2006 Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray Guest Mycologists

There are presently three guest mycologists/speakers lined up for our 2006 fall foray: Gary Lincoff, Rod Tulloss, and Jon Ellifritz. We have known Gary and Jon as regular guests at our fall foray for several years. We are very excited to have a commitment from Dr. Tulloss, an expert on the Amanita genus. Our line-up of guest mycologists offers a great opportunity to learn about fungi from knowledgeable and respected mycologists.

Gary Lincoff is a past president of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), lecturer at New York Botanical Gardens, and author of Audubon's "Field Guide to North American Mushrooms" among many other publications. The Audubon field guide contains descriptions of well over 700 mushrooms and is perhaps the best reference on wild mushrooms of northeastern North America. He has been the featured mycologist and speaker at our fall foray since 2001. Gary's lectures and table walks are always entertaining and informative.

Dr. Rod Tulloss is a mathematician and engineer with many varied interests. Among them is mycology, particularly the Amanita genus. He is recognized around the country and the world as an expert on species of Amanitas. He co-authored the The Genus Amanita Pers. (Agaricales) website, one of the best references on the genus anywhere, and has described several new species. He comes to us from Roosevelt, NJ where he led a preservation effort to save the town's land and culture from developers. As a technologist, environmentalist, and a mycologist, Dr. Tulloss is indeed a man with Renaissance qualities. We are very fortunate to have him as a guest mycologist at our fall foray.

Jon Ellifritz has been an active member of the Mycological Association of Washington D.C. (www.mawdc.org) for many years. He previously served as foray chairman and is currently the president. Jon has been a regular attendee of our annual fall foray and has delivered some informative presentations as a guest mycologist. He is very knowledgeable about natural and environmental phenomena in general, and mycology in particular. Walking in the woods with Jon is like having a walking, talking encyclopedic reference at your disposal. Make sure you attend his presentation as you will almost surely learn something you hadn't previously known. It's a great opportunity to expand your repertoire of mycological knowledge.
It is the end of March as I write and the anticipation of spring is nearly intolerable. I can’t wait for the weather to turn nice enough so that I can get outside to work in my yard. I want to be outside raking leaves, picking up sticks, planting nursery stock, patching my lawn, enjoying the spring flowers – and foraging for mushrooms.

The morel season is in full swing in some parts of the country. Morel mushrooms behave somewhat like a wave, beginning in the south and moving northward as the ground temperatures rise. Someone reported finding some black morels in southwestern Pennsylvania just yesterday. A little more rain could really bring them on.

Following on the heels of morel season is the transition into summer mushroom season. Perhaps the most stereotypical “toadstool” mushroom that we begin seeing around this time is the Amanita muscaria, or commonly called “Fly Agaric.” Its orange to red cap with light colored patches and its bulging cup lights my imagination with images of tiny fairies and leprechauns dancing in their midst. I recall making some clay mushrooms a long time ago in grade school art class. I painted them with bright colors that I now know mimicked Fly Agarics. I had “planted” them in the ground near the end of the driveway of my childhood home where they fooled my father on his way to work one morning. My mother got a good laugh out of that! [Update: I actually found one of them today as I was at my dad's house looking for something else (see photo below). There was another one painted blue that I vaguely remember was broken. I haven't seen this in some 35 years.] John Plischke III wrote the feature newsletter article on these fascinating mushrooms. I noticed that he titled the article “Fly Amanitas” instead of Fly Agarics. Agaric is an old term that once included all gilled mushrooms. There is now a genus called Agaricus, which should NOT be confused with the Amanitas. Hence, John’s article is very thoughtfully titled.

Clay mushroom resembling Amanita muscaria made by editor, Jim Strutz, around 1970 and rediscovered in 2006. It was painted red with yellow spots.

The Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom foray is our biggest event of the year. Although it is a few months away, you should consider registering early since space is limited. I’m not exaggerating when I tell you it’s a tremendous value for the money with a lineup of nationally known guest speakers, mushroom walks, a cooking demonstration, a feast of home-cooked mushroom dishes, and mushroom table discussions. Don’t put it off - register now.

Mushrooms: Can’t Get Enough!

By George Yakulis

My first exposure to wild mushrooms dated back to my childhood memories of Holiday meals, where these delectables were always present on the table. Their flavors were exceptional and their texture was unmistakable. At a very young age I can remember foraging through the woods with my aunts looking for mushrooms to bring home to eat. Not until decades later in my adult life did I develop an interest in learning more about mushrooms.

About four years ago my wife and I decided to join the Western PA Mushroom Club. Our initial interest was in mushroom identification; this helped us determine edible mushrooms from poisonous mushrooms, and expanded our choices from two types of wild mushrooms we would pick and eat to at least ten we feel confident about identifying and eating now. With the use of field guides, taxonomy continues to be an ongoing process which is aided through mushroom hunting walks hosted by our club’s walk leaders and identifiers.

As we learned many different types of mushrooms we started to develop an appreciation of the role that mushrooms have in nature. One of the fungi’s primary roles in the environment is to recycle organic materials back into the earth. The mushroom’s underground mycelial network estimated to contain more than a mile of cells in a cubic inch of soil secretes acids and enzymes that break down the chemical bonds of larger molecules with the end result of returning elements such as carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen and minerals back to the earth for re-use by living organisms such as insects, trees and plants. By attending the club’s meetups and forays we were able to learn from some of the most knowledgeable mycologist in the world. We have expanded our level of understanding about the many intricacies surrounding mushrooms which has increased our enjoyment of mushrooms and continues to fuel our desire to learn more.

Attending the NEMF 2005 11th Annual Samuel Ristich foray held at Penn State University Mont Alto campus helped satisfy our desire. Just think of our fantastic Mid-Atlantic Foray with all the great activities and speakers multiplied into a four day event with a wide range of lectures, workshops and forays. Our own WPAMC co-hosted this event along with the New Jersey Mycological Association and the Eastern Penn Mushrooms club. Some of the workshops we enjoyed were Microcopy for beginners by Dr. Glenn Freeman, Commercial Cultivation of Mushrooms by Dr. Paul Masuda of Phillips Mushroom Farms, Papermaking with Mushrooms by Kim and Becky Plischke, Southern Appalachian species of Pholiota by Dr. Coleman McClenehan and Photographing Mushrooms by John Plischke III.
2006 Membership Registration!
If you aren't already registered for 2006 then now is the time to renew. Club membership includes walks/forays almost every weekend during the mushroom season, 8 informative meetings, and 5 newsletters. It's also a great way to meet people who are knowledgeable about mushroom identification, cultivation, crafts, and cooking. It's a great value for only $15 for the year. Please see the membership form included in this newsletter.

WPMC Mushroom Items
Our club sells several mushroom items to raise money to fund club activities. We have club T-shirts available for $15, club cookbooks for $5. Loupes and boxes of wax bags are also available. Our resident artist, Joyce Gross, also crafts very fine handmade mushroom themed jewelry and birdhouses. Please contact Joyce at 724-339-8547 or jagart@verizon.net for more information about any of these items.

Monthly Meetings
Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month between March and November. They begin at 7:00pm at Beechwood Nature Reserve in Dorseville. Please see their website (www.awsp.org) for directions and other information.

May 16th — "Microscopes and Mushrooms: The Field Mycologist Goes to the Lab" by La Monte Yarroll, WPMC Club Mycologist. Summary: Did you ever wonder how a microscope would help you identify mushrooms? What are the main traits one looks for under the microscope? Learn to identify many LBMs (Little Brown Mushrooms). Learn the selection, care, and feeding of a microscope. This talk is intended for mushroomers who have been hunting for a couple of years, but there will be plenty of really neat pictures to see even if you don't own two or three dog-eared mushroom books. We'll also look at a few fresh specimens after the talk.

June 20th — "Medicinal Uses of Agaricus subrufescens (Agaricus blazei)" by Mark and Rebecca Miller. Summary: This species of mushroom has recently been the subject of a number of articles on mushrooms having important medicinal properties. Mark & Rebecca will discuss these as well as their attempts to develop easy ways to grow these mushrooms. They will also discuss their methods of growing oyster mushrooms (Pleurotus ostreatus). They have given out oyster growing kits after their recent talks.

July 18 — "Creating Artistic Designs with Mushrooms" by Joyce Gross, WPMC Workshop Chair. Summary: Mushrooms are something that an artist can use to make a number of interesting craft projects. Following last year's creation of a mushroom Christmas tree ornament, Joyce will show us how to use mushrooms as a replacement for a rubber stamp. This will allow attendees to use them to make colorful and unique designs. Just another way to amaze your non-mycological friends.

Volunteer Opportunities
We need a few volunteers to fill committee roles for our club. Please contact our president Joe Luzanski (president@wpamushroomclub.org) if any of these committees sound interesting to you. We need help!

Historian — collects and organizes photographs, newspaper articles, and other club related memorabilia.

Membership Chairman — responds to inquiries, sends out information, and promotes the club to gain new members.

Welcoming Chairman — provides refreshments and greets people at meetings and other club events, and plans and coordinates social functions.

Newsletter helpers — help fold and apply mailing labels to newsletters.

LaMonte Yarroll has volunteered to chair the Display Committee. Thank you LaMonte!

WPMC Yahoo Groups
Yahoo Groups is a great resource for our club members and other mushroom enthusiasts from across the country. There are always interesting discussions in the 'Message' section on all kinds of subjects involving wild mushrooms. Find out what mushrooms are up, where people are finding them, recipes, weather, latest announcements, and everything else. Also find award winning photos in the 'Photo' section, and articles, lists, and other files in the 'Files' section. For more information, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub/

WPMC Website
Yet another great resource to club members is our professionally designed website. There you will find information and links pertaining to our club, including our famed walk/foray species lists and Java data miner. Don't forget to read the President's Blog while you're there. Please see www.wpamushroomclub.org for more information.

Walks and Forays
Walks and forays are held almost every weekend from April through October. They are led by a walk leader and an identifier. Each walk will be at a designated location where participants will forage for wild mushrooms of all species. After the walk the identifier will discuss the mushrooms that were found and answer any questions.

Continued on page 6, see WPMC News Items
Amanita muscaria is one of the most common and familiar amanitas. It has a number of varieties. To learn more on the uses of Amanita muscaria read Gary Lincoff's excellent article "Is the Fly-Agaric (Amanita muscaria) an Effective Medicinal Mushroom?" at the website below. Check out the rest of the NEMF webpage while you are there.

http://www.nemf.org/files/various/muscaria/part1.html

In Europe Amanita muscaria has been chopped up and added to a bowl of milk to kill flies. It is also been used as a Hallucinogen of get a high but the experienced Europeans often feed it to their animals then drink their animals urine so hopefully the animals liver takes most of the punishment. This is definitely not worth considering.

**Yellow Orange Fly Agaric**

It has a bulb at the base with several layers of rings on it. The Yellow to orange colored cap has warts on it. They are typically orange colored, then fading from orange to yellow as the cap opens.

(Amanita muscaria var. guessowii)
(Amanita muscaria var. formosa)

Other Common Names: American Fly Agaric, Fly Agaric, Fly Amanita, Fly Killer

Family: Amanitaceae

Description: My dad and I received a call from the hospital to a poisoning which involved an elderly mother and her son. Most of the time all you have to work with is stomach contents but this time we got lucky. It turns out they had eaten this mushroom. As a result she was in terrible pain and temporarily lost her vision. This mushroom should never be experimented with for its hallucinogenic properties and it is definitely a bad trip.

Flesh: white.

Cap: From 2 to 5 3/4 inches wide. It is convex becoming flat with age. When expanded, its outer edge has small lines going around it pointing towards the center of the cap. It is sticky and often shiny when wet. It tends to start off orangish then fading orangish yellow to yellowish. On occasion they can have some reddish tones in it but it is not red. It has whitish raised patches or warts on it.

Gills: Free and crowded. Sometimes the gills are barely attached to the stalk. They are whitish in color.

Spore Print: White.

Stalk: From 2 to 6 1/8 inches tall and ¼ to 1 1/8 inches thick. It has a bulb at the base that is roundish. Its universal veil is yellowish white. It is what leaves the white patches on the cap and the rings rows around the bottom of the stalk, which is one of the key things to look for. The stalk is usually white.

Odor: mild.

Range: Eastern North America.

Where To Look: Typically on the soil under evergreens such as pine, spruce and fir but also less common under deciduous trees.

How Often They're Found: It is very common.

How They're Grouped: They are found singly to in small or extremely large groups. They can be either scattered about or be growing in a circle around a conifer.

Social Plants: Grass, clover, dandelion, ground ivy, violets, wild carrot, and broad-leaved plantain can be growing beside it or it can just come up from the needles or soil.

When To Look: May-November but more typically in the fall.

Look Alikes: The poisonous Fly Agaric (Amanita muscaria var. muscaria), which has a red cap. (Amanita muscaria var. alba) which is white. (Amanita muscaria var. persicina). The edible but not recommended American Caesars Mushroom (Amanita caesarea) has a huge deep sack at the base of the stalk. The unknown edibility Yellow Patches (Amanita flavoconia). The edible but not recommended Blusher (Amanita rubescens). The unknown edibility Yellow Blusher (Amanita flavorubescens). (Amanita frostiana). The poisonous Panther or Panther Agaric or Panther Cap (Agaricus pantherina) which has a brownish cap. (Amanita
pantherina var. velatipes). (Amanita gemmata) often has a single mote like ring around the base.

**Edibility:** Poisonous.

**Microscopic Features:** Its spores are not amylloid.

Spore Print: white.

Stalk: It is 2 to 7 inches tall and 1/4 to 1 3/8 inches wide. It is whitish colored. It has a ring near the upper 1/3. There are rings on the upper part of the bulb at the base of the stalk.

**Range:** Typically western North America but can also be found in the east in the gulf coast and very rarely up the eastern coast of the United States.

Where To Look: under conifers such as spruce and hardwood trees like oak.

**How Often They're Found:** common in the west coast to Rocky Mountains, occasionally in the gulf coast and rarely going up the east coast.

**How Often They're Grouped:** They are found singly to in small or extremely large group. They can be either scattered about or be growing in a circle.

When To Look: July-October but extending into February in warmer locations.

Look Alikes: European, Asian and Alaskan (Amanita muscaria var. muscaria).

**Edibility:** Poisonous.

**Cooking Instructions:** Some people boil the mushrooms and discard the liquid and eat them but it is not worth risking your life!

Many People mistakenly eat this Amanita thinking it is an Agaricus and they are often hospitalized for several days and are lucky to regret their mistake.
Walks usually last 2 or 3 hours and participants are welcome to stay longer if they want. It's a great way to learn about wild mushrooms. Please see our website www.wpamushroomclub.org and our Yahoo Groups message board for updated information.

We request that no one hunts a walk or foray location for at least two weeks prior to a walk or foray. It is only through your cooperation that we can have successful walks and forays. All walks and forays will be held rain or shine. All walks start on time.

June 3 – 10:00-12:00 at North Park in Allegheny County. Valery and Jack Baker will lead this walk. Meet at the swimming pool parking lot off of Babcock Blvd in the North Hills, look for a car with a yellow ribbon on the antenna—we will drive to a secret location.

June 10 – 10:00-12:00 at Mingo Creek, Washington County with Joe Luzanski and Broom Marfice. Take I-70 to Exit 25 (Eighth Four/Glyde). Follow Route 519 N. for 2 miles and turn right at traffic light onto Rt. 136. Turn left after 4.4 miles at a sign to Mingo Creek Park. Follow signs to the park. Turn right then cross a covered bridge just before the Park Office. Meet in the parking lot at Shelter 4.

June 17 – 10:00-12:00 at Hartwood Acres, Allegheny County with George and Mary Jane Yakulis. From PA Turnpike, exit at Allegheny Valley (Exit 5) and stay right on the exit ramp. Turn right onto Route 910 West. Go 6 1/2 miles and turn left onto Saxonburg Blvd. at the red blinking light. Follow Saxonburg Blvd. about 2 1/2 miles, entrance will be on your right. Meet in the parking lot in front of the Mansion (on the opposite side of the park from the Performance Center).

June 24 – 10:00-12:00 at Mingo Creek, Washington County. Meet Jim Tunney and the Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh. Take I-70 to Exit 25 (Eighth Four/Glyde). Follow Route 519 N. for 2 miles and turn right at traffic light onto Route 136. Turn left after 4.4 miles at a sign to Mingo Creek Park. Follow signs to the park. Follow signs to the Observatory.

July 1 – 10:00-12:00 at Kiski Prep, Westmoreland County with Carol Kelly and LaMonte Yarroll. From Pittsburgh and regions west, follow Route 22 east (there may be construction delays as they are widening Route 22) and turn left (north) onto Route 981 at the traffic light in New Alexandria. Follow Route 981 until you come to the stop sign at the bridge leading into Saltsburg (the town is on your right, and the Kiski campus is atop the cliff on your left). Proceed straight ahead after stopping (be advised that traffic coming down the hill toward the bridge, AND the traffic crossing the bridge from your right, have the right-of-way. Be careful!) and bear left where the road forks just in front of you. Continue on Route 286 west up and around the curve in the road (Route 981 continues straight ahead toward the Kiski Valley Inn and on to Avonmore; do not take that). The entrance to the school is on the left, as you crest the hill, between the tall brick pillars and before you reach the BP/Subway. Meet in the parking area to the right just past the security shed.

July 7 – 2006 Ohio Mushroom Society's Summer Foray at Camp Myeerah, off of Route 33 northwest of Columbus. Our own John Plischke III is the featured speaker. Call Joe Christian (419)-757-4493 for more information.

July 8 – 10:00-2:00 at Deer Lakes Park, Russellton, Allegheny County with Dick Dougall and Ken Reeves. From the PA Turnpike, exit at the Allegheny Valley (Exit 5) and turn toward New Kensington. Turn left onto Route 28 and then left again onto Pearl Avenue. The road name changes from Pearl Avenue to Russellton Road. Turn right at the first intersection in Russellton. Look for a drug store, bank and liquor store and turn right. Turn left into Deer Lakes Park. Meet at the parking lot just past the first lake.

July 15 – 10:00 – 2:00 at McConnell's Mill, Butler County, with Karen Greenwell. From I-79, exit at PA 422. Travel west on 422 until you come to a red light and a Sheetz Store on your left. Turn left onto Route 388. Continue until you come to Center Church and turn left onto Center Church Road, continue for about a mile. Turn left onto Shafer Road and park in the Hell's Hollow parking lot immediately on the right.

July 22 – 10:00-2:00 Chanterelle Mania at North Park, Allegheny County with Randy Danielson. From Babcock Blvd. in North Park, follow the signs to the swimming pool parking lot and find the car with the yellow ribbon on the antenna.

July 29 – 10:00-2:00 Cooper's Rock State Forest Bruceton Mills, WV with Joyce and George Gross. Check our website for more information as it becomes available.

September 1-4 – 2005 NEMF at Saint Anthony's Hermitage, Lac Bouchette, Canada, about 250 miles north of Montreal. There will be lectures, workshops, and forays all day Saturday and Sunday. No membership is required. See www.nemf.org for information and registration.

Mushroom Trivia

One portabella mushroom has more potassium than a banana. White and cremini (all *Agaricus bisporus* sp.) mushrooms are also good sources of potassium. Potassium helps the human body maintain normal heart rhythm, fluid balance, and muscle and nerve function.

(Source: USDA)
The Fifth Annual

Gary Lincoff Mid-Atlantic Mushroom Foray

Saturday, September 16, 2006
Registration: 7:30 am – 8:15 am, Program: 8:30 am – 7:30 pm

SPECIAL REGISTRATION FORM FOR CLUB MEMBERS ONLY

Featured speaker will be Gary Lincoff, author of the “Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushroom”, and past president of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA).

Special guest mycologist, Rod Tulloss, expert on Amanita species.
Special guest mycologist, Jon Ellifritz, president of the Mycological Association of Washington, D.C.

A host of other mycologists will be on hand to help you learn mushrooms, including: Dr. David Miller, Dr. Fred Schrock, John Plischke III, Robert Boice, Kim Plischke, Dorothy Fornof, and La Monte Yarroll.

Fungi Fun Friends

Cost is only $50 at the door or only $25 each pre-registered and paid by May 10, 2006 (non-refundable). Children 11 & under free. Registration is limited.

Contact: Dick Dougall 412-486-7504 rsdme imap.pitt.edu or Glenn Carr 412-369-0495 gbrown2carrs cs.com

Signing and dating the release is an absolute requirement for attendance

Make check payable to: Western PA Mushroom Club, 4879 Christopher Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

Name 1 __________________________________________________________
Name 2 __________________________________________________________
Name 3 __________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________ City/State/Zip __________________
Phone ___________________________ E-mail __________________________

RELEASE

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 officer or member thereof, 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 ___________________________________ Date: ________________
Signature ___________________________________ Date: ________________
Signature ___________________________________ Date: ________________
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