.

150 Plus Award

- Joyce Gross – Club Identifier
- Bob Sleigh
- John Stuart – Club Identifier

100 Award

- Ann Berger – Club Identifier
- Sam Boll
- Harriet Yarroll

75 Award

- Cecily Franklin
- Ryan Tomazin

50 Award

- Shirley Caseman
- Walt Cyran
- Bonnie Davis
- Brian Davis
- Ron Donlan
- Todd Kaufmann
- Suzanne Kendig
- Homer Kretzer
- Dan McCaulley
- Shellie Oakley
- John Tadler
- Mike Watrous
- Stephen Wilson



WPMC Scholarship / Grant Program

THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MUSHROOM Club's Scholarship/Grant program is up and running for 2014. The objective is to offer support in a variety of ways to promote wild mushrooming, including research, equipment purchases, projects, educational events, or mycology studies by individuals or institutions. Support may be given in the form of an educational Scholarship to someone studying in an area related to mycology; a Grant to an institution or event, or a Grant for a specific mycological project.

There are monetary limits of up to \$1,000 per application not to exceed a cumulative yearly total of \$2,000.

Applications can be made by any club member. Forms are available on our web site (wpamushroomclub.org) or in the WPMC Newsletter. Applications should be received by June 30, 2014 although suggestions are welcome at any time.

We hope there may be a mycology student interested in doing a project, or someone with a new idea for education or training, or whatever educational endeavor you think may benefit the club, we welcome your input.



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Scholarship/Grant Program



The objective of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Scholarship/Grant program is to provide support for projects, individuals, institutions, equipment purchases, or events that promote the club's mission of education, research, teaching, training, and increasing the public's awareness of wild mushrooming.

Support may be given in the form of an educational Scholarship to someone studying in an area related to mycology; a Grant to an institution or event, or a Grant for a specific mycological project. In the case of a Grant, a proposal should be submitted summarizing the objectives, methods, timelines, and anticipated costs.

Although applications are welcome at any time, they should be received by the WPMC Scholarship Committee by June 30th of each year. Applications or recommendations for grants must be sponsored by a WPMC member.

Monetary awards are not to exceed \$1,000 per application with a cumulative yearly amount not to exceed \$2,000. The Scholarship Committee will make their recommendations to the WPMC Board of Directors for final approval.

WPMC SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT APPLICATION

PRINT CLEARLY. Attach any supporting documents that you deem necessary. Use additional sheets as needed.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT GRANT APPLICANT

APPLICANT NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

WPMC MEMBER SPONSOR: _____

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS: FRESHMAN SOPHOMORE JUNIOR SENIOR GRADUATE

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY: _____

COURSE OF STUDY: _____ ESTIMATED GRADUATION DATE: _____

GRANT APPLICANTS: Describe your proposal. Include your background/education, objectives, methods, time schedule for the project, and anticipated costs.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL forms were sent in January to all members whose dues were due for 2014. So far, 109 members have renewed through hard-copy or electronic means. The total membership as of March 1, 2014 is 217 members.

Please review the e-mail notice that you received with this Newsletter. A Renewal / Application Form is attached if your dues have not been paid. For those who receive a hard-copy of the Newsletter, please review the address label for an indicator that your dues have not been paid. Membership cards have been mailed to all members who are active for 2014 and will be mailed to each new and renewed member as they are received. Please be prompt in your renewals. Report change of address, phone or email immediately via email or by mail. Renew via the US mail or on-line at <http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

Jim Wasik – Membership Chair

membership@wpamushroomclub.org

WPMC Newsletter

The Newsletter of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club is published five times a year: March/April, May/June, July/Aug., Sept./Oct., and Nov./Dec. Articles, photos, news items and other submissions should be sent to the editor at least 6-8 weeks prior to targeted distribution for the best chance of inclusion. The editor cannot guarantee that submissions will be included in the next newsletter. The editor reserves the right to make spelling or grammatical corrections and may suggest content changes to the author. Material published in our newsletters may be used in other non-profit publications only with expressed permission and with appropriate acknowledgements.

WPMC YAHOO GROUPS:

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

WPMC CONTACT: contact@wpamushroomclub.org

NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

(NAMA): www.namyco.org

POISON CONTROL CENTER: 1-800-222-1222

WPMC Meetings:

WPMC meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday each month from March through November at:

**Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA)
614 Dorseyville Road • Pittsburgh, PA 15238**

March 18 *What's That Mushroom Growing In My Yard or Woods?* by Dick Dougall, Club Identifier

April 15 Watch for mail or E-mail announcement

May 20 Watch for mail or E-mail announcement

June 17 Watch for mail or E-mail announcement

July 15 Joint meeting with Audubon Society
Joel Greenberg, Natural History Museum of Chicago, author of *A Feathered River Across The Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction*
2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the species extinction. Joel will also talk a bit about the bird in Pennsylvania, some of its ecological niches, and the lesson from the bird's extinction.

August 19 Watch for mail or E-mail announcement

Sept. 13 Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray North Park

Sept. 16 Watch for mail or E-mail announcement

Oct. 21 Elections / Photo Contest

Nov. 18 Survivors Pot-Luck Dinner
Member Awards and Open Photo Forum

Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Officers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Todd Kaufmann
817 Walnut St.
Pittsburgh PA 15221
828-738-6487
president@wpamushroomclub.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

Richard Jacob
215 Highland Rd
Blawnox PA 15238-2136
215-888-5503
Vice_president@wpamushroomclub.org

RECORDING SECRETARY

Scott Pavelle
110 Isolda Dr
Pittsburgh PA 15209
412-606-4361
sppksp@verizon.net

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Fluff Berger
137 Hickory Drive
Sewickley PA 15143-8212
724-251-9662
Cor_secretary@wpamushroomclub.org

TREASURER

Barbara DeRiso
204 Woodcock Dr.
Pittsburgh PA 15215-1546
412-252-2594
barbaraderiso@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR /

PAST PRESIDENT

James Wasik
70 Woodland Farms Rd.
Pittsburgh PA 15238
412-967-9359
membership@wpamushroomclub.org

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc
Cecily Franklin

Check our website for a complete list of the year's events. Details and updates will be included in the newsletter.



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 • Fee discount for WPMC forays

Name (s) _____ Date _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____
 E-mail _____
 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.

ANNUAL DUES: \$15 Individual \$20 Family \$10 Full-time Student Amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

WPMC, c/o Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 e-mail contact: membership@wpamushroomclub.org
 or visit www.wpamushroomclub.org to pay using credit card.

Please indicate your newsletter/event announcement preference: Electronic via e-mail Hardcopy via US mail

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 _____

Signed release form will be in effect from date of membership until termination of membership.



**Western Pennsylvania
Mushroom Club**

202 Wadsworth Drive
Glenshaw, PA 15116

WPMC Goals

- Provide organized walks and forays
- Teach scientific methods of wild mushroom identification
- Explore various art forms including photography, dyeing, and paper-making with mushrooms
- Share mushroom recipes
- Educate members and the public about the many aspects of wild mushrooms

NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM

CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

Robert Boice

724-446-0524
blgym@aol.com

Kim Plischke

724-832-0271
ladiebugzpk@aol.com

John Plischke III

724-832-0271
fungi01@aol.com

Dr. Frank Schrock

724-463-7453
ambrosia1@verizon.net

Jim Tunney

412-441-3958
aminitam@hotmail.com

La Monte Yarroll

412-854-5684
piggy-wPMC@baqaqi.chi.il.us

IDENTIFIERS

Jack Baker

412-367-7696
jabaker2@hotmail.com

Fluff Berger

724-251-9662
wfberger@comcast.net

Dick Dougall

412-486-7504
mush2prof@verizon.net

Joyce Gross

724-339-8547
jagart@verizon.net

Bob Lucas

rnLucas@microspell.com

John Stuart

724-443-6878
jons2art@comcast.net



Fungi, fun and friends!