



### President's Message

**STEPHEN BUCKLIN**

#### *And we're off!*

After six weeks of getting increasingly more sunlight than darkness in our days, the soil has warmed significantly,

and the woods around us are "waking up." For most people with an inclination towards fungi, the seasonal changes we're experiencing mean only one thing is on the mind—morels! While the changes we associate with the emergence of morels—the unfurling of mayapples, the blooming of trilliums, the addition of songs from black-throated green warblers to the forest soundscape—are captivating in and of themselves, few things captivate mycophagists the way morel mushrooms do.

When I joined the club in 2017, I was a novice forager interested in learning more about edible fungi I could find in the woods of Western Pennsylvania. I had tried a generous friend's sauteed morels and was hoping to learn more about how to find them on my own, but I had no idea the treasures I would find beyond these edible morsels. In 2018 I attended my first club-sponsored walk, where I met the late Dick Duggall, Richard Jacob, and many other friendly fungi enthusiasts in the parking lot outside of the Frick Environmental Center on a rainy morning in May.

Those few hours wandering the woods in search of mushrooms alongside experts from the club changed my life. While it's no secret that the forests of Western Pennsylvania are treasure troves for the mind, body, and spirit, I was just beginning to learn what an incredible resource WPMC is for people who are interested in this stuff. Every person who attended that walk talked to me as if they had known me for years. I was struck by the generosity of everyone on the walk, and the excitement shared by every new find was electrifying. I went home that day having received so much and knowing that I had found my people--and we didn't even find morels!

While COVID-19 has undoubtedly changed our lives in countless ways, our club members are doing their best to carry on doing what we do best—sharing the joys of fungi, fun, and friends! Throughout the coming months, there will be several in-person walks led by Mycologists and Identifiers from the club. Perhaps attendees will walk away with a basket full of morels, chicken of the woods, or other edible fungi, but more importantly, I hope everyone who can make it to our events leaves with a greater appreciation and understanding of the beauty of Pennsylvania's woodlands, and of the value of giving more than we take.

### 2021 Meeting Schedule

**May 18 Tosca Terán and Andrei Gravelle**

#### *Fungi Frequencies*

From the *Midnight Mushroom Music* archives to the *Mycorrhizal Rhythm Machine* to fungi-controlled VR experiences, **Tosca Terán** and **Andrei Gravelle** (the visionaries of Nanotopia) construct soundscapes and installations involving biodata-sonification of fungi. The duo will present their past and upcoming projects and how they came to work intimately with fungi. They will also give a behind-the-scenes look at their collaborative composition process that involves channeling the electrical energies of cultivated fungi through synthesizers.

**June 15 Dr. Kristen Wickert**

#### *Fungi as Plant Pathogens*

Plant pathology is like a giant puzzle with many different pieces that tell a story about our ecosystem's health. Fungi are commonly an important piece in that puzzle. **Dr. Kristen Wickert** is a forest plant pathologist who specializes in the fungi of our Eastern forests. She will highlight some of the obvious and not so obvious fungal players that are influencing our forest composition. Dr. Wickert has a bachelor's degree in Forest Biology from Penn State University, as well as master's and doctoral degrees in Forest Plant Pathology from West Virginia University.

**Tosca Terán**



**Dr. Kristen Wickert**

MEETING SCHEDULE CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# DYE DAY!

By Judy Mackenroth

AFTER A YEAR'S HIATUS due to COVID, we are pleased to announce that **Mushroom Education Day** is back on the schedule for 2021: Saturday, August 21, at the Harmar Shelter in North Park, South Ridge Drive, Allison Park, PA, near the swimming pool. There will be a free mushroom walk at 10:00 a.m. (location to be announced, hopefully starting at the shelter if there is no conflicting event that morning in the park). At noon, we'll be identifying our finds and seeing if anything there is suitable for the dye pot.

No prior mushroom or dyeing experience is required. We'll be demonstrating a variety of dye techniques. You'll learn about fiber preparation for dyeing, the actual dye process, how pH affects colors, what mordants are and how to use them to fix/change the dye color and, of course, what dye mushrooms are available locally.

If you happen to be out and about this year and find any of the following dye mushrooms, I'd sure appreciate your drying and saving them for use at Dye Day:

## GILLED MUSHROOMS

- Any *Cortinarius* with yellow, orange or red gills.
- Lobster mushrooms, *Hypomyces lactifluorum* that are not suitable for cooking for orange/pink. (Even if they're old, they still dye great.)
- Sulfur Tuft, *Hypholoma fasciculare* for yellows.

## CRUST FUNGI

- Carbon Balls, *Daldinia concentrica* for browns.

## POLYPORES

- *Hapalopilus nidulans* is an easily overlooked orangish-tan small bracket but hidden inside is purple dye! Be careful with this one, though; it's the only known toxic polypore, definitely not for eating!



*Dyer's Polypore, Phaeolus schweinitzii.*

Photo by Hank Filbert Scotch



*Sulfur Tuft, Hypholoma fasciculare.*

Photo by Cara Coulter

- Dyer's Polypore, *Phaeolus schweinitzii* loves pine, and I love the strong yellows, oranges & browns.
- Shaggy Bracket, *Inonotus hispidus* prefers hardwoods and makes similar yellow/orange/brown colors.

## PUFFBALL

- I've not yet found this denizen of poor, sandy soil, but the Dyemaker's Puffball, *Pisolithus arenarius* that looks like it has hard 'peas' surrounded by black tar inside, is loaded with intense brown dye.

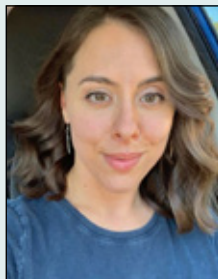
## TOOTHED MUSHROOMS

- *Hydnellum* species for blues and greens, best color in mature caps.
- *Phellodon* species for grayed blues and greens.
- *Sarcodon* species for very elusive blues and greens. Very old, even mushy, specimens give the best color. Just seal in a Ziploc bag and set aside until it's time to dye.



Bring a lunch and some \$ to buy books. Registration is required for the afternoon session, which will run from 1:00-4:00 p.m., where we'll actually be dyeing a variety of fibers with mushrooms. Space is limited. The cost for the afternoon session is only \$10. To register, go to:

<https://wpamushroomclub.org/events/mushroom-education-day-dye-day2021/>



## WPMC Presents ID Buttons

TWO WPMC MEMBERS have earned ID Buttons for their ability to identify mushroom species. **Jonathan Stiffy** earned a 25 pin, and **Victoria Khersonsky** earned a 50 Button. 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/>







## “The Truffle Hunters” Will Come to Pittsburgh

THE TULL FAMILY THEATER in Sewickley will be showing the new documentary, “The Truffle Hunters”, during May. The movie follows a small group of older men and their truffle dogs, as they hunt for the rare and expensive white Alba truffle in the forests of Piedmont, Italy. To watch the official trailer for “The Truffle Hunters,” go to:

<https://www.sonyclassics.com/film/thetrufflehunters/>

## WPMC Member Barbara DeRiso Introduces Film on May 7

WPMC Honorary Lifetime Member **Barbara DeRiso** will introduce “The Truffle Hunters” on Friday, May 7. Barb and her husband, **Don Newman**, have been participating in the Italian MycoTours run by WhatsCookin.it for many years. They’ve been on truffle hunts in the Umbria, Le Marche, Piedmont and Emilia Romagna regions of Italy and have visited the International White Truffle Fair in Alba, Italy. When Covid travel restrictions are lifted, Barb and Don look forward to their 28th trip to Italy!



WPMC will host a Sales Table on May 7, with lots of mushroom books for sale. To purchase tickets for any showing of “The Truffle Hunters,” go to:

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



## New Mushroom Book for Kids Ages 8-12

***Fungarium: Welcome to the Museum*** is written by Ester Gata and illustrated by Katie Scott. Exploring every sort of fungi, from the kinds we see on supermarket shelves to those like penicillium that have shaped human history, this collection is the definitive introduction to what fungi are and just how vital they are to the world’s ecosystem.

Product details

- Publisher: Big Picture Press; Illustrated edition (April 6, 2021)
- Hardcover: 80 pages
- ISBN-13: 978-1536217094
- Reading age: 8 - 12 years
- Grade level: 3 - 7
- Item Weight: 2.34 pounds
- Dimensions: 11.06 x 0.57 x 14.88 inches

**All meetings & events may be postponed or canceled due to Covid-19. Please check website for updates. [www.wpamushroomclub.org](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org)**



## Online Registration for Lincoff Foray to Open Soon

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR the 21st annual Gary Lincoff Foray will be available as soon as WPMC's new website is up and running. In the meantime, you can see all of the information on the registration form included with this newsletter.

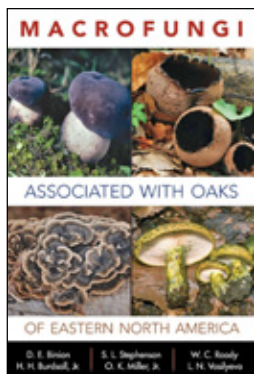
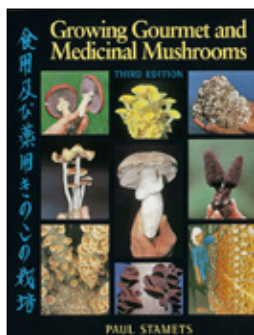
**Friday, September 17** – Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest State Park, with **Park Ranger Dale Luthringer**. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

**Saturday, September 18** – 21st Annual Gary Lincoff Foray at Rose Barn in Allegheny County's North Park. Guest speakers will be **Michael Kuo** and **Leon Shernoff**. Activities will include:

- Guided morning walks
- Mushroom display tables
- Book-Signing / Meet & Greet
- Auction, Sales Tables & Vendors
- Cooking Demonstration
- Mushroom Feast
- Table Walk

**Sunday, September 19** – Science Sunday at Rose Barn in North Park. This will be a workshop for those who would like to identify mushrooms found on Friday and Saturday.

We will once again use SignUp Genius for volunteers to help with the Foray, so start thinking about how you can contribute to this year's success!



## More Books Donated to WPMC for Auction/Raffle

WPMC has received generous donations of mushroom books for this year's Lincoff Foray on September 18. *Macrofungi Associated with Oaks of Eastern North America* was donated by the Fern Hollow Nature Center. *Growing Gourmet and Medicinal Mushrooms* by Paul Stamets was donated by **Rick Kerrigan**.

If you have mushroom-related items that you would like to donate to this year's Auction/Raffle, send an email to Past President **Cecily Franklin** at [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com) with a photo and description.

**NO BOOKS OR MAGAZINES, PLEASE.**

## This Year's Lincoff Foray Guest Speakers

Michael Kuo ([mushroomexpert.com](http://mushroomexpert.com)) and Leon Shernoff (*Mushroom the Journal*) will give presentations on Saturday, September 18, and will be available for a "Meet & Greet" session. In addition, both Michael and Leon will be with us for Science Sunday on September 19. Bring your copies of Michael Kuo's books and "Mushroom the Journal" to be autographed by our speakers or buy copies at the Foray on September 18.

### Michael Kuo

**Michael Kuo**, the developer of *MushroomExpert.Com*, is an English teacher and amateur mycologist, based in Illinois.

Kuo started collecting mushrooms in 1994 and began his website in 2000. Since then, the site has progressed from a dozen or so pages to well over a thousand. While it used to take Kuo about half an hour to make a mushroom webpage, he now spends five to ten hours, including collecting, documenting, and preserving the specimens, microscopic study, research and identification, and finally creating the corresponding webpage.

Kuo has written or co-authored many books and other publications about mushrooms, including *Morels; 100 Edible Mushrooms; 100 Cool Mushrooms; and Mushrooms of the Midwest*.

### Leon Shernoff

**Leon Shernoff** is currently in his 18th year as editor of the internationally distributed magazine *Mushroom*, the *Journal of Wild Mushrooming*.

In addition to *Mushroom the Journal*, his columns on wild mushrooms have appeared in *The Wild Foods Network; Backwoods Home Magazine; and Mycophile*, the newsletter of the North American Mycological Association. A former president of the Illinois Mycological Association, Leon has given mushroom talks and identified mushrooms for forays in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Oregon and Washington. Fungi that he has collected are now part of the permanent collection of the Field Museum in Chicago and the New York Botanical Gardens.

Leon was the guest speaker for WPMC's September 2020 meeting on "Fall Mushrooms." To watch the video, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fABhZCTixOs&t=26s>



## I Got Shot (in a Good Way)

By Cecily Franklin

I'M PLEASED TO REPORT that I received two shots of the Moderna vaccine in Monroeville. WPMC member **Richard Franklin** received the Pfizer vaccine in Castle Shannon. I'm also pleased to report that neither of us experienced any side effects, other than a slightly sore arm.



According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are many good things that we can look forward to following vaccination. In March, the CDC said that fully vaccinated people can visit other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask or even visit one household of unvaccinated people who are not at risk for severe illness. And in April, the CDC lifted most domestic travel restrictions for fully vaccinated people. "Fully vaccinated" means two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine.

Some companies are even offering incentives to get vaccinated. Krispy Kreme is offering a free Original Glazed doughnut to anyone who shows their Vaccination Record Card, no purchase required. The offer is available at Krispy Kreme locations nationwide and goes until the end of 2021.

If you need help in scheduling a vaccination or finding transportation, send an email to [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com) and we'll try to find a WPMC member who can help.

## Choose WPMC as your Charity on AmazonSmile

WPMC RECENTLY REGISTERED with AmazonSmile, so that Amazon purchases can benefit WPMC. Whenever you shop at Amazon, just designate the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club as your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to WPMC. "Same products, same prices, same service." It's easy to get started with this link:

[https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi\\_chpf\\_redirect?ein=25-1858797&ie=UTF8&ref\\_=smi\\_ext\\_ch\\_25-1858797\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage/ref=smi_chpf_redirect?ein=25-1858797&ie=UTF8&ref_=smi_ext_ch_25-1858797_cl)

## Donations to WPMC May be Deductible Under CARES Act

LOOKING FOR A WAY to support WPMC's projects? Make a donation anytime. It may be tax-deductible, even if you take the standard deduction, because the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allows individuals to deduct contributions made to qualified charitable organizations.

The CARES Act allows a deduction for charitable gifts made in cash of up to \$300 by individuals. New in 2021 is an additional deduction for those married filing jointly. Joint filers who aren't itemizing will be allowed to take a deduction of up to \$600 in cash contributions to charity this year.

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, **Jared Delaney**.

## WPMC Membership Report

By Kris Murawski

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who has joined WPMC in 2021. I hope all of our new and renewing members will join us at our Virtual Meetings on Zoom until we can meet again safely in person.

This year is our largest membership year ever, and our membership keeps growing. As of April 15, we've added 114 new members from 69 households since the beginning of the year. I'm excited to report that we have 1,024 members, representing 573 households.

### Benefits of WPMC membership include:

- Bi-Monthly WPMC Newsletter
- Monthly Meeting Notices
- Updates on Mushroom Walks & WPMC Events
- Free 'Grow-Your-Own' Mushroom Kit
- Mushroom Identification at Meetings
- Mushroom Walks
- Mushroom Education Day
- Annual Photo Contest
- WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray Discount
- Access to WPMC Facebook Group

To join or renew, download the membership application or pay online here: <https://wpamushroomclub.org/about/join/>

*NOTE: All 2020 members were automatically given free renewal for 2021. If you wish to continue receiving the hardcopy of the newsletter for 2021, you need to select that option and pay the \$5 fee. If any current members choose to voluntarily submit dues for 2021, we will gladly use those contributions to support WPMC's programs and events.*





## Out & About (Virtually) with WPMC

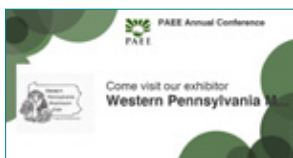


So far in 2021, three WPMC members have given virtual presentations to the Mycological Association of Washington (MAW).

On **January 24**, WPMC Identifier **Judy Mackenroth** presented “Crusts & Polypores.” Watch Judy’s 30-minute talk: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_zCL1Nkb34U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zCL1Nkb34U)

Also on **January 24**, WPMC Mycologist **John Plischke** gave a presentation on “Mushrooming in the age of COVID-19,” which can be seen here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVlw7jrE\\_k4&t=17s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVlw7jrE_k4&t=17s)

On **February 2**, WPMC Identifier **Fluff Berger** gave a talk on Summer FUNgi, which can be viewed at this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_73WdedTy6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_73WdedTy6w)



On **March 22-23**, WPMC hosted a virtual exhibit at the Annual Conference of Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE). WPMC’s booth had 40 visitors.

## Out & About (In Person) with WPMC



Display table at Hillman State Park. Photo by Cara Coulter

On **Saturday, March 20**, WPMC Identifier **Cara Coulter** led a Pop-Up mushroom walk at Hillman State Park in Burgettstown.

## April Becomes “Earth Month” at Pittsburgh Parks



Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy scheduled a variety of virtual and in-person events throughout the month of April:

- April 16: Mushroom Walk at Highland Park, led by WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin**.
- April 25: Mushroom walk at Riverview Park, led by WPMC Mycologist **Jim Tunney**.
- April 28: “More than Morels: Spring Mushrooms in Pittsburgh’s Parks” Webinar with WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin**.
- April 30: “Virtual Hike with a Naturalist - City Nature Challenge” with WPMC President **Stephen Bucklin**.

## Some Fabulous Photos from the 2020 Photo Contest...



Blaise Sava, *Strobilomyces* species



Brian & Lynn Gill, *Sarcoscypha* species



Cheree Charmello Andrews, *Ascocoryne sarcoides*

## WPMC Announces New Photography Chair

AFTER TWO SUCCESSFUL years as WPMC's Photography Chair, WPMC Identifier **Josh Doty** is stepping down and will be replaced by WPMC member **Sara Klingensmith**, an Environmental Educator and Naturalist with Carnegie Museum of Natural History's Powdermill Nature Reserve.

Due to the increasing demands on his time from his normal job and also weekend support for his wife's company (Pittsburgh Pot Pie), Josh didn't feel that he was able to provide the attention that the WPMC Photo Contest deserved. He is definitely happy to continue to help where it is needed when time allows.



### ***It's not too soon to start collecting photos.***

- Deadline for Submissions: September 30, 2021
- Maximum of 5 Entries per WPMC member
- Submit high resolution JPEG files minimum 1 MB
- Rename images before submitting, using name and subject, e.g., "Joe Smith morel.jpg"
- Email entries to Sara Klingensmith at: pamushroomclubphotos@gmail.com

You must be a member of the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club in good standing to enter. Club dues must be up to date.

**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.

### **Entry Divisions**

**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.

**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 category 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.

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

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

**Cecily Franklin, Editor**

**Martha Wasik Graphic Arts Inc.**

Send submissions to: [cs4wpmc@gmail.com](mailto:cs4wpmc@gmail.com)

## WPMC Scholarships & Grants

WPMC ADMINISTERS AN annual Scholarship/Grant program to promote wild mushrooming by providing monetary support for educational events, projects, research, or mycological studies by individuals or institutions. 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/wpamushroomclub-scholarship-grant-application/>

***IMPORTANT: All meetings and other events in this newsletter are subject to postponement or cancellation, due to COVID-19. Please check the website often for updates.***





# Returning to a (Small) Can of Worms: Update on Eyelash Cup Species

By Richard Jacob

BACK IN 2016, I wrote an article on eyelash cup species found in Western Pennsylvania. Most guidebooks mention one or two species of eyelash cups, *Scutellinia scutellata* and *S. setosa*. A few books indicated more species than that. I was then directed towards a publication by Trond Schumacher, published in 1990, that covered about 45—a lot more species! At the end of my last article, I had determined that there were at least three species in the western PA region: *S. scutellata*, *S. pennsylvanica* and *S. subhirtella*, with the added possibility of *S. setosa* and *S. erinaceus*.

Since that time, the UK expert on *Scutellinia*, Malcolm Greaves, has started encouraging iNaturalist users to mark their *Scutellinia* observations as *Scutellinia* genus and not to species level, unless they check the spores and other characteristics to confirm the identification. To aid identifications, Greaves has published a synoptic key which uses a scoring system, based on the features you observe or measure, to help identify the specimen. Many of the characteristics are microscopic. Spore measurements are fairly easy and therefore difficult to misinterpret. Others are less strictly defined. I have been using this key over the last year or so to try and identify every eyelash cup specimen that I find.

Eyelash cups are a small species of macro fungi that look very similar to the naked eye. The only species I can identify reliably without the use of a microscope is *S. setosa*. Is it important to know how many eyelash cup species are found in our local environment? Yes and no. At a basic level, you might be interested in being able to identify an eyelash cup, even if it is only to genus level. They are pretty, after all. On a wider scale, you may realize that this biodiversity gives an indication of the health and resilience of the local ecosystems. There is a danger that we can lose ecosystems without even knowing what was there and what we have lost. In order to document this diversity, and as I like a challenge, I have been collecting and identifying the eyelash cups. I was originally searching for *S. pennsylvanica*, but when I started identifying a different species almost every time I looked, I realized local diversity was quite high.

## How to identify a specimen and collect spores

*Scutellinia* are members of the *Pezizales* order of cup mushrooms and are ascomycetes. This means that the spores are contained in sacks or asci. In *Scutellinia*'s case there are 8 spores per ascus. For identification, you will need to use a microscope with 1000x magnification in order to clearly see the decoration on the spores. Normally you can do a squash

mount for ascomycetes and see the spores and most other important features. For *Scutellinia*, we need to observe the mature spores too, so collect ejected spores separately over a few days.

The way I do this is to place a microscope slide over the specimen and a damp kitchen towel underneath and wrap it up in plastic wrap (see photo below). After a few days, mature spores will have been ejected by the fruiting body and captured on the slide. Unwrap the specimen, add a drop of Lactophenol blue to stain the spores, put on a cover slip, and they are ready to analyze. The spores need to be measured at 1000x using a 100x oil immersion lens with standard 10x eyepiece. I take about three images of each spore or group of spores at different focal points—top, upper middle, and middle—and then stack them together to get a clear picture of the spore ornamentation. For my microscope, using more images in the stack resulted in a poorer quality image (see photo page 9).



For the squash mount analysis, take a section of the fruiting body that includes a number of the margin hairs, add a drop of water, and squash it with a cover slide. You then need to measure the length, width, wall thickness and general shape of the hairs. I use the 4x, 10x, and 40x objectives for these measurements and take pictures for posting on iNaturalist.

## Current list of species in Western PA

So far I have identified 9 different species of *Scutellinia*. This table covers some information about margin hair length and forking at the base of the hair, as well as spore ornamentation. It does not include ranges for spore measurements that you will need to make a clear identification.



## Current list of species in Western PA

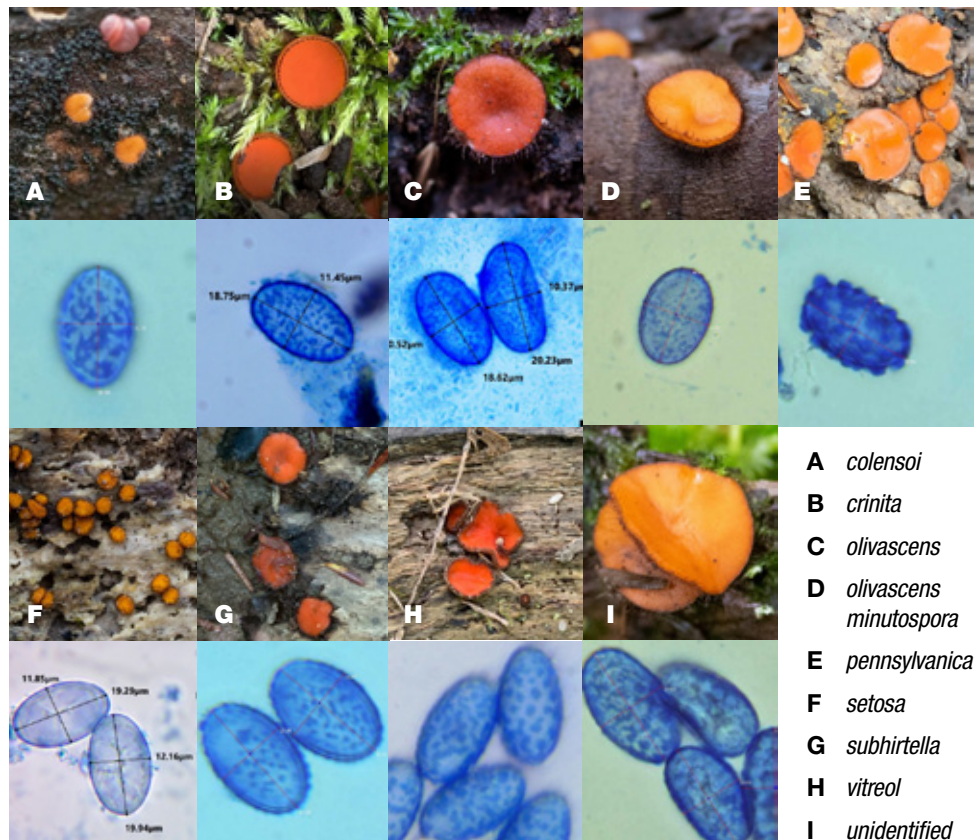
SPECIES	HAIR LENGTH*	MARGIN HAIR ROOT	SPORE ORNAMENTATION DESCRIPTION
<i>Scutellinia colensoi</i>	Long	Complex root	Various sized warts with interconnections
<i>Scutellinia crinita</i>	Short	Abrupt or tapering to a single end	Small to medium often amoebic warts with some interconnections or Medium to large isolated warts
<i>Scutellinia olivascens</i>	Short	Two or three forks or complex root	Small to medium often amoebic warts with some interconnections
<i>Scutellinia olivascens minutospora</i>	Short	Two or three forks or complex root	Small to medium often amoebic warts with some interconnections
<i>Scutellinia pennsylvanica</i>	Long	Two or three forks or complex root	Large warts most with interconnections
<i>Scutellinia setosa</i>	Short	Complex root	No ornamentation visible
<i>Scutellinia subhirtella</i>	Short	Abrupt or tapering to a single end or single fork or two or three forks	Medium to large isolated warts
<i>Scutellinia vitreola</i>	Medium	Simple root or single fork or two or three forks	Medium to large isolated warts with some interconnections
<i>Scutellinia sp.1</i>	Medium	Abrupt or tapering to a single end	Medium to large isolated warts with some interconnections

\*Short hairs are under 800 µm, medium 800-1200 µm and long over 1200 µm.

As I mentioned earlier, *S. setosa* can be identified by eye, as it is quite distinctive in the size of the fruiting bodies, color and hair length. *S. pennsylvanica* is easy to identify under a microscope because of the large warts on the spores. *S. olivascens* and *S. olivascens minutospora* only differ in spore size. *S. vitreola* is interesting, as it leaves a visible spore print. A specimen found at Cook Forest State Park, *Scutellinia sp.1*, did not match any of the existing species and is likely to be a new species.

### Future directions

I have some plans for the next few years. First is to improve the macro photography of the fruiting bodies. Next, I want to sample the DNA of the different species and, where possible, confirm both the species we have identified and determine if the new species is really new and hopefully publish it. I am sure there are more *Scutellinia* species to be found in our area, both known and unknown to science.



Link to 2016 article: [https://wpamushroomclub.org/WP\\_Newsletters/WPMC\\_JULY\\_AUG\\_16.pdf](https://wpamushroomclub.org/WP_Newsletters/WPMC_JULY_AUG_16.pdf)

Link to synoptic key: <http://www.myfg.org.uk/tombiovis/tombiovis-1.8.2/scutellinia.html>



Day and time for walks vary. Please read carefully for any registration requirements or fees. Check the website at [www.wpamushroomclub.org/](http://www.wpamushroomclub.org/) events for updates, directions, and much more!



## WPMC Walks

### SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1:00-3:00 P.M. – SOLD OUT!

Barking Slopes Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust  
37 Barking Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

Join ALT and WPMC for a mushroom hunt and identification session. Masks will be required, and social distancing will be encouraged. The use of the iNaturalist app for this walk is highly encouraged. Please note: We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. To reserve your place, register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/mushroom-hunt-with-the-western-pa-mushroom-club-2/>

### SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Phipps BioBlitz at Schenley Park

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 6-8:00 P.M. – SOLD OUT!

Girty's Woods with Allegheny Land Trust  
Irwin Lane, Millvale, PA 15212

Join ALT and WPMC for a mushroom walk and ID session. Meet at the silver gate at the end of Irwin Lane. Park along Irwin Lane but be cautious not to block any driveways. Masks are required and, due to COVID-19, group size is limited. NO WALK-INS will be permitted. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. To purchase tickets:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/mushroom-hunt-with-the-western-pa-mushroom-club-3/>

### JUNE 19 AT 10:00 A.M.

Deer Lakes Park

Meet WPMC identifier **Richard Jacob** for our annual Dorothy Fornof Walk at Deer Lakes Park. Turn on Mahaffey Road, which goes into the park. Take the first right into the parking lot between the first two small lakes. This is the meeting location.

### FRIDAY, JULY 16, 10:00 A.M. TO NOON

Bethel Green Conservation Area with Allegheny Land Trust  
Route 88 & Valley Drive, Bethel Park, PA 15102  
Parking lot across the street from OPEX Bethel Park

Join ALT Senior Director of Education & Curriculum and WPMC Identifier **Julie Travaglini** for an introductory walk and ID session. Learn how and where to look for mushrooms, general family and order identification tips, and the common names of the mushrooms we encounter. Masks must be worn at this program and, due to COVID restrictions, NO WALK-INS will be permitted. Please note: We will not be foraging for food on this hike. Free for WPMC members; \$5 for non-members. To reserve your place, register here:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/beginners-mushroom-walk-with-wpmc/>

### JULY 31 - 9:00 TO 12:00 P.M.

Sycamore Island with Allegheny Land Trust  
101 Arch Street, Verona

Join ALT staff and WPMC identifiers for a mushroom hunting trip to Sycamore Island. The boat (provided by Allegheny Cleanways) will begin transferring participants from Steel City Rowing Club to the island at 9:00 am and will bring everyone back by 11:30 am for the identification table. Masks must be worn at this program and, due to COVID restrictions, NO WALK-INS will be permitted. We will not be foraging for food on this hike. The fee for the boat is \$25 per person, and there are no member discounts. To purchase tickets:

<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/event/sycamore-island-mushroom-hunt-with-wpmc/>

### AUGUST 21

Dye Day Walk at North Park, See page 2 for more information.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 / 5-7:00 P.M.

Wingfield Pines (Upper St. Clair) with ALT  
<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/events/>

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 10:00 A.M.

Pre-Foray Walk at Cook Forest, Clarion County

Meet WPMC Identifiers and Park Ranger Dale Luthringer at Shelter 2. There is no charge for this walk, but you will be responsible for your own transportation and lunch.

### OCTOBER 2 AT 10:00 A.M.

Audubon Greenway (Sewickley) with ALT  
<https://alleghenylandtrust.org/events/>

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT 10:00 A.M.

Black Friday Walk at Hartwood Acres. Meet WPMC Identifier **Richard Jacob** at the Mansion parking lot for our annual Black Friday mushroom walk.

## Other Walks, Forays & Events

### JUNE 18 – JULY 4

International Mountain Trekking Eco/Mushroom Tour of the Himalayas: <https://vimeo.com/463936289>

### AUGUST 12-15

North American Mycological Association (NAMA) Annual Foray  
Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby CO: [www.namyco.com](http://www.namyco.com)

### SEPTEMBER 18

21st Annual WPMC Gary Lincoff Foray at North Park  
See page 4 for more information. Registration form included.

### SEPTEMBER 19

Science Sunday with WPMC, The Rose Barn at North Park  
See page 4 for more information. Registration form included.

**NEVER EAT AN UNIDENTIFIED MUSHROOM!**



## Important Walk & Foray Information

- Try to dig up three of the same species at different stages of development.
- Don't pick old mushrooms; leave them to drop spores.
- You are responsible for not getting lost. If you have a tendency to wander off, stick like glue to the others. We won't wait for you, and we won't come to look for you.
- Don't take the identification of the person standing next to you; they might not know as much as you do. Only Club Mycologists and Identifiers should be used for advice.
- The Walk Leader will tell you when to be back at the walk starting place, where the mushrooms will be put on paper plates and the Walk Identifier or Club Mycologist will put names on only the mushrooms they know well.
- Take notes and pictures to help you remember the mushrooms. You should go home and check books yourself.
- Whether you decide to eat a mushroom is ultimately your responsibility alone.
- **Help Keep Our Parks Clean!** When mushrooming, it's easy to bring a plastic grocery bag to collect cans, bottles or other trash you find. Trash cans are generally found nearby. If not, take it home for disposal.

## 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
- Whistle
- Compass
- Hand lens
- Cell phone & camera
- Notebook & pencil
- Field guide for identification
- Band-aids
- Garden hand-clippers

**NOTE: The Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club does not endorse or support the commercial harvesting of wild mushrooms from any state, county or city park. WPMC does promote the gathering of mushrooms—where permitted—for recreational, educational and scientific purposes.**

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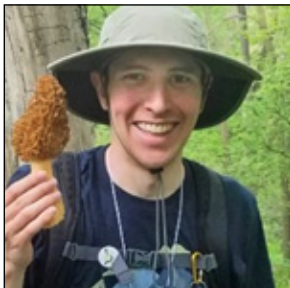
## BOLETE SPECIALIST

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## 2021 Meeting Programs

WPMC MEETINGS ARE held on the third Tuesday evening from March through November. Monthly meetings will be virtual until further notice. Gatherings will be limited to mushroom walks with Allegheny Land Trust and WPMC member walks, which are outdoors with masks and social distancing. Check the website for exact dates, times and locations.



**July 20**

**Thomas Roehl**

### *Flammulina velutipes* research

WPMC SCHOLARSHIP GRANT recipient **Thomas Roehl** will present his research on “Examining the genetics of mushroom

development in the cultivated edible mushroom *Flammulina velutipes*.” Thomas is pursuing a master’s degree in Biology at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, where he is advised by Todd Osmundson and Tom Volk.



**AUGUST 17**

**Rebecca Miller & Friends**

### *Annual Cultivation Meeting*



**SEPTEMBER 21**

**John Michelotti**

### *How to Quit Your Job and Devote your Life to Mushrooms*

JOHN MICHELOTTI, Founder of Catskill Fungi, will share this presentation, which he gave at the Telluride Mushroom Festival.

It is a journey of stories that is a tribute to Gary Lincoff and highlights how John and other mushroom folks have made their way through life by devoting their lives to fungi.

**OCTOBER 19**

### *Photo Contest Winners & Election of Officers*

**NOVEMBER 16**

### *Potluck Dinner & Member Photos*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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