GIVE A MUSHROOM CLUB GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

We think that giving a friend or relative a 2005 mushroom club membership would be a tremendous gift for the holidays. We have included 2 WPMC applications, one for you and one for a friend.

In addition, we have club tee shirts available for $15. The club Cookbook is still available for $5, plus a small shipping charge. To order, please call Joyce Gross at 724-339-8547 or email her at ggross@microconnect.net. You can also order a mushroom book by going to the club’s website, going to the club’s bookstore.

ARTICLES WANTED

We need your articles, recipes, jokes, puzzles, stories and cartoons for the newsletter. Send yours in today. Mail or email them to Becky Plischke today. morelbp@aol.com or mail to 129 Grant St, Greensburg, PA 15601.

TAKE US FOR A WALK

If you want to lead a mushroom walk in your area, we would be glad to come. Find a place to have a walk and scout it out. If it is a park or nature area, please make sure we have permission to collect mushrooms there. Call our Walk & Foray Chairman, John Plischke III at 724-832-0271 or email fungi01@aol.com. Do it today. He will put the walk on our schedule. Club Identifiers will help with the identification.

GET INVOLVED

If you would like to get even more involved with our mushroom club, incoming Club President, Joe Luzanski is looking for a few good men and women to be committee members or chairmen. Call Joe at 724-872-7867 or email him at jluzanski@icubed.com. Let him know what your interest is. We have a place for you!

DUES ARE DUE

This is the last WPMC newsletter issue for 2004. That also means, unless you have already renewed your membership for 2005 that your membership in the club is about to expire. It is time to sign up for the year 2005.

In our first year, the WPMC grew from zero members to 170. Year 2, 250 members, year 3, 325 members, year 4, 420 members. We now have 484 members. We had 34 walks and forays and tremendous programs at our nine meetings.

Mark Spear and Rebecca Miller gave us lessons in how to grow oyster mushrooms and sent everyone home with an oyster mushroom kit. If we had to buy the kit, it would cost more than twice the amount of a club membership. They have already committed to have another cultivation class in 2005.

Elizabeth Barrow is the webmaster of our club website at www.wpamushroomclub.org. Bob Lucas’s Species List on our website is a tremendous aid in learning mushrooms.

The Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray had a tremendous crowd coming from a number of states. It was an outstanding success. Gary will come back again next year for more mushroom fun.

We have had five outstanding newsletters. Thanks to our club mycologists and identifiers, our club members have been learning edible and non-edible mushrooms at a tremendous rate. That’s a lot of bang for the buck. There is no place to get a better bargain for such a low cost. That is 48 opportunities to learn more about mushrooms.

Now is the time to fill in the membership form for the year 2005 and send it in along with your check so your membership continues. You don’t want to miss out on Fungi, Fun, and Friends! Don’t delay, the time to do it is today.
2005 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the October meeting the Nominating committee, Rebecca Miller, Mary Ellen Dougall, and Robin Durr, presented the membership with a slate of new officers. Elected were: Joe Luzanski, President; Jim Strutz, Vice President; Mary Jane Yakulis, Secretary; George Yakulis, Treasurer, and Valerie Baker, Corresponding Secretary.

JOE LUZANSKI, President

Joe, his wife Carol and their son Michael, live in Sewickley Township in Westmoreland County. Joe and Carol love to hunt for mushrooms. Unfortunately, Michael has no desire to look for mushrooms. Joe has worked as a programmer/analyst. He is also an avid gardener with a fairly large garden. During the winter when not gardening or looking for mushrooms he cross country skis.

Joe had been looking for a (safe) way to get back into mushroom hunting. When he was a kid he used to go with his dad and uncles to look for field mushrooms in the summer and stump mushrooms in the fall. Over time, as everyone got older, they got away from looking for mushrooms and his identification skills went downhill. Joe couldn't find anyone to go mushroom hunting with who didn't say "I think those are good." or "Boil them with a silver spoon and you'll know if they are good." Carol saw a newspaper story about Mushroom Mania in 1991 and the rest is history.

So in the last three years they got into hunting for morels, chanterelles, oyster mushroom and sheephead and have added a couple of others to the ones they are confident in picking. Probably more important is that they have added some "bad" mushrooms to those that they can identify. Is he an identifier? A very limited one, Joe admits. And as far as using Latin names, well Latin is still Greek to him.

According to Joe, "Is this a lot of fun? You bet it is!!!"

JIM STRUTZ, Vice President

Wendy and I became interested in mushrooms together. We both love to be outside and to cook and the wild mushrooms we saw in the woods became a curiosity to us. We found out about the WPMC fall mushroom foray in 2001 and decided to attend. We learned a lot that day and it helped to launch a new interest for both of us. We continue to learn about wild mushrooms from reading, foraging, identifying, and by listening to knowledgeable people. Our mushroom club has been instrumental in all of this.

We are interested primarily in mycophagy so we focus on mushrooms we can safely eat and which ones are harmful. As any reader of the Yahoo Groups knows, we experiment a lot with wild mushrooms in the kitchen and I post some of our creations on the message board. Some of our recipes made their way into the WPMC recipe book and one was even published in Vegetarian Times magazine.

We typically cover a lot of ground traveling to new and familiar places in search of wild mushrooms. We hunt in most of western PA and parts of West Virginia and Ohio, but the Clairon region remains among our favorite places since we both are connected to there.

I am an electronics engineer and developed hardware and software for industrial robots for many years. Now I help to manage various aspects of my family's manufacturing business with my father and two cousins. I enjoy restoring antique tube radios among other things.

VALERIE BAKER, Corr. Secretary

Valerie Baker did not know anything about wild mushrooms until she read about Morels in an Iowa newspaper many years ago, which inspired her to begin searching for Morels. Iowans are BIG Morel fans but very secretive about their hunting grounds. She and her husband, Jack, use to find basketfuls of Morels in the rich Iowa bottom lands. When she moved to PA, she only knew about Morels but wanted to know more about all the different kinds of mushrooms growing in the woods. She joined an Audubon mushroom walk led by Mary Woehrel and discovered there were several people in the greater Pittsburgh area who were also interested in mushrooms. That group wanted to start a Club and she and Jack were two of the founding members of WPMC. She has served as Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Publicity Chairman and one of the walk leaders for the Club. She loves to hunt mushrooms of all kinds but her favorites are Giant Puffballs, Chicken of the Woods, Morels, Parasols, and Shaggy Manes and she likes to experiment with them in recipes. Her favorite places to hunt mushrooms are in old growth forests and North Park.
GEORGE YAKULIS, Treasurer
MARY JANE YAKULIS, Secretary

George has an associate degree in Biological Science and works in R&D developing new polymers for PPG Industries. His interest in Mushrooming was cultivated by his Aunt who always cooked wild mushrooms for the Holidays. His favorite mushroom is the "brick top." His hobbies include hunting and the outdoors.

Mary Jane, a medical transcriptionist for more than 30 years, began mushrooming when she married George in 1986. Her favorite mushroom is the Oyster. Her hobbies include baking, working crossword puzzles and watching her grandson. Both George and Mary Jane enjoy golfing and walking their German short hair while searching for mushrooms. They both play in their church's handbell choir.

**CLUB SERVICE AWARDS**

At the November meeting of the WPMC, Club President Dick Dougall presented John Plischke with the President's Award. Dick chose John because of all the help and guidance he has given him during the last three years. He also recognized John for all the work he does in organizing the annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray, Mushroom Mania.

At the December meeting, the WPMC Distinguished Service Award was presented to Valerie Baker. Valerie is one of the club's founding members. She has also served as Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Publicity Chairman and is a Walk Leader. Valerie is always there when something needs done. She also greets everyone with a cheery smile. Thank you for always being there.

**MUSHROOM MANIA THANKS**

Despite Hurricane Ivan's attempts to put a damper on Mushroom Mania, it went on to be a very successful foray. Some were late because of the hurricane and others couldn't get to the foray because of closed roads and other problems, but we ended up with a tremendous turnout.

It was a great day. Everyone, as usual, pitched in to help. Thank you, one and all!

**THANKS**

**DEPARTING OFFICERS**

We all wish to express our thanks to Dick Dougall, President, Glenn Carr, Vice President, George Gross, Treasurer, and Joyce Gross, Secretary, who served the club very well in their positions. They are not leaving us, they are just changing jobs.

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

By Dick Dougall

This is my final President's Corner article for our newsletter. I would like to thank all our club members who worked with me these last three years to keep our club running smoothly. I found it truly enjoyable and will cherish the experience of working with a club of this size. The WPMC has almost doubled in size over these three years! We have become an official non-profit organization.

I particularly want to thank my fellow officers: Vice-President, Glenn Carr; Recording Secretary, Joyce Gross; Treasurer, George Gross; and Corresponding Secretary, Valerie Baker. Special thanks also go to John Plischke who has chaired our annual Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Mania and has been a source of guidance to me as president. Becky Plischke also deserves great thanks for so ably publishing our club newsletter. Their efforts were instrumental in keeping the club running smoothly.

Thanks also to the many club members who chaired and worked on our committees, gave presentations at club meetings, and led walks. This work was the heart of our club. It truly represented our club motto: Fungi, Fun and Friends.

I would like to give a special thanks also to our club mycologists and identifiers. I am truly amazed by the knowledge they have to share with the club.

I feel comfortable turning over the club presidency to Joe Luzanski and the new slate of officers. This newsletter has some articles introducing our new officers. I feel sure that the club will support these new officers as you have supported me. I look forward to another great year for the WPMC.

**WPMC WEBSITE & GROUPS**

Elizabeth Barrow, webmaster extraordinaire, has created one of the best mushroom club websites in the country. We highly suggest you put it on your favorites list. [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org)

While there, check out Bob Lucas's Species List. Bob has taken the Species List into the 21st Century. You can check out the mushrooms found on a walk or our Life List. By clicking on the camera icon you can do a Goggle search of that mushroom and instantly recall the mushroom you saw and may have already forgotten. It is a tremendous educational tool. Visit our Yahoo groups on the Internet at: [groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub) you can ask questions, exchange information, find the latest changes on walks and meetings, and find out what is fruiting.
**SWEET TOOTH (HYDNUM)**

* **SWEET TOOTH**

This is the underside view of the sweet tooth. It does not have a belly button like hole in the center. Its cap is yellowish orange to orange in color.

(Hydnum repandum var. repandum)  
(Dentiform repandum) (Hydnum repandum) (Hydnum rufescens)

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Hedgehog, Hedgehog Fungus, Hedgehog Mushroom  
FAMILY: Hydnaceae

DESCRIPTION:
- **Flesh:** Its flesh is white to very light orange and bruises orangish to orangish brown.
- **Cap:** 11/16 to 6 1/4 inches wide. It is convex becoming almost flat, often with a slightly indented center with age. It has an intruded margin when young that becomes uneven and wavy with age. It is orangish to yellowish orange or a yellowish brown color and bruises. It is smooth.
- **Teeth:** They are 1/8 to 1/4 inch long. They occasionally descend a hair down the stalk but not typically. They are similar in color to the cap but can be lighter. They bruise.
- **Spore Print:** White.
- **Stalk:** 1 to 4 inches tall and 3/8 to 1 1/8 inch wide. It bruises. It can be central but is usually slightly off center. It is a yellowish orange color being lighter near the cap. It is usually lighter than the cap. It bruises. It is not hollow.
- **Odor:** Mild.  
- **Taste:** Mild.

RANGE: U.S. and Canada.

WHERE TO LOOK: On the soil in woods and mixed woods. Under conifers and deciduous trees. Look in moist areas. Under Hemlock and oak. They like leaf litter. When found, they often grow in quantity.

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

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: It can be found singly or scattered and in small groups.

SOCIAL PLANTS: Moss can be present.

WHEN TO LOOK: July to October.

LOOK ALIKES: The edible Depressed Sweet Tooth (Hydnum umbilicatum) differs by having a belly button like hole in the center and is a smaller mushroom. (Hydnum repandum var. albomagnum) does not have a belly button like hole in the center. (Hydnum umbilicatum) does not bruise and is not encountered in the Northeast U.S. (Chantarelle sp.) look similar but when turned over they have veins not teeth. (Albatrellus sp.) does not have teeth but pores. (Sarcodon sp.) many of which have non orange, scaly caps. (Hydnumellum sp.)

EDIBILITY: Edible and choice.

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS: They are good fried with butter. It can be pickled or used in casseroles. It dries well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>SWEET TOOTH</strong></th>
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**DEPRESSED SWEET TOOTH**

It has a belly button like hole in the center. Its stalk can become hollow with age. Its cap is orangish colored. It is less than 3 inches wide.

(Hydnum umbilicatum)  
(Dentiform umbilicatum)

OTHER COMMON NAMES: Belly Button Hydnum, Depressed Hedgehog, Navel Hedgehog  
FAMILY: Hydnaceae

DESCRIPTION:
- **Flesh:** Its flesh is white to light orange. It bruises.
- **Cap:** 1 to 2 1/8 inches wide. It is convex becoming almost flat with a belly button like depression in the center with age. Its margin can be slightly wavy with age. It is orangish to orangish brown or reddish brown.
- **Teeth:** 1/16 to 1/8 inches long. They are cream to light orange. They bruise. Typically they are lighter in color than the cap.
- **Spore Print:** White.
- **Stalk:** 3/4 to 2 7/8 inches tall and 3/16 to 3/8 inches wide. It is cap colored or typically lighter in color. It bruises.
- **Odor:** Mild.  
- **Taste:** Mild.

RANGE: North Eastern United States.

WHERE TO LOOK: on the soil in woods and mixed woods. Under conifers and deciduous. They do not like dry areas, for the greatest success look in moist areas. Under Hemlock. They like leaf litter. They often can be found in quantity.

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

HOW THEY'RE GROUPED: It can be found singly or scattered and in small groups.

SOCIAL PLANTS: Moss can be present.

WHEN TO LOOK: July-October.

LOOK ALIKES: The edible the Sweet Tooth (Hydnum repandum var. repandum) does not have a belly button like hole in the center. Its stalk can become hollow with age. Its cap is orangish colored. It is less than 3 inches wide.
in the center and is a larger fungi. The White Hedgehog (Hydnum repandum var. album) differs by having a cap colored in the white tones. (Hydnum rufescens) is very similar in size and shape but does not have a belly button like hole in the center. (Chanterelle sp.) look similar but when turned over they have veins not teeth. (Albatrellus sp.) does not have teeth but pores. (Sarcodon sp.) many of which have non orange, scaly caps.

**EDIBILITY:** Edible and Choice.

**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:** use as the Sweet Tooth.

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**White Hedgehog**

*It does not have a belly button like hole in the center.*  
Unlike the other Hydnums shown here, this one is whitish in color.  
It is a medium sized mushroom.

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**Hydnum repandum var. album**

(Dentinum repandum var. album)

**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** White Sweet Tooth  
**FAMILY:** Hydnaceae

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Flesh: It is white but bruises orange.  
Cap: 1 1/16 to 4 1/4 inches wide. It is convex becoming almost flat and can be slightly sunken in the center. It is white to cream colored but can stain orange or have orange bruises on it. Its margin can become wavy or lobed.  
Teeth: 1/16 to 1/4 inch. They are whitish and bruise.  
Spore Print: White.  
Stalk: 1 to 2 1/4 inches tall and 1/4 to 1 inch wide. It is whitish to cream colored but more or less cap colored. It bruises orange.  
Odor: Mild.  
Taste: Mild or slightly bitter.

**RANGE:** U.S.  
**WHERE TO LOOK:** on the soil under mixed woods or conifers.  
**HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND:** seldom.  
**HOW THEY'RE GROUPED:** Singly to in small groups to occasionally scattered.  
**SOCIAL PLANTS:** moss is often present.  
**WHEN TO LOOK:** July - October.  
**LOOK ALIKES:** the Sweet Tooth (Hydnum repandum var. repandum) is more orange colored to yellowish orange colored but not white and it is also a larger mushroom. (Hydnum rufescens) & the Depressed Sweet Tooth (Hydnum umbilicatum) are colored in the orange tones not white.  
**EDIBILITY:** edible.  
**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:** use as the Sweet Tooth.

---

**Hydnum rufescens**

It does not have a belly button like hole in the center.  
It looks almost like the Depressed Sweet tooth but it lacks the hole.  
It is less than 3 inches wide.

(Hydnum rufescens)  
(Dentinum rufescens)  
**OTHER COMMON NAMES:**  
**FAMILY:** Hydnaceae

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Flesh: It is light orange.  
Cap: 1 to 2 inches wide. It is convex becoming almost flat with occasionally a depression in the center that is not belly button like. The depression in the center does not go into the stalk. Its margin can be slightly wavy with age. It is orangish colored.  
Teeth: 1/16 to 1/4 inches long. They are cream to light orange. Typically they are lighter in color than the cap.  
Spore Print: white.  
Stalk: 3/4 to 2 3/4 inches tall and 3/16 to 3/8 inches wide. It is cap colored but more often typically lighter in color.  
Odor: Mild.  
Taste: Mild.

**RANGE:** U.S. and Canada.  
**WHERE TO LOOK:** on the soil.  
**HOW OFTEN THEY'RE FOUND:** seldom.  
**HOW THEY'RE GROUPED:** Singly to in small groups to occasionally scattered.  
**SOCIAL PLANTS:** moss is often present.  
**WHEN TO LOOK:** July-October.  
**LOOK ALIKES:** the Sweet Tooth (Hydnum repandum var. repandum) is much larger mushroom. The Depressed Sweet Tooth (Hydnum umbilicatum) has a belly button that often goes into the stalk. The White Hedgehog (Hydnum repandum var. album) differs by having a cap colored in the white tones.  
**EDIBILITY:** use as the Sweet Tooth.  
**COOKING INSTRUCTIONS:** use as the Sweet Tooth.
Joyce Gross presented a wonderful workshop on art with artist conk. A fun time was had by all, including the kids.

These are some representative pictures. A lot more people attended than the pictures show. People with artistic talent drew on the mushrooms, people like me used the decoupage technique.

Joyce is pictured in the top row, third person, in the group photo.
MUSHROOM CULTIVATION WORKSHOP

Mark Spear and his wife, Rebecca Miller, head our Mushroom Cultivation Committee. They studied mycology at the University of Maine under the late Dr. Dick Homola and at Penn State University. Currently they both work at Sylvan Inc., the largest producer of mushroom spawn in the country.

Three years ago they did their first program on mushroom cultivation for the club and sent everyone home with an oyster mushroom kit as pictured below.

At the meeting, Rebecca introduced club members to fungi that can be found on dung. She told us how, if we went out at the right time of the year we could find some very productive dung. We don't know who is going to experiment with this, but we heard several people say it might just fit in the back of the refrigerator, just don't tell anyone!

This year they gave us cottonseed hulls, a package of oyster spawn and instructions to make our own kit. These kits would cost about $40 each, which is twice the cost of a WPMC family membership. Don't forget to renew for 2005.

Mark and Rebecca answer cultivation questions.

Mark telling us about mushroom cultivation.

Last year, Mark & Rebecca, presented club members with shiitake mushroom kits.
"Largest Mushroom Club in the Ten-State Area"
Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
58 Seventh St. Ext.
New Kensington, PA 15068

DUES ARE DUE
NEW OFFICERS
ART WITH ARTIST CONK
SWEET TOOTH, HYDNUM
MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

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Scientific Advisor: Walt Sturgeon

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Dorothy Fornof (See Mushroom Display Chair)
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Jim Tunney (See Education Chairman)

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Past President: John Plischke (See Mid Atlantic Foray Chair)

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