

Board Meeting Agenda Thursday, 31 May 2018

MAW Board Minutes 5/31/2018 started at 6:37pm

In attendance: William Needham, Elizabeth Hargrave, Tom McCoy, Thomas Roehl, John Harper, Jared Urchek (on phone), Bruce Boyer, Agnes Demianski, Connie Durnan, Michael Dong (on phone), Mitch Fournet

I. Minutes William reviewed 29 March 2018 minutes

II. Reports of Officers

- a. Vice- Harper: Mushroom fair is Aug 26th.
 - Agnes will not be able to go, Mitch is unsure.
 - Connie- we should call a special board meeting to plan for this.
 - John- we have open doors at 9am, goes to 5pm. An hour to clean up.
 - Tom- we always have last minute debates on if we can cook or not.
 - John- we can cook, but should we go to the trouble of going to Phillips?
 - Connie- if we do cooking demonstrations at a fair, it should be wild. Showing Phillips products to show growing medium, etc, but we should cook wild mushrooms.
 - John- what is different about cooking wild mushrooms? What about preservation?
 - Connie- It would take the stress off of going to Phillips.
 - Bruce- but we don't usually have wild mushrooms in August.
 - John- we could have chanterelles, could freeze them.
 - William- have we usually gone to Phillips for the fair? This is the first time we are doing the fair as an independent activity.
 - Connie- we could figure it out closer to the event – see if anyone has time to go to Phillips.
 - William- advertising is hard, but we need to think about displays.
 - Connie- Jared, could you do some displays?
 - Jared – yeah, I could have some bags.
 - Connie- that makes it more representative of our club.
 - John- we could show some petri dishes.
 - William- display of mycoflora project.
 - John- what would you show?
 - William- I would approach Martin with this idea. He gave a talk at some point.
 - Thomas- if there was something interesting, we could collect samples there.
 - Bruce- we could bring in the herbarium.
 - Elizabeth- the collection process was fun to watch.
 - John- I'll think about an agenda, for advertising it is good to say what will be there. but for the fair, the most enticing thing is the mushroom displays. I'll try to line some people up.
 - William- Jon won't be able to give the round table talk. We usually have two to three events.
 - Bruce- I should be able to lead a foray this time.
- b. 2nd Vice- Fournet: will be gone for next meeting and is traveling every other week for a few months.
 - Bruce- we need to have a mycoflora committee meeting tonight, since Mitch will be out on Tuesday. (see below)
- c. Treasurer- Hargrave (brought a handout): We are on track with membership income. We are at 50%. The first tasting brought in a little less than half of what was budgeted for the yr. Expenses are about what we planned for, next one may have more slots. We are under budget on meetings

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because had several member-led meetings. Mycoflora has spent nothing! Wild apricot offered us to switch payment systems and not use PayPal anymore. A lot of the tasting payments went through that. Hopefully that will scare fewer people off. Trickier accounting-wise. Affinipay; their rate structure is identical to PayPal.

- John- do they have a discount for non-profits?
- Tom- why do we keep so much money in our PayPal acct.
 - Elizabeth- mostly because it takes effort to transfer.
- John- need to separate payment/membership versus donation.
 - Elizabeth- there are little things that may make this an improvement, let me know if you hear any complaints.
- William- our expenses have been low this year. good.
ACTION ITEM for Elizabeth: Provide William with password for bank account.

d. Secretary- Demianski – nothing to report.

e. Membership- McCoy: 391 total members. Family= 151, lifetime=12, 227=single, 1=science advisor.

- John- how will we ever accommodate them if they all show up?
- Tom- I want to hit 400.
 - Bruce- it wouldn't be the first time. We had that about 15yrs ago. We advertised a lot.
- Tom- no outstanding issues with Wild Apricot.

f. Culinary-Tasting- Dong: The tasting was a success, maxed out on participants. Didn't get 12 cooks, but the number of cooks we had was good. We had an abundance of material from Phillips. People could go back for seconds, thirds, etc. Next tasting is 10-5pm on Nov. 3rd. I was talking to people at the last event. Idea is for cooks to stay for whole event, but have an hour break so they don't have to stand the whole time. Want to explain that so when cooks sign up, they know what they are getting into.

- Bruce- how did we get to that timeframe?
 - William- that was part of the contract.
- William- the last time a lot of people came up to me about why eat mushrooms. We also talked about having a foray, which could be a good break. We could do something like a presentation on edible mushrooms as a break, which could be part of the Sandy Springs event; kind of like mushroom fair north.
 - Michael- I think that is what they were aiming at. Good idea to incorporate the foray. Some people might not be interested in eating but would like hiking. A presentation on edible mushrooms would knock it out of the park.
- William- the first time we were there, the woman in charge wanted to have mushroom related talk two weeks before and that was the psychedelic mushroom talk. Given the time frame, we could have it that same day. Seven hours is a long time.
 - Michael- okay. Once the event gets started, the time flies, especially for the cooks. We can increase the available participants to 105 people (doesn't max out room). At last event we had a lot of elbow room. Let me touch base with them to see if we have access to space to give a presentation.
 - William- when I gave the talk before, I used that same room, but it was a different day.
 - Elizabeth- might work to do it in the tasting room, instead of getting people to go from one room to another.
 - William- they have a full set up, with chairs and everything.
 - Michael- a projection set up would not work.

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- William- it's not necessarily disruptive, but I'd prefer a separate room. Not till November, we have time to work on it.
- Michael- We may end up with a larger space. I need to see what they are expecting out of it.
- John- another idea is an hour presentation, while the cooks are cooking, we could do a presentation outside on cultivation.
 - William- that's a difficult thing to do outside.
 - Jared- something like that could be done easily.
 - Michael- add in about inoculation. Brilliant idea.
 - John- interesting to see it done makes it more accessible.
 - Tom- Danny Barizo did that.
 - Connie- can set up a sub-committee for this.

- g. Programs- Durnan: Still having problems for two empty spots. Ray has agreed in July to do a presentation for how to clean and preserve mushrooms. Hope Danny Barizo can help; he does a lot of pressure-cooking. Need someone for August and October.
 - William- September is mushroom identification.
 - Connie- Tom Volk said he would do it this year, but he has not gotten back to me. I have one person for 2019.
 - William- I will be out for July meeting. will show John audio/visual set up.

- h. Forays- Urchek: Sent out an email about forays this weekend, was expecting to see more up with all the rain.
 - Tom- you might want to touch base with Shannon to see if she wants to lead a foray this weekend.
 - Jared- Thomas will lead one on Tuesday morning.
 - John- I was thinking of doing one this weekend, holding to see weather.
 - Jared- waiting for chanterelles.
 - John- I was out today, found chickens (*Laetiporus cincinnatus*), some interesting boletes.
 - William- send me a picture of the Frost bolete, we can compare it to the one named after his wife.
 - Mitch- there are definitely some amanitas out. I got some calls about them.
 - Elizabeth- there is a ton of *Stropharia*.
 - John- It is supposed to rain this weekend.
 - Jared- is any one available on Sunday if Shannon is not?
 - John- I'm available.
 - Jared- I'll confirm with people later. We'll see how the weather goes.
 - John- You might want to send an email to encourage the people to go out to the woods, get things for the meeting.
 - Thomas- where should we go on Tuesday?
 - Mitch- Cabin John?
 - Elizabeth- could do Tuesday afternoon, get some food, then go to the meeting.
 - John- I was thinking about doing northwest branch.
 - William- what about Wheaton.
 - John- there's a number of places close in that would be worth a look in this weather.
 - Connie- Rock Creek trail is near the library.
 - Thomas- Beech drive?
 - Connie- yeah, then we could have dinner with Shannon.
 - Jared- sent a link to the board about a park place right next to Kensington library

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- i. Newsletter Editor- Roehl: Tom sent me a great article, don't want to cut any of it (not at 12 pages. yet)
- William- I sent one about lichens as environmental monitors.
 - John- when are you sending it out?
 - Thomas- will write something after Tuesday.
 - John- Michael Pollan's book just came out.
 - Thomas- would you write a book review?
 - John- yeah, thinking about it.
 - Thomas- we can spread it out, Tom's article also talks about psychedelics.
 - Thomas- I'd also like an article about the tasting.
 - Michael- yeah, I can do that.
 - Thomas- would like it by Tuesday, about half a page.
 - William- one of the request that came out of the tasting was that the voting for the recipes was late, some people had left. We should put that in the newsletter. Someone has pictures.
 - Michael- why people left was a mystery to me.
 - Elizabeth- there was a lull after the cooking is done. People didn't want to stay. This is telling for the next one. We need to plan.
 - Connie- appetizers, main course, and desserts.
 - Tom- How many printed copies do we have to generate? When would we stop mailing?
 - Thomas- about 150. There is a significant portion of our members who would be sad if it didn't come in the mail.
 - William- we are not at the point of cutting it off entirely.
 - Tom- at other clubs, you pay extra for printed copy.
 - John- or you could reduce the rate for those who get the emailed copy.
 - Connie- we could supply printed copies at the meetings.
 - Tomas- it is easier for me to click a button and have them sent out.
 - Mitch- not everyone goes to every meeting, could encourage people to go.
 - Elizabeth- we should print extra copies for our events.
 - Connie- we could point people to the web site and let them print it.
 - Tom- we should never password protect the file itself.
 - John- anyone who is logged in, you can download them. For the public, you need the url.
 - Connie- seems like the newbies would get e-copies.
 - Elizabeth- I wouldn't assume that.
- j. NAMA Trustee/NAMA Foray- Boyer: NAMA foray is in October. I think the registration is up, haven't checked it. There is a trustees board meeting on the June 6th by phone. If anyone has anything to bring up, let me know. The other thing I have to bring up, a friend gave me. A couple was raided for morels posted on Facebook. The second policeman recognized that they were morels.
- Bruce- I went on a foray near Crater Lake, it was one of the best NAMA forays I've been on. There were lots of mushrooms. This is a different place, but if you can go, I recommend it.
 - John- we should advertise to our members to go.
 - Connie- registration is open, but they are still tweaking the registration form. A blast email has not been sent out. They have no club support. The price is okay. All bunk beds, everyone shares a bathroom.

III. Unfinished Business

1. Purchase of materials – vouchers, banner, brochures
 - William- We have the brochures. We are on hold for vouchers and banner.

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- Bruce- I should be able to take care of the vouchers in the next few wks.
 - John- when do we need the banner?
 - William- august mushroom fair is the target date.
 - Tom- I started, but have been drawing and designing an alternative logo (if board approves).
 - Bruce- what's wrong with the one that is there? I like it.
 - Agnes- I like it too.
 - John- it is our brand. At the last mushroom fair, we could hang the banner outside.
 - William- that's the way it will be from now on.
 - Connie- the blind ones are great.
 - Tom- that is what I'm looking at. We will have a banner for the mushroom fairs.
 - William- if we are going with a new logo, we should have it on the banner, otherwise our banner will be obsolete.
 - Tom- our current logo has three mushrooms and that is it, but my idea is to incorporate some architectural features of DC.
2. T-shirts and MAW "store" (4/13/18 Hargrave/Harper)
- William - There were three type of t-shirts.
 - Elizabeth- I meant to order samples.
ACTION ITEM for Elizabeth - order some t-shirts and wash them to check durability.
 - Thomas- I've always wanted a hedgehog looking at a hedgehog mushroom.
 - John- West VA has nice designs.
 - Connie- Nancy gets nice t-shirts.
 - Elizabeth- Nancy orders bulk t-shirts. We do not want to do that.
 - Tom- if we did print on demand that would be break even, no profit. Are there tax implications?
 - Elizabeth- they cover the tax when there is a sale.
 - Tomas- if you wanted to charge more, to make money, we could tell people the profit would go to some specific activity.
 - William- we could get tech shirts too.
 - Tom- would we be using wild apricot?
 - Elizabeth- the wild apricot store has a limit.
 - John- someone sent an email to order mycelium kits.
 - Jared- I don't think that was me.
 - John- oh, it was from Peter McCoy.
3. Library books (we have some feedback)
- William- We thought we could convince the Kensington library in collaborating, but they are not interested. So what do we do? Absent someone volunteering to be the librarian, I don't think the library is value added. Don't think reconstituting the library and someone keeping it in their car or whatever, is feasible. No one is going to volunteer to do it.
 - Mitch- and basically we have given a bunch of books away because the sign up is not workable.
 - Connie- I suggest we take whatever books are worth anything, put them on a table, take a donation for a book.
 - Tom- I agree with everything except taking a donation.
 - Bruce- there are some books that are significant that are in the library.
 - Elizabeth- we could have them as prizes for culinary event or whatever.
 - Bruce- if we could get them to the fair, we could put a price tag on them.

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- John- that becomes a tax problem.
 - William- do we have a way to contact Fred.
 - Elizabeth- I propose we have a book raffle at the fair. Could include some of Jon's books that he wants to get rid of.
 - Connie- not sure we can do that.
 - Bruce- Can we do an auction at the mushroom fair?
 - William- We agree we will not sustain a library function?
 - Connie- I second that motion.
 - All board members present agree.
4. VA venues for meetings in 2019
- William- Steve L. was supposed to get me a list of places (non-library places), wanted to be pro-active. Our criteria is parking available and having large enough room. I haven't received the list, but if we are going to do a VA meeting, we need to plan it now for 2019. The two meetings we had in VA, the Ballston one was good.
 - Bruce- We had a tasting in Fairfax.
 - William- the Arlington library one worked well, we should try to reserve that now. Pick a first Tuesday of the month.
 - Mitch- I think Steve and Willow reserved it, they lived right there.
 - Elizabeth- could our membership chair find a VA member to reserve the room?
 - William- Steve lives in MD too.
 - Connie- I can see if one of the master naturalists could make the reservation.
 - Tom- did Shannon give us any other options?
 - William- I thought Mason would have been easy, but her feedback was that unless you are a school event, you can't use the parking.
 - Tom- but she may have ideas about alternative venues.
 - Bruce- when we used the cooking facility, that was a George Mason asset at the time. I worked it out through a professor at mason.
 - William- but it wasn't on campus.
 - Tom- instead of plucking out a member, we could start with Shannon.
 - William- or Thomas. He is Fairfax County. Arlington would be great if we could get our foot in the door. I don't know.
 - Tom- free parking trounces metro.
 - William- Fairfax seems to be the way to go, we don't know anyone in Arlington.
 - Tom- I can put something in the meeting summary I send after the monthly meetings.
 - William- add that we are most interested in getting access to Arlington Library.
 - Thomas- the website for Arlington library meeting room reservation page says you can't reserve until 60 days before. Being an Arlington resident makes the price half. Only four reservations per group per yr.

IV. New Business

1. Requests for medicinal mushrooms by third party (4/3/18, Butler, McCoy, Harper)
 - William- a guy who wrote an email to me stating that someone wanted to have a foray to look for medicinal mushrooms for a friend.
 - Elizabeth- I thought we discussed this via email and said no?
 - William- yes, but the idea of forays for medicinal mushrooms is unique.
 - Elizabeth- Jared did a program. I think educating people on medicinal mushrooms is great, but a foray for specific people is weird.

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- Tom- but we could mention at a meeting that people who would be interested to contact so and so, make sure it is not MAW sponsored.
- Elizabeth- is he looking for a specific species?
 - William- not sure he has specific knowledge.
- Elizabeth- if he has a request for a specific mushroom, could let people know to contact him.
- Tom- analogous to a larger issue about mushroom events that are not MAW events.
- William- any MAW member that has a legitimate request, that is okay to alert membership.

2. Dogs on forays (4/20/2018 Urchek et al)

- William- this issue came up after someone emailed. Do we want a policy about this? In the hiking world, there is a similar debate. People have brought dogs on forays. I don't think dogs on forays are good.
- Tom- If I am leading a foray, I don't want to tell someone who brings their dog no.
- Connie- you tell them our policy and that they have to obey the rules of the park.
- William- on my hiking announcements, I now put the policy in the invite. We could say dogs must be well behaved.
- Bruce- I have seen lots of dogs on MAW forays that were fine, but can get out of hand.
- John- there is also dog to dog interaction.
- Connie- Dogs at Sequanota is a no-no.
- Jared- there are people who don't like dogs on forays. The frequency that it comes up is not great, so having no dogs would make more people happy than the opposite. If a dog happens to show up, turning someone away is not productive.
- William- are you saying dogs are not encouraged, but allowed?
- Jared- no, but if the dog is misbehaving, the foray leader should be able to say no.
- William- we don't need a formal policy, but we haven't discussed this before. It makes sense if dogs don't come often it is okay, but if they are disruptive, the foray leader should have the right to ask them to leave.
 - Mitch- if someone asks, we say we prefer no dogs.
- Connie- but no dogs at Sequanota.
 - Bruce- what if they stay at a motel with their dog?
 - Connie- that would be okay.
- William- the policy is we prefer no dogs, and it is the discretion of the foray leader.
 - John- under certain conditions it may be okay, foray leader can tell member to leave with their dog.
 - Michael- put it on the dog owner, where the responsibility lies. They need to respect the other participants. I typically don't take my dog to certain place to respect others.
 - William- many dog owners do not behave that way, but dog owners need to be responsible for the actions of their dogs.
- William- do we have any policies about forays posted?
 - Connie – we could put a footnote somewhere.
 - Mitch- we had a rule about no hunting there the week before.
 - William- we need a statement of what we expect on forays and address dogs there.
 - Mitch- there is a foray page on the website.
- **ACTION ITEM for Jared**- draft something to be posted on the website, send it to the board for edits.

V. Reports of Special Committees, Projects, and Forays

1. Mycoflora Committee – Sequanota species and specimens

- William- Shannon will be our speaker on Tuesday, maybe we can talk to her then.

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- Mitch- I was under the impression that they changed the format of how they want the samples.
 - Thomas- they have kits.
 - Mitch - they want us to buy them?
- Thomas- there was also a question about if we send our samples that they know that we paid for the project.
- Bruce- which lab do we want to send them to?
 - Mitch – the lab we paid.
 - Bruce- but we paid the consortium. There are two labs. I was hoping that someone who is more familiar would be able to tell which is better.
 - Thomas- one is a Duke U and they do sequencing for NAMA.
- Agnes- Martin emailed me, but I never got back to him.
- Bruce- we need someone to take up the ball.
- Elizabeth- who is on the committee?
 - William- me, Thomas, Bruce, Martin, Agnes, Shannon, Mitch, Jared
- Mitch- I'll try to pick up some slack. Reluctantly agreed to be chairman.
 - Agnes- If you give me tasks, I can do it.
- Bruce- are there any advantages to sending them to one or another.
- The group came up with some tasks:
 1. Find out what format of samples the labs accept. (Mitch)
 2. Decide where to send samples (Mitch)
 3. How to deal with funding (since we already paid)
 4. Who will send them
 5. Where to upload our results

VI. Adjourn at 9:26pm – Agnes will not be at the next meeting. The board is considering moving the meeting up to August 16 instead of August 30th so Agnes can attend, and this will be before the Mushroom Fair.

1. Board Meetings 30 August, 29 November