President’s Message

CECILY FRANKLIN

SPRING ARRIVED VERY late this year. Way back in January, a freelance writer contacted me regarding her upcoming article about morels for Pittsburgh Quarterly magazine. She wanted the name of a morel expert, so I suggested that she interview WPMC Identifier Bob Sleigh. When she said the article wouldn’t be published until late May, Bob and I were sure that morel season would be long over by then. But, just like all the other mushrooms, morels don’t read field guides, and WPMC members were happily finding morels well into May!

Now that the warmer weather is finally here, the mushrooms are making up for lost time, and they’re coming up even earlier than usual! WPMC members will have lots of opportunities to hunt for mushrooms in July and August. We’ve got walks scheduled for Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, and Westmoreland Counties. And our monthly meetings will range from the Fine Arts (Sarah Banach in July) to Hard Science (Chemical & Microscopic Analysis in August.)

WPMC has something for everyone, so join in for some “Fungi, fun and friends!”

18th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray — Registration Now Open —

September 15, 2018

The countdown continues...

Mark your calendar!

Friday, Sept. 14: Cook Forest Walk
SATURDAY, SEPT 15: GARY LINCOFF FORAY
Tuesday, Sept. 18: WPMC Monthly Meeting

Register for the Foray online at: http://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/


Camping and cabin reservations: http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/CookForestStatePark/Pages/Stay.aspx

Foray continued on page 2

2018 Meeting Schedule: July & August Programs

July 17: The Artist Experience in the Forest: Fungi
Sarah Banach, WPMC Identifier will show us some of her artwork and tell us about her observations and inspirations.

August 21: Chemical & Microscopic Analysis
WPMC Mycologists and Identifiers will share their expertise with chemical and microscopic analysis of mushrooms. Microscopes will be available, and chemical reactions will be demonstrated. This session is NOT intended to teach members how to set up their own microscopes but will provide them with an opportunity to observe some basic microscopic features. If you would like to examine spore shapes and sizes, then make a spore print in advance on plastic material and bring it with you to the meeting. Macroscopic and microscopic chemical kits will be available for purchase.

Meeting Schedule continued on page 3
18TH ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF FORAY will be held on Saturday, September 15 at the Rose Barn in Allegheny County North Park from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. The morning program will include guided walks and specimen collection along local trails.

The afternoon program will include presentations by guest mycologists Taylor Lockwood (author of Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi and Chasing the Rain), Walt Sturgeon (author of Mushrooms of the Northeast and Appalachian Mushrooms: A Field Guide), and John Plischke III (author of Good Mushroom, Bad Mushroom).

We'll have a cooking demonstration by Chef and WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor, as well as a Book-Signing / Meet & Greet with our guest mycologists, plus auction, sales tables, vendors, demonstrations and more. Finally, the Foray will be capped off by our legendary Mushroom Feast.

A FREE PRE-FORAY WALK will be held on Friday, September 14 in the old-growth forest of Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County, led by Club Mycologist Garrett Taylor and Forest Ranger Dale Luthringer. The walk will begin at 9:00 a.m. starting from Shelter 1. Those who wish to obtain overnight accommodations at the park have the option of camping or renting cabins in Cook Forest. Please book early, as cabin rentals fill up quickly.

For a successful Foray, we need volunteers:

- Hospitality
- Set-up and Clean-up crew
- Cooks (soups, casseroles, desserts, etc.) Contact Kim Plischke with questions.
- All auction donations must be received by the August 21 meeting. Contact Judy Mackeneroth or Cecily Franklin.

Contact Barbara DeRiso, Foray Chair, to volunteer your services. It’s not too early to volunteer to help or to bring a covered dish. And please remember, all foraged mushrooms, used in preparing food, must be identified by a Club Identifier or Club Mycologist prior to cooking. Hope to see you there!

To volunteer online: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508094aa4af2ba3f49-lincoff1
**2018 Meeting Schedule**

**MEETINGS ARE HELD** at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from March thru November at Beechwood Farms (Audubon Society of Western PA), 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, 15238. All monthly meetings are FREE and include a Mushroom Display Table staffed by expert Identifiers.

**September 18**  
**Foraging for Photos / Josh Doty**  
Just in time to motivate us to enter WPMC’s annual Photo Contest (see details below), Josh Doty will share some of his unique mushroom photography, which can be found at:  
http://www.foragingforphotos.com

**October 16**  
**Photo Contest Winners**  
**Election of Officers**

**November 20**  
**Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos**

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**2018 Photo Contest:**

- Deadline: September 30, 2018
- You must be a member of the WPMC in good standing
- Maximum of 5 entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files up to 4 megabytes
- Email entries to Rebecca Miller at rmiller.fungi@gmail.com

**ENTRY DIVISIONS**

**PICTORIAL:** Single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. 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:** Single photos 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. 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 primarily be 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.

**Subject material 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.

**Use and copyright:** WPMC may use your photographs on the website, newsletter and Mushroom Catalog. They will be accompanied by photographer’s name (on the same page or caption of the image). WPMC will not allow the use of your photographs on other websites, although we cannot prevent this. We will not sell or provide the images to others without your permission and the images remain the property and under the copyright of you the photographer and are used under license by the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club.

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**WPMC in the News** by Cecily Franklin

**“The Secret to Finding Morels”**

IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR, I was contacted by Daryln Brewer Hoffstot, a freelance writer from Westmoreland County. She was writing an article on morels for Pittsburgh Quarterly magazine and wanted to talk to an expert on morels. Of course, I suggested WPMC Identifier and legendary morel hunter Bob Sleigh. I also recommended that she contact Michael Kuo and Gary Lincoff. She was excited to learn that all of them have ties to Western Pennsylvania.

The resulting article, entitled “The Secret to Finding Morels,” is an extensive interview with Bob Sleigh, who shares many of his secrets for finding this elusive mushroom. She also quotes additional insights from Michael Kuo and mentions Gary Lincoff. (She had wanted to quote Gary, but he emailed back “maybe next week,” then passed away unexpectedly in March.) To read the entire article, visit:  

Freelance writer Daryln Brewer Hoffstot found these morels in Westmoreland County.

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**WPMIn Awards ID Button**

**STEPHEN MOLL** (left) received his “10” Mushroom ID Button at the June meeting. To learn more about the ID Button program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms to Dick Dougall, go to:  
http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/button-id-program/
I WOULD LIKE TO focus this article on identifying gilled mushrooms. Since this group makes up 50% of the named mushroom species and has a wide mix of inedibles, good edibles, and deadly poisonous species, it is very important to learn more about identifying them.

A few have distinctive features which stand out. However, nearly all require really looking at detailed features and cannot be identified just from photos. I have found from experience that I am often happy if I can pin down many gilled mushrooms I find to just their family! With more work, you can eventually narrow them down to specific mushrooms. So don’t be discouraged if a lot of the gilled mushrooms you find remain unnamed and unidentified.

When working to identify mushrooms, it helps to write down the details of your observation. A photo is helpful to remind you of its basic appearance. The first detail is the date it was found. Some mushrooms fruit only in spring, summer, or late fall. Others only fruit during very hot weather. Others fruit over more extended time periods or weather conditions.

Next, where was it growing? This includes its general habitat and specific habitat. Was it growing among hardwood trees (oak & maples), conifers (pines & spruce), or in grassy areas or urban landscapes? I have found a lot of mushrooms around my house, which has few trees.

How was it growing? Was it growing on the ground, in grass, in mulch, on other mushrooms, or in forests near specific trees? I can almost guarantee if you find a Fly Killer Amanita (Amanita muscaria var. guessowii), it will be near evergreen shrubs or under bigger pine or spruce trees.

Now we need to discuss the specific details of an individual gilled mushroom that you found. Is it tiny, small, medium, large, or very large? What is its basic color, including the cap, gills, stem, and flesh?

For gilled mushrooms, there are five essential features that are important. These are spore color, gill attachment, possible ring on the stem, ornamentation on the cap, and cup or other features at the base of the stem. There are three very common spore colors: white, black or very dark, and some shade of brown. Learn to make a spore print to determine spore colors. As for gill attachment, there are three common types: free from the stem, attached to the stem, and gills descending the stem (decurrent gills). A ring or dark area on the stem and the nature of the stem base are signs of different types of veils, even if no veil remnant remains on the stem.

All these features are described in mushroom books in varying degrees of detail. Learning them is hard work. Ask for help from your friends, WPMC Identifiers and Mycologists, and other knowledgeable mushroomers. Most will be happy to help you. You may think that it is easier to take lots of detailed photos of your mushrooms, but I know from experience that photos can help just a little. I have lots of photos that provide clues, but really looking at your mushrooms closely and taking in what you see is better in the long run.

Improving identification of gilled mushrooms requires hard work over several years. However, you can learn some of the common edibles we find rather quickly. You should also work at knowing the characteristics of Amanitas so that you can protect yourself from serious poisoning. Attending WPMC walks is a great way to get started!

New Mushroom Book for Kids

The Mushroom Fan Club by Elise Gravel

ELISE GRAVEL TAKES US on a magical tour of the forest floor and examines a handful of her favorite specimens up close. From puff-balls to stinkhorns and chanterelles, Gravel shares her knowledge of this fascinating kingdom by bringing each species to life.

Gravel’s earlier award-winning book, If Found…Please Return to Elise Gravel, was her challenge to young artists to keep a sketchbook. Fostering the same spirit of creativity and curiosity, The Mushroom Fan Club promises to inspire kids to look more closely at the world around them and to seek out all of life’s little treasures.

Age Range: 6 and up
Grade Level: 3 - 4
Hardcover: 56 pages
Publisher: Enfant (May 8, 2018)

Amanita muscaria var. guessowii is one of the gilled mushrooms you should learn to identify. Photo by Cecily Franklin
We Were All Beginners Once

by Dylan Hixenbaugh

ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO, before I joined WPMC, I was in search of sheepshad or Grifola frondosa. I set out on a hillside where I knew there were many large oak trees. After hiking for a few miles, I spent the rest of the evening circling these massive trees. It wasn’t until much later that I starting to think something was… off. I looked up and realized I had been looking around poplar trees the entire evening! I was very frustrated and felt I had wasted an entire day, so I walked home in disappointment, passing each tree I had checked, saying in my head “also a poplar.” By the following spring, I had learned about the symbiotic relationship between morels and poplar trees. I had a huge “aha” moment and returned to the same spot. I didn’t find a lot of morels that first year, but I did find a modest amount. Had I not made the earlier mistake, I may not have known to return. My mistake has turned into my yearly “honey hole.”

Editor’s Note: If you have a funny true story about early mistakes, email it to cs4wpmc@gmail.com. We may include it in a future newsletter, and you may choose to remain anonymous.

WPMC Out & About

WPMC members Jim Wasik and Scott Pavelle (right) displayed WPMC’s mushroom collection at Phipps Conservatory’s BioBlitz Family Fun Festival on June 10.

WPMC Identifier Fluff Berger was one of five WPMC members to teach a class for Allegheny Land Trust on June 9.

John Kosmal (left) showed WPMC members how to drill logs for Shiitake spawn at WPMC’s annual Cultivation Night on May 15.
WPMC Walks & Presentations

ALL WALKS ARE ON SATURDAYS, beginning at 10 a.m., unless noted otherwise. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. We’re always adding new walks to the WPMC website: http://wpamushroomclub.org/events/so check back often for updates, directions, and much more!

WPMC Walks

July 7  Ryerson Station State Park (Greene County)
Meet WPMC Identifier Jared White at the intersection of McNay Ridge Road and Bristoria Road for a walk on the Iron Bridge Trail.

July 14  North Park
Meet WPMC Identifier and Past-President John Stuart at the Swimming Pool parking lot.

July 21  Ohiopyle State Park (Fayette County)
Meet WPMC Identifier Jared White at the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) parking lot off Sheridan Street, across from the Ohiopyle House Cafe. We’ll be doing Baughman Trail, which was a fungal wonderland at this time last year. NOTE: Come prepared for elevation changes and likely a longer hike than the typical two hours.

August 18  Sycamore Island
Meet WPMC and Allegheny Land Trust at the Verona Public Docks. There will be a fee to help defray the cost of the boat. Watch the WPMC and ALT websites for a registration link.

August 18  North Park, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Garden in the Park
Organized by the Penn State Master Gardeners of Allegheny County, Garden in the Park will be held at the corner of Babcock Blvd. and Wildwood Road. This is always a very popular event. WPMC members Valerie Baker and Barbara DeRiso will display and talk about some mushrooms found in the area, and promote WPMC and the Lincoff Foray. Club members are encouraged to come by with mushroom samples and help at the display table (bring a chair to sit on). A walk in the area might be held that day as well.

August 25  Forbes State Forest
Meet WPMC Identifier Jared White and Rachael Mahony from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources at the Grove Run Picnic Area in Linn Run State Park.

Sept. 14  Friday, 9 a.m. Cook Forest / Pre-Foray Walk
Meet WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor and Dale Luthringer, Environmental Education Specialist with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, at Shelter #1 for a pre-Foray mushroom walk.

Oct. 13  Pleasant Valley Park with Friends of Murrysville Parks (FOMP)
Join WPMC and Pia van de Venne, President of FOMP and Volunteer Coordinator of Murrysville Parks. NOTE: No plants or animals are allowed to be taken out of the park.

Other Walks & Forays

June 28 - July 1  NAMA Regional Foray
Canton, Mississippi https://www.namyco.org/events.php

July 14-15  Ohio Mushroom Society
Summer Foray at Zaleski ODNRI Complex in Vinton, Ohio https://ohiomushroomsociety.wordpress.com/

July 20-21  West Virginia Mushroom Club
Canaan Valley Resort https://www.wvmushroomclub.net/annual-foray

July 26-29  Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF)
Samuel Ristich Foray, SUNY Geneseo Campus, NY https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdSP5IFXsWMI

August 10-12  Central Pa. Mushroom Club
Bill Russell Foray http://www.centralpamushroomclub.com/foray.html

August 16-19  Telluride Mushroom Festival
Telluride, Colorado https://www.telluridemushroomfest.org/

Aug 31- Sept 3  Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association
Clark Rogerson Foray http://www.comafungi.org/

Sept. 15  Gary Lincoff Memorial Foray / North Park
See pages 1 & 2 for more information. See page 9 for registration form.

Sept. 27-30  NAMA Regional Wildacres Foray
North Carolina http://www.wildacres.org/workshops/september-events.html#name

Sept. 28-30  Michigan Mushroom Hunters Club
http://www.michiganmushroomhunters.org/

Oct. 6-7  Ohio Mushroom Society
Hiram, Ohio https://ohiomushroomsociety.wordpress.com/

October 11-14  North American Mycological Association (NAMA)
Annual Foray
Salem, Oregon https://www.namyco.org/events.php

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.
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.

Mix a Fix for Ticks

HERE’S A RECIPE for tick repellent that’s safe for humans, dogs, and cats. Just put the following ingredients into a spray bottle and shake well:

• 20 drops of Lemongrass Essential Oil
• 20 drops of Eucalyptus Essential Oil
• 4 ounces of water

Apply it to your clothing, as follows:

• Wear a floppy brimmed hat! Spray the hat.
• Wear a shirt with long sleeves and a tight collar! Spray the sleeve cuffs (and wrists). Spray the collar (and neck).
• Wear long pants! Tuck pants legs into your socks. Spray your shoes and socks and bottoms of pants legs.

NOW GO FIND TONS OF EDIBLE MUSHROOMS!!
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. WPMC’s Scholarship/Grant application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information, contact John Stuart at jons2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

Extra 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 of or in memory of a loved one. Your employer may even match your contribution. Make checks payable to Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club and submit them to our Treasurer, Barbara DeRiso.

WPMC Membership

Jim Wasik, WPMC Membership Chair

Thanks to everyone who has joined or renewed for 2018. Currently we have 581 members for this year. That is short of our 2017 banner membership year of 761; however, we still have time to go. Remind your friends, relatives and neighbors to join or renew.

Individual: $15   Family: $20 (single household)
Student/Educator: $10   Hard copy Newsletter: $5 extra

See Membership Form (page 10) or renew on-line or download form: http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/

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

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION:
Cecily Franklin, Editor • Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.
Send submissions to: cs4wpmc@gmail.com

WPMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM
The 18th Annual Gary Lincoff Mushroom Foray (registration required) features presentations by guest mycologists Taylor Lockwood (author of Treasures from the Kingdom of Fungi and Chasing the Rain), Walt Sturgeon (author of Mushrooms of the Northeast and Appalachian Mushrooms: A Field Guide) and our own John Plischke III (author of Good Mushroom, Bad Mushroom). We’ll have a cooking demonstration, as well as a Book-Signing / Meet & Greet with our guest mycologists, auction, sales tables, vendors, mushroom display tables and more. Finally, the Foray will be capped off by our legendary Mushroom Feast.

The Foray will kick off on Friday, September 14, with a FREE mushroom walk in the old-growth forest of Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County. This walk will be led by WPMC Mycologist Garrett Taylor and Dale Luthringer, Environmental Education Specialist with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Saturday, September 15: Foray includes light lunch & mushroom feast. (Registration required) Rose Barn in Allegheny County North Park, Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 Friday, September 14: Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County (Free)

Indicate the number of persons for each item selected. All fees per person. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

_____ $35 WPMC member
_____ $55 Non-members (includes admission & 2018-19 WPMC Membership)
_____ $15 Students (with ID) & children 11 to 18. Children 10 & under free.

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: http://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/
REGISTER & PAY BY CHECK (payable to Western PA Mushroom Club):
WPMC C/O Barbara DeRiso • 204 Woodcock Dr. • Pittsburgh PA 15215

FOR MORE INFO: Barbara DeRiso, Foray Chair: 412-252-2594 / 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
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:

decimal “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 Jim Wasik, 70 Woodland Farms Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238 e-mail contact: 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 ______________________________________________________________________________________

2 ______________________________________________________________________________________

3 ______________________________________________________________________________________

4 ______________________________________________________________________________________