

MAW DC Board Meeting 6/1/2023

Attendees: Elizabeth, Matt, Anil, Bruce, Tom Moore, Tom McCoy, Mitch, Megan, Marisol

- Bruce pointed out an error in the last board meeting minutes regarding non-profit requirements. [Error has been fixed]
- 3-16-2023 board meeting minutes approved unanimously.

Accomplishments since last meeting:

- 6 forays with several in VA.
- One of the weekday foray had a good turnout. Potentially organize more weekday forays.
- The culinary tasting event was organized very well (thanks to April) and was a great success.
- No cultivation events.
- Educational events –
 - o Anil and Zay attended the MoCo community science festival at Lake Needwood. Overall, not many people attended. But there was a lot of interest in mushrooms. Displayed DNA sequencing equipment and dried samples. Most attendees are families with kids and the most asked question: how do we figure out which ones are poisonous and which ones are not?
 - o Anil interfaced with some MoCo parks employees. Talked about foraging but were told that we are not supposed to pick mushrooms. They are interested in collaborating with MAW for future events. Anil talked to one of the employees and they are going to get us in touch with MoCo parks ecologist.

Treasurer's report Jan thru May 2023:

- Income
 - o \$8k from membership dues
 - o \$2.2k from book signing and culinary event
 - o \$1.1k in donations
- Expenses
 - o \$2.5k for meetings
 - o \$700 for newsletter
 - o \$1.5k for DNA group
 - o \$400 for forays – payments to Kalichman & Crenson
 - o \$116 for scholarships and grants
 - o \$678 for culinary tasting event
 - o \$735 for last year's photo contest
 - o \$1.2k for book party
 - o \$500 website expenses
 - o \$140 board discretionary
- Net income - \$2822

Upcoming events:

- April organizing picnic on July 29 @Greenbelt Park.

- Serenella and Elizabeth are going to be on the panel for Awesome Con 2023.
- New Logo:
 - o Marisol prepared a new draft logo. Reminiscent of our existing logo with a few changes.



- o Bruce objected to changing the name on the logo from “Mycological Association of Washington, Inc” to “Mycological Association of Washington DC.” And changing the email address at the bottom of the logo to “MAW DC”.
- o From a marketing point of view, Marisol brought up the fact that we have a lot more members now and making it clear in the logo that we are from Washington, DC avoids confusion.
- o Bruce suggested a compromise by leaving MAW DC at the bottom but keep the name “Mycological Association of Washington, Inc”.
- o Mitch suggested we add mawdc.org at the bottom instead of “MAW DC”
- o According to John Harper’s legal expertise, we can use a different name in addition to the registered name.
- o Matt suggested adjusting the name to be symmetrical around the mushrooms.
- o Votes in favor of using the new logo above: Elizabeth, Matt, Anil, Tom Moore, Tom McCoy, Mitch, Megan, Marisol
- Sequanota:
 - o Matt is ready to open registration.
 - o 100 participants.

- Beta test registration with board members.
- Jacob's new signage at Sequanota.
- Workshops
 - Serenella - Microscopy
 - Megan – Dyeing
 - Liz – Photography
 - Julian – Preservation
 - Tom & Natalie – Lichens
 - Elizabeth – Mushrooms 101
- Megan suggested having a table manned by an expert identifier for folks to do spore prints and walk through the process of identifying a mushroom based on Shannon Nix's worksheets.
- Tom and Matt to work on logistics of getting Guest Mycologists to Sequanota.
- Catered meal
- Night walk by Serenella
- Mushroom costume dance party??
- Matt suggested opening leftover spots for folks outside of MAW.
- Bruce suggested having NAMA regional foray at a future Sequanota.

Newsletter:

- No subject matter expert available to write content for the newsletter.
- Marisol worked on getting the tech behind newsletter working.
 - Set up a newsletter template.
 - Wild apricot and Mail Chimp integration.
- Marisol is working on some content for the newsletter. Proposed that in the first version of the newsletter we will ask people to contribute content and envision sharing content creation responsibilities with others.
- Folks suggested various things to put on newsletter –
 - YouTube links
 - list of upcoming events
 - photos from events and forays
 - recap of what we found at forays.
 - work with other clubs for content
 - ask membership to produce content or contribute content they already have.

- historical mycology.
- Elizabeth suggested a short form newsletter and post long form articles on a blog.
- The goal is to get a short newsletter out sooner than later than wait for folks to create/contribute content.

Lifetime membership:

- Matt gave Albert a lifetime membership.
- Matt suggested formalizing the process of offering lifetime membership to longtime members.
- According to Bruce:
 - NAMA has a paid lifetime membership.
 - MAW lifetime membership has always been honorary.
 - MAW's informal process involves nomination by a board member, discussion and voting by the board. Pick no more than one or two lifetime members per year.
 - The lifetime membership process was not formalized into board rules due to outcry from some members.
 - Suggested adding no more than one or two lifetime members per year.
- Elizabeth: write the policy of nominating lifetime members into board rules. Retroactively approve Connie and Albert as lifetime members. Bruce seconded.
- After discussion, generally limited to one or two a year. Up to three or four if the nominees deserve it.

Identifier nomination process:

- Improve the process of nominating and approving identifiers.
- Process for removing identifiers if they are inactive.
 - Board or Identifiers to pick new identifiers?
 - Matt and Tom Moore agree that it should be the Board because the Board most likely needs to be involved if identifiers were to be removed from the list.
 - Bruce:
 - An Identifier should be picked based on their ability and willingness to protect the club from liability.
 - Inactive identifiers should be asked to not participate rather than removing them automatically.
 - It should be the Identifiers that would approve new identifiers because they are the ones who can judge the expertise of nominees. Board members may not have mushroom identification expertise as it is not required to serve on the board.
 - Approval should be based on a nominee's expertise in the field and not on their passing of a class and/or test.

- If Identifiers are to continue approving new identifiers, participation of existing identifiers in forays is important as they get to observe the potential nominee's in action.
- Bruce to write up a draft for the above process.
- For next year, ask all identifiers to recommit to their responsibilities.

Speakers:

- Separate speakers email speakers@mawdc.org to handle speaking requests we get.
- Include non-board members who are interested in speaking at events.