Alabama Mushroom Society, 501(c)3

3/1/2021 Board Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Vice President- Alisha Millican

Treasurer- Spencer Lowry

Secretary- Becca Mahoney

Founder- Anthoni Goodman

Absent: President- Allen Carroll

Form: Zoom Meeting

Treasurer's Report: we have $2,400.00 in the Wells Fargo account

$926.00 in our paypal account

Old Business

* Alabama Mushroom Festival
  + Rickwood Caverns is not the ideal location, due to difficulty in collecting ticket fees and enforcing payment to enter the area. Oak Mountain was tossed around as an option, but dismissed due to their regulations on picking fungi. Will proceed with Rickwood Caverns for 2022, but should consider other locations for the future.
  + Officially scheduled for May 21-22, 2022.
  + Discussed ticket fees and how they will be collected and used. In addition to ticket fees, attendees will have to pay $3/person park fee, and additional fees for park amenities like the cave tour, swimming or camping.
  + Anthoni suggested we reach out to Claudia Littrel for guidance. She happily supports us. Has experience with reaching out to and how to set for vendors, speakers and she’s well networked. Alisha will contact her.
* Bank account update
  + Anthoni sent the meeting minutes they requested. Expect to hear back from them after 3/8/20
  + Need to get Alisha and Spencer on the bank account.
  + Do bylaws restrict how we spend our finances? -They do not, except to say that Board members may not receive payment for their services.

* Health Department Mushroom Certification Class
  + Anthoni shared Powerpoint presentation via Google drive with 12 slides addressing Alabama wild mushroom harvest he had started working on for the class.
  + Tim Pfitzer may be of great value to us by helping to teach this class once we have it put together. Providing us with some target guidance for a fee. Paying him $50/class was suggested.
  + After we have all the material together, it would be very easy for anyone to teach the class.
  + We should try to find volunteers to help with this. We could compensate them for good work.
  + What exactly are our obligations? What is expected in these classes? Documentation, disclaimers? Are we just teaching them to learn this particular mushroom? We need to keep it as simple as possible. Teach them to positively identify the 8 or so mushroom species on our list. Have a checkbox that they can confirm that that particular mushroom meets all the traits that confirm it is what they think it is. Teach them the possible look a-likes of THAT mushroom. Include a liability waiver at the beginning of the class.
* AMS North-Central Forays are scheduled
  + Second saturday of each month. Registration required. Members only. Alisha is leading these.
* Facebook contest
  + Spencer is going to put together a contest for hitting 5k members.
  + Have everyone submit their favorite mushroom photo and select the winners at random.
  + Spencer wants to donate a Opinel knife and a basket as prizes.

New Business

* Changing POS on website
  + Spencer suggested that he knows someone to talk to about another type of POS for monies received that may be more suitable for non profit orgs.
* Calendar Contest
  + Spencer will be in charge of the Calendar contest
  + Spencer looked into print-on-demand and it’s too expensive ($40/calendar) Setting up a bulk pre-order is our best bet. It was suggested that we set up a sub account for the calendar profits.
  + How do we keep photos from calendar contests till the end of the year? So far Anthoni keeps them in a personal file on his computer. From here on out, they will go to a folder on the google drive.
* Members, new and old
  + We get a paypal notification in the mail when someone pays. Access granted is not automatic. We have to manually give each new member access. Then add them to the AMS excel sheet for members that says who’s joined and when. There is a new column to add your initials when you’ve input a member to the excel sheet.
  + If you open an email but do not have the time to handle it, mark as unread.
  + Alisha has begun sending out renewal notice emails to members whose account has expired. We’ve already had 4 renewals just on 3/2/20. We established that members will have a 1 month grace period before we revoke their access.
  + It appears how we have been removing membership isn’t actually removing website access. Anthoni will look into it and figure it out.
  + No one has special privileges to keep access without paying yearly dues.
* Alabama Herb Society Herb Day
  + They have invited us to have a booth at Herb Day April 17th in Montgomery.
  + Becca will man the booth. She has an easy-up and a table to use. She will put together a bit of a display with some dried specimens and what she has available. Alisha has some sign up sheets that she will send her.
  + We no longer have an AMS sign. Anthoni will order one and have it shipped to Becca so she has it for the Herb Day booth.
  + Board approves $50 to order the sign.
* AMS Shirts
  + Alisha looked into ordering shirts, but our current logo is too many colors to make the shirts affordable. She suggests we design a more simple logo to be able to print it on shirts.
  + Anthoni, Spencer and Alisha will play around with some designs and see if we can come up with something.
* Morel Foray
  + Alisha has contacted Tim Pfizer to see if he will run the Morel Foray again this year.
  + The Board approves offering to pay him $200 for his time.
* Tree ID Walk
  + Alisha has found a Ranger at Rickwood Caverns SP who is willing to volunteer his time to lead a group on a tree ID walk. Alisha will assist and discuss tree/fungi associations.
  + It is tentatively scheduled for May 22, waiting on confirmation from the park ranger.
  + This event will be open to the public and is no charge beyond the $3/person to enter the park.

Action Items

* Alisha will reach out to Claudia Littrel for guidance in setting up AMF.
* Spencer will put together the facebook contest to celebrate our membership milestone.
* Anthoni will figure out how to actually remove an expired membership’s access.
* Anthoni will order a new AMS sign.
* Alisha, Spencer and Anthoni will try to come up with logo designs.
* Spencer will check with his boss about a better POS for a non profit organization.
* Alisha will add the new events to events calendar
* Spencer will take over the Calendar Contest.
* Alisha will create a folder on google drive to keep photos from the calendar contest till the end of the year.
* Alisha will send Becca the sign up sheets for the Herb Day booth
* Becca will put together a display for the Herb Day booth.
* Becca will contact Patricia Cammbell 334-356-3415 for info on how to and where for Alabama Herb Society Day

Notes added by BM