



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 3

JULY / AUGUST 2026



President's Message

Barbora Batokova

AS I WRITE this in mid-June, mushroom season is finally starting to hit its stride. One of the highlights of the season so far was Mushroom Education Day at Powdermill Nature Reserve. After two unusually dry years, conditions finally cooperated and we documented 97 species!

More importantly, it was a wonderful opportunity to learn, share discoveries, and spend time with fellow mushroom enthusiasts. Thank you to all organizers and speakers who made the event possible.

Summer is shaping up to be another busy season—our calendar is filled with walks across western Pennsylvania, from beginner-friendly outings to destination trips and BioBlitz events. We also have our annual Camping Retreat at Laurel Hill State Park coming up in July, offering a weekend of mushroom hunting, camaraderie, and collecting specimens for DNA work.

Speaking of DNA, we've recently updated our specimen submission guidelines to make participation easier and more consistent. Whether you're a seasoned identifier or just getting started, everyone can contribute specimens and help document the fungal diversity of our region. I encourage you to review the updated guidelines at **WPMC DNA BARCODING PROJECT** and consider submitting a collection this season.

I'm also pleased to share that House Bill 1090, which would designate *Ganoderma tsugae* as Pennsylvania's state mushroom, recently passed unanimously out of committee and now moves to the full House for consideration. It's exciting to see fungi receiving growing recognition across the Commonwealth.

I hope to see many of you on the trails this summer!

Parkway East to Close in July

THE PARKWAY EAST will close for nearly a month, beginning at 9:00 p.m. on July 10. Crews will work 24 hours a day to demolish and replace the Commercial Street Bridge near the Squirrel Hill Tunnel. Motorists are being encouraged to work remotely during the closure. The main WPMC event during this period is the July 21 meeting at Frick Environmental Center. If you use the Squirrel Hill Tunnel to get to the monthly meetings, you may want to join us remotely. Motorists should use the 511PA app to determine the least busy detour route. After the project is complete, several thousand new trees will be planted in Frick Park under the bridge in the fall.

https://www.pa.gov/content/dam/copapwp-pagov/en/penndot/documents/projects-near-you/district-11-projects/commercial-street-bridge/commercial-st-bridge_general-flyer-1-20-26.pdf

2026 Meeting Schedule

MONTHLY WPMC meetings are held on Tuesday evenings from March through November at the Frick Environmental Center and feature updates on Club activities, a speaker/presentation, mushroom identification table, and mushroom-related merchandise for sale. Meetings are free and open to the public. WPMC will email members in advance with a Zoom link, so that they have the option of joining remotely.

Please note that Service Animals are welcome at the Frick Environmental Center, provided they meet the criteria of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Pets and other non-service animals are not permitted.

JULY 21 Kerri McCabe: *Lactarius/Lactifluus* (virtual)

Easy to get to genus and even section, but not so easy to get to species. That's *Russulaceae* in a nutshell. Although *Russulaceae* is a small family with only four genera, it includes some of the most difficult mushrooms to identify. All are "brittle," but only some are "milky." We'll discuss what makes a *Lactarius* a *Lactarius* and a *Lactifluus* a *Lactifluus*. We'll learn distinguishing features of the family as a whole, but we'll do a deeper dive into the sections with a focus on *Lactarius* and *Lactifluus*.



AUG. 18 Michael Wilson: *Amanita muscaria* (in person)

Join Michael Wilson of Harmony Acres for an in-depth exploration of the psychoactive Amanitas of North America—the isoxazole-containing species bearing ibotenic acid and muscimol. This presentation is focused exclusively on taxonomy and identification, not on edibility or preparation. We'll take a close look at the species native to the Northeast and broaden our view to survey the full range of psychoactive Amanitas found across the continent—covering identification characteristics, distinguishing features, and seasonality. Attendees should come with curiosity and a desire to deepen their mycological literacy.



SEPT. 15 Maria Pinto: A Survey of Black Mycologies (virtual)

OCT. 20 Photo Contest Results, Costume Contest & Election of Officers

NOV. 17 Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards

In addition, WPMC Mycologist **La Monte Yarroll** will give an overview of the Synoptic Key of Life.



A Weekend of Walks With or Without Camping

By Dawn Wehman

JOIN WPMC MYCOLOGIST **John Plischke** and host **Eileen Schaffer** for a weekend of mushroom walks in beautiful Somerset County! Laurel Hill State Park will serve as the meeting location for three walks that weekend: Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon, and Sunday morning. The Club has reserved the group camping site here for the weekend:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/HJBkLDaDeNr1RCa6>

Friday, July 10 through Sunday, July 12
Laurel Hill State Park (Somerset County)
1454 Laurel Hill Park Rd, Somerset, PA 15501

Pit toilets are available at the group camping area. There is no electricity at the group camping area. Additional restrooms and showers are available near the RV area at the bottom of the hill. We ask those staying overnight Friday or Saturday to contribute \$20 per tent to help pay for the group tent spot (not refundable).

Not a camper? No problem! Members are welcome to join any one—or all—of the walks and skip the overnight stay. No registration required for non-campers. Here are the four trail options for hiking:

1. **Hemlock Trail:** 1.2-mile loop, more difficult hiking
2. **Bobcat Trail:** 1 mile, most difficult hiking
3. **Tram Road Trail:** 1.7 miles, more difficult hiking
4. **Pumphouse Trail:** 1.6 miles, easiest hiking

Those just hiking with us that weekend and not staying overnight in the group camping area do not need to register, but those who want to reserve one of the \$20 rustic tent sites should go to this link and scroll to the end of the page to register!

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/wpmc-camping-trip-2026/>



Look Great & Support WPMC!

SHOW YOUR WPMC pride by purchasing customized Club gear from spreadshop.com. The WPMC Merch Store offers many products with the WPMC logo, including shirts of various styles, hats, mugs, aprons, tote bags, and more. Whether it's for men, women, or toddlers, you get to choose the size and color! Buy for yourself or as one-of-a-kind gifts. All purchases benefit WPMC.

<https://western-pa-mushroom-club.myspreadshop.com/>

Out & About with WPMC



ON APRIL 25, WPMC Mycologist **Jared White** represented the Club at the Crooked Creek Earth Day Festival in Ford City (Armstrong County).



ON APRIL 26, WPMC Identifier **Cherie Cornmesser** led a mushroom walk at the Little Spicket Creek Watershed Association BioBlitz.



ON MAY 1, WPMC Identifier **Ron Hilton** represented the Club at the Keystone SMILES "Green Thumb Fun" Day in Clarion County.



ON MAY 2, WPMC Identifier **Dawn Wehman** led a mushroom walk at Ohiopyle State Park in Fayette County as part of the Keystone Trails Association's Spring Hiking Weekend.



ON MAY 27, WPMC Mycologist **Stephen Bucklin** led a mushroom walk at Highland Park with the Negley Run Watershed Task Force.



ON MAY 28, WPMC President **Barbora Batokova** gave a presentation on "The Hidden Kingdom: Fungi & Their Ecological Power" at the Penn Hills Library.



ON MAY 29 & 30, WPMC Mycologist **Garrett Taylor** led evening mushroom walks at Allegany State Park during the 68th Annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage in Salamanca, New York.



ON JUNE 13, WPMC Identifiers **Ron Hilton** and **Beth Ace** represented the Club at the Titusville Open Air Market in Crawford County.



Summer Continental MycoBlitz 2026 is Almost Here!

By Dawn Wehman

JOIN MUSHROOM ENTHUSIASTS across North America for the **Summer Continental MycoBlitz**, a continent-wide citizen science fungal survey taking place **July 31 – August 9, 2026**. Anyone can participate by finding, photographing, documenting, and submitting mushroom specimens—even those found in your own backyard! Here's how to participate:

1. Create an iNaturalist Account

If you don't already have one, sign up for a free iNaturalist account: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. Don't forget to watch our iNaturalist 101: https://youtu.be/_QJs0b36CZc?si=tSRAQUMpYlrfzPs

2. Join the WPMC iNaturalist Project

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/wpmc-western-pennsylvania-fungi-76e794a6-667c-43b0-b62d-07acfd2bf99c>

3. Join the Summer Continental MycoBlitz Project

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/summer-continental-mycoblitz-2026>

4. Start Collecting!

Make observations and collect specimens during the Continental MycoBlitz dates, July 31 – August 9. Important: Please review all participation and specimen submission guidelines from the Myco-Map Network before collecting: <https://mycomap.org/mycoblitz>

Save on Postage!

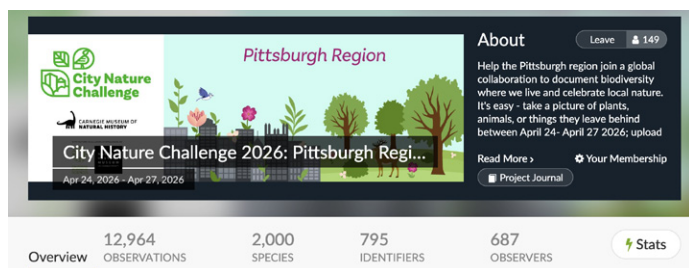
You're welcome to bring your dried specimens to any WPMC meeting or Club event, and we'll include them in our next shipment of DNA barcoding specimens. To learn more about how WPMC participates in DNA barcoding, visit:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/education/introduction-dna-barcoding/wpmc-dna-barcoding-project/>

City Nature Challenge 2026: Pittsburgh Region

RESULTS OF THE 2026 City Nature Challenge were announced on May 13. The Pittsburgh Region posted 2,000 species, including dozens of mushrooms, rusts, and lichens. By far the mushroom with the most observations was Dryad's Saddle, *Cerioporus squamosus*. As in prior years, most of the observations were made by Carnegie Museum of Natural History's **Bonnie Isaac** and WPMC Identifier **Cherie Cornmesser**. To see the full results for the Pittsburgh Region, go to:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2026-pittsburgh-region>



Interview with Jim & Martha Wasik

By Dawn Wehman

JIM WASIK'S MUSHROOM journey began, as many good ones do, with a little curiosity and the right guide. After moving to the Seattle area, he went "chantrelle" picking with his father-in-law, Sergej Duniec—who, as it turns out, knew all the spots on his forested property. (Chantrelles without the extra "e" is the Pacific Northwest and father-in-law's pronunciation.) Sergej introduced Jim to "stumpies" and "stein pilz," while Jim discovered blewits along the way. That was it—hooked.

Eager to learn more, Jim joined the Puget Sound Mycological Society and enrolled in a multi-week identification course. He dove into the world of fungal taxonomy, learning to identify genera with the help of guides and hands-on experience. The Society's renowned mushroom shows—where fungi were displayed in beautifully natural settings—only deepened his appreciation for the craft.

Then came the move to Western Pennsylvania where, at the time, there wasn't much of a mushroom club to speak of. So Jim did what any dedicated mushroom enthusiast would do—he helped build one. Joining the then-nascent Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in 2004, Jim proudly counts himself among the "old timers."

Over the years, Jim has worn just about every hat the Club has to offer: Membership Chair for a decade (2010–2020), Vice President, President, Newsletter Editor—and, in his own words, "general pain in the butt." One of his proudest contributions during his presidency was launching the Scholarship Program and the end-of-season Potluck, because if there's one thing mushroom people understand, it's food!

These days, Jim jokes that "advancing creaks and groans" have slowed his ability to tackle hills and ravines, but he hasn't slowed down his involvement. He remains a steady presence at Cultivation Meetings and the annual Lincoff Foray, continuing to share knowledge, stories, and enthusiasm with the Club.

Along the way, Jim had the privilege of knowing **Gary Lincoff**, from his very first forays at Parish Hill through Lincoff's passing. He remembers Lincoff as someone truly special—equally at ease inspiring beginners and engaging seasoned mycologists, a rare and remarkable gift.

And of course, we can't talk about Jim without recognizing **Martha Wasik**, whose creative contributions have helped shape the look and feel of the Club for years. From newsletter production to designing posters, Foray programs, brochures, and other WPMC graphics since 2013, Martha's work has been quietly essential—and widely appreciated.

Together, Jim and Martha have left an enduring mark on the Club, helping it grow from its early days into the thriving community it is today. For this work, both have been presented with the Outstanding Service Award for their dedication to enhancing WPMC.



26th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

Registration is open for the 26th annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, October 10. Use the form in this newsletter or register online at: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/>. Here are the events we're planning for that weekend:

Thursday Evening, October 8 – Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest State Park. Join WPMC Mycologist **Jared White** and Cook Forest Environmental Education Specialist **Dale Luthringer** for our annual Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lodging.

Friday Morning, October 9 – Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park. Meet WPMC Mycologists and Identifiers at Shelter 2 for our annual pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

Saturday, October 10 – The 26th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray at The Lodge in North Park. Activities will include:

- Guided Morning Walks in North Park • Afternoon Speakers
- Mushroom Display Tables • Auction & Sales
- Cooking Demonstration • Mushroom Feast • Table Walk

Auction Donations

DONATIONS KEEP COMING in for the Auction/Raffle at this year's 26th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, October 10. Prizes include books, art, ceramics, shirts, and more! If you would like to donate a mushroom-related item to this year's auction, call **Kathy Gilotty** at 412-445-3121 or email Past President **Cecily Franklin** at cfranklin@wpamushroomclub.org.

Bring Food for the Foray Feast

THIS YEAR, FORAY FEAST Chair **Mike Henry** will be joined by two co-chairs: **Scott Pavelle** and **Marylou Lenhart**. The team is looking for members who are willing to bring a dish to the Foray. You don't need to cook for 100 people – just 10 to 15.

If you plan to bring a dish containing wild-foraged mushrooms, you will need to first get them approved by a Club Identifier or Mycologist. It's OK to use store-bought mushrooms if you're uncomfortable with cooking wild mushrooms. In fact, your dish doesn't need to contain mushrooms at all. Some Club members are allergic or sensitive to mushrooms and will need an alternative meal choice.

If you are interested in bringing a dish or volunteering for other kitchen duties, email foray-feast@wpamushroomclub.org.

WPMC Scholarship Committee

WPMC ADMINISTERS an annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for attending educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions. Application forms are available on our website and must be sponsored by a WPMC member. For more information or to register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/education/wpam-scholarship-grant-application/>

Lincoff Foray Guest Mycologists

Our Guest Mycologists this year will be **Kristen Wickert, PhD** and **Alden Dirks, PhD**.

Dr. Wickert is a plant pathologist by training and avid naturalist in her personal time where she tries to spend as much of it as she can outside. Her talk, "Fungal Plant Pathogens: Ecological Role in the Forest", will cover the fungi that help keep our forests in balance: the plant pathogens. Kristen's presentation will cover the role of plant pathogenic fungi in our forests, their natural and unnatural balance, as well as how we can prevent them from becoming the next invasive species harming our forests.



Dr. Dirks (they/them) has been a practicing mycologist for over a decade and is also an avid forager with the lifelong goal of eating 1001 fungal species. Their talk is titled "False morels or true lorchels? A deep dive into the toxicology and edibility of *Gyromitra* mushrooms and related species (*Discinaceae*, *Pezizales*, *Ascomycota*)". Join Dr. Dirks for an overview of our latest findings informed by widespread fungarium sequencing, in-depth taxonomic revisions, and cutting-edge phylogenomic analyses.



WPMC New Committee Co-Chairs

WPMC IS PLEASED to announce that **Paula Breuer** and **Vic Pregel** have agreed to serve as Sales Co-Chairs for the Club. In addition, **Aimee Thorne** will be assisting **Stephen Bucklin** with the Lincoff Foray Logo Contest. Please extend our thanks to these members for their contributions to the Club.



Reagent Kits Available for \$15



WPMC HAS A supply of Fungi Chemical Reagent Kits available to purchase for \$15. Each kit contains ammonia, ferrous sulfate, and potassium hydroxide. These kits will be available at WPMC meetings and events while supplies last. For information on how to use these chemicals for mushroom identification, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/reagent-kits/>



An Amanita Without a Name: *Amanita* sp. 'NY06'

By Barbora Batokova

ONE OF THE fascinating aspects of modern mycology is that not every mushroom we encounter has an official scientific name. Researchers regularly discover fungi that are clearly distinct species, document them with photographs and DNA sequences, and recognize them as unique taxa—but the formal process of describing and naming them can take years. Until then, these fungi often receive temporary labels such as “NY06” or “PA01” that indicate their associated region and position within a running list of undescribed taxa.

Amanita sp. 'NY06' is one such species and is probably one of the most recognizable undescribed *Amanitas* in eastern North America. Within the mushroom community, it has often been informally referred to as *Amanita praecox*—“*praecox*” meaning “early” in reference to its fruiting period—but that name has never been formally published and remains a provisional designation rather than a valid scientific name. Both Mushroom Observer and MycoQuebec currently list the taxon as *Amanita praecox* Y. Lamoureux nom. prov., indicating a proposed but unpublished name.

What makes this species particularly distinctive is a combination of four characteristics:

1. Association with conifers

Amanita sp. 'NY06' is associated with conifers, including pine, spruce, fir, and possibly hemlock (though collections under hemlock may represent a separate species). It is also one of the earliest-fruiting *Amanitas*, appearing as early as April, peaking in May, continuing through summer and fall, and often producing a second flush in October.

2. Ochre-yellow cap

The cap ranges from pale yellow to ochre-yellow and may be completely smooth or decorated with scattered veil remnants. These remnants are leftovers of the universal veil that enclosed the young mushroom before expansion. Mature specimens often develop a somewhat darker, yellowish-brown center.

3. Striate cap margin

As the mushroom matures, the cap margin becomes distinctly striate, with grooves extending approximately one-quarter of the distance toward the center of the cap.



4. A bulbous stem lacking a ring

The white stem is bulbous at the base, stuffed rather than hollow, and lacks a true ring. This feature helps separate it from one of its closest lookalikes, *Amanita russuloides*, which develops a persistent ring and is typically associated with poplars growing in sandy soils.

Although only about thirty observations currently exist on iNaturalist under the provisional name, the species appears to be relatively widespread in eastern North America and is likely familiar to many mushroom hunters who simply know it by a different name—or no name at all.

Hopefully, *Amanita* sp. 'NY06' will soon receive a formal description and a permanent place within the taxonomy of the genus. Until then, it serves as a reminder that fungal diversity is still being actively explored and that even within a well-studied genus such as *Amanita*, species remain waiting to be formally introduced to science.

References

iNaturalist. *Amanita* sp. 'NY06' [Provisional]. Accessed June 2, 2026.

Mushroom Observer. *Amanita praecox*. Y. Lamoureux nom. prov. Accessed June 2, 2026.

MycoQuebec. *Amanita praecox* Y. Lamoureux nom. prov. | *Amanite précoce*. Accessed June 2, 2026.

Mushroom Education Day Draws a Crowd



A TOTAL OF 39 mushroom enthusiasts attended Mushroom Education Day at Powdermill Nature Reserve on June 13. Three WPMC members gave presentations on a variety of topics. Then the group made 224 iNat observations of 97 different species of mushrooms, lichens, and rusts.

Photo by Barbora Batokova



WPMC Photo Contest Deadline is Approaching

ONCE AGAIN, WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will judge members' photos for our annual Photo Contest. Here are the Photo Contest rules for this year:

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2026
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- Email entries to **photography@wpamushroomclub.org**
- Indicate in your email the desired category for each photo.
- No AI-generated art or photos are permitted.

You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date. Photos submitted by non-members will not be considered.

For more information, categories, and requirements, visit:
<https://wpamushroomclub.org/photo-galleries/annual-wpmc-photo-contest/>



Sara Klingensmith photographs Ganoderma tsugae at Cook Forest. Photo by Cara Coulter

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 because WPMC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. If you're age 73 or above, you can reduce your taxable income by directing some of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

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 PA. Mushroom Club and submit them to our Treasurer, **Mike Henry**.

Membership Report

By Dawn Wehman

AS OF JUNE 21, we have 502 members from 307 households. Your membership dues are essential to keeping the Club thriving and support over 40% of WPMC's annual income. To join or renew, simply visit: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/> and follow the instructions provided. As a WPMC member, you'll enjoy:

Nine monthly meetings with guest speakers & mushroom identification • A free mushroom grow kit at our annual May cultivation meeting • Five electronic WPMC newsletters • Advance notice of mushroom walks and other local, regional & national events • Members-only photo contest • Members-only costume contest • Access to the WPMC Facebook Group • A discount at the annual Gary Lincoff Foray

WPMC Names New Identifiers & Mycologist



Momo Almarza



Paula Breuer



Katie Manion



Alberto Almarza



Jared White



FIVE WPMC MEMBERS recently earned ID Buttons in recognition of their ability to identify mushroom species: **Momo Almarza** (25); **Paula Breuer** (100); **Katie Manion** (150); **Alberto Almarza** (150); and **Jared White** (500). The WPMC Board of Directors approved both Katie and Alberto as Club Identifiers, and the current Mycologists unanimously recommended Jared for WPMC Mycologist. Congratulations to all!

WPMC's Button ID Button Program offers members a fun way to increase their knowledge of mushroom species. To learn more about the ID Button Program and how to submit your list of known mushrooms, go to:

<http://wpamushroomclub.org/about/button-id-program/>

Photos by Dawn Wehman



Day and time for walks vary. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. Check the website at www.wpamushroomclub.org/events 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.

If you would like to lead a WPMC walk, or if you know a great walk location, please email WPMC Identifier Josh Mowris at walks@wpamushroomclub.org.



WPMC Walks & Events

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1-3 PM

Muddy Creek Holly Trail, Cambridge Springs, PA (Crawford County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Jared White** for a walk near his hometown of Cambridge Springs. Muddy Creek Holly Trail is an easy, out and back trail on Johnstown Road off Rt 408 outside of Cambridge Springs. The trail is a wood plank through boggy creekside hemlock and mixed deciduous woods ending at a French Creek overlook. Limited parking right at the trail, but additional parking is very close. The map pin will take you to the larger parking lot, and the trailhead is clearly marked on Google maps. Please be mindful when walking the road from the large parking lot to the trailhead, as people do drive recklessly on that road. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

https://maps.app.goo.gl/ogsPsHHotQN55D3Q8?g_st=ac

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 5-8 PM

Fungi 101 Talk & Walk with ALT, Fern Hollow Nature Center

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom talk and identification walk at Fern Hollow Nature Center. After a short introductory lecture indoors on fungi, participants will look for mushrooms around Fern Hollow and collect specimens for an ID table. Hike runs rain or shine. As this hike is beginner friendly, we will be using the mushrooms' common names and looking at distinguishing features to begin identifying mushrooms. We will not be foraging for food or discussing edibility. NO WALK INS will be permitted. Tickets are \$10. Register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/fungi-101-talk-and-walk-at-fern-hollow-nature-center/>

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2-4:30 PM

BioBlitz at Chestnut Farm (Washington County), 87 Taggart Road, Washington, PA

BioBlitz and birding walk around Chestnut Farm from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. WPMC Mycologist **Jared White** and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** will lead a mushroom walk. No formal registration is required but RSVP to byron.l.black@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

JULY 10-12

WPMC Camping Weekend. Laurel Hill State Park (Somerset County)

See page 2 of this newsletter and page 5 of the May - June newsletter for full schedule.

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 12-3 PM

Kinzua Bridge State Park (McKean County). 296 Viaduct Road, Kane, PA 16735

Meet at the picnic area near the pavilion and playground for a guided mushroom walk on the General Kane Trail. Learn about identification, safety, and techniques from WPMC Mycologist **Garrrett Taylor** and WPMC Identifiers **Beth Ace** and **Ron Hilton**. The trail is approximately 1.5 miles in length and is relatively flat but can be muddy in some areas. Please come dressed for the weather. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 6-8 PM

Beginner's Mushroom Walk at Girty's Woods with ALT, Irwin Lane Entrance, 499 Irwin Lane

Join WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a beginner's mushroom walk at Girty's Woods, as part of the Outdoor Inclusion Coalition's TRY IT! Series. After an introduction, participants will search for our fungal friends to collect for a beginner friendly identification table at the end of the program. Hike runs rain or shine. We will not be foraging for food or discussing edibility. Specific parking instructions will be included in your reminder email the week of the event. Please do not park along Irwin Lane! The gate will be open for you to park inside the property lines. NO WALK-INS. There is NO CHARGE for this walk, but registration is required at this link:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/101359-try-it-beginner-s-mushroom-walk-at-girty-s-woods>

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 10 AM-1 PM

North Fork Bens Creek (Somerset County), Conemaugh Township, PA 15905

Meet WPMC Mycologists **Richard Jacob** and **Barbora Bato-kova** for a walk by North Fork Bens Creek. Meet at 40.265842, -79.016779. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2uSVRZzY2k4CZNYa6>

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 10:30 A.M.-1:30 P.M.

Dark Hollow Woods, Oakmont. Pennsylvania Avenue Entrance.

Join WPMC Identifier **Cherie Cornmesser** and the Borough of Oakmont for a mushroom walk in Dark Hollow Woods. Meet 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. Free and open to the public; no registration required. NOTE: There are no restrooms at Dark Hollow Woods. Directions: From Freeport Road (North or South), cross the Hulton Bridge into Oakmont. Continue on Hulton Road up the hill to the top and part way down. Turn right on 15th Street. At the end of 15th Street, turn left onto Pennsylvania Avenue and proceed into the park entrance. If the parking spaces are full, find a legal parking space on Pennsylvania Avenue and walk into the park.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 6-8 PM

Beginner's Mushroom Walk at Barking Slopes with ALT, Upper Access, 370 Coxcomb Hill Road, New Kensington, PA

Join WPMC Identifiers **Julie Travaglini** and **Sara Klingensmith** for a beginner's mushroom walk at Barking Slopes during the Summer Continental MycoBlitz, as part of the Outdoor Inclusion Coalition's TRY IT! Series. After an introduction, participants will search for our fungal friends to collect for a beginner-friendly identification table at the end of the program. Hike runs rain or shine. We will not be foraging for food or discussing edibility. NO WALK-INS. There is NO CHARGE for this walk, but registration is required at this link:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/101360-try-it-beginner-s-mushroom-walk-at-barking-slopes>

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 9 AM TO 1 PM

Garden in the Park South with Penn State Master Gardeners, Brownsville Road & Corrigan Drive (South Park Township)

WPMC Mycologists **La Monte Yarroll** and **Jared White** will host a table at Garden in the Park South.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 10 AM-1 PM

I.S. and Gertrude Sahli Nature Park (Beaver County). 194 McKinley Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010

Join WPMC Identifiers **Dawn Wehman** and **Jennifer Uhlman** for a late summer mushroom walk. At the ID table we will "show and tell" to allow participants to learn the characteristics of local mushrooms, including edible, poisonous, and unique species. Attendees will be introduced to using the app iNaturalist for mushroom identification. Free and open to the public. Foraging for food is discouraged.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 5-7 PM

Jennings Environmental Education Center. 2951 Prospect Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Join WPMC Identifiers **Dawn Wehman** and **Judy Mackenroth** for a late summer evening mushroom walk. Gather inside the Environmental Center, being sure to wear sturdy shoes and something to protect yourself from insects. Bring your finds to an identification table at 7 PM for analysis. At the ID table we will "show and tell" to allow participants to learn the characteristics of local mushrooms, including edible, poisonous, and unique species. Attendees will be introduced to using the app iNaturalist for mushroom identification. Free and open to the public.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 10 AM TO 1 PM

North Country Trail, Parker, PA (Armstrong County)

Join WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** for a mushroom walk at North Country Trail in Parker. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 5:30-7:30 P.M.

Mushroom Walk with Hollow Oak Land Trust. 500 Nike Road, Moon Township, PA 15108

Meet WPMC Identifier and Hollow Oak Volunteer Land Steward **Mike Henry** at the Nike Road Trailhead for a mushroom walk at Montour Woods. Learn about the mushrooms that grow in Montour Woods Conservation area. The all-ages program will be approximately 2 hours covering moderate terrain. Please bring water and wear closed toe shoes. Free for Hollow Oak Land Trust members; \$10 for non-members. Register here:

<https://hollowoak.org/event/mushroom-walk-all-ages-3/>

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 5-7 PM

eDNA Mushroom Walk with Allegheny Land Trust, Audubon Greenway Conservation Area, 160 Magee Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifiers and Mycologists in collecting eDNA for research! eDNA, or environmental DNA, is a way for us to learn about the fungus that resides in the soil that may never produce a fruiting body, aka a mushroom. Recently, WPMC received a grant to complete sampling and eDNA work around the region to learn more about the fungus growing beneath our feet. This will not be a traditional guided hike. After the eDNA portion, attendees will be off on their own to search for fungi and slime molds to bring back to an identification table at the end. We'll then learn about the fascinating fungi that everyone found! Hike runs rain or shine, NO WALK INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. There is no charge, but space is limited and registration is required. Sign up here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/102471-edna-mushroom-walk-at-audubon-greenway>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10 AM TO 1 PM

Muddy Creek Holly Trail. Cambridge Springs, PA (Crawford County)

Join WPMC Identifier **Josh Mowris** for a mushroom walk at Muddy Creek Holly Trail in Cambridge Springs. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County)

Join WPMC Mycologist **Jared White** and Cook Forest Environmental Education Specialist **Dale Luthringer** for our annual Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lodging.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County)

Meet WPMC Mycologists and Identifiers at Shelter 2 for our annual pre-Foray walk at Cook Forest. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

26th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray. The Lodge at North Park

See page 4 of this newsletter.

Important Walk 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. Find a buddy.
- Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for identification and advice.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms: location, habitat, etc.
- Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your responsibility alone.
- Help Keep Our Parks Clean! It's easy to bring a 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 & Events

JULY 30 – AUGUST 3

NEMF Foray. Penn State Mont Alto (Franklin County)

<https://www.nemf.org/>

JULY 31 – AUGUST 9

Summer Continental MycoBlitz

<https://mycota.com/continental-mycoblitz/>

AUGUST 7 – 9

West Virginia Mushroom Club

<https://www.wvmushroomclub.net/>

AUGUST 12 – 16

Telluride Mushroom Festival, Telluride, Colorado

<https://www.tellurideinstitute.org/telluride-mushroom-festival/>

AUGUST 15, 9 AM – 12 PM

Mushroom ID Journaling & Foraging. Schenley Park Welcome Center. \$33 for Phipps members; \$35 for non-members

<https://my.conservatory.org/10437/mushroomidjournalingandforaging>

AUGUST 27 – 30

66th Annual NAMA Foray. Marquette, Michigan

<https://namyco.org/annual-foray/>

AUGUST 28 – 30

Bill Russell Foray. Camp Golden near Petersburg, PA

<https://centralpamushroom.club/>

SEPTEMBER 3 – 7

Sequanota Foray (Somerset County). Mycological Association of Washington DC

<https://mawdc.org/>

SEPTEMBER 11 – 13

New Moon Mycological Summit, Middle Grove, NY

<https://www.themyceliumunderground.com/newmoonmycologysummit2026>

OCTOBER 2 – 11

Fall Continental MycoBlitz

<https://mycota.com/continental-mycoblitz/>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT 412-609-0723	Barbora Batokova president@wpamushroomclub.org
VICE-PRESIDENT 724-255-1131	Julie Travaglini vice-president@wpamushroomclub.org
SECRETARY 724-664-9287	Sara Klingensmith secretary@wpamushroomclub.org
TREASURER 412-397-8424	Mike Henry treasurer@wpamushroomclub.org
NAMA TRUSTEE 412-445-1078	Cara Coulter ccoulter@wpamushroomclub.org

COMMITTEES

CLUB E-MAIL CONTACT 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin info@wpamushroomclub.org
CULTIVATION 412-204-6281	Jared Delaney cultivation@wpamushroomclub.org
DNA BARCODING 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob dna-barcoding@wpamushroomclub.org
EDUCATION 724-664-9287	Sara Klingensmith education@wpamushroomclub.org
HISTORIAN 724-339-8547	Joyce Gross jagart58@comcast.net
HOSPITALITY	Joy LeViere & Nathan Cobbett hospitality@wpamushroomclub.org
ID BUTTON PROGRAM 724-255-1131	Julie Travaglini buttonid@wpamushroomclub.org
LINCOFF FORAY Dawn Wehman	Sara Klingensmith, Katie & Sean Manion lincoff-foray@wpamushroomclub.org
MEMBERSHIP 724-544-0978	Dawn Wehman membership@wpamushroomclub.org
MUSHROOM DISPLAY 724-413-3092	Cherie Cornmesser mushroom-display@wpamushroomclub.org
MYCOLOGICAL RECORDING 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob mycological-recording@wpamushroomclub.org
NEMF FORAY 724-331-1974	John Plischke III jplischke@wpamushroomclub.org
NEWSLETTER 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin newsletter@wpamushroomclub.org
PA DCNR REPRESENTATIVE 716-307-0758	Garrett Taylor gtaylor@wpamushroomclub.org
PHOTOGRAPHY 724-664-9287	Sara Klingensmith photography@wpamushroomclub.org
PUBLICITY 412-781-6581	Cecily Franklin publicity@wpamushroomclub.org
SALES 412-512-4295	Paula Breuer & Victor Pregel sales@wpamushroomclub.org
SCHOLARSHIP 734-276-7108	Sara McGinity scholarship@wpamushroomclub.org
TOXICOLOGY 724-331-1974	John Plischke III toxicology@wpamushroomclub.org
WALKS & FORAYS 814-720-8804	Josh Mowris walks@wpamushroomclub.org
WEBMASTER 215-888-5503	Richard Jacob site-admin@wpamushroomclub.org
WORKSHOP 724-352-4025	Judy Mackenroth jmackenroth@wpamushroomclub.org

NEVER

Eat an unidentified mushroom!



WPMC Mycologists, Identifiers, and Specialists

CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

Barbora Batokova412-609-0723
bbatokova@wpamushroomclub.org

Stephen Bucklin 814-823-1049
sbucklin@wpamushroomclub.org

Cara Coulter 412-445-1078
ccoulter@wpamushroomclub.org

Richard Jacob 215-888-5503
rjacob@wpamushroomclub.org

Kim Plischke 724-217-7589
kplischke@wpamushroomclub.org

John Plischke III724-331-1974
jplischke@wpamushroomclub.org

Garrett Taylor 716-307-0758
gtaylor@wpamushroomclub.org

Jim Tunney 412-441-3958
jtunney@wpamushroomclub.org

Jared White 814-460-4265
jdwhite@wpamushroomclub.org

La Monte Yarroll412-854-5684
piggy@wpamushroomclub.org

IDENTIFIERS

Beth Ace814-673-3105
bace@wpamushroomclub.org

Alberto Almarza 412-225-8707
aalmarza@wpamushroomclub.org

Jack Baker 412-367-7696
jbaker@wpamushroomclub.org

Fluff Berger 724-601-8382
fberger@wpamushroomclub.org

Dirk Cappel 248-924-4498
dcappel@wpamushroomclub.org

Cheree Charmello Andrews412-576-0555
charmello@wpamushroomclub.org

Cherie Cornmesser724-413-3092
ccornmesser@wpamushroomclub.org

Josh Doty 412-913-8026
jcdoty@wpamushroomclub.org

Carson Gross605-695-0605
cagross@wpamushroomclub.org

Mike Henry 412-397-8424
mhenry@wpamushroomclub.org

Ron Hilton814-657-7418
rhilton@wpamushroomclub.org

Devin Hilty 570-367-8000
dhilty@wpamushroomclub.org

Sara Klingensmith 724-664-9287
sklingensmith@wpamushroomclub.org

Judy Mackenroth724-352-4025
jmackenroth@wpamushroomclub.org

Katie Manion412-952-8960
kmanion@wpamushroomclub.org

Josh Mowris814-720-8804
jmowris@wpamushroomclub.org

Julie Travaglini 724-255-1131
jtravaglini@wpamushroomclub.org

Jennifer Uhlman724-494-1027
juhlman@wpamushroomclub.org

Dawn Wehman 724-544-0978
dwehman@wpamushroomclub.org

BOLETE SPECIALIST

Scott Pavelle412-325-2535
spavelle@wpamushroomclub.org

LICHEN SPECIALIST

Stephen Bucklin 814-823-1049
sbucklin@wpamushroomclub.org

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.

Cecily Franklin, Editor

Martha Wasik Graphic Arts, Production

Send submissions to: newsletter@wpamushroomclub.org

NEVER
Eat an unidentified mushroom!





26th ANNUAL GARY LINCOFF MUSHROOM FORAY OCTOBER 10, 2026 • THE LODGE AT NORTH PARK

Guests Mycologists: Kristen Wickert, PhD, *Fungal Plant Pathogens: Ecological Role in the Forest*
and Alden Dirks, PhD, *False Morels or True Lorchels? A Deep Dive into the Toxicology and Edibility
of Gyromitra Mushrooms and Related Species*

The Lodge at North Park • N. Ridge Dr., Allison Park, PA 15101

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED • FORAY INCLUDES AN EVENING MUSHROOM FEAST • BRING A SACK LUNCH

Children are welcome, but this event is structured for adults. There are no activities for kids.

NOTE: ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2026 ALL REGISTRATION FEES WILL INCREASE BY \$10.

INDICATE THE NUMBER/QUANTITY FOR EACH ITEM SELECTED. ALL FEES PER PERSON. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

_____ **\$50 WPMC member** / \$60 on or after 9/15/26 (with current paid 2026 membership) sub total: _____
_____ **\$75 Non-members** / \$85 on or after 9/15/26 (includes 2026-27 Membership) sub total: _____
_____ **\$30 Students (with ID) & kids 11 to 18** / (members or non-members) kids 10 & under free. / \$40 on or after 9/15/26 sub total: _____
FORAY T-SHIRT \$20 EACH: _____ **Small** _____ **Medium** _____ **Large** _____ **XL** _____ **XXL** sub total: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

☐ CONTACT ME REGARDING VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail (**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**) _____

REGISTER & PAY ONLINE: www.wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/

REGISTER & PAY BY CHECK (payable to Western PA Mushroom Club):

WPMC, c/o Dawn Wehman 285 Kindale Street, Ellwood City, PA 16117

The foray feast can only happen if individuals volunteer to cook and serve.

Please email us at Lincoff-Foray@wpamushroomclub.org and let us know what you are bringing to share.

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



PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. WWW.WPAMUSHROOMCLUB.ORG — 11



WPMC MEMBERSHIP FORM

REV: 2026

NEW MEMBERSHIP: ☐ RENEWAL: ☐

COMPLETE THIS FORM **PRINT CLEARLY**, SIGN AND MAIL

Benefits: 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) _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

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 Dawn Wehman 285 Kindale Street Ellwood City PA 16117 • 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 (\$15 additional)

☐ \$20 Individual ☐ \$25 Family ☐ \$15 Full-time Student ☐ \$15 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 (Members under age 18: signature of parent or guardian)

PLEASE PRINT NAME CLEARLY:

1 _____ 1 _____

2 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 4 _____