

MENDOCINO COAST MUSHROOM CLUB

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Meeting was held at the Ford House Visitor Center on Main Street in Mendocino, CA 95460, beginning at 5:00 pm. Ten people attended: Mary-Ellen Campbell, Nancy Denison, Pat Ferrero, Jim Gibson, Gabrielle Levine, Evan Mills, Thuy Moss, Eric Schramm, Jill Surdzial, and Skip Taube.

Following the agenda prepared by Jill:

Membership Update and Treasurer's Report Paid memberships, only, are reflected in the Treasurer's Report. Honorary members should be a separate list in the data base. Since membership is on an annual basis and the first members paid in November, 2016, it seems reasonable to use a calendar year, rather than a November to November year. Therefore, memberships paid from the Club's inception would be 2017 year memberships and recent renewals of those members would be 2018 memberships and recent new members would be 2018 memberships. Honorary memberships are determined on a case by case basis.

This is the first meeting attended by Thuy Moss, a friend of Marylynn Henes, who lives in Southern California but visits our area often. She became a new member at this meeting and 3 renewals from above attendees were received, adding 4 more to 2018 memberships.

To avoid an additional financial report following the minutes of this meeting, money received at this meeting is included in the following treasurer's report.

**MENDOCINO COAST MUSHROOM CLUB
Statement of Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements**

Beginning Cash		\$ -0-
Cash Receipts:		
Net Proceeds from November 10, 2016 event at St Anthony's Hall		152
2017 Paid Memberships (39)		780
2018 Paid Memberships, to date (7 renewals/13 new=20)		400
Donations for Brochure of Recipes		<u>42</u>
TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS		\$1,374
Cash Disbursements:		
Costs of November 10, 2017 event at Caspar Community Center	\$694	
Bank Fees \$9 and Meeting Place Rent \$90	<u>99</u>	
TOTAL CASH DISBURSEMENTS		<u>793</u>
Cash in Bank – November 30, 2017		<u><u>\$ 581</u></u>

1) Members Forum

Gabriella Levine asked if we could have a forum where members could directly communicate with one another without having to go through a moderator (Website/eMail). Possibilities include a website forum, Facebook, Google Hangout. Other ideas?

Mary-Ellen has refreshed the Facebook group page, which allows anyone who's a member of it to post to it. This allows members to communicate with one another without a moderator or intermediate managing the communication.

2) Mushroom Dinner results.

Unfortunately none of the chefs were able to attend to speak about their experience and the dishes they prepared. Pat did provide an update on the dinner outcome.

Pat presented preliminary numbers from Dana on how CCC did but Pat is waiting to hear from the treasurer, Meredith, to get a detailed report. She will present those figures at the next meeting. She did not get a bar total from Dana but someone at the MCMC offered the figure of \$1,500

So preliminary figures on the meal alone are:

- Food expense: \$1200
- 150 meals served (not sure if this included comps)
- \$3,000 revenue for food => \$2,800 net proceeds for the Caspar Community Center

If a dinner happens again, there needs to be a coordinator with a strong but collegial personality who knows food prep and how to organize people. Neither Pat nor Evan are interested in that role and the job can't be done effectively by committee either.

Dana's offer to allow the club the use of the CCC and the proceeds going to the club is welcome, but we should be careful. If we do it again on a non-pub-night, we can't count on nearly as big a crowd. And, if there are expenses to pay to the venue, then it's not obvious what the net proceeds would really be. We also probably couldn't get as many donations of ingredients and alcohol, or at least a lot of additional legwork would need to be done to ensure that. Some assistance we received on a voluntary basis this time around may have to be paid for next time.

As a lower-effort way for interested folks to learn more about mushroom cooking, we discussed approaching the chef at Albion River Inn to see if he'd do a workshop for interested parties at his normal per-person rate. This might be a nice thing to shoot for in Feb or March.

Jim suggested having a weekend-long "mini-festival" with food, workshops, etc.

If a future dinner is done, it might be wise to do a "lessons-learned" session on the last one. The list is long - many things could have gone more smoothly and it is a LARGE undertaking.

Pat agrees that it is a nice idea to do a dinner in March but, like Evan, is not interested in doing the task again so soon. She prefers we focus on more foraging experiences. We could hire Chad

to teach a mushroom cooking class in March and use the Casper kitchen for the class. He could combine that with his foraging interests. Just an idea.

3) Jim provided a report on his attendance of the JAG legal advisory meeting.

He attended the meetings as the sole representative of the mushroom club. Other meeting attendees he mentioned were from CalFire, JDSF and the Fort Bragg Cycling Club. The group talked about forest facility improvements and went on a physical tour of some of the facilities. Jim found that he already knew several of the members and was able to discuss mushroom club concerns about foraging and fees during the ride to the site visit. There will be another meeting in the spring.

4) Foraging

In addition to permitted foraging in JDSF, we talked about walking on State Park lands (look, no pick) or on various private land holdings, by invitation. Several specific spots were mentioned, including Parker Ranch and Mendocino Land Trust properties. Jim mentioned that he has contacts for land near Cape Viscaino. Gabriella mentioned that she heard that the land around the Little River airport is open to foraging.

Regarding JDSF, everyone who collects mushrooms there needs to get a permit from the CalFire station in Fort Bragg (may also be done via mail) for \$20. In addition, a Special Use Permit is required for any organized activity or event which:

- will be advertised or noticed in any publication, poster, electronic media, or flyer, or
- requests or requires a fee for participation, or
- meets any of the described Special Use categories (events, ongoing activities/programs, activities outside State Forest standards, filming, education events.)

According to their group permit, there is a minimum \$100 Special Use Application fee. Then, depending on the number of participants, there is an additional fee - the minimum being \$200 for participants of 0-50 for 1 day. They also require that the organizing group hold a comprehensive general liability insurance policy with a minimum limit of \$1M per occurrence and \$2M aggregate, etc. Proof of insurance must be submitted 7 days prior to the event. In addition, if there is another large event happening in the forest on a given day, they will most likely reject an application for a second event on that same day.

So, in order for the club to advertise and/or charge a fee to hold a foray at JDSF we would need to acquire a permit and insurance.

4a) Mushroom Walk at the Caspar Cemetery on Dec 10

We discussed doing a **Mushroom Walk at the Caspar Cemetery on Dec 10**. Jim and Eric were going to check their calendars to see if they can be there to lead and Pat was going to check with Alison. Jim was also going to check with his friend Steve.

Eric is unable to participate on the 10th. Alison is not available until after the 12th when she is willing to lead a foray. A date and place need to be confirmed. We could still do a foray the 10th

if Jim is interested in leading it. **Jim, please let us know if you're a go, and what time and where to meet.**

5) Future Meetings

Future meetings can be held at the Ford House - a nice location for many of us. Thank you Jim Owens!

We still need to select dates for the next meeting and meetings for the remainder of the mushroom season.

6) Ford House mushroom display:

Mario Abreu contributed a fantastic display of fresh mushrooms to the Mushroom exhibit at the Ford House. You still have until next Saturday to see it.

Next year we should make a concerted effort to help them keep the display fresh. Seems that if we actively encouraged members to bring things in, they can be ID'd and added to the display as appropriate. It would be a nice gesture in recognition of FH's hospitality.

7) We are still looking for a Membership coordinator. Please reply if you'd be interested in this role.