

MAWDC Board Meeting

06 AUGUST 2025

Attendees

Tom McCoy, Tom Moore, Cindy Connelly Ryan, Matt Cohen, Serenella Linares, Mitch Fournet, Megan Romburg, April Thompson, Martin Livezey, Allen Perper (Secretary)

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm

Meeting Notes

Minutes from the May 2025 meeting are [here](#).

1) Treasurer's Report

- a) Change membership to one option status
 - i) Going well with some manual intervention required
- b) Donate button on WApricot
 - i) Allen P volunteered to look into this perhaps using fund raising software he has used before. Will also look at Wild Apricot's (WA) ability to handle donations
- c) Quarterly financial report
 - i) Through July
 - (1) Income \$30,705
 - (2) Total expense \$12,397
 - ii) About \$56K on hand but much of that amount is for Sequanota reservations

2) Membership

- a) We now have approximately 600 members, but numbers may be reducing. According to WA
- b) Hard to give exact number as many memberships are coming up for renewal

3) Liability and Directors & Officers insurance

- a) Allen P reached out to two insurance brokers concerning these policy types and received quotes and sample policies.

Here is a summary of the quotes received

Company	Insurance Type	Annual Premium	Notes
United States Liability Insurance Company	General Liability	\$1,988.00	does not include Sequanota. Will probably run around \$1,000 extra
Chubb	D&O	\$856.00	
GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE CO.	D&O	varies from \$575	
Ryan Turner Speciality	General Liability	\$918.00	does not include Sequanota

- b) To see additional materials for the insurance investigation, [click here](#)
- c) Serenella L explained how the Nature Center considers us a collaborator when we are there for our in-person meetings and we are therefore covered under their general liability insurance policy
 - i) we are restricted from doing certain things while meeting like open flames and dangerous activities
- d) Allen will continue to investigate along with Martin L who will reach out to NAMA re: an umbrella policy or other advice.
- e) Final decision (hopefully) before Sequanota

4) Sequanota

- a) Bill Yule and Catherine Aime (Purdue Univ) are our guest mycologists. Sat & Sun evening lectures. Decided not to invite Walt Sturgeon as an honorary guest since the Plishkes are not attending (they would have given him a ride).
- b) Aug 28 - Sept 1 -- Basic Registration is Fri-Mon, Thursday is an add-on
 - i) No pizza brought in on Thursday or Friday altho staff will provide meals
- c) *Potential list for '26 includes Anne Pringle (University of Wisconsin); Todd Elliot; Greg Marley (Maine); William Padilla Brown (relocated to PA recently); Adam Haritan (like every year); Caz (for truffles);*
- d) Sequanota workshops - mushroom 101, jewelry making, koji making, beer brewing, insect/fungal investigation, cooking, medicinals
 - i) Workshop text has been prepped by Matt and sent out
 - (1) 3 have responded positively
- e) Cooking demos/making an appetizer or side for dinner = friday and saturday.

Options currently on the table: Axolotl (Serenella recommendation, Cindy will follow up); Cindy & Tom McC & maybe Mitch.

- Rock tripe ice cream
 - Stuffed chestnut crepes
 - Nipples of Venus (chocolate covered brandied chestnuts, recipe from the movie 'Amadeus')
 - May have a pop-up culinary on Friday afternoon
 - The culinary team (Cindy & Tom McC & maybe Mitch) will meet and
- f) Reach out to Somerset County Conservancy (action Tom McC) which owns 200 acres in the general area. *Tried, no response. Will try again this week.*
- g) Check with Dawn Wehman re park permits. *Hannah Huber is streamlining this process, but that won't take effect until '26 (at least).*
- i) Matt has provided Dawn with what we want to do but no response yet
- h) Tom is planning to bring the club banner, posters and other paraphernalia for display (lichens, Beatrix potter, spore prints, UV light(s) and fluorescent mineral display). Mitch brings signage, sample trays and paper plates. Do we need the club microscope and dna lab?
- i) Microscope yes; DNA lab will talk about collecting and drying. Some college students were going to attend but will not be able to.
 - ii) Sere will bring envelopes and collection stuff for later DNA processing
 - iii) Martin and Megan will help setup the microscopes
 - iv) Tom Moore cannot attend
- (1) Everyone quite sad 😞
- v) Forays need leaders and Cindy and Allen were volunteered to lead one
 - vi) Many forays during Fri - Mon and one early on Friday to add to our collections
 - vii) Matt will send out foray info
 - viii) Catherine Aime on Saturday evening will be a talk on sub-tropical animals and fungi
 - ix) Sunday night is Bill Yule
- (1) Maybe he can switch to a different talk from the one he presented at July's meeting
- x) Prizes for the talent show.... Megan to work this

- xi) April looking for improv partners
- xii) Attendance is low for us at this point
 - (1) 77
- xiii) We need to market this more....

5) Special Event: ~~November~~ September In-Person Monthly Meeting

- a) Is this still on? If so, I'd like to ask former presidents/life members to attend?
 - i) September 14th is our next in-person meeting
 - (1) At the Nature Center
 - (2) There will be a walk in the morning
 - ii) In 2026 we should have 1 in-person each quarter
 - iii) Put out a personal note to former prez and life members to attend this in-person meeting - Tom McC
- b) I think we have Barbora Batakova as a guest speaker in November.
 - i) She will deliver the 2nd half of her talk at the November online meeting

6) Mushroom Fair at Brookside Gardens

- a) Mushroom Fair Oct 12
- b) Do we need collecting permits for pre-fair forays?
 - i) Sere has arranged for us to go to Clearwater - no permit needed and will handle all the permits for any other places she can
- c) We do need the forays to have materials for the Fair
 - i) Mitch has done 4 or 5 pre-Fair forays in the past
 - ii) Martin will help/lead one. Matt and Mitch too
 - iii) Cedarville
 - iv) Pax river park
 - v) Watkins
 - vi) Foray mushrooms need to be stored before the fair. Mitch will ask Brookside if we can store in their fridge

vii) April will send out a note to the board with details

viii) April will seek out non-board members to help lead a foray

d) Tom will reach out to Britt Bunyard for free copies of Fungi magazine

7) **Photo Contest**

a) Need two other judges

i) No volunteers - yet

8) **Planning for 2026 Board - Process:**

a) **Nominating Committee (not Board) makes the slate: 3 members, at least 2 of whom are not members of the Board of Directors.**

i) Martin L will be the Board Rep on the committee

ii) Newsletter chair position has been a disappointment but we had conversation about needing it. Really it's a Communication and Marketing position

iii) Tom McC will send out a post-meeting email

b) **Schedule:**

i) Need slate by October 21 (*two weeks before the Nov meeting*)

ii) Nominations from floor **Nov 6**

iii) Open voting Nov **19-Dec 3**

iv) Board established Nov 2nd

c) **Positions:** President, VP(s), Secretary, Treasurer, Culinary, Newsletter, Membership, Programs, Forays, NAMA (Science Advisor is named by the board)

9) **Ongoing**

a) **Mushroom Art Contest** (Megan?)

i) No movement - Game of Shrooms

b) **Maryland State Mushroom**

i) Pennsylvania has submitted *Ganoderma tsugae* to its state assembly, but no movement yet. Eastern Hemlock is the state tree of PA, hence this choice. Maybe lessons learned from this effort will be applicable for MD.

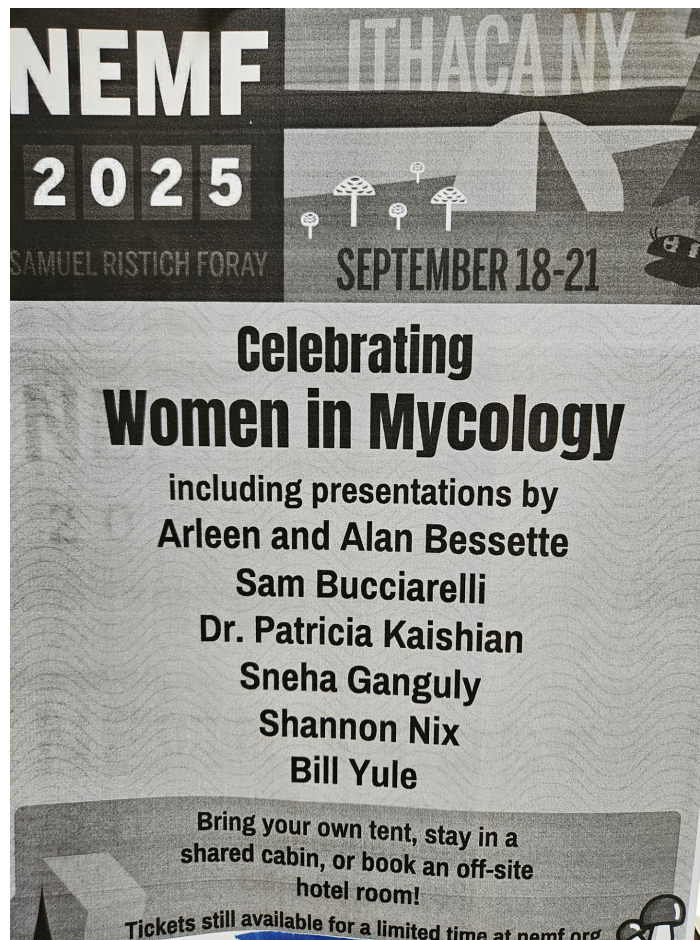
- ii) If Rod Tulloss is at NEMF in Ithaca, Tom plans to ask him about the status of *Amanita bannigiana* (prov).
- iii) Discuss this subject in earnest at the Dec meeting.
- iv) Tom Moore has contacts in the State legislature

c) Board Meetings '25 - all begin at 6pm except Dec hybrid meeting

- i) December 14th hybrid (4pm)
 - (1) In person probably at Matt C's

d) Expanded Role for NAMA Rep

- i) Should we join NEMF?
 - (1) Tom McCoy is a proponent
 - (2) - *Membership means we agree to help host a regional foray once every 6-7-8 years. Most likely this would be either '26 with the EPA, CPA & NJ clubs at the PSU Mont Alto campus (~1.5 hours from DC metro) or in '29 with the Western PA club. This would mean a few MAWDC club members would agree to volunteer, i.e. lead foray(s), do admin tasks, etcetera. Tom plans to volunteer to help with the '26 foray at Mont Alto regardless.*
- ii) NEMF foray, Sept 18th - 21, Ithaca NY - *Martin and Tom plan to attend. We can request to join at the trustees meeting. Noah Siegel is the president of NEMF, and given his positive past history w/our club, our acceptance is a given IMO.*
- iii) Decision put off until after NEMF 2025
- iv) Next Board meeting we'll vote



v)

e) Newsletter/ "Member communication"?

- i) Tom has no immediate plans to find a newsletter chair. He will take the action of sending post monthly meeting emails for the foreseeable future.
- ii) Consortium Talks - *Tom plans to include this list of recordings in the post Aug email.*

f) DNA Sequencing

- i) Need to do a better job of collecting on forays to feed our sequencing queue.
 - (1) We have about 2,000 samples
- ii) Teachable moment at Sequanota?
 - (1) yes
- iii) Need an iNat project for Sequanota.
 - (1) Matt
- iv) Need to schedule a talk with Steve Russell

- v) Megan will get in touch with the Mycota (sp?) Lab about samples

g) Programs

- i) Sept: Sneha Ganguly - Fungal Pigments; changed to Sept 14th?
 - (1) Cultivation grant recipients;
- ii) Oct: Richard Jacobs - Psilocybin
- iii) Nov: In person? Barbora Batakova Part II
- iv) Dec: Sere - Flying Reindeer (maybe); photo contest results; annual review of DNA
- v) Jan: Joel Alejandro - lichens
- vi) Feb: Frank Hyman?
 - (1) Black history month. Target to this
- vii) Dr. Patricia Kaishian on Mary Elizabeth Banning?

h) Grants

- i) Status of grants, and scheduling talks at future monthly meetings.

i) Culinary

- i) Plans for Sequanota and in-person meeting.

j) Forays

- i) Tract of land Natalie suggested. (action Tom)
- ii) A. P. asked about forays in August.
 - (1) Mitch and Allen will coordinate
- iii) Joint events with other clubs/experts (EPA, CPAMC, WPMC, NRV, etc)
 - (1) *Kennett Square (confirmed w/Karen Beal)*

k) Data storage - no discussion

- i) Google nonprofit account - possibly upgrade for more storage and switch to google meet instead of zoom pro license.
- ii) Wild Apricot - Website redesign (on hold for 2025)

Next Meeting Date & Agenda

- December 14, 2025 hybrid at Matt Cohen's house
- Agenda to come later

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm