



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club Newsletter

Fungi, Fun & Friends!

VOLUME 26, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2026



President's Message

Barbora Batokova

FALL IS ALMOST HERE, bringing some of the best mushroom hunting of the year—and our biggest event of the season, the 26th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray, October 8–10. This year's festivities begin with a Thursday evening UV walk at Cook Forest State Park, followed by Friday

walks at Cook Forest and our main Foray Saturday at North Park Lodge. I hope you'll join us for a fantastic weekend of mushrooms, learning, and community!

There is also exciting momentum for fungi across Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Biological Survey's Mycological Technical Committee (MYCO-TC) recently submitted a proposal to DCNR recommending Mushroom Conservation and Education Areas in Pennsylvania

State Parks. Building on a 72-acre prototype at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, the proposal recommends establishing one mapped area in each of Pennsylvania's four State Park regions, dedicated to fungal conservation, education, citizen science, and biodiversity documentation.

Meanwhile, House Bill 1090, which would designate the hemlock varnish shelf (*Ganoderma tsugae*) as Pennsylvania's official state mushroom, is expected to come before the full House for a vote in September after passing unanimously out of committee in June. Now is the time to contact your state representative and ask them to vote YES on HB 1090!

It is exciting to see fungi gaining greater recognition in conservation, education, and public policy—and WPMC members continue to play an important role through our walks, education, biodiversity documentation, and DNA work.

There is still plenty of mushroom season ahead. I hope to see you in the woods this fall and at the Gary Lincoff Foray in October. Happy mushrooming!

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.

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

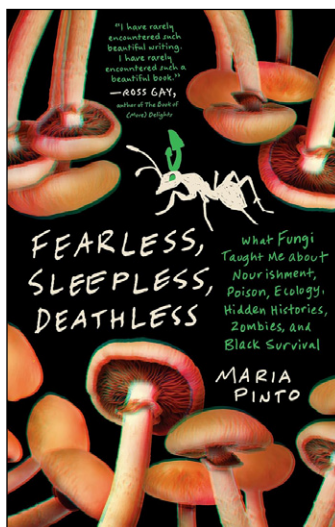
In this presentation, Maria will read from her book, *Fearless, Sleepless, Deathless: What Fungi Taught Me about Nourishment, Poison, Ecology, Hidden Histories, Zombies, and Black Survival*. She will talk about the inspirations for her book and what she found when she went looking for Black mycophilia at home and abroad.

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

WPMC Identifier **Sara Klingensmith** will present the winners of this year's Photo Contest, and WPMC members will vote on a slate of Officers for 2027. WPMC members are encouraged to wear costumes. (See 2025 photo, right.)

NOV. 17 Potluck & Annual WPMC Awards

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



Register for Lincoff Foray Before September 15 Price Increase

REGISTRATION IS OPEN for the 26th annual Gary Lincoff Foray on Saturday, October 10, during the Fall Continental MycoBlitz. Use the form in this newsletter or register online at: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/lincoff-foray/>. Prices will increase by \$10 on September 15, so don't delay! Here are the events we're planning for that weekend:

Thursday, October 8, 7:30-9:30 pm

Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County)
Log Cabin Environmental Learning Center

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, 10 am-3 pm

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, 7:30 am-6 pm

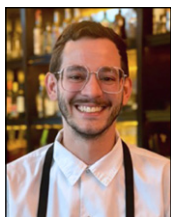
26th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray
The Lodge at North Park, North Ridge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

Here's the current schedule (subject to change). The final schedule will be on the WPMC website during the week of the Foray.

7:30 – 8 am	Registration & Morning Walk Sign-Up
8 – 9 am	Overview & Introductions
	Progress Report on Wild Resource Conservation Program Grant
9 – 11:30 am	Guided Mushroom Walks
11:30 am	Lunch (bring your own)
12 – 12:45 pm	Cooking Demonstration
1 – 2 pm	Fungal Plant Pathogens: Ecological Role in the Forest (Kristen Wickert)
2:15 – 3:15 pm	False morels or true lorchels? (Alden Dirks)
3:30 – 4 pm	Table Walk
4 pm	Auction Results
4:30 – 6 pm	Mushroom Feast
6:30 – 7 pm	Cleanup

Cooking Demonstration Will Feature Roasted Mushrooms

AT NOON ON OCTOBER 10, Chef **Sam ABucklin** will show us how to make Hongos Asados, which is Spanish for roasted mushrooms. His plan is to marinate the mushrooms with a blend of different dried chiles, onion, garlic and other dry spices. They will be served on tostadas with a huitlacoche aioli (vegan).



Foray T-Shirt Logo Design Selected

Stephen Bucklin and **Aimee Thorne** received a number of entries for this year's Lincoff Foray design contest and selected one by WPMC Identifier **Alberto Almarza**, featuring *Amanita flavoconia*. Be sure to order yours when you register for the Foray.



Volunteers Needed on Friday and Saturday!

WPMC HAS RENTED The Lodge at North Park for the entire day on Friday, October 9, so that we'll be ready for action first thing on Saturday. We need volunteers who won't be going to Cook Forest but would be willing to help us out locally on Friday. We're looking for members with a roomy vehicle to help get supplies from our storage locker in Etna and take them to The Lodge. We'll also need a strong crew at North Park to set up tables and chairs.

Do you own a canopy? If so, bring it with you to registration on Saturday morning, October 10, and we'll set it up right away. We'll also need volunteer "runners" to take selected mushrooms from the outdoor display table to the indoor identification tables. If you're interested and available for any of these volunteer opportunities, please email the Foray Co-Chairs at lincoff-foray@wpamushroomclub.org.

Lincoff Foray Will Feature Two 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.



Bring Food for the Foray Feast

EVERYONE WHO'S coming to the Lincoff Foray on October 10 is encouraged to bring food for the Foray Feast. You don't need to bring enough for 100 people—just 10 to 15. If you plan to bring a dish containing wild-foraged mushrooms, you will need to get them approved by a club Identifier or Mycologist before cooking. Vegetarian and vegan options are also welcome.

Let the Foray Feast Committee know as soon as possible what you will be bringing. Email foray-feast@wpamushroomclub.org. Be sure to bring a list of ingredients along to the Foray; any dishes without a list of ingredients cannot be accepted. WPMC will provide napkins, plates, and utensils.

Auction Donations

THANKS TO THE generosity of WPMC members, we have received dozens of donations for this year's Lincoff Foray auction/raffle. Several WPMC members have kindly donated their own works to this year's Foray auction. **Glenn Brynes** has donated a mushroom clock, and **Dana Driscoll** and **Becka Jean Marsh** will contribute original artwork.

Please DO NOT bring any donations to the Foray, when it will be too late to prepare them for display. As in prior years, each person attending the Lincoff Foray will receive one free raffle ticket at the registration table. Be sure to print your name on the back of the ticket before placing it in the bag of your desired item and keep the coupon portion. Additional tickets may be purchased for the LOW price of one dollar, so bring along some extra cash and bid on your favorite goodies. The lucky winners will be announced in the afternoon. All proceeds will benefit WPMC.

WPMC is Now on Instagram!

By Marissa Kolarosky



WPMC IS EXPANDING our social media presence! Follow the Club's new **Instagram** account @wpamushroomclub and be sure to follow our public **Facebook** page for fungi finds, upcoming events, educational content, member photography, community science, and more.

We'd also love to feature more of you! Have a great fungi photo, interesting find, club memory, content idea, or suggestion for a future member contest or challenge? Send it our way! Email me at social-media@wpamushroomclub.org.

Follow along and help us share all the great things our WPMC community is finding, learning, and doing!

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/wpamc-scholarship-grant-application/>

WPMC Members Attend NEMF 2026

By Dawn Wehman



Some of the WPMC members who attended this year's NEMF Foray (L-R): Jessica Leonard, Michael Brent, Devin Hilty, Dawn Wehman, John Plischke, Daniel Foshee, Julie Travaglini. Photo by Sarah Le Tourneau

QUITE A FEW WPMC members made the trip to Penn State Mont Alto this summer for the 2026 Northeast Mycological Federation (NEMF) Foray, held July 30–August 2. The annual gathering brought mushroom enthusiasts and mycologists together for a weekend of field forays, workshops, lectures, socializing, and plenty of fungi!

The 2026 program offered something for everyone, with guided walks through the forests and wetlands of the Michaux State Forest area, beginner and intermediate mushroom identification workshops, fungal microscopy, chemical identification, resin casting, and presentations covering everything from lichen diversity and ethnomycology to fungal conservation, eDNA, and the latest research in fungal diversity.

Representing WPMC at this year's NEMF Foray were **Dawn Wehman, Michael Brent, Jessica Leonard, Devin Hilty, Daniel Foshee, Julie Travaglini, Karen Beall, Scott Pavelle, Kate Pavelle, John Plischke, Richard Jacob, Julie H. Case, Terry Wight, Ashley Laman, and William Kochanov**. WPMC was especially well represented on the program, with WPMC Mycologist John Plischke leading a Chemical Identification Workshop, Karen Beall serving as a walk leader, and Bill Kochanov presenting a fascinating look at the local geology and ecology of South Mountain.

The NEMF Foray is more than just a weekend of mushroom hunting—it's an opportunity to connect with fellow mushroomers from throughout the Northeast, share knowledge, learn new skills, and celebrate the incredible diversity of fungi. The program's emphasis on cooperative study and education fits perfectly with the spirit of our own club.

Results from Summer Continental MycoBlitz 2026

THE SUMMER CONTINENTAL MycoBlitz took place from July 31 through August 9. More than 7,300 observations of 1,239 species were recorded. Many WPMC members participated, including WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke**, who made 803 observations of 157 species! You can see all of the results at this link:



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



The Voice Behind the Newsletter: Cecily Franklin

By Dawn Wehman

SOME PEOPLE JOIN the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club to learn about mushrooms. Others come for the forays or the food. **Cecily Franklin**? She somehow ended up helping shape the club's voice, preserving its history, organizing one of its biggest fundraisers (the auction during the Lincoff Foray), and making sure many of us had amazing speakers to learn from along the way.

Cecily joined WPMC in 2009 and, two years later, met Gary Lincoff, beginning a friendship that lasted until his passing. Like so many members, she admired Gary's gift for making everyone—from first-time mushroom hunters to seasoned mycologists—feel welcome and excited to learn.

If you've attended a Lincoff Foray over the past decade, chances are you've experienced Cecily's handiwork without even realizing it. Since 2014, she's managed the ever-popular Lincoff Foray Auction, helping raise funds to support the club's educational programs. The following year, she became editor of the WPMC newsletter, a role she's continued ever since, documenting the club's adventures through five issues a year.

Her love of mushrooms extends behind the camera, too. Cecily faithfully enters the club's annual Photo Contest, and her mushroom photography has even been featured on the website of noted mycologist Michael Kuo, mushroomexpert.com.

From 2018 through 2020, Cecily served as WPMC President. 2020 presented a challenge no one could have anticipated: the COVID-19 pandemic. Overnight, club meetings, educational programs, and even the beloved Gary Lincoff Foray moved into the virtual world. Thanks to dedicated volunteers like Cecily, the club continued to connect members and share a love of mushrooms during an unforgettable time.



Left: This photo of jack-o'-lantern mushrooms, taken by Cecily Franklin, filled a whole page in the Fall 2016 issue of FUNGI Magazine.

Right: Cecily found this half-free morel in 2024.

Despite all of these accomplishments, Cecily is quick to point out what she *isn't*. "I'm not a Chef and I'm not an Identifier," she says—though she has enough Research Grade observations on iNaturalist to qualify. She's an administrator for the club's Facebook Group, helping keep members connected year-round. Over the years, Cecily's contributions have been recognized with the President's Award (2015), the Outstanding Service Award (2017), and, most recently, Lifetime/Honorary Membership (2025).

Whether she's editing newsletters, organizing auctions, recruiting speakers, photographing mushrooms, or quietly keeping the club running behind the scenes, Cecily has spent nearly two decades helping the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club grow into the vibrant community it is today.



WPMC Awards ID Buttons



Marylou Lenhart (50)



Theresa Colecchia (150)



Julie Travaglini (650)



Stephen Bucklin (800)



Barbora Batokova (800)

FIVE WPMC MEMBERS recently earned ID Buttons in recognition of their ability to identify mushroom species: **Marylou Lenhart** (50); **Theresa Colecchia** (150); WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** (650); and WPMC Mycologists **Stephen Bucklin** and **Barbora Batokova** (800). Congratulations to all!

Photos by Dawn Wehman

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/>



Out & About with WPMC



At the Ohio Mushroom Festival in late June, WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** led four walks and identified mushrooms.

On July 10, WPMC Mycologist **Jared White** and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travglini** led a mushroom walk at the Chestnut Farm BioBlitz in Washington County.



On July 31, WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** presented a Chemical Identification Workshop at the Northeast Mycological Federation's annual foray at Penn State Mont Alto in Franklin County.

On July 25, WPMC Mycologist **Jared White**, Bolete Specialist **Scott Pavelle**, WPMC Identifier **Jack Baker**, and **Valerie Baker** hosted a WPMC table at Garden in the Park North with Penn State Master Gardeners.



On August 15, WPMC Mycologists **La Monte Yarroll** and **Jim Tunney** hosted a WPMC table at Garden in the Park South, also with Penn State Master Gardeners.

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/wpmc-scholarship-grant-application/>

Membership Report

By Dawn Wehman

AS OF AUGUST 25, we have 544 members from 338 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 Members Take on New Roles

WPMC IS PLEASED to announce that **Marissa Kolarosky** has been named our new Social Media Chair. Marissa is now managing WPMC's Facebook Page and has established an Instagram account for the club (@wpamushroomclub).

In addition, **Marylou Lenhart** has offered to assist WPMC Treasurer **Mike Henry** with the many responsibilities of that position. WPMC members will have the opportunity to vote for Mike and Marylou as Co-Treasurers at the October 20 meeting.



Marissa Kolarosky



Marylou Lenhart

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**.

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



Last Chance to Enter WPMC Photo Contest

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 Sara Klingensmith at 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.

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/photo-galleries/annual-wPMC-photo-contest/>

ENTRY DIVISIONS

Advanced Pictorial:

This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. The objective is a photo suitable for display or illustration in a fine book. Judging criteria include consideration of both technical (focus, depth of field, exposure, lighting, color, absence of distracting elements) and artistic (composition, color, background, lighting) aspects.

Novice Pictorial:

This division is for single photos that illustrate the beauty and variety of fungi in form and color. The objective is a photo that shows the photographer learning to use focus, depth of field, and lighting.

Documentary:

For single photographs especially suited as illustrations in a field guide or monograph, or for use in a lecture. Emphasis is placed on portrayal of key morphological characteristics such that the usefulness of the image as an identification aid is maximized. Subjects may be shot in the field, laboratory or studio and the photographer has complete freedom to process, manipulate, or orient the specimen in any desired manner to achieve the goal. Close-ups of single features and photomicrographs are acceptable. Judging criteria will be the same as in the Pictorial categories but they will be of secondary importance to the overall mycological utility of the photo. Accurate identification of the subject will be a consideration.

Judge's Option:

For photos which do not fit into the Pictorial or Documentary divisions. Examples include fungi in an interesting situation, fungi with animals, people enjoying fungi, and mushroom selfies.

NEW Mushroom Art:

This category is for drawings, paintings, sculptures, textiles, and digital art pieces celebrating mushrooms. Art must be family friendly. AI-generated art is not permitted. To enter this category, submit one photo of the art piece to be considered.



John Plischke photographs Amanitas at Laurel Hill State Park.

Photo by Barbora Batokova

SUBJECT MATERIAL:

Organisms from the Myxomycota (slime molds), the classes Basidiomycetes and Ascomycetes of the Eumycota ("true fungi"), and Lichens are eligible. For Judge's Option, nearly anything goes, so long as the theme relates to fungi, and fungi are a key element of the photograph.

USE AND COPYRIGHT:

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



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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 5:30-7:30 PM

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/>

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 10 AM-1 PM

Hillman State Park (Washington County)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter** for a walk in Hillman State Park. We will meet at the Haul Road Trailhead. The primary purpose of the walk is to collect eDNA for our DNCR Grant.

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. 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. NO WALK INS will be permitted. Sign up here:

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 5:30-8:00 PM

Phipps Conservatory Special Events Hall

WPMC President **Barbora Batokova** will present "10 Mushrooms Everyone Should Know". The program is now filled, and registration is closed.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 10 AM-1 PM

Fall Run Park, Glenshaw, PA 15116

Fall Run Road, off Route 8 (across from Three Rivers Harley Davidson)

Meet WPMC Identifier **Cherie Cornmesser** and WPMC Past President **Cecily Franklin** at the lower parking lot on Fall Run Road for a mushroom walk at Fall Run Park. The trail is flat packed gravel and dirt and gradual uphill. It is 1/2 mile to the waterfall, then there are stairs to get to another half mile of trail above the falls. This is an easy family friendly trail. It's an out and back walk in a steep sided Ravine until you get above the waterfall. Free and open to the public. More information and map here:

<https://myhikes.org/parks/fall-run-park>

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 10 AM-1 PM

Ferncliff Trail Hike (Ohiopyle)

Meet WPMC Mycologist **Barbora Batokova** and WPMC Identifier **Dawn Wehman** for a walk at the Ferncliff Natural Area in Ohiopyle State Park. The primary purpose of the walk is to collect eDNA for our DNCR Grant.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 12-4:00 PM

Riverview Park Day 2026

Riverview Park Activities Building

142 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15214

WPMC Mycologist **Jim Tunney** will host a table and lead a mushroom walk as part of Riverview Park Day 2026, a day of celebration, community, and support for one of Pittsburgh's beloved green spaces, hosted in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh, Friends of Riverview Parks, Northside Leadership Conference, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 10 AM-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 during the Fall Continental MycoBlitz. Free and open to the public; no registration required.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 7:30-9:30 PM

Fluorescent Foray at Cook Forest State Park (Clarion County)

Log Cabin Environmental Learning Center

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 7:30 AM-6 PM

26th Annual Gary Lincoff Foray

The Lodge at North Park

North Ridge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

See pages 2 & 3.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 5-5:45 PM

Nature's Zombies and Vampires Webinar with ALT

Mind control and blood meals. Is this a horror movie or a walk in the woods?! Join WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** to learn about creatures that feed on blood like ticks and lampreys and fungi that can control an insect's mind, turning them into little zombies! Use the link to join the webinar at 5 PM on October 14th. No charge but registration and zoom link here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/webinar-natures-zombies-and-vampires/>

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 3-6 PM

Slightly Spooky Mushroom Walk with ALT

Dead Man's Hollow

Near Boston Ballfield, 1906 Donner Street, McKeesport, PA

Join ALT staff and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for a mushroom hike at Dead Man's Hollow. This slightly spooky hike will include the haunted history of Dead Man's Hollow as we walk 0.9 mile (each way) along the Great Allegheny Passage to enter the ruins of the Hollow to look for fungi. COSTUMES ARE WELCOME – just make sure they are safe and comfortable for hiking. Hike runs rain or shine. We will not be foraging for food on this hike or discussing edibility. NO WALK-INS will be permitted. Tickets are \$5 for ages 3 to adult. Register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.networkforgood.com/events/103643-slightly-spooky-beginner-s-mushroom-walk>

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 10 A.M. TO NOON

Mushroom Forage, Foray and Fun!

10301 Walter Road, Wexford, PA 15090 (North Park)

Join WPMC Mycologist **Cara Coulter**, Phipps Conservatory, and Flannel Roots Farm for this third annual collaborative forage walk at the Flagstaff Hill Pavillion in North Park. \$30 for Phipps Conservatory members; \$40 for nonmembers plus \$15 material fee. For more information and to register:

<https://my.conservatory.org/10841/mushroomforage>

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 12-1 PM

Lunch & Learn: Fungal Folktales virtual Zoom with ALT

Ever wonder about fairy rings and foxfire? Why do some mushrooms have bizarre names like "train wrecker" and "witch's butter"? Join to learn about fun fiction and facts about the fungi found among us! No charge but registration and zoom link here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/lunch-learn-fungal-folktales/>

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 10-11:30 AM

AARP 50+ Walk Series with Allegheny Land Trust

Frightful Fungi at Dead Man's Hollow

Near Boston Ballfield, 1906 Donner Street, McKeesport, PA

Join an ALT Educator on our 50+ Walking Series, sponsored by AARP Pennsylvania. Geared for those ages 50 and up, we will hike ALT's properties over moderate terrain and distances (about 2 miles), taking plenty of breaks to stop and learn about our local flora and fauna. We'll explore the frightful fungi population while learning about the haunted history of Dead Man's Hollow. Experience the beauty of these local spaces and learn how they contribute towards building a more livable community for people of all ages. Events run rain or shine. Please drive through the open gate and down the driveway to park in the larger parking lot on the property. No charge, but register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/50-walking-series-with-aarp-frightful-fungi-at-dmh/>

Other Walks, Forays & Events

SEPTEMBER 3-7

Sequanota Foray (Somerset County)

Mycological Association of Washington DC

<https://mawdc.org/>

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 10 A.M. TO NOON

Mushroom ID Walk with Flannel Roots Farm

Schenley Park Visitors' Center

<https://my.conservatory.org/10823>

SEPTEMBER 11-13

New Moon Mycological Summit

Middle Grove, NY

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2-3:30 P.M.

Growing a Mushroom Garden Bed

Phipps Garden Center in Mellon Park

<https://my.conservatory.org/10609>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 10 AM TO NOON

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania

Todd Nature Reserve (Butler County)

<https://aswp.app.neoncrm.com/nx/portal/neonevents/events?path=%2Fportal%2Fevents%2F41867>

OCTOBER 2 – 11

Fall Continental MycoBlitz

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

NEVER
Eat an unidentified mushroom!



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/>



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.

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
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Basket for collecting
- ☐ Knife for cutting mushrooms
- ☐ Wax or paper bags (no plastic) to keep mushrooms separated
- ☐ Compass & Whistle
- ☐ Hand lens
- ☐ Cell phone & camera
- ☐ Notebook & pencil
- ☐ Field guide for identification
- ☐ Band-aids
- ☐ Garden hand-clippers

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
SOCIAL MEDIA 412-526-8409	Marissa Kolarosky social-media@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



WPMC Mycologists, Identifiers, and Specialists

CLUB MYCOLOGISTS

Barbora Batokova 412-609-0723
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 III 724-331-1974
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 Yarroll 412-854-5684
piggy@wpamushroomclub.org

IDENTIFIERS

Beth Ace 814-673-3105
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 Andrews 412-576-0555
charmello@wpamushroomclub.org

Cherie Cornmesser 724-413-3092
ccornmesser@wpamushroomclub.org

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

Carson Gross 605-695-0605
cagross@wpamushroomclub.org

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

Ron Hilton 814-657-7418
rhilton@wpamushroomclub.org

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

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

Judy Mackenroth 724-352-4025
jmackenroth@wpamushroomclub.org

Katie Manion 412-952-8960
kmanion@wpamushroomclub.org

Josh Mowris 814-720-8804
jmowris@wpamushroomclub.org

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

Jennifer Uhlman 724-494-1027
juhlman@wpamushroomclub.org

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

BOLETE SPECIALIST

Scott Pavelle 412-325-2535
spavelle@wpamushroomclub.org

LICHEN SPECIALIST

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



\$15

For Sale

Fungi Chemical Reagent Kit

Contains:

- Ammonia (NH3)
- Ferrous sulfate (FeSO4)
- Potassium hydroxide (KOH)

Available at most events and meetings.



Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club
Fungi, fun and friends!





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 _____