# Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
# NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 2 MAY / JUNE 2017


## President's Message

**RICHARD JACOB**

**AS I WRITE THIS,** the morels are up but not exactly plentiful. I hope to have a bit more luck later in the season but, from past experience, won't hold my breath. Morels are very much a right-time-right-place mushroom. Too early and you will only find one or two. Too late and you will find none. Once you know morels fruit in a certain location, the best approach is to visit frequently over the season in the hope that you will catch it just right. You can find out more about hunting for morels at our **Morel Mushrooms** presentation at Pine Ridge Lodge.

Moving on from morels, in mid-June we'll see the first boletes, and chanterelle season will follow shortly thereafter. Many other seasonable and wonderful non-edible fungi species will also be making appearances as the weather warms up and the Spring rains arrive. We have been building an **online catalog** of fungi species in the area that now has over 370 species with an image and over 1100 images in the catalog. This is used as a resource for the species lists that we publish after every walk.

I would like to introduce another way to contribute sightings and images to the Club's archives and that is the **iNaturalist project**. You can download the **iNaturalist** app to your phone and join the "WPMC Western Pennsylvania Fungi" project. It is then easy to take pictures of the different fungi you find and upload them to iNaturalist and add them to the WPMC project. The species does not have to be fully identified, as the iNaturalist community will help with that when possible. As long as the species is identified as a fungi or slime mold, it will be accepted to our project. As an added bonus, you can use the **iNaturalist** website to tally how many species you know and earn buttons from the Button ID program.

Upcoming events in May and June include walks at Frick Park, Salamander Park and, in collaboration with ALT, Linbrook Woodlands. In addition, WPMC members will be giving presentations in Allegheny, Jefferson, and Butler Counties. We'll also participate in another **BioBlitz** at Phipps Conservatory. Registration is now open for our **mushroom classes** at the Cooper-Siegel Library in Fox Chapel on June 17! (see page 7 of this newsletter.)

May is the cultivation meeting, so don't forget to bring your membership card if you would like an Oyster mushroom kit or Shiitake spawn for your log. At the June meeting, there will be a short presentation from **WPMC scholarship recipient Dacia Neely**, an Environmental Studies student at California University of Pennsylvania, on White Nose Syndrome of bats and a longer presentation by **Doug Oster**, Home and Garden Editor for the Pittsburgh Tribune Review.

Due to construction work at Beechwood Farms, we will need to either relocate or cancel the July and August meetings. We have some leads on alternative locations and hope to relocate them. Updated details will be on the website and in the next newsletter.

Enjoy the Spring, as the fungal year starts to take off with a greater variety of species and more abundant mushrooms.

## Time to Renew Your WPMC Membership!

**RENEWAL DEADLINE: MAY 15, 2017**

### WPMC DUES FROM 2016 EXPIRE ON MAY 15, 2017:

To continue to receive the WPMC newsletter and announcements, please renew now. To see if you have renewed for 2017, please note the "PAST DUE" notice on either the mailing label or email. Renew before the deadline or this could be your last newsletter! Also, if you move or change your email address, remember to send the new information to membership@wpamushroomclub.org. It is important to keep this information up to date to receive WPMC information.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- *9 Meetings • 5 Newsletters • Mushroom Cultivation Kit*
- *Discount at WPMC Forays & Classes • Photo Contest*
- *Advance Notice of Mushroom Walks & Events*

### DUES REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR 2017:

Individual: $15 • Family: $20 (1 household) • Student/Educator: $10

There is a $5 surcharge to receive a hard copy Newsletter. If you have not renewed yet, please do so soon. ***Memberships run out on May 15, 2017.***

Renew on-line or download form:
**http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/**

Complete & return Membership Form in this newsletter (page 12):
**WPMC Membership c/o Jim Wasik**
**70 Woodland Farms Rd. • Pittsburgh PA 15238**

## IMPORTANT NOTICES IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

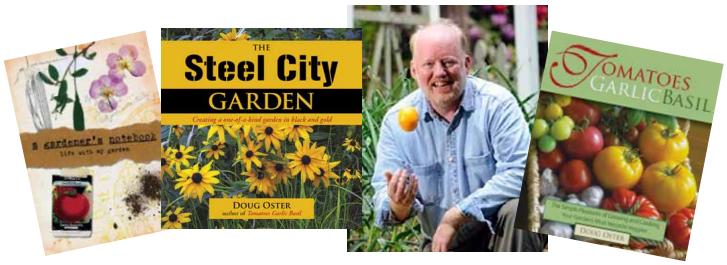

**MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE** page 2
**WALKS & FORAYS** pages 4-5
**JUNE MUSHROOM CLASSES** page 7
**LINCOFF FORAY REGISTRATION FORM** page 11

# WPMC MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

**May 16** **Annual Cultivation Meeting with Jim Tunney**

WPMC Mycologists will show WPMC members how to grow their own oyster mushrooms and will inoculate logs with shiitake mushroom spawn. You must be a current WPMC member to receive a mushroom kit, so bring your WPMC membership card. For the Oyster kit, also bring along a clean plastic shopping bag. For the Shiitake spawn, bring your own log(s)! Fresh cut hardwood (less than one month ago) would be the best. Logs with thick bark that lose their bark slowly are best; think Oak or Sweetgum. About two feet long and 4-5 inches in diameter would be the ideal size.



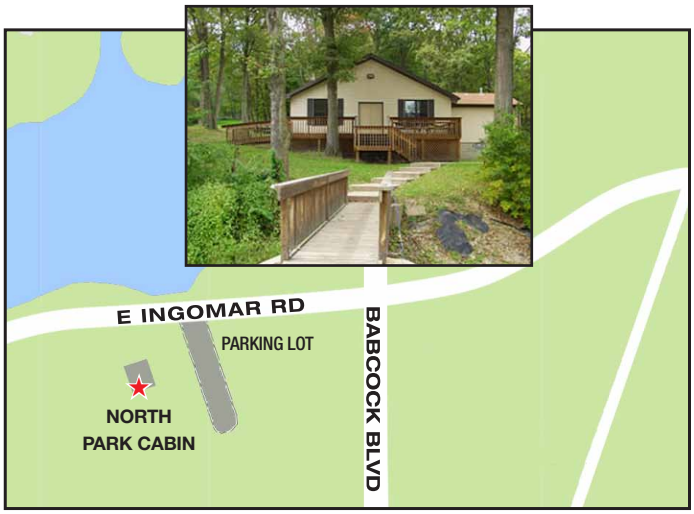

**June 20** **Summer Planting to Extend the Season**
**Doug Oster, Home & Garden Editor**
***Pittsburgh Tribune-Review***

If you have books by Doug Oster, bring them along to be autographed. Doug will also have books to sell, and WPMC will raffle off three of his works as door prizes.

Prior to Doug's presentation, WPMC scholarship winner Dacia Neely will present her research into White Nose Syndrome in Pennsylvania and European bats.

**July 18★** **Meeting will be held at North Park Cabin**

Senior Park Ranger Paul Trusty will present his research on the Response of Whitebark Pine Ectomycorrhizae to Fire in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.




## Beechwood Construction Will Impact July & August Meetings!

**CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN** on improvements to the Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. In April, construction started on an addition to the barn, which will include accessible restrooms. The addition will also provide space for birdseed storage, increasing the amount of useable space in the barn. This new facility is planned to be completed by early June.

At the same time, development of two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) trails has begun on the reserve. The two trails will begin in front of the facilities; one will lead down around the pond, the other up over the upper fields to the overlook on Spring Hollow Trail.

This summer, construction will begin on new parking lots. The first will be built in the grassy area near the pond. This parking lot will serve as ADA parking for the new trails. The second will be a complete replacement of the existing parking lot at Beechwood. The current gravel parking lot will be replaced with permanent paving consisting of asphalt, concrete and two different types of permeable paving. New concrete walkways and access to the trailhead will also be developed.

This parking construction is planned for July and August. The parking lot will not be available during this process. Beechwood is cancelling and/or rescheduling meetings and programs for this time frame because alternative parking does not exist.

*As a result of the construction, some WPMC meetings will either be relocated or cancelled. Please check the newsletter, website, Facebook, or Yahoo Groups for updates.*

## 2017 Meeting Schedule, continued

| | |
|---|---|
| **August 15** | **Topic, Location & Speaker to be announced** |
| **September 19** | **Topic: To be announced<br>Speaker: WPMC member** |
| **October 17** | **Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers** |
| **November 21** | **Pot Luck Dinner & Member Photos** |

***Check upcoming newsletters for updates!***

## 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

# It's Not Too Early to Register for the Lincoff Foray

**THE 17TH ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF** Foray will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2017 at the Rose Barn in Allegheny County's North Park. This year's program will be a single-day event with guest mycologists Gary Lincoff, author of the Audubon Guide to Mushrooms of North America, The Complete Mushroom Hunter, The Joy of Foraging, and Robert Chang, Managing Director and Chief Truffle Officer of the American Truffle Company. Chef George Harris will be our guest chef for the cooking demo.

The day will include guided walks, mushroom identification tables, cooking demo, sales table, vendors, speakers' Meet & Greet, auction, and the legendary Mushroom Feast. All included in the price of admission! A registration form can be found in this newsletter, and online registration will open soon.

It's not too early to gather up mushroom-related items you'd like to donate for the auction, and/or to volunteer to make a dish for the Mushroom Feast. Please note: All foraged mushrooms used in cooking for the Feast must be certified by a Club mycologist ahead of time.

## Coasters & Posters & Books, Oh My!

**DONATIONS ARE ALREADY** coming in for this year's auction at the annual Lincoff Foray on September 16. So far we have two mushroom posters, numerous mushroom magazines, a set of handmade coasters, and a variety of nature-related books. All proceeds benefit WPMC, so if you'd like to "regift" any of your mushroom treasures, we'll take them! Just email Cecily Franklin at: cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

# Scholarship Recipient Will Present Findings

**WPMC ADMINISTERS THE SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT** program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions.

The first grant of 2017 was awarded to Dacia Neely, an Environmental Studies student at California University of Pennsylvania. Dacia's research is on White Nose Syndrome in Pennsylvania and European bats. Dacia will present her findings at the June meeting.

WPMC's Scholarship/Grant application forms are available on the Club website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information, contact John Stuart at jons2art@comcast.net or 724-443-6878.

*Robert Chang achieves success with the help of a truffle dog. Photo by Gary Parker*

# Spotlight on Robert Chang

**THIS YEAR'S GUEST MYCOLOGIST** for the Lincoff Foray is Robert Chang, Managing Director & Chief Truffle Officer of the American Truffle Company (ATC). Robert has degrees in Engineering and Business, as well as marketing experience in Silicon Valley. He is putting all of these skills to work as ATC develops a market for "hyper-fresh" American truffles.

Robert knows what it's like to hunt for truffles in France and enjoy them right away. But he also knows that, by the time they're shipped to the U.S. (4-5 days later), they have lost half of their aroma and flavor. That's why he's excited to know that, once ATC's client-partners' orchards start producing fresh Perigord and Burgundy truffles in North America, we'll all be able to enjoy ultra-fresh truffles comparable to the ones in France.

ATC is preparing to launch their new brand and e-commerce service for truffles. If you would like to be one of the first to experience the magic of hyper-fresh truffles, sign up at: http://www.americantruffle.com/truffle-signup/.

# Two WPMC Members Earn ID Buttons

**AT THE MARCH MEETING,** WPMC Vice President Adam Haritan became our latest Identifier when he received his "150" ID pin from Dick Dougall. At the same meeting, Sarah Banach earned her "100" level pin. If you'd like to receive recognition for your mushroom identification skills, send your list of known mushrooms to Dick Dougall at mush2prof@verizon.net.

*From left to right: Adam Haritan, Dick Dougall, Sarah Banach*

# WPMC Walks & Presentations

**ALL WALKS ARE ON SATURDAYS, beginning at 10:00am, unless noted otherwise. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. We're always adding new walks to the WPMC website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/events so check back often for updates, directions, and much more!**

**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.**

**May 6 Frick Park**

Meet WPMC Identifier and Past-President Dick Dougall in the parking lot for the Environmental Center.

**May 13 Clear Creek State Park, Jefferson County**

Meet WPMC Mycologist John Plischke III at the Clear Creek State Forest Maintenance Headquarters, 12622 Route 949 in Sigel. John will present "Grow Your Own Mushrooms" for the Woodland Owners of the Clarion-Allegheny Valley. The program is free, but donations are accepted and registration is required. Call the Bureau of Forestry at 814-226-1901 or email Dave Cole at davcole@pa.gov. *Space is limited, so don't delay!*

**May 20 8:30am to 3:30pm Pennsylvania's Wild Resources Symposium Frick Environmental Center**

WPMC Identifier Fluff Berger will be one of four speakers at this all-day symposium. Act 48 hours will be available for teachers. The fee is $25. To register, visit: https://www.pittsburghparks.org/park-events

**June 10 Talk and Walk with Stonefruit Community Herbalists, Moraine State Park, Butler County**

Meet WPMC Mycologist La Monte Yarroll at Pavilion 2 on the South Shore for an introductory mushroom talk and short walk at Moraine State Park.

**June 11 SUNDAY: 9:00am – 4:30pm BioBlitz & Biodiversity Festival, Phipps Conservatory**

WPMC will be participating for the second year and will be hosting a table. We will organize one or two public walks during the day, the first of which will begin at 10am. We plan to sample the DNA from a number of specimens that are collected during the day.

**June 17 3:30pm: Salamander Park, Fox Chapel**

Join us for a walk right after our mushroom classes. Students and instructors meeting at the Cooper-Siegel Library will join us at nearby Salamander Park on Fox Chapel Road to look for mushrooms.

**June 24 Fungus Among Us Hike with Allegheny Land Trust, Linbrook Woodlands, Sewickley**

*You will need to preregister for this walk; details forthcoming.* WPMC members are free but you will need to bring your membership card; non-members are $5. For more information, including trail map and directions, visit: http://alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/linbrook-woodlands/

**July 8 Wingfield Pines (Upper St. Clair) BioBlitz #3**

Join Allegheny Land Trust to catalog the different species found at Wingfield Pines. Meet in the parking lot. For more information, including trail map, directions & video, visit: http://alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/wingfield-pines/

**July 15 Dark Hollow Woods, Oakmont**

Meet Cecily Franklin and WPMC Identifier and Past-President Dick Dougall at the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance to Dark Hollow Woods. Choose between the level Memorial Trail loop and the more adventurous Spring Trail down into the hollow. NOTE: There are no restrooms at Dark Hollow Woods.

**July 22 North Park, Annual Chanterelle Walk**

Meet Valerie & Jack Baker at the Swimming Pool parking lot to hunt for chanterelles.

**August 26 Presque Isle State Park, Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Erie, PA**

Meet Mark Lethaby from the Natural History Museum at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center and Richard Jacob from WPMC for a walk at Presque Isle State Park. As far as we know, this will be the first fungal foray of Presque Isle. There are a number of environments, ranging from beaches and shoreline; sandy plain and ponds; sand dunes and ridges; marshes and old ponds; heath and sub-climax forest; and the climax forest. Very different environments from Pittsburgh, so we should find a number of species of mushrooms new to the Club. Meeting point is the Tom Ridge Environmental Center. Since we plan to drive into the park, the walk may run over the normal two hours and we recommend bringing a lunch. It will take over two hours to drive from Pittsburgh, but the location is beautiful and worth a day trip.

**Sept. 2 Pleasant Valley Park, Joint with Friends of Murrysville Parks**

Meet Pia van de Venne and Richard Jacob at the Pleasant Valley parking lot. The park consists of 262 acres of woodlands, open fields, hilltops and remote valleys.

**Sept. 23 ALL DAY – Harrison Hills Park**

Join us for morning classes and an afternoon walk at Harrison Hills Park in Allegheny County.

**Sept. 30 Wingfield Pines (Upper St. Clair) BioBlitz #4**

*See July 8 listing for more information.*

**October 7 South Park**

Join WPMC Mycologist La Monte Yarroll and South Park Naturalist Gordon Fenn at the South Park Nature Center for the annual Parks Department walk.

**October 21 Fungus Among Us Walk with Allegheny Land Trust, Dead Man's Hollow (McKeesport)**

Meet ALT and WPMC to explore Dead Man's Hollow. You will need to preregister for this walk; details forthcoming. WPMC members are free but you will need to bring your membership card; non-members are $5. For more information, including trail map and directions, visit: http://alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/dead-mans-hollow/

# 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.
- **Help Keep Our Parks Clean!** When mushrooming, it's easy to bring a plastic grocery bag to collect cans, bottles or other trash you find. Trash cans are generally found nearby. If not, take it home for disposal.

# Other Walks & Forays

**July 27-30 Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF)**

2017 Samuel Ristich Foray, Stratton Mountain Resort, Bondville VT
http://www.nemf.org/index.html

**Aug. 11-13 Central Pennsylvania Mushroom Club**

2017 Bill Russell Foray, Lock Haven University
http://www.centralpamushroomclub.com/foray.html

**Sept. 1-4 Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association (COMA)**

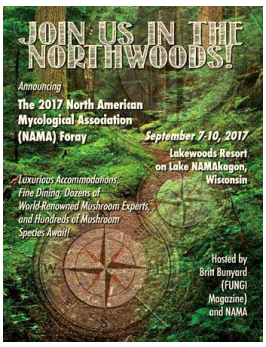
Clark Rogerson Foray, Camp Hemlocks, Hebron, CT
http://www.comafungi.org/special-events/clark-rogerson-foray/

**Sept. 7-10 North American Mycological Association (NAMA)**

2017 Northwoods Foray, Lakewood Resort & Lodge, Cable WI
https://www.facebook.com/groups/285807945121717/

**Sept 16 17th Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray**

North Park: MORE IN UPCOMING NEWSLETTERS!




***Interested in leading a mushroom walk?***

***Know of a good mushrooming location?***

***Contact La Monte Yarroll or John Plischke III.***

| CLUB MYCOLOGISTS | |
|---|---|
| Kim Plischke | 724-832-0271<br>ladiebugzkp@aol.com |
| John Plischke III | 724-832-0271<br>fungi01@aol.com |
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| **IDENTIFIERS** | |
| Jack Baker | 412-367-7696<br>jabaker2@hotmail.com |
| Fluff Berger | 724-601-8382<br>wfberger@comcast.net |
| Dick Dougall | 412-486-7504<br>mush2prof@verizon.net |
| Joyce Gross | 724-339-8547<br>jagart58@comcast.net |
| Adam Haritan | 412-480-1423<br>adamharitan@gmail.com |
| Richard Jacob | 215-888-5503<br>richard@lostculture.net |
| Bob Lucas | rnlucas@microspell.com |
| Blaine Sanner | 724-217-3168<br>brsanner@hotmail.com |
| Bob Sleigh | resleigh@gmail.com |
| John Stuart | 724-443-6878<br>jons2art@comcast.net |

## Walks & Forays Check List:

- ❑ Bring a buddy or two. ***Do not forage alone!***
- ❑ Dress for the weather, carry a rain poncho
- ❑ Bring drinking water and lunch
- ❑ Keep mushrooms separated
- ❑ Insect repellent
- ❑ Basket for collecting
- ❑ Knife for cutting mushrooms
- ❑ Wax or paper bags (no plastic)
- ❑ Whistle
- ❑ Compass
- ❑ Hand lens
- ❑ Cell phone & camera
- ❑ Notebook & pencil
- ❑ Field guide for identification
- ❑ Band-aids
- ❑ Garden hand-clippers

1

2

3

4

# Pages From a Mushroomer's Sketchbook: WPMC Member Sarah Banach

**1: Fall mushrooms**
**2: *Inonotus dryadeus***
**3: *Lactarius chelidonium***
**4: *Phallus ravenelii***

# Register Now for Mushroom Classes June 17, 2017!

**WPMC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE** this year's mushroom classes on June 17 at the Cooper-Siegel Library in Fox Chapel.

The morning classes, suitable for beginners, will focus on local mushrooms, including edible and medicinal species.

The afternoon will include intermediate-level classes, aimed at learning how to identify some of these mushrooms.

**Each session is $10; the full day is $20. A free mushroom walk at nearby Salamander Park will follow. Here's the full program:**

**10:15am: Registration for morning-only & all-day participants**

**10:30am – 11:30pm: *What's Hiding Under all those Weeds?***

WPMC member Cecily Franklin will explain her Forest Ecology Restoration Project (FERP) and how she transformed three acres of invasive weeds and vines into native wildflowers, shrubs and trees, all without planting anything. As a result of the clean-up, she has discovered more than 100 different mushroom species in her own backyard. She'll tell you which ones only look like food and which ones she actually eats!

**11:30am – 12:30pm: Medicinal Mushrooms of Western PA**

WPMC Vice President and Identifier Adam Haritan will explain how medicinal mushrooms are the superstars of the fungal kingdom. Plenty of research suggests that these mushrooms demonstrate powerful anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, and anti-viral properties, and many experts consider these particular fungi to be top candidates for immune-system support. In this class, participants will learn how to identify many of the key medicinal mushrooms that inhabit Western Pennsylvania, as well as their medicinal properties and researched health benefits. Additionally, participants will learn a few extraction techniques involved in turning these wild fungi into personal homemade medicines.

**1:15pm: Registration for afternoon-only participants**

**1:30 – 2:30pm: Fungi Features**

WPMC President Richard Jacob will explain some of the finer features of our fungal friends. Maybe you already know the difference between gills and pores, but do you understand what "reticulation" means? Participants will learn how to look beyond the basic characteristics and identify more mushrooms.

**2:30 – 3:30pm: The "Keys" to the Fungal Kingdom**

WPMC Mycologist La Monte Yarroll will explain how to use dichotomous (sequential) and synoptic (multi-access) keys to identify mushrooms. Participants will also learn which key to select, in order to begin their identification.

**3:30pm: Mushroom Walk at Salamander Park (FREE)**

Register online, using PayPal or credit card, on our website:
http://wpamushroomclub.org/events/mushroom-education-classes/

Or make checks payable to WPMC and send to: WPMC,
c/o Barbara DeRiso, 204 Woodcock Dr., Pittsburgh PA 15215.

***Space is limited, so register now!***

## Save the Date for Fall Mushroom Classes, Too!

**WPMC is also planning to offer mushroom classes on September 23 at Harrison Hills Park in Allegheny County. Look for more information in future newsletters and on our website.**

# Is It Edible?

**By Dick Dougall**

Figure 1: Lawn Mower Mushroom
*Panaeolina foenisecii*

Figure 2: White Dunce Cap
*Conocybe lactea*

Figure.3: Shaggy Mane
*Coprinus comatus*

**THIS IS A QUESTION** I am asked by beginning mushroomers on most of our Club walks. A yes/no answer is really insufficient. What beginning mushroomers need is to build up their basic information. Below is a table which I call the "Edibility Table". It is summarized from a website of the Illinois Mushroom Club (http://www.mushroomthejournal.com/greatlakesdata/ and click on "Top Ten Questions".)

**EDIBILITY TABLE**

| | |
|---|---|
| *50%* | *Inedible* |
| 25% | Edible, but not incredible |
| 20% | Will make you sick |
| 4% | Will be tasty to excellent |
| 1% | Will kill you! |

This table indicates that 50% of the mushroom types we find are "Inedible". I have an answer for cases where the beginner shows me a hard, shelf-like polypore growing on a tree. My statement is: "If you need an ax to remove it from a tree, IT IS NOT EDIBLE!"

What I consider to be edible mushrooms are those that you can prepare in the kitchen and serve alone or as part of another dish. This definition excludes medicinal mushrooms and those that can be used for making a tea.

What the Edibility Table shows is that about 25% of the species found are "Edible" to some degree but not necessarily very good. What do you tell the beginner about mushrooms in this group? This issue became apparent as I was preparing a handout for a talk. I like to give out a list of mushrooms I will be discussing, as well as their edibility. I pulled out Gary Lincoff's Audubon Guide and was surprised at how many mushrooms on the list were said to be edible. Let me give you a few examples.

My first example is shown in Figure 1, the Lawn Mower Mushroom, *Panaeolina foenisecii*. Many field guides list this as an edible mushroom. It is a small, brownish mushroom that grows in grass. The ones shown in Figure 1 were growing in my lawn. There is a rule that we stress to all Club members: DON'T EAT LBMs! (Little Brown Mushrooms.) This rule wants to keep you safe because a mistake in ID here can result in a very bad poisoning. Besides this rule, there is another rule that applies here: BE CAREFUL EATING MUSHROOMS GROWING IN LAWNS! This is to avoid mushrooms contaminated by weed killers and other lawn chemicals.

My second example is the White Dunce Cap, *Conocybe lactea*, shown in Figure 2. Lincoff lists this mushroom as edible. However, these small mushrooms are so fragile and delicate that I can't imagine they would survive any method of cooking. Also, the warning about mushrooms growing in grass again applies.

My final example is the Shaggy Mane, *Coprinus comatus*, shown in Figure 3. Most people would place this mushroom with the 4% "Tasty to Excellent" category of the Edibility Table. Here is a mushroom that you can seriously consider eating. You might wonder what other mushrooms belong in this group. If you ask Club members what their favorite edible mushrooms are, you will soon come up with a relatively small list of the good edibles. These are the ones that beginners should concentrate on if they want to hunt edible mushrooms.

I have found a great resource for learning about the good edibles and how to find them. It is David Spahr's book, *Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms of New England and Eastern Canada*. The primary focus of this book is on the mushrooms that most people would consider the top edibles. It also gives some good information about hunting and cooking them. The author has made the conents of this book available on his website: http://mushroomcollecting.com/. Editor's Note: WPMC also has a supply of this book for purchase at monthly meetings.

Let's go back to my original consideration: What do I tell the beginning mushroomer who shows me a mushroom and asks, "Is it edible?" I will warn the beginner of its danger if I recognize it as toxic or possibly poisonous. But what if I don't recognize it or it is not in the group of good edibles? I will say to the beginners: "This mushroom is NOT AN EDIBLE FOR YOU! ***Please don't experiment by eating it!***

# Some Mushrooms Are To Dye For!

*Judy Mackenroth is collecting mushrooms suitable for dyeing.*

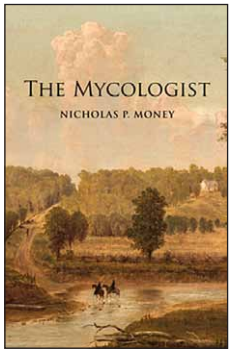
*Photo by Cecily Franklin*

**IN THE MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER,** WPMC member Judy Mackenroth described in great detail her experiences with using mushrooms as a dye. Judy has some ideas for an outdoor class on dyeing with mushrooms in 2018, but she'd like to spend the next year saving and drying dye-worthy specimens. That's where all WPMC members can help. If you find any of the mushrooms on this list, please save them for Judy. They can either be dried or frozen; just make sure that they are well labeled.

**LIST OF FUNGI TO SAVE FOR DYEING**

| SPECIES NAME | COMMON NAME |
|---|---|
| *Cortinarius marylandensis* | |
| *Cortinarius sanguineus* | Blood-red cort |
| *Cortinarius semisanguineus* | Red-gilled cort |
| *Daldinia concentrica* | Carbon Balls |
| *Hapalopilus nidulans* | Tender nesting polypore |
| *Hydnellum spp.* | |
| *Hypomyces lactifluorum* | Lobster Mushroom |
| *Inonotus hispidus* | Shaggy Bracket |
| *Phaeolus schweinitzii* | Dyer's Polypore |
| *Phellodon spp.* | |
| *Pisolithus tinctorius* | Dyeball or Dyemaker's Puffball |
| *Sarcodon spp.* | |
| *Tapinella atrotomentosa* | Velvet-Footed Pax |

# New Book by Nicholas Money



**NIK MONEY, OUR GUEST** Mycologist for last year's Lincoff Foray, has published his first novel, *The Mycologist.* It's the fictional diary of Professor Bartholomew Leach (1823-1913), who taught at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. (Hmmm, that sounds familiar.) It's a unique blend of historical fiction and imaginative autobiography. *The Mycologist* is available at Amazon or may be ordered from http://the-mycologist.com/.

Would you like to write a review of *The Mycologist* for our newsletter? Be the first volunteer to email cs4wpmc@gmail.com and a free copy will be yours! Warning: The author has a bawdy sense of humour.

*WPMC member Greg Levish found these morels in April at a secret location.*

# It's Time to Focus on WPMC's 2017 Photo Contest

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:**

- September 30, 2017
- Maximum of 5 entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files up to 4 megabytes
- Email entries to RMiller.fungi@gmail.com

**WPMC PHOTO CONTEST RULES:** You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date.

**ENTRY DIVISIONS:**

**PICTORIAL:** This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color.

**DOCUMENTARY:** For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture.

**JUDGE'S OPTION:** For photos which do not fit into the pictorial or documentary divisions.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE:

## WPMC Announces Changes in Committee Chairs

**WPMC MEMBER KATE PAVELLE** has assumed responsibility for the Hospitality Committee, which provides refreshments for WPMC meetings. WPMC Past-President John Stuart has taken over the Toxicology Committee, replacing Frank Lotrich, who has moved away.

WPMC still has an opening for the Sales Committee Chair. The Sales Chair will set up a table at monthly meetings, the annual Foray, mushroom classes, and other events as requested. Inventory is stored at Beechwood Farms, along with a list of all items and their prices. The Sales Chair will collect cash and checks at each event and turn the money over to the Treasurer. A more detailed job description is available on request.

If you are interested in this position, or even if you'd like to help out at one meeting, please notify any WPMC Board member, or email cs4wpmc@gmail.com.

## WPMC's Non-Profit Status Makes Donations Tax-Deductible

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

## 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. 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

**Check the WPMC website for a compete list of events:**
**wpamushroomclub.org**

**WPMC Yahoo Groups:**
**http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/wpamushroomclub/**

**NORTH AMERICAN MYCOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (NAMA):**
**www.namyco.org**

### WPMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|---|---|
| PRESIDENT<br>215 Highland Rd<br>215-888-5503 | Richard Jacob<br>Blawnox, PA 15238-2136<br>president@wpamushroomclub.org |
| VICE-PRESIDENT<br>3952 Mt. Royal Blvd<br>412-480-1423 | Adam Haritan<br>Alison Park, PA 15101<br>adamharitan@gmail.com |
| SECRETARY<br>137 Hickory Drive<br>724-601-8382 | Fluff Berger<br>Sewickley PA 15143-8212<br>wfberger@comcast.net |
| TREASURER<br>204 Woodcock Dr.<br>412-252-2594 | Barbara DeRiso<br>Pittsburgh PA 15215-1546<br>barbaraderiso@gmail.com |
| NAMA TRUSTEE<br>5770 Clark Avenue<br>412-854-5684 | La Monte Yarroll<br>Bethel Park, PA 15102<br>piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com |

### WPMC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

| | |
|---|---|
| CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT<br>412-367-7696 | Valerie Baker<br>vbbaker8@hotmail.com |
| CULTIVATION<br>412-441-3958 | Jim Tunney<br>aminitam@hotmail.com |
| DNA BARCODING<br>215-888-5503 | Richard Jacob<br>dna-barcoding@wpamushroomclub.org |
| EDUCATION<br>724-601-8382 | Fluff Berger<br>wfberger@comcast.net |
| HISTORIAN<br>724-339-8547 | Joyce Gross<br>jagart58@comcast.net |
| HOSPITALITY<br>412-401-3264 | Kate Pavelle<br>katesky@gmail.com |
| ID BUTTON PROGRAM<br>412-486-7504 | Dick Dougall<br>mush2prof@verizon.net |
| LINCOFF FORAY<br>412-252-2594 | Barbara DeRiso<br>barbaraderiso@gmail.com |
| MEMBERSHIP CHAIR<br>412-967-9541 | James Wasik<br>membership@wpamushroomclub.org |
| MUSHROOM DISPLAY<br>412-854-5684 | La Monte Yarroll<br>piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com |
| MYCOLOGICAL RECORDING | Bob Lucas<br>rnlucas@microspell.com |
| NEMF FORAY<br>724-832-0271 | John Plischke III<br>fungi01@aol.com |
| PHOTOGRAPHY<br>724-297-3377 | Rebecca Miller<br>rmiller.fungi@gmail.com |
| PUBLICITY<br>412-781-6581 | Cecily Franklin<br>cs4wpmc@gmail.com |
| SALES | VACANT |
| SCHOLARSHIP<br>724-443-6878 | John Stuart<br>jons2art@comcast.net |
| TOXICOLOGY<br>724-443-6878 | John Stuart<br>jons2art@comcast.net |
| WALKS & FORAYS<br>412-854-5684 | La Monte Yarroll<br>piggy.yarroll+wpmc@gmail.com |
| WALKS & FORAYS<br>724-832-0271 | John Plischke III<br>fungi01@aol.com |
| WEBMASTER<br>215-888-5503 | Richard Jacob<br>president@wpamushroomclub.org |
| YAHOO GROUPS MODERATOR<br>724-494-1468 | Mary Jo Smiley<br>cmtpt@zbzoom.net |

***NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM***

# 17TH ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY
# SEPT. 16, 2017 • ROSE BARN • NORTH PARK

## FEATURING:

**Mycologist Gary Lincoff**, author of the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms*. Gary, Past-president of the North American Mycological Association (NAMA), is the nation's best-known mushroom expert. He is a charismatic and entertaining speaker and makes learning about mushrooms fun and interesting. His end-of-the-day table-walk discussions are not to be missed. Also joining us will be **Robert Chang,** Managing Director and Chief Truffle Officer of the American Truffle Company. **Chef George Harris**, who specializes in cooking wild mushrooms and wild game, will do a cooking demonstration and Mushroom Club cooks will prepare a mushroom feast with dozens of unique mushroom dishes to delight your taste buds.

**Rose Barn in Allegheny County North Park, Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101**
**Saturday, September 16 – Foray includes light lunch & mushroom feast.**

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

_____ $35 WPMC member _____ $55 Non-members (includes admission & 2017-18 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

2017

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: numeral "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 www.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)

Annual dues: ❑ $15 Individual ❑ $20 Family ❑ $10 Full-time Student Amount enclosed: $ _____

**NOTE: Please add $5.00 surcharge for hard-copy newsletters to dues amount.**

## 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 _____ |